



Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
The National Assembly for Wales

Cofnod y Trafodion
The Record of Proceedings

Dydd Mercher, 21 Hydref 2009
Wednesday, 21 October 2009

**Cynnwys
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Yn y golofn chwith, cofnodwyd y trafodion yn yr iaith y llefarwyd hwy ynddi yn y Siambwr.
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 1.30 p.m. gyda'r Llywydd (Dafydd Elis-Thomas) yn y Gadair.
The Assembly met at 1.30 p.m. with the Presiding Officer (Dafydd Elis-Thomas) in the Chair.

Y Llywydd: Galwaf y Cynulliad i drefn.

The Presiding Officer: I call the Assembly to order.

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

Drug Treatment Services

Q1 Leanne Wood: Will the Minister make a statement on drug treatment services? OAQ(3)0962(SJL)

The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government (Brian Gibbons): The Assembly Government's draft budget adds an extra £5.9 million to the substance misuse action fund and brings the annual budget for 2010-11 to £34.5 million. The additional funding signals our clear commitment to tackling drug and alcohol abuse and its impact on families and communities.

Leanne Wood: Minister, I thank you for your letter to me about the work that you were asking the advisory panel on substance misuse in Wales to conduct, following the publication of the initial findings of the English drug treatment pilot schemes. As you are aware, people and communities are suffering because of substance misuse now. Can you assure the Chamber that you will act expeditiously on the evidence available so that we can do more to reduce the harm that substance misuse does to our communities? Will you also assure us that you will work with all of your ministerial colleagues, and particularly the Minister for Health and Social Services, where NHS facilities may be needed to progress this initiative?

Brian Gibbons: Certainly. The regional initial assessment tool trials that you referred to have produced some preliminary raw data, as they themselves described it at the Royal College of Physicians' conference in

Gwasanaethau Triniaethau Cyffuriau

C1 Leanne Wood: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am wasanaethau triniaethau cyffuriau? OAQ(3)0962(SJL)

Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol: Mae cylideb ddrafft Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ychwanegu £5.9 miliwn arall at y gronfa gweithredu ar gamddefnyddio sylweddau sy'n golygu bod y gyllideb flynyddol ar gyfer 2010-11 yn £34.5 miliwn. Mae'r arian ychwanegol yn arwydd o'n hymrwymiad clir i fynd i'r afael â chamddefnyddio cyffuriau ac alcohol a'i effaith ar deuluoedd a chymunedau.

Leanne Wood: Weinidog, diolch ichi am eich llythyr ataf ynglŷn â'r gwaith yr oeddech yn gofyn i'r panel cynggori ar gamddefnyddio sylweddau yng Nghymru ei wneud, ar ôl cyhoeddi canfyddiadau cychwynnol y cynlluniau peilot yn Lloegr sy'n ymwneud â thriniaethau cyffuriau. Fel y gwyddoch, mae pobl a chymunedau'n dioddef oherwydd camddefnyddio sylweddau yn awr. A allwch sicrhau'r Siambwr y byddwch yn gweithredu'n ddi-oed ar y dystiolaeth sydd ar gael er mwyn inni allu gwneud rhagor i liniaru'r niwed a wneir i'n cymunedau yn sgil camddefnyddio sylweddau? A wnewch chi ein sicrhau hefyd y byddwch yn gweithio gyda phob un o'ch cyd-Weinidogion, ac yn enwedig gyda'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, lle gall fod angen cyfleusterau'r GIG i fwrw ymlaen â'r cynllun hwn?

Brian Gibbons: Yn sicr. Mae'r treialon rhanbarthol ar y dulliau asesu cychwynnol a grybwyllywd gennych wedi cynhyrchu rhywfaint o ddata crai, fel y'u disgrifiwyd ganddynt hwy eu hunain yng nghynhadledd

September. They hope to produce the definitive report on the initial phase of their study, which, as you know, is due to run for four years. So, they are only about halfway through the trials. For the 5 per cent of heroin users whom the study is concentrating on, the evidence in the raw data so far has been fairly encouraging. If we want to take an evidence-based approach, we will have to take that on board. Again, you are right that statutory services are a big player in this area, and it is important that NHS services give due priority to services to tackle drug and alcohol misuse as part of the new investment we are making in the service.

Coleg Brenhinol y Ffisigwyr ym mis Medi. Maent yn gobethio cyhoeddi'r adroddiad terfynol ar gyfnod cychwynnol eu hastudiaeth, sydd, fel y gwyddoch, i fod i bara pum mlynedd. Felly, nid ydynt ond tua hanner ffordd drwy'r treialon. Ar gyfer y 5 y cant sy'n defnyddio heroin y mae'r astudiaeth yn canolbwytio arnynt, mae tystiolaeth y data crai hyd yn hyn wedi bod yn weddol galonogol. Os ydym am seilio'n dulliau ar dystiolaeth, bydd yn rhaid inni ystyried hynny. Unwaith eto, yr ydych yn llygad eich lle fod gan y gwasanaethau statudol ran fawr yn y maes hwn, ac y mae'n bwysig i wasanaethau'r GIG roi'r flaenoriaeth ddyledus i wasanaethau sy'n mynd i'r afael â chamdefnyddio cyffuriau ac alcohol fel rhan o'n buddsoddiad newydd yn y gwasanaeth.

Nick Ramsay: I concur with Leanne Wood's sentiments in her question to you, and I welcome your comments. This is a very important area. I wish to ask you specifically about how your policies are dealing with the problem of drugs in rural areas, particularly among schoolchildren. I had a meeting recently in my area with schoolchildren and police. We tend to talk about the drug culture as though it were one homogenous thing, when there are different cultures in different parts of Wales and from town to town. In my constituency of Monmouth, there is a particular problem with ketamine at the moment; in Abergavenny, there is more of a problem with heroin. Minister, how are your policies addressing this diversity? Are you consulting young people on this issue, because they are the best people to tell you where individual problems lie?

Nick Ramsay: Cytunaf â geiriau Leanne Wood yn ei chwestiwn ichi, a chroesawaf eich sylwadau. Mae hwn yn faes pwysig iawn. Hoffwn ofyn ichi'n benodol sut y mae eich polisiau'n mynd i'r afael â phroblem cyffuriau mewn ardaloedd gwledig, yn enwedig ymhli plant ysgol. Cefais gyfarfod â phlant ysgol a'r heddlu yn fy ardal yn ddiweddar. Yr ydym yn tueddu i sôn am y diwylliant cyffuriau fel petai'n un peth unffurf, ond y gwir amdani yw bod y diwylliant yn wahanol mewn gwahanol rannau o Gymru ac o'r naill dref i'r llall. Yn fy etholaeth i ym Mynwy, mae cetamin yn broblem arbennig ar hyn o bryd; yn y Fenni, mae heroin yn fwy o broblem. Weinidog, sut y mae eich polisiau'n mynd i'r afael â'r amrywiaeth hon? A ydych yn ymgynghori â phobl ifanc ar y mater hwn, oherwydd hwy sydd orau i ddweud wrthych ymhle mae problemau unigol?

Brian Gibbons: As you know, Nick, all schools have a school council, which is an excellent way of engaging with young people. The health education and drugs advice we provide are provided to virtually all schools in Wales. The police service is a very active partner in delivering those. Indeed, as I have gone around Wales, I have had an opportunity to sit in on a number of classes. As I said, they are almost invariably presented by police officers. I am very impressed by how good the police officers are as communicators. Equally, I have been

Brian Gibbons: Fel y gwyddoch, Nick, mae gan bob ysgol gyngor ysgol, sy'n ffordd ragorol o feithrin cysylltiad â phobl ifanc. Caiff yr addysg iechyd a'r cyngor am gyffuriau yr ydym yn eu cynnig eu darparu ar gyfer pob ysgol yng Nghymru fwy neu lai. Mae gwasanaeth yr heddlu'n bartner gweithgar iawn yn darparu'r rheini. Yn wir, wrth imi fynd o gwmpas Cymru yr wyf wedi cael cyfle i ymweld â nifer o wersi. Fel y dywedais, swyddogion heddlu'n sy'n cyflwyno'r rhain bron yn ddieithriad. Mae dawn gyfathrebu swyddogion heddlu'n creu

very impressed by the level of engagement of the young people, who recognise that this is a serious problem. Although the numbers of young people involved with drugs is unacceptably high, statistically over recent years the picture has remained fairly stable. It is important that we realise that. Alcohol is a problem, particularly with young girls, and we need to tackle that as well.

argraff fawr arnaf. Yn yr un modd, mae parodrwydd pobl ifanc i ymgysylltu â'r broses hefyd wedi creu argraff arnaf. Maent yn sylweddoli bod hon yn broblem. Er bod nifer y bobl ifanc sy'n ymwneud â chyffuriau yn annerbyniol o uchel, o safbwyt ystadegol, dros y blynnyddoedd diwethaf, mae'r darlun wedi aros yn weddol sefydlog. Mae'n bwysig inni ddeall hynny. Mae alcohol yn broblem, yn enwedig ymhliith merched ifanc, ac mae angen inni fynd i'r afael â hynny hefyd.

Cyflawnder Adferol

C2 David Lloyd: Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cael am ddatblygiadau mewn cyflawnder adferol yng Nghymru? OAQ(3)0927(SJL)

Brian Gibbons: I regularly meet with representatives from a range of criminal justice agencies in Wales. While I have discussed the issue of community prosecutors, who have a role to play in restorative justice, with the Crown Prosecution Service, I have not had any specific discussions on restorative justice per se.

David Lloyd: A gytuech fod cyflawnder adferol yn hanfodol i roi'r sawl sydd wedi dioddef trosedd yn ganolog yn y system droseddol, am y tro cyntaf erioed efallai, a sicrhau bod troseddwyr yn sylweddoli'r effaith holol andwyol y gallant ei gael ar eraill? Yn ogystal, a fyddch yn cefnogi ehangu'r ddarpariaeth o gyflawnder adferol yng Nghymru?

Brian Gibbons: Restorative justice addresses a number of key issues, including, in many cases, helping the victim to address the consequences of the crime. It is often a proportionate punishment for the offenders themselves. Equally, it can contribute to their rehabilitation. Across the United Kingdom, approximately 8 million hours of community service is provided through restorative justice programmes, which makes a big difference in terms of getting rid of graffiti, tidying up places and so forth. I agree with your sentiments.

William Graham: How is your Government

Restorative Justice

Q2 David Lloyd: What discussions has the Minister had regarding developments in restorative justice in Wales? OAQ(3)0927(SJL)

Brian Gibbons: Byddaf yn cyfarfod yn rheolaidd â chynrychiolwyr amrywiaeth o asiantaethau cyflawnder yng Nghymru. Er imi drafod gyda Gwasanaeth Erlyn y Goron fater erlynwyr cymunedol sydd â rhan i'w chwarae ym maes cyflawnder adferol, nid wyf wedi cael trafodaethau penodol am gyflawnder adferol per se.

David Lloyd: Would you agree that restorative justice is crucial in putting the victims of crime centrally in the justice system, possibly for the first time ever, and in ensuring that criminals understand the detrimental effect they can have on others? Furthermore, would you support expanding the provision of restorative justice in Wales?

Brian Gibbons: Mae cyflawnder adferol yn mynd i'r afael â nifer o faterion allweddol, gan gynnwys, mewn llawer achos, cynorthwyo'r dioddefwr i ymdopi â chanlyniadau'r trosedd. I'r troseddwyr eu hunain, mae'r gosb yn aml yn gymesur â'r trosedd. Yn yr un modd, gall gyfrannu at eu hadsefydlu. Ledled y Deyrnas Unedig, darperir oddeutu 8 miliwn o oriau o wasanaeth cymunedol drwy gyfrwng rhagleni cyflawnder adferol, sy'n gwneud gwahaniaeth mawr o ran dileu graffiti, twtio mannau, ac ati. Cytunaf a'ch sylwadau.

William Graham: Sut y mae eich

looking to build upon the issues outlined in the ‘Engaging Communities in Criminal Justice’ Green Paper, and encouraging your counterparts in the Ministry of Justice to give communities a greater voice? Would you agree that it is important that we shift the justice system away from having a standardised mechanistic focus on processing cases when emphasis on solving local safety problems, changing the behaviour of offenders, and, where appropriate, using restorative justice schemes, such as those successfully offered by the Sycamore Tree Project, must firmly place the victim at the centre of the process?

Llywodraeth yn bwriadu adeiladu ar y materion a grybwyllir yn y Papur Gwyddonol ‘Engaging Communities in Criminal Justice’ ac annog eich cyd-Weinidogion yn y Weinyddiaeth Gyflawnder i roi mwy o lais i gymunedau? A fyddch yn cytuno’i bod yn bwysig inni symud y system gyflawnder i ffwrdd o orfod canolbwytio mewn ffordd fecanyddol safonol ar brosesu achosion. Yn hytrach, rhaid rhoi’r dioddefwr yn gadarn yng nghanol y broses gan roi’r pwyslais ar ddatrys problemau diogelwch lleol, newid ymddygiad troseddwyr, a lle bo hynny’n briodol ddefnyddio cynlluniau cyflawnder adferol, megis y rheini a gynigir yn llwyddiannus gan Brosiect y Sycamorwydden?

Brian Gibbons: We would be pretty sympathetic to that point of view. In fairness, I think that the police recognise, following the policing pledge, which was issued by the Westminster Government and the Home Office, the importance of getting involved with local communities, whether it is through community policing or addressing the commitments in the policing pledge. You are probably aware that the main performance measurement for the police at present is the level of confidence that communities have in their performance. The emphasis on working with communities is very much the direction in which we want to travel. I am pleased that, in the main, the Home Office seems to be taking a similar view.

Social Inclusion in North Wales

Q3 Brynle Williams: Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government’s plans relating to social inclusion in north Wales? OAQ(3)0948(SJL)

Brian Gibbons: The Assembly Government is committed to social inclusion across Wales. We are taking legislative steps to ensure that all children, including children in north Wales, are not excluded through poverty. Equally, we are taking steps to ensure that families and communities are not digitally excluded, and we are encouraging local partnerships, including those in north Wales, to actively support local community cohesion strategies.

Brian Gibbons: Byddai gennym grynni gydymdeimlad â’r safbwyt hwennw. A bod yn deg, credaf fod yr heddlu’n cydnabod, ers cyflwyno’r llw plismona, a gyhoeddwyd gan Lywodraeth San Steffan a’r Swyddfa Gartref, mor bwysig yw ymwneud â chymunedau lleol, boed drwy blismona cymunedol ynteu drwy fynd i’r afael â’r ymrwymiadau yn y llw plismona. Mae’n debyg eich bod yn gwybod mai’r brif ffordd sydd gan yr heddlu o fesur perfformiad ar hyn o bryd yw lefel yr ymddiriedaeth sydd gan gymunedau yn eu gwaith. Y llwybr yr ydym am ei ddilyn i raddau helaeth yw’r llwybr sy’n pwysleisio gweithio gyda chymunedau. Yr wyl yn falch fod y Swyddfa Gartref, ar y cyfan, i bob golwg yn arddel safbwyt tebyg.

Cynhwysiant Cymdeithasol yn y Gogledd

C3 Brynle Williams: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gynlluniau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru sy’n ymwneud â chynhwysiant cymdeithasol yn y gogledd? OAQ(3)0948(SJL)

Brian Gibbons: Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi ymrwymo i gynhwysiant cymdeithasol ledled Cymru. Yr ydym yn cymryd camau deddfwriaethol i sicrhau nad oes yr un plentyn, gan gynnwys plant yn y gogledd, yn cael ei allgau oherwydd tlodi. Yn yr un modd, yr ydym yn cymryd camau i sicrhau nad yw teuluoedd a chymunedau’n cael eu hallgáu’n ddigidol, ac yr ydym yn annog partneriaethau lleol, gan gynnwys y rheini yn y gogledd, i gefnogi strategaethau

cydlyniant cymunedol lleol yn frwd.

Bryngle Williams: Do you agree that families provide the most stable and positive environment for children to grow up in, and, in doing so, help to deliver enormous benefits for social cohesion and community wellbeing? I find it disappointing, Minister, that there is no standard definition of a family, either within your portfolio or within the health and social services portfolio. Do you not agree that in order for your Government to best support Welsh families, developing a standard understanding of ‘a family’ across the portfolios would be a step in the right direction?

Brian Gibbons: There is a definition of functional families in the Proposed Children and Families (Wales) Measure, which is currently going through the National Assembly. I think that we are due to discuss the third stage next month. However, that definition is not confined to just a nuclear family. We recognise that there is great diversity of formal and informal family arrangements in Wales. It is probable that a number of children are particularly vulnerable in the informal family arrangements, and it is important that we do not let a definition get in the way of making sure our children get the best services.

Bryngle Williams: A ydych yn cytuno mai teuluoedd sy'n cynnig yr amgylchedd mwyaf sefydlog a chadarnhaol i blant dyfu, a'u bod, wrth wneud hynny, yn gymorth i sicrhau manteision enfawr o ran cydlyniant cymdeithasol a lles y gymuned? Mae'n siomedig, Weinidog, nad oes diffiniad safonol o deulu, nac yn eich portffolio nac yn y portffolio iechyd a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol. Oni chytunwch y byddai datblygu dealltwriaeth safonol o ‘deulu’ ar draws pob portffolio yn gam i'r cyfeiriad iawn er mwyn i'ch Llywodraeth roi'r cymorth gorau i deuluoedd Cymru?

Brian Gibbons: Mae'r Mesur Arfaethedig ynghylch Plant a Theuluoedd (Cymru) sydd ar hyn o bryd yn mynd drwy'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn cynnwys diffiniad o deuluoedd gweithredol. Credaf y byddwn yn trafod y trydydd cyfnod fis nesaf. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'r diffiniad hwnnw wedi'i gyfyngu i deulu niwclear yn unig. Sylweddolwn fod amrywiaeth fawr o drefniadau ffurfiol ac anffurfiol o fewn teuluoedd yng Nghymru. Mae'n debygol fod nifer o blant mewn trefniadau teuluol anffurfiol yn arbennig o agored i niwed mewn teuluoedd lle mae trefniadau anffurfiol, ac y mae'n bwysig inni beidio â gadael i ddiffiniad ein rhwystro rhag sicrhau bod ein plant yn cael y gwasanaethau gorau.

1.40 p.m.

Sandy Mewies: Thank you for that answer, Minister. I know that you recognise that social inclusion runs right across the piece; it affects so many things. Will you recognise, as I do, that the grant-making regime of the Welsh Assembly Government should also recognise that? For example, the healthy walking initiative in places such as Flintshire will give some people good health and fresh air, but for others it will be a real measure of social inclusion. Can you encourage your colleagues to ensure that social inclusion is one of the main things that underpins the grant-making regime?

Sandy Mewies: Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Gwn eich bod yn cydnabod bod cynhwysiant cymdeithasol yn treiddio i bob maes; mae'n effeithio ar gynifer o bethau. A wnewch chhi gydnabod, fel finnau, y dylai trefn Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar gyfer rhoi gantiau gydnabod hynny hefyd? Er enghraifft, bydd y cynllun cerdded llwybrau iechyd mewn mannau megis sir y Fflint yn cynnig iechyd da ac awyr iach i rai pobl, ond i bobl eraill bydd yn fesur gwirioneddol o gynhwysiant cymdeithasol. A allwch annog eich cyd-Weinidogion i sicrhau mai cynhwysiant cymdeithasol yw un o'r prif bethau sy'n sail i'r drefn rhoi gantiau?

Brian Gibbons: That is very important. We have provided extra money for community

Brian Gibbons: Mae hynny'n bwysig iawn. Yr ydym wedi darparu arian ychwanegol ar

cohesion and social inclusion for all local authorities in Wales, and there are particular local authorities where there are challenges. I agree with you; from my experience in my own constituency, I know the value of walking. There are number of walking clubs, which are doing a tremendous amount with regard to improving fitness, but they also allow people to get out and meet each other, which leads to a sense of wellbeing. One such club in Cwmaman has the excellent title of Cwm Walking. If everyone can come up with a name like that, we will not go too far wrong.

Eleanor Burnham: You know as well as all of us about social inclusion and the vulnerability of young people, their aspirations and futures, which seem to be ably addressed by the vital work of our voluntary sector—I know that you call it the ‘third sector’, but we must not forget that it is made up of volunteers. This sector is facing huge difficulties because of the impact of the lack of funding. How will you secure the necessary funding to ensure that it can continue to do vital social inclusion work across north Wales?

Brian Gibbons: There is no doubt that a number of organisations in the third sector are suffering from loss of income, particularly because people cannot afford to give, and so on. We need to recognise and acknowledge that point. It is one of the reasons why, in the most recent budget, the support that the Assembly Government gives to the third-sector infrastructure in Wales has remained largely intact. Having said that, there are a significant number of opportunities for third sector organisations to work with communities in the face of the current crisis. The Future Jobs fund, which is being promoted by us and the Department for Work and Pensions, is just one example of that good work. Extra support is being given to Citizens Advice in relation to personal debt advice. I and my colleague Jocelyn Davies had the opportunity recently to launch housing debt advice using £70,000 from the Welsh Assembly Government, again in conjunction with third sector organisations. There are challenges, but it is important that the opportunities are fully exploited.

gyfer cydlyniant cymunedol a chynhwysiant cymdeithasol i bob awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru, ac y mae ambell awdurdod lleol lle mae anawsterau. Cytunaf â chi; o’m profiad yn fy etholaeth fy hun, gwn mor werthfawr yw cerdded. Mae nifer o glybiau cerdded ar gael sy’n gwneud gwaith aruthrol o ran gwella ffitrwydd, ond maent hefyd yn golygu bod pobl yn gallu mynd allan a chyfarfod â’i gilydd, ac y mae hynny’n gwneud i bobl deimlo’n dda. Mae gan un clwb o’r fath yng Nghwmaman enw ardderchog, Cwm Walking. Os gall pawb feddwl am enw cystal, nidawn ymhell o’n lle.

Eleanor Burnham: Gwyddoch cystal â ni bob un am gynhwysiant cymdeithasol a bod pobl ifanc yn agored i niwed, am eu dyheadau a’u dyfodol ac y mae’n ymddangos bod gwaith hanfodol y sector gwirfoddol yn llwyddo i fynd i’r afael â hyn—gwn mai’r ‘trydydd sector’ yw eich enw chi arno, ond rhaid inni beidio ag anghofio mai gwirfoddolwyr sy’n ei gynnal. Mae’r sector hwn yn wynebu anawsterau enfawr oherwydd effaith diffyg arian. Sut y byddwch yn sicrhau’r arian angenrheidiol iddo allu parhau i wneud gwaith cynhwysiant cymdeithasol hollbwysig ledled y gogledd?

Brian Gibbons: Nid oes amheuaeth nad oes nifer o fudiadau yn y trydydd sector yn dioddef yn sgil colli incwm, yn enwedig am na all pobl fforddio cyfrannu, ac ati. Mae angen inni sylweddoli a chydabod y pwynh hwnnw. Dyna un o’r rhesymau pam y mae’r gefnogaeth y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ei rhoi, yn y gyllideb ddiweddaraf, i seilwaith y trydydd sector yng Nghymru wedi aros fwy neu lai fel yr oedd. Wedi dweud hynny, mae nifer sylweddol o gyfleoedd i fudiadau’r trydydd sector weithio gyda chymunedau yn wyneb yr argyfwng presennol. Un engraifft yn unig o’r gwaith da hwnnw yw Cronfa Swyddi’r Dyfodol, sy’n cael ei hyrwyddo gennym ni a chan yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau. Rhoddir cymorth ychwanegol i Gyngor ar Bopeth yng nghyswllt cyngor ar ddyled bersonol. Cafodd fy nghyd-Aelod, Jocelyn Davies, a minnau gyfle’nn ddiweddar i lansio gwasanaeth cyngor ar ddyledion tai gan ddefnyddio £70,000 gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad, unwaith eto ar y cyd â mudiadau’r trydydd sector. Mae yna anawsterau, ond y mae’n

bwysig manteisio'n llawn ar y cyfleoedd.

Janet Ryder: Minister, as you have just noted in the case of walking, participation in any sport can be a great advantage in increasing social inclusion, particularly for many young people. It can also build a lot of self-esteem where that is missing. What talks have you had with the Minister with responsibility for sport and culture as to how you can use the many sporting programmes that the Government finances by making them a mainstream part of your social inclusion policies?

Janet Ryder: Weinidog, a chithau newydd sôn am gerdded, gall cymryd rhan mewn unrhyw fath o chwaraeon fod o fudd mawr i gynyddu cynhwysiant cymdeithasol, yn enwedig i lawer o bobl ifanc. Gall hefyd feithrin cryn hunangred pan fydd hwnnw'n ddiffygol. Pa sgyrsiau yr ydych wedi'u cael gyda'r Gweinidog sy'n gyfrifol am chwaraeon a diwylliant am y ffordd y gallwch ddefnyddio'r llu rhaglenni chwaraeon a noddir gan y Llywodraeth, drwy eu gwneud yn rhan o brif ffrwd eich polisiau cynhwysiant cymdeithasol?

Brian Gibbons: One exciting element of the Proposed Children and Families (Wales) Measure—the child poverty Measure—is that we have been able to include a duty to tackle child poverty and to improve the wellbeing of children, and have been able to extend that duty to the Sports Council for Wales. We were keen to do that because, as part of improving the life chances of children, organisations such as the Sports Council for Wales will be able to focus on those communities and individuals that are excluded most severely from life chances. I am pleased with the positive comments that you have made in that regard, because tackling child poverty is not just about putting money in people's pockets; it is about improving their quality of life and life chances.

Funding

Q4 The Leader of the Opposition (Nick Bourne): Will the Minister make a statement on the future funding of local government? OAQ(3)0930(SJL)

Brian Gibbons: I announced details on the provisional local government finance settlement for 2010-11 on 13 October. Local authorities in Wales will receive a gross increase of 3.2 per cent to the revenue support grant, with a net increase of £8 million, or 2.1 per cent, taking account of transfers.

Nick Bourne: I thank the Minister for that response. Minister, you will be aware that thousands of small and medium-sized

Cyllido

C4 Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Nick Bourne): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gyllido llywodraeth leol yn y dyfodol? OAQ(3)0930(SJL)

Brian Gibbons: Cyhoeddais fanylion am y setliad cyllid dros dro i lywodraeth leol ar gyfer 2010-11 ar 13 Hydref. Bydd awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru'n cael cynnydd gros o 3.2 y cant yn y grant cynnal refeniw, a chynnydd net o £8 miliwn, neu 2.1 y cant, o ystyried trosglwyddiadau.

Nick Bourne: Diolch i'r Gweinidog am yr ymateb hwnnw. Weinidog, gwyddoch fod miloedd o fusnesau bach a chanolig eu maint

businesses face having to pay hundreds of pounds more in business rates from 1 April 2010 because of the revaluation. High streets up and down Wales have been hit with higher bills because of the revaluation coming into effect in April. I will take two towns in my area as examples. In Llandrindod Wells town centre, the tax bill will go up by nearly £34,000, which is an average increase of 36 per cent on business rates since 2000. In Brecon, there will be an increase of £163,000, which is an average increase of 19 per cent since 2000. Will you consider cancelling the revaluation, or at least postponing it until April 2011 because of the recession that we are in and the credit crunch faced by our small and medium-sized businesses throughout Wales?

Brian Gibbons: You will know, Nick, that around half of all businesses receive support of at least 25 per cent on their non-domestic rates in Wales through work being undertaken by the Assembly Government. However, we need to consider the full implications of what you are saying. If we were to take your point of view entirely uncritically, those businesses facing a potential increase in their non-domestic rates are those whose valuation has improved through managing the recession and the economy better. The people who are doing least well are businesses in the more economically depressed parts of the economy. Therefore, if your concern is the protection of those businesses facing the greatest challenge in the current recession, we need a far more balanced response than you have suggested in your question.

Nick Bourne: I am grateful to the Llywydd for allowing a second question on this, because it is important. This is not revenue neutral. You have suggested that this evens out across the piece, but that is not the case. As I put to the First Minister, in Canton, of the 396 businesses on Cowbridge Road East, only one of them would see a decrease; the other 395 would see an increase. Therefore, what you are saying is not true. My suggestion is not that you favour some businesses at the expense of others, but that you cancel it across the piece because virtually every business is facing an increase.

yn wynebu gorfod talu cannoedd o bunnoedd yn rhagor o drethi busnes o 1 Ebrill 2010 ymlaen oherwydd yr ailbrisio. Mae'r stryd fawr ym mhob cwr o Gymru wedi ei tharo gan filiau uwch oherwydd yr ailbrisio a ddaw i rym ym mis Ebrill. Soniaf am ddwy dref yn fy ardal i fel enghreifftiau. Yng nghanol tref Llandrindod, bydd y bil trethi'n codi bron £34,000, sef cynnydd ar gyfartaledd o 36 y cant mewn trethi busnes er 2000. Yn Aberhonddu, bydd y cynnydd yn £163,000, sef cynnydd ar gyfartaledd o 19 y cant er 2000. A wnewch chi ystyried dileu'r ailbrisio, neu o leiaf ei ohirio tan Ebrill 2011 oherwydd y dirwasgiad yr ydym ynddo a'r wasgfa gredyd sy'n wynebu ein busnesau bach a chanolig ledled Cymru?

Brian Gibbons: Gwyddoch, Nick, fod oddeutu hanner yr holl fusnesau'n cael o leiaf 25 y cant o gymorth gyda'u trethi annomestig yng Nghymru drwy waith y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ei wneud. Serch hynny, mae angen inni ystyried goblygiadau llawn eich geiriau. Petaem yn derbyn eich safbwyt yn gwbl anfeirniadol, y busnesau hynny sy'n wynebu cynnydd posibl yn eu trethi annomestig yw'r rheini sydd wedi cael prisiad uwch am eu bod wedi ymdopi'n well â'r dirwasgiad a'r economi. Y bobl sy'n gwneud waethaf yw'r busnesau yn y rhannau hynny o'r economi sy'n dioddef fwyaf yn y dirwasgiad. Felly, os poeni yr ydych am warchod y busnesau hynny sy'n wynebu'r anawsterau mwyaf yn y dirwasgiad presennol, mae arnom angen ymateb llawer mwy cytbwys nag yr ydych wedi'i awgrymu yn eich cwestiwn.

Nick Bourne: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r Llywydd am ganiatáu ail gwestiwn am hyn gan ei fod yn bwysig. Nid yw hyn yn niwtral o ran refeniw. Yr ydych wedi awgrymu y bydd y dafol yn weddol wastad drwyddi draw, ond nid felly y mae. Fel yr awgrymais wrth y Prif Weinidog, yn Nhreganna, o blith y 396 o fusnesau ar Cowbridge Road East, trethi un ohonynt yn unig a fyddai'n gostwng; byddai trethi'r 395 arall yn cynyddu. Felly, nid yw'r hyn a ddywedwch yn wir. Nid wyf yn awgrymu y dylech ffafrio rhai busnesau ar draul busnesau eraill, ond yn hytrach y dylech ddileu'r ailbrisiad drwyddo draw oherwydd bod pob busnes fwy neu lai

yn wynebu cynnydd.

Brian Gibbons: No, the valuation of properties is based on their rental value, which, in turn, is determined by the economic viability of the business. Therefore, for those businesses whose rateable value has increased, it is a consequence of their rental value and their economic position. If people in individual businesses feel that an incorrect decision has been made with regard to their valuation—and mistakes can be made—they can go to the valuation office or, ultimately, appeal the decision. Your thesis does not hold water. The valuation of the premises is driven by the economic value of the premises, essentially. That is how domestic rates are being set.

Alun Davies: I am sure that you agree, Minister, that it is somewhat ironic for the Conservatives to lecture us on council tax increases of any sort. Will you do what you can to enable local government to work with the Assembly Government to ensure that it can benefit from additional sources of income beyond the revenue support grant? I am thinking particularly about the Communities First outcomes fund, the strategic capital investment fund, the invest-to-save fund, and the deprivation fund, well as capital funding, which I know you have tried to safeguard in the settlement for local government this year, do you agree that it is important that local government be encouraged and helped to work with the Assembly Government to maximise its income and the benefit to each local authority of the additional funding that is available to it.

1.50 p.m.

Brian Gibbons: There are opportunities to lever in extra funds, and you have touched on several key sources, including the strategic capital investment fund, the invest-to-save fund, and Communities First. One reason why the Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery was persuaded to provide the resource for the current settlement was that he was convinced that local government was engaging constructively with this agenda. Therefore, the process of engagement is under way, but I think that we

Brian Gibbons: Na, caiff eiddo ei brisio ar sail ei werth o ran rhent. Yn ei dro, hyfywedd y busnes sy'n pennu hynny. Felly, os yw gwerth trethiannol busnesau wedi cynyddu, eu gwerth o ran rhent a'u sefyllfa economaidd sy'n gyfrifol am hynny. Os yw pobl mewn busnesau unigol yn teimlo bod penderfyniad anghywir wedi'i wneud o ran eu prisiad—ac mae camgymeriadau'n digwydd weithiau—gallant fynd at y swyddfa brisio neu, yn y pen draw, apelio yn erbyn y penderfyniad. Nid yw eich damcaniaeth yn dal dŵr. Yn y bôn, mae prisiad yr eiddo'n dibynnu ar werth economaidd yr eiddo. Dyna sut y pennir trethi domestig.

Alun Davies: Yr wyf yn siŵr y cytunwch, Weinidog, ei bod yn eironig braidd fod y Ceidwadwyr yn pregethu wrthym am gynnydd o unrhyw fath yn y dreth gyngor. A wnewch chi yr hyn a allwch i alluogi Llywodraeth leol i weithio gyda Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i sicrhau ei bod yn gallu elwa o ffynonellau incwm ychwanegol y tu hwnt i'r grant cynnal refeniw? Yr wyf yn meddwl yn benodol am gronfa canlyniadau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, y gronfa buddsoddi cyfalaf strategol, y gronfa buddsoddi i arbed, a'r gronfa amddifadedd. Yn ogystal â chyllid cyfalaf, y gwn ichi geisio'i ddiogelu yn y setliad i lywodraeth leol eleni, a gytunwch ei bod yn bwysig annog a chynorthwyo llywodraeth leol i weithio gyda Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i sicrhau cymaint o incwm a budd ag y bo modd i bob awdurdod lleol yn sgil yr arian ychwanegol sydd ar gael iddo.

Brian Gibbons: Mae cyfleoedd ar gael i ddenu arian ychwanegol, ac yr ydych wedi crybwyl llawer ffynhonnell allweddol, gan gynnwys y gronfa buddsoddi cyfalaf strategol, y gronfa buddsoddi i arbed, a Chymunedau yn Gyntaf. Un rheswm pam y perswadiwyd y Gweinidog dros Gyllid a Chyflenwi Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus i ddarparu'r adnodd ar gyfer y setliad presennol oedd ei fod wedi ei argyhoeddi bod llywodraeth leol yn ymroi'n adeiladol i'r agenda hon. Felly, mae'r broses ymgysylltu

all, whether we are Assembly Government, local government or National Assembly Members, agree we have a long way to go. The economic climate will get more difficult, and we have to do better.

ar y gweill, ond credaf ein bod i gyd yn cytuno, boed yn Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, yn llywodraeth leol ynteu'n Aelodau o'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, fod gennym grynn ffordd i fynd. Gwaethygu a wnaiff yr hinsawdd economaidd, a rhaid inni wneud yn well.

The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats (Kirsty Williams): Once again this year, Powys council has received a settlement that is at the bottom of the scale, at a time when it is struggling to provide the people of Powys with proper and timely planning services and is doing badly with delayed transfers of care. There is already a huge overspend in the adult budget, and Powys County Council is in danger of breaking the law by not moving patients, once they have been assessed, out of hospital and into appropriate care settings such as nursing homes. How will your budget settlement for Powys assist it to rectify the situation, and will you personally intervene to ensure that Powys County Council remains within the law when it comes to placing people coming out of hospital into appropriate community care settings?

Arweinydd Democratioaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Kirsty Williams): Unwaith eto eleni, mae setliad cyngor Powys ar waelod y raddfa, ac yntau wrthi'n straffaglu i ddarparu gwasanaethau cynllunio priodol a phrydlon ar gyfer pobl Powys ac yn gwneud yn wael o ran oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal. Mae wedi gorwario'n helaeth eisoes ar y gyllideb oedolion, ac y mae perygl i Gyngor Sir Powys dorri'r gyfraith drwy beidio â symud cleifion o'r ysbyty ar ôl eu hasesu i leoliadau gofal priodol megis cartrefi nyrrio. Sut y bydd eich setliad cyllideb ar gyfer Powys yn ei gynorthwyo i unioni'r sefyllfa, ac a wnewch chi ymyrryd yn bersonol i sicrhau bod Cyngor Sir Powys yn cadw o fewn y gyfraith o ran lleoli pobl sy'n gadael yr ysbyty mewn manau gofal priodol yn y gymuned?

Brian Gibbons: I have agreed to provide a funding floor for Powys council, but I have made it clear—and not just to Powys but to some other local authorities in Wales—that it is not acceptable to come to the Assembly telling us that they are short of money and then bring in the lowest council tax increase in Wales. It is just not fair to the other councils across Wales that have to subsidise them through the floor mechanism. We have provided Powys with a floor mainly on the basis that it is taking exceptional, radical steps through its merger proposals to put more efficient public services in place. The money that we have given Powys must be for service improvement. It is not acceptable for that money to be used to subsidise council tax payers when it says that it does not have the money for the services and expects to be subsidised by other council tax payers across Wales. It is not acceptable and it will not continue.

Brian Gibbons: Yr wyf wedi cytuno i roi arian gwaelodol i gyngor Powys, ond yr wyf wedi'i gwneud yn glir—ac nid i gyngor Powys yn unig ond i ambell awdurdod lleol arall hefyd yng Nghymru—nad yw'n dderbynio dod at y Cynulliad a dweud eu bod yn brin o arian ac wedyn cyflwyno'r cynnydd isaf yn y dreth gyngor yng Nghymru. Nid yw'n deg o gwbl ei bod yn rhaid i gynghorau eraill ledled Cymru roi cymhorthdal iddynt drwy'r mecanwaith arian gwaelodol. Yr ydym wedi rhoi arian gwaelodol i Bowys yn bennaf ar y sail ei fod yn cymryd camau eithriadol, radical drwy gyfrwng ei gynigion i uno er mwyn darparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus mwy effeithlon. Rhaid i'r arian yr ydym wedi'i roi i Bowys gael ei ddefnyddio i wella gwasanaethau. Nid yw'n dderbynio defnyddio'r arian hwnnw fel cymhorthdal i bobl sy'n talu treth gyngor ac yntau'n dweud nad oes ganddo'r arian i ddarparu'r gwasanaethau a disgyl cael cymhorthdal gan drethdalwyr cynghorau eraill ledled Cymru. Nid yw'n dderbynio, a rhaid iddo ddod i ben.

Bethan Jenkins: Minister, on the day of the draft local government funding settlement announcement, you were quoted in the *Western Mail* as saying that you encourage more councils to consider merger possibilities and that no authority is hopeless at everything and no authority is brilliant at everything. Do you see that as a possible prerequisite to reorganisation, and what are the implications for local authorities and service users who may not know where their services are being delivered from or who is accountable for them?

Brian Gibbons: If a service user does not know where services are provided from or does not know how to get at them, that cannot be regarded as an improvement in anybody's book. If a local authority came up with a set of arrangements under which it was more difficult for service users to use the service, it would have completely missed the plot. Any authorities that would put services in place that are more difficult to access need to go back to the drawing board and look at how they are delivering those services.

Substance Misuse

Q5 Val Lloyd: Will the Minister provide an update on Welsh Assembly Government initiatives aimed at tackling substance misuse in Wales? OAQ(3)0925(SJL)

Brian Gibbons: The 2008 annual report, which is to be published in the next month, will provide a comprehensive update on the progress made in tackling substance misuse. A key area will be the provision of high-quality premises. I was pleased to be able to provide almost £2.5 million in capital expenditure to the West Glamorgan Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse and the Swansea Drug Project for new facilities in Swansea. I recently had the privilege of going to see the good work that is being done on those premises.

Val Lloyd: I agree with you about their good work, and I know that those projects are grateful for the money and will put it to good use. I think that you will agree that the

Bethan Jenkins: Weinidog, ar ddiwrnod cyhoeddi'r setliad drafst ar gyfer cyllid llywodraeth leol, fe'ch dyfynnwyd yn y *Western Mail* yn dweud eich bod yn annog mwy o gynghorau i ystyried posibiliadau uno, ac nad oes yr un awdurdod sy'n anobeithiol ym mhopheth na'r un sy'n wych ym mhopheth. A ydych yn gweld hynny'n rhagofyniad possibl ar gyfer ad-drefnu, a beth yw'r goblygiadau i awdurdodau lleol a defnyddwyr gwasanaethau na fyddant efallai'n gwybod o ble y darperir eu gwasanaethau na phwy sy'n atebol amdanys?

Brian Gibbons: Os nad yw defnyddiwr gwasanaeth yn gwybod o ble y darperir gwasanaethau neu sut y mae cael gafael arnynt, ni all neb ystyried hynny'n welliant. Petai awdurdod lleol yn cynnig set o drefniadau lle byddai'n fwy anodd i ddefnyddwyr gwasanaeth ei ddefnyddio, byddai hynny'n gwbl ddibwynt. Byddai angen i unrhyw awdurdodau a fyddai'n trefnu gwasanaethau sy'n anos cael gafael arnynt fynd yn ôl i'r dechrau ac ystyried sut y maent yn darparu'r gwasanaethau hynny.

Camddefnyddio Sylweddau

C5 Val Lloyd: A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am gynlluniau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru sy'n anelu at fynd i'r afael â chamddefnyddio sylweddau yng Nghymru? OAQ(3)0925(SJL)

Brian Gibbons: Bydd adroddiad blynnyddol 2008, a gyhoeddir yn y mis nesaf, yn cynnig diweddarriad cynhwysfawr ynglŷn â'r cynnydd a wnaethpwyd i fynd i'r afael â chamddefnyddio sylweddau. Un maes allweddol fydd darparu adeiladau o safon. Yr oeddwn yn falch gallu rhoi bron £2.5 miliwn ar ffurf gwariant cyfalaf i Gyngor Camddefnyddio Alcohol a Chyffuriau Gorllewin Morgannwg a Phrosiect Cyffuriau Abertawe ar gyfer cyfleusterau newydd yn Abertawe. Yn ddiweddar, cefais y fraint o fynd i weld y gwaith da sy'n cael ei wneud yn y mannau hynny.

Val Lloyd: Cytunaf â chi ynglŷn â'u gwaith da, a gwn fod y prosiectau hynny'n ddiolchgar am yr arian ac y caiff ei ddefnyddio er lles. Credaf y cytunwch fod

attitude of some young people towards excessive alcohol consumption needs to be tackled. The British Medical Association has recently published a report entitled, 'Under the Influence: The Damaging Effect of Alcohol Marketing on Young People'. The report makes interesting reading and advocates, among other things, a comprehensive ban on all alcohol marketing communications and the establishment of minimum price levels for the sale of alcoholic products. Minister, what are the Welsh Assembly Government's views on those recommendations? Would you agree to look in detail at this way forward to deal with what is moving towards becoming a public health emergency?

Brian Gibbons: Yes, I would agree. I said in response to Nick Ramsay that drug abuse is stabilising—it is still a significant problem, but it is stabilising—but the situation with alcohol is getting worse, particularly among young people and most especially among young women. I agree that this is becoming a public health issue of great concern. The Minister for Health and Social Services and I have been working hard to persuade our colleagues at Westminster that the licensing criteria in Wales should include public health considerations. That is not a consideration at the moment. We certainly agree with the consultation document issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in the last week or so, which said that one area that it wants to consult on is the price of alcohol because it thinks that that is a significant factor. I recently went to Scotland to discuss its approach to the issue, and I was impressed with the very aggressive approach that the Scottish Government takes to alcohol abuse, while accepting that it has a much bigger problem than we have. However, we have a problem as well.

Jonathan Morgan: Minister, I agree with Val Lloyd that this has become a significant public health challenge with more than 1,000 people dying every year in Wales because of alcohol and related diseases. For example,

angen mynd i'r afael ag agwedd rhai pobl ifanc at yfed gormod o alcohol. Mae Cymdeithas Feddygol Prydain wedi cyhoeddi adroddiad yn ddiweddar dan y teitl, 'Under the Influence: the Damaging effect of Alcohol Marketing on young People'. Mae'r adroddiad yn ddiddorol, ac ymhlieth pethau eraill y mae'n argymhell gwaharddiad cynhwysfawr a llwyr ar farchnata alcohol a phennu lleiafbris ar gyfer gwerthu cynnrych alcoholaid. Weinidog, beth yw barn Llywodraeth y Cynulliad am yr argymhellion hynny? A fyddch yn cytuno i ystyried yn fanwl y ffordd hon o fwrw ymlaen er mwyn mynd i'r afael â phroblem sy'n prysur droi'n argyfwng iechyd cyhoeddus?

Brian Gibbons: Byddwn, byddwn yn cytuno. Wrth ymateb i Nick Ramsay, dywedais fod camddefnyddio cyffuriau'n sefydlogi—mae'n dal yn broblem sylweddol—ond mae'n sefydlogi—ond mae'r sefyllfa o ran alcohol yn gwaethyg, yn enwedig ymhlieth pobl ifanc, ac yn fwyaf arbennig ymhlieth menywod ifanc. Cytunaf fod hyn yn dod yn fater iechyd cyhoeddus sy'n destun pryder mawr. Mae'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a minnau wedi bod yn gweithio'n galed i berswadio ein cyd-Weinidogion yn San Steffan y dylai'r meini prawf trwyddedu yng Nghymru gynnwys ystyriaethau iechyd cyhoeddus. Nid yw hynny'n ystyriaeth ar hyn o bryd. Yr ydym yn sicr yn cytuno â'r ddogfen ymgynghori a gyhoeddwyd gan y Sefydliad Cenedlaethol dros Iechyd a Rhagoriaeth Glinigol yn ystod yr wythnos neu ddwy ddiwethaf, a ddywedai mai un maes y mae'n dymuno ymgynghori yn ei gylch yw pris alcohol, oherwydd cred fod hwnnw'n ffactor o bwys. Euthum i'r Alban yn ddiweddar i drafod ei hagwedd hi at y mater hwn, a chrëwyd argraff arnaf gan agwedd ymosodol iawn Llywodraeth yr Alban at gamddefnyddio alcohol, gan dderbyn ar yr un pryd fod y broblem yno'n fwy o lawer nag sydd gennym ni. Ond mae gennym ni hefyd broblem.

Jonathan Morgan: Weinidog, cytunaf â Val Lloyd fod hyn wedi datblygu'n her iechyd cyhoeddus sylweddol a dros 1,000 o bobl yn marw bob blwyddyn yng Nghymru oherwydd alcohol a chlefydau cysylltiedig. Er

there has been a significant increase in the number of people diagnosed with liver cancer every year, and recent research shows that there has been a significant increase in the number of 13 and 14-year-olds being found drunk. Sadly, we are way up the scale in comparison with about 40 other countries. One problem that we face, which demonstrates the complexity of the problem, is that the powers relating to the licensing of premises fall within the Licensing Act 2003. I think that there is an issue in Wales today because we do not have sufficient powers to manage our towns, villages and cities better. Will the Assembly Government examine the legislative framework and do as I suggest and seek the devolution of powers so that we can better plan our towns, villages and cities to ensure that the Licensing Act is implemented in a more consistent and meaningful way than it is now?

Brian Gibbons: I do not disagree with anything that you have said. Indeed, I very much welcome your support on the precise points that you made. If, for whatever reason, we are not able to take effective action, we should be asking for access to those powers ourselves. I am pleased to hear you offer cross-party support for that today, and I welcome it very much.

Helen Mary Jones: Minister, I know that you agree that the current economic and financial circumstances may lead to an increase in the misuse of substances, whether alcohol or illegal drugs. I know that because we have discussed this matter in the Chamber before. Are you confident that the Welsh Government budget as it stands has enough flexibility for services experiencing an increase in demand for counselling, whether for alcohol or illegal substances, to meet that demand? We do not want to see an unfortunate situation arising in which waiting lists become longer just when services may be most needed.

Brian Gibbons: We have made a significant increase in the funding for drug and alcohol treatment—20 per cent overall. There has

enghraifft, bu cynnydd sylweddol bob blwyddyn yn nifer y bobl sy'n cael diagnosis canser yr iau, a dengys ymchwil ddiweddar fod cynnydd sylweddol wedi bod yn nifer y bobl ifanc 13 a 14 oed a geir yn feddw. Yn anffodus, yr ydym ymhell tua brig y raddfa o'n cymharu ag oddeutu 40 o wledydd eraill. Un broblem sy'n ein hwynebu ac sy'n dangos cymhlethdod y broblem yw bod y pwerau sy'n ymwneud â thrwyddedu eiddo yn dod o fewn Deddf Trwyddedu 2003. Credaf fod problem yng Nghymru heddiw oherwydd nad oes gennym ddigon o bwerau i reoli ein trefi, ein pentrefi a'n dinasoedd yn well. A wnaiff Llywodraeth y Cynulliad archwilio'r fframwaith deddfwriaethol a gwneud fel yr awgrymaf, sef ceisio datganoli pwerau er mwyn inni allu cynllunio'n trefi, ein pentrefi a'n dinasoedd yn well, a sicrhau bod y Ddeddf Trwyddedu'n cael ei rhoi ar waith mewn ffordd fwy cyson ac ystyrlon nag ar hyn o bryd?

Brian Gibbons: Nid wyf yn anghytuno â dim yr ydych wedi'i ddweud. Yn wir, yr wyf yn croesawu'n fawr eich cefnogaeth ar yr union bwyntiau a wnaethoch. Os na allwn gymryd camau effeithiol, am ba reswm bynnag, dylem fod yn gofyn am gael y pwerau hynny ein hunain. Yr wyf yn falch eich clywed yn cynnig cefnogaeth drawsbleidiol i hynny heddiw, ac fe'i croesawaf yn fawr iawn.

Helen Mary Jones: Weinidog, gwn eich bod yn cytuno y gall yr amgylchiadau economaidd ac ariannol presennol arwain at gynnydd o ran camddefnyddio sylweddau, boed yn alcohol ynteu'n gyffuriau anghyfreithlon. Gwn hynny oherwydd inni drafod y mater hwn yn y Siambro'r blaen. A ydych yn ffyddiog fod digon o hyblygrwydd yng nghyllideb Llywodraeth Cymru fel y mae, fel y gall gwasanaethau lle mae cynnydd yn y galw am gwnsela, boed ar gyfer alcohol ynteu sylweddau anghyfreithlon, ymateb i'r galw hwnnw? Nid ydym am weld sefyllfa anffodus yn codi lle bydd rhestri aros yn ymestyn ar yr union adeg pan all fod yr angen mwyaf am y gwasanaethau hynny.

Brian Gibbons: Yr ydym wedi cynyddu'r arian yn sylweddol ar gyfer triniaethau cyffuriau ac alcohol—20 y cant drwyddi

been a 12 per cent increase in revenue funding and a 70 per cent increase in capital funding. We have had significant investment, partially to address those priorities that we have not yet addressed, but also to give us some headroom to address any issues that arise as a consequence of the social and economic recession that we face.

The Draft Budget

Q6 Jenny Randerson: Will the Minister make a statement on the effect on his department of the draft budget? OAQ(3)0967(SJL)

Brian Gibbons: The draft budget proposals will allow me to continue the delivery of the ‘One Wales’ commitments for which I am responsible, maintaining investment in key front-line services such as continuing the roll-out of the disabled children welfare benefit uptake scheme in partnership with Citizens Advice Cymru.

2.00 p.m.

Jenny Randerson: An aspect of Welsh life that has been sadly neglected in recent years, and one that is covered by your portfolio, is the provision of public toilets, which is something that affects every single one of us. The impact of the recent budgetary constraints on local authorities has seen the number of public toilets decrease, and the number of hours during which they are open has also decreased. Help the Aged conducted a survey with disturbing results. It shows the serious impact that a lack of provision has, especially on older and disabled people. In the past, the Wales Audit Commission used to carry out a mapping exercise of provision, but not even that now takes place.

Minister, can we have your assurance that you will look at this issue and take serious account of the problems? I am well aware of the system in which cafes can open their doors for such provision, and be paid to do so, but, unfortunately, that in no way takes away from the problem that affects most people.

draw. Cynyddwyd y cyllid refen i 12 y cant a'r arian cyfalaf 70 y cant. Yr ydym wedi buddsoddi'n sylweddol, yn rhannol er mwyn mynd i'r afael â'r blaenorriaethau hynny nad ydym wedi rhoi sylw iddynt eto, ond hefyd er mwyn sicrhau bod modd inni fynd i'r afael ag unrhyw broblemau sy'n codi yn sgil y dirwasgiad cymdeithasol ac economaidd sy'n ein hwynебу.

Y Gyllideb Ddrafft

C6 Jenny Randerson: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am effaith y gyllideb ddrafft ar ei adran? OAQ(3)0967(SJL)

Brian Gibbons: Bydd cynigion y gyllideb ddrafft yn golygu y gallaf barhau i wireddu ymrwymiadau ‘Cymru’n Un’ yr wyf yn gyfrifol amdanynt, a chynnal y buddsoddi mewn gwasanaethau rheng-flaen allweddol, megis parhau i ledaenu'r cynllun i gynyddu nifer y plant anabl sy'n manteisio ar fudd-daliadau lles mewn partneriaeth â Chyngor ar Bopeth Cymru.

Jenny Randerson: Un agwedd ar fywyd Cymru sydd wedi'i hesgeuluso'n anffodus yn ystod y blynnyddoedd diwethaf, ac un sy'n dod dan eich portffolio chi, yw darparu toiledau cyhoeddus. Mae hyn yn rhywbeth sy'n effeithio arnom bob un. Mae effaith y cyfyngiadau diweddar ar gyllidebau awdurdodau lleol wedi arwain at leihau nifer y toiledau cyhoeddus, a chwtogi hefyd nifer yr oriau y maent ar agor. Gwnaed arolwg gan Help the Aged, ac y mae'r canlyniadau'n destun pryder. Mae'n dangos yr effaith ddifrifol a gaiff diffyg darpariaeth, yn enwedig ar bobl hŷn a phobl anabl. Yn y gorffennol, byddai Comisiwn Archwilio Cymru'n mapio'r ddarpariaeth, ond nid yw hynny hyd yn oed yn digwydd bellach.

Weinidog, a wnewch chi ein sicrhau yr edrychwch ar y mater hwn ac ystyried y problemau o ddifrif? Gwn yn iawn am y drefn lle gall caffis agor eu drysau i gynnig darpariaeth o'r fath, a chael eu talu am wneud hynny. Ond yn anffodus nid yw hynny'n lliniaru'r broblem sy'n effeithio ar y rhan fwyaf o bobl.

Brian Gibbons: I very much agreed with you, until about the last phrase. Given the changing nature of the retail industry, there is more access to public toilet facilities in supermarkets, petrol stations and so forth. Often, however, people are not able to access these facilities unless they are paying customers. The purpose of our scheme, to which you referred at the end, is to ensure that people can use those facilities, even if they are not paying customers. That will provide more access to public conveniences, which is a most important service for older people, as it is for parents with young children. I do not think that our proposals should allow local authorities to feel that that is 'job done', however. They have to be held to account by their local population, just as we are.

Chris Franks: The independent Holtham commission looked at how Wales is funded, and it said that the Welsh budget should not be cut any further until a fairer funding formula is in place. What is your assessment of the approach taken by the Welsh Government to invest in our public services by using budget reserves and the impact of that on local government?

Brian Gibbons: The reason for holding reserves is to use them, so I think that that is good management of our finances. Clearly, having the Assembly Government run on 1 per cent reserves makes for a tight ship, and we know that many of our public bodies have much higher reserves, proportionately, than we have as a Government. When they approach us, all these financial factors need to be taken into account.

Proportionate reserves are a key financial tool for any organisation for conducting its business. For example, those local authorities that have equal pay commitments tell me that one of the reasons for keeping their reserves is to meet those commitments. That is something that I welcome, and the sooner they meet those commitments the better, as

Brian Gibbons: Yr oeddwn yn cytuno â chi i raddau helaeth, tan y cymal diwethaf. Oherwydd bod natur y diwydiant manwerthu'n newid, mae mwy o gyfleusterau toiledau cyhoeddus ar gael mewn archfarchnadoedd, Gorsafaoedd petrol, ac ati. Yn aml, foddy bynnag, ni all pobl ddefnyddio'r cyfleusterau hyn oni fyddant yn gwsmeriaid sy'n talu. Pwrpas ein cynllun, y cyfeiriwyd ato ar ddiwedd eich cwestiwn, yw sicrhau bod modd i bobl ddefnyddio'r cyfleusterau hynny, hyd yn oed os nad ydynt yn gwsmeriaid sy'n talu. Bydd hynny'n sicrhau bod mwy o gyfleusterau cyhoeddus ar gael, sy'n wasanaeth hynod o bwysig i bobl hŷn, a hefyd i rieni sydd â phlant ifanc. Fodd bynnag, ni chredaf y dylai ein cynigion ganiatâu i awdurdodau lleol deimlo bod 'y peth wedi'i ddatrys'. Rhaid iddynt fod yn atebol i'w poblogaeth leol, yn union fel yr ydym ni.

Chris Franks: Edrychodd comisiwn annibynnol Holtham ar y ffordd y caiff Cymru ei chyllido, a dywedodd na ddylid tocio cyllideb Cymru ymhellach nes bydd fformiwlâu gyllido decach wedi'i sefydlu. Beth yw eich barn am y ffordd y mae Llywodraeth Cymru'n mynd ati i fuddsoddi yn ein gwasanaethau cyhoeddus drwy ddefnyddio cronfeydd wrth gefn yn y gyllideb ac effaith hynny ar lywodraeth leol?

Brian Gibbons: Y rheswm dros gael cronfeydd wrth gefn yw i'w defnyddio, felly, credaf fod hynny'n ffordd dda i reoli ein cyllid. Mae'n amlwg fod gorfodi Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i redeg ar chronfeydd wrth gefn o 1 y cant yn golygu bod angen bod yn ddarbodus, a gwn fod gan lawer o'n cyrff cyhoeddus gronfeydd wrth gefn mwy o lawer, o safbwyt cymharol, nag sydd gennym ni fel Llywodraeth. Pan ddônt atom, bydd angen ystyried yr holl ffactorau ariannol hynny.

Mae cronfeydd wrth gefn o faint priodol yn gyfrwng ariannol allweddol i unrhyw sefydliad wrth gynnal ei fusnes. Er enghraifft, mae'r awdurdodau lleol hynny sydd wedi ymrwymo i gyflogau cyfartal yn dweud wrthyf mai un o'r rhesymau dros gadw'u cronfeydd wrth gefn yw er mwyn cyflawni'r ymrwymiadau hynny. Mae hynny'n rhywbeth

far as I am concerned.

Darren Millar: The draft budget settlement certainly makes life difficult for local authorities that find themselves at the bottom of the settlement pile—councils such as Conwy and Monmouthshire have received below average increases in their settlements over a number of years now, and the accumulative impact of that is proving extremely challenging in the discharge of their public service obligations. What action are you taking to ensure that council tax payers in these areas are not unduly penalised as the result of the Assembly Government's failure to adequately resource local councils?

Brian Gibbons: As I said to Kirsty Williams, two of the four local authorities that sought floor systems last year were also the authorities that brought in two of the lowest council tax increases in Wales. That is not acceptable to me for the future. However, I do not know why you chose those two authorities. I am sure that Trish Law will be able to articulate the problems of Blaenau Gwent; Chris Chapman has made many representations to me about Rhondda Cynon Taf; and in my own case, in Neath Port Talbot, I have received many representations about the settlement. There is pressure in providing public services but local government agreed that the current settlement was a fair settlement in difficult economic circumstances.

Darren Millar: You will not find that many people who welcome the settlement in Conwy or Monmouthshire, or in some of the other local authorities that you mentioned. You failed to answer the question directly about the cumulative impact, which I find appalling. Of course, it is not just this year that settlements for local government will be challenging, because the outlook is probably bleak for the next decade as a result of the Labour mismanagement of the UK economy. [Interruption.] Given the challenges that we face over the next decade and that over a quarter of all council tax in Wales is spent on the growing and unsustainable costs of local authority pension schemes, what

yr wyf yn ei groesawu, a gorau po gyntaf y cadwant yr ymrwymiadau hynny, yn fy marn i.

Darren Millar: Mae setliad drafft y gyllideb yn sicr yn gwneud bywyd yn anodd i awdurdodau lleol sy'n eu cael eu hunain ar waelod y domen setliadau—mae cynghorau megis Conwy a Sir Fynwy wedi cael cynnydd is na'r cyfartaledd yn eu setliadau dros nifer o flynyddoedd bellach, ac mae effaith gronnu hynny'n ei gwneud yn anodd iawn iddynt gyflawni eu dyletswyddau o ran gwasanaethau cyhoeddus. Pa gamau yr ydych yn eu cymryd i sicrhau nad yw pobl sy'n talu'r dreth gyngor yn yr ardaloedd hyn yn cael eu cosbi'n annheg oherwydd methiant Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i ddarparu adnoddau digonol ar gyfer cynghorau lleol?

Brian Gibbons: Fel y dywedais wrth Kirsty Williams, yr oedd dau o'r pedwar awdurdod lleol a wnaeth gais am arian gwaelodol y llynedd hefyd yn awdurdodau lle cyflwynwyd y cynnydd lleiaf yn y dreth gyngor. Ni fydd hynny'n dderbynol imi yn y dyfodol. Fodd bynnag, ni wn pam y dewiswyd y ddaau awdurdod hynny gennych. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd Trish Law yn gallu sôn am broblemau Blaenau Gwent; mae Chris Chapman wedi tynnu fy sylw droeon at Rondda Cynon Taf; ac yn fy achos i, yng Nghastell-nedd Port Talbot, yr wyf wedi cael nifer o sylwadau am y setliad. Mae darparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus dan bwysau, ond cytunodd llywodraeth leol fod y setliad presennol yn setliad teg dan amgylchiadau economaidd anodd.

Darren Millar: Ni welwch gynifer â hynny o bobl sy'n croesawu'r setliad yng Nghonwy nac yn sir Fynwy, nac yn rhai o'r awdurdodau lleol eraill a grybwylwyd gennych. Ni chefais ateb uniongyrchol gennych am yr effaith gronnu, sy'n warthus yn fy marn i. Wrth gwrs, nid dim ond eleni y bydd y setliadau i lywodraeth leol yn anodd, oherwydd mae'n debyg bod y rhagolygon yn ddu ar gyfer y degawd nesaf yn sgil camreoli economi'r Deyrnas Unedig gan y blaid Lafur [Torri ar draws.] O gofio'r anawsterau a fydd yn ein hwynebu dros y degawd nesaf, a bod dros chwarter holl dreth gyngor Cymru yn cael ei gwario ar gostau cynyddol ac anghynaliadwy cynlluniau pensiwn

consideration have you given to resolving the spiralling costs of those schemes?

Brian Gibbons: We have shown that we are able to manage our budget. I dread to think how vulnerable families and communities would manage their circumstances if there were to be draconian cuts next year, should we be so unfortunate as to have a Conservative Government.

Sandy Mewies: Minister, Chris Franks mentioned equalisation of pay and single status pay as one of the pressures that local authorities will face. I have been extremely concerned about Flintshire County Council, which has just completed the exercise of looking into single status pay. It has come up with disparities for some people where they will go down by five grades in their pay scale. Some people are losing thousands of pounds—some couples are losing tens of thousands of pounds between them. Single people living alone are horrified that they may not be able to pay their mortgages. Given the seriousness of this situation, will you consider having an oversight on this matter?

Brian Gibbons: You and Carl Sargeant have raised this concern with me over the last 10 days because of the press coverage of this particular matter. Some of what you are saying is true, but my understanding is that the council has decided to take a fresh look at this matter, which will hopefully produce a more equitable outcome for members of the Flintshire County Council workforce. We all recognise that there will be some winners and losers in any job evaluation exercise—it is impossible to completely avoid that. For the losers, we need to have some type of transition arrangement in place that is consistent with the law. However, the decision by Flintshire to take a fresh look at this issue would suggest that it has accepted that there is something in the case that you are making.

Cam-drin Domestig

C7 Gareth Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ei strategaeth ar gyfer mynd i'r afael â cham-drin domestig yn erbyn

awdurdodau lleol, pa ystyriaeth yr ydych wedi'i rhoi i ddatrys costau cynyddol y cynlluniau hynny?

Brian Gibbons: Yr ydym wedi dangos ein bod yn gallu rheoli'n cylideb. Yr wyf yn arswydo meddwl sut y byddai teuluoedd a chymunedau sy'n agored i niwed yn ymdopi â'u hamgylchiadau pe bae toriadau llym y flwyddyn nesaf, pe baem mor anffodus â chael Llywodraeth Geidwadol.

Sandy Mewies: Weinidog, soniodd Chris Franks mai un o'r pethau y bydd awdurdodau lleol yn gorfod ei wynebu fydd cydraddoli cyflogau a chyflogau un statws. Yr wyf wedi bod yn poeni'n ofnadwy am Gyngor Sir y Fflint, sydd newydd gwblhau'r ymarfer o edrych ar gyflogau un statws. Bydd rhai pobl yn wynebu gwahaniaeth mawr wrth iddynt lithro bum gradd i lawr yn eu graddfa gyflog. Mae rhai pobl yn colli miloedd o bunnau—mae rhai cyplau'n colli degau o filoedd o bunnau rhyngddynt. Mae pobl sengl sy'n byw ar eu pen eu hunain wedi dychryn o feddwl na fyddant efallai yn gallu talu eu morgais. Gan fod y sefyllfa mor ddifrifol, a wnewch chi ystyried cadw golwg ar y mater hwn?

Brian Gibbons: Yr ydych chi a Carl Sargeant wedi codi'r pryder hwn gyda mi yn ystod y 10 diwrnod diwethaf oherwydd y sylw yn y wasg i'r mater penodol hwn. Mae rhywfaint o'r hyn yr ydych yn ei ddweud yn wir, ond fel y deallaf, mae'r cyngor wedi penderfynu edrych ar y mater hwn o'r newydd, a gobeithio y bydd hynny'n arwain at ganlyniad tecach i weithlu Cyngor Sir y Fflint. Yr ydym i gyd yn sylweddoli y bydd rhai ar eu hennill ac eraill ar eu colled mewn unrhyw ymarfer gwerthuso swyddi—mae'n amhosibl osgoi hynny'n llwyr. O ran y rhai sydd ar eu colled, bydd angen inni gael rhyw fath o drefniant pontio sy'n gyson â'r gyfraith. Fodd bynnag, byddai penderfyniad Sir y Fflint i edrych o'r newydd ar y mater hwn yn awgrymu ei fod yn derbyn bod rhywfaint wirionedd yn eich dadl.

Domestic Abuse

Q7 Gareth Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on his strategy for combating domestic abuse towards women?

menywod? OAQ(3)0940(SJL)

Brian Gibbons: This continues to be a priority for the Assembly Government. Funding is being provided for an outreach service in Wrexham and one-stop shops in Aberystwyth and Flintshire. During this year, additional funding has also been provided to the women's centre in Rhyl and the rape crisis centre in Caernarfon.

Gareth Jones: Yr wyf yn croesawu'r ffaith fod Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un wedi ymgynghori ar gynllun gweithredu strategol i frwydro yn erbyn trais yn erbyn merched, ac i ddiweddarau'r strategaeth cam-drin yn y cartref. Yr wyf yn croesawu'n enwedig y cynnydd mewn cyllid refeniw a chyfalaf mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi ei ymrwymo ar gyfer y mater pwysig hwn. Fodd bynnag, pan fydd y Gweinidog yn gwerthuso ymatebion yr ymgynghoriad ac yn ystyried y camau nesaf, a wnaiff roi sylw arbennig i anghenion ariannol y mudiadau hynny a fydd, i raddau helaeth, yn helpu i gyflawni'r strategaeth newydd? Er enghraifft, gwn fod Cymorth i Fenywod Aberconwy—ac yr wyf yn datgan buddiant fel ymddiriedolwr—yn wynebu toriadau yn ei gyllid grant ac mae'n ymddangos nad yw cyllid strategol y Llywodraeth, hyd yn oed gyda'r ewylls da gorau posibl, yn llwyddo bob amser i gyrraedd y rheini mewn mwyaf o angen.

2.10 p.m.

Brian Gibbons: Much of the money that we provide for domestic abuse services goes to either community safety partnerships—which we believe are closer to local circumstances and are more accountable to the local population—or to Welsh Women's Aid. Again, that organisation is committed to dealing with women. In the main, that is the right way to go. The Welsh Assembly Government has provided central funding for capital programmes, but I would not like us to be involved in the daily micromanagement of these services throughout Wales. Using, local people and local organisations and focusing on local priorities should be the way forward.

OAQ(3)0940(SJL)

Brian Gibbons: Mae hyn yn dal yn flaenoriaeth i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad. Mae arian yn cael ei ddarparu ar gyfer gwasanaeth allgymorth yn Wrecsam a siopau un-stop yn Aberystwyth ac yn sir y Fflint. Yn ystod y flwyddyn hon, mae arian ychwanegol wedi'i ddarparu hefyd ar gyfer y ganolfan i fenywod yn y Rhyl a'r ganolfan argyfwng trais rhyw yng Nghaernarfon.

Gareth Jones: I welcome the fact that the One Wales Government has consulted on a strategic action plan for dealing with violence against women, and to update the domestic abuse strategy. I especially welcome the increase in capital and revenue funding which the Welsh Government has committed to this very important issue. However, when the Minister evaluates the consultation responses and considers the next steps, will he pay special attention to the financial needs of those organisations that will, to a large extent, help to implement the new strategy? For example, I know that Aberconwy Women's Aid—and I declare an interest as a trustee—is facing cuts in its grant funding and that it appears that the Government's strategic funding, with all the will in the world, does not always succeed in reaching those in most need.

Brian Gibbons: Bydd llawer o'r arian y byddwn yn ei ddarparu ar gyfer gwasanaethau cam-drin domestig yn mynd naill ai i'r partneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol—sydd yn ein barn ni'n nes at amgylchiadau lleol ac yn fwy atebol i'r boblogaeth leol—neu i Gymorth i Fenywod Cymru. Unwaith eto, mae'r sefydliad hwnnw wedi ymroi i ymwneud â menywod. Ar y cyfan, dyna'r trywydd iawn. Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi darparu arian canolog ar gyfer rhagleni cyfalaf, ond ni fyddwn yn dymuno inni ymwneud â meicreoreoli'r gwasanaethau hyn yn feunyddiol ledled Cymru. Defnyddio pobl leol a mudiadau lleol a chanolbwytio ar flaenoriaethau lleol—dyna sut y dylem fwrw ymlaen.

Nick Ramsay: My question is similar to Gareth Jones's. When you look at the wealth of statistics on this, they speak for themselves: one in four women will experience domestic abuse from their partner in their lifetime and 98 incidents are reported to the police every day. If you take into account the fact that the police think that there is only a 10 per cent reporting rate, the actual scale of this problem is huge. As Gareth Jones highlighted, organisations like Women's Aid are vitally important, not only in his and my constituency, but in those of all Members. On micromanagement, it is one thing not to micromanage—and I agree that it is not your job as the Minister to micromanage any areas such as Women's Aid—but, as Gareth Jones said, with all the will in the world, a strategy can be the best ever, but if the resource and funding is not there, particularly during financially tight times, these organisations will not be able to fulfil their duties. However, I recognise your consultation on the previous inadequate strategy in 2005. Do you recognise the need for you, not to micromanage, but to ensure that they get the resources that they need to continue providing an increasingly important and valuable service?

Brian Gibbons: I do not agree that the previous strategy was inadequate, because it led to a massive step forward in the level of provision for people who suffer from domestic abuse and for women exposed to other gender-based violence. The previous strategy has more than justified itself and has stood the test of time. However, as you said, things move on, and I am pleased that we have been able to secure an additional 33 per cent increase in financial support for the campaign against domestic abuse and violence against women in this draft budget settlement. Hopefully, that extra resource will be allocated in line with the priority identified in the consultation.

Joyce Watson: I will also recognise and welcome the additional £1 million, or the 33 per cent rise in funding, that you have secured. However, can you assure me that as

Nick Ramsay; Mae fy nghwestiwn yn debyg i gwestiwn Gareth Jones. Pan edrychwr ar gyfoeth yr ystadegau sydd ar gael ar hyn, maent yn dweud y cyfan: bydd un fenyw o bob pedair yn dioddef cam-drin domestig gan ei phartner yn ystod ei hoes, a chaiff yr heddlu wybod am 98 o achosion bob dydd. Os ystyriwr fod yr heddlu'n credu mai 10 y cant o achosion sy'n cael eu riportio, mae gwir faint y broblem yn enfawr. Fel y dywedodd Gareth Jones, mae mudiadau megis Cymorth i Fenywod yn hollbwysig, nid yn unig yn ei etholaeth ef ac yn fy etholaeth innau, ond yn etholaethau'r Aelodau i gyd. O ran meicroreoli, un peth yw peidio â meicroreoli—a chytunaf nad eich gwaith chi y Gweinidog yw meicroreoli unrhyw feysydd megis Cymorth i Fenywod—ond fel y dywedodd Gareth Jones, gyda'r ewyllys gorau yn y byd, ni waeth pa mor dda yw strategaeth, os nad yw'r adnoddau a'r arian ar gael, yn enwedig yn ystod cyfnod pan fydd arian yn brin, ni fydd y mudiadau hyn yn gallu cyflawni eu dyletswyddau. Serch hynny, cydnabyddaf eich ymgynghoriad ar y strategaeth annigonol flaenorol yn 2005. A ydych yn cydnabod bod angen ichi nid i feicreoli ond i sicrhau eu bod yn cael yr adnoddau y mae arnynt eu hangen i barhau i ddarparu gwasanaeth cynyddol bwysig a gwerthfawr?

Brian Gibbons: Ni chytunaf fod y strategaeth flaenorol yn annigonol, oherwydd arweiniodd at gam enfawr ymlaen yn lefel y ddarpariaeth i bobl sy'n dioddef cam-drin domestig ac i fenywod sy'n agored i fathau eraill o drais yn seiliedig ar ryw. Mae'r strategaeth flaenorol wedi'i chyflawnhau ei hun a mwy, ac wedi sefyll prawf amser. Serch hynny, fel y dywedasoch, mae pethau'n symud yn eu blaen, ac yr wyf yn falch inni allu sicrhau cynnydd ychwanegol o 33 y cant yn y cymorth ariannol ar gyfer yr ymgyrch yn erbyn cam-drin domestig a thrais yn erbyn menywod yn y setliad cyllideb drafft hwn. Gobeithio y caiff yr adnodd ychwanegol hwnnw ei ddyrannu'n unol â'r flaenoriaeth a nodwyd yn yr ymgynghori.

Joyce Watson: Yr wyf yn cydnabod ac yn croesawu'r £1 filiwn ychwanegol, neu'r cynnydd o 33 y cant yn y cylld, yr ydych wedi'i sicrhau. Fodd bynnag, a allwch fy

funders, and not deliverers, of domestic-abuse services, you will take action if you become aware of any misinterpretation of the intended outcome of your strategy? In other words, will you ensure that the level of service provision matches the need and that money is spent to gain the maximum benefit? Will you look at how all agencies are engaged in safeguarding women and children from dangerous situations? Furthermore, will you ensure that those dangerous situations are fully understood by all concerned and, if not, that immediate action is taken? We all know the statistics and all Members are fully aware that the highest incidence of death, certainly in my area, often results from misinterpretation and incorrect action being taken, when those situations arise.

sicrhau y byddwch, a chithau'n cyllido yn hytrach nag yn darparu gwasanaethau camdrin domestig, yn cymryd camau os sylweddolwch fod bwriad eich strategaeth yn cael ei gamddehongli mewn unrhyw fod? Mewn geiriau eraill, a wnewch chi sicrhau bod lefel y gwasanaeth a ddarperir yn cyfateb i'r angen a bod yr arian yn cael ei wario i sicrhau'r budd mwyaf? A wnewch chi edrych ar y ffordd y mae pob asiantaeth yn mynd ati i ddiogelu menywod a phlant rhag sefyllfaoedd peryglus? At hynny, a wnewch chi sicrhau bod pawb dan sylw yn deall yn llwyr y sefyllfaoedd peryglus hynny, ac os nad ydynt, y cymerir camau ar unwaith? Gwyddom i gyd am yr ystadegau, a gwyr pob Aelod yn iawn fod y nifer fwyaf o farwolaethau, yn sicr yn fy ardal i, yn aml yn deillio o gamddehongli a chymryd y camau anghywir, pan fydd y sefyllfaoedd hynny'n codi.

Brian Gibbons: I agree. The delivery of services must be needs based. Central to that is the need for those services to be gender sensitive and gender specific. This is clearly gender-based violence against those victims, and the services must also be gender-based. We are working with the Equality and Human Rights Commission to ensure that people understand what equal opportunities mean in this context, where there is a disparity in the needs of the genders. That disparity in need has to be reflected in the type of services provided. In answer to your last point, I am pleased to confirm that we will again be running our Christmas campaign on domestic abuse and gender-based violence. Last year, that campaign led to an increase of about 30 per cent in the number of people calling the domestic abuse helpline; it increased awareness considerably and people took the step of looking for help. Hopefully, we will be able to raise awareness further in this important area this Christmas.

Brian Gibbons: Cytunaf. Rhaid i'r gwasanaethau a ddarperir fod yn seiliedig ar anghenion. Elfen ganolog o hynny yw bod angen i'r gwasanaethau hynny fod yn ensitif i ryw ac yn benodol i ryw. Mae'n amlwg mai traision yn seiliedig ar ryw yw traision yn erbyn y dioddefwyr hynny, ac felly rhaid i'r gwasanaethau hefyd gael eu seilio ar yr un egwyddor. Yr ydym yn gweithio gyda'r Comisiwn Cydraddoldeb a Hawliau Dynol er mwyn sicrhau bod pobl yn deall beth yw ystyr cyfle cyfartal yn y cyd-destun hwn, lle bydd anghenion y ddau ryw yn wahanol. Rhaid adlewyrchu'r gwahaniaeth hwnnw o ran angen yn y math o wasanaethau a ddarperir. I ateb eich pwynol olaf, yr wyf yn falch cadarnhau y byddwn yn cynnal ein hymgyrch ar gam-drim domestig a thrais yn seiliedig ar ryw unwaith eto'r Nadolig hwn. Y llynedd, yn sgil yr ymgyrch honno, gwelwyd cynydd o ryw 30 y cant yn nifer y bobl a alwodd y llinell gymorth ar gam-drin domestig; llwyddwyd i gynyddu ymwybyddiaeth yn sylweddol, a chymerodd pobl y cam o geisio cymorth. Gobeithio y gallwn gynyddu ymwybyddiaeth ymhellach o'r maes pwysig hwn y Nadolig hwn.

Council Tax

Q8 Peter Black: Will the Minister make a statement on equity of council tax? OAQ(3)0976(SJL)

Y Dreth Gyngor

C8 Peter Black: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am degwch y dreth gyngor? OAQ(3)0976(SJL)

Brian Gibbons: The 2005 council tax revaluation maintains fairness in the council tax system, as council tax bands are now based on up-to-date property values. An additional band for the highest valued properties was added to bring further equity into the system. We are supporting local authorities in providing council tax benefit to protect low-income families.

Peter Black: Thank you for that answer, Minister. The deprivation grant was introduced to offset the effects of the formula on poorer areas and also to offset the impact of a high number of low council tax bands in a particularly poor area. I understand that you have now subsumed that grant into the revenue support grant, but you have retained its separate distribution formula. For how long will that formula remain as a separate element of the revenue support grant?

Brian Gibbons: I am committed to allocating that money, which goes into the revenue support grant, on the basis of social and economic need and deprivation. That is a key principle that needs to be enshrined in the distribution formula. We want the money in the deprivation grant to be used more flexibly, but we do not want to see it diverted from the areas of greatest need or areas where council tax levels are highest. We know that council tax levels are highest in Blaenau Gwent, Merthyr, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Neath Port Talbot, which have high levels of social and economic need in common. The deprivation grant must work for those people.

Peter Black: Thank you for that answer, but I noticed that you did not answer my question as to how long you intend to keep that separate distribution formula. Do you accept that subsuming the deprivation grant into the revenue support grant reduces transparency in how this money is distributed and makes it easier for a future Minister in charge of local government to abolish that grant without it

Brian Gibbons: Wrth ailbrisio'r dreth gyngor yn 2005, llwyddwyd i gynnal tegwch y system dreth gyngor, oherwydd bod bandiau'r dreth gyngor bellach wedi'u seilio ar werthoedd eiddo a'r rheini wedi'u diweddu. Ychwanegwyd band ar gyfer yr eiddo uchaf ei werth er mwyn gwneud y system yn fwy teg byth. Yr ydym yn cynorthwyo awdurdodau lleol i ddarparu budd-dal treth gyngor er mwyn gwarchod teuluoedd sydd ar incwm isel.

Peter Black: Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Cyflwynwyd y grant amddifadedd er mwyn gwrthbwys effeithiau'r fformiwla ar yr ardaloedd tlofa, a hefyd i wrthbwysor effaith a gaiff nifer mawr o fandiau treth gyngor isel mewn ardal arbennig o dlawd. Deallaf fod y grant hwnnw bellach wedi'i gynnwys yn y grant cynnal refeniw, ond eich bod wedi cadw fformiwla dosbarthu ar wahân ar ei gyfer. Am ba hyd y cedwir y fformiwla honno'n elfen ar wahân i'r grant cynnal refeniw?

Brian Gibbons: Yr wyf wedi ymrwymo i ddyrannu'r arian hwnnw, a aiff i mewn i'r grant cynnal refeniw, ar sail angen ac amddifadedd cymdeithasol ac economaidd. Mae honno'n egwyddor allweddol y mae angen ei chynnwys yn y fformiwla dosbarthu. Yr ydym am i arian y grant amddifadedd gael ei ddefnyddio mewn ffordd fwy hyblyg, ond nid ydym am ei weld yn cael ei gyfeirio oddi wrth y meysydd lle mae'r angen mwyaf, neu oddi wrth yr ardaloedd lle mae lefelau'r dreth gyngor ar eu huchaf. Gwyddom mai ym Mlaenau Gwent, Merthyr, Rhondda Cynon Taf a Chastell-nedd Port Talbot y mae lefelau'r dreth gyngor ar eu huchaf, a'r rheini i gyd yn ardaloedd lle mae'r angen cymdeithasol ac economaidd hefyd yn fawr. Rhaid i'r grant amddifadedd weithio i'r bobl hynny.

Peter Black: Diolch ichi am yr ateb hwnnw, ond sylwais na wnaethoch ateb fy nghwestiwn am ba hyd y bwriadwch gadw'r fformiwla ddosbarthu honno ar wahân. A ydych yn derbyn bod cynnwys y grant amddifadedd yn y grant cynnal refeniw yn ei gwneud yn llai amlwg sut y dosberthir yr arian hwn, a'i bod yn ei gwneud yn haws i Weinidog sy'n gyfrifol am lywodraeth leol

being noticed so easily by Assembly Members in the scrutiny process?

yn y dyfodol ddiddymu'r grant hwnnw heb i Aelodau'r Cynulliad sylwi arno mor rhwydd yn y broses graffu?

Brian Gibbons: I would hope that Assembly Members, if they were doing their job, would not be as easily hoodwinked as you suggest, Peter. I am sure that it will not happen if you are here, because I know that you take a great interest in these matters. Subsuming the deprivation grant into the RSG means that it is mainstreamed into local government funding, but that extra resource is provided on the basis of an established index of deprivation, as it is at the moment. As far as I am concerned, that should continue in perpetuity.

Brian Gibbons: Byddwn yn gobeithio na fyddai Aelodau'r Cynulliad, petaent yn gwneud eu gwaith, yn cael eu twyllo mor rhwydd ag yr awgrymwch, Peter. Yr wyf yn siŵr na fydd yn digwydd os byddwch chi yma, oherwydd gwn fod gennych lawer o ddiddordeb yn y materion hyn. Mae cynnwys y grant amddifadedd yn y Grant Cynnal Refeniw yn golygu ei fod yn dod yn rhan o brif ffrwd ariannu llywodraeth leol, ond darperir yr adnodd ychwanegol hwnnw ar sail mynegai amddifadedd sefydledig, fel y mae ar hyn o bryd. O'm rhan i, dylai hynny barhau hyd byth.

Mohammad Asghar: The council tax, which was brought in to replace the discredited poll tax, is not the best way of financing local government. Does the Minister agree that replacing the council tax with a system of local income tax, and so better reflecting a person's ability to pay, would be a much better way of raising money for local authorities?

Mohammad Asghar: Nid y dreth gyngor, a gyflwynwyd i ddisodli'r dreth y pen warthus, yw'r ffordd orau i ariannu llywodraeth leol. A yw'r Gweinidog yn cytuno y byddai cael system o dreth incwm leol yn lle'r dreth gyngor, a thrwy hynny adlewyrchu'n well allu rhywun i dalu, yn ffordd well o lawer i godi arian i awdurdodau lleol?

Brian Gibbons: I do not agree. When Sir Michael Lyons looked at the financing of local government, he did not agree either, and that was the last substantial examination of this particular issue. He made the valuable point that any taxation system must take people's assets into account, as well as their income. As a property tax, that is what the council tax is intended to achieve. We are aware that the Scottish Government tried to bring in a local income tax, but, sadly, it all ended in tears.

Brian Gibbons: Nid wyf yn cytuno. Pan edrychodd Syr Michael Lyons ar ariannu llywodraeth leol, nid oedd yntau'n cytuno ychwaith, a dyna'r tro diwethaf i'r mater arbennig hwn gael ei archwilio'n fanwl. Gwnaeth y pwyt gwerthfawr ei bod yn rhaid i unrhyw system drethu ystyried asedau pobl, yn ogystal â'u hincwm. A hithau'n dreth ar eiddo, dyna y bwriedir i'r dreth gyngor ei wneud. Gwyddom fod Llywodraeth yr Alban wedi ceisio cyflwyno treth incwm leol, ond dagrâu fu diwedd hynny, yn anffodus.

2.20 p.m.

Darren Millar: Minister, our pensioner households have been among the hardest hit by the doubling of council tax bills under Labour over the last 10 years. [Interruption.]

Darren Millar: Weinidog, aelwydydd ein pensiynwyr ni yw rhai o'r aelwydydd sydd wedi'u taro galetaf yn sgil dyblu biliau'r dreth gyngor dan Lafur dros y 10 mlynedd diwethaf. [Torri ar draws.]

The Presiding Officer: Order. It is my duty to defend the Welsh Conservatives against any barracking.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae'n ddyletswydd arnaf amddiffyn Ceidwadwyr Cymru rhag unrhyw wawd.

Darren Millar: Thank you, Llywydd, but I

Darren Millar: Diolch, Lywydd, ond gallaf

assure you that I do not need defending.

The Presiding Officer: Order. It is my choice to defend you.

Darren Millar: I appreciate it.

The Presiding Officer: You are very dear to my mother-in-law.

Darren Millar: Who is, of course, a constituent of mine.

Minister, according to Age Concern Cymru, around 46 per cent of pensioners in Wales are paying more in council tax than they need to. Do you agree that that stark statistic demonstrates that the efforts by the Assembly Government to help pensioners with council tax are failing miserably? Will you reconsider your rejection of the proposal by the Welsh Conservatives for a 30 per cent reduction in council tax bills for every pensioner household in Wales?

Brian Gibbons: That is the stuff of idle opposition. Your proposal looks excellent in a press release, but even a superficial evaluation shows that it has no credibility, particularly in the current economic climate. However, it is important that we recognise that pensioners on fixed incomes can face pressure, and that is why we have provided extra support to improve the uptake of benefits. I am pleased to say that that is going well, and that is why we are providing an extra £4 million to local authorities next year—£2 million this year, and £4 million next year—to allow them to come up with innovative proposals at the local level to address this issue. Ours are constructive and realistic proposals, and not pie in the sky.

eich sicrhau nad oes angen ichi fy amddiffyn.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Fy newis i yw eich amddiffyn.

Darren Millar: Fe'i gwerthfawrogaf.

Y Llywydd: Yr ydych yn annwyl iawn gan fy mam yng nghyfraith.

Darren Millar: Sydd, wrth gwrs, yn un o'm hetholwyr.

Weinidog, yn ôl Age Concern Cymru, mae oddeutu 46 y cant o bensiwnwyr Cymru yn talu mwy o dreth gyngor nag y mae angen iddynt ei dalu. A gytunwch fod yr ystadegyn moel hwnnw'n dangos bod ymdrechion Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i gynorthwyo pensiwnwyr gyda'r dreth gyngor yn methu'n ddifrifol? A wnewch chi ailystyried eich penderfyniad i wrthod cynnig Ceidwadwyr Cymru i ostwng biliau'r dreth gyngor 30 y cant i bob aelwyd yng Nghymru lle mae pensiwnwyr?

Brian Gibbons: Dadl gwrbhlaid ddiog yw hynny. Mae eich cynnig yn ymddangos yn rhagorol mewn datganiad i'r wasg, ond nid oes ond rhaid taro golwg arwynebol drosto i weld nad oes iddo edim hygrededd, yn enwedig yn yr hinsawdd economaidd presennol. Serch hynny, mae'n bwysig inni gydnabod y gall pensiwnwyr ar incwm sefydlog fod dan bwysau, a dyna pam yr ydym wedi darparu cymorth ychwanegol i gynyddu'r nifer sy'n manteisio ar fudd-daliadau. Yr wyf yn falch dweud bod hynny'n mynd rhagddo'n dda, a dyna pam yr ydym yn darparu £4 miliwn yn ychwanegol ar gyfer awdurdodau lleol y flwyddyn nesaf—£2 filiwn eleni, a £4 miliwn y flwyddyn nesaf—i ganiatáu iddynt gyflwyno cynigion arloesol ar y lefel leol i fynd i'r afael â'r mater hwn. Mae ein cynigion ni'n gynigion adeiladol a realistig, nid yn freuddwydion gwrach.

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth Questions for the Minister for Heritage

Bryngle Williams: I understand that you have allowed questions 1 and 7 to be grouped, Presiding Officer. [Laughter.]

Bryngle Williams: Deallaf ichi ganiatáu inni grwpio cwestiynau 1 a 7, Lywydd. [Chwerthin.]

The Presiding Officer: It is for the Minister to say that—if he remembers. However, I am sure that the Minister is grateful that you have reminded him.

Cultural Events in Rural Areas

Q1 Brynle Williams: What are the Welsh Assembly Government's plans for promoting cultural events in rural areas? OAQ(3)0912(HER)

The Minister for Heritage (Alun Ffred Jones): I am committed to supporting cultural events across Wales. The Welsh Assembly Government works in partnership with numerous organisations and communities to implement a robust programme to promote cultural events across Wales and to increase public access and attract visitors.

Y Llywydd: Beth am y cwestiwn nesaf, Brynle?

Brynle Williams: Mae'n ddrwg gennyf.

C7 A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gynlluniau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer cefnogi digwyddiadau diwylliannol mewn ardaloedd gwledig? OAQ(3)0913(HER)

Alun Ffred Jones: Fel yr esboniai, mae'r Llywodraeth, drwy gydweithio â gwahanol asiantaethau, cymunedau a chyrrff eraill, yn hyrwyddo pob math o ddigwyddiadau. Mae Cadw yn hyrwyddo digwyddiadau ar ei safleoedd yn ystod y flwyddyn er mwyn creu diddordeb lleol a denu ymwelwyr. Mae digwyddiadau yn y maes celfyddydol yn cael eu noddi yn bennaf gan Gyngor Celfyddydau Cymru. Yr ydych yn gwybod amdanynt: y gwyliau mawr fel Eisteddfod yr Urdd ac Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru, a gwyliau eraill ar hyd a lled y wlad. Wrth gwrs, bydd digwyddiadau hefyd yn ystod y flwyddyn nesaf a'r flwyddyn ganlynol sy'n ymwneud â'r Olympiad diwylliannol. Bydd wyth digwyddiad felly yn digwydd ar safleoedd o dan reolaeth Cadw ar hyd a lled Cymru. Mae llawer iawn o weithgaredd yn digwydd, ac mae hynny'n rhannol drwy hyrwyddiad y

Y Llywydd: Y Gweinidog sydd i ddweud hynny—os yw'n cofio. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn siŵr fod y Gweinidog yn ddiolchgar i chi am ei atgoffa.

Digwyddiadau Diwylliannol mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig

C1 Brynle Williams: Beth yw cynlluniau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer hyrwyddo digwyddiadau diwylliannol mewn ardaloedd gwledig? OAQ(3)0912(HER)

Y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth (Alun Ffred Jones): Yr wyf wedi ymrwymo i gefnogi digwyddiadau diwylliannol ledled Cymru. Bydd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth ag amrywiol sefydliadau a chymunedau i roi rhaglen gadarn ar waith i hyrwyddo digwyddiadau diwylliannol ledled Cymru ac i wella mynediad i'r cyhoedd a denu ymwelwyr.

The Presiding Officer: What about the next question, Brynle?

Brynle Williams: I am sorry.

Q7 Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government plans for supporting cultural events in rural areas? OAQ(3)0913(HER)

Alun Ffred Jones: As I explained, the Government promotes all kinds of different events in co-operation with various agencies, communities and other bodies. Cadw promotes events on its sites in order to generate local interest and attract visitors. There are also arts events, which are sponsored in the main by the Arts Council of Wales. You know of them: the major festivals, such as the Urdd Eisteddfod and the National Eisteddfod of Wales, and other festivals the length and breadth of Wales. Over the next two years, there will also be events relating to the cultural Olympiad. Eight of them will be on sites under Cadw's management throughout Wales. There is a great deal of activity going on, and that is partly the result of Government promotion, but also of local activity.

Llywodraeth a hefyd drwy weithgarwch lleol.

Bryngle Williams: Diolch am yr ateb. Un peth yr wyf yn sicr wedi llwyddo i'w wneud y prynhawn yma yw rhoi gwêr ar wyneb pawb, o leiaf.

Minister, you will be aware of the great contribution that Wales's agricultural shows make, economically and culturally. However, the future success of these shows could be put in jeopardy by the UK Government's inflexible interpretation of the European working time directive. This means that people with a class 1 heavy goods vehicle licence, who work in an office, for example—they could even work in this Assembly—cannot drive a truck that is over 7.5 tonnes, although it would solely be for sport and recreation purposes. This is not just an issue for horsebox users, but threatens many cultural events in Wales, such as motorcycle scrambling. [Interruption.] Even if you do not agree that motorcycle scrambling is a cultural event, Mr Dai Lloyd, I certainly do.

The Presiding Officer: Order. I suppose that everything is culture.

Bryngle Williams: Rhag eich cywilydd, Dai Lloyd.

Minister, will you give your commitment that the Welsh Assembly Government will support amateur sportspeople in Wales and will you press your colleagues in Westminster for a common-sense exemption for all of these activities?

Alun Ffred Jones: I would certainly regard scrambling as a cultural event. As for the European directive that you referred to, I am unaware of those implications, but I will certainly make inquiries and write to you about your concerns and on how we can address them.

Bryngle Williams: County shows have an impact on rural culture. At a time when many of the smaller rural shows will be under more pressure than ever to safeguard their future,

Bryngle Williams: Thank you for the answer. One thing I have been able to do this afternoon is to put a smile on everyone's face, at least.

Weinidog, gwyddoch am gyfraniad mawr sioeau amaethyddol Cymru at ein heonomi a'n diwylliant. Serch hynny, gallai llwyddiant y sioeau hyn fod mewn perygl yn y dyfodol yn sgil y ffordd anhyblyg y mae Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig yn dehongli cyfarwyddeb amser gweithio Ewrop. Golyga hyn na chaiff pobl sydd â thrwydded cerbyd nwyddau trwm dosbarth 1 ac sy'n gweithio mewn swyddfa, er enghraifft—gallent hyd yn oed fod yn gweithio yn y Cynulliad hwn—yr vu cerbyd sy'n pwysa dros 7.5 tunnell, er mai dim ond at ddibenion chwaraeon a hamdden y byddai hynny. Nid problem i bobl sy'n defnyddio cerbydau cludo ceffylau'n unig yw hon: mae'n bygwth nifer o ddigwyddiadau diwylliannol yng Nghymru, megis sgramblo beicio modur. [Torri ar draws.] Hyd yn oed os na chytunwch fod sgramblo beicio modur yn ddigwyddiad diwylliannol, Mr Dai Lloyd, yr wyf fi'n sicr yn meddwl ei fod.

Llywydd: Trefn. Am wn i, mae popeth yn ddiwylliant.

Bryngle Williams: Shame on you, Dai Lloyd.

Weinidog, a wnewch chi ymrwymo cefnogaeth Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i amaturiaid ym maes chwaraeon yng Nghymru, ac a wnewch chi bwysa ar eich cyd-Weinidogion yn San Steffan i ddefnyddio synnwyr cyffredin ac eithrio'r holl weithgareddau hyn?

Alun Ffred Jones: Byddwn i'n sicr yn ystyried sgramblo'n ddigwyddiad diwylliannol. O ran cyfarwyddeb Ewrop y cyfeiriwyd ati, nid wyf yn ymwybodol o'r goblygiadau hynny, ond yn sicr ymholaef ac ysgrifennu atoch ynglŷn â'ch pryderon a'r ffordd y gallwn ymdrin â hwy.

Bryngle Williams: Mae sioeau sir yn dylanwadu ar ddiwylliant cefn gwlad. A hithau'n adeg pan fydd nifer o'r sioeau gwledig llai dan fwy o bwysau nag erioed i

do you not agree that there is a more pressing need than ever to reduce the unnecessary red tape that the organisers are forced to deal with? In addition, there are issues with regard to overzealous enforcement by officials in relation to, for example, vintage tractors. Fuel use alone is having quite an effect. The treatment of amateur sportsmen under the European working time directive works against these events. Will you commit to working with your colleagues in Westminster to safeguard the future of these rural events?

ddiogelu eu dyfodol, oni chytunwch fod mwy o angen nag erioed am leihau'r fiwrocratiaeth ddiangen y mae'n rhaid i'r trefnwyr ymdopi â hi. Yn ogystal â hynny, mae swyddogion gorfrwd yn broblem wrth iddynt orfodi rheolau ynglŷn â hen dractorau clasurol, er enghraifft. Mae defnyddio tanwydd yn unig yn cael cryn effaith. Mae'r ffordd y mae amaturiaid ym maes chwaraeon yn cael eu trin dan gyfarwyddeb amser gweithio Ewrop yn tanseilio'r digwyddiadau hyn. A wnewch chi ymrwymo i weithio gyda'ch cyd-Weinidogion yn San Steffan i ddiogelu dyfodol y digwyddiadau gwledig hyn?

Alun Ffred Jones: I would not welcome unnecessary red tape, but it is not necessarily under my control. There are health and safety issues that are important for the safety of workers and organisers at these festivals. As I said, I will attempt to address your particular concerns about the directive in a letter to you.

Alun Ffred Jones: Ni fyddwn yn croesawu biwrocratiaeth ddiangen, ond nid yw o anghenraig dan fy rheolaeth i. Mae rhai materion iechyd a diogelwch yn bwysig er mwyn diogelu gweithwyr a threfnwyr y gwyliau hyn. Fel y dywedais, ceisiaf fynd i'r afael â'ch pryderon penodol ynglŷn â'r gyfarwyddeb drwy anfon llythyr atoch.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Weinidog, tybiaf eich bod yn wynebu digon o broblemau gyda'ch cyllideb heb ehangu'r diffiniad o ddiwylliant i gynnwys unrhyw beth a phopeth, oherwydd mae digwyddiadau diwylliannol gwirioneddol sy'n wynebu problemau ariannol ar hyn o bryd. A dderbynwch, Weinidog, mewn sefyllfa lle mae'ch cyllideb yn cael ei gwasgu, fod yn rhaid edrych ar flaenoriaethau, yn hytrach nag edrych o flwyddyn i flwyddyn ar dorri cyllideb pawb yn gydradd? A gytunwch fod hynny'n ein gadael mewn sefyllfa lle bo pob digwyddiad a phob mudiad yn wynebu argyfwng ariannol?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Minister, I suppose that you are facing enough problems with your budget without having to expand the definition of culture to include anything and everything, because genuine cultural events are facing financial difficulties at this time. Will you accept, Minister, that, given that budget is being squeezed, you must consider prioritising, rather than look to cut everyone's budget equally from one year to the next? Would you accept that that leaves us in a situation where every event and every organisation faces a financial crisis?

Alun Ffred Jones: Os oes cyfnod hir o gwtogi ar wariant cyhoeddus, ar ôl rhyw gyfnod o geisio arbed arian drwy ba ffyrdd bynnag sy'n bosibl, mae blaenoriaethu yn anochel. Fel y gwyddoch, mae Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru yn cynnal arolwg ar hyn o bryd o'r holl gyrff y mae'n ei noddi—nid er mwyn cwtogi ar arian, ond er mwyn sicrhau bod y lefel nawdd mae'r cyrff yn ei dderbyn yn eu galluogi i gwblhau eu gwaith yn briodol. Fodd bynnag, mae'n bosibl mai un o ganlyniadau'r arolwg hwnnw fydd gorfod peidio â noddi rhai cyrff fel ag y maent yn cael eu noddi ar hyn o bryd.

Alun Ffred Jones: Should there be an extended period of cuts in public spending, after a time of trying to make savings by whichever means possible, prioritisation becomes inevitable. As you know, the Arts Council of Wales is currently holding a review of all the bodies that it sponsors—not to cut their funding, but to ensure that the level of sponsorship which those bodies get enables them to carry out their work appropriately. However, it is conceivable that one of the outcomes of that review will be cease funding some bodies as they are at present.

2.30 p.m.

Mick Bates: I welcome what you said in answer to both colleagues, particularly to Brynle. Your portfolio seems to have expanded somewhat during that question. However, I remain concerned that many of our cultural events leave no permanent record. I refer particularly to the cultural heritage of our rural areas such as that of Carno, for example, where there was once a thriving Laura Ashley industrial set-up. There is a desire in that community to house a permanent record of that industrial heritage. Do you agree that some cultural events and museums—if there were to be a Laura Ashley museum—have an important part to play in the regeneration of rural areas? If you agree with that concept, what support can your Government give to, say, the establishment of a permanent record of Laura Ashley's work in rural Wales?

Alun Ffred Jones: I certainly agree that museums and festivals of all kinds have an important part to play in telling the story of Wales, and they can certainly have a positive effect on economic and community regeneration, as has been seen throughout Wales in places such as Blaenavon. I do not think that I am in a position to make any comments about the idea of a Laura Ashley museum, although I can see that there would be some appeal to that. However, what is important is that the revenue streams are clearly indicated before anything is embarked upon. Although it is okay for me to say that, in principle, I support the idea, the truth is that anyone should think twice, and possibly three times, before setting up stand-alone organisations such as museums at this time without securing fairly sound revenue schemes to support them in future.

Welsh Cultural Heritage Initiative

Q2 Alun Davies: Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh cultural heritage initiative? OAQ(3)0890(HER)

Alun Ffred Jones: The Welsh cultural heritage initiative is targeting 10 medieval sites of significance to Welsh culture, heritage and nationhood. The £3 million-worth programme of works will ensure that

Mick Bates: Croesawaf eich ateb i'r ddau gyd-Aelod, yn enwedig i Brynle. Mae eich portffolio i bob golwg wedi ehangu braidd yn ystod y cwestiwn hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn dal i boeni nad oes cofnod parhaol o lawer o'n digwyddiadau diwylliannol. Cyfeiriaf yn benodol at dreftadaeth ein hardaloedd gwledig megis honno yng Ngharno, er enghraift, lle bu diwydiant Laura Ashley yn ffynnu ar un adeg. Mae'r gymuned honno'n awyddus i sefydlu cofnod parhaol o'r dreftadaeth ddiwydiannol honno. A gytunwch fod rhai digwyddiadau diwylliannol ac amgueddfeydd—pe sefyldid amgueddfa Laura Ashley—yn bwysig wrth adfywio ardaloedd gwledig? Os cytunwch â'r cysyniad hwnnw, pa gefnogaeth y gall eich Llywodraeth ei rhoi, dyweder, er mwyn sefydlu cofnod parhaol o waith Laura Ashley yn y Gymru wledig?

Alun Ffred Jones: Yr wyf yn sicr yn cytuno bod amgueddfeydd a gwyliau o bob math yn bwysig i adrodd hanes Cymru, a gallant yn sicr gael effaith gadarnhaol ar adfywio economaidd a chymunedol, fel y gwelwyd ledled Cymru mewn mannau megis Blaenafon. Ni chredaf fy mod mewn sefyllfa i gynnig sylw am y syniad o gael amgueddfa Laura Ashley, er y gallaf weld y byddai rhywfaint o apêl yn hynny. Fodd bynnag, yr hyn sy'n bwysig yw bod y llifau refeniu'n cael eu dynodi'n glir cyn cychwyn ar ddim byd. Er ei bod yn iawn imi ddweud fy mod yn cefnogi egwyddor y syniad, y gwir yw y dylai pawb feddwl ddwywaith, os nad deirgwaith, cyn sefydlu cyrff annibynnol megis amgueddfeydd ar hyn o bryd heb sicrhau cynlluniau refeniu eithaf cadarn i'w cynnal yn y dyfodol.

Menter Treftadaeth Ddiwylliannol Cymru

C2 Alun Davies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am fenter treftadaeth ddiwylliannol Cymru? OAQ(3)0890(HER)

Alun Ffred Jones: Mae menter treftadaeth ddiwylliannol Cymru'n targedu 10 safle o'r oesoedd canol sydd o bwys i ddiwylliant Cymru, i'w threftadaeth ac i'w chenedligrwydd. Bydd y rhaglen waith sy'n

the sites are conserved and will enhance public access and interpretation.

Alun Davies: Thank you, Minister. I had understood that considerably more than £3 million was being spent on it and that the total fund included £8.5 million of European community convergence money. It would be useful if you could clarify that for me. All of us welcomed the cultural heritage initiative when you announced it earlier in the year as a means of enhancing these significant cultural sites and places while increasing accessibility. Will you ensure that we maximise the economic impact and value of these places? We need to improve accessibility, in terms of reaching these places and understanding them. However, it is also important that the areas that host these sites benefit from them and that there is an economic impact, which should be maximised by this initiative.

Alun Ffred Jones: The Welsh cultural heritage initiative, with match funding, is worth about £3.175 million and, at present, is concentrated on 10 sites throughout Wales. These sites are held in private hands, by community councils or the third sector. Although the main purpose of the initiative is to secure them and enhance accessibility, when the work is completed, they will contribute to the economic viability of some of these areas. I have attended some of them. For example, I have been to see the work that has been done at Nevern castle, in Pembrokeshire, some of which is very exciting. There has been a great deal of community interest and, over the years, I am sure that this will have a beneficial economic effect. I am not saying that you are confusing the two, but the other scheme, which is the heritage tourism project, has brought in a great deal of European funding. That is worth a projected £19 million and will complement the Welsh cultural heritage initiative. It will certainly have the effect of increasing the volume, length and value of visits to Wales in coming years.

Alun Davies: I am aware of the wider tourism initiative. The purpose of my

werth £3 miliwn yn sicrhau bod y safleoedd yn cael eu diogelu ac yn gwella mynediad i'r cyhoedd a'u dehongli.

Alun Davies: Diolch, Weinidog. Yr oeddwn wedi cael ar ddeall bod swm sylweddol fwy na £3 miliwn yn cael ei wario arni, a bod cyfanswm y gronfa'n cynnwys £8.5 miliwn o arian cydgyfeirio gan y gymuned Ewropeaidd. Byddai'n fuddiol pe gallech egluro hynny wrthyf. Yr oeddem i gyd yn croesawu'r fenter treftadaeth ddiwylliannol pan gyhoeddwyd hi gennych yn gynharach eleni fel ffordd i wella'r safleoedd a'r mannau diwylliannol pwysig hyn a'u gwneud yn fwy hygrych. A wnewch chi sicrhau ein bod yn manteisio i'r eithaf ar ddylanwad a gwerth economaidd y mannau hyn? Mae angen inni eu gwneud yn fwy cyfleus, o ran cyrraedd y mannau hyn a'u deall. Serch hynny, mae'n bwysig hefyd i'r ardaloedd lle mae'r safleoedd hyn gael budd ohonynt a bod cymaint o ddylanwad ag y bo modd ar yr economi yn sgil y fenter hon.

Alun Ffred Jones: Mae menter treftadaeth ddiwylliannol Cymru, gydag arian cyfatebol, yn werth oddeutu £3.175 miliwn, ac ar hyn o bryd mae'n canolbwytio ar 10 safle ledled Cymru. Mae'r safleoedd hyn mewn dwylo preifat, yn nwyo cynghorau cymuned neu yn nwyo'r trydydd sector. Er mai prif ddiben y cynllun yw eu diogelu a'u gwneud yn fwy cyfleus, pan fydd y gwaith ar ben byddant yn cyfrannu at hyfywedd economaidd rhai o'r ardaloedd hyn. Yr wyf wedi ymweld â rhai ohonynt. Er enghraifft, yr wyf wedi bod yn weld y gwaith yng nghastell Nanhyfer, yn sir Benfro, ac y mae rhywfaint o'r gwaith hwnnw'n gyffrous iawn. Mae'r gymuned wedi dangos llawer o ddiddordeb, ac wrth i'r blynnyddoedd fynd heibio yr wyf yn sicr y caiff hyn fudd economaidd. Nid wyf yn dweud eich bod yn drysu rhwng y ddau, ond mae'r cynllun arall, sef y prosiect twristiaeth treftadaeth, wedi denu llawer iawn o arian gan Ewrop. Mae hwnnw'n werth £19 miliwn yn ôl y rhagamcanion, a bydd yn ategu cynllun treftadaeth ddiwylliannol Cymru. Yn sicr, bydd yn cynyddu nifer, hyd a gwerth ymweliadau â Chymru yn y blynnyddoedd i ddod.

Alun Davies: Yr wyf yn ymwybodol o'r cynllun twristiaeth ehangach. Pwrpas fy

question was to ask you to what extent you are ensuring that these initiatives work together. There is no need to rehearse the arguments about the current economic situation, and we know that tourism is an important driver of the economy in different parts of Wales. My concern is that the money spent on the cultural heritage initiative is used to maximise the economic return from these places. We have agreed before, Minister, that it is important to recognise and improve these places due to their intrinsic value to us as a country and as a community. However, it is also important that the host communities are able to benefit from them. It is a coincidence that many of the host communities sometimes tend to be quite deprived communities. You mentioned Blaenafon in an earlier answer. It is important that these communities feel that these places are of benefit to them in economic terms, and that the communities are helped to benefit from them. The question was about ensuring that these initiatives are linked together and complement each other.

Alun Ffred Jones: I can assure you that there is a close working partnership between Visit Wales and Cadw on both of these initiatives and, as you rightly pointed out, we maximise all of the potential economic benefits that they bring.

Nick Ramsay: I welcome the £2 million, or thereabouts, that has been set aside from the strategic capital investment fund for the cultural heritage initiative. The more that I hear of the investment fund, the more it seems like the funding equivalent of the tardis; there is so much money coming out of it at the moment. If it can work well in your portfolio, that is well and good.

Following on from some valuable points raised by Alun Davies, I have two specific questions on this cultural heritage initiative. First, the small print states that,

‘sites will be better able to contribute to local community and national aspirations to regenerate communities and maximize cultural and heritage tourism’.

nghwestiwn oedd gofyn ichi i ba raddau yr ydych yn sicrhau bod y cynlluniau hyn yn cydweithio. Nid oes angen ailadrodd y dadleuon am y sefyllfa economaidd bresennol, a gwyddom fod twristiaeth yn sbardun o bwys i'r economi mewn gwahanol rannau o Gymru. Yr hyn yr wyf am ei sicrhau yw bod yr arian a werir ar y fenter treftadaeth ddiwylliannol yn cael ei ddefnyddio i sicrhau'r budd economaidd mwyaf posibl o'r safleoedd hyn. Yr ydym wedi cytuno o'r blaen, Weinidog, ei bod yn bwysig dynodi a gwella'r safleoedd hyn oherwydd eu gwerth cynhenid inni fel gwlac ac fel cymuned. Serch hynny, mae'n bwysig hefyd i'r cymunedau lle mae'r safleoedd allu cael budd ohonynt. Mae'n gyd-ddigwyddiad fod llawer o'r cymunedau hynny lle mae'r safleoedd weithiau'n tueddu i fod yn gymunedau digon difreintiedig. Cyfeiriwyd at Flaenafon mewn cwestiwn blaenorol. Mae'n bwysig i'r cymunedau deimlo bod y safleoedd hyn o fudd iddynt yn economaidd, a bod y cymunedau'n cael cymorth i elwa yn eu sgil. Yr oedd a wnelo'r cwestiwn â sicrhau bod y cynlluniau hyn yn cael eu cydgysylltu a'u bod yn ategu ei gilydd.

Alun Ffred Jones: Gallaf eich sicrhau bod partneriaeth weithio glos rhwng Croeso Cymru a Cadw o ran y ddwy fenter hon, ac fel y dywedasoch, yn gwbl gywir, ein bod yn sicrhau'r budd economaidd posibl mwyaf yn eu sgil.

Nick Ramsay: Croesawaf y £2 filiwn, neu oddeutu hynny, sydd wedi'i neilltuo o'r gronfa buddsoddi cyfalaf strategol ar gyfer y fenter treftadaeth ddiwylliannol. Po fwyaf a glywaf am y gronfa buddsoddi, mwyaf y mae'n ymdebygu i dardis cylrido; mae cymaint o arian yn dod allan ohono ar hyn o bryd. Os gall weithio'n dda yn eich portffolio, gorau oll.

I ddilyn trywydd rhai o'r pwyntiau gwerthfawr a godwyd gan Alun Davies, mae gennyl ddau gwestiwn penodol ynglŷn â'r fenter treftadaeth ddiwylliannol hon. Yn gyntaf, dywed y print mân,

‘y bydd hi'n haws i'r safleoedd gyfrannu i ddyheadau'r gymuned leol a dyheadau cenedlaethol, adfywio cymunedau, gwneud y mwyaf o dwristiaeth ddiwylliannol a

thwristiaeth treftadaeth'.

Looking beyond the print and the jargon—well meaning as it is—will you ensure that that initiative listens and responds to local aspirations? Too often, we have these schemes that sound all well and good on the face of it, but I am sceptical as to whether local people, in the past, have been getting the engagement that they want and deserve. I would be interested to hear your thoughts on that.

Secondly, on the linking up of these sites, as Alun Davies described it, there is a broader issue about the way that we market our tourist areas and how we sell tourism in Wales across the board. I do not think that that has been done as effectively as it could have been in the past. We are blessed in Wales, Minister, as I am sure that you will agree, with some of the most fantastic countryside and places to visit in the whole world. I hope that you will do what you can with this cultural heritage initiative to ensure that that is marketed as it should be.

Alun Ffred Jones: I will do so. With regard to your earlier question about some of the sites and the community inclusion and support, when I visited the Nevern castle site the enthusiasm of the local community, through the community council, was apparent. I know that Deganwy castle is privately owned but the town council is closely involved with the development and has not only supported it but has been advocating it for some time. Another example is the Machynlleth parliament site, which I visited recently. Again, there is great enthusiasm for the potential of the work that will be done there to improve access and to enliven the displays. That again seems to have full community backing, not only from the town council, as you would expect, but also from many local enthusiasts. I could also say the same of the Llys Rhosyr site in Newborough, which I visited recently and is part of a larger circle of sites that will soon be joined up to do exactly what you were saying, which is to tell a story in a more exciting way for local people as well as for tourists.

O edrych y tu hwnt i'r print a'r jargon—er gwaethaf ei fwriadau da—a wnewch chi sicrhau bod y cynllun yn gwrandio ar ddyheadau lleol ac yn ymateb iddynt? Yn rhy aml, cawn y cynlluniau hyn sy'n dda iawn ar y wyneb, ond yr wyf yn amau a ydym wedi bod yn ymgysylltu â phobl leol yn y gorffennol, fel y maent yn dymuno inni ei wneud ac fel y maent yn ei haeddu. Byddai'n dda gennyf glywed eich barn am hynny.

Yn ail, o ran cydgysylltu'r safleoedd hyn, fel y'i disgrifiwyd gan Alun Davies, mae problem ehangach yn y ffordd yr ydym yn marchnata ein hardaloedd twristiaeth a'r ffordd yr ydym yn gwerthu twristiaeth yng Nghymru drwyddi draw. Ni chredaf fod hynny wedi'i wneud mor effeithiol ag y gallesid yn y gorffennol. Yr ydym wedi ein bendithio yng Nghymru, fel y cytunwch, yr wyf yn siŵr, â chefn gwlaid a'r mannau mwyaf rhyfeddol i ymweld â hwy yn y byd mawr crwn. Gobeithio y gwnewch yr hyn a allwch gyda'r fenter treftadaeth ddiwylliannol hon i sicrhau ei bod yn cael ei farchnata fel y dylai.

Alun Ffred Jones: Gwnaf hynny. O ran eich cwestiwn blaenorol ynglŷn â rhai o'r safleoedd a chynnwys y gymuned a'i chefnogaeth, pan ymwelais â safle castell Nanhyfer, yr oedd brwdfrydedd y gymuned leol, drwy'r cyngor cymuned, i'w weld yn amlwg. Gwn fod castell Degannwy mewn dwylo preifat, ond mae cyngor y dref yn ymwneud yn glos â'r datblygiad, nid trwy ei gefnogi'n unig ond drwy fod yn lladmerydd drosto ers cryn amser. Enghraift arall yw safle'r senedd ym Machynlleth yr ymwelais ag ef yn ddiweddar. Unwaith eto, mae brwdfrydedd mawr dros botensial y gwaith a wneir yno i wella hygyrchedd a bywiogi'r arddangosfeydd. Ymddengys fod gan y cynllun hwnnw hefyd gefnogaeth lwyd y gymuned, ac nid yn unig gan gyngor y dref, fel y byddech yn ei ddisgwyl, ond gan lawer o gefnogwyr brwd lleol hefyd. Gallwn hefyd ddweud yr un peth am safle Llys Rhosyr yn Niwbwrch yr ymwelais ag ef yn ddiweddar ac sy'n rhan o gylch mwy o safleoedd a gaiff eu cyd-gysylltu cyn hir i wneud yr union beth yr oeddech yn sôn amdano, sef adrodd stori mewn ffordd fwy cyffrous i bobl leol yn

ogystal ag i dwristiaid.

2.40 p.m.

Darpariaeth Newyddion yng Nghymru

C3 Eleanor Burnham: Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cael yn diweddar gyda chyd-Weinidogion yn Llywodraeth y DU ynghylch darpariaeth newyddion yng Nghymru? OAQ(3)0936(HER)

Alun Ffred Jones: Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cynnal trafodaethau ar hyn o bryd gyda'r Adran dros Ddiwylliant, y Cyfryngau a Chwaraeon mewn perthynas â'r consortia arfaethedig, sef y consortia newyddion a ariennir yn annibynnol. Mae sicrhau bod darpariaeth newyddion iach ar gael ar gyfer pobl Cymru yn hollbwysig, ac yr ydym yn gobeithio y bydd y consortia newyddion a ariennir yn annibynnol yn cynnig ateb cynaliadwy.

Eleanor Burnham: Diolch yn fawr am yr ateb cynhwysfawr hwnnw. A allech ein diweddarau o bryd i'w gilydd ynghylch y consortia hyn? Mae gennylf bryderon mawr, oherwydd mae pawb yn sôn am ddiffyg plwraliaeth. Gwyddom fod y BBC yn gwneud gwaith da a thrwyndl, ond mae fel monopoli yn awr. Credwn fod problemâu ynghylch colli papurau newydd, sydd wedi cael eu trafod mewn gwahanol bwylgorau yn y Cynulliad. Felly, a allech roi sicrwydd inni eich bod yn gwneud eich gorau i sicrhau y gall pobl ar hyd a lled Cymru weld newyddion am Gymru yng Nghymru?

Alun Ffred Jones: Yr wyf yn derbyn y dadleuon yr ydych wedi eu cynnig, ac yr ydym wedi eu trafod yma fwy nag unwaith. Yr ydym wedi ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad diweddar gan yr Adran dros Ddiwylliant, y Cyfryngau a Chwaraeon, ac yr wyf hefyd wedi ysgrifennu at yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Ddiwylliant, y Cyfryngau a Chwaraeon, Ben Bradshaw, i ofyn am ddiweddarriad ar sefyllfa'r consortia newyddion a ariennir yn annibynnol, ac i bwysleisio bod Llywodraeth Cymru'n awyddus i chwarae rhan yn y broses gwneud penderfyniadau. Yr ydym wedi gofyn am gael corff ar wahân ar gyfer Cymru. Fodd bynnag, ar hyn o bryd mae cryn ansicrwydd ynglŷn â bwriadau'r Llywodraeth

News Provision in Wales

Q3 Eleanor Burnham: What recent discussions has the Minister had with UK Government colleagues regarding news provision in Wales? OAQ(3)0936(HER)

Alun Ffred Jones: The Welsh Assembly Government is currently in discussions with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport regarding the proposed independently funded news consortia. Ensuring that healthy news provision is available to the people of Wales is very important, and we hope the independently funded news consortia will provide a sustainable solution.

Eleanor Burnham: Thank you for that comprehensive answer. Will you provide regular updates on these consortia? I have grave concerns because everyone talks of a lack of plurality. We know that the BBC is doing good and extensive work, but it now has a monopoly. We believe there are problems in relation to losing newspapers, which have been discussed in various committees in the Assembly. Therefore, can you provide some assurance that you are doing your best to ensure that people the length and breadth of Wales are able to see news about Wales in Wales?

Alun Ffred Jones: I accept the arguments which you have put forward, and we have discussed them here on more than one occasion. We have responded to the recent consultation by the Department for Culture, Media and Sports, and I have also written to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Ben Bradshaw, to ask for an update on the situation regarding the independently funded news consortia, and to emphasise that the Welsh Government is keen to be involved in the decision-making process. We have asked for a separate body for Wales. However, at the moment there is much uncertainty about the intentions of the Westminster Government.

yn San Steffan.

Eleanor Burnham: Hoffwn ofyn ail gwestiwn, Llywydd, os caf, fel llefarydd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol ar y materion hyn, sef cwestiwn sy'n gysylltiedig â newyddion. Beth yw ymateb y Gweinidog i'r ffaith bod y BBC wedi gwrthod rhannu'r iPod gyda sianelau eraill?

Alun Davies: Yr iPlayer.

Eleanor Burnham: Ie, yr iPlayer, mae'n ddrwg gennyf. Diolch, Alun. Mae hyn yn ymwneud â phlwraliaeth eto, a'r ffaith bod gan y BBC fantais fawr oherwydd yr arian sy'n cael ei fuddsoddi drwy'r drwydded deledu. A allwch sierhau bod plwraliaeth yn cael ei ddatblygu, ac nad yw'r BBC yn gallu gwrthod rhannu adnoddau? Yr oeddwn ar ddeall ei fod am rannu darpariaeth yng Nghaerdydd, er enghraifft, drwy ddatblygu rhyw fath o bentref darlledu. A allwch ein helpu gyda'r mater dwys hwn?

Alun Ffred Jones: Bydd rhaid imi ysgrifennu ichi ynghylch y pwnt ar yr iPlayer. O ran rhannu adnoddau, y BBC ei hun sydd wedi gwneud y cynnig y gellid rhannu adnoddau mewn rhai llefydd er mwyn gwneud y gwasanaethau yn fwy hyfyw, gan warchod plwraliaeth efallai. Mae'r trafodaethau hynny wedi digwydd yng nghyd-destun y datblygiadau yma yng Nghaerdydd. Mae cysylltiad agos a byw rhwng y Llywodraeth a'r BBC yma yng Nghymru o ran y datblygiadau diweddaraf. Yn sicr, cewch adroddiadau cyson wrth i hynny ddatblygu yn y dyfodol.

Jeff Cuthbert: Minister, it is not surprising that, in this internet age, more and more people are accessing news on the internet. That has a negative effect on the sale of newspapers; I understand that. However, what concerns me particularly is the effect that that seems to have on local newspapers. The one that I am most familiar with is the Rhymney Valley Express, which is part of the Media Wales group. It is a very good paper; I have my issues with it from time to time, but in general it has detailed local news, which is well presented. It is under threat—there is no doubt about that from information given to me by members of its staff. It would

Eleanor Burnham: I should like to ask a second question, Presiding Officer, if I may, as the Liberal Democrat spokesperson on these issues, which is a question relating to news. What is the Minister's response to the fact that the BBC has refused to share the iPod with other channels?

Alun Davies: The iPlayer.

Eleanor Burnham: Yes, the iPlayer, I am sorry. Thank you, Alun. This again has to do with plurality, and the fact that the BBC has a huge advantage due to the money invested in it through the license fee. Can you ensure that plurality is developed, and that the BBC cannot refuse to share its resources? I was given to understand that it would share provision in Cardiff, for example, by developing some kind of broadcasting village. Can you assist us in this complex matter?

Alun Ffred Jones: I will have to write to you regarding your point about the iPlayer. On the sharing of resources, the offer to share resources in some places in order to make services more viable, thereby safeguarding plurality, was made by the BBC itself. Those discussions have already taken place in the context of these developments in Cardiff. There is a close and vibrant relationship between the Government and the BBC here in Wales regarding the latest developments. You will certainly receive regular updates as that develops in the future.

Jeff Cuthbert: Weinidog, nid yw'n syndod, a hithau'n oes y rhyngrywd, fod mwy a mwy o bobl yn cael eu newyddion ar y rhyngrywd. Caiff hynny effaith andwyol ar werthu papurau newydd; yr wyf yn deall hynny. Fodd bynnag, yr hyn sy'n fy mhoeni'n benodol yw'r effaith y mae hynny'n ei chael i bob golwg ar bapurau newydd lleol. Yr un yr wyf fwyaf cyfarwydd ag ef yw'r Rhymney Valley Express, sy'n rhan o grŵp Media Wales. Mae'n bapur da iawn. Byddaf yn anghytuno ag ambell beth ynddo o bryd i'w gilydd, ond yn gyffredinol, mae'n cynnwys newyddion lleol manwl, a hynny'n cael ei gyflwyno'n dda. Mae dan fygythiad—nid oes

be highly regrettable if it were to close. What steps are you able to take to try to shore up and support the provision of local newspapers such as the Rhymney Valley Express?

Alun Ffred Jones: I have discussed this matter with Media Wales. There have been a number of closures recently, as you are well aware. Many local newspapers continue to be under threat mainly due to a fall in advertising revenue. It seems that that is continuing as more and more advertising is done on the internet. Therefore, our powers in this regard are very limited. This is not a devolved issue and I would be grateful for any practical ideas you may have with regard to ways in which we can intercede, other than to make representations and make the case that you have already made this afternoon that this type of local coverage is invaluable and that losing it would further undermine local democracy. Whatever we may think of some of the coverage that we and politicians in general get from the local press, it is an important source of information and news. I have made this case repeatedly not only to Media Wales, but to other proprietors throughout Wales, and some are not as despondent as others.

Alun Cairns: Mae nifer y bobl sy'n darllen papurau dyddiol yn lleihau drwy'r amser. Er enghraifft, ychydig dros 30,000 o gopïau o'r *Western Mail* sy'n cael eu gwerthu a 34,000 o gopïau o'r *Daily Post* ar gyfartaledd. Onid yw hwn yn rhoi mwy o bwyslais ar broblem rhagleni newyddion ar sianel 3? Mae 250,000 o bobl yn dewis gwyliau *Wales Tonight* ar sianel 3 ac felly mae problem o ran llenwi'r bwllch yn y tymor byr. Beth yw safbwyt y Llywodraeth o ran defnyddio arian cyhoeddus er mwyn cefnogi rhagleni newyddion ar sianel 3?

Alun Ffred Jones: Mae 'Prydain Ddigidol' yn ei gwneud yn glir bod Llywodraeth San Steffan yn fodlon defnyddio arian sydd wedi ei neilltuo ar gyfer y trosglwyddo i ddigidol ar gyfer rhagleni newyddion yn y rhanbarthau ac yn y cenhedloedd; drwy Gymru felly. Yr ydym yn cefnogi'r bwriad

amheuaeth ynglŷn â hynny, o'r wybodaeth yr wyf wedi'i chael gan aelodau o'i staff. Byddai'n resyn mawr petai'n cau. Pa gamau y gallwch eu cymryd i geisio cynnal a chefnogi'r ddarpariaeth papurau newydd lleol megis y Rhymney Valley Express?

Alun Ffred Jones: Yr wyf wedi trafod hyn gyda Media Wales. Mae nifer o bapurau wedi cau'n ddiweddar, fel y gwyddoch yn dda. Mae llawer o bapurau newydd lleol yn dal dan fgyythiad a hynny'n bennaf oherwydd gostyngiad mewn refeniu hysbysebu. Mae'n ymddangos bod hyn yn parhau wrth inni weld mwy a mwy o hysbysebu ar y rhyngrywd. Felly, mae ein pwerau yn hyn yn gyfyng iawn. Nid yw hwn yn fater sydd wedi'i ddatganoli, a byddwn yn ddiolchgar am unrhyw syniadau ymarferol a all fod gennych ynglŷn â sut y gallwn ymyrryd, ac eithrio drwy gyflwyno sylwadau a dadlau, fel yr ydych eisoes wedi'i wneud y prynhawn yma, fod y math hwn o sylw lleol yn amhrisiadwy ac y byddai ei golli'n tanseilio democratiad leol eto. Beth bynnag yw ein barn am rywfaint o'r sylw a gawn ni a gwleidyddion yn gyffredinol gan y wasg leol, mae'n ffynhonnell wybodaeth a newyddion bwysig. Yr wyf wedi dadlau hyn droeon, nid yn unig gyda Media Wales, ond gyda pherchnogion eraill ledled Cymru, ac nid yw pawb mor ddigalon â'i gilydd.

Alun Cairns: The readership of daily newspapers continues to decline. For example, on average just over 30,000 copies of the *Western Mail* are sold, while the *Daily Post* sells 34,000 copies. Does this not place greater emphasis on the problems of news programming on channel 3? Around 250,000 people choose to watch *Wales Tonight* on channel 3, therefore there is a problem as regards the provision of this service in the short term. What is the Government's view on using public moneys to support the provision of news programming on channel 3?

Alun Ffred Jones: 'Digital Britain' makes it clear that the Westminster Government is prepared to use some of the funding for the digital switchover for news programming in the regions and nations; throughout Wales, therefore. We support this intention, but we await the details as regards the process. If

hwnnw, ond yr ydym yn dal i ddisgwyl manylion y broses. Os bydd ITV yn tynnu yn ôl o'i goblygiad i gyflwyno newyddion, yna bydd hynny'n ateb. Nid wyf yn siŵr ai ateb yn y tymor byr neu dymor canolig fyddai hynny. Dyma'r her i unrhyw Lywodraeth. Gan nad yw darlledu yn fater sydd wedi ei ddatganoli, yr ydym wedi gwneud ein ple yn ddigon clir fod angen diogelu'r newyddion ar sianel 3 a diogelu'r rhagleni cyffredinol, sydd yr un mor bwysig. Yr her fydd yn wynebu unrhyw Lywodraeth a ddaw i San Steffan yw sicrhau'r blwraliaeth yng nghenhedloedd y Deyrnas Gyfunol yr ydym i gyd wedi dadlau o'i phlaid yn y Siambwr hon.

Alun Cairns: Weinidog, mae S4C wedi cynnig model na fyddai'n gostus i'w weithredu am mai S4C fyddai'n comisiynu'r newyddion ar sianel 3. Beth yw safbwyt y Llywodraeth ar gynllun S4C? A ydych yn ei gefnogi ai peidio?

Alun Ffred Jones: Mewn trafodaeth gyda'r Arglwydd Carter pan oedd yn aelod o Lywodraeth San Steffan, dywedais fod cynnig S4C yn werth ei ystyried. Nid fy musnes i oedd dweud fy mod o blaid y cynnig hwnnw yn hytrach nag unrhyw gynnig arall. Ar hyn o bryd, fe fydd hi'n bosibl i S4C wneud cais pan fyddwn yn gwybod beth fydd y telerau o ran tendro am y gwasanaeth, os bydd hynny'n digwydd yn ystod y misoedd nesaf wrth gwrs. Serch hynny, fel y dywedais, os daw Llywodraeth wahanol i San Steffan, bydd yr her honno yn wynebu'r Llywodraeth newydd.

Janet Ryder: You have said much about the dangers in developing just one source of news—and it does not matter where that comes from—for a nation like Wales. In the Welsh language, there are still the *papurau bro*. They are not in the same league as some of the national papers, but they are there and they play a valuable role in local areas in dispersing news. To some extent, the Welsh communities are probably better served than some of the English-speaking communities in receiving local news. What can the Government do to ensure that we do not become a nation that only has one Government source of news, through the BBC, for Wales, and that we develop local networks, which can be of great value to

ITV withdraws from its obligation to provide news programming, then that would provide a solution, but I am unsure as to whether that would be a short-term or a medium-term solution. This is the challenge for any Government. Given that broadcasting is not a devolved issue, we have made it clear that we believe that news programming, and the equally important general programming, on channel 3 needs to be safeguarded. Any Westminster Government will face the challenge of safeguarding plurality in the nations of the United Kingdom which we have all supported in this Chamber.

Alun Cairns: Minister, S4C has put forward a model which could be implemented without much cost, since S4C would commission the news on channel 3. What is the Government's view on the proposal by S4C? Do you support it or not?

Alun Ffred Jones: In a discussion with Lord Carter when he was a member of the Westminster Government, I said that it was certainly worth considering the S4C proposal. It was not my place to say that I was in favour of that proposal over and above any other. As things stand, it will be possible for S4C to make an application as soon as we know what the terms will be for tendering for this service, if that happens in the next few months, of course. However, as I said, if we have a change of Government in Westminster, this challenge will face the new Government.

Janet Ryder: Yr ydych wedi sôn llawer am y peryglon sydd ynghlwm wrth ddatblygu un ffynhonnell newyddion yn unig—ac nid oes wahaniaeth o ble y daw hwnnw—i genedl fel Cymru. Yn yr iaith Gymraeg, mae'r papurau bro ar gael o hyd. Nid ydynt yn yr un cae â rhai o'r papurau cenedlaethol, ond y maent yno ac y mae iddynt ran werthfawr mewn ardaloedd lleol yn lledaenu newyddion. I ryw raddau, mae'n debyg bod cymunedau Cymraeg yn cael gwell gwasanaeth na rhai o'r cymunedau Saesneg eu hiaith o ran cael newyddion lleol. Beth y gall y Llywodraeth ei wneud i sicrhau nad ydym yn troi'n genedl gydag un ffynhonnell newyddion yn unig gan y Llywodraeth, drwy'r BBC, ar gyfer Cymru, a'n bod yn datblygu rhwydweithiau lleol, a

many communities?

2.50 p.m.

Alun Ffred Jones: These arguments are well rehearsed. Of course, the BBC is not a Government source of news—as far as I know anyway. [Laughter.] Obviously this is an interesting debate. I believe that there is agreement on all sides of the Assembly regarding the importance of plurality and having more than one source of news.

You mentioned *papurau bro*, which certainly play an important part in the dissemination of information and debate. They are of varying quality, but it is incredible when you realise the coverage that *papurau bro* have in terms of readership. It is truly astounding, and of all of this has been maintained voluntarily over a period of 30 or 35 years, and 40 years in some cases, with little financial assistance. I do not know whether that is the way forward. Some of them use new technology to display their pages, and that may be another way ahead for the future. However, there is no doubt that the emerging pattern will be different to that which we have now but, through it all, we need to have this plurality of voices, not only on a national, Welsh scale, but locally.

all fod o werth mawr i lawer o gymunedau?

Alun Ffred Jones: Rydym wedi clywed y dadleuon hyn droeon. Wrth gwrs, nid ffynhonnell newyddion y Llywodraeth yw'r BBC—hyd y gwn i, beth bynnag. [Chwerthin]. Mae'r ddadl hon yn amlwg yn un ddiddorol. Credaf fod pawb o bob ochr i'r Cynulliad, yn cytuno ynglŷn â phwysigrwydd plwraliaeth a chael mwy nag un ffynhonnell newyddion.

Sonech am y papurau bro, ac y mae'r rhain yn sicr yn bwysig wrth ledaenu gwybodaeth a thrafodaeth. Maent yn amrywio o ran eu hansawdd, ond mae'n rhyfeddol pan sylweddolwch faint o ddarllenwyr y mae'r papurau bro yn eu cyrraedd. Mae'n wirioneddol syfrdanol, a hyn oll wedi'i gynnal yn wirfoddol dros gyfnod o 30 neu 35 mlynedd, a 40 mlynedd mewn ambell achos, a hynny heb fawr o gymorth ariannol. Ni wn ai dyna'r ffordd ymlaen. Bydd rhai ohonynt yn defnyddio technoleg newydd i ddangos eu tudalennau, ac efallai fod hynny'n cynnig ffordd arall ymlaen ar gyfer y dyfodol. Serch hynny, nid oes amheuaeth na fydd y patrwm sy'n egino yn wahanol i'r hyn sydd gennym yn awr, ond drwy'r cyfan i gyd mae angen inni gael y blwraliaeth hon o ran lleisiau, nid ar raddfa genedlaethol yn unig yng Nghymru, ond yn lleol.

The Big Lottery Fund

Q4 Sandy Mewies: Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's work with the Big Lottery Fund? OAQ(3)0923(HER)

Alun Ffred Jones: The Welsh Assembly Government issues policy directions to the Big Lottery Fund that set the broad priorities for the fund's activities in Wales. The Welsh Assembly Government is also working in partnership with the Big Lottery Fund to deliver two new initiatives, namely the dormant accounts scheme and the community assets transfer programme.

Y Gronfa Loteri Fawr

C4 Sandy Mewies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am waith Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru gyda Chronfa'r Loteri Fawr? OAQ(3)0923(HER)

Alun Ffred Jones: Bydd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn rhoi cyfarwyddiadau polisi i Gronfa'r Loteri Fawr sy'n pennu'r blaenoriaethau cyffredinol ar gyfer gweithgareddau'r gronfa yng Nghymru. Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad hefyd yn cydweithio â Chronfa'r Loteri Fawr i wireddu dau gynllun newydd, sef y cynllun cyfrifon cwsg a'r rhaglen trosglwyddo asedau cymunedol.

Sandy Mewies: Recently, four community

Sandy Mewies: Yn ddiweddar, dyfarnwyd

groups in my constituency were awarded a total of £115,000 between them from the Big Lottery Fund, and they covered a broad age spectrum and a range of activities. That is the sort of good partnership working that the Welsh Assembly Government should encourage. Will you take the opportunity to encourage others to work in partnership to produce these sorts of results?

Alun Ffred Jones: I am happy to congratulate these groups on working in partnership to secure this funding, and it is certainly a pattern for the future. I also respect the Big Lottery Fund's independence in its decision making.

Chris Franks: I appreciate the money that comes into my region from the Big Lottery Fund and which helps groups such as the Butetown Bee Healthy teenage health club, Bryncynon walking group and the Rhondda 50-plus forum. However, there is a danger that some of the good work that the fund does to fund home schooling, for example, which helps children in some of our most deprived wards, may be in jeopardy. What discussions are you having regarding the impact of the London Olympics on the funding of lottery projects in Wales?

Alun Ffred Jones: Again, this argument is well rehearsed. We know that the London Olympics requires a contribution from the National Lottery of £2.2 billion and the Big Lottery Fund will see a cut of £41 million over three years. I do not have to point out that that means that there is less money for local activity and projects.

William Graham: I recently had the pleasure of visiting the headquarters of Bettws in Bloom in Newport, which is the recipient of a big grant from the Big Lottery Fund. It has achieved impressive results not only in improving access to English language lessons for young women, but in providing more environmental and recreational opportunities for local people. A corollary of that has been that Bettws in Bloom has managed to help students who were struggling in mainstream education. It has

cifanswm o £115,000 i bedwar grŵp cymunedol yn fy etholaeth i gan Gronfa'r Loteri Fawr, a'r rheini'n cynnwys ystod eang o ran oedran ac amrywiaeth eang o weithgareddau. Dyna'r math o waith partneriaeth da y dylai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad fod yn ei annog. A wnewch chi fanteisio ar y cyfle i annog pobl eraill i weithio mewn partneriaeth er mwyn creu'r math hwn o ganlyniadau?

Alun Ffred Jones: Yr wyf yn hapus i longyfarch y grwpiau hyn ar weithio mewn partneriaeth i sicrhau'r arian hwn, ac y mae'n sicr yn batrwm ar gyfer y dyfodol. Yr wyf hefyd yn parchu annibyniaeth Cronfa'r Loteri Fawr o ran gwneud penderfyniadau.

Chris Franks: Yr wyf yn gwerthfawrogi'r arian a ddaw i'm rhanbarth gan Gronfa'r Loteri Fawr sy'n gymorth i grwpiau megis clwb iechyd i'r arddegau, Butetown Bee Healthy, grŵp cerdded Bryncynon a fforwm 50 a hŷn y Rhondda. Fodd bynnag, mae perygl fod rhywfaint o'r gwaith da y mae'r gronfa'n ei wneud i ariannu addysgu plant gartref, er enghraifft, sy'n cynorthwyo plant mewn rhai o'n wardiau mwyaf difreintiedig, mewn perygl. Pa drafodaethau yr ydych yn eu cael ynglŷn ag effaith Gemau Olympaidd Llundain ar ariannu prosiectau'r loteri yng Nghymru?

Alun Ffred Jones: Unwaith eto, clywsom y ddadl hon droeon. Gwyddom i gyd fod Gemau Olympaidd Llundain yn gofyn am £2.2 biliwn o gyfraniad gan y Loteri Genedlaethol ac y bydd Cronfa'r Loteri Fawr yn wynebu toriad o £41 miliwn dros dair blynedd. Afraid dweud bod hynny'n golygu bod llai o arian ar gyfer gweithgarwch a phrosiectau lleol.

William Graham: Cefais y pleser o ymweld â phencadlys Betws yn ei Blodau yng Nghasnewydd, sydd wedi cael grant mawr gan Gronfa'r Loteri Fawr. Mae wedi sicrhau canlyniadau trawiadol, nid yn unig o ran ei gwneud yn haws i fenywod ifanc fanteisio ar wersi Saesneg, ond o ran darparu mwy o gyfleoedd i bobl leol fanteisio ar yr amgylchedd a chyfleoedd hamdden. Yn sgil hynny, mae Betws yn ei Blodau wedi llwyddo i gynorthwyo myfyrwyr a oedd yn straffaglu gyda'u haddysg prif ffrwd. Mae

reduced exclusion rates and provided those young people who perhaps would not have achieved a single GCSE to achieve a high proportion of GCSEs following a 23-week intensive course. This is one of the unintended consequences, which is therefore all the more welcome, of a substantial grant from the Big Lottery Fund.

Alun Ffred Jones: You made the case for the Big Lottery Fund very well and I can only applaud the success of that scheme and all those involved with the application and the implementation of the project.

The ‘Digital Britain’ Report

Q5 Alun Davies: Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government’s response to the ‘Digital Britain’ report? OAQ(3)0916(HER)

Alun Ffred Jones: The ‘Digital Britain’ report covers a wide range of issues across several ministerial portfolios. Ministers and officials are working together and with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to deliver action points and to ensure that Welsh issues are addressed.

Alun Davies: You will know that I have been asking for a Government statement and debate on this issue for some time. I am concerned and would be grateful if you could reassure me, Minister, that the Welsh Assembly Government is fully linked in to matters that are being debated and discussed by the UK Government and its departments. I understand that DCMS is leading on this. We understand that a digital economy Bill will be introduced to Parliament next month. Can you reassure us that the Welsh Assembly Government has been part of discussions surrounding any legislation that will go through the UK Parliament prior to a general election next year and that at some point very soon there will be a debate in this place on the Government’s response to this area of policy?

Alun Ffred Jones: I can assure you that we are fully engaged and that a lot of work has been done in the background on formulating

wedi gostwng cyfraddau gwahardd o’r ysgol ac wedi galluogi’r bobl ifanc hynny na fyddent efallai wedi llwyddo i gael yr un TGAU i basio cyfran uchel o’u pynciau ar ôl cwrs dwys o 23 wythnos. Dyna un o’r canlyniadau anfwriadol, sydd felly i’w groesawu’n fwy byth, yn sgil grant sylweddol gan Gronfa’r Loteri Fawr

Alun Ffred Jones: Yr ydych yn lladmerydd da dros Cronfa’r Loteri Fawr, ac ni allaf ond cymeradwyo llwyddiant y cynllun hwnnw a phawb a fu’n gysylltiedig â’r cais a rhoi’r prosiect ar waith.

Adroddiad ‘Prydain Ddigidol’

C5 Alun Davies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ymateb Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i adroddiad ‘Prydain Ddigidol’? OAQ(3)0916(HER)

Alun Ffred Jones: Mae adroddiad ‘Prydain Ddigidol’ yn cwmpasu ystod eang o faterion sy’n pontio portffolio llawer Gweinidog. Mae Gweinidogion a swyddogion yn gweithio gyda’i gilydd a chyda’r Adran dros Ddiwylliant, y Cyfryngau a Chwaraeon i gyflawni’r pwyntiau gweithredu ac i sicrhau bod materion sy’n berthnasol i Gymru yn cael sylw.

Alun Davies: Gwyddoch imi ofyn am ddatganiad a dadl gan y Llywodraeth ynglŷn â hyn ers tro. Yr wyf yn poeni, a byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallich dawelu fy meddwl, Weinidog, nad yw Lywodraeth y Cynulliad yn cyfrannu’n llawn yn y materion y mae Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig a’i hadrannau’n dadlau yn eu cylch a’u trafod. Deallaf mai’r Adran dros Ddiwylliant, Cyfryngau a Chwaraeon sy’n arwain ar hyn. Cawn ar ddeall y cyflwynir Mesur ar economi ddigidol i’r Senedd fis nesaf. A allwch dawelu ein meddwl fod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi bod yn rhan o’r trafodaethau ar unrhyw ddeddfwriaeth a aiff drwy Senedd y Deyrnas Unedig cyn etholiad cyffredinol y flwyddyn nesaf, ac y bydd dadl yma cyn hir ar ymateb y Llywodraeth i’r maes polisi hwn?

Alun Ffred Jones: Gallaf eich sicrhau ein bod yn cyfrannu’n llawn yn hyn a bod llawer o waith wedi’i wneud yn y cefndir ar lunio

policy and a response to ‘Digital Britain’. It is a wide-ranging report, as you know, and we are concentrating our efforts with DCMS on the broadcasting issues. Of course, you will also know that we have commissioned Professor Ian Hargreaves to undertake a review of the creative industries and that will also have a bearing on some of the issues raised in ‘Digital Britain’. It is not my business to promise that there will be a debate here. However, these are issues that undoubtedly will be debated in the Chamber in the coming months.

Alun Cairns: The Minister is right when he talks about ‘Digital Britain’ being an extremely broad paper, covering a wide range of areas. Does he not accept that filling the not spots in Wales should be a priority of any administration, particularly as bandwidth in some urban areas is going to 20 MB and beyond while some communities still do not have broadband? There are 60 not spots in Wales. Can he assure us that the delays over ‘Digital Britain’ by the Westminster Government are not holding back the Welsh Assembly Government’s plans to try to fill those not spots? Will he agree that if a policy already exists that has been used and has worked, such as the regional innovative broadband support project, that that would be one of the quickest ways of filling the not spots in some of those areas, rather than seeking to negotiate with the commission again?

Alun Ffred Jones: I fully agree with you that the not spots, as they are referred to, are a blight on many communities in Wales. There are plenty of them in my constituency and I am very aware of the frustration of people living in those areas. I think that ‘Digital Britain’, on the other hand, does offer a way forward in general terms in order to address these issues. I know that the Tory Party has decided not to support those proposals, which means that I am not quite sure how you propose to address these issues. However, it would be unwise for the Welsh Assembly Government to move forward with a plan to spend its own resources on this when there is a possibility that there will be a UK-wide project that will address all of these

polisi ac ymateb i ‘Prydain Ddigidol’. Mae’n adroddiad eang ei gwmpas, fel y gwyddoch, ac yr ydym yn canolbwytio’n hymdrehchion gyda’r Adran dros Ddiwylliant, y Cyfryngau, a Chwaraeon ar y materion sy’n ymwneud â darlledu. Wrth gwrs, gwyddoch hefyd inni gomisiynu’r Athro Ian Hargreaves i wneud arolwg o’r diwydiannau creadigol ac y caiff hynny hefyd ddylanwad ar rai o’r materion a godir yn ‘Prydain Ddigidol’. Nid fy musnes i yw addo y bydd dadl yma. Serch hynny, mae’r rhain yn faterion y byddwn yn ddiamau yn eu trafod yn y Siambra yn y misoedd nesaf.

Alun Cairns: Mae’r Gweinidog yn llygad ei le pan ddywed fod ‘Prydain Ddigidol’ yn bapur eang iawn sy’n ymwneud ag ystod eang o feysydd. Onid yw’n derbyn y dylai dileu’r mannau gwan yng Nghymru fod yn flaenoriaeth i unrhyw weinyddiaeth, yn enwedig gan fod lled y band mewn ambell ardal drefol yn mynd i fod yn 20 MB a mwy er bod rhai cymunedau’n dal heb fand eang o gwbl? Mae 60 o fannau gwan yng Nghymru. A all ein sicrhau nad yw’r ffaith bod Llywodraeth San Steffan yn oedi gyda ‘Prydain Ddigidol’ yn atal Llywodraeth y Cynulliad rhag ceisio dileu’r mannau gwan hynny? A wnaiff gytuno, os oes polisi eisoes ar gael sydd wedi’i roi ar waith ac wedi gweithio, megis y prosiect cymorth arloesol rhanbarthol ar gyfer band eang, mai dyna fyddai un o’r ffyrdd cyflymaf i ddileu’r mannau gwan yn rhai o’r ardaloedd hynny, yn hytrach na cheisio negodi gyda’r comisiwn eto?

Alun Ffred Jones: Cytunaf yn llwyr â chi fod y mannau gwan, fel y'u gelwir, yn boen i lawer cymuned yng Nghymru. Mae digon ohonynt yn fy etholaeth i, a gwn yn iawn am rwystredigaeth pobl sy'n byw yn yr ardaloedd hynny. Ar y llaw arall, credaf fod ‘Prydain Ddigidol’ yn cynnig ffordd ymlaen, yn gyffredinol, i fynd i’r afael â’r materion hyn. Gwn fod y Blaid Dorïaid wedi penderfynu peidio â chefnogi’r cynigion hynny, sy’n golygu nad wyf yn siŵr iawn sut y bwriadwch fynd i’r afael â’r problemau hyn. Serch hynny, byddai’n annoeth i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad fwrw ymlaen â chynllun i wario’i hadnoddau ei hun ar hyn a hithau’n bosibl y bydd prosiect ledled y Deyrnas Unedig yn mynd i’r afael â’r holl

issues.

Alun Cairns rose—

Alun Ffred Jones: You asked me a question and I am trying to answer it. I think that it would be bad timing for us to spend any money at the present time, while we are waiting for the final proposals from the UK Government. Only if they prove to be inadequate should we look at our own proposals.

3.00 p.m.

Alun Cairns: I am grateful, Llywydd, for the second opportunity to pursue this matter further. Minister, even if the DCMS were to announce a decision tomorrow about ‘Digital Britain’ and formulate a plan to fill the not spots, do you not accept that two years could easily pass by the time legislation could be put in place and any contracts commissioned? In the meantime, the not spots in your constituency, as in mine, would be no further forward.

Alun Ffred Jones: As I see it, your words are a smokescreen to hide the fact that the Tory party does not have any practical proposals of its own, except to spend public money here in Wales and, very soon, if the Tory party is elected to power at Westminster, we will not have any.

Nerys Evans: A gytunwch fod Llywodraeth Cymru yn gwneud gwaith da i gael gwared ar y mannau gwan o dan y cyfyngiadau presennol, a’i bod yn hen bryd inni glywed gan y Ceidwadwyr beth yw eu polisi ym meysydd darlledu a band llydan pe baent yn ennill yr etholiad y flwyddyn nesaf?

Alun Ffred Jones: Cytunaf â chi, wrth gwrs. Gyda ‘Prydain Ddigidol’ o leiaf yn cyfeirio at lwybr possibl i sicrhau darparwr newyddion amgen i’r BBC yng nghenhedloedd yr Alban a Chymru, mae’n ddiddorol nodi bod y Torïaid fel pe baent wedi ymrthod â hynny hefyd. Nid ydym yn gwybod eto sut y maent yn bwriadu cyflawni’r hyn y maent yn sôn amdano, sef gweld gwasanaeth newyddion ar sianel 3, ac eto maent yn gwrthod y syniadau

broblemau hyn.

Alun Cairns a gododd—

Alun Ffred Jones: Gofynasoch gwestiwn imi ac yr wyf yn ceisio’i ateb. Credaf mai amseru gwael fyddai inni wario unrhyw arian ar hyn o bryd, a ninnau’n disgwyl cynigion terfynol Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig. Dim ond os gwelwn fod y rheini’n annigonol y dylem edrych ar ein cynigion ein hunain.

Alun Cairns: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar, Llywydd, am gael ail gyfle i ddilyn y trywydd hwn ymhellach. Weinidog, hyd yn oed petai’r Adran dros Ddiwylliant, y Cyfryngau a Chwaraeon yn cyhoeddi penderfyniad yfory ynglŷn â ‘Phrydain Ddigidol’ ac yn llunio cynllun i ddileu’r mannau gwan, oni dderbyniwch y gallai dwy flynedd fynd heibio’n rhwydd cyn y gellid pasio’r ddeddfwriaeth a chomisiynu unrhyw gontactau? Yn y cyfamser, ni fyddai’r mannau gwan, yn eich etholaeth chi nac yn fy etholaeth innau, ronyn elwach.

Alun Ffred Jones: Fel y’i gwelaf hi, cuddfwg i gelu’r ffaith nad oes gan y blaids Doriaidd ddim cynigion ymarferol ei hun yw eich geiriau. Eich unig gynnig yw gwario arian cyhoeddus yma yng Nghymru, a chyn hir, os etholir y blaids Doriaidd i lywodraethu yn San Steffan, ni fydd gennym ddim.

Nerys Evans: Do you agree that the Welsh Government is doing good work in eradicating not spots given the current limitations, and that it is high time we heard from the Conservatives what their policy is in the fields of broadcasting and broadband should they win next year’s election?

Alun Ffred Jones: I agree with you, of course. Given that ‘Digital Britain’ at least refers to a possible route for ensuring an alternative news provider to the BBC in the nations of Scotland and Wales, it is interesting to see that the Tories appear to reject that, too. We do not yet know how they intend to achieve what they are talking about, which is a news services on channel 3, and yet they reject outright the ideas that have

sydd wedi dod o Lywodraeth San Steffan.

Peter Black: Minister, as well as the not spots, we also have variable broadband speeds across Wales, ranging from the fairly reasonable to the unacceptable. That is having an impact on our ability to attract businesses, especially when compared with some of the speeds available elsewhere in Europe, not least in the Baltic countries. Does the Government support the UK Government's proposed telephone tax, and are you engaged in active discussion with the Minister about how quickly we can use the proceeds of such a tax once it is introduced?

Alun Ffred Jones: We are awaiting the final report and decisions of the UK Government in this field, as I indicated earlier. As this is not my particular sphere of responsibility, I will ask the relevant Minister to provide you with a full answer to your question.

Promoting Welsh Culture

Q6 Jenny Randerson: Will the Minister make a statement on the promotion of Welsh culture? OAQ(3)0926(HER)

Alun Ffred Jones: The importance of a rich and diverse culture lies at the heart of my portfolio objectives. 'One Wales' outlines our aims to offer high-quality cultural experiences to all the people of Wales. The Welsh Assembly Government supports and promotes Welsh cultural and heritage attractions and events throughout Wales.

Jenny Randerson: Do you share my concern and disappointment that none of Wales's cities felt able this time around to bid for the UK City of Culture title? The reason given is that the Welsh local government settlement in recent years has been so tight that authorities simply did not have the funding to bid.

As I am sure you are aware, in the early years of this century, Cardiff made a relatively successful bid for the title, reaching the shortlist. At that time, it was given considerable financial support and practical

been put forward by the Westminster Government.

Peter Black: Weinidog, yn ogystal â'r mannau gwan, mae cyflymder band eang yn amrywio ledled Cymru, o'r cymharol resymol i'r annerbyniol. Mae hynny'n effeithio ar ein gallu i ddenu busnesau, yn enwedig pan gymharir y cyflymder â'r hyn sydd ar gael mewn mannau eraill yn Ewrop, yn anad dim yng ngwledydd y Baltig. A yw'r Llywodraeth yn cefnogi cynnig Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig i godi treth deleffon, ac a ydych yn wrthi'n trafod gyda'r Gweinidog pa mor gyflym y gallwn ddefnyddio'r arian a ddaw yn sgil treth o'r fath ar ôl ei chyflwyno?

Alun Ffred Jones: Yr ydym yn disgwyl adroddiad a phenderfyniadau terfynol Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig yn y maes hwn, fel yr awgrymais gynnau. Gan nad yw hyn yn rhan o'm cyfrifoldeb penodol i, gofynnaf i'r Gweinidog perthnasol roi ichi ateb llawn i'ch cwestiwn.

Hyrwyddo Diwylliant Cymru

C6 Jenny Randerson: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am hyrwyddo diwylliant Cymru? OAQ(3)0926(HER)

Alun Ffred Jones: Pwysigrwydd diwylliant cyfoethog ac amrywiol sydd wrth wraidd amcanion fy mhortffolio. Mae 'Cymru'n Un' yn cyfeirio at ein hamcanion i gynnig profiadau diwylliannol o safon i holl bobl Cymru. Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn cefnogi ac yn hybu atyniadau a digwyddiadau diwylliannol a rhai sy'n ymwneud â'n treftadaeth ledled Cymru.

Jenny Randerson: A ydych chi fel finnau yn poeni ac yn siomedig nad oedd yr un ddinas yng Nghymru yn teimlo y gallai wneud cais am deitl Dinas Diwylliant y Deyrnas Unedig y tro hwn? Y rheswm a roddir yw bod setliad llywodraeth leol Cymru yn y blynnyddoedd diwethaf wedi bod mor dynn fel nad oedd gan yr awdurdodau'r arian i ymgeisio.

Fel y gwyddoch, yr wyf yn siŵr, ym mlynnyddoedd cyntaf y ganrif hon gwnaeth Caerdydd gais gweddol lwyddiannus am y teitl, gan gyrraedd y rhestr fer. Bryd hynny, rhoddwyd cymorth a chefnogaeth ymarferol

help by the Welsh Assembly Government. Have you been asked for any assistance in making a bid and, if so, were you prepared to give it?

Alun Ffred Jones: I am not aware of any specific requests from Cardiff or any other city. On the idea of the UK capital of culture, I indicated my misgivings to the Minister at Westminster because of the accompanying price tag. We have asked, including in recent communications, for further clarification of the £10 million budget referred to. We wanted clarification of whether we could include work that is ongoing or has been done already. As yet, however, I do not think that I have received a reply.

On whether I am disappointed that no city from Wales has made a bid, I am fully aware that they are all under some financial pressure. Without that clarification, it is probably wise to hang fire to see what bidding for that honour entails.

Nick Bourne: The Minister in his earlier response referred to spending on Welsh culture throughout Wales, and I know that he is committed to that, as I am. What is he doing to ensure that spending is going out into the rural parts of Wales on Welsh culture, such as Aberystwyth Arts Centre, the Wyeside Arts Centre in Builth Wells, and Theatr Brycheiniog in Brecon, all in my region? To take the latter for example, Theatr Brycheiniog sells more than 40,000 tickets a year for events, which, for a small town, indicates how vital it is to tourism, cultural spend and the cultural wellbeing of the community. Therefore, this is of vital importance to rural Wales. What is he continuing to do to ensure that we are getting money to the rural communities of Wales, and not just to the urban ones?

Alun Ffred Jones: Individual funding decisions are a matter for the Arts Council of Wales in this area, which is how it should be. However, I continually impress upon the arts council and other bodies that we need to address the needs of communities all over

sylweddol iddi gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad. A ydych wedi cael cais am gymorth i ymgeisio, ac os felly, a oeddech yn barod i roi'r cymorth hwnnw?

Alun Ffred Jones: Ni wn am ddim cais penodol gan Gaerdydd na chan unrhyw ddinas arall. O ran syniad prifddinas diwylliant y Deyrnas Unedig, soniais wrth y Gweinidog yn San Steffan am fy amheuon oherwydd y pris sy'n gysylltiedig â'r gystadleuaeth. Yr ydym wedi gofyn, gan gynnwys mewn gohebiaeth yn ddiweddar, am eglurhad pellach ynghlyn â'r gyllideb o £10 miliwn y cyfeirir ati. Yr oeddem am gael eglurhad a allem gynnwys gwaith sydd ar y gweill neu sydd wedi'i wneud eisoes. Hyd yn hyn, fodd bynnag, ni chredaf imi gael ateb.

A ydwyt yn siomedig nad oes yr un ddinas o Gymru wedi ymgeisio? Gwn yn iawn eu bod i gyd dan grym bwysau ariannol. Heb yr eglurhad hwnnw, mae'n debyg ei bod yn ddoeth aros ychydig i weld beth mae ymgeisio am yr anrhyydedd hwnnw'n ei olygu.

Nick Bourne: Cyfeiriodd y Gweinidog yn ei ymateb gynnau at wario ar ddiwylliant Cymru ym mhob cwr o'r wlad, a gwn ei fod wedi ymrwymo i hynny, fel yr wyf finnau. Beth y mae'n ei wneud i sicrhau bod y gwario ar ddiwylliant Cymru'n cyrraedd cefn gwlad, mannau megis Canolfan y Celfyddydau Aberystwyth, Canolfan Celfyddydau Wyeside yn Llanfair-ym-Muallt, a Theatr Brycheiniog yn Aberhonddu, bob un yn fy rhanbarth i? O ystyried yr olaf, er enghraifft, bydd Theatr Brycheiniog yn gwerthu dros 40,000 o docynnau y flwyddyn ar gyfer digwyddiadau, sydd, ar gyfer tref fechan, yn dangos mor bwysig yw hi o ran twristiaeth, gwario ar ddiwylliant a lles diwylliannol y gymuned. Felly, mae hyn yn hollbwysig i'r Gymru wledig. Beth y mae'n parhau i'w wneud i sicrhau bod yr arian yn cyrraedd cymunedau gwledig Cymru, nid y cymunedau trefol yn unig?

Alun Ffred Jones: Mater i Gyngor Celfyddydau Cymru yn y maes hwn yw penderfyniadau ariannu unigol, ac felly y dylai fod. Serch hynny, byddaf yn pwysleisio o hyd wrth gyngor y celfyddydau a chyrff eraill fod angen inni roi sylw i gymunedau

Wales. If you look at the Cadw spend, you will see that more of it is spent in rural areas. Certain other venues demand a more urban setting because of their very nature. That can sometimes seem as though there is an imbalance in the spend between urban areas and the more rural areas. I agree that we must be careful when decisions are made that we take the whole of Wales into consideration. It is pleasing to see that the new English-language national theatre for Wales has decided to launch its programme with 12 or 13 different events all over Wales, which is a wonderful statement of intent. Hopefully, that augurs well for the future.

ym mhob cwr o Gymru. Os edrychwr ar wariant Cadw, gwelwr fod mwy o arian yn cael ei wario mewn ardaloedd gwledig. Oherwydd eu natur, mae gofyn lleoli canolfannau eraill mewn mannau mwy trefol. Weithiau gall hynny ymddangos fel petai diffyg cydbwysedd rhwng y gwariant ar ardaloedd trefol a'r gwariant ar ardaloedd mwy gwledig. Cytunaf, wrth wneud penderfyniadau, ei bod yn rhaid inni fod yn ofalus i ystyried Cymru drwyddi draw. Mae'n dda gweld bod y theatr genedlaethol Saesneg ei hiaith newydd ar gyfer Cymru wedi penderfynu lansio'i rhaglen gyda 12 neu 13 o wahanol ddigwyddiadau ar hyd a lled y wlad. Mae hynny'n ddatganiad gwych o'i bwriad. Gobeithio bod hynny'n argoeli'n dda ar gyfer y dyfodol.

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd (Rosemary Butler) i'r Gadair am 3.07 p.m.
The Deputy Presiding Officer (Rosemary Butler) took the Chair at 3.07 p.m.*

Cwestiynau i Gomisiwn y Cynulliad Questions to the Assembly Commission

Adroddiad y Panel Adolygu Annibynnol

C1 Nerys Evans: A wnaiff y comisiynydd roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am oblygiadau adroddiad y panel adolygu annibynnol, 'Yn Gywir i Gymru', i'r comisiwn? OAQ(3)0031(AC)

The Commissioner for the Improving Assembly (Chris Franks): The Assembly Commission has accepted all the recommendations of the 'Getting it Right for Wales' report. They will be introduced in four phases, the first of which will be implemented on 2 November. The Presiding Officer will make a statement later this afternoon on the Proposed National Assembly for Wales (Remuneration) Measure. The other implementation phases will follow in 2010 and 2011, to ensure plenty of time for appropriate discussion, planning and implementation.

Nerys Evans: Mae gan waith y panel adolygu annibynnol oblygiadau mawr i staff. Mae argymhelliaid 51 yn sôn am gapasiti strategol staff a'r angen am staff canolog i gynorthwyo grwpiau gwleidyddol yn y Cynulliad. A allwch roi'r wybodaeth

Report of the Independent Review Panel

Q1 Nerys Evans: Will the commissioner provide an update on the implications for the commission of the report of the independent review panel, 'Getting it Right for Wales'? OAQ(3)0031(AC)

Y Comisiynydd ar gyfer Gwella'r Cynulliad (Chris Franks): Mae Comisiwn y Cynulliad wedi derbyn holl argymhellion yr adroddiad 'Yn Gywir i Gymru'. Fe'u cyflwynir mewn pedwar cam, a rhoddir y cyntaf o'r rheini ar waith ar 2 Tachwedd. Bydd y Llywydd yn gwneud datganiad yn ddiweddarach y prynhawn yma am Fesur Arfaethedig Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru (Taliadau). Bydd y camau gweithredu eraill yn dilyn yn 2010 a 2010, er mwyn sicrhau digon o amser ar gyfer trafod, cynllunio a gweithredu priodol.

Nerys Evans: The work of the independent review panel has major implications for staff. Recommendation 51 talks about the strategic capacity of staff and the need for central staff to support the Assembly's political groups. Can you give us an update on the process of

ddiweddaraf am y broses o ddatblygu'r argymhelliaid hwn a'r amserlen? A wnewch ein sicrhau y bydd staff ac undebau llafur yn rhan o'r broses honno a'r gwaith paratoi ar weithredu argymhelliaid 57, sydd hefyd yn ymneud â staff?

Chris Franks: The commission is aware of the sensitivities of this matter and the impact that it may have on staff. I am pleased to say that the recommendations directly affecting Assembly Members' support staff, such as improving the strategic capacity of central support groups, amending the pay bands, abolishing bonus payments, and preparing new contracts will be subject to full consultation with Members, support staff and the relevant trade unions. No changes will take place until after the 2011 Assembly elections.

3.10 p.m.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Question 2, OAQ(3)0032(AC), has been withdrawn.

Energy Efficiency

Q3 Mick Bates: What assessment has the commission made of the energy efficiency of the Tŷ Hywel building? OAQ(3)0033(AC)

Chris Franks: Tŷ Hywel's energy usage efficiency was assessed last year and given a G rating. As a result of our energy efficiency work, including improvements to our building management system and installing energy-efficient lighting, I am pleased to confirm that Tŷ Hywel's energy performance for the past year has just been confirmed and that our rating has improved to level F. We will continue to improve our energy efficiency with help and advice from the Carbon Trust.

Mick Bates: Commissioner, I am sure that you are aware that public buildings currently account for almost 25 per cent of all carbon emissions in the UK. While you proudly announce that Tŷ Hywel now has an energy rating of F, I remind you that an F rating is only second from the bottom on the energy rating chart, because a G rating is the worst. Given that the Welsh Assembly Government is meant to be an exemplar, and that the

developing that recommendation and the timescale? Will you give us an assurance that staff and trade unions will be involved in that process and in the preparatory work on implementing recommendation 57, which also relates to staff?

Chris Franks: Mae'r comisiwn yn sylweddoli bod y mater hwn yn un sensitif ac yn ymwybodol o'r effaith y gallai ei chael ar staff. Yr wyf yn falch dweud yr ymgynghorir yn llawn ag Aelodau, staff cymorth a'r undebau llafur perthnasol ynglŷn â'r argymhellion sy'n effeithio'n uniongyrchol ar staff cymorth Aelodau Cynulliad, megis gwella capaciti strategol grwpiau cymorth canolog, diwygio'r bandiau cyflog, dileu taliadau bonws, a pharatoi contractau newydd. Ni fydd dim newidiadau tan ar ôl etholiadau'r Cynulliad yn 2011.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Mae Cwestiwn 2, OAQ(3)0032(AC), wedi'i dynnu'n ôl.

Effeithlonrwydd Ynni

C3 Mick Bates: Pa asesiad y mae'r comisiwn wedi'i wneud o effeithlonrwydd ynni adeilad Tŷ Hywel? OAQ(3)0033(AC)

Chris Franks: Aseswyd effeithlonrwydd defnyddio ynni Tŷ Hywel y llynedd a rhoddwyd gradd G iddo. Yn sgil ein gwaith effeithlonrwydd ynni, gan gynnwys gwella'n system rheoli adeiladau a gosod goleuadau ynni-effeithlon, yr wyf yn falch cadarnhau bod perfformiad ynni Tŷ Hywel am y flwyddyn a aeth heibio newydd ei gadarnhau, a bod ein gradd wedi codi i lefel F. Byddwn yn dal i wella'n heffeithlonrwydd ynni gyda chymorth a chyngor gan yr Ymddiriedolaeth Garbon.

Mick Bates: Gomisiynydd, yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn ymwybodol mai adeiladau cyhoeddus ar hyn o bryd sy'n gyfrifol am bron 25 y cant o'r holl allyriadau carbon yn y Deyrnas Unedig. Er eich bod yn cyhoeddi'n falch bod gan Dŷ Hywel bellach radd ynni F, fe'ch atgoffaf mai'r ail o'r gwaelod yn unig ar y siart graddfeydd ynni yw gradd F, oherwydd gradd G yw'r waethaf. O gofio bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i fod i osod

Assembly Commission would follow that—I hope—do you agree that more has to be done to make our buildings at least carbon neutral? When will you reach the best energy efficiency rating and what investments will you make to achieve that goal, which we must surely achieve?

esiampl, ac y byddai Comisiwn y Cynulliad yn dilyn hynny—gobeithio—a gytunwch ei bod yn rhaid gwneud rhagor i wneud ein hadeiladau o leiaf yn garbon niwtral? Pa bryd y byddwch yn cyrraedd y radd effeithlonrwydd ynni orau, a sut y byddwch yn buddsoddi er mwyn cyflawni'r nod hwnnw, nod y mae'n rhaid inni ei gyrraedd, onid oes?

Chris Franks: I am grateful for your comments. The commission fully accepts that a great deal more needs to be done; that is our aspiration. It is worth pointing out that Tŷ Hywel was constructed in the late 1980s, and is a complex mix of plant and equipment installed on the basis of last century's appropriate technology. As time moves on, we are replacing appropriate plant items, which will improve our energy efficiency. However, we are fully aware that much more needs to be done.

Chris Franks: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am eich sylwadau. Mae'r comisiwn yn derbyn yn llwyr fod angen gwneud llawer mwy; dyna yw ein dyhead. Mae'n werth nodi bod Tŷ Hywel wedi ei adeiladu ddiwedd yr 1980au, a'i fod yn gymysgedd cymhleth o offer a chyfarpar a osodwyd ar sail y dechnoleg a oedd yn briodol yn y ganrif ddiwethaf. Gydag amser, yr ydym yn gosod offer newydd fel sy'n briodol, a fydd yn gwella ein heffeithlonrwydd ynni. Fodd bynnag, sylweddolwn yn llawn fod angen gwneud llawer mwy.

Cynnig i Ddiwygio Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 23.81 Motion to Amend Standing Order No. 23.81

The Counsel General and Leader of the House (Carwyn Jones): I move that

the National Assembly, in accordance with Standing Order No. 35.2:

1. considers the report of the Business Committee laid in the Table Office on 14 October 2009; and

2. approves the amendment to Standing Orders set out in the report of the Business Committee. (NDM4303)

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is that we agree the motion. Does any Member object? I see that you do not. Therefore, the motion is agreed in accordance with Standing Order No. 7.35.

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion agreed.*

Y Cwncsler Cyffredinol ac Arweinydd y Tŷ (Carwyn Jones): Cynigiaf fod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 35.2:

1. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Busnes a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 14 Hydref 2009; a

2. yn cymeradwyo'r diwygiad i Reolau Sefydlog a nodir yn adroddiad y Pwyllgor Busnes. (NDM4303)

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Y cynnig yw ein bod yn derbyn y cynnig. A oes unrhyw wrthwynebiad? Gwelaf nad oes. Felly, caiff y cynnig ei dderbyn yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.35.

Datganiad Deddfwriaethol gan y Llywydd am Fesur Arfaethedig Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru (Taliadau) Legislative Statement by the Presiding Officer on the Proposed National

Assembly for Wales (Remuneration) Measure

Y Llywydd: Fel Llywydd a Chadeirydd Comisiwn y Cynulliad, yn dilyn fy ymrwymiad i chi ar 8 Gorffennaf, yr wyf am wneud datganiad am Fesur Arfaethedig Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru (Taliadau), a osodwyd yn gynharach yr wythnos hon.

Bydd y Mesur arfaethedig yn gweithredu argymhelliaid 12 yr adroddiad ‘Yn Gywir i Gymru’, sef adroddiad panel adolygu annibynnol cymorth ariannol Aelodau Cynulliad. Yn fy natganiad ar ôl i'r panel gyhoeddi ei adroddiad fis Gorffennaf, dywedais y byddwn yn gweithredu yn Aelod cyfrifol am lywio'r Mesur arfaethedig hanfodol hwn drwy'r gwahanol gyfnodau yn ôl ein gweithdrefnau craffu ar ran fy nghyd-gomisiynwyr. Y datganiad hwn yw dechrau'r broses graffu. Yn nesaf daw ystyriaeth Cyfnod 1, gydag adroddiad pwylgor a fydd yn cynorthwyo Aelodau yn y ddadl hon yn y Cyfarfod Llawn am egwyddorion cyffredinol y Mesur arfaethedig. Os bydd yr egwyddorion hynny'n cael eu cymeradwyo, awn ymlaen i Gyfnod 2, sef ystyriaeth fanwl mewn pwylgor, ac ar hyd Cyfnodau 3 a 4 o drafodaeth yn y Cynulliad, gan orffen gyda Chymeradwyaeth Frenhinol y gofeithir ei gael yn mis Gorffennaf. Os awn drwy'r camau hyn yn llwyddiannus, byddai'n galluogi'r bwrdd taliadau annibynnol i recriwtio ei aelodau yn ystod yr haf a dechrau ar ei waith yn yr hydref.

Drwy'r Mesur arfaethedig, bydd yn ofynnol i'r bwrdd taliadau bennu lefel cyflogau'r dyfodol, yn osodedig am bedair blynedd tymor Cynulliad. Penodir y bwrdd ar sail statudol gan weithredu'n annibynnol ar y Cynulliad. Bydd yn penderfynu pob cymorth ariannol i Aelodau Cynulliad. Bydd y penderfyniadau hynny'n derfynol, heb angen eu cadarnhau na'u cymeradwyo gan na chomisiwn na Chynulliad.

Bydd sefydlu'r bwrdd taliadau yn dangos bod y Cynulliad yn barod i ddeddfu, gan gryfhau proses ddatganoli Cymru drwy sylfaenu system annibynnol fwy agored a thryloyw o gymorth ariannol i Aelodau Cynulliad a fydd yn enny'n hyder y cyhoedd. Gofynnir i'r

The Presiding Officer: As Llywydd and Chair of the Assembly Commission, following my commitment to you on 8 July, I should like to make a statement on the Proposed National Assembly for Wales (Remuneration) Measure, which was laid earlier this week.

The proposed Measure will implement recommendation 12 in ‘Getting it Right for Wales’, the report of the independent review panel on financial support for Assembly Members. In my statement following the publication of the panel’s report in July, I said that I would undertake the role of Member in charge to pilot this essential proposed Measure through the various stages according to our scrutiny procedures on behalf of my commissioner colleagues. This statement today is the beginning of the scrutiny process. Next will come the Stage 1 consideration and a committee report that will assist Members here in Plenary on the general principles of the proposed Measure. If those principles are approved, we will proceed to Stage 2, detailed consideration by committee, and to Stages 3 and 4 of consideration by the Assembly, concluding with Royal Approval, which we hope to achieve in July. If we go through those stages successfully, it would enable the members of the independent remuneration board to be recruited during the summer and to start work next autumn.

The proposed Measure will require the remuneration board to set future salary levels, fixed for the duration of each four-year Assembly term. The board will be appointed on a statutory basis and will operate independently of the Assembly. It will make decisions on financial support for Assembly Members. Those decisions will be final and not subject to ratification or approval by the commission or by the Assembly.

The establishment of the remuneration board will demonstrate that the Assembly is prepared to legislate in a way that will strengthen the devolution process in Wales, by setting a foundation for a more open and transparent independent system of financial

bwrdd taliadau gydwys o tri amcan gwahanol. Yn gyntaf, darparu lefel o daliadau i Aelodau Cynulliad sy'n adlewyrchu'n deg gymhlethdod a phwysigrwyd y swyddogaethau y disgylir iddynt eu cyflawni, ond heb fod llestair, am resymau ariannol, i rai â'r ymroddiad a'r gallu i geisio eu hethol i'r Cynulliad. Yn ail, darparu adnoddau digonol i Aelodau Cynulliad i'w galluogi i gyflawni eu swyddogaethau fel Aelodau Cynulliad. Yn drydydd, sicrhau uniondeb, ateboldeb, gwerth am arian a thryloywder o ran gwario cyllid cyhoeddus.

support for Assembly Members that will command public confidence. The remuneration board will be required to balance three objectives. Firstly, to provide Assembly Members with a level of remuneration that fairly reflects the complexity and importance of the functions they are expected to discharge, and does not, on financial grounds, deter persons with the necessary commitment and ability from seeking election to the Assembly. Secondly, to provide Assembly Members with resources that are adequate to enable them to exercise their functions as Assembly Members. Thirdly, to ensure probity, accountability, value for money and transparency with respect to the expenditure of public funds.

Egwyddor ganolog y Mesur arfaethedig yw na ddylem ni, fel Aelodau Cynulliad, geisio gosod lefel ein taliadau o hyn allan. Yn y mater hwn, mae'r Mesur arfaethedig gam o flaen Deddf Safonau Seneddol 2009 y Deyrnas Unedig, sy'n trosglwyddo rheolaeth lwfansau i gorff annibynnol, wrth gadw'r grym terfynol i benderfynu eu cyflogau eu hunain gydag Aelodau Seneddol. Bydd Aelodau ym mhob cwr o'r Cynulliad yn cofio eu consýrn pan osodwyd cyflogau a lwfansau yma ar ganran fympwyol o San Steffan heb ystyried anghenion model democrataidd Cymreig. Dyna pam y derbyniwyd yr argymhelliaid i ddiddymu'r cysylltiad allanol gan fanteisio ar ein cymwyseddau deddfu newydd a gweithredu mewn modd datganoledig cyfrifol, fel bod cyflogau a lwfansau yn cael eu pennu gan gorff sy'n deall amgylchiadau Cymru a swyddi unigryw Aelodau Cynulliad.

The central principle of the proposed Measure is that we, as Assembly Members, should no longer seek to set our own remuneration. In that regard, the proposed Measure goes beyond the United Kingdom Parliamentary Standards Act 2009, which transfers control over allowances to an independent body but retains for MPs the ultimate power to decide what salaries they themselves are to be paid. Members on all sides of the Assembly will recall their concerns when pay and allowances were linked with, and set as an arbitrary percentage of, Westminster which took little account of the particular needs of the Welsh democratic model. That is why the recommendation to sever the external link has been accepted, thereby taking advantage of our new legislative competence and operating in a devolved and responsible way, so that pay and allowances are set by a body with a complete understanding of Welsh circumstances and the unique roles fulfilled by Assembly Members.

Wrth lywio'r Mesur arfaethedig hwn, gwn fod cyfeillion o bob cwr o'r Deyrnas Unedig a thu hwnt yn ein gwyllo yn ofalus, wrth iddynt ddisgwyl gwahanol adroddiadau ar gymorth ariannol i Aelodau eu deddfwrfreydd gael eu cyhoeddi. Wrth barhau i'ch annog, fy nghyd-Aelodau, i ganlyn y llwybr y bu i ni gychwyn arno, gan graffu ar ei fanylion yn drylwyr, hoffwn annog ein cyfeillion yn yr Alban, yng Ngogledd Iwerddon ac yn arbennig yn San Steffan i barhau i ddilyn ein

In piloting this proposed Measure, I know that our approach is being watched closely by our friends throughout the United Kingdom and beyond while awaiting publication of various reports on financial support for Members of their legislatures. While encouraging you, my fellow Members, to continue down the path upon which we started, by thoroughly scrutinising the details of the Measure, I should like to encourage our friends in Scotland, Northern Ireland and

harweiniad.

David Lloyd: Diolch o galon i'r Llywydd am ei ddatganiad y prynhawn yma. Yr wyf yn ei groesawu'n fawr ac yn benodol y darn o'r datganiad lle y dywedodd mai egwyddor ganolog y Mesur arfaethedig yw na ddylem ni, fel Aelodau Cynulliad, geisio gosod lefel ein taliadau o hyn allan. Cefnogaf hynny'n frwd a gwn fod fy nghyd-Aelodau ym Mhlaid Cymru yn cefnogi'r gosodiad hwnnw'n frwd hefyd.

Yr ydym i gyd yn ymwybodol, neu dylem fod yn ymwybodol, o lefel y dicter ar lawr gwlad ynglŷn â threuliau Aelodau Seneddol. Mae'r dicter hwnnw'n parhau ac ni ddengys unrhyw arwydd o leihau wrth i amser fynd ymlaen. Yr ydym hefyd i gyd yn cofio eich datganiad ym mis Gorffennaf, pan oedd croeso ar draws pob plaid i argymhellion panel annibynnol Syr Roger Jones. O gofio'r hinsawdd bresennol, hoffwn ddyfynnu ffigurau o hen arolwg sydd yn dangos pa mor boblogaidd yw gwleidyddion. Pan wyf yn feddyg teulu, mae gan 94 y cant o'r cyhoedd ymddiriedaeth llwyr ynof, ond pan wyf yn wleidydd, dim ond rhyw 17 y cant o'r cyhoedd sydd yn llwyr ymddiried ynof. Yr oedd hynny cyn y sgandal gyda threuliau San Steffan; Duw a wyr beth yw'r lefel o ymddiriedaeth yn awr. Fel y dywedais, mae'r dicter yn parhau.

Felly, mae sefydlu corff annibynnol allanol, sef y bwrdd taliadau annibynnol hwn, i bennu tâl ac amodau Aelodau'r Cynulliad, yn benderfyniad synhwyrol a chall. A fydddech, felly, yn cytuno na fydd pobl Cymru yn disgwyl dim llai?

3.20 p.m.

Y Llywydd: Diolch am y cwestiwn ar ddiwedd y cyfraniad. Tanlinellaf mai un amcan sydd gennyf yn y prosiect hwn o weithredu'r Mesur arfaethedig, sef ein bod yn defnyddio ein cymwyseddau deddfwriaethol yn llawn yn y meysydd y maent wedi'u rhoi inni'n barod, yn yr Atodlen berthnasol i Ddeddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006, sef ein sail gyfansoddiadol. Mae'n ddiddorol bod cefnogaeth gref wedi dod i'r dull o weithredu yn annibynnol gan Syr John Baker, cyn-

especially in Westminster to continue to follow our lead.

David Lloyd: I thank the Presiding Officer for his statement this afternoon. I sincerely welcome it, especially the section in the statement which says that the central principle of the proposed Measure is that we, as Assembly Members, should not set our own pay levels. I strongly support that, as I know do my colleagues in Plaid Cymru.

We are all aware, or we should all be aware, of the amount of anger that exists in the country on the issue of MPs expenses. That anger continues and shows no sign of diminishing as time goes on. We also all remember your statement last July, when all sides of the Chamber welcomed the recommendations made by Sir Roger Jones's independent panel. Given the current climate, I should like to mention some figures from an old review which illustrate the popularity of politicians. When I am a GP, 94 per cent of the public has full confidence in me, but when I am a politician, only 17 per cent of the public has full confidence in me. That was before the Westminster expenses scandal; God only knows what the level of confidence is now. As I said, the anger continues.

Therefore, the establishment of an external independent body, that is, this independent remuneration board, to set Assembly Members' pay and conditions is a sensible decision. Would you agree, therefore, that the people of Wales expect no less?

The Presiding Officer: Thank you for the question at the end of your contribution. I should like to underline that, in this project to implement the recommendation and bring forward the proposed Measure, I have but one objective: that we use our legislative competence in full in the areas in which it has been provided for us, under the relevant Schedule to the Government of Wales Act 2006, which is the basis of our constitution. It is interesting that there has been strong

gadeirydd y corff adolygu cyflogau uwch-swyddogion, mewn adolygiad a gyhoeddwyd yn 2008. Nodwyd yn yr adolygiad hwnnw dair elfen bwysig a oedd yn angenrheidiol er mwyn cael dull annibynnol o bennu cyflogau: sefydlu lefel sylfaen, sefydlu dull o uwchraddio a fydd yn addasu cyflogau yn awtomatig a sefydlu corff annibynnol i adolygu a yw cyflogau Aelodau yn dal yn addas mewn perthynas â'u swyddi ac unrhyw newidiadau i'w swyddogaethau a'u cyfrifoldebau, a monitro sut yr oedd y dull o uwchraddio cyflogau yn gweithio. Nid mater i mi yw gwneud unrhyw sylw ar pam nad yw Syr John Baker yn parhau yn ei aruchel swydd, ond mae'n amlwg i mi ei fod yn berson o farn annibynnol a'i fod yn credu ei bod yn bwysig i Aelodau etholedig yn mhob senedd-dy yn y deyrnas hon ac ymhellach roi'r gorau i'r arfer o bennu eu cyflogau eu hunain. Nid yw'r cyhoedd yng Nghymru nac, yn fy marn i, yn y Deyrnas Unedig am ddioddef hyn yn hwy.

Kirsty Williams: I welcome your statement, Presiding Officer. As Dai Lloyd said earlier, we underestimate at our peril the ongoing anger and disquiet felt by members of the public about issues of politicians' pay and expenses—especially those of Members of Parliament. Therefore, it has to be right for this Assembly to change to a system that will remove Assembly Members from any role in setting the pay, conditions and expenses under which we work. It has to be right, after 10 years of devolution, that this institution moves to an independent system. We are more than capable, as a nation, of deciding this for ourselves. It is no longer appropriate that our pay and conditions be linked to that of Members of Parliament. Given the inability of Westminster to get to grips with its situation, it is even more incumbent on us to change as quickly as possible to a system that removes us from any taint related to practices in the House of Commons. It is also important to remember that what is being proposed today, Presiding Officer, will take us further than what is being proposed in London.

Could you answer two questions, Presiding Officer? Would you agree that it is ridiculous to suggest that any independent system established to deal with our pay and

support for this independent action by Sir John Baker, former chair of the senior salaries review body, in a review published in 2008. He identified three important elements in creating an independent means of setting remuneration: establishing a basic level of remuneration, establishing a means of upgrading remuneration automatically, and establishing an independent body to review whether salaries are still appropriate to jobs and any changes in their responsibilities, and monitoring how the upgrading system was working. It is not for me to comment on why Sir John Baker is no longer in that august role, but it is apparent to me that he is an independent-minded person who believes it is important that elected Members in all parliaments in this kingdom, and further afield, should cease the practice of setting their own remuneration. In my opinion, the people of Wales, and of the United Kingdom, will not put up with this any longer.

Kirsty Williams: Croesawaf eich datganiad, Lywydd. Fel y dywedodd Dai Lloyd gynnau, wiw inni danstyried y dicter a'r anniddigrwydd y mae'r cyhoedd yn dal i'w teimlo ynglŷn â chyflogau a threuliau gwleidyddion—yn enwedig rhai Aelodau Seneddol. Felly, wrth gwrs ei bod yn iawn i'r Cynulliad hwn droi at system lle na fydd gan Aelodau Cynulliad rôl o gwbl wrth bennu'r cyflog, yr amodau a'r treuliau am ein gwaith. Wrth gwrs ei bod yn iawn, ar ôl 10 mlynedd o ddatganoli, i'r sefydliad hwn droi at system annibynnol. Yr ydym yn fwy na galluog, fel cenedl, i benderfynu hyn drosom ein hunain. Nid yw'n briodol mwyach i'n cyflog a'n hamodau fod yn gysylltiedig â rhai Aelodau Seneddol. Gan na all San Steffan fynd i'r afael a'i sefyllfa yn y fan honno, mae'n bwysicach byth inni newid cyn gynted ag y bo modd at system sy'n ein pellhau oddi wrth unrhyw staen sy'n gysylltiedig ag arferion Tŷ'r Cyffredin. Mae'n bwysig cofio hefyd y bydd yr hyn a gynigir heddiw, Lywydd, yn mynd â ni y tu hwnt i'r hyn a gynigir yn Llundain.

A allech ateb dau gwestiwn, Lywydd? A fydddech yn cytuno ei bod yn hurt awgrymu na fydd unrhyw system annibynnol a sefydliid i ymdrin a'n cyflogau a'n hamodau yn

conditions will have no relevance to the pay and conditions of other public sector workers in Wales? That is not an excuse not to support this proposed Measure. Secondly, will you assure me that, in appointing members to the board, they will be subject to the most open and transparent of recruitment processes, and will be appointed in line with Nolan principles?

The Presiding Officer: I am grateful to the leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats for her support in this matter, stated so clearly and coherently. I will take the second point first. Recruitment will be through open and fair competition. The Assembly Commission, as the body legally setting up the new independent panel, will be responsible for the formal appointment of board members, but it will be the chief executive of the Assembly who will be responsible for the detailed recruitment. When we come to debate the proposed Measure in detail, we will then turn to Schedule 2, which is devoted to this matter, where the position is set out quite clearly. As I have a Welsh-language version in front of me, I will refer to that.

‘Rhaid i’r Clerc wneud trefniadau ar gyfer dethol ymgeiswyr i’w penodi’n Gadeirydd, ac yn aelodau eraill i’r Bwrdd.

O ran y trefniadau hynny, rhaid i’r Clerc sicrhau—

(a) nad ydynt yn cynnwys cyfraniad gan unrhyw berson y mae’n ymddangos i’r Clerc ei bod yn debyg yr effeithir arno wrth i’r Bwrdd arfer unrhyw rai o’i swyddogaethau, na chan unrhyw berson sy’n gysylltiedig â pherson o’r fath;

(b) eu bod, yn ddarostyngedig i is-baragraff (a), yn rhoi sylw priodol i’r egwyddor y dylid cael cyfle cyfartal i bawb.

Rhaid i Gomisiwn y Cynulliad benodi’n Gadeirydd, neu’n aelod o’r Bwrdd, yn ôl fel y digwydd, unrhyw berson a ddetholir, yn unol â’r trefniadau hyn’.

Mewn geiriau eraill, fe benodir y bwrdd o dan reolau Nolan, fel corff cyhoeddus o unrhyw fath.

berthnasol o gwbl i gyflogau ac amodau gweithwyr eraill yn y sector cyhoeddus yng Nghymru? Nid yw hynny’n esgus dros beidio â chefnogi’r Mesur arfaethedig hwn. Yn ail, a wnewch chi fy sicrhau, wrth benodi aelodau’r bwrdd, y dilynir y prosesau reciwtio mwyaf agored a thryloyw, ac y cānt eu penodi’n unol ag egwyddorion Nolan?

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i arweinydd Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru am ei chefnogaeth glir a chroyw yn hyn. Ymdriniaf â’r ail bwynt yn gyntaf. Bydd y reciwtio’n digwydd drwy drefn cystadleuaeth deg ac agored. Comisiwn y Cynulliad, sef y corff a fydd yn sefydlu’r panel annibynnol newydd yn gyfreithiol, a fydd yn gyfrifol am benodi aelodau’r bwrdd yn ffurfiol. Ond prif weithredwr y Cynulliad a fydd yn gyfrifol am y reciwtio manwl. Pan ddaw’n adeg cynnal dadl fanwl am y Mesur arfaethedig, byddwn wedyn yn troi at Atodlen 2, sy’n ymwneud yn benodol â’r mater hwn, a lle disgrifir y drefn yn eithaf clir. Gan mai fersiwn Gymraeg sydd gennych o’m blaen, cyfeiriaf at honno.

‘The Clerk must make arrangements for selecting candidates for appointment as Chair, and as other members of the Board.

The Clerk must ensure that those arrangements

(a) do not involve participation by any person who appears to the Clerk to be likely to be affected by the exercise by the Board of any of its functions, or any person connected with such a person;

(b) subject to sub-paragraph (a), have due regard to the principle that there should be equality of opportunity for all people.

The Assembly Commission must appoint as Chair, or as a member of the Board, as the case may be, any person selected, in accordance with such arrangements’.

In other words, the board will be appointed in line with the Nolan principles, in the same way as any other public body.

Ynglŷn â'r mater cyntaf, nid wyf am wneud unrhyw sylw am yr hyn yr wyf wedi'i ddarllen yn y wasg heddiw. Darllenais y *Daily Post* a'r *Western Mail* yn union fel a wnaf yn ddeddfol bob bore. Nid mater pleidiol gwleidyddol yw hwn, ac felly apelias ar bob plaid yn y Cynulliad i ystyried y mater hwn o ran ein lles ein hunain fel pobl broffesiynol, o ran lles y corff hwn ac o ran agwedd y cyhoedd yng Nghymru. Felly, mater unigryw i ni yw hwn; mae Aelodau'r Cynulliad mewn sefyllfa unigryw. Nid ydym yn weithwyr sector cyhoeddus—yr ydym yn Aelodau etholedig.

Y gymhariaeth fwyaf priodol i'w gwneud yw'r gymhariaeth â chynghorwyr mewn llywodraeth leol, lle ceir corff sy'n atebol i'r Gweinidog llywodraeth leol yng Nghymru, wedi'i sefydlu ganddo ef, o dan gadeiryddiaeth gŵr sy'n adnabyddus i ni mewn swyddogaeth arall, sef Richard Penn. Mae hwnnw'n gorff sydd wedi cynhyrchu dau adroddiad hyd yn hyn ac wedi ystyried holl fater cefnogaeth a chymorth i aelodau llywodraeth leol. Mae hwnnw'n gorff annibynnol Cymreig, sy'n gosod ei safonau ei hun ac sy'n casglu tystiolaeth yn ei ffordd ei hun, a byddai'n beth hollol ddwl pe na bai gan Aelodau etholedig Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yr un math o gorff o ran ei annibyniaeth Cymreig ag sydd gan aelodau cyngor sir. Fe fyddai pobl drwy lywodraeth leol yng Nghymru a thu hwnt yn edrych arnom gan chwerthin am ein pennau.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Diolch, Lywydd.

On the first issue, I do not wish to comment on what I have read in today's press. I read the *Daily Post* and the *Western Mail* this morning, as is my wont. This is not a party political issue, so I appeal to all parties in the Assembly to consider this issue from the perspective of our own welfare as professional people, for the good of this organisation and its standing in the eyes of the people of Wales. Therefore, this is a unique matter for us; Assembly members are in a unique position. We are not public sector employees—we are elected Members.

The most appropriate comparison is that with local government councillors, where there is a body accountable to the Minister for local government, established by the Minister, chaired by a gentleman known to us by way of another function—Richard Penn. That body has produced two reports to date and has considered the whole issue of support for members in local government. That is an independent, Welsh body that sets its own standards and gathers evidence in its own way, and it would be entirely ludicrous if elected Members of the National Assembly for Wales did not have the same kind of body in terms of its Welsh independence as do members of county councils. People throughout local government in Wales and beyond would look at us and laugh at us.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Thank you, Presiding Officer.

Cynnig i Gymeradwyo Cyllideb Comisiwn y Cynulliad 2010-11 Motion to Approve the Assembly Commission's Budget 2010-11

The Commissioner for Assembly Resources (William Graham): I move that

Comisiynydd Adnoddau'r Cynulliad (William Graham): Cynigiaf fod

the National Assembly for Wales agrees the budget of the Assembly Commission for 2010-11, as specified in table 1 of the 'National Assembly for Wales Commission Budget Proposals 2010-11', laid before the Assembly on 14 October 2009; and that it be incorporated in the annual budget motion under Standing Order No. 27.17(ii). (NDM4305)

I welcome the opportunity to move this motion to agree the Assembly Commission's budget for 2010-11, and for it to be incorporated in the annual budget motion. The Assembly Commission proposes a net resource budget of £48.973 million for the year, an increase of 2.6 per cent on 2009-10. As Members will know, under the Government of Wales Act 2006, the Assembly Commission must provide, or ensure that the Assembly is provided with, the property, staff and resources required for the Assembly's purposes.

The commission appreciates the constructive engagement of our colleagues on the Finance Committee in scrutinising our budget. The 2006 Act establishes a framework of financial accountability, and scrutiny of the commission's draft budget by the Finance Committee is the cornerstone of the process of enabling the commission to discharge its duties. We have written to the Chair of the committee thanking her for their report, and we will be taking on board the recommendations made by them.

The Assembly Commission is independently audited every year by the Wales Audit Office, which reviews our approach to financial management and the effectiveness of our internal controls. The audit certificate, from the Auditor General for Wales, can be found in the commission's online annual report and accounts, published at the end of last term. The annual report describes the commission's, and the Assembly's, achievements last year. A few highlights were the opening of Siambra Hywel, Europe's first dedicated youth debating chamber, which has welcomed 24,000 children; and introducing our online e-petitioning system, resulting in an increase in the number of petitions submitted—61 in the 11 months prior to the e-system and 96 in the year

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn cytuno ar gyllideb Comisiwn y Cynulliad ar gyfer 2010-11, fel y pennir yn nhabl 1 'Cynigion Cyllideb Comisiwn Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru 2010-11', a gyflwynwyd gerbron y Cynulliad ar 14 Hydref 2009; a'i bod yn cael ei hymgorffori yn y cynnig cyllideb flynyddol o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 27.17(ii). (NDM4305)

Croesawaf y cyfle i gynnig y dylem dderbyn cyllideb Comisiwn y Cynulliad ar gyfer 2010-11, a'i bod yn cael ei hymgorffori yn y cynnig cyllideb blynyddol. Mae Comisiwn y Cynulliad yn cynnig cyllideb adnodd net o £48.973 miliwn am y flwyddyn, cynnydd o 2.6 y cant ar 2009-10. Fel y gŵyr yr Aelodau, dan Ddeddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006, rhaid i Gomisiwn y Cynulliad ddarparu, neu sicrhau y darperir ar gyfer y Cynulliad, yr eiddo, y staff a'r adnoddau sy'n ofynnol at ddibenion y Cynulliad.

Mae'r comisiwn yn gwerthfawrogi gwaith adeiladol ein cyd-Aelodau ar y Pwyllgor Cyllid wrth iddynt graffu ar ein cyllideb. Mae Deddf 2006 yn sefydlu fframwaith atebolrwydd ariannol. Y drefn lle bydd y Pwyllgor Cyllid yn craffu ar gyllideb ddrafft y comisiwn yw conglfaen y broses o alluogi'r comisiwn i gyflawni ei ddyletswyddau. Yr ydym wedi ysgrifennu at Gadeirydd y pwylgor yn diolch iddi am eu hadroddiad, a byddwn yn rhoi sylw i'w hargymhellion.

Bydd Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru'n cynnal archwiliad annibynnol bob blwyddyn o Gomisiwn y Cynulliad, gan adolygu ein trefniadau rheoli ariannol ac effeithiolrwydd ein rheolaethau mewnol. Mae dystysgrif archwilio Archwilydd Cyffredinol Cymru i'w gweld yn adroddiad a chyfrifon blynyddol y comisiwn ar-lein, a gyhoeddwyd ddiwedd y tymor diwethaf. Mae'r adroddiad blynyddol yn disgrifio llwyddiannau'r comisiwn a'r Cynulliad y llynedd. Rhai o'r uchafbwyntiau oedd agor Siambra Hywel, siambra ddadlau gyntaf Ewrop sy'n arbennig ar gyfer pobl ifanc, ac sydd wedi croesawu 24,000 o blant. Hefyd cyflwynwyd ein system e-ddeisebu ar-lein, gan arwain at gynnydd yn nifer y deisebau a gyflwynwyd—61 yn yr 11 mis cyn yr e-system a 96 yn y flwyddyn wedyn. I

following. To give a flavour of workload, almost 7,000 oral and written questions were tabled, we held 71 Plenary meetings, 257 non-legislative scrutiny committee meetings and 85 legislative committee meetings, and our research service produced some 4,500 written research papers and documents.

3.30 p.m.

William Graham: For the next financial year, the commission has again carefully considered the needs of the Assembly. We are committed to maintaining standards and services to the Assembly and its Members. We have, of course, balanced this with a determined effort to restrict the level of increase in our budget. We make a commitment that we will manage our resources as carefully as possible and deliver efficiency and value for money in all that we do. This budget puts sufficient resources in place to deliver our key objectives. However, it is also a responsible budget during the difficult economic times that we are experiencing. I seek your support on the motion before us today.

Nick Ramsay: The Finance Committee has considered the Assembly Commission's draft budget and has a number of observations to make. First, the committee notes and endorses the Assembly Commission's recognition of the difficult economic climate and the need to examine all expenditure as critically as possible. This is a theme that will figure in all public sector organisations this year, although, as a member of the Finance Committee, I feel bound to make the point that it should figure in the consideration of any budget anywhere this year.

Having considered the draft budget, the committee has made various recommendations. I note that the final budget, which we are debating today, is virtually identical to the draft. We accept that this is largely inevitable given the timescales to which we must work. However, the Chair of the Finance Committee was grateful for the assurance from the Chief Executive and Clerk to the Assembly that the commission

roi blas o'r llwyth gwaith, cyflwynwyd bron i 7,000 o gwestiynau llafar ac ysgrifenedig, cynhaliwyd 71 o gyfarfodydd Llawn, 257 o bwyllgorau craffu an-neddfwriaethol, ac 85 o gyfarfodydd pwylgorau deddfwriaethol, a chynhyrchodd ein gwasanaeth ymchwil oddeutu 4,500 o bapurau a dogfennau ymchwil ysgrifenedig.

William Graham: Ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol nesaf, mae'r comisiwn unwaith eto wedi ystyried anghenion y Cynulliad yn ofalus. Yr ydym wedi ymrwymo i gynnal safonau a gwasanaethau ar gyfer y Cynulliad a'i Aelodau. Wrth gwrs, wrth wneud hyn yr ydym wedi gwneud ymdrech ddygn i gadw'r ddysgl yn wastad drwy gyfyngu lefel y cynnydd yn ein cyllideb. Ymrwymwn i reoli ein hadnoddau mor ofalus ag y bo modd ac i sicrhau effeithlonrwydd a gwerth yr arian ym mhopheth a wnawn. Mae'r gyllideb hon yn darparu digon o adnoddau i gyflawni'n prif amcanion. Serch hynny, mae'r gyllideb hon hefyd yn gyllideb gyfrifol yn yr oes economaidd anodd hon. Gofynnaf am eich cefnogaeth i'r cynnig sydd ger ein bron heddiw.

Nick Ramsay: Mae'r Pwyllgor Cyllid wedi ystyried cyllideb ddrafft Comisiwn y Cynulliad ac mae am wneud nifer o sylwadau. Yn gyntaf, mae'r pwyllgor yn nodi ac yn ategu cydnabyddiaeth Comisiwn y Cynulliad fod yr hinsawdd economaidd yn anodd a bod angen archwilio'r holl wariant mewn ffordd mor feirniadol ag y bo modd. Mae hon yn thema a fydd yn codi ym mhob sefydliad yn y sector cyhoeddus eleni, er, fel aelod o'r Pwyllgor Cyllid, teimlaf ddyletswydd i ddweud y dylai godi wrth ystyried unrhyw gyllideb ym mha le bynnag eleni.

Ar ôl ystyried y gyllideb drafft, mae'r pwyllgor wedi gwneud nifer o argymhellion. Sylwaf fod y gyllideb derfynol yr ydym yn ei dadlau heddiw fwy neu lai yr un ffunud â'r drafft. Derbyniwn fod hyn yn anochel i raddau helaeth oherwydd yr amserlenni y mae'n rhaid inni gadw atynt. Serch hynny, yr oedd Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cyllid yn ddiolchgar o gael sicrwydd gan Brif Weithredwr a Chlerc y Cynulliad y bydd y

will take on board these recommendations and respond to the committee on the various points raised during the process. In its consideration of the draft budget, the Finance Committee looked at two main factors. First, it wanted to be satisfied that the commission had properly examined and costed its plans and that the assumptions it had made were realistic. Secondly, it wanted to ensure that it was seeking to carry them out as efficiently and effectively as possible. Unfortunately, it was not always as easy to make these assessments as the committee would have liked.

The committee found a number of gaps in the presentation of the commission's budget. Although it set out the commission's plans in narrative form and included some of the key figures under the main headings, it omitted a number of important items that we feel could be critical for the year to come. We identified in the report expenditure of some £1 million that is expected to be needed that is not shown adequately in the budget. The figures are broken down in detail in the committee's report and include £500,000 for salary increases for Members, their support staff and commission staff; £250,000 for the completion of the unified IT network; and £100,000 for three new posts. In total, the missing items comprise some 2 per cent of the commission's expenditure and are therefore significant. Although the committee accepts that, at this stage, the commission may not know precisely how much will be required for these, it feels that it is normal practice for a budget to include best estimates of all items on which expenditure is expected and for transfers to be made during the year to cover any underspend or overspend.

The committee also had concerns about the way that the commission proposed to manage the use of savings and other unallocated amounts through the contingency fund. It considered the approach to be unusual and opaque and more complex than the straightforward approach usually adopted by other public bodies. The committee felt that it reduced transparency. The Finance Committee has recommended that the commission should stop using the

comisiwn yn rhoi sylw i'r argymhellion hyn ac yn ymateb i'r pwylgor ar yr amrywiol bwyntiau a godwyd yn ystod y broses. Wrth ystyried y gyllideb ddrafft, bu'r Pwyllgor Cyllid yn edrych ar ddau brif ffactor. Yn gyntaf, yr oedd am fod yn fodlon fod y comisiwn wedi archwilio'i gynlluniau ac wedi eu costio'n iawn, a bod y tybiaethau yr oedd wedi'u gwneud yn realistig. Yn ail, yr oedd am sicrhau ei fod yn bwriadu eu cyflawni mewn ffordd mor effeithlon ac effeithiol ag y bo modd. Yn anffodus, nid oedd bob tro mor hawdd asesu hyn ag y byddai'r pwylgor wedi'i hoffi.

Gwelodd y pwylgor nifer o fylchau yng nghyflwyniad cyllideb y comisiwn. Er ei bod yn sôn am gynlluniau'r comisiwn ar ffurf naratif ac yn cynnwys rhai o'r ffigurau allweddol dan y prif benawdau, hepgorwyd nifer o eitemau o bwys y teimlem y gallent fod yn hollbwysig yn y flwyddyn nesaf. Yn yr adroddiad, gwelsom wariant o ryw £1 filiwn y disgwyli'r bydd ei angen ond nad yw wedi'i ddangos yn ddigonol yn y gyllideb. Mae manylion y ffigurau ar gael yn adroddiad y pwylgor, ac y mae'r rheini'n cynnwys £500,000 ar gyfer codi cyflogau'r Aelodau, eu staff cymorth a staff y comisiwn; £250,000 ar gyfer cwblhau'r rhwydwaith TG unedig; a £100,000 ar gyfer tair swydd newydd. Mae cyfanswm yr eitemau coll yn cyfateb i tua 2 y cant o wariant y comisiwn ac felly maent yn arwyddocaol. Er bod y pwylgor yn derbyn, ar hyn o bryd, nad yw'r comisiwn o reidrwydd yn gwybod faint yn union y bydd ei angen ar gyfer y rhain, mae'n teimlo mai'r arfer fel rheol yw cynnwys mewn cyllideb yr amcangyfrifon gorau ar gyfer pob eitem y disgwyli'r gwario arni, ac wedyn trosglwyddo arian yn ystod y flwyddyn ar gyfer unrhyw danwario neu orwario.

Yr oedd y pwylgor yn poeni hefyd am y ffordd yr oedd y comisiwn yn bwriadu rheoli defnyddio arbedion a symiau eraill sydd heb eu dyrannu drwy ddefnyddio'r gronfa wrth gefn. Barnai fod yr arfer hwn yn anghyffredin ac yn niwlog ac yn fwy dyrys na'r dull uniongyrchol a ddefnyddir fel rheol gan gyrrff cyhoeddus eraill. Teimlai'r pwylgor fod hyn yn gwneud y broses yn llai tryloyw. Mae'r Pwyllgor Cyllid wedi argymhell y dylai'r comisiwn roi'r gorau i ddefnyddio'r gronfa

contingency fund in this way and that it should retain a contingency fund for genuine contingencies only. The committee has also made further recommendations on procedures that will help the commission to handle these issues in future and improve the transparency of the commission's budget as a whole. The committee has asked the Assembly Commission to re-present its budget to the committee in due course in the way recommended. However, bearing in mind the need to make plans for next year, the Finance Committee is content for the budget to be approved in its existing form.

The committee has noted that the commission faces a particular issue because of the need to meet expenditure arising from the recommendations of the remuneration board, which will be established following the recommendations of the independent review panel. The committee recognised that this will, of its nature, be difficult to forecast and it has recommended that the budget contain separate elements for this and for expenditure under the commission's direct control.

The Finance Committee was also concerned about the commission's approach to efficiency savings. Last year, the commission committed itself to making efficiency savings of £250,000 during the current year. In its evidence to the Finance Committee, it presented savings of £373,000 in the first three months of the year. On the face of it, this was an exceptional achievement against the target, but, on further examination, it became apparent that a significant part of these were simply returns against budgets that had clearly been overestimated. While savings of this kind should not be dismissed, it is questionable as to whether they should be described as efficiency savings. We decided that an efficiency saving, in our minds, is achieved by finding new ways to do things, delivering the same results using fewer resources, or cutting out unnecessary activities. We therefore asked the commission to clarify the position on these savings. There is also a recommendation outstanding from the consideration of last year's budget round to report to the committee on how the targeted savings were achieved.

wrth gefn fel hyn ac y dylai gadw cronfa wrth gefn ar gyfer sefyllfaoedd annisgwyl go iawn yn unig. Mae'r pwyllgor hefyd wedi gwneud argymhellion eraill ynglŷn â gweithdrefnau a fydd o gymorth i'r comisiwn ymdrin â'r materion hyn yn y dyfodol. Bydd hynny'n gwneud cyllideb y comisiwn drwyddi draw yn fwy tryloyw. Mae'r pwyllgor wedi gofyn i Gomisiwn y Cynulliad ailgyflwyno'i gyllideb i'r pwyllgor maes o law gan ddilyn yr argymhellion. Fodd bynnag, o gofio bod angen cynllunio ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf, mae'r Pwyllgor Cyllid yn fodlon i'r gyllideb gael ei chymeradwyo yn ei ffurf bresennol.

Mae'r pwyllgor wedi sylwi bod y comisiwn yn wynebu anhawster penodol oherwydd bod angen talu am wariant sy'n codi yn sgil argymhellion y bwrdd taliadau a sefydlir yn dilyn argymhellion y panel adolygu annibynnol. Yr oedd y pwyllgor yn sylweddoli y bydd hyn, o ran ei natur, yn anodd ei ragweld, ac y mae wedi argymhell y dylai'r gyllideb gynnwys elfennau ar wahân ar gyfer hyn ac ar gyfer gwariant sydd dan reolaeth uniongyrchol y comisiwn.

Yr oedd y Pwyllgor Cyllid yn poeni hefyd am ddull y comisiwn o ymdrin ag arbedion effeithlonrwydd. Y llynedd, ymrwymodd y comisiwn i arbed £250,000 drwy gamau effeithlonrwydd yn ystod y flwyddyn hon. Yn ei dystiolaeth i'r Pwyllgor Cyllid, cyflwynodd arbedion o £373,000 yn nhri mis cyntaf y flwyddyn. Ar y wyneb, yr oedd hyn yn llwyddiant eithriadol o'i gymharu â'r targed, ond wrth archwilio'n fanylach gwelwyd bod cyfran sylweddol o'r rhain yn deillio o gyllidebau a oedd yn amlwg wedi'u goramcangyfrif. Er na ddylid dibrisio arbedion fel hyn, mae'n amheus a ddylid mewn gwirionedd eu galw'n arbedion effeithlonrwydd. Ein penderfyniad ni oedd mai arbediad effeithlonrwydd, yn ein golwg ni, yw rhywbeth y llwyddir i'w gyflawni drwy ddarganfod ffyrdd newydd o wneud pethau, sicrhau'r un canlyniadau drwy ddefnyddio llai o adnoddau, neu roi'r gorau i weithgareddau diangen. Felly, gofynasom i'r comisiwn egluro'r sefyllfa ynglŷn â'r arbedion hyn. Mae un argymhelliaid hefyd sydd heb gael sylw ers inni ystyried cylch cyllideb y llynedd, sef cyflwyno adroddiad i'r pwyllgor ar y modd y llwyddwyd i sicrhau'r arbedion a dargedwyd.

The Finance Committee has a number of reservations about how the Assembly Commission budget for 2010-11 has been presented, and we are concerned that many of the claimed efficiency savings are no more than the result of overestimates, as I have said. The Finance Committee is not proposing an alternative budget or that the proposed budget should not be approved. It has, however, raised these issues about how the budget has been presented and about how it is managed now and in the future. The Finance Committee therefore calls for the Assembly Commission in future years to go about this in a more conventional and transparent way. We believe that this is essential and should not be achieved at the expense of staff workload or morale.

Kirsty Williams: I emphasise some of the points that have been made on behalf of the Finance Committee by Nick Ramsay. I do not believe that the presentation of this budget has been the commission's finest hour. There is much to be done to improve the way in which the commission presents its budget in future years. As Nick said, the committee had grave concerns about the robustness of some of the figures presented and the ability of the commission to deliver on this. In particular, there were concerns about the veracity of so-called efficiency savings, and, more worryingly altogether, the use of the contingency fund.

In most people's eyes, a contingency fund is money that is put to one side to deal with the unexpected—the things that inevitably arise that could not have been foreseen at the initial planning stage of the budget. It is not a slush fund for the commission to dip into when it feels appropriate and when there are items of expenditure that it wishes to pursue. The commission needs to look again at its classification of the contingency fund. It needs to be much clearer and open about what it expects to spend that money on, and to use contingency funding for the purposes that I believe everyone else in this Chamber, and, more importantly, outside the Chamber, would expect it to be used for. That was simply not the case in the way that the commission's budget was presented to the

Mae gan y Pwyllgor Cyllid nifer o amheuon ynglŷn â'r ffordd y mae cyllideb Comisiwn y Cynulliad ar gyfer 2010-11 wedi'i chyflwyno, ac yr ydym yn poeni nad yw llawer o'r arbedion effeithlonrwydd honedig fawr mwy na chanlyniad goramcangyfrif, fel yr wyf wedi'i ddweud. Nid yw'r Pwyllgor Cyllid yn cynnig cyllideb amgen nac ychwaith yn dweud na ddylid derbyn y gyllideb a gynigir. Fodd bynnag, mae wedi codi'r materion hyn ynglŷn â'r ffordd y mae'r gyllideb wedi'i chyflwyno a'r modd y caiff ei rheoli'n awr ac yn y dyfodol. Felly, mae'r Pwyllgor Cyllid yn galw ar Gomisiwn y Cynulliad yn y dyfodol i fynd ati mewn ffordd fwy confensiynol a thryloyw. Credwn fod hyn yn hanfodol ac na ddylid gwneud hynny ar draul llwyth gwaith neu ysbryd y staff.

Kirsty Williams: Pwysleisaf rai o'r pwyntiau sydd wedi'u gwneud ar ran y Pwyllgor Cyllid gan Nick Ramsay. Ni chredaf mai cyflwyno'r gyllideb hon oedd awr orau'r comisiwn. Mae cryn waith i'w wneud i wella'r ffordd y bydd y comisiwn yn cyflwyno'i gyllideb yn y dyfodol. Fel y dywedodd Nick, yr oedd y pwyllgor yn poeni'n fawr am gadernid rhai o'r ffigurau a gyflwynwyd ac am allu'r comisiwn i wireddu hyn. Yn benodol, yr oedd pobl yn poeni i barrayn yr oedd yr hyn a elwid yn arbedion effeithlonrwydd yn arbedion mewn gwirionedd, ac y poeni'n fwy byth am y ffordd y defnyddid y gronfa wrth gefn.

Yng ngolwg y rhan fwyaf o bobl, arian a roddir o'r neilltu ar gyfer digwyddiadau annisgwyl yw cronfa wrth gefn—y pethau sy'n codi'n anochel na fuasai modd eu rhagweld wrth gynllunio'r gyllideb ar y cychwyn. Nid cronfa mohoni i'r comisiwn dyrchu iddi pan fydd yn teimlo bod hynny'n briodol a phan fydd am wario ar ryw eitem neu'i gilydd. Mae angen i'r comisiwn edrych eto ar y ffordd y mae'n categoriiddio'r gronfa wrth gefn. Mae angen iddo fod yn gliriach ac yn fwy agored o lawer ynglŷn â'r hyn y mae'n disgwyl gwario'r arian hwnnw arno, a defnyddio arian wrth gefn at y dibenion y credaf y byddai pawb arall yn y Siambr hon, ac, yn bwysicach, y tu allan i'r Siambr hon, yn disgwyl ei ddefnyddio ar ei gyfer. Nid oedd hynny'n wir o gwbl yn y

Finance Committee. If we are to have confidence in the commission and the work that it does on behalf of all of us, the starting place is a budget that can be scrutinised and in which Members can have confidence.

ffordd y cyflwynwyd cyllideb y comisiwn i'r Pwyllgor Cyllid. Er mwyn inni allu ymddiried yn y comisiwn ac yn y gwaith y mae'n ei wneud ar ran pawb ohonom, y man cychwyn yw cyllideb y gellir craffu arni ac y gall yr Aelodau ymddiried ynndi.

Alun Davies: I will not detain the Chamber for long; I will simply echo what has already been said by Kirsty and Nick. In terms of how the commission structured and presented the budget to us, the Finance Committee found this to be a curious presentation, shall we say. When we were questioning the commission, only one answer was given to us. No matter what the question was, the answer would be, 'This comes out of contingencies'. That is not what the Finance Committee understands by contingency funding; it is not what we expected, and I hope that it is not what we will see again. If we are to have proper scrutiny and transparency, we need a budget that is structured to enable that scrutiny to take place.

As I said, I will not detain the Chamber for too long on this issue, but it is important. The issues that Kirsty and Nick described in some detail are important if we are to have the sort of scrutiny of the commission that the commission itself requires. With those comments, we would support the budget that has been placed before us today.

Alun Davies: Ni chadwaf y Siambra yn hir. Ategaf yn unig yr hyn sydd wedi'i ddweud eisoes gan Kirsty a Nick. O ran strwythur a chyflwyniad y gyllideb a'r ffordd y'i cyflwynwyd inni gan y comisiwn, teimlai'r Pwyllgor Cyllid fod y cyflwyniad hwn yn un rhyfedd iawn, os cawn ei roi felly. Pan oeddym yn holi'r comisiwn, un ateb yn unig a geid. Ni waeth beth oedd y cwestiwn, yr ateb fyddai, 'Daw hyn o'r gronfa wrth gefn'. Nid felly y mae'r Pwyllgor Cyllid yn dehongli arian wrth gefn; nid dyna'r oeddym yn ei ddisgwyl, a gobeithio na welwn hynny eto. Er mwyn inni graffu a sicrhau tryloywder priodol, mae arnom angen cyllideb sydd wedi'i strwythuro fel y gellir caniatáu i'r craffu hwnnw ddigwydd.

Fel y dywedais, ni chadwaf y Siambra yn rhy hir gyda'r mater hwn, ond mae'n bwysig. Mae'r materion a ddisgrifiwyd gan Kirsty a Nick yn weddol fanwl yn bwysig os ydym i gael y math o graffu ar y comisiwn y mae'r comisiwn ei hun yn gofyn amdano. Gyda'r sylwadau hynny, byddem yn cefnogi'r gyllideb sydd wedi'i chyflwyno ger ein bron heddiw.

William Graham: We are grateful to the committee for its close engagement with the budget, for its constructive recommendations, and for its support for our work to deliver best practice and value for money when it comes to spending public money. I also welcome the input from Members today. We were also grateful for the Finance Committee's support for our supplementary budget for unification of the Assembly's ICT infrastructure and the commission's long-term view of the investment.

William Graham: Yr ydym yn ddiolchgar i'r pwyllgor am ei waith manwl ar y gyllideb, am ei argymhellion adeiladol, ac am ei gefnogaeth i'n gwaith i ddarparu'r arferion gorau a gwerth yr arian wrth wario arian cyhoeddus. Croesawaf hefyd gyfraniad yr Aelodau heddiw. Yr oeddym hefyd yn ddiolchgar am gefnogaeth y Pwyllgor Cyllid i'n cyllideb atodol ar gyfer uno seilwaith TGCh y Cynulliad a safbwyt tymor hir y comisiwn ar y buddsoddiad.

3.40 p.m.

The Finance Committee did not challenge the reasonableness of the commission's overall budget, but we acknowledge its comments about our approach to budget and

Ni heriwyd rhesymoldeb cyllideb gyffredinol y comisiwn gan y Pwyllgor cyllid, ond cydnabyddwn ei sylwadau am ein dull o reoli'r gyllideb a'r gronfa wrth gefn, a

contingency management, and will take seriously its recommendations in that regard. We will obviously need to work with the Wales Audit Office and our corporate governance committee to ensure that the new system continues to provide us with a robust and effective system of financial management that supports the delivery of our strategic goals. Fundamentally, the focus of our financial management culture is on service delivery and applying money when and where it is needed. We will re-present the budget to the committee before the end of this year, set out in a way that reflects its recommended changes.

I assure Members that we have a robust financial management system and processes in place as part of a strong system of governance and internal control. As well as our own in-house financial professionals and our internal auditors RSM Bentley Jennison, we have external expertise in our highly-rated independent advisers, namely Professor Robert Pickard, Mair Barnes, Richard Calvert and Tim Knighton. Richard Calvert, the chair of the corporate governance committee, is director general for corporate performance at the Department for International Development and has held other senior positions in central and local government. He has also been a member of the Treasury's advisory panel on best practice in financial management.

We accept the committee's recommendation on the contingency fund, and Members might wish to have an understanding of our approach to date. Unlike local authorities and other public services, the commission is unable to hold general reserves and carry them forward from one year to the next, so we need to have sufficient flexibility built into our annual budget as an alternative approach. It is similar to the Welsh Government's approach of holding unallocated reserves. There is a risk in not carrying an appropriate level of reserves in the budget, which is that we would have to consider a supplementary budget every time an opportunity or issue arose that had not been foreseen at the time that the budget was set.

The proposed contingency fund amounts to

byddwn yn rhoi sylw o ddifrif i'w argymhellion yn hynny o beth. Mae'n amlwg y bydd angen inni weithio gyda Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru a'n pwylgor llywodraethu corfforaethol i sicrhau bod y system newydd yn parhau i gynnig system gadarn ac effeithiol o reolaeth ariannol inni sy'n gefn i wireddu ein nodau strategol. Yn ei hanfod, mae ein diwylliant rheolaeth ariannol yn canolbwytio ar ddarparu gwasanaethau a defnyddio arian pan fydd ei angen a lle bydd ei angen. Byddwn yn ailgyflwyno'r gyllideb i'r pwylgor cyn diwedd eleni, mewn modd sy'n adlewyrchu'r newidiadau a argymhellwyd ganddo.

Gallaf sicrhau'r Aelodau bod gennym system a phrosesau rheolaeth ariannol cadarn a honno'n rhan o system llywodraethu a rheolaeth fewnol gadarn. Yn ogystal â'n gweithwyr proffesiynol ariannol mewnol ni'n hunain a'n harchwilwyr mewnol, sef RSM Bentley Jennison, mae gennym arbenigedd allanol yn ein hymgyngorwyr annibynnol o fri, sef yr Athro Robert Pickard, Mair Barnes, Richard Calvert a Tim Knighton. Richard Calvert, cadeirydd y pwylgor llywodraethu corfforaethol, yw'r cyfarwyddwr cyffredinol dros berfformiad corfforaethol yn yr Adran Datblygu Rhyngwladol ac y mae wedi bod mewn swyddi uwch eraill mewn llywodraeth ganol a llywodraeth leol. Mae hefyd wedi bod yn aelod o banel cynghori'r Trysorlys ar arferion gorau ym maes rheolaeth ariannol.

Derbynwiwn argymhelliad y pwylgor ynglŷn â'r gronfa wrth gefn, ac efallai y byddai'r Aelodau'n dymuno cael esboniad am y modd yr ydym wedi mynd atti hyd yn hyn. Yn wahanol i awdurdodau lleol a gwasanaethau cyhoeddus eraill, ni all y comisiwn gadw cronfeydd cyffredinol wrth gefn a'u dwyn ymlaen o'r naill flwyddyn i'r llall. Felly, mae angen inni gael digon o hyblygrwydd yn rhan o'n cyllideb flynyddol fel ffordd arall i ymdrin â hyn Mae'n debyg i'r ffordd y bydd Llywodraeth Cymru'n cadw cronfa wrth gefn heb ei dyrannu. Mae yna berygl o beidio â chadw digon arian wrth gefn yn y gyllideb, sef y byddai'n rhaid inni ystyried cyllideb atodol bob tro pan fyddai cyfle neu broblem yn codi na ragwelwyd adeg gosod y gyllideb.

Mae'r gronfa wrth gefn a gynigir yn cyfateb i

2.5 per cent of the entire budget for 2010-11, and this is an approach used since the commission's creation in May 2007. The purpose of the fund is to fund items of expenditure that are unexpected and that could not be foreseen, for example if we have an urgent problem that requires an additional spend that had not been budgeted for, and to meet costs that could not be accurately estimated at the time that the budget for the year was prepared, but which are assessed as affordable within the contingency limits, should they materialise. Where these unpredictable costs are likely to be significantly higher, for example in the case of costs following Assembly elections, we deal with them through a supplementary budget. The purpose of the fund is also to provide flexibility, so that we respond to new opportunities such as those that I have mentioned.

Our internal budget management arrangements already include appropriate arrangements for authorising movement between budget headings, so we will not need to take action on that specific recommendation.

I assure the Assembly that no material weaknesses have been identified in the commission's system of internal control. No concerns have been raised about the qualitative aspects of our accounting practices and financial reporting. Our significant financial systems can be relied upon to produce materially correct outputs.

I will take back the comments made by Members today, and confirm that the commission will take notice of the Finance Committee's recommendations as a route to further strengthening our financial management arrangements.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is to agree the motion. Does any Member object? I see that there are no objections. The motion is therefore agreed in accordance with Standing Order No. 7.35.

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion agreed.*

2.5 y cant o'r gyllideb gyfan ar gyfer 2010-11 a dyma'r dull a ddefnyddiwyd ers creu'r comisiwn ym mis Mai 2007. Pwrpas y gronfa yw ariannu eitemau o wariant sy'n annisgwyl, ac nad oedd modd eu rhagweld. Un enghraifft fyddai petai problem frys yn codi a bod angen gwario arian ychwanegol nad yw wedi'i gynnwys yn y gyllideb. Enghraifft arall fyddai er mwyn talu costau nad oedd modd eu hamcangyfrif yn gywir wrth baratoi'r gyllideb am y flwyddyn, ond y bernir eu bod yn fforddiadwy o fewn terfynau'r gronfa wrth gefn, pe digwyddai i'r sefyllfa godi. Os yw'r costau annisgwyl hyn yn debygol o fod yn sylweddol uwch, er enghraifft, costau ar ôl etholiadau'r Cynulliad, byddwn yn ymdrin â hwy drwy gyllideb atodol. Pwrpas y gronfa hefyd yw cynnig hyblygrwydd er mwyn inni ymateb i i gyfleoedd newydd megis y rhai yr wyf wedi'u crybwyl.

Mae ein trefniadau mewnol ar gyfer rheoli'r gyllideb eisoes yn cynnwys trefniadau priodol ar gyfer awdurdodi trosglwyddo arian rhwng penawdau'r gyllideb. Felly, ni fydd angen inni gymryd camau o ran yr argymhelliaid penodol hwnnw.

Gallaf sicrhau'r Cynulliad nad oes dim gwendidau sylweddol wedi'u nodi yn system rheolaeth fewnol y comisiwn. Ni fynegwyd pryder o gwbl ynglŷn ag agweddau ansoddol ein harferion cyfrifyddu a'n hadroddiadau ariannol. Gellir dibynnu ar ein systemau ariannol sylweddol i gynhyrchu allbynnau sy'n sylweddol gywir.

Af â sylwadau'r Aelodau heddiw yn ôl, gan gadarnhau y bydd y comisiwn yn rhoi sylw i argymhellion y Pwyllgor Cyllid wrth inni gamu ymlaen at gryfhau ein trefniadau rheolaeth ariannol ymhellach.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Y cynnig yw derbyn y cynnig. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrthwynebu? Gwelaf nad oes. Derbynir y cynnig, felly, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.35.

Adroddiad y Pwyllgor Cynaliadwyedd ar Leihau Allyriadau Carbon drwy'r Defnydd o Dir
The Sustainability Committee's Report on Carbon Reduction from Land Use

Mick Bates: I move that

the National Assembly for Wales:

notes the report of the Sustainability Committee, 'Carbon Reduction from Land Use: Fifth Report of the Sustainability Committee's inquiry into Carbon Reduction in Wales', which was laid in the Table Office on 22 July 2009. (NDM4304)

In presenting the report to the Assembly, I will start by thanking the committee for its consensual approach during the inquiry and its scrutiny of the Government. I thank the staff for their preparation of the report, and I also thank all the witnesses, who provided us with such interesting evidence, which I will now talk about.

The committee was also aware that there is a commitment in 'One Wales' to achieving a 3 per cent reduction in carbon year on year, that there is an environment strategy that talks about preserving our soils, and that there is also the food and farming strategy on secure food supply, as well as 'Woodlands for Wales'. We recognise all of that.

I am pleased to lead this debate on the fifth and final topic in our inquiry into carbon reduction in Wales. We will publish our final strategic report in the new year, which will be based on the five topics that we have covered. We hope to present to the Government our recommendations on areas of carbon reduction. Today, however, I will concentrate on carbon reduction from land use.

The first thing that hit me was a quotation from the Farmers Union of Wales. I will read from the report,

'We know that climate change is happening,

Mick Bates: Cynigiaf fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

yn nodi adroddiad y Pwyllgor Cynaliadwyedd, 'Lleihau Allyriadau Carbon drwy'r Defnydd o Dir: Pumed Adroddiad Ymchwiliad y Pwyllgor Cynaliadwyedd i Leihau Allyriadau Carbon yng Nghymru', a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 22 Gorffennaf 2009. (NDM4304)

Wrth gyflwyno'r adroddiad i'r Cynulliad, dechreuaf drwy ddiolch i'r pwyllgor am ei ymagwedd gydsyniol yn ystod yr ymchwiliad a'i graffu ar y Llywodraeth. Diolch i'r staff am baratoi'r adroddiad, a diolch hefyd i'r holl dystion a roddodd dystiolaeth mor ddiddorol inni. Soniaf amdani'n awr.

Yr oedd y pwyllgor yn ymwybodol hefyd fod ymrwymiad yn 'Cymru'n Un' i sicrhau gostyngiad o 3 y cant mewn allyriadau carbon o'r naill flwyddyn i'r llall, bod gennym strategaeth amgylcheddol sy'n sôn am warchod ein priddoedd, a bod gennym hefyd y strategaeth bwyd a ffermio ar gyflenwad bwyd diogel, yn ogystal â 'Choetiroedd i Gymru'. Yr ydym yn cydnabod hynny i gyd.

Yr wyf yn falch arwain y ddadl hon am y pumed pwnc a'r olaf yn ein hymchwiliad i leihau carbon yng Nghymru. Byddwn yn cyhoeddi ein hadroddiad strategol terfynol yn y flwyddyn newydd, a bydd hwnnw wedi'i seilio ar y pum pwnc yr ydym wedi ymdrin â hwy. Gobeithiwn gyflwyno'n hargymhellion i'r Llywodraeth ynglŷn â meysydd lleihau carbon. Heddiw, fodd bynnag, byddaf yn canolbwytio ar leihau allyriadau carbon drwy ddefnyddio tir.

Y peth cyntaf a'm tarodd oedd dyfyniad gan Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru. Darllenaf o'r adroddiad,

Gwyddom fod yr hinsawdd yn newid, ond

but sometimes, those of us on the ground get left behind with regard to what that means to us as individuals and what contribution we can make to mitigate the effects of climate change.'

Therefore, this inquiry immediately gave us the challenge of ensuring that we knew what recommendations to make to the Government regarding what those individuals could do with regard to land use management to reduce carbon emissions, while, at the same time being mindful of the importance of food security.

Agriculture and land use are at the heart of rural Wales. So, it was a key area for us in looking at carbon reduction and understanding where the greenhouse gasses come from. Agriculture and land use are responsible for around 11 per cent of all emissions in Wales. However, unlike other areas of our inquiry, carbon dioxide forms a very small part of that 11 per cent. Most of it is made up of methane, which, as I am sure many of you know, is a result of cows burping and doing other things. It is 21 times more effective as a climate change gas than carbon dioxide. Nitrous oxide is also a significant contributor.

This sector is unique, because it not only emits greenhouse gasses, particularly methane, but can also store it. We heard evidence from the National Farmers Union, the Country Land and Business Association, and Bangor University's Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, which stressed the importance of preserving the carbon that is already in our soil. It is currently estimated that there are 195 mega tonnes of carbon stored in the 23.4 per cent of land surface in Wales which is covered by peat, organic and organo-mineral soils. There is also evidence that shows that, in the UK, we lose around 2 million tonnes of topsoil every year due to soil erosion.

Land use is one area over which the Welsh Assembly Government has a good deal of

weithiau, bydd y rheini o honom sydd ar lawr gwlod yn cael ein gadael ar ei hôl hi o ran yr hyn y mae hynny'n ei olygu inni fel unigolion a pha gyfraniad y gallwn ei wneud i liniaru effeithiau newid yn yr hinsawdd.

Felly, cawsom ein herio ar unwaith yn yr ymchwiliad hwn i sicrhau ein bod yn gwybod pa argymhellion i'w cyflwyno i'r Llywodraeth ynglŷn â'r hyn y gallai'r unigolion hynny ei wneud wrth reoli'r ffordd y defnyddir tir er mwyn lleihau allyriadau carbon, gan gadw mewn cof ar yr un pryd bwysigrwydd diogelwch bwyd.

Amaethyddiaeth a defnyddio tir yw calon y Gymru wledig. Felly, yr oedd yn faes allweddol inni wrth inni edrych ar leihau allyriadau carbon a deall o ble y mae'r nwyon tŷ gwydr yn dod. Mae amaethyddiaeth a defnyddio tir yn gyfrifol am oddeutu 11 y cant o'r holl allyriadau yng Nghymru. Fodd bynnag, yn wahanol i feisydd eraill ein hymchwiliad, rhan fechan iawn o'r 11 y cant hwnnw yw carbon deuocsid. Methan yw'r rhan fwyaf ohono, ac fel y gwyr llawer ohonoch, yr wyf yn siŵr, canlyniad gwartheg yn torri gwynt ac yn gwneud pethau eraill yw hynny. Mae'n nwy sydd 21 gwaith yn fwy effeithiol na charbon deuocsid o ran newid yr hinsawdd. Mae ocsid nitraidd hefyd yn gwneud cyfraniad sylwedol.

Mae'r sector hwn yn unigryw, oherwydd nid yn unig y mae'n allyrru nwyon tŷ gwydr, methan yn enwedig, ond gall ei storio hefyd. Clywsom dystiolaeth gan Undeb Cenedlaethol yr Amaethwyr, Cymdeithas Tir a Busnesau Cefn Gwlad a Chanolfan Ecoleg a Hydroleg Prifysgol Bangor, a oedd yn pwysleisio mor bwysig yw cadw'r carbon sydd eisoes yn ein pridd. Ar hyn o bryd, amcangyfrifir bod 195 mega dunnell o garbon wedi'u storio yn y 23.4 y cant o arwynebedd tir yng Nghymru sydd wedi'i orchuddio gan fawn, priddoedd organig a phriddoedd organo-fwynol. Ceir dystiolaeth hefyd sy'n dangos ein bod yn y Deyrnas Unedig yn colli oddeutu 2 filiwn tunnell o uwchbridd bob blwyddyn oherwydd erydu'r pridd.

Defnyddio tir yw un maes y mae gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad lawer iawn o bŵer

power, such as determining planning policy, developing schemes for agriculture, funding bodies such as the Countryside Council for Wales and the Forestry Commission and giving grants for research at our country's leading universities.

Throughout this part of our inquiry into carbon reduction, we were struck by the amount of research that is currently going on throughout the sector and by how the scientific evidence gained through this research in Wales is used to underpin the actions that can be taken. Even now, this year, at the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences, the environmental benefits of low-output farming are being investigated. This investigation is being funded with European money. This is a significant part of our study. However, we are also reminded that the chief scientist at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Professor Bob Watson, said that safeguarding our soils is critical to food production.

One of the things that made this inquiry different to the others is that we have looked at two distinctive aspects: the reduction of carbon emissions from day to day land management and the management of land so that the existing carbon stores can be maintained and, perhaps added to.

I have already mentioned cows and their habit of emitting methane. To give you some sort of comparison between two emitters, an individual dairy cow will emit, on average, as much carbon dioxide as the average family car. Although there has been a slight decline in emissions from agriculture because of the reduction in the number of dairy cows and a reduction in the use of fertiliser, there has to be a long-term effort to reduce the amount of methane produced by cows. That work is, once again, being led by IBERS and Bangor University. Cadbury is the first major company to work with 65 farmers in Wiltshire to reduce carbon emissions from cows. Therefore, there is tremendous work being done in that respect.

We heard from the farming unions that

drosto, drwy bennu polisi cynllunio, datblygu cynlluniau ar gyfer amaethyddiaeth, ariannu cyrff megis Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru a'r Comisiwn Coedwigaeth, a rhoi grantiau ar gyfer gwaith ymchwil ym mhrif brifysgolion ein gwlad.

Drwy gydol y rhan hon o'n hymchwiliad i leihau carbon, cawsom ein synnu bod cymaint o ymchwil ar y gweill drwy'r sector ar hyn o bryd a'r ffordd y mae'r dystiolaeth wyddonol a geir drwy gyfrwng yr ymchwil hon yng Nghymru'n cael ei defnyddio fel sail i'r camau y gellir eu cymryd. Hyd yn oed yn awr, eleni, yn Sefydliad y Gwyddorau Biologol, Amgylcheddol a Gwledig, mae manteision amgylcheddol ffermio cynyrchisel yn cael eu harchwilio. Mae'r ymchwiliad hwn yn cael ei noddi gan Ewrop. Dyma ran sylweddol o'n hastudiaeth. Fodd bynnag, fe'n hatgoffir hefyd fod prif wyddonydd Adran yr Amgylchedd, Bwyd a Materion Gwledig, yr Athro Bob Watson, wedi dweud bod diogelu ein priddoedd yn hollbwysig ar gyfer cynhyrchu bwyd.

Un o'r pethau a wnaeth yr ymchwiliad hwn, yn wahanol i'r lleill, oedd edrych ar ddwy agwedd gwbl wahanol: lleihau allyriadau carbon wrth reoli tir o ddydd i ddydd, a rheoli tir er mwyn cynnal y storfeydd carbon sydd yno eisoes ac, o bosibl, ychwanegu atynt.

Yr wyf eisoes wedi crybwyl gwartheg a'u harfer o ollwng methan. Er mwyn rhoi rhywfaint o gymhariaeth ichi rhwng dau ollyngwr, bydd un fuwch odro yn gollwng, ar gyfartaledd, gymaint o garbon deuocsid â'r car teulu cyffredin. Er bod gostyngiad bach wedi bod yn allyriadau byd amaeth oherwydd y gostyngiad yn nifer y gwartheg godro a defnyddio llai o wrtaith, rhaid gwneud ymdrech tymor hir i leihau faint o fethan a gynhyrchrir gan wartheg. Mae'r gwaith hwnnw, unwaith eto, yn cael ei arwain gan IBERS a Phrifysgol Bangor. Cadbury yw'r prif gwmmni mawr cyntaf i weithio gyda 65 o ffermwyr yn Wiltshire er mwyn lleihau allyriadau carbon gwartheg. Felly, mae gwaith aruthrol ar y gweill yn y cyswllt hwnnw.

Clywsom gan undebau'r ffermwyr fod angen

information needs to be sent to individual farmers on how they could reduce their carbon emissions. We welcomed the Government's new agri-environment scheme, Glastir. We can see that this offers a perfect vehicle through which incentives can be offered to farmers, along with advice and information on how to reduce greenhouse gasses and store carbon, especially if those farmers are encouraged to work together so that they can look at particular catchment areas.

3.50 p.m.

We also hope that the carbon assessment tool will be made available to all agricultural businesses so that they can footprint their own activities. We noted in our evidence that the CLA is already doing that for its members.

As I have previously said, research in Wales is critical to finding new ways of feeding cattle in order to reduce methane emissions, and to looking at how we can use lower levels of nitrogen in farming practice. We are also leading the way on the conservation of peat bogs, and we will make a valuable contribution to helping others to understand how we can preserve the environment that we have. The committee visited the LIFE project at Lake Vyrnwy, the moorland around which has served to lock up carbon. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has run that project successfully, and we hope that it will continue to be successful.

The key role of our soils in Wales in capturing and locking up carbon is only just being fully understood, yet these valuable resources have had little recognition and there has been little consideration of how we can protect them. The stunning fact is that if the carbon stored in all the peat-land soils in Wales was released, carbon emissions in Wales would increase by 400 per cent. Therefore, projects like the LIFE project are essential to keeping carbon locked up in our peat bogs.

Rural Wales has long been associated with

anfon gwybodaeth at ffermwyr unigol yn dweud wrthynt sut y gallent leihau eu hallyriadau carbon. Yr oeddym yn croesawu Glastir, sef cynllun amaeth-amgylcheddol newydd y Llywodraeth. Gallwn weld bod hwn yn cynnig cyfrwng perffaith i gynnig cymhellion i ffermwyr, ochr yn ochr â chyngor a gwybodaeth am y modd i leihau nwyon tŷ gwydr a storio carbon, yn enwedig os anogir y ffermwyr hynny i gydweithio fel y gallant edrych ar ddalgylchoedd penodol.

Gobeithiwn hefyd y bydd y pecyn asesu carbon ar gael i bob busnes amaethyddol er mwyn iddynt allu mesur ôl troed eu gweithgareddau hwy eu hunain. Nodwyd yn ein tystiolaeth fod CLA eisoes yn gwneud hynny ar ran ei aelodau.

Fel yr wyf wedi'i ddweud eisoes, mae ymchwil yng Nghymru yn hollbwysig er mwyn dod o hyd i ffyrdd newydd o fwydo gwartheg a lleihau allyriadau methan, ac er mwyn edrych ar y modd y gallwn ddefnyddio llai o nitrogen wrth ffermio. Yr ydym hefyd ar flaen y gad o ran gwarchod mawnogydd, a byddwn yn gwneud cyfraniad gwerthfawr at gynorthwyo eraill i ddeall sut y mae modd cadw'r amgylchedd sydd gennym. Ymwelodd y pwylgor â phrosiect LIFE yn Llanwddyn, a'r gweundir yn y cyffiniau sydd wedi cloi carbon yn y pridd. Mae'r Gymdeithas Frenhinol er Gwarchod Adar wedi cynnal y prosiect hwnnw'n llwyddiannus, a gobeithiwn y bydd yn parhau i lwyddo.

Nid ydym ond megis dechrau deall rôl allweddol ein priddoedd yng Nghymru o ran dal a chloï carbon yn y pridd. Eto i gyd, nid yw'r adnoddau gwerthfawr hyn wedi cael fawr o sylw, ac ni roddwyd fawr o feddwl i'r modd y gallwn eu gwarchod. Y ffaith syfrdanol yw, petai'r carbon sydd wedi'i storio yn holl briddoedd mawndiroedd Cymru'n cael ei ryddhau, byddai allyriadau carbon Cymru'n cynyddu 400 y cant. Felly, mae prosiectau megis prosiect LIFE yn hanfodol er mwyn cadw'r carbon ynghlo yn ein mawnogydd.

Mae'r Gymru wledig wedi bod yn

the forestry industry, and we see this as another sector that can provide an important way to lock up carbon emissions while retaining peat soils. The Countryside Council for Wales told us that you have to have the right trees in the right place, and I believe that that means that we should have less spruce on all the hills. The Forestry Commission and its advice are essential to ensuring that landowners understand how woodlands can play a significant part in reducing carbon emissions. There is the 'Better Woodlands for Wales' document and, in some ways, we believe that the Government has to work across departments to build this green economy in which wood can play an important part. For example, if you use more timber as a building material to replace steel and bricks, you do not just lock up the carbon that the timber has, you also avoid carbon being emitted through the production of the steel and the bricks. Therefore, we urge the Government to support the Forestry Commission's efforts to research and stimulate an increased market for Welsh timber.

I am pleased that the Minister has responded so positively to our report, accepting in some way all but one of our recommendations. Her rejection of the recommendation on setting up a carbon trading scheme for Wales, based wholly or partly in the land-use sector, is disappointing. I support Ministers when they say 'Let us lead the world in sustainability'. Here is an opportunity to follow New Zealand, which has already put in place all the regulations for an agricultural carbon trading scheme so that they are ready to be implemented next year. I would urge the Minister and Cabinet to reconsider this. Agriculture must be viable, and if it is going to play a big part in locking up carbon in peat and reducing carbon emissions, there has to be an incentive. The CLA pointed out that, ultimately, the decision to reduce carbon is a business decision and, therefore, it needs to be incentivised, and the committee believes that should not only be done through Glastir but also through carbon trading. What has happened in New Zealand seems to suggest that there would be a net benefit from that, and carbon trading would give Welsh farmers that benefit.

gysylltiedig â'r diwydiant coedwigaeth ers tro byd, a gwelwn fod hwn yn sector arall a all gynnig ffordd bwysig i gloi'r allyriadau carbon yn y pridd, a chadw'r pridroedd mawn ar yr un pryd. Dywedodd Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru wrthym ei bod yn rhaid ichi gael y coed iawn yn y man iawn, a chredaf mai ystyr hynny yw y dylem gael llai o goed /byrwydd ar y bryniau. Mae'r Comisiwn Coedwigaeth a'i gyngor yn hanfodol er mwyn sicrhau bod tirfeddianwyr yn deall sut y gall coetiroedd wneud cyfraniad pwysig o ran lleihau allyriadau carbon. Mae gennym y ddogfen 'Coetiroedd Gwell i Gymru' ac, mewn ambell ffordd, credwn ei bod yn rhaid i'r Llywodraeth weithio ar draws adrannau er mwyn adeiladu'r economi werdd hon lle y gall coed fod yn bwysig. Er enghraift, os defnyddiwr fwy o goed fel deunydd adeiladu yn lle dur a brics, yr ydych nid yn unig yn cloi'r carbon sydd yn y pren, ond yr ydych hefyd yn osgoi allyrru carbon wrth gynhyrchu'r dur a'r brics. Felly, pwyswn ar y Llywodraeth i gefnogi ymdrechion y Comisiwn Coedwigaeth i ymchwilio i gynyddu'r farchnad ar gyfer coed Cymru ac i sbarduno'r farchnad honno.

Yr wyf yn falch fod y Gweinidog wedi ymateb mor gadarnhaol i'n hadroddiad, gan dderbyn pob un o'n hargymhellion mewn rhyw ffordd ac eithrio un. Gwrthododd yr argymhellion ynglŷn â sefydlu cynllun hyfforddi carbon ar gyfer Cymru, wedi'i seilio'n llwyr neu'n rhannol yn y sector defnyddio tir, ac y mae hynny'n siomedig. Yr wyf yn cefnogi Gweinidigion pan ddywedant 'Gadewch inni arwain y byd yn y maes cynaliadwyedd'. Dyma gyfle inni ddilyn Seland Newydd, sydd eisoes wedi sefydlu'r holl reoliadau ar gyfer cynllun masnachu carbon amaethyddol er mwyn bod yn barod i'w rhoi ar waith y flwyddyn nesaf. Byddwn yn pwysu ar y Gweinidog a'r Cabinet i ailystyried hyn. Rhaid i amaethyddiaeth fod yn hyfyw, ac er mwyn iddi chwarae rhan fawr yn y broses o gloi carbon mewn mawn a lleihau allyriadau carbon, rhaid cynnig cymhelliant. Tynnodd y CLA sylw at y ffaith mai penderfyniad busnes yn y pen draw yw'r penderfyniad i leihau allyriadau carbon ac, felly, mae angen cynnig cymhelliant, a chred y pwylgor y dylid gwneud hynny nid yn unig drwy gynllun Glastir ond hefyd drwy fasnachu

carbon. Mae'r hyn sydd wedi digwydd yn Seland Newydd i bob golwg yn awgrymu y deilliai budd net o hynny, a byddai masnachu carbon yn rhoi'r budd hwnnw i ffermwyr Cymru.

I hope that this report addresses what is a complex, scientific issue and that we in Wales are able to keep up this fantastic research and that we can, in land use, lead the world again.

Y Gweinidog dros Faterion Gwledig (Elin Jones): Diolchaf i Gadeirydd y pwylgor am ei gyflwyniad i'r ddadl hon ac i'r adroddiad ar leihau allyriadau carbon drwy'r defnydd o dir. Mae'n blesar gennyd ddweud bod yr argymhellion yn yr adroddiad yn cyd-fynd yn agos â'n polisiau presennol ni fel Llywodraeth, ac yr wyf wedi derbyn y rhan fwyaf ohonynt. Fel y Gweinidog dros Faterion Gwledig, un o'r cyfrifoldebau allweddol yn fy mhortffolio yw cyflwyno mesurau drwy'r cynllun datblygu gwledig a fydd yn gwella'r amgylchedd. Yn ddiweddar, nododd archwiliad iechyd y polisi amaethyddol cyffredin heriau newydd y mae'n rhaid i'r sector amaeth ymateb iddynt ac mae'r heriau hynny yn cynnwys cymryd camau i leihau newid yn yr hinsawdd drwy ddal a storio carbon a chynhyrchu ynni adnewyddol. Mae ymrwymiad Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un i leihau allyriadau nwyon tŷ gwydr 3 y cant bob blwyddyn hefyd yn her benodol i'r sector sy'n defnyddio'r tir oherwydd yr allyriadau sy'n deillio o'r sector hwnnw ar hyn o bryd.

Fel y nodais yn fy ymateb ysgrifenedig, yr wyf o'r farn bod angen ystyried argymhellion 1, 11 a 12 ymhellach. Er fy mod yn cytuno mewn egwyddor â'ch argymhelliad i adolygu cyllid Glastir yn flynyddol, mae'n bwysig cydnabod bod cyllid yn brin i'r Llywodraeth hon drwyddi draw ar hyn o bryd. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf wedi dweud y bydd £89 miliwn ar gael i ariannu Glastir yn 2012-13. Dyna'r gyllideb a oedd wedi ei rhagweld ar gychwyn y cynllun datblygu gwledig dan echel 2 ac mae fy ymrwymiad yn parhau o ran hynny. Nid cynllun a fydd yn dilyn y galw fydd Glastir. Dangosodd profiad y llynedd o orfod ariannu'r cynnydd yn y galw am y cynllun

Gobeithio bod yr adroddiad hwn yn mynd i'r afael â mater gwyddonol cymhleth, a'n bod ni yng Nghymru yn gallu parhau'r gwaith ymchwil gwych hwn ac y gallwn, o ran defnyddio tir, arwain y byd unaith eto.

The Minister for Rural Affairs (Elin Jones): I thank the Chair of the committee for his introduction to this debate and for the report on carbon emission reductions from land use. I am pleased to say that the recommendations in the report correspond closely to the Government's current policies, and I have accepted the majority of them. As Minister for Rural Affairs, one of my key portfolio responsibilities is to introduce measures to improve the environment through the rural development plan. Recently, the common agricultural policy health check identified new challenges to which the agricultural sector must respond, which include taking steps to reduce climate change by carbon sequestration and producing renewable energy. The One Wales Government's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 3 per cent each year is also a specific challenge for the land use sector because of the emissions currently generated by that sector.

As I stated in my written response, I believe recommendations 1, 11 and 12 need further consideration. Although I agree in principle with your recommendation to review the Glastir funding annually, it is important to acknowledge that funding is limited in all areas of Government at the moment. However, I have said that £89 will be available to fund Glastir in 2012-13. That was the projected budget at the beginning of the rural development plan under axis 2, and my commitment stands in that respect. Glastir will not be a demand-led scheme. The experience last year of having to fund an increase in the demand for the organic scheme proved that a demand-led scheme

organig na ddylid creu cynllun i ariannu yn ôl y galw. Wrth gwrs, ar ôl cyflwyno Glastir yn llawn erbyn diwedd 2013, bydd adolygiad llawn o'r arian y bydd y Llywodraeth hon yn ei ddarparu ar gyfer Glastir, gan y bydd yn rhaid inni ddatblygu cynllun datblygu gwledig newydd ar gyfer o 2013 ymlaen, neu beth bynnag fydd yn dilyn y gyfundrefn cynllun datblygu gwledig o dan y polisi amaethyddol cyffredin.

Yr wyf wedi derbyn argymhelliaid 11 mewn egwyddor. Fodd bynnag, mae marchnata cynhyrchion pren fel deunydd amgen ar raddfa fasnachol y tu hwnt i gylch gwaith presennol Comisiwn Coedwigaeth Cymru. Mae'n galw am gydweithredu ar draws adrannau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Mae gan gaffael cyhoeddus, datblygu economaidd a gwasanaethau cyhoeddus ran bwysig i'w chwarae wrth bennu a chefnogi'r defnydd o gynhyrchion pren fel deunydd carbon isel, ac mae hyn yn cyd-fynd ag agenda ehangach y Llywodraeth mewn perthynas â newid yn yr hinsawdd.

Fel y dywedodd y Cadeirydd, yr wyf yn gwrrthod argymhelliaid 12, yn bennaf am fod astudiaeth a ariannwyd gan DEFRA ynglŷn â pha mor ymarferol yw datblygu cynllun masnachu carbon wedi dod i'r casgliad y byddai cost y cynllun yn y Deyrnas Gyfunol yn uchel o'i gymharu â'r arbedion posibl. Y rheswm am hyn yw ei fod yn anodd dilysu'r allyriadau carbon sy'n cael eu harbed neu sy'n cael eu dal a'u storio drwy ddulliau penodol o reoli neu ddefnyddio tir. Yn ogystal, rhaid dal a storio carbon yn barhaol a pheidio â'i ryddhau'n ddiweddarach pan fydd y defnydd tir, o bosibl, yn newid. Mae'n bosibl y bydd y gwaith ymchwil hwn yn datblygu syniadau newydd ac y bydd syniadau newydd ar hyn yn y dyfodol. Ar hyn o bryd, nid yw'n flaenoriaeth ar ran y Llywodraeth hon i fuddsoddi amser ac adnoddau mewn datblygu cyfundrefn fasnachu mewn carbon, gan gynnwys carbon o'r tir. Nid ydym yn bwriadu cyflwyno hynny yn awr, ond yn sicr nid wyf yn dweud, 'byth bythoedd' i gynllun o'r fath. Bydd y drafodaeth yn parhau yn y maes penodol hwn.

Mae nifer o argymhellion yr wyf yn eu derbyn yn llwyr. Fel rhan o gynllun Glastir

should not be created. Of course, following the full introduction of Glastir by the end of 2013, a full review of the funding provided by this Government for Glastir will be undertaken, since we will have to develop a new rural development plan from 2013 onwards, or whatever will follow the rural development plan regime under the common agricultural policy.

I have accepted recommendation 11 in principle. However, marketing wood products as alternative material on a commercial scale is beyond the current remit of Forestry Commission Wales. It calls for collaboration across Assembly Government departments. Public procurement, economic development and public services have an important part to play in specifying and supporting the use of wood products as low carbon material, which matches the Government's wider climate change agenda.

As the Chair said, I reject recommendation 12, mainly because a feasibility study funded by DEFRA on developing a carbon trading scheme came to the conclusion that the cost of the scheme in the United Kingdom would be high compared with the potential savings. The reason for this is that it is difficult to validate carbon emissions saved or sequestered through specific land management or land use methods. Also, carbon must be permanently sequestered and stored, and not released at a later stage when land use may have changed. This research may lead to the development of new ideas, and new ideas may emerge in the future. At the moment, it is not this Government's priority to invest time and resources in developing a carbon trading system, including carbon from land. We do not intend to introduce that now, but I am certainly not saying 'never' to such a scheme. Discussions will continue on this specific topic.

I wholeheartedly accept many of the recommendations. As part of the Glastir

bydd cymorth grant cyfalaf gwerth £5 miliwn y flwyddyn ar gael er mwyn gosod technolegau i leihau carbon ar ffermydd. Yn ogystal, bydd cangen newydd Cyswllt Ffermio ar newid yn yr hinsawdd yn darparu mentoriaid a fydd yn gallu cynghori ffermwyr ar ba dechnolegau fydd yn lleihau eu hallyriadau a'u costau. Mae hyn yn cyd-fynd ag argymhelliaid 2 yn yr adroddiad. Fel y dywedodd Mick, mae'r maes hwn yn gwbl newydd i ffermwyr, fel i nifer ohonom. Yr wyf yn gobeithio, drwy Cyswllt Ffermio, y byddwn yn gallu darparu gwybodaeth annibynnol i ffermwyr am y technolegau a'r gwaith y gallent ei gyflawni i gwrdd â'r her o leihau effaith eu gwaith ar newid yn yr hinsawdd.

4.00 p.m.

O ran argymhelliaid 3, cymerwyd camau eisoes drwy'r agenda her i integreiddio'r pryderon ynglŷn â'r newid yn yr hinsawdd i'r polisi amaethyddol cyffredin. Mae'r Pwyllgor Sefydlog ar Ymchwil Amaethyddol wedi cael ei sefydlu er mwyn ystyried sut y gall amaeth leihau effeithiau'r newid yn yr hinsawdd ac addasu iddynt. Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad hefyd yn parhau i weithio'n agos gyda Llywodraeth y DU a'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd i sicrhau bod y sector amaeth yn chwarae ei ran i fynd i'r afael â'r newid yn yr hinsawdd.

Mae rhaglen ddatblygu Cyswllt Ffermio ar gyfer y newid yn yr hinsawdd, a hyrwyddir gan Brifysgol Bangor, yn ymdrin ag argymhellion 4, 5 a 6. Bydd y rhaglen yn codi ymwybyddiaeth o'r materion perthnasol, ac yn gweithio gyda phartneriaid i ddatblygu dewisiadau ymarferol a chynaliadwy i helpu rheolwyr tir i fynd i'r afael â'r newid yn yr hinsawdd.

Yng nghyswllt yr argymhellion ar bridd organig, caiff y gyllideb ymchwil ei rheoli gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad ar y cyd â DEFRA. Yr ydym ni hefyd yn ariannu rhywfaint o'n hymchwil ein hunain ar faterion sy'n benodol i bridd Cymru, yn arbennig o ran rheoli carbon yn y pridd. Lle mae hynny'n briodol, caiff canfyddiadau'r prosiectau hyn eu hymgorffori yng nghynllun Glastir.

scheme, £5 million per annum will be made available in capital grant support for the installation of carbon abatement technology on farms. In addition, the new climate change strand of the Farming Connect service will provide mentors who will be able to advise farmers on the adoption of appropriate technologies that will reduce their emissions and costs. This is in line with recommendation 2 of the report. As Mick said, this area is totally new to some farmers, as it is to many of us. I hope, through Farming Connect, that we will be able to provide independent information to farmers about the technologies and the work that they can undertake to meet the challenge of reducing the impact of their work on climate change.

In relation to recommendation 3, steps have already been taken to integrate climate change concerns into the common agricultural policy through the challenge agenda. In addition, the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research has been set up to consider how agriculture can adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change. Also, the Welsh Assembly Government continues to work closely with both the UK Government and the European Commission to ensure that agriculture plays its part in tackling climate change.

The Farming Connect development programme for climate change, delivered by Bangor University, meets recommendations 4, 5 and 6. The programme will raise awareness of the issues and will work with partners to develop practical and sustainable options to help land managers address climate change.

In relation to recommendations on organic soil, the Welsh Assembly Government participates in the management of the shared research budget with DEFRA. We also fund a small amount of research ourselves to cover specific Welsh soil issues, particularly on soil carbon management. Findings from these projects are being incorporated where appropriate into Glastir.

Ac yn olaf o ran yr argymhellion, mewn perthynas â phridd a choedwigaeth, mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn darparu cyllid i Gomisiwn Coedwigaeth Cymru, a hwnnw, ar y cyd â'r comisiynau coedwigaeth yn Lloegr a'r Alban, sy'n pennu cyfeiriad astudiaethau'r asiantaeth Ymchwil Coedwigaeth. Mae'r asiantaeth yn gweithio ar fesurau fydd yn effeithio ar allyriadau carbon o'n coetiroedd, er enghraifft, effaith coetiroedd brodorol a chymysg newydd ar briddedd mwynol sydd i'w rheoli heb eu clirdorri. Fel y dywedodd Mick, 'The right trees in the right places'.

Diolchaf i'r pwyllgor am ei waith yn y maes hwn. Bydd y drafodaeth yn ei gylch yn parhau. Yr wyf wedi sefydlu grŵp arbenigol i roi cyngor penodol imi am leihau allyriadau nwyon tŷ gwydr o ddefnydd tir, o dan gadeiryddiaeth yr Athro Gareth Wyn-Jones. Bydd y grŵp hwnnw yn adrodd imi erbyn y Nadolig, ac mae'n siŵr y bydd gan y pwyllgor, yn ei waith yn y dyfodol, ddiddordeb mewn gweld yr argymhellion fydd yn deillio o'r gwaith hwn.

Alun Davies: I congratulate the Chair of the Sustainability Committee on his work and on the guidance that he has given in the number of reviews that we have conducted into carbon reduction. It was very much the Chair who stated that this is a clear priority for the committee when it was established in 2007, and it is something that he has guided to this conclusion. We should all congratulate him on the work that he has done in that regard and on ensuring that this series of reviews and reports has been brought to the Chamber for debate. I also thank the staff for supporting the committee in completing this piece of work.

The report's major recommendations have already been commented on, as has the Government's response. I will not detain the Chamber by repeating the comments on those issues. The point I seek to make in this debate concerns the contribution that soil and, possibly, the peat uplands of Wales can make not only in helping to reduce our carbon emissions, but in acting as a carbon store for our emissions. Certainly, the work that we will initiate tomorrow in the Rural

Finally, in relation to soils and forestry, the Assembly Government provides funding for Forestry Commission Wales. In collaboration with the forestry commissions of England and Scotland, Forestry Commission Wales manages the direction of research for the Forest Research agency. The agency is working on measures that will affect the carbon emissions of our forests, including, for example, new native and mixed woodland on mineral soils managed without clear felling. As Mick said, 'The right trees in the right places'.

I thank the committee for its work in this field. The discussion will continue. I have established an expert group to give me specific advice on reducing greenhouse gasses from land use, under the chairmanship of Professor Gareth Wyn-Jones. The group will report to me before Christmas, and I am sure the committee, as part of its work in future, will have an interest in the recommendations that stem from this work.

Alun Davies: Yr wyf yn llonyfarch Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cynaliadwyedd am ei waith ac am ei arweiniad yn yr amryw adolygiadau yr ydym wedi'u cynnal ar leihau allyriadau carbon. Y Cadeirydd yn anad neb a ddywedodd y byddai hyn yn flaenorriaeth glir i'r pwyllgor pan gafodd ei sefydlu yn 2007, ac y mae'n rhywbeth y mae wedi'i dywys i'r pen. Dylem oll ei longyfarch am y gwaith y mae wedi'i wneud ar hynny ac am sicrhau bod y gyfres hon o adolygiadau ac adroddiadau wedi'i chyflwyno gerbron y Siambwr ar gyfer dadl. Diolchaf hefyd i'r staff am gynorthwyo'r pwyllgor i gwblhau'r darn hwn o waith.

Mae sylwadau eisoes wedi eu gwneud am brif argymhellion yr adroddiad, ac felly hefyd ymateb y Llywodraeth. Ni chadwaf y Siambwr drwy ailadrodd y sylwadau am y materion hynny. Mae'r pwnt yr hoffwn ei wneud yn y ddadl hon yn ymwneud â'r cyfraniad y gall pridd ac, o bosibl, ucheldiroedd mawnog Cymru ei wneud, nid yn unig i helpu lleihau ein hallyriadau carbon, ond drwy weithredu fel storfa garbon i'n hallyriadau. Yn sicr, bydd y gwaith y byddwn yn dechrau arno

Development Sub-committee will seek to build on the work done by the Sustainability Committee in this regard. The peatlands of Wales are of particular importance as carbon sinks and stores, but only where they are well managed. There is a real danger that if we do not manage the peatlands well, they will not become sinks and stores for carbon, but some of the highest emitters of carbon of all the soils of Wales. It is something that could well happen, to some extent due to matters beyond our control because of wider climate change issues, which could lead to the soil drying. As the Chair pointed out, we do have large-scale powers over land use and planning, and this is an area in which the Assembly Government has made, and can continue to make, a real difference.

The Assembly Government's response, from the Minister this afternoon and during our inquiry, and the policy responses of the Government otherwise through the 'One Wales' agreement, the Welsh environment strategy, the 'Farming, Food and Countryside—Building a Secure Future' document, and through axis 2 of the rural development plan, have demonstrated that there is potential to make the peatlands of Wales important carbon stores. I hope that the Minister, working alongside Jane Davidson, will ensure that there is a focus on the protection of soils, that we have better research on the soils that are available to us in Wales and that there are sufficient frameworks and protections in place to ensure that the soil of Wales—something which we have taken for granted time and again, politically and in our everyday lives—continues to be a great resource for everyone in Wales. By doing so, we can make a real contribution to carbon reduction and the uplands of Wales. These are fundamental issues as to how we take care of and nurture the country that we govern, and the way in which we ensure that the peatlands of Wales in particular are able to contribute to our wider policy and personal aspirations for Wales.

I congratulate the Chair of the committee again on his work and guidance, and I hope that the Government will continue to respond to the reports that have been drawn up on

yforyn yr Is-bwyllgor Datblygu Gwledig yn ceisio adeiladu ar y gwaith a wnaeth y Pwyllgor Cynaliadwyedd yn hyn o beth. Mae mawndiroedd Cymru'n arbennig o bwysig fel dalfeydd a storfeydd carbon, ond dim ond pan gânt eu rheoli'n dda. Oni reolwn y mawndiroedd yn dda, yn hytrach na dod yn ddalfeydd ac yn storfeydd carbon, mae gwir berygl iddynt ddatblygu'n brif allyrwyd carbon holl briddoedd Cymru. Mae'n sicr y gallai hynny ddigwydd, i ryw raddau yn sgil materion sydd y tu hwnt i'n rheolaeth, oherwydd y newid cyffredinol yn yr hinsawdd, a fyddai'n arwain at sychu'r pridd. Fel y dywedodd y Cadeirydd, mae gennym bwerau eang dros ddefnyddio tir a chynllunio, ac y mae hwn yn faes lle mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi gwneud gwir wahaniaeth, a gall barhau i wneud hynny.

Mae ymateb Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, gan y Gweinidog y prynhawn yma ac yn ystod ein hymchwiliad, ac ymatebion polisi'r Llywodraeth fel arall drwy gytundeb 'Cymru'n Un', strategaeth amgylchedd Cymru, y ddogfen 'Ffermio, Bwyd a Chefni Gwlad: Creu Dyfodol Cadarn', a thrwy echel 2 y cynllun datblygu gwledig, wedi dangos bod potensial i wneud mawndiroedd Cymru yn storfeydd carbon pwysig. Gobeithio y bydd y Gweinidog, gan weithio ar y cyd â Jane Davidson, yn sicrhau bod pwyslais ar ddiogelu priddoedd, ein bod yn ymchwilio'n well i'r priddoedd sydd gennym yng Nghymru, a bod digon o fframweithiau a dulliau o'u diogelu ar gael i sicrhau bod pridd Cymru—rhywbeth yr ydym wedi'i gymryd yn ganiataol dro ar ôl tro, yn wleidyddol ac yn ein bywydau pob dydd—yn parhau'n adnodd gwych i bawb yng Nghymru. Drwy wneud hynny, gallwn yn wir gyfrannu at leihau allyriadau carbon a chyfrannu at ucheldiroedd Cymru. Mae'r rhain yn faterion sylfaenol o ran y ffordd yr ydym yn gofalu am y wlad a lywodraethwn, a'r ffordd yr ydym yn ei meithrin ac yn sicrhau bod mawndiroedd Cymru'n benodol yn gallu cyfrannu at ein dyheadau polisi ehangach a'n dyheadau personol ar gyfer Cymru.

Yr wyf yn llonyfarch Cadeirydd y pwyllgor eto am ei waith a'i arweiniad, a gobeithio y bydd y Llywodraeth yn parhau i ymateb i'r adroddiadau sydd wedi'u llunio ar leihau

carbon reduction, and particularly this final substantive piece of work, whereby the Government will be guided not only by the recommendations, but by the report itself.

Bryngle Williams: I wish to add my thanks to the Chair, my fellow committee members and those organisations that gave evidence to this inquiry. I also thank the Minister for accepting all but one of the recommendations in full or in part. Like other industries, agriculture is motivated to reduce the negative impact that it has on the environment. However, as the report sets out, doing this successfully in the long term will be a particular challenge.

Carbon emissions from farming are slowly reducing this year, as was pointed out by Mick, due to the reduction in dairy herds, the cost of fertiliser and various other things. However, for this to be sustainable in the long-term, it will need a shift in farm practices. On this issue, I want to highlight the excellent work being done by the world-renowned IBERS in Aberystwyth, which is conducting groundbreaking research into new plant varieties. I am hopeful that research into new feeding regimes will be a major way for agriculture to reduce methane emissions in particular. As the majority of Welsh farmland is unsuitable for arable production, addressing the impact of livestock must be a key area of research. In addition, with global demand for food set to increase—as we heard this morning, it will double by 2050—it is extremely important that there is a balance between land use and carbon capture. So, getting the maximum productivity out of arable land and marginal land will be more important than ever.

On the management of woodlands, I would be grateful if the Minister could expand on why she is only able to support the recommendation in part. To be fair, you touched on that in your opening address. Improving the market for wood products would have substantial knock-on benefits for carbon emissions and farm incomes. As I said earlier, a great deal of this land is not suitable

allyriadau carbon, ac yn enwedig y darn sylweddol hwn o waith. Gobeithio y caiff y Llywodraeth ei thywys gan yr adroddiad ei hun, yn ogystal â chan yr argymhellion sydd ynnddo.

Bryngle Williams: Dymunaf ychwanegu fy niolch i'r Cadeirydd, fy nghyd-aelodau ar y pwylgor a'r sefydliadau a roddodd dystiolaeth i'r ymchwiliad hwn. Diolch hefyd i'r Gweinidog am dderbyn y cyfan ac eithrio un o'r argymhellion, naill ai'n llawn ynteu'n rhannol. Fel mewn diwydiannau eraill, mae'r byd amaeth yn awyddus i leihau effaith negyddol y diwydiant ar yr amgylchedd. Fodd bynnag, fel y dywed yr adroddiad, bydd gwneud hyn yn llwyddiannus yn y tymor hir yn her arbennig.

Fel y dywedodd Mick, mae allyriadau carbon yn sgil ffermio yn gostwng yn araf eleni, a hynny oherwydd bod y fuches odro yn llai, oherwydd cost gwrtraith ac amryw bethau eraill. Fodd bynnag, er mwyn i hyn fod yn gynaliadwy yn y tymor hir, bydd angen newid arferion ffermydd. Yn hynny o beth, hoffwn bwysleisio'r gwaith gwych sy'n cael ei wneud gan IBERS yn Aberystwyth, sy'n adnabyddus drwy'r byd am ei waith, ac sydd wrthi'n gwneud ymchwil arloesol i fathau newydd o blanhigion. Yr wyf yn obeithiol y bydd ymchwil i ddulliau bwydo newydd yn hwb pwysig i amathyddiaeth leihau allyriadau methan yn benodol. Gan fod y rhan fwyaf o dir ffermio Cymru yn anaddas i'w ddefnyddio fel tir âr, dylai mynd i'r afael ag effaith da byw fod yn faes ymchwil allweddol. At hynny, gan fod disgwyl i'r galw am fwyd drwy'r byd gynyddu—fel y clywsom fore heddiw, bydd yn dyblu erbyn 2050—mae'n hynod o bwysig cael cydbwysedd rhwng defnyddio tir a dal carbon. Felly, bydd cael y cynyrch mwyaf posibl o dir âr a thir ymylol yn bwysicach nag erioed.

O ran rheoli coetiroedd, byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallai'r Gweinidog ymhelaethu yngylch pam mai'n rhannol yn unig y gall gefnogi'r argymhelliaid. A bod yn deg, soniasoch rywfaint am hynny yn eich anerchiad agoriadol. Byddai gwella'r farchnad ar gyfer cynyrch coed yn arwain at fanteision sylweddol o ran allyriadau carbon ac incwm ffermydd. Fel y dywedais gynnau,

for arable production, so there is a great deal of untapped potential on Welsh farmland for developing small areas of land around farms and isolated areas to plant hardwood and softwood trees. Farming Connect would be the best vehicle for encouraging this. This practice, which locks in carbon, is commonplace elsewhere in Europe as the committee heard, and Wales could stand to benefit substantially from adopting some of its best practice. However, production needs to be met by demand, and I had hoped that the Minister could have supported this recommendation more fully in order to encourage the use of wood on a commercial level.

4.10 p.m.

Finally, on renewable and carbon-neutral energy generation, does the Minister agree that it is regrettable that many—perhaps not so many at the moment—farm businesses have problems getting planning permission for anaerobic digestors given that those could play such an important role in reducing carbon emissions?

Leanne Wood: I start by saying that I am pleased that the Welsh Assembly Government has accepted the majority of the recommendations in the committee's report. Ministers have shown their commitment to this agenda, but we all know that we could do much more. As an Assembly, we have all spent a great deal of time talking about how we can reduce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions. I have said before that more action needs to be taken much faster. However, I also think that we should look at land management in terms of long-term sustainable food security, which has been predicted as being a big problem in years to come.

In his opening remarks, the committee Chair referred to the various strategies and reports that impact on land management and food. There is a need to link up all of that work. Brynle Williams referred to a report that was published this morning by the Royal Society, which argues that the UK's food production

nid yw llawer o'r tir hwn yn addas i'w ddefnyddio fel tir âr, felly mae llawer iawn o botensial sydd heb ei wireddu ar dir ffermio Cymru i ddatblygu darnau bychain o dir o amgylch ffermydd a mannau ynysig er mwyn plannu coed pren caled a phren meddal. Y ffordd orau i annog hynny fyddai defnyddio Cyswllt Ffermio. Mae'r arfer hwn, sy'n cloi carbon, yn gyffredin mewn mannau eraill yn Ewrop, fel y clywodd y pwylgor, a gallai Cymru elwa'n sylweddol o fabwysiadu rhai o'r arferion gorau hynny. Fodd bynnag, rhaid i'r hyn a gynhyrchir gyd-fynd â'r galw, ac yr oeddwn wedi gobeithio y byddai'r Gweinidog wedi cefnogi'r argymhelliaid hwn yn llawnach er mwyn annog defnyddio coed ar lefel fasnachol.

Yn olaf, o ran creu ynni adnewyddadwy ac ynni carbon-niwtral, a yw'r Gweinidog yn cytuno ei bod yn resyn bod llawer o fusnesau fferm—er nad cynifer â hynny ar hyn o bryd, efallai—yn cael problemau wrth geisio cael caniatâd cynllunio i osod treulynnion anaerobic, gan gofio y gallai'r rheini wneud cyfraniad mor bwysig wrth leihau allyriadau carbon?

Leanne Wood: Dechreuaf drwy ddweud fy mod yn falch fod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi derbyn y rhan fwyaf o argymhellion adroddiad y pwylgor. Mae Gweinidigion wedi dangos eu bod wedi ymrwymo i'r agenda hon, ond gwyddom y gallem wneud llawer mwy. Yma yn y Cynulliad, yr ydym oll wedi treulio llawer o amser yn trafod sut y gallwn leihau allyriadau carbon deuocsiad a nwyon tŷ gwydr eraill. Yr wyf wedi dweud o'r blaen fod angen gwneud mwy, a symud yn gyflymach o lawer. Fodd bynnag, credaf hefyd y dylem edrych ar reoli tir o ran diogelu bwyd mewn ffordd gynaliadwy yn y tymor hir, gan fod pobl yn rhagweld y bydd hynny'n broblem fawr yn y blynnyddoedd i ddod.

Yn ei sylwadau agoriadol, cyfeiriodd Cadeirydd y pwylgor at yr amrywiol strategaethau ac adroddiadau sy'n effeithio ar reoli tir a bwyd. Mae angen cydgysylltu'r gwaith hwnnw i gyd. Cyfeiriodd Brynle Williams at adroddiad a gyhoeddwyd fore heddiw gan y Gymdeithas Frenhinol, sy'n

needs to be increased by 50 per cent by the middle of the century. It states that we will soon reach the stage where individuals with money to buy food will not be able to do so. That follows the predictions of Professor John Beddington, the UK Government's chief scientific adviser, of a coming 'perfect storm' of rising demand for food, stagnant production and climate change. Clearly, if we are to avoid a food crisis in coming years, we will have to work with those who manage the land to create community resilience in order to withstand this coming 'perfect storm'.

dadlau bod angen cynnydd o 50 y cant yn y bwyd a gynhyrchir yn y DU erbyn canol y ganrif. Mae'r adroddiad yn dweud y byddwn yn cyrraedd pwynt cyn hir lle na fydd unigolion sydd ag arian i brynu bwyd yn gallu gwneud hynny. Mae hynny'n dilyn sylwadau'r Athro John Beddington, prif gynghorwr gwyddonol Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig, sy'n darogan y 'storm berffaith' lle bydd galw cynyddol am fwyd, cynhyrchu di-dwf, a newid yn yr hinsawdd. Yn amlwg, er mwyn osgoi argyfwng bwyd yn y blynnyddoedd i ddod bydd angen inni weithio gyda'r rheini sy'n rheoli'r tir er mwyn i'r gymuned fod yn ddigon cryf i wrthsefyll y 'storm berffaith' hon.

The recent announcement by the Minister for Rural Affairs to change how agriculture is supported in Wales with the introduction of Glastir is to be welcomed. In the future, funding will be conditional on environmental improvement, but we need to ensure that the demand out there for this funding will be met. That is why the committee's first recommendation is in place. While I welcome the fact that the Government has accepted that recommendation in principle, I understand its reluctance to accept it in full, particularly in the light of the current economic situation. However, we cannot afford for the success of this scheme to be compromised or endangered because of a lack of accessibility for farmers.

Not only do we need to support and promote more sustainable land management practices for climate change reasons, but we need to be much more sustainable in how we source our food. The Sustainable Development Commission argues that a core goal of any Government should be to feed everyone sustainably, equitably and healthily, addressing needs of availability, affordability and accessibility in a way that is diverse, ecologically sound and resilient and that builds the capabilities and skills of future generations.

The Sustainability Committee has recently agreed to conduct a detailed inquiry into local sustainable food production. So, we will return to this issue, but it is worth us all thinking about the food security issue when

Mae'r cyhoeddriad yn ddiweddar gan y Gweinidog dros Faterion Gwledig a'r newid yn y modd y cynorthwyir amaethyddiaeth yng Nghymru drwy gyflwyno'r cynllun Glastir i'w groesawu. Yn y dyfodol, bydd cyllid yn amodol ar wella'r amgylchedd, ond rhaid inni sicrhau y bydd modd ateb y galw am y cyllid hwn. Dyna pam y gwnaeth y Pwyllgor ei argymhelliaid cyntaf. Er fy mod yn croesawu'rffaith fod y Llywodraeth wedi derbyn egwyddor yr argymhelliaid hwnnw, gallaf ddeall ei amharodrwydd i'w derbyn yn llwyr, yn enwedig yn sgil y sefyllfa economaidd bresennol. Serch hynny, ni allwn fforddio gweld tanseilio neu beryglu'r cynllun hwn oherwydd nad yw'n hwylus i ffermwyr.

Nid yn unig y mae angen inni gefnogi a hyrwyddo arferion rheoli tir mwy cynaliadwy am resymau'n ymneud â newid yn yr hinsawdd, ond mae angen i ffynhonnell ein bwyd fod yn fwy cynaliadwy. Mae'r Comisiwn Datblygu Cynaliadwy yn dadlau y dylai bwydo pawb mewn ffordd gynaliadwy, deg ac iach fod yn un o amcanion craidd unrhyw Lywodraeth, ac y dylid rhoi sylwi i argaeedd, fforddiadwyedd a hygyrchedd a hynny mewn ffordd sy'n amrywiol, sy'n ecolegol gadarn ac sy'n gallu gwrtsefyll anawsterau, gan adeiladu ar allu a sgiliau cenedlaethau'r dyfodol.

Yn ddiweddar, mae'r Pwyllgor Cynaliadwyedd wedi cytuno i gynnal ymchwiliad manwl i gynhyrchu bwyd cynaliadwy yn lleol. Felly, byddwn yn dychwelyd at y pwnc hwn, ond mae'n werth

debating land management given that they are both so clearly linked. I look forward to the Assembly considering all of these issues in greater depth at a later date.

Mick Bates: I start by thanking the contributors to this debate for their excellent responses, and I particularly thank the Minister, who, in accepting most of these recommendations, is also saying that we need to take more action on how we can reduce carbon emissions through the establishment of the advisory group. I look forward to seeing the recommendations in its report.

I also welcome the emphasis that the Minister has placed in the Glastir scheme and in the rural development plan on on-farm energy efficiency and renewable energy production. There will be challenges in that, and I hope that all the transmission and communication issues to do with the requirement for renewable energy will be met by other departments, because I take on board Leanne's comments about working across departments and facing this issue by not keeping to silos. It is important that the Minister works with other Ministers to provide the economic and the sustainability drive. As a committee, we have scrutinised every Minister to ensure that sustainable development is a key theme that runs across all portfolio departments. We were surprised—and we will discuss this shortly—to find that there is often no communication between Ministers to maximise the response of the Government. That needs to be addressed further.

Following Leanne's remarks about Glastir, I want to say that that was a commendable move by the Government. When the review was undertaken into agri-environment schemes, it opted for a scheme that protects the environment. We are all concerned about food production but, within that, protecting our biodiversity is a critical issue that we must move forward on.

I now turn to Alun Davies's remarks. In his forceful contribution, we heard about the evidence from the National Trust on how we must treat soil. Its representatives told us that

inni i gyd feddw am ddiogelwch bwyd wrth drafod rheoli tir gan fod cysylltiad mor amlwg rhwngddynt. Edrychaf ymlaen at weld y Cynulliad yn trafod yr holl faterion hyn yn fanylach rywbryd eto.

Mick Bates: Dechreuaaf drwy ddiolch i bawb a gyfrannodd at y ddadl hon am eu hymatebion ardderchog, a diolchaf yn benodol i'r Gweinidog sydd, wrth dderbyn y rhan fwyaf o'r argymhellion hyn, hefyd yn dweud bod angen inni wneud mwy er mwyn lleihau allyriadau carbon drwy sefydlu'r grŵp cynghori. Edrychaf ymlaen at weld yr argymhellion yn adroddiad y grŵp.

Croesawaf hefyd bwyslais y Gweinidog yn y cynllun Glastir ac yn y cynllun datblygu gwledig ar effeithlonrwydd ynni ac ar gynhyrchu ynni adnewyddadwy ar ffermydd. Bydd gwneud hynny'n her, a gobeithio y bydd adrannau eraill yn rhoi sylw i'r holl broblemau trawsyrru a chyfathrebu sy'n berthnasol i'r angen am ynni adnewyddadwy, oherwydd yr wyf yn derbyn sylwadau Leanne ynglŷn â gweithio ar draws adrannau ac wynebu'r mater hwn drwy beidio â bod yn ynysig. Mae'n bwysig i'r Gweinidog weithio gyda Gweinidogion eraill i yrru hyn yn ei flaen yn economaidd ac o safbwyt cynaliadwyedd. Fel pwylgor, yr ydym wedi craffu ar waith pob Gweinidog i sicrhau bod datblygu cynaliadwy'n thema allweddol ym mhob adran portffolio. Cawsom ein synnu—a byddwn yn trafod hyn cyn hir—o weld nad yw Gweinidogion yn aml yn cyfathrebu er mwyn i'r Llywodraeth ymateb yn y ffordd orau. Mae angen rhoi rhagor o sylw i hynny.

Yn dilyn sylwadau Leanne am Glastir, hoffwn ddweud bod hwnnw'n gam i'w ganmol gan y Llywodraeth. Pan gynhaliwyd yr adolygiad i gynlluniau amaeth-amgylcheddol, dewisodd y Llywodraeth gynllun sy'n diogelu'r amgylchedd. Yr ydym i gyd yn pryderu am gynhyrchu bwyd, ond o fewn hynny mae diogelu ein bioamrywiaeth yn fater allweddol y mae'n rhaid inni fwrw ymlaen ag ef.

Trof yn awr at sylwadau Alun Davies. Yn ei gyfraniad egniol, clywsom am y dystiolaeth gan yr Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol am y modd y mae'n rhaid inni ymdrin â'r pridd.

we need a soil management policy just as a water management policy is being developed at a European level. As we have heard, without soil, we will not produce much food, and so we really must protect it. It is an interesting point that perhaps we need to pursue through legislation. Alun's emphasis on the uplands as a carbon store was well placed, and I was pleased that the committee was able to see the work of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds at the LIFE project in Vyrnwy. It is an excellent piece of work.

Finally, turning to Brynle's contribution, I applaud him for mentioning the world-class Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences in Aberystwyth, which is the former Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research combined with Aberystwyth University's biological research. The Rural Development Subcommittee recently visited IBERS to see its work not just on reducing methane emissions from cows, but also on developing varieties of plants that will withstand drought and grow without rainfall for six months. Those are incredible achievements. As I stated in the report and as I said in my opening remarks, it is important to retain our research in Wales. We often talk about skills, but those skills have been built up in our higher education and further education establishments and we must treasure places such as IBERS and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology at Bangor University, and ensure that they are always supported. Their work is the bedrock for how you formulate your policies. Once again, I thank everyone for their contribution and look forward to an improvement in our land management.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is that the motion to note the Sustainable Committee's report be agreed. Does any Member object? I see that there are no objections. The motion is therefore agreed in accordance with Standing Order No. 7.35.

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion agreed.*

Dyweddodd cynrychiolwyr yr Ymddiriedolaeth wrthym fod arnom angen polisi rheoli pridd yn yr un modd ag y mae polisi rheoli dŵr yn cael ei ddatblygu ar lefel Ewropeaidd. Fel y clywsom, heb bridd ni fyddwn yn cynyrchu llawer o fwyd, ac felly mae gwir angen inni ei ddiogelu. Mae hwn yn bwynt diddorol, ac efallai fod angen inni ei ddilyn drwy ddeddfwriaeth. Yr oedd Alun yn gywir yn rhoi pwyslais ar yr ucheldiroedd fel storfa carbon, ac yr oeddwn yn falch fod y pwylgor wedi gallu gweld y gwaith y mae'r Gymdeithas Frenhinol er Diogelu Adar yn ei wneud drwy'r prosiect LIFE yn Llanwddyn. Mae hwnnw'n waith ardderchog.

Yn olaf, i droi at gyfraniad Brynle, fe'i canmolaf am grybwyl y sefydliad o safon fyd-eang, Sefydliad y Gwyddorau Biolegol, Amgylcheddol a Gwledig yn Aberystwyth, sef y Sefydliad Ymchwil Tir Glas a'r Amgylchedd gynt ynghyd ag adran ymchwil fiolegol Prifysgol Aberystwyth). Bu'r Is-bwyllgor Datblygu Gwledig yn ymweld â'r sefydliad yn ddiweddar i weld y gwaith y mae'n ei wneud, nid yn unig i leihau allyriadau methan gwartheg, ond hefyd i ddatblygu mathau o blanhigion a fydd yn gwrthsefyll sychder ac yn tyfu heb ddŵr glaw am chwe mis. Mae'r hyn sydd wedi'i gyflawni yn rhyfeddol. Fel y dywedais yn yr adroddiad ac yn fy sylwadau agoriadol, mae'n bwysig cadw ein gwaith ymchwil yng Nghymru. Byddwn yn aml yn sôn am sgiliau, ond mae'r sgiliau hynny wedi'u meithrin yn ein sefydliadau addysg uwch ac addysg bellach, a rhaid inni drysori lleoedd fel IBERS a'r Ganolfan Ecoleg a Hydroleg ym Mhrifysgol Bangor, a sicrhau eu bod yn cael eu cefnogi bob amser. Eu gwaith hwy yw'r gonglfaen ar gyfer llunio'ch polisiau. Unwaith eto, diolchaf i bawb am eu cyfraniad ac edrychaf ymlaen at weld ein tir yn cael ei reoli'n well.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Y cynnig yw bod y cynnig i nodi adroddiad y Pwyllgor Cynaliadwyedd yn cael ei dderbyn. A oes unrhyw wrthwynebiad? Gwelaf nad oes. Yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.35, felly, caiff y cynnig ei dderbyn.

Dadl y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig
Welsh Conservatives Debate

Diweithdra yng Nghymru
Unemployment in Wales

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendment 1 in the name of Carwyn Jones.

David Melding: I move that

the National Assembly notes with deep concern that unemployment in Wales now stands at 130,000 (9.1 per cent), an increase of 45,000 over the last year. (NDM4306)

I start by asking the Assembly to reject the Government's amendment 1. I accept that it is not the standard wrecking-ball amendment, but we have difficulties with point (b), and I will refer to the European Union's structural programmes a little later. For that reason, I ask the Assembly to reject the Government's amendment 1.

We were all shocked when the unemployment figures for the latest quarter were published last week, because they showed a dramatic increase in the figure for Wales. We are now up to 130,000, which is 9.1 per cent of the workforce. That is an increase of 46,000 on the previous year, which is a very severe increase indeed.

4.20 p.m.

We now have the highest unemployment rate of the UK nations. England has a rate of 7.9 per cent, Scotland 7.1 per cent, and Northern Ireland also 7.1 per cent. We should pause to reflect on that: both Scotland and Northern Ireland have an unemployment rate a full 2 per cent below ours. That puts into grim perspective how we have been hit in Wales.

As elsewhere in the UK, male unemployment is worse than that for females, and youth unemployment is worst of all. It is a particular concern to me. I was graduating just at the end of the 1980s recession, and I remember the impact that its aftermath had

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliant 1 yn enw Carwyn Jones.

David Melding: Cynigiaf fod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn nodi â chrynn bryder bod diweithdra yng Nghymru bellach yn 130,000 (9.1 y cant), cynnydd o 45,000 dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf. (NDM4306)

Dechreuaf drwy ofyn i'r Cynulliad wrthod gwelliant 1 gan y Llywodraeth. Derbyniaf nad gwelliant difodi safonol mohono, ond nid ydym yn hapus â phwynt (b), a chyfeiriaf at raglenni strwythurol yr Undeb Ewropeaidd ychydig yn ddiweddarach. Am y rheswm hwnnw, gofynnaf i'r Cynulliad wrthod gwelliant 1 gan y Llywodraeth.

Yr oeddem i gyd wedi'n brawychu pan gyhoeddwyd y ffigurau diweithdra am y chwarter diwethaf yr wythnos diwethaf, oherwydd yr oeddent yn dangos cynnydd dramatig yn y ffigur ar gyfer Cymru. Mae bellach yn 130,000, sy'n 9.1 y cant o'r gweithlu. Mae hynny'n gynnydd o 46,000 o'i gymharu â'r flwyddyn flaenorol, sy'n gynnydd difrifol iawn yn wir.

Erbyn hyn, ni sydd â'r gyfradd ddiweithdra uchaf ymhlið gwledydd y DU. Yn Lloegr mae cyfradd o 7.9 y cant, 7.1 y cant yn yr Alban, a 7.1 hefyd yng Ngogledd Iwerddon. Dylem oedi i ystyried hynny: mae gan yr Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon ill dwy gyfradd diweithdra sydd 2 y cant llawn yn is na'n cyfradd ni. Mae hynny'n dangos yn ei wir oleuni fel yr ydym wedi cael ein taro yng Nghymru.

Megis mewn mannau eraill yn y DU, mae diweithdra ymysg gwrywod yn waeth nag ymysg benywod, a diweithdra ymysg pobl ifanc yw'r gwaethaf oll. Mae'n peri pryder neilltuol i mi. Yr oeddwn i'n graddio ar ddiwedd dirwasgiad y 1980au, a chofiaf yr

on those of us leaving university at that time. It caused severe disruption to people's confidence, and potentially to their whole career. If you do not get off to the start that you had expected, or do not get the training places that you were hoping for, it can have a dramatic effect on your life.

An ambitious target of 80 per cent for economic activity has rightly been set to bring Wales up to, or beyond, the best areas in Europe. The Government has not set a target date for that yet because, in fairness, it was a medium-term aspiration. One can understand, given how the economic forces have turned recently, that there are factors outside the Government's control that can hit that type of target. However, let us not forget that, unless we get somewhere near that target of 80 per cent, we will not be a more prosperous region in comparison with other places in Europe. It is above all our economic inactivity that makes us relatively poor—that is the biggest factor—in comparison with other parts of the UK and the EU.

I will turn to the response of the Welsh Assembly Government. I hope that I have been fair in the past in my assessment of what the Government has done, and I have always taken care not to lay responsibility at WAG's door for things that it cannot influence. In some areas, it has a great deal of power, and in others, some control is shared with the UK Government, but there are also international forces at play here, and it is appropriate that we factor them into any judgment that we make about the Government's response. Nevertheless, I have to say that the approach taken by the Government looks fairly complacent, at least from this side of the Chamber. We have had a year in which to see the effects of the recession, as it has taken hold on the economies of Wales and the UK.

There have been some successes in the Government's approach. The ProAct scheme has been useful; there is no doubt about that, and we have sought to commend it. To date, it has helped just fewer than 7,000 people to

effaith a gafodd ei ganlyniadau ar y rheini ohonom a oedd yn gadael y brifysgol ar y pryd. Amharodd yn fawr iawn ar hyder pobl, ac yr oedd iddo'r potensial i amharu ar eu gyrfa gyfan. Oni chewch y dechreuaed yr oeddech wedi'i ddisgwyl, neu oni chewch y lleoedd hyfforddi yr oeddech yn gobeithio amdanyst, gall gael effaith ddramatig ar eich bywyd.

Mae targed uchelgeisiol o 80 y cant wedi ei osod, yn briodol, ar gyfer gweithgarwch economaidd i ddod â Chymru i fyny at yr un lefel â'r ardaloedd gorau yn Ewrop, neu i ragori arnynt. Nid yw'r Llywodraeth wedi pennu dyddiad targed i hynny eto, oherwydd, er tegwch, dyhead tymor canolig ydoedd. Gall rhywun ddeall, o ystyried fel y mae'r grymoedd economaidd wedi troi'n ddiweddar, fod ffactorau y tu hwnt i reolaeth y Llywodraeth sy'n gallu taro'r math hwnnw o darged. Fodd bynnag, dylem gofio, oni chyrhaeddwn rywle'n agos at y targed hwnnw o 80 y cant, na fyddwn yn rhanbarth Ilewythus o'n cymharu â mannau eraill yn Ewrop. Ein hanweithgarwch economaidd, yn anad dim arall, sy'n ein gwneud yn gymharol dlawd—dyna'r ffactor pennaf—o'n cymharu â rhannau eraill o'r DU a'r UE.

Trof at ymateb Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Gobeithio imi fod yn deg yn y gorffennol yn fy asesiad o'r hyn y mae'r Llywodraeth wedi'i wneud, ac yr wyf wedi gofalu bob amser peidio â bwrw'r cyfrifoldeb ar Lywodraeth y Cynulliad am bethau na all ddylanwadu arnynt. Mewn rhai meysydd mae ganddi lawer iawn o rym, ac mewn eraill rhennir rhywfaint o reolaeth gyda Llywodraeth y DU. Ond y mae grymoedd rhyngwladol ar waith hefyd yma, ac y mae'n briodol inni eu hystyried wrth lunio unrhyw farf am ymateb y Llywodraeth. Fodd bynnag, rhaid imi ddweud bod y ffordd y mae'r Llywodraeth wedi ymateb yn edrych braidd yn hunanfodlon, o'r ochr yma i'r Siambra o leiaf. Yr ydym wedi cael blwyddyn i weld effeithiau'r dirwasgiad, wrth iddo gydio yn economiau Cymru a'r DU.

Bu rhai llwyddiannau yn null gweithredu'r Llywodraeth. Mae cynllun ProAct wedi bod yn fuddiol; nid oes amheuaeth am hynny, ac yr ydym wedi ceisio ei ganmol. Hyd yma, mae wedi helpu mymryn llai na 7,000 o bobl

stay in work, which is very important, and no-one should gainsay what it means to those people who have been helped by it. However, set against the 46,000 who have lost their jobs in the past year, we have to say that the response has been complacent. The Government has made the mistake of assuming that the Welsh economy was more resilient than turned out to be the case. We have heard that from the First Minister, and a bit from the Deputy First Minister, although perhaps not with the sweeping confidence with which the First Minister tended to declare to the Assembly that, somehow, this recession would have more impact in south-east England than in the traditional manufacturing areas. Alas, that has not been the case.

WAG has failed to take forward some obvious policies that have been proposed, such as business rate relief. If we had a system similar to that in Scotland, that would have been the biggest thing that the Government could have done to help small and medium-sized enterprises. It is that sector that is probably now shedding more jobs than any other, and that is why we have hit 46,000 job losses in a year. I have to say—and I know that we have raised this point several times—that we still cannot understand why a man who was so passionately promoting this policy before the Assembly elections in 2007 has not advanced it at all. It was one of Plaid Cymru's seven manifesto commitments, one of the seven principles for '07 as it was declared to the Welsh people, but it is not being delivered. I point out to the Deputy First Minister that, to date, he has failed to honour that manifesto pledge. He is in a coalition Government, so I grant that there are mitigating circumstances, but it is disappointing that that policy happens to be the one that would most ably have assisted many parts of the Welsh economy.

We have only recently seen a shift in WAG thinking on the whole approach to economic development. Essentially, it involves a move away from a grants culture that was trying to get employers to come to Wales and to see here a pool of workers, albeit a more skilled labour force, rather than encouraging much

i aros mewn gwaith, sy'n bwysig iawn, ac ni ddylai neb wrth-ddweud yr hyn y mae'n ei olygu i'r rheini sydd wedi cael cymorth drwyddo. Fodd bynnag, o'i ystyried ochr yn ochr â'r 46,000 sydd wedi colli eu swyddi dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf, rhaid inni ddweud bod yr ymateb wedi bod yn hunanfodlon. Gwnaeth y Llywodraeth y camgymeriad o dybio bod economi Cymru yn fwy gwydn nag ydyw mewn gwirionedd. Yr ydym wedi clywed hynny gan y Prif Weinidog, a rhywfaint gan y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog, er nad efallai gyda'r un hyder ysgubol ag y tueddem ei glywed gan y Prif Weinidog pan oedd yn datgan wrth y Cynulliad y byddai'r dirwasgiad hwn, rywfodd, yn effeithio mwy ar dde-ddwyrain Lloegr nag ar yr ardaloedd gweithgynhyrchu traddodiadol. Ysywaeth, nid felly y bu.

Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi methu â symud ymlaen rai polisiau amlwg a gynigiwyd, megis rhyddhad ardrethi busnes. Pe bai gennym system debyg i'r un yn yr Alban, dyna'r fyddai'r peth mwyaf y gallai'r Llywodraeth fod wedi'i wneud i helpu busnesau bach a chanolig eu maint. Y sector hwnnw sydd fwy na thebyg erbyn hyn yn colli mwy o swyddi nag unrhyw un arall, a dyna pam yr ydym wedi colli 46,000 o swyddi mewn blwyddyn. Rhaid imi ddweud—a gwn ein bod wedi codi'r pwynt hwn droeon—na allwn ddeall o hyd pam nad yw dyn a oedd mor frwd yn hyrwyddo'r polisi hwn cyn etholiadau'r Cynulliad yn 2007 wedi ei gynnig o gwbl. Yr oedd yn un o saith ymrwymiad ym manifesto Plaid Cymru, un o'r saith egwyddor ar gyfer '07 fel y'u cyhoeddwyd i bobl Cymru, ond nid yw'n cael ei wireddu. Tynnaf i sylw'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ei fod, hyd yma, wedi methu cadw'r addewid manifesto hwnnw. Mae mewn Llywodraeth glymblaidd, felly, addefaf fod yna amgylchiadau cyfyngol, ond mae'n siomedig mai'r polisi hwnnw, yn digwydd bod, yw'r un a fyddai wedi helpu llawer rhan o economi Cymru orau.

Yn ddiweddar y gwelsom newid yn syniadau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad am y ffordd y mae'n ymdrin â datblygu economaidd. Yn ei hanfod, mae'n golygu camu oddi wrth ddiwylliant o grantiau a oedd yn ceisio denu cyflogwyr i Gymru a sicrhau cronfa o weithwyr yma, a hwnnw'n weithlu mwy

more indigenous enterprise. Recently, with the International Business Wales debacle, we have seen that the Government has been slow to evaluate, review and monitor some of its own major policy lines. I am glad that the Deputy First Minister is now doing it, and, in fairness, it takes a while to really turn a department around, particularly when it has previously been in the hands of your political opponents. I commend him for what he is now doing there, but I challenge him to apply the test that has been applied to IBW's work to other areas of his department. In the years ahead, as the recession's effects run their full course, we will have to get the very maximum value out of the money that we are spending on economic development and ensure that it is spent on effective programmes and not programmes that are failing to deliver, or are just not very well designed in the first place.

I will finish by outlining the Welsh Conservatives' approach. I have spoken about the business rate relief scheme, but there is now another issue that must be faced, which is whether re-evaluation will lead to an increase in business rates and taxation by stealth through the backdoor. I want to hear from the Deputy First Minister that he will not increase the tax yield through business rates. We must press him on that, because the economy is clearly in some difficulty and public expenditure is being reduced, so the Government could be tempted to use that type of tax hike, although that would be very misconceived. However, the Government must make its approach clear to those entrepreneurs who are active in the Welsh economy, who will now have to make plans for next year. If the re-evaluation is not postponed—and postponing it would be the best policy—the Government should certainly ensure that the multiplier is at least reduced so that the tax yield is not increased.

Key infrastructure projects must be protected despite the reductions in capital expenditure that are now going ahead. We will be watching that very carefully, because it is a key area in which a Government can increase demand in the economy. I know that the Government accepts the need for more

crefftus, yn hytrach nag annog rhagor o fusnesau brodorol. Yn ddiweddar, yn sgil yr helynt gyda Busnes Rhyngwladol Cymru, gwelsom fod y Llywodraeth wedi bod yn araf i werthuso, adolygu a monitro rhai o'i phrif linellau polisi ei hun. Yr wyf yn falch fod y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn gwneud hynny'n awr, ac, i fod yn deg, mae'n cymryd amser i wirioneddol weddnewid adran, yn enwedig pan oedd gynt yn nwylo eich gwrthwynebwyr gwleidyddol. Fe'i cymeradwyaf am yr hyn y mae'n ei wneud yno'n awr, ond fe'i heriaf i ddefnyddio'r prawf sydd wedi ei ddefnyddio ar waith Busnes Rhyngwladol Cymru i rannau eraill o'i adran. Yn y blynnyddoedd i ddod, wrth i effeithiau'r dirwasgiad redeg eu cwrs, bydd yn rhaid inni gael y gwerth mwyaf posibl o'r arian yr ydym yn ei wario ar ddatblygu economaidd, a sicrhau ei fod yn cael ei wario ar raglenni effeithiol, nid ar raglenni nad ydynt yn cyflawni, neu sydd heb eu cynllunio'n dda iawn yn y lle cyntaf.

Gorffennaf drwy amlinellu dull gweithredu Ceidwadwyr Cymru. Yr wyf wedi sôn am y cynllun rhyddhad ardrethi busnes, ond mae mater arall bellach y mae'n rhaid ei wynebu, sef a fydd ailbrisio yn arwain at gynnnydd mewn ardrethi busnes a threthu llechwraidd drwy'r drws cefn. Yr wyf am glywed gan y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog na fydd yn cynyddu'r cynnyrch trethi drwy ardrethi busnes. Rhaid inni bwys o arno ynglŷn â hynny, oherwydd mae'r economi yn amlwg mewn anawsterau a gwariant cyhoeddus yn cael ei gwrtogi. Felly, gallai'r Llywodraeth gael ei themtio i gynyddu trethi fel hynny, er y byddai'n annoeth iawn. Fodd bynnag, rhaid i'r Llywodraeth wneud ei bwriadau'n glir i'r entrepeneuriad hynny sy'n weithgar yn economi Cymru ac a fydd yn awr yn gorfol cynllunio ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf. Oni chaiff yr ailbrisio ei ohirio—a gohirio fyddai'r polisi gorau—dylai'r Llywodraeth yn bendant sicrhau bod y lluosydd yn cael ei ostwng o leiaf fel na fydd y cynnyrch trethi yn cynyddu.

Rhaid gwarchod prosiectau seilwaith allweddol er gwaethaf y gostyngiadau mewn gwariant cyfalaf sy'n digwydd yn awr. Byddwn yn gwyllo hynny'n ofalus iawn, oherwydd mae'n faes allweddol lle gall y Llywodraeth gynyddu'r galw yn yr economi. Gwn fod y Llywodraeth yn derbyn bod angen

research and development spending, but we want to see what plans there are to lead to that, especially the partnerships that are needed between the private sector and universities. In the past, we have outlined our policies on raising skills levels and the need for a manufacturing strategy. We have made all those points before.

I will conclude by saying one more thing. The EU programmes were designed when the British and European economies were buoyant. We have now faced a great recession, with between 5 and 6 per cent of our national wealth being wiped out. We still do not know whether it has ended, although there are some indications that it has. We must return to the EU programmes now to see whether they are fully fit for purpose, and renegotiate aspects of them, as other regions will need to do. We need to look particularly at the infrastructure element and raise it from the 18 per cent that is currently permitted to a level that may have to be in the mid 30s or even 40 per cent. We really need to ensure that we protect capital spending above all, given what it can do for economic development.

4.30 p.m.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Cynigiaf welliant 1 yn enw Carwyn Jones. Ychwanegu ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn nodi ymhellach:

a) *y camau sylweddol sy'n cael eu cymryd gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad i gefnogi pobl sy'n cael eu bygwth gan ddiweithdra neu sy'n wynebu diweithdra, megis y rhaglen ProAct newydd, gwella'r rhaglen ReAct ac Adeiladu Sgiliau;*

b) *ffordd y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn defnyddio cronfeydd strwythurol Ewrop i'r eithaf er mwyn mynd i'r afael â heriau'r dirwasgiad;*

c) *y rhaglen o bwys ar gyfer adfywiad economaidd a lansiwyd gan y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yr wythnos diwethaf a fydd yn cynllunio ar gyfer economi gryfach a mwy cynaliadwy ar ôl y dirwasgiad;*

rhagor o wario ar ymchwil a datblygu, ond yr ydym am weld pa gynlluniau sydd yna a fyddai'n arwain at hynny, yn enwedig y partneriaethau y mae eu hangen rhwng y sector preifat a'r prifysgolion. Yn y gorffennol, yr ydym wedi amlinellu ein polisiau ar godi lefelau sgiliau a'r angen am strategaeth gweithgynhyrchu. Yr ydym wedi gwneud y pwyntiau hynny o'r blaen.

I gloi, yr wyf am ddweud un peth arall. Cafodd rhaglenni'r UE eu cynllunio pan oedd economiau Prydain ac Ewrop yn gwneud yn dda. Erbyn hyn yr ydym wedi wynebu dirwasgiad mawr, ac y mae rhwng 5 a 6 y cant o'n cyfoeth cenedlaethol wedi ei ddileu. Ni wyddom eto a yw wedi dod i ben, er bod rhai arwyddion ei fod. Rhaid inni fynd yn ôl yn awr at raglenni'r UE i weld a ydynt yn gwbl addas at y diben, ac ailnegodi agweddu arnynt, fel y bydd angen i ranbarthau eraill ei wneud. Mae angen inni edrych yn arbennig ar yr elfen seilwaith a'i chodi o'r 18 y cant a ganiateir ar hyn o bryd i lefel y bydd yn rhaid iddi fod yn y 30au canol efallai neu hyd yn oed 40 y cant. Mae angen gwirioneddol inni sicrhau ein bod yn diogelu gwariant cyfalaf uwchlaw popeth, o ystyried yr hyn y gall ei wneud dros ddatblygu economaidd.

The Deputy First Minister: I move amendment 1 in the name of Carwyn Jones. Insert at the end of the motion:

further notes:

a) *the significant actions taken by the Assembly Government to support people either threatened by or facing redundancy, such as the new ProAct programme, enhancing ReAct programme and Skillbuild;*

b) *the way in which the Assembly Government is maximising the use of European structural funds to tackle the challenges of the recession;*

c) *the major programme for economic renewal launched by the Deputy First Minister last week which will plan for a stronger, more sustainable economy post recession;*

- d) y dull partneriaeth a arddelir gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad wrth fynd i'r afael â'r dirwasgiad gydag ystod eang o randdeiliaid gan gynnwys y CBI, y TUC a'r FSB; a
- e) y mesurau sy'n cael eu cymryd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i sicrhau cymorth mwy pendant ar gyfer busnesau drwy Gymorth Hyblyg i Fusnes a'r gronfa fuddsoddi sengl.

Nick Bourne: It is a great privilege to take part in what is clearly a very important debate. Wales's unemployment problem is particularly severe according to the labour market data for the latest position from June to August 2009, showing that 9.1 per cent of working-age people are unemployed. That is about 130,000 individuals, which is roughly the population of the borough of Wrexham—which is slightly larger than that—to put it in perspective. Those figures do not take account of some of the recent job losses, such as the 390 jobs lost at Anglesey Aluminium in the Deputy First Minister's constituency, never mind the potential losses that we are looking at at the moment at Bosch and Fujitsu. Furthermore, our unemployment rate far exceeds those of Scotland, Northern Ireland and England. Indeed, it exceeds that of former coalfield and post-industrial areas in Yorkshire and Humberside. The growth in unemployment shows little sign of slowing. Over the past year, we have had the highest quarterly rise and the second highest rise of all the regions of the United Kingdom.

Last week, the Welsh Assembly Government published a written statement entitled 'Planning for a Post-Recession Welsh Economy'. However, let us be clear: we are in a far worse position now than during preparation for the last post-recession economy. In September 1992, Wales's unemployment rate was 7.5 per cent, behind the UK rate of 8 per cent. These are Government figures. In 1994, it remained behind the UK rate at 6.8 per cent, compared with the UK rate of 7.2 per cent. We are now ahead of the UK rate. David Rosser, the director of the Confederation of British

- d) the partnership approach taken by the Assembly Government in tackling the recession with a wide range of stakeholders including the CBI, TUC and FSB; and
- e) the measures taken by the Welsh Assembly Government to ensure more focused support for business through Flexible Support for Business and the single investment fund.

Nick Bourne: Mae'n faint fawr cymryd rhan yn yr hyn sydd yn amlwg yn ddadl bwysig iawn. Mae problem diweithdra Cymru yn neilltuol o ddifrifol yn ôl data'r farchnad lafur am y cyfnod diweddaraf o fis Mehefin i fis Awst 2009, sy'n dangos bod 9.1 y cant o bobl oed gweithio yn ddi-waith. Mae hynny oddeutu 130,000 o unigolion, sef poblogaeth bwrdeistref Wrecsam yn fras—mae fymryn yn fwy na hynny—i'w roi mewn perspectif. Nid yw'r ffigurau hynny'n adlewyrchu rhai o'r swyddi sydd wedi'u colli'n ddiweddar, megis y 390 o swyddi a gollwyd yn Alwminiwm Môn yn etholaeth y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog, heb sôn am y colledion posibl yr ydym yn edrych arnynt ar y funud yn Bosch a Fujitsu. Hefyd, mae ein cyfradd ddiweithdra ni lawer yn uwch na chyfradd yr Alban, Gogledd Iwerddon a Lloegr. Yn wir, mae'n uwch na chyfradd hen feysydd glo ac ardaloedd ôl-ddiwyaidd yn Swydd Efrog a Glannau Humber. Nid oes fawr o arwyddion fod y cynnydd mewn diweithdra yn arafu. Dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf ni oedd â'r cynnydd chwarterol uchaf a'r ail gynnydd uchaf o holl ranbarthau'r Deyrnas Unedig.

Yr wythnos diwethaf cyhoeddodd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ddatganiad ysgrifenedig dan y teitl 'Cynllunio ar gyfer Economi Cymru ar ôl y Dirwasgiad'. Fodd bynnag, gadewch inni fod yn glir: yr ydym mewn sefyllfa lawer gwaeth yn awr nag yn ystod y paratoi ar gyfer economi ôl-ddirwasgiad y tro diwethaf. Yr oedd cyfradd ddiweithdra Cymru yn 7.5 y cant, yn is na chyfradd y DU o 8 y cant. Ffigurau'r Llywodraeth yw'r rhain. Yn 1994, arhosodd yn is na chyfradd y DU ar 6.8 y cant, o'i chymharu â chyfradd y DU o 7.2 y cant. Yr ydym yn uwch na chyfradd y DU yn awr.

Industry Wales has said that we need to take a more strategic approach to industrial policy to be there at the start of the next industrial transformation. Last week, the Deputy First Minister announced his vision of the Welsh economy, with a greater emphasis on value added and commercialising intellectual property. I do not disagree with that, but I need to remind him that, in his first interview as Minister with the *Western Mail* in September 2007, his priority was growing research and development. He said that that was the top priority and that we needed to take a new approach to working with companies to get more involved in research and development. I do not know what happened to that.

Last week, he talked about the impending demise of the grant culture in Wales, but, in March 2008, Andrew Davies said that that was already ending and that we had made significant progress in moving away from a grant culture. So, I am not sure that that indicated any real change of emphasis. However, perhaps the Deputy First Minister will be able to expand on that. Perhaps it is a case of a change of pace rather than a change of emphasis, because it was certainly referred to by Andrew Davies as recently as 18 months ago.

I do not doubt that the Welsh Assembly Government wishes us to be at the start of an industrial transformation, but, again, I come up against the issue of the manufacturing strategy and the total confusion on this issue. I last raised this with the First Minister on 29 September, when he assured me that I would get a reply from the Deputy First Minister. I wondered whether I would get a reply today, so I just slipped up to the office and, sure enough, there it was, delivered an hour ago. It says that:

'the manufacturing forum, an unincorporated partnership body, accepted terms of reference in March 2007'.

That was some two and a half years ago. We

Mae David Rosser, cyfarwyddwr Cydffederasiwn Diwydiant Prydain, wedi dweud bod angen inni ymdrin yn fwy strategol â pholisi diwydiannol er mwyn bod yno ar ddechrau'r gweddnewidiad diwydiannol nesaf. Yr wythnos diwethaf, cyhoeddodd y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ei weledigaeth ar gyfer economi Cymru, gyda mwy o bwyslais ar werth ychwanegol a masnacheiddio eiddo deallusol. Nid wyf yn anghytuno â hynny, ond mae angen imi ei atgoffa mai ei flaenoriaeth, yn ei gyfweliad cyntaf fel Gweinidog gyda'r *Western Mail* ym mis Medi 2007, oedd cynyddu ymchwil a datblygu. Dywedodd mai dyna oedd y flaenoriaeth bennaf a bod angen inni arfer ffordd newydd o weithio gyda chwmnïau er mwyn ymwneud mwy ag ymchwil a datblygu. Ni wn beth a ddigwyddodd i hynny.

Yr wythnos diwethaf dywedodd y byddai'r diwylliant grantiau'n darfod yng Nghymru yn fuan, ond ym mis Mawrth 2008 dywedodd Andrew Davies fod hwnnw eisoes yn darfod a'n bod wedi gwneud cynnydd sylweddol yn symud oddi wrth ddiwylliant grantiau. Felly, nid wyf yn siŵr a oedd hynny'n dynodi unrhyw newid pwyslais gwirioneddol. Fodd bynnag, efallai y gall y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ymhelaethu ar hynny. Efallai mai achos o newid cyflymdra ydyw yn hytrach na newid pwyslais, oherwydd yn sicr cyfeiriwyd ato gan Andrew Davies mor ddiweddar â 18 mis yn ôl.

Nid wyf yn amau nad yw Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru am inni fod yno ar ddechrau gweddnewidiad diwydiannol, ond eto, mae mater y strategaeth gweithgynhyrchu yn codi a'r dryswch llwyr ar y mater hwn. Codais hyn ddiwethaf gyda'r Prif Weinidog ar 29 Medi, pan roddodd sicrwydd imi y byddwn yn cael ateb gan y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog. Yr oeddwn yn dyfalu tybed a gawn i ateb heddiw, felly, yr wyf newydd bicio i'r swyddfa, ac, yn sicr ddigon, yno yr oedd wedi'i ddanfon awr yn ôl. Mae'n dweud:

derbyniodd y fforwm gweithgynhyrchu, sy'n gorff partneriaeth heb ei gorffori, gylch gorchwyl ym mis Mawrth 2007.

Yr oedd hynny tua dwy flynedd a hanner yn

are still waiting for this manufacturing strategy, but we are told that

'it has undertaken some excellent work, but that its task has been protracted by the general economic recession'.

Its task has been made that much more important, and that is why it is so vital that we have this manufacturing strategy. As I read on through the letter, through some of the civil-service-speak, I was hoping that there would be some indication of when this is to be delivered. I came to the last paragraph, written in classic Sir Humphrey style, where the Deputy First Minister says:

'I have asked the forum to review its strategy document in light of economic and other changes and, having agreed an outline mechanism for completion of the strategy, my officials will now agree with the forum the schedule of future delivery milestones'.

I presume that that means 'deadlines'. However, there is still no indication of when this vital document for Welsh manufacturing industry and the Welsh economy will be delivered. I raised this some three weeks ago with the First Minister, as I have done many times before, and he did not know what was happening; it is not particularly evident that the Deputy First Minister knows what is happening, because there is no indication of when we are going to have the strategy, which, as I say, is pretty vital. I see the Deputy First Minister shaking his head; I will happily give way, but I am quoting from his own letter.

That is only part of the problem. We see the problem again with International Business Wales. In April 2006, before the Deputy First Minister became a Minister, in all fairness, the Welsh Assembly Government created IBW. We learned last week that it has some of the United Kingdom's most expensive investment staff, who operate in a silo—

ol. Yr ydym yn dal i ddisgwyl y strategaeth gweithgynhyrchu, ond dywedir wrthym ei fod

wedi gwneud gwaith rhagorol, ond bod ei dasg wedi ei hymestyn oherwydd y dirwasgiad economaidd cyffredinol.

Mae ei dasg wedi dod gymaint â hynny'n bwysicach, a dyna pam y mae mor hanfodol inni gael y strategaeth gweithgynhyrchu hon. Wrth imi ddarllen ymlaen drwy'r llythyr, drwy ieithwedd y gwasanaeth sifil, yr oeddwn yn gobeithio y byddai rhyw arwydd pryd y cai'r strategaeth ei darparu. Deuthum i'r paragraff olaf, wedi'i ysgrifennu yn arddull glasurol Syr Humphrey, lle dywed y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog:

Yr wyf wedi gofyn i'r fforwm adolygu ei strategaeth yng ngoleuni newidiadau economaidd a newidiadau eraill, ac ar ol cytuno ac amlinellu mecanweithiau ar gyfer cwblhau'r strategaeth, bydd fy swyddogion yn awr yn cytuno â'r fforwm ar amserlen o gerrig milltir cyflawni yn y dyfodol.

Yr wyf yn cymryd bod hynny'n golygu 'terfynau amser'. Fodd bynnag, nid oes dim awgrym o hyd pryd y darperir y ddogfen dyngedfennol hon i ddiwydiant gweithgynhyrchu Cymru ac economi Cymru. Codais hyn ryw dair wythnos yn ol gyda'r Prif Weinidog, fel yr wyf wedi'i wneud droeon o'r blaen, ac ni wyddai ef beth oedd yn digwydd; nid yw'n amlwg iawn ychwaith fod y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn gwybod beth sy'n digwydd, oherwydd nid oes dim awgrym pryd y cawn ni'r strategaeth, sydd, fel y dywedaf, yn bur dyngedfennol. Gwelaf y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn ysgwyd ei ben; ildiaf yn llawen, ond yr wyf yn dyfynnu o'i lythyr ef ei hun.

Dim ond rhan o'r broblem yw hynny. Gwelwn y broblem eto gyda Busnes Rhyngwladol Cymru. Ym mis Ebrill 2006, cyn i'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ddod yn Weinidog, i fod yn deg, creodd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru Fusnes Rhyngwladol Cymru. Clywsom yr wythnos diwethaf fod ganddo rai o'r staff buddsoddi mwyaf costus yn y Deyrnas Unedig, sy'n gweithredu mewn seilo—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Can you wind up, please?

Nick Bourne: Among the UK nations and regions, it brought the fewest projects in during 2008-09. Those are the key challenges that we have to face. There is particularly a need for the manufacturing strategy and some business rate relief, as mentioned by David Melding.

Jeff Cuthbert: Thank you for the opportunity to speak during this important discussion. I know that I speak for all of us in the Chamber when I say that I regret most bitterly the recent rise in unemployment in Wales, but I warmly welcome the Assembly Government's amendment to the Conservative motion, which sets out to remind the opposition of the huge amount of work that we have been doing to mitigate the effects of the recession. I place special emphasis on the use of European structural funds. Again, as usual, I declare an interest in that I am chair of the all-Wales programme monitoring committee.

Since the onset of recession, the Welsh Assembly Government has worked hard to put in place a range of countercyclical initiatives to help Wales stave off the worst effects. Many of these initiatives have drawn down from European funds. As has been mentioned, they include the highly successful ProAct scheme, a £48 million scheme that aims to help up to 12,000 people experiencing short-term working and learning new skills. So far, 129 companies across Wales have been approved for ProAct assistance. It is estimated, as David Melding indicated, that around 7,000 people have been helped to stay in their jobs while strengthening their skills. Meanwhile, ReAct has helped over 9,000 of the already unemployed or those under threat of redundancy to learn new skills. Furthermore, European funded programmes such as SkillBuild are making available over 7,500 extra places for training. It needs to be borne in mind, of course, that the programmes under the European structural funds are meant, in the main for the medium to longer term; they were not designed as short-term measures. Nevertheless, through innovative

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. A wnewch chi ddirwyn i ben, os gwelwch yn dda?

Nick Bourne: Ymysg gwledydd a rhanbarthau'r DU, hwnnw a ddenodd y nifer lleiaf o brosiectau yn ystod 2008-09. Dyna'r heriau allweddol y mae'n rhaid inni eu hwynebu. Mae angen arbennig am y strategaeth gweithgynhyrchu ac am rywfaint o ryddhad ardrethi busnes, fel y crybwylloedd David Melding.

Jeff Cuthbert: Diolch am y cyfle i siarad yn ystod y ddadl bwysig hon. Gwn fy mod yn siarad ar ran pawb ohonom yn y Siambra pan ddywedaf fod y cynnydd yn ddiweddar mewn diweithdra yng Nghymru yn destun gofid dirfawr imi, ond yr wyf yn croesawu'n fawr welliant Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i gynnig y Ceidwadwyr, sy'n mynd ati i atgoffa'r wrthblaidd o'r holl waith yr ydym wedi bod yn ei wneud i liniau effeithiau'r dirwasgiad. Pwysleisiaf yn arbennig ddefnyddio gronfeydd strwythurol Ewrop. Eto, fel arfer, datganaf ddiddordeb gan mai fi yw cadeirydd pwylgor monitro rhaglen Cymru gyfan.

Ers dechrau'r dirwasgiad, mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi gweithio'n galed i sefydlu nifer o gynlluniau gwrthgylchol i helpu Cymru i osgoi'r effeithiau gwaethaf. Mae nifer o'r cynlluniau hyn wedi tynnu arian i lawr o gronfeydd Ewropeaidd. Fel sydd wedi ei grybwyl, maent yn cynnwys cynllun hynod lwyddiannus ProAct, cynllun gwerth £48 miliwn sy'n ceisio helpu hyd at 12,000 o bobl sy'n gorfol gweithio oriau byr ac yn dysgu sgiliau newydd. Hyd yma, mae 129 o gwmniau ar draws Cymru wedi cael eu cymeradwyo ar gyfer cymorth ProAct. Amcangyfrifir, fel y nododd David Melding, fod tua 7,000 o bobl wedi cael cymorth i aros yn eu swyddi tra maent, ar yr un pryd, yn cryfhau eu sgiliau. Yn y cyfamser, mae ReAct wedi helpu dros 9,000 o'r rheini sydd eisoes yn ddi-waith neu dan fygythiad o golli eu swyddi er mwyn dysgu sgiliau newydd. Hefyd, mae rhaglenni fel Adeiladu Sgiliau, sy'n cael nawdd Ewropeaidd, yn darparu dros 7,500 o leoedd hyfforddi ychwanegol. Rhaid cofio, wrth gwrs, fod y rhaglenni dan gronfeydd strwythurol Ewrop wedi eu bwriadu, yn bennaf, ar gyfer y tymor canolig i hir; ni fwriadwyd hwy fel mesurau tymor

work, schemes like ProAct and ReAct were developed as a reaction to the immediate situation.

Therefore, you can see that we are tackling the issue of unemployment in Wales as part of a wider, holistic set of initiatives aimed at pulling us out of recession. We are looking at unemployment from three angles: from the preventative angle, with schemes like ProAct; from the reactive angle, with the aptly named ReAct scheme; and from a more long-term, skills-based angle with programmes like SkillBuild. All of them look at the core issues of preparing and upskilling our workforce, so that when we recover we will be ready for the new economy of the future. These initiatives rightly dovetail well with the European Union's Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas on jobs and skills, to which we are fully signed up, and commit us to these objectives. I have made the point in earlier speeches, but I will do so again: European structural funds will not pull us out of the recession, but they form part of the solution and will certainly help to combat the worst effects.

One of the most unfortunate side effects of the recession has been the rise in unemployment. However, we can rest assured that we in Wales are doing what we can, in terms of short-term and long-term measures, to pull ourselves through it. We have repeated the mistakes of the 1930s, and never again will we see almost an entire generation cast aside, as we did in the 1980s and early 1990s, when unemployment was deemed a price worth paying in order to bring down inflation and public spending. There is still a long way to go, but the partnership approach adopted between Wales and Europe, involving the intelligent use of structural funds, will help us to get where we want to go.

Alun Cairns: I am grateful to Jeff Cuthbert for giving way. Unemployment is now at 9.1 per cent. Is that a price worth paying for the debt that we have now?

Jeff Cuthbert: No. I would never argue that

byr. Serch hynny, drwy waith arloesol, cafodd cynlluniau fel ProAct a ReAct eu datblygu i ymateb i'r sefyllfa ar unwaith.

Felly, gwelwch ein bod yn mynd i'r afael â mater diweithdra yng Nghymru fel rhan o set gyfannol, ehangach o gynlluniau a fwriedir i'n tynnu allan o ddirwasgiad. Yr ydym yn edrych ar ddiweithdra o dri safbwyt: o'r safbwyt ataliol, gyda chynlluniau fel ProAct; o'r safbwyt ymateb, gyda chynllun ReAct, sydd ag enw priodol iawn; ac o safbwyt tymor hwy, wedi'i seilio'n fwy ar sgiliau, gyda rhaglenni fel Adeiladu Sgiliau. Maent i gyd yn edrych ar faterion craidd paratoi ac uwchsgilio ein gweithlu, fel y byddwn yn barod, ar ôl dod drwy'r dirwasgiad, ar gyfer economi newydd y dyfodol. Fel sy'n briodol, mae'r cynlluniau hyn yn asio'n dda ag agendâu Lisbon a Gothenburg yr Undeb Ewropeaidd ar swyddi a sgiliau yr ydym wedi ymrwymo'n llwyr iddynt. Yr wyf wedi gwneud y pwynt mewn areithiau cynharach, ond gwnaf hynny eto: ni fydd cronfeydd strwythurol Ewrop yn ein tynnu o'r dirwasgiad, ond y maent yn rhan o'r ateb, a byddant yn sicr yn help i wrthsefyll yr effeithiau gwaethaf.

Y cynnydd mewn diweithdra yw un o sgilfeffeithiau mwyaf anffodus y dirwasgiad. Fodd bynnag, gallwn fod yn dawel ein meddyliau ein bod ni yng Nghymru yn gwneud yr hyn a allwn, o ran mesurau tymor byr a thymor hir, i dynnu'n hunain drwyddo. Yr ydym wedi ailadrodd camgymeriadau'r 1930au, ac ni fyddwn byth eto'n gweld cenhedlaeth gyfan bron yn cael ei bwrw o'i neilltu, fel y gwnelsom yn y 1980au a'r 1990au cynnar, pan oedd diweithdra'n cael ei ystyried yn bris gwerth ei dalu er mwyn gostwng chwyddiant a gwariant cyhoeddus. Mae ffordd bell i fynd eto, ond bydd y dull gweithredu drwy bartneriaeth a fabwysiadwyd rhwng Cymru ac Ewrop, sy'n golygu defnyddio cronfeydd strwythurol yn ddeallus, yn help inni gyrraedd y man lle'r ydym am fod.

Alun Cairns: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i Jeff Cuthbert am ildio. Mae diweithdra yn 9.1 y cant yn awr. A yw hynny'n bris gwerth ei dalu am y ddyled sydd gennym yn awr?

Jeff Cuthbert: Nac ydyw. Ni fyddwn byth

it is a price worth paying. That was the argument of your party.

Compare the attitude of this Government with the previous UK Tory Government, when unemployment was at least as high in Wales and when it did not have the global recession as an excuse. It used unemployment as a weapon to attack trade unions and to drive down living standards. That is the difference between our approach and the Tory approach.

4.40 p.m.

Nick Ramsay: We shall go back to reality, I feel—[*Interruption.*]

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. We do not want any sedentary interventions. Nick Ramsay, would you like to start? You have not been able to get two sentences out yet.

Nick Ramsay: Was that an intervention?

The Deputy Presiding Officer: No, you are starting your contribution, I hope.

Nick Ramsay: I am pleased to contribute to the debate and to support our motion, while rejecting the Government's amendment 1, although, as Alun Cairns said earlier, in his opening contribution, certain parts of the amendment would have been helpful had they not been couched in the way that they have. I have problems with part (b) of the amendment in particular, which mentions

'the way in which the Assembly Government is maximising the use of European structural funds'.

There is no doubt in my mind that those European structural funds have not been maximised, which is one reason why we are rejecting that amendment.

This debate has been made necessary by the recent publication of the Massey report on International Business Wales, and specifically by the appalling settlement that

yn dadlau ei fod yn bris gwerth ei dalu. Dadl eich plaid chi oedd honno.

Cymharwch agwedd y Llywodraeth hon ag agwedd Llywodraeth Doriaid flaenorol y DU, pan oedd diweithdra cyn uched o leiaf yng Nghymru â phan nad oedd ganddi ddirwasgiad byd-eang yn esgus. Defnyddiodd ddiweithdra fel arf i ymosod ar yr undebau llafur ac i ostwng safonau byw. Dyna'r gwahaniaeth rhwng ein ffordd ni o weithredu a ffordd y Torïaid.

Nick Ramsay: Awn yn ôl at realiti, teimlaf—[*Torri ar draws.*]

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Nid ydym am gael dim ymyriadau gan Aelodau sydd ar eu heistedd. Nick Ramsay, hoffech chi ddechrau? Nid ydych wedi gallu dweud dwy frawddeg eto.

Nick Ramsay: Ai ymyriad oedd hwnnw?

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Nage, yr ydych yn dechrau eich cyfraniad, gobeithio.

Nick Ramsay: Yr wyf yn falch cyfrannu at y ddadl a chefnogi ein cynnig, gan wrthod gwelliant 1 gan y Llywodraeth, er y byddai rhai rhannau o'r gwelliant, fel y dywedodd Alun Cairns yn gynharach yn ei gyfraniad agoriadol, wedi bod yn fuddiol pe na baent wedi eu mynegi fel y maent. Yr wyf yn anhapus â rhan (b) yn y gwelliant yn arbennig, sy'n crybwyl

'y ffordd y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn defnyddio cronfeydd strwythurol Ewrop i'r eithaf er mwyn mynd i'r afael â heriau'r dirwasgiad'.

Nid oes amheuaeth yn fy meddwl nad yw'r cronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd hynny wedi eu defnyddio i'r eithaf, a dyna un rheswm pam yr ydym yn gwrthod y gwelliant hwnnw.

Bu'n rhaid cynnal y ddadl hon yn sgil cyhoeddi adroddiad Massey ar Fusnes Rhyngwladol Cymru yn ddiweddar, ac yn arbennig oherwydd y setliad ofnadwy y mae

the Government's draft budget represents for our economy and for all those who deliver local services across Wales. The unemployment figures for June and August represent the highest quarterly rise in unemployment that we have seen. What began as a banking crisis, and the failure of banking regulation, has now turned into what is a personal tragedy for many families.

I am taking a cautious view of the recession—I am an optimist by nature—but I am sure that we have not yet seen the end of it. I hope that the worst is behind us, but I fear that, when the recovery starts, it is likely to be long and arduous. To my mind, there is still far too much household, corporate and consumer debt, which will be affected by the rise in unemployment that we will see as we move towards the end of the year.

The next Assembly Government will be elected against a backdrop of a very poor recovery, and lives will still be dominated by the mercies of the situation that we are now in. Unemployment levels will probably continue to be a major issue in the political debate and landscape here for a long time to come.

I agree with one of Jeff Cuthbert's earlier comments, namely that this is taking place against the background of a global and a UK-wide situation; no-one denies that. Clearly, the Assembly Government is paying the price for Labour mismanagement, on a macro scale, at the UK level. We would not want lay all the blame at the door of the First Minister nor, indeed, of the Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery.

The Government has to come up with a credible programme to get back to a sustainable level of growth in the long term; that is the way in which we deal with the issue of unemployment. So far, that has failed to happen. Some schemes have been brought forward, such as the mortgage rescue scheme and the capital for enterprise fund, but, in many cases, their uptake has been poor. Furthermore, the guarantee for asset-backed securities has not even been active, has it?

cyllideb ddrafft y Llywodraeth yn ei gynrychioli i'n heonomi ac i bawb sy'n darparu gwasanaethau lleol ar draws Cymru. Mae ffigurau diweithdra Mehefin ac Awst yn dangos y cynnydd chwarterol uchaf mewn diweithdra a welwyd gennym. Mae'r hyn a ddechreuodd fel argyfwng bancio, a methiant i reoleiddio bancio, wedi troi erbyn hyn yn drasiedi bersonol i nifer o deuluoedd.

Yr wyf yn wyliadwrus ynglŷn â'r dirwasgiad—yr wyf yn optimist yn ôl fy natur—ond yr wyf yn siŵr nad ydym wedi gweld ei ddiwedd eto. Gobeithio bod y gwaethaf y tu cefn inni, ond ofnaf, pan fydd yr adfywiad yn dechrau, ei fod yn debygol o fod yn hir ac yn galed. I'm meddwl i, mae llawer gormod o ddyledion gan aelwydydd, corfforaethau a defnyddwyr o hyd, a bydd y cynnydd mewn diweithdra a welwn wrth inni symud tuag at ddiwedd y flwyddyn yn effeithio ar hynny.

Caiff Llywodraeth nesaf y Cynulliad ei hethol gydag adferiad gwan iawn yn gefnlen, a bydd troeon y sefyllfa yr ydym yn ddi'n awr yn dal i dra-arglyddiaethu ar fywydau. Mae'n debyg y bydd lefelau diweithdra'n dal yn fater o bwys yn y ddadl a'r dirwedd wleidyddol yma am amser hir i ddod.

Cytunaf ag un o sylwadau cynharaf Jeff Cuthbert, sef bod hyn yn digwydd mewn cefndir o anawsterau ar draws y byd a'r DU; nid oes neb yn gwadu hynny. Yn amlwg, mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn talu'r pris am gamreoli Llafur, ar raddfa facro, ar lefel y DU. Ni fyddem am fwrw'r bai i gyd ar Brif Weinidog Cymru nac, yn wir, ar y Gweinidog dros Gyllid a Chyflenwi Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus.

Rhaid i'r Llywodraeth gynnig rhaglen gredadwy i ailsefydlu lefel gynaliadwy o dwf yn y tymor hir; dyna'r ffordd y ddelio â mater diweithdra. Hyd yma, nid yw hynny wedi digwydd. Mae rhai cyflumiau wedi eu cyflwyno, megis y cynllun achub morgeisi a'r gronfa cyfalaf menter, ond mewn nifer o achosion prin yw'r rhai sydd wedi manteisio ar y cynlluniau hyn. At hynny, nid yw'r warant ar gyfer gwarannau'n seiliedig ar asedau hyd yn oed wedi bod ar waith, nac ydyw?

Most importantly, at the UK level, we are still waiting for a comprehensive spending review. Delays at that level are clearly not helping the Government here. Nick Bourne, in his contribution, mentioned the tax environment; that is vital if we are to deal with the problem of unemployment. I look forward to hearing what the Deputy First Minister has to say on this issue. We need to avoid tax rises through business rates. That is why my party has said that we would exempt firms with a rateable value of up to £10,000, and firms with a value of £10,000 to £15,000 would also get a cut. A similar scheme has been operating successfully in Scotland, and we believe that it would help approximately 90,000 small and medium-sized businesses in Wales. Sadly, the relevant action has not been taken yet.

Plaid Cymru named business-rate relief as one of its seven promises for the last election, but it seems to have gone quiet on that over recent months. That has prolonged one of the worst taxes—if not the worst tax—during a recession, especially for the retail sector, which cannot, it seems, get the necessary support from the Assembly Government. If we look across Wales, looking at Merthyr Tydfil's high street, 84 per cent of all businesses could face an average business rate increase of 16 per cent, which is an average of £1,500 per businesses.

Gareth Jones: Will you give way?

Nick Ramsay: I will finish this point and then I will take an intervention.

Closer to home, in Cowbridge Road East, only one firm out of 390 is safe from a business rate increase; the others face an average increase of 25 per cent, or around £1,500 per business. We are clearly not helping unemployment by persisting with this taxation agenda.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Sorry, you cannot take an intervention as you have run out of time.

Yn fwyaf pwysig, ar lefel y DU, yr ydym yn dal i ddisgwyl am adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant. Mae'n amwlg nad yw'r oedi ar y lefel honno'n helpu'r Llywodraeth yma. Yn ei gyfraniad ef, soniodd Nick Bourne am yr amgylchedd trethi; mae hynny'n dyngedfennol os ydym i ddelio â phroblem diweithdra. Edrychaf ymlaen at glywed yr hyn sydd gan y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog i'w ddweud ar y mater hwn. Mae angen inni osgoi codiadau treth drwy ardrethi busnes. Dyna pam y mae fy mhlaid i wedi dweud y byddem yn eithrio cwmniau sydd â gwerth ardrethol o hyd at £10,000, a byddai cwmniau sydd â gwerth o £10,000 i £15,000 hefyd yn cael gostyngiad. Mae cynllun tebyg wedi bod yn gweithredu'n llwyddiannus yn yr Alban, a chredwn y byddai'n helpu oddeutu 90,000 o fusnesau bach a chanolig eu maint yng Nghymru. Yn anffodus, nid yw'r cam perthnasol wedi ei gymryd eto.

Enwodd Plaid Cymru ryddhad ardrethi busnes fel un o'i saith addewid ar gyfer yr etholiad diwethaf, ond yn ôl pob tebyg mae wedi mynd yn dawel ynglŷn â hynny dros y misoedd diwethaf. Mae hynny wedi ymestyn un o'r trethi gwaethaf—os nad y dreth waethaf—yn ystod dirwasgiad, yn arbennig i'r sector manwerthu, nad yw, yn ôl pob tebyg, yn gallu cael y gefnogaeth angenrheidiol gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad. Os edrychwn ar draws Cymru, ac edrych ar stryd fawr Merthyr Tudful, gallai 84 y cant o'r holl fusnesau wynebu cynnydd o 16 y cant ar gyfartaledd yn eu hardrethi busnes, sy'n gyfartaledd o £1,500 y busnes.

Gareth Jones: A wnewch chi ildio?

Nick Ramsay: Gorffennaf y pwynt hwn yna cymeraf ymyriad.

Yn nes adref, yn Heol y Bont-faen, un cwmni'n unig allan o 390 sy'n saff rhag cynnydd yn yr ardrethi busnes; mae'r lleill yn wynebu cynnydd o 25 y cant ar gyfartaledd, neu oddeutu £1,500 y busnes. Yn amlwg, nid ydym yn helpu diweithdra drwy ddyfalbarhau â'r agenda drethu hon.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Mae'n ddrwg gennyf, ni chewch gymryd ymyriad gan eich bod wedi rhedeg allan o amser.

Jenny Randerson: The Welsh Liberal Democrats will support the Conservatives' motion. We will oppose the Government's amendment, because we have a particular issue with points (b) and (c).

The Welsh Assembly Government has been remarkably slow in relation to European funding and therefore one can hardly congratulate it on it. Point (c) in the amendment refers to the change of direction and economic policy announced last week. Forgive me for being sceptical, but it occurred 24 hours before the bad news about International Business Wales was announced. It took 27 months for the Labour-Plaid coalition to come to the conclusion that the rest of us came to a long time ago: the direction of economic policy was not working.

I have great concern about the complacency that the Government exhibits on occasion. When the unemployment rate went down very slightly over the summer, we had a press release in which the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister were quoted and which said that the Government had acted swiftly and decisively and in which they congratulated themselves. Unsurprisingly, when the jobless figures shot up during the last three months, only an Assembly Government spokesperson was available to respond and to issue some excuses.

Since the figures that have given rise to today's motion were announced last week, we have heard not only of additional job losses, but of the potential loss of another 900 jobs at Bosch. The bad news is queuing up.

It causes me great sadness, as a fervent devolutionist, that, in the last 10 years, the Welsh economy has, relatively, become poorer and performed less well than the rest of the UK. I would like to be able to tell a really good news story and say that devolution has had a major impact on the state of the Welsh economy.

Alun Davies: Jenny, can you explain to us all how scrapping investment in St Athan will

Jenny Randerson: Bydd Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn cefnogi cynnig y Ceidwadwyr. Byddwn yn gwrrthwynebu gwelliant y Llywodraeth, gan ein bod yn anhapus yn arbennig am bwyntiau (b) ac (c).

Bu Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn eithriadol o araf mewn perthynas â chyllid Ewropeaidd, ac felly prin y gellir ei llonyfarch ar hynny. Mae pwynt (c) yn y gwelliant yn cyfeirio at y newid cyfeiriad a pholisi economaidd a gyhoeddwyd yr wythnos diwethaf. Maddeuwrch imi am fod mor amheugar, ond digwyddodd 24 awr cyn i'r newyddion drwg am Fusnes Rhwngwladol Cymru gael ei gyhoeddi. Cymerodd 27 mis i glymlaid Llafur-Plaid ddod i'r casgliad y daeth y gweddill ohonom iddo ymhell yn ôl: nid oedd cyfeiriad y polisi economaidd yn gweithio.

Yr wyf yn bryderus iawn ynglŷn â hunanfoddhad ymddangosiadol y Llywodraeth ar adegau. Pan ostyngodd y gyfradd ddiweithdra ryw fymryn bach dros yr haf, cawsom ddatganiad i'r wasg lle'r oedd y Prif Weinidog a'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn cael eu dyfynnu, yn dweud bod y Llywodraeth wedi gweithredu'n gyflym a chyda phendantrwydd ac yn eu llonyfarch eu hunain. Pan saethodd y ffigurau diweithdra i fyny dros y tri mis diwethaf, nid yw'n syndod mai llefarydd yn unig oedd ar gael ar ran Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i ymateb ac i gynnig rhai esgusodion.

Ers i'r ffigurau a arweiniodd at y cynnig heddiw gael eu cyhoeddi yr wythnos diwethaf, yr ydym wedi clywed nid yn unig am golli swyddi pellach, ond am bosiblirwydd colli 900 o swyddi eto yn Bosch. Mae'r newyddion drwg yn pentyrru.

Mae'n destun tristwch mawr i mi, fel datganolwr brwd, fod economi Cymru, dros y 10 mlynedd diwethaf, wedi mynd yn dlotach ac wedi perfformio'n waeth, yn gymharol, na gweddill y DU. Hoffwn allu adrodd stori am newyddion gwirioneddol dda a dweud bod datganoli wedi cael effaith fawr ar gyflwr economi Cymru.

Alun Davies: Jenny, a allwch egluro wrthym i gyd sut y bydd rhoi'r gorau i fuddsoddi yn

help to reduce unemployment in Wales?

Jenny Randerson: I assure you that I am certainly not planning to scrap investment in St Athan. I remain a strong supporter of that.

If we look at the figures announced last week, we see that, with 9.1 per cent unemployment, we are the third worst performing region of the UK. The really startling figure is that, of the additional unemployment figures announced last week, the Welsh contribution was more than a quarter of the total. I do not need to point out to you that, pro rata, that figure should have been only 5 per cent.

We then had the very bad news about IBW. The report referred to it working in a silo, which is not good if you are trying to spread the word across the world about Wales being a place to invest in. It said that there was low international recognition of the organisation, that it was ineffective and costly, and we also know that it was spendthrift. One has to regret the decision made by the previous Government to bring the Welsh Development Agency in-house, because, whatever might have been wrong with the WDA, it could have put it right within the existing structure and brand, which was well-known throughout the world.

We need, Deputy First Minister, for you to bring forward your manufacturing strategy rapidly and we need you to prioritise sectors. We do not need the kind of prioritisation that there has been up until now, which has taken a scatter-gun approach in prioritising practically everything. You need to make hard choices. There is considerable irony in the fact that the higher education budget is being cut at a time when the Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport has announced that he is going to prioritise research and high-value-added jobs. How you are going to square that circle, I do not know.

4.50 p.m.

Not only was it a disappointing and difficult

Sain Tathan yn helpu gostwng lefelau diweithdra yng Nghymru?

Jenny Randerson: Fe’ch sicrhaf nad wyf yn bendant yn bwriadu rhoi’r gorau i fuddsoddi yn Sain Tathan. Yr wyf yn dal i gefnogi hynny’n frwd.

Os edrychwn ar y ffigurau a gyhoeddwyd yr wythnos diwethaf, gwelwn mai ni, gyda 9.1 y cant o ddiweithdra, yw’r trydydd rhanbarth gwaethaf yn y DU. Y ffigur gwirioneddol frawychus yw bod cyfraniad Cymru, yn y ffigurau diweithdra ychwanegol a gyhoeddwyd yr wythnos diwethaf, yn fwy na chwarter y cyfanswm. Nid oes angen imi dynnu eich sylw at y ffaith y dylasai’r ffigur hwnnw, pro rata, fod yn ddim ond 5 y cant.

Yna cawsom y newyddion drwg iawn am Fusnes Cymru Rhyngwladol. Dywedai’r adroddiad ei fod yn gweithio mewn seilo, nad yw’n beth da os ydych yn ceisio lledaenu’r gair ar draws y byd am Gymru fel lle i fuddsoddi. Dywedai fod yr adnabyddiaeth ryngwladol o’r sefydliad yn isel, ei fod yn aneffeithiol a chostus, a gwyddom hefyd ei fod yn afradus. Rhaid inni resynu at benderfyniad y Llywodraeth flaenorol i ddod ag Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru dan adain y Cynulliad, oherwydd, beth bynnag a oedd o’i le efallai ar yr Awdurdod Datblygu, gellid bod wedi’i unioni o fewn y strwythur a’r brand a oedd yn bodoli ac a oedd yn adnabyddus ledled y byd.

Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog, mae angen ichi ddod â’ch strategaeth gweithgynhyrchu gerbron ar fyrdar, ac y mae angen ichi flaenoriaethu sectorau. Nid oes arnom angen y math o flaenoriaethu a fu hyd yma, sydd wedi bod fel saethu â dryll pelets a blaenoriaethu popeth bron. Mae angen ichi wneud dewisiadau anodd. Mae cryn eironi yn y ffaith fod y gyllideb addysg uwch yn cael ei thorri ar adeg pan yw’r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a’r Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth wedi cyhoeddi ei fod yn mynd i roi blaenoriaeth i ymchwil a swyddi gyda gwerth ychwanegol uchel. Sut y byddwch yn sgwario’r cylch hwnnw, wn i ddim.

Nid yn unig yr oedd yn gyhoeddiad siomedig

announcement because of the budget cuts, but I also wonder how tangible the change of direction is. When I questioned the First Minister about it, he said, 'Oh it will take a year or two'. Therefore, it has turned out to be not a u-turn but more of a slow lane change on economic development policy. We are not going to get to grips with the problem unless we have a tangible and immediate change of direction.

Darren Millar: I will keep my remarks brief, given what has been excellently articulated already by my colleague, David Melding. It is of great concern that Wales is still languishing at the bottom of the pile in terms of unemployment compared with the rest of the United Kingdom and that we suffered this huge percentage increase in unemployment over the past quarter. More than 45,000 people have been added to the unemployment list over the past 12 months, and there is a jobless tally of 130,000, which continues to rise unabated. I am also concerned about the lack of a manufacturing strategy and the fact that, on top of that, the green jobs strategy has still not been implemented fully in Wales. You are nodding, Deputy First Minister, but it has not been implemented, and it does not seem to be making much of a difference—certainly not in my constituency.

You have been quick to list in your amendments your five points of action, but the proof of the pudding is in the eating. In Wales, there is 9.1 per cent unemployment, and that is the worst figure for any nation in the United Kingdom.

The Deputy First Minister: Do you think it appropriate for an opposition party to put forward a negative motion and not to offer any proposals for the future whatsoever? At least we have put forward five proposals, and I do not believe that I have heard anyone disagree with any of them yet.

Darren Millar: David Melding articulated very well our positive proposals for dealing with the unemployment problem. If you were not listening, that is up to you. Perhaps you should pay more attention at the start of our debates in future.

ac anodd oherwydd y toriadau yn y gyllideb, ond ys gwn i hefyd pa mor sylweddol yw'r newid cyfeiriad. Pan holaïs y Prif Weinidog am hynny, dywedodd, 'O, fe gymer flwyddyn neu ddwy'. Felly, gwelwn erbyn hyn nad tro pedol mohono, ond rhyw newid lôn araf o ran polisi datblygu economaidd. Nid awn i'r afael â'r broblem oni chawn newid cyfeiriad sylweddol, a hynny ar unwaith.

Darren Millar: Cadwaf fy sylwadau'n fyr, o ystyried yr hyn sydd eisoes wedi ei fynegi'n rhagorol gan fy nghyd-Aelod, David Melding. Mae'n destun pryder mawr fod Cymru'n dal i ddihoeni ar waelod y pentwr o safbwyt diweithdra, o'i chymharu â gweddill y Deyrnas Unedig, a'n bod wedi dioddef y cynydd canrannol enfawr hwn mewn diweithdra dros y chwarter diwethaf. Mae dros 45,000 o bobl wedi eu hychwanegu at y rhestr ddiweithdra dros y 12 mis diwethaf, ac mae cyfanswm o 130,000 o bobl yn ddi-waith, a'r nifer yn dal i gynyddu ddi-baid. Yr wyf yn bryderus hefyd ynglŷn â'r diffyg strategaeth ar weithgynhyrchu a'r ffaith, at hynny, nad yw'r strategaeth ar swyddi gwyrdd wedi ei gweithredu'n llawn eto yng Nghymru. Yr ydych yn amneidio, Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog, ond nid yw wedi ei gweithredu, ac nid yw'n ymddangos ei bod yn gwneud llawer o wahaniaeth—yn sicr nid yn fy etholaeth i.

Yr ydych yn gyflym wedi rhestru eich pum pwyt gweithredu yn eich gwelliannau, ond wrth ei flas y mae profi pwdin. Yng Nghymru mae diweithdra o 9.1 y cant, a dyna'r ffigur gwaethaf i unrhyw wlad yn y Deyrnas Unedig.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: A ydych yn meddwl ei bod yn briodol i wrthblaid gyflwyno cynnig negyddol heb roi dim cynigion gerbron o gwbl ynglŷn â'r dyfodol? O leiaf yr ydym wedi cyflwyno pum cynnig, ac ni chredaf imi glywed neb yn anghytuno â'r un ohonynt eto.

Darren Millar: Mynegodd David Melding yn dda iawn ein cynigion positif i ddelio â phroblem diweithdra. Os nad oeddech yn gwrando, mater i chi oedd hynny. Efallai y dylech roi mwy o sylw ar ddechrau ein dadleuon yn y dyfodol.

I am concerned about the individuals and families affected by this unemployment. The statistic for Wales is depressing. Factories, such as the Hotpoint factory in Bodelwyddan and the Anglesey Aluminium Metal Ltd factory in your constituency, are shutting their doors and laying people off. The fall-out is significant. There can be a domino effect on surrounding businesses and supply chains, and that must be kept in check.

However, it is not just happening to the larger employers; the smaller scale redundancies and the individual job losses throughout Wales soon add up. More needs to be done to enhance the prospects of those who find themselves out of work. That is why it seems even more ridiculous that the UK Labour Government was so determined to close Welsh jobcentres recently. The total closed in Wales now stands at around 50. I and other Members have seen the problems that that has caused in our constituencies. I hope that you will mention this in your response to the debate, Deputy First Minister. My office, for example, has seen an increase in the number of constituent complaints about access to Jobcentre Plus services and the quality of the services that Jobcentre Plus offers.

Bethan Jenkins: Many of the problems that you highlight are within the powers of the Westminster Government to address. The Deputy First Minister is doing everything in his power to change the situation. Do you not believe therefore that we need a referendum on more powers to ensure that we can make these decisions in Wales?

Darren Millar: I do believe that we need a referendum. Perhaps we will hear, in the Deputy First Minister's response, about the partnership approach that, hopefully, he has taken in working with the UK Government to solve the disastrous problems in the Welsh economy. I also hope that he will address the pressures on the Jobcentre Plus network.

The other point that I would like to raise,

Yr wyf yn bryderus ynglŷn â'r unigolion a'r teuluedd y bydd y diweithdra hwn yn effeithio arnynt. Mae'r ystadegau am Gymru yn rhai digalon. Mae ffatrioedd, fel Hotpoint ym Modelwyddan a ffatri Alwminiwm Môn yn eich etholaeth chi, yn cau eu drysau ac yn diswyddo pobl. Mae'r effeithiau'n sylwedol. Gall fod effaith ddomino ar fusnesau cyfagos a chadwyni cyflenwi, a rhaid cadw rheolaeth ar hynny.

Fodd bynnag, nid i'r cyflogwyr mawr yn unig y mae'n digwydd; buan y mae'r diswyddiadau ar raddfa lai a'r colli swyddi unigol ledled Cymru yn mynd yn gyfanswm sylwedol. Mae angen gwneud rhagor i wella rhagolygon y rhai sy'n eu cael eu hunain heb waith. Dyna pam y mae'n ymddangos yn fwy chwerthinllyd fyth fod Llywodraeth Lafur y DU mor benderfynol o gau canolfannau gwaith Cymru yn ddiweddar. Mae'r cyfanswm a gaewyd yng Nghymru oddeutu 50 erbyn hyn. Yr wyf fi ac Aelodau eraill wedi gweld y problemau a achosodd hynny yn ein hetholaethau. Gobeithio y soniwr am hyn yn eich ymateb i'r ddadl, Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog. Mae fy swyddfa i, er enghraifft, wedi gweld cynnydd yn nifer y cwynion gan etholwyr am allu cael gwasanaethau Canolfan Byd Gwaith ac ansawdd y gwasanaethau y mae Canolfan Byd Gwaith yn eu cynnig.

Bethan Jenkins: Mae nifer nifer o'r problemau yr ydych yn tynnu sylw atynt o fewn pwerau Llywodraeth San Steffan i ymdrin â hwy. Mae'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn gwneud popeth yn ei allu i newid y sefyllfa. Onid ydych yn credu, felly, fod arnom angen refferendwm ar bwerau ychwanegol i sicrhau y gallwn wneud y penderfyniadau hyn yng Nghymru?

Darren Millar: Yr wyf yn credu bod arnom angen refferendwm. Efallai y clywn ni, yn ymateb y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog, am y dull partneriaeth y mae, gobeithio, wedi'i fabwysiadu wrth weithio gyda Llywodraeth y DU i ddatrys y problemau trychinebus yn economi Cymru. Gobeithio hefyd y bydd yn ymdrin â'r pwysau sydd ar y rhwydwaith Canolfan Byd Gwaith.

Y pwynt arall yr hoffwn ei godi, cyn gorffen

before I bring my speech to a close, is the difficulty with the forthcoming rise in business rates. We have mentioned it in our contributions on this side of the Chamber before. It will create huge problems for businesses in Wales. Just as closing job centres during a period of increasing unemployment does not make sense, hiking business rates during these very difficult and challenging economic times is totally inappropriate. Many businesses in my constituency have made representations to me regarding the revaluation exercise and the risk to their businesses. They tell me that their businesses are going to become unviable if business rates increase in line with the proposals that they have seen so far.

Here is another positive proposal for you, Deputy First Minister. We have proposed an exemption for firms with a rateable value of up to £10,000 and a 20 per cent cut for those with a rateable value of between £10,000 and £15,000. I think that it is about time that you gave our proposals some serious and careful consideration. If nothing else, if you put the introduction of this revaluation on hold—I will take an intervention just before I finish.

Alun Cairns: To give credit to the Enterprise and Learning Committee, it took on the proposal from the Welsh Conservatives about a manufacturing strategy. That committee is chaired by a Plaid Cymru Member. The committee enthusiastically recognised the contribution that a manufacturing strategy could make. Do you not think that it is sad that the Welsh Assembly Government and the leader of Plaid Cymru have not looked at it with the same enthusiasm?

Darren Millar: I certainly do think that it is very sad. I also think that, effectively, this revaluation of business rates will be like tying together the shoelaces of many businesses across our country that are struggling through this economic downturn. I urge Members to support the motion.

Gareth Jones: Nid oes gwadu'r ffaith fod yr ystadegau diweddaraf ar ddiweithdra yng Nghymru yn siomedig tu hwnt: mae 9.1 y cant o'r gweithlu bellach yn ddi-waith, sydd gyda'r gwaethaf yn y Deyrnas Unedig. Mae'n amlwg mai diffyg rheolaeth effeithiol

fy arai, yw'r anhawster gyda'r cynnydd mewn ardrethi busnes sydd ar fin digwydd. Yr ydym wedi'i grybwyl o'r blaen yn ein cyfraniadau ar yr ochr hon i'r Siambra. Bydd yn creu problemau enfawr i fusnesau yng Nghymru. Yn yr un modd nad yw cau canolfannau gwaith yn ystod cyfnod o ddiweithdra cynyddol yn gwneud synnwyr, mae codi ardrethi busnes yn ystod y cyfnod economaidd hynod anodd a heriol hwn yn gwbl amhriodol. Mae nifer o fusnesau yn fy etholaeth i wedi cyflwyno sylwadau imi am yr ymarferiad ailbrisio a'r risg i'w busnesau. Dywedant wrthyf y bydd eu busnesau'n mynd yn anhyfyw os bydd yr ardrethi busnes yn cynyddu yn unol â'r cynigion y maent wedi'u gweld hyd yma.

Dyma gynnig positif arall ichi, Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog. Yr ydym wedi awgrymu eithriad i gwmniau sydd â gwerth ardrethol hyd at £10,000 a gostyngiad o 20 y cant i'r rheini sydd â gwerth ardrethol rhwng £10,000 a £15,000. Credaf ei bod yn bryd ichi roi ystyriaeth ddifrifol a gofalus i'n cynigion. Os na wnewch ddim byd arall, dim ond ichi oedi cyn cyflwyno'r ailbrisiad hwn—cymeraf ymyriad cyn imi orffen.

Alun Cairns: I roi clod i'r Pwyllgor Menter a Dysgu, gafaelodd yn y cynnig gan y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig ynglŷn â strategaeth ar weithgynhyrchu. Caiff y pwyllgor hwnnw ei gadeirio gan Aelod Plaid Cymru. Cydnabu'r pwyllgor yn frwdfrydig y cyfraniad y gallai strategaeth ar weithgynhyrchu ei wneud. On chredwch ei bod yn drist nad yw Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ac arweinydd Plaid Cymru wedi edrych arno gyda'r un brwdfrydedd?

Darren Millar: Yr wyf yn sicr yn credu ei bod yn drist iawn. Yr wyf hefyd yn credu y bydd yr ailbrisio hwn ar ardrethi busnes i bob diben fel clymu careiau nifer o fusnesau ar draws y wlad gyda'i gilydd, tra maent yn ymlafnio i ddod drwy'r dirywiad economaidd hwn. Anogaf yr Aelodau i gefnogi'r cynnig.

Gareth Jones: It cannot be denied that the recent statistics on unemployment in Wales are extremely disappointing: 9.1 per cent of the workforce is now unemployed, which is among the worst in the UK. It is clear that it was a failure to regulate the banks effectively

o'r banciau a arweiniodd at y diffyg credyd ac yna'r caledi economaidd presennol. Mae nifer y di-waith yng Nghymru bellach dros 130,000. Dylem atgoffa ein hunain—ac mae'r ddadl hon, chwarae teg i'r Ceidwadwyr, yn un ffordd o'n hatgoffa—nad sôn am rifau, ystadegau a chanrannau yr ydym, ond pobl. Yr ydym yn sôn am unigolion a theuluoedd, ac anobaith, rhwystredigaeth a siomedigaeth. Dyna yw gwir effaith diweithdra: colledion cymunedol a chymdeithasol.

Llywodraeth anghyfrifol ac anystyriol a fyddai'n ceisio defnyddio diweithdra fel arf i ddatrys problemau economaidd fel y digwyddodd yn y gorffennol. Rhaid canmol y modd y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ymateb i'r dirwasgiad dieflig hwn. Oni bai am ymateb ac ymyrraeth chwim y Llywodraeth, gyda chynlluniau fel ReAct a ProAct yn enwedig, byddai rhagor o swyddi wedi eu colli a mwy o dristwch a thrallod yn sgil hynny. Mae hyn wedi digwydd er gwaethaf y cwtogi ar wariant cyhoeddus gan San Steffan, a mwy o doriadau a fydd os gwelwn, neu phan welwn, y Ceidwadwyr yn llywodraethu yn Llundain. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ymateb yn bositif. Dyletswydd pob Llywodraeth dda yw ymateb yn bositif i unrhyw argyfwng, creu gobaith ac adeiladu ar gyfer gwell dyfodol. Dyna sylfaen papur trafod Plaid Cymru, 'Achub, Adfer, Adnewyddu: Y Dyfodol wedi'r Dirwasgiad', ar uwchraddio sgiliau a chreu swyddi ar gyfer yr economi werdd. Beth sydd gan y Torïaid i'w gynnig o ddifrif, heblaw toriadau?

Darren Millar: Will you take an intervention?

Gareth Jones: Na wnaf. Dywedaf wrthych beth sydd gennych i'w gynnig. Cwestiwn rhethregol oedd hwnnw; cewch gyfle i siarad wedyn.

Yr ydych yn mynd ymlaen ac ymlaen am ardrethi busnes. Dyna'r unig beth yr ydych yn ei gynnig a chi a gyflwynodd y rheiny yn y lle cyntaf, Alun Cairns. Y chi a ddaeth â'r ardrethi busnes i mewn. Mae Nick Ramsay wedi bod yn lladd ar yr ardrethi. Yr ydych eisiau eu cwtogi. Pam ddaethoch â'r ardrethi busnes i mewn yn y lle cyntaf felly? Byddwn yn dweud hyn drosodd a throsodd wrth bobl

that led to the lack of credit and the ensuing economic hardship. The number of people unemployed in Wales is now more than 130,000. We should remind ourselves—and this debate, fair play to the Conservatives, is one way of doing so—that we are not talking about numbers, statistics or percentages, but people. We are talking about individuals and families, about despair, frustration and disappointment. That is the true impact of unemployment: losses to communities and to society.

It would be an irresponsible and inconsiderate Government that tried to use unemployment as a tool to solve economic difficulties, as has happened in the past. We must praise the way in which the Welsh Government has responded to this terrible recession. Had it not been for the swift response and intervention of the Government, especially with schemes such as ReAct and ProAct, more jobs would have been lost, resulting in more distress and misery. That has happened despite Westminster cuts in public spending, and there will be only more cuts if, or when, we see the Conservatives in power in London. The Government of Wales is responding positively. It is incumbent upon a good Government to respond positively to any emergency, to create hope and build for a better future. That is the foundation of Plaid Cymru's discussion paper, 'Recover, Reform, Renew: The Road from Recession' on upskilling and creating jobs in the green economy. What do the Tories seriously have to offer, other than cuts?

Darren Millar: A gymerwch chi ymyriad?

Gareth Jones: No, I will not. I will tell you what you have to offer. It was a rhetorical question; you will have the opportunity to speak later.

You go on and on about business rate relief. That is the only thing you propose, and yet it was you who introduced it in the first place, Alun Cairns. It was the Tories who introduced business rates. Nick Ramsay has been disparaging about the rates. You are trying to cut them. Why did you introduce business rates in the first place, in that case? We will repeat this time and again to the

Cymru nes y byddwch yn deall mai eich cyfrifoldeb chi yw'r ardrethi dieflig hynny. Ein bwriad ni yw cael gwared arnynt, a daw amser pan gawn ni wared arnynt.

5.00 p.m.

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ymateb drwy ddeilliannau'r uwchgynadleddau, sydd wedi ennill cefnogaeth ac ennyn edmygedd ar bob lefel. Mae hefyd yn cynllunio ar gyfer y tymor hir, drwy fuddsoddi mewn sgiliau a hyfforddiant ar gyfer y dyfodol. Dyna weledigaeth ein Gweinidog, Ieuan Wyn Jones, sy'n ymateb yn ddychmygus drwy gynllunio ar gyfer y dyfodol, buddsoddi mewn prosiectau, a'u hariannu drwy SCIF, er enghraifft, gan fuddsoddi £120 miliwn a fydd yn rhoi hwb i economi gwahanol rannau o Gymru.

Dyna weledigaeth glir a hyderus. Ble mae gweledigaeth y Torïaid? Yr hyn a gawn ni ganddynt yw negyddiaeth a phrinder syniadau.

Sadly, this was confirmed in the *Western Mail* on 15 October when David Melding simply dismissed the current Government measures, meaning ReAct and ProAct, presumably, and others clearly summarised in the Government amendment this afternoon. Those measures are there to combat unemployment. He said that they are simply delaying the inevitable. That is negativity. Are the Tories saying that we are wrong to use our limited resources to do what we can to limit the scale of unemployment? After all, had the Tories had their way back in 1997 or in 1999, we would all be merely passengers on the economic recession express train.

Let us give the Welsh Government credit for punching above its weight. We want greater devolved fiscal control here in Wales to get to grips with our shrinking economy. Will the Tories be bold enough to support Plaid in its call for full powers for the Assembly, to enable us in future to help our own people? The Tories apparently want to help bankers and financiers; we want to help the unemployed back to work. Support the amendment, and let us get on with it.

people of Wales until you understand that these awful rates are your responsibility. Our intention is to get rid of them, and there will come a time when we will get rid of them.

The Welsh Government is responding through the outcomes of the summits, which have gained support and admiration at all levels. It is also planning for the longer term, by investing in skills and training for the future. That is the vision of our Minister, Ieuan Wyn Jones, who is responding imaginatively by planning for the future, investing in projects and funding them through SCIF, for example, with an investment of £120 million which will boost the economy in different parts of Wales.

That is a clear and confident vision. Where is the Tories' vision? All we get from them is negativity and a lack of ideas.

Yn anffodus, cadarnhawyd hyn yn y *Western Mail* ar 15 Hydref pan ddiystyrodd David Melding fesurau cyfredol y Llywodraeth, sef ReAct a ProAct, mae'n debyg, ac eraill a grynhowyd yn glir yng ngwelliant y Llywodraeth y prynhawn yma. Mae'r mesurau hynny yno i ymladd diweithdra. Dywedodd nad ydynt ond yn gohirio'r hyn sy'n anochel. Dyna yw negyddiaeth. A yw'r Torïaid yn dweud ein bod yn anghywir i ddefnyddio ein hadnoddau cyfyngedig i wneud yr hyn a allwn i gyfyngu graddfa diweithdra? Wedi'r cyfan, pe bai'r Torïaid wedi cael eu ffordd yn ôl yn 1997 neu yn 1999, byddem i gyd yn ddim ond teithwyr ar drêñ cyflym y dirwasgiad economaidd.

Gadewch inni roi clod i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad am wneud mwy nag y byddid wedi disgwyl iddi ei wneud. Yr ydym am gael mwy o reolaeth gyllidol ddatganoledig yma yng Nghymru i fynd i'r afael â'r crebachu yn ein heconomi. A fydd y Torïaid yn ddigon dewr i gefnogi'r Blaid yn ei galwad am bwerau llawn i'r Cynulliad, i'n galluogi i helpu ein pobl ein hunain yn y dyfodol? Mae'n ymddangos bod y Torïaid am helpu bancwyr ac arianwyr; yr ydym ni am helpu'r di-waith i fynd yn ôl i weithio. Cefnogwch y

gwelliant a gadewch inni symud yn ein blaen.

Alun Davies: It is fair to say at the conclusion of each conference season, a number of things stay in the mind. Of the things that have stayed with me from the recent conferences, first is the catastrophic Lib-Dem conference, at which their leader told us that the best way out of a recession is to make savage cuts in the public sector and in public spending. You tell that to people who are on the dole at the moment. You tell that to people who are struggling to make ends meet.

Jenny Randerson: Can you explain to me why the Government says that you need to make 9 per cent cuts in public spending, which is the Treasury's own forecast? Nick Clegg and Vince Cable were working to—it was in the same speech—8 per cent cuts. Why are 9 per cent cuts not savage when 8 per cent cuts are? The truth is that the bankers made us borrow a great deal of money, and we have to service that debt. Whoever takes power will have to deal with the cuts, and the issue is: how will you cut?

Alun Davies: Deputy Presiding Officer, I thought a speech was being made then.

Jenny, I would not expect anybody in the Welsh Liberal Democrats to know what is going on when it comes to Liberal Democrat policy. Whatever the situation for the public sector and public spending, so long as Labour is running the show here in Cardiff and in Westminster, the word 'savage' will not be used to describe what we do. We care more about the public sector than anybody else you could mention. That was the first point.

Something else that stayed with me from the conferences was David Cameron's speech, and what he said about Government. He said that we do not need more Government, as it was Government that got us into this problem in the first place. He said that what we need is less Government—except, of course, that when it comes to redistributing money from

Alun Davies: Mae'n deg dweud, ar ddiwedd pob tymor cynadledda, fod nifer o bethau'n aros yn y cof. O'r pethau sydd wedi aros gyda mi o'r cynadleddau diweddar, y cyntaf yw cynhadledd drychinebus y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, lle dywedodd eu harweinydd wrthym mai'r ffordd orau allan o ddirwasgiad yw gwneud toriadau ffyrnig yn y sector cyhoeddus ac mewn gwariant cyhoeddus. Dywedwch hynny wrth bobl sydd ar y dôl ar hyn o bryd. Dywedwch hynny wrth bobl sy'n ei chael hi'n anodd cael dau benllinyn ynghyd.

Jenny Randerson: A allwch egluro wrthyf pam y mae'r Llywodraeth yn dweud bod angen ichi wneud toriadau o 9 y cant mewn gwariant cyhoeddus, sef rhagolygon y Trysorlys ei hun? Yr oedd Nick Clegg a Vince Cable yn gweithio yn ôl—yr oedd yn yr un arraith—toriadau o 8 y cant. Pam nad yw toriadau o 9 y cant yn ffyrnig os yw toriadau o 8 y cant yn ffyrnig? Y gwir yw bod y bancwyr wedi gwneud inni fenthyca llawer iawn o arian, a rhaid inni gynnal y ddyled honno. Bydd yn rhaid i bwy bynnag sy'n dod i rym ddelio â'r toriadau, a'r cwestiwn yw: sut byddwch chi'n torri?

Alun Davies: Ddirprwy Lywydd, yr oeddwn yn meddwl bod arraith yn cael ei gwneud.

Jenny, ni fyddwn yn disgwyl i neb yn Nemocraidaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru wybod beth sy'n digwydd o safbwyt polisi'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol. Beth bynnag yw'r sefyllfa o ran y sector cyhoeddus a gwariant cyhoeddus, cyhyd ag y bydd Llafur yn rhedeg y sioe yma yng Nghaerdydd ac yn San Steffan, ni chaiff y gair 'ffyrnig' ei ddefnyddio i ddisgrifio'r hyn a wnawn. Yr ydym yn poeni mwy am y sector cyhoeddus na neb arall y gallech ei grybwyl. Dyna oedd y pwnt cyntaf.

Peth arall a arhosodd gyda mi o'r cynadleddau oedd arraith David Cameron, a'r hyn a ddywedodd am Lywodraeth. Dywedodd nad oes arnom angen rhagor o Lywodraeth gan mai Lywodraeth sydd wedi mynd â ni i'r broblem hon yn y lle cyntaf. Dywedodd fod arnom angen llai o Lywodraeth—ac eithrio, wrth gwrs, pan

the poor to the rich. Over the last year, we have seen an active Government face a supine and inactive opposition. Thinking back to the debates on the actions of Government in responding to the recession that faced us last year, I remember those on the Government benches making speeches urging the Government to act. What I remember from the opposition side of the Chamber is silence.

Nick Bourne: I am grateful that I have been able to interrupt in mid-rant. He talks about his Government protecting people with the great Government that is the Labour party, although I have yet to see that. He will be particularly interested to know that the highest unemployment rate in Wales is in Blaenau Gwent at 17.9 per cent. These are the people that David Cameron referred to in his speech when he said that we need protection for the most vulnerable. Does he agree with that?

Alun Davies: I will not take lectures on unemployment in Blaenau Gwent from any Conservative. I remember the price the people that I went to school with had to pay for your economic policies in the 1980s. Whatever policies we adopt on unemployment, we will not tell people that unemployment is a price worth paying; I well remember your Minister saying that, and the policies that gave life to that particularly brutal approach.

In terms of where we have been, my good friend Jeff Cuthbert outlined some of the ways in which the Government has responded to unemployment and the recession, but there is a fundamental question which goes to the heart of this debate which will define politics in Wales and elsewhere for another generation, namely the way in which we approach these great issues which affect people in every community across the country. Whose side are the Conservatives on? Who is going to face the issues of unemployment and the economy? Jeff outlined some of the things that we have been doing, but you have a choice to make between an activist Government and an enfeebled opposition. The work on the green jobs strategy, the focus on skills and

ddaw'n fater o ailldosbarthu arian oddi wrth y tlawd i'r cyfoethog. Dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf, yr ydym wedi gweld Llywodraeth weithgar yn wynebu gwrthblaid ddiymadferth a swrth. Wrth feddwl yn ôl at y dadleuon ar y camau a gymerodd y Llywodraeth i ymateb i'r dirwasgiad a'n hwynebai y llynedd, cofiaf y rheini ar feinciau'r Llywodraeth yn gwneud areithiau yn annog y Llywodraeth i weithredu. Yr hyn a gofiaf o ochr yr wrthblaid o'r Siambwr yw tawelwch.

Nick Bourne: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am gael torri ar draws wrth iddo frygowthan. Dywed fod ei Lywodraeth ef yn amddiffyn pobl drwy Lywodraeth wych y blaid Lafur, er nad wyf fi eto wedi gweld hynny. Bydd ganddo ddiddordeb arbennig i glywed mai ym Mlaenau Gwent y mae'r gyfradd ddiweithdra uchaf yng Nghymru, sef 17.9 y cant. Dyma'r bobl y cyfeiriodd David Cameron atynt yn ei arraith pan ddywedodd fod arnom angen amddiffyniad ar gyfer y bobl sydd fwyaf agored i niwed. A yw'n cytuno â hynny?

Alun Davies: Nid awyf am gymryd darlith ar ddiweithdra ym Mlaenau Gwent gan yr un Ceidwadwr. Cofiaf y pris y bu'n rhaid i'r bobl yr euthum i'r ysgol gyda hwy ei dalu am eich polisiau economaidd chi yn y 1980au. Pa bolisiau bynnag a fabwysiadwn ar ddiweithdra, ni fyddwn yn dweud wrth bobl fod diweithdra'n bris gwerth ei dalu. Cofiaf yn dda eich Gweinidog chi'n dweud hynny, a'r polisiau a ddaeth â'r drefn arbennig o greulon honno i fodolaeth.

O ran ble'r ydym wedi bod, amlinellodd fy nghyfaill Jeff Cuthbert rai o'r ffyrdd y mae'r Llywodraeth wedi ymateb i ddiweithdra a'r dirwasgiad. Ond y mae cwestiwn sylfaenol sy'n mynd at galon y ddadl hon a fydd yn diffinio gwleidyddiaeth yng Nghymru a mannau eraill am genhedlaeth arall, sef y ffordd yr ydym yn ymdrin â'r materion mawr hyn sy'n effeithio ar bobl ym mhob cymuned ar draws y wlad. Ar ochr pwy y mae'r Ceidwadwyr? Pwy sy'n mynd i wynebu materion diweithdra a'r economi? Amlinellodd Jeff rai o'r pethau y buom ni'n eu gwneud, ond y mae gennych ddewis i'w wneud rhwng Llywodraeth weithgar a gwrthblaid fusgrell. Mae'r gwaith ar y strategaeth swyddi gwyrdd, y ffocws ar sgiliau a'r cyhoeddiad ddoe ar y gronfa

yesterday's announcement on the strategic capital investment fund—

Alun Cairns rose—

Alun Davies: No, I will not give way to you. Other work includes responding to the threat and the reality of redundancy through the ProAct and ReAct schemes, the capital investment that we have seen, the economic summits, the work that has been done on European convergence funding and boosting the finance available for business support. These are real policies which are having an effect on real people. When I listen to the Conservatives crying crocodile tears about unemployment, I see an opposition that does not care. For a year, they have been on the wrong side of the argument and isolated in this Chamber and in the councils of the world. Only half a dozen people in the world disagree with what Gordon Brown has done. A few of them sit on the opposite side of the Chamber and the rest of them want to be Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer of the United Kingdom. It is our duty to ensure that they never get their hands on the levers of power.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Yr wyf yn falch o'r cyfle i ymateb i'r ddadl hon. Sylwais mai'r unig beth a wnaeth y Ceidwadwyr oedd sôn am eu pryer dwys am y ffaith bod diweithdra wedi cynyddu i 9.1 y cant. Fodd bynnag, ni wnaethant sôn yn y cynnig am yr hyn y maent yn ei gynnig fel ffordd allan o'r sefyllfa. Gorfu inni wrando ar gyfraniadau nifer ohonynt i gael rhyw ddau neu dri o syniadau, ond os dyna'r gorau y gallant ei wneud, yr wyf yn tosturio dros y bobl allan yna sydd wedi colli eu gwaith yn ystod y misoedd diwethaf—mae'n amlwg nad oes gan y Toraid fawr o syniad sut y byddent yn newid y sefyllfa.

We recognise that the latest unemployment figures are extremely disappointing, although, as I have made clear on a number of occasions, this is not altogether surprising. If you look at the whole picture, there had been a reduction in the previous months in the number of people unemployed in Wales, compared with a rise in the number of people

buddsoddi cyfalaf strategol—

Alun Cairns a gododd—

Alun Davies: Na, nid wyf am ildio ichi. Mae gwaith arall yn cynnwys ymateb i fygythiad a realiti diswyddiadau drwy gynlluniau ProAct a ReAct, y buddsoddi cyfalaf yr ydym wedi'i weld, yr uwchgynadleddau economaidd, y gwaith sydd wedi ei wneud ar gyllid cydgyfeirio Ewropeaidd, a chynyddu'r cyllid sydd ar gael ar gyfer cymorth i fusnesau. Mae'r rhain yn bolisiau go iawngwirioneddol sy'n effeithio ar bobl go iawn. Wrth wrando ar y Ceidwadwyr yn wylo dagrau crocodeil ynglŷn â diweithdra, gwelaf wrthblaid nad oes ots ganddi. Am flwyddyn, maent wedi bod ar ochr anghywir y ddadl ac wedi'u hynysu yn y Siambr hon ac yng nghyngorau'r byd. Dim ond hanner dwsin o bobl yn y byd sy'n anghytuno â'r hyn y mae Gordon Brown wedi'i wneud. Mae rhai ohonynt yn eistedd ar ochr arall y Siambr a'r gweddill am fod yn Brif Weinidog a Changhellor Trysorlys y Deyrnas Unedig. Ein dyletswydd ni yw sicrhau na chânt eu dwylo fyfth ar yr awenau.

The Deputy Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport (Ieuan Wyn Jones): I am pleased to have the opportunity to respond to this debate. I noticed all the Conservatives have done is talk of their serious concern about the fact that unemployment has risen to 9.1 per cent. However, they did not mention in their motion their solution to the problem. We had to listen to a number of contributions to get two or three ideas, but if that is the best they can do, I pity those people out there who have lost their jobs over the past few months—the Tories obviously have no idea how they would change the situation.

Yr ydym yn cydnabod bod y ffigurau diweithdra diweddaraf yn eithriadol o siomedig, er nad yw hyn, fel y gwneuthum yn glir droeon, yn gwbl annisgwyl. Os edrychwch ar y darlun cyfan, bu gostyngiad yn y misoedd blaenorol yn nifer y bobl a oedd yn ddi-waith yng Nghymru, o'i gymharu â chynnydd yn nifer y bobl a oedd

unemployed in the UK as a whole. I said at the time that that would not be the complete picture, because these figures are volatile—sometimes they will be up, sometimes they will be down. However, the pattern is that this recession has taken its toll in the number of people unemployed, and you cannot say what the full impact of the recession is on the people of Wales until we come near to its end. As I have said on many occasions, even when we come out of the recession, because of the lag factor of unemployment, we are likely to see unemployment go up even when the economy is in a position of growth. We must remember that this is a volatile position.

Since the onset of the global downturn, we in Government have worked in close association with business, banks, trade unions and other organisations to ensure that the recession is as short and shallow as possible.

5.10 p.m.

A number of stakeholders have been supportive of what this Government has been doing. The regional director of the Wales Institute of Directors, Robert Lloyd-Griffiths, praised our collaborative approach to this recession through the economic summit. The Confederation of British Industry, the Trades Union Congress, the Federation of Small Businesses and other stakeholders have recognised that we have introduced practical and effective measures to support individuals and to help businesses in Wales to deal with the global downturn. Such measures include our ProAct programme, which has helped to prevent thousands of individuals in Wales from being added to the unemployment figures. As we have heard today, 7,000 have already been helped by ProAct and we are not yet through the financial year; 9,000 are being helped by the ReAct scheme and I have yet to hear the Conservatives say that they welcome that. They could, at the very least, welcome the fact that 16,000 people in Wales, who might otherwise be left on the sidelines, are now getting practical help from this Government.

David Melding: I expressly said that roughly

yn ddi-waith yn y DU gyfan. Dywedais ar y pryd nad hynny fyddai'r darlun llawn, oherwydd mae'r ffigurau hyn yn gyfnewidiol—weithiau byddant yn uwch, weithiau byddant yn is. Fodd bynnag, y patrwm yw bod y dirwasgiad hwn wedi gadael ei ôl yn nifer y bobl sy'n ddi-waith, ac ni allwch ddweud beth fydd effaith lawn y dirwasgiad ar bobl Cymru nes down yn nes at ei ddiwedd. Fel yr wyf wedi ei ddweud droeon, hyd yn oed pan ddown allan o'r dirwasgiad, oherwydd y ffactor llusgo mewn diweithdra, yr ydym yn debygol o weld diweithdra'n codi hyd yn oed pan fydd yr economi'n tyfu. Rhaid inni gofio bod hon yn sefyllfa gyfnewidiol.

Ers dechrau'r dirywiad byd-eang, yr ydym ni yn y Llywodraeth wedi gweithio mewn cysylltiad agos â busnes, banciau, undebau llafur a sefydliadau eraill i sicrhau bod y dirwasgiad mor fyr ac mor fas â phosibl.

Mae nifer o randdeiliaid wedi bod yn gefnogol o'r hyn y bu'r Llywodraeth hon yn ei wneud. Canmolodd cyfarwyddwr rhanbarthol Sefydliad y Cyfarwyddwyr yng Nghymru, Robert Lloyd-Griffiths, ein dull cydweithrediadol o ymdrin â'r dirwasgiad hwn drwy'r uwchgynhadledd economaidd. Mae Cydffederasiwn Diwydiant Prydain, Cyngres yr Undeb Llafur, y Ffederasiwn Busnesau Bach a rhanddeiliaid eraill wedi cydnabod ein bod wedi cyflwyno mesurau ymarferol ac effeithiol i gynorthwyo unigolion ac i helpu busnesau yng Nghymru i ddelio â'r dirywiad byd-eang. Ymysg mesurau o'r fath mae ein rhaglen ProAct, sydd wedi helpu atal miloedd o unigolion yng Nghymru rhag cael eu hychwanegu at y ffigurau diweithdra. Fel yr ydym wedi ei glywed heddiw, mae 7,000 eisoes wedi cael help drwy ProAct ac nid ydym wedi dod i ddiwedd y flwyddyn ariannol eto; mae 9,000 yn cael help gan gynnllun ReAct, ond nid wyf eto wedi clywed y Ceidwadwyr yn dweud eu bod yn croesawu hynny. Gallent o leiaf groesawu'r ffaith fod 16,000 o bobl yng Nghymru, a allai fel arall gael eu gadael ar y cyrion, yn cael help ymarferol yn awr gan y Llywodraeth hon.

David Melding: Dywedais yn benodol fod

7,000 people, who had been assisted by ProAct, had not been added to the unemployment figures, which has to be welcomed. ProAct is reasonably successful; our problem is with the scale of the challenge and the scale of your response to it, which is simply not big enough.

The Deputy First Minister: Nothing like the ProAct scheme has ever been introduced by any Conservative Government. That is the difference. At least we have introduced this scheme. No Conservative Government ever introduced a scheme that allowed people on short-time working to be kept in work, by a Government, while receiving a wage and training subsidy. If you can point out any Conservative Government that has introduced a similar scheme, I will give way to you now. The truth is that you cannot. That is the difference between us, on this side of the Chamber, and the Conservatives.

I visited Calsonic Kansei, a plant in Llanelli last week, which has benefited from our ProAct scheme. Its plant manager recently told BBC Radio 4's Today programme,

'The Welsh Assembly Government has been extremely supportive of us—they have developed this initiative, called ProAct, which is specifically to help automotive companies in Wales. Basically, it is an alternative to redundancy.'

He went on to say that,

'Calsonic Kansei now expects to see a recovery of 20 per cent in their trade by this summer, following a 50 per cent drop in demand experienced since August.'

So we have helped that company to maintain its skills base. Yesterday, the Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery announced almost £120 million of capital investment to enable people to build new homes and to provide better schools and hospitals. That investment is set to create over 3,000 jobs during the construction phase. Construction companies are telling us

tua 7,000 o bobl a oedd wedi cael cymorth gan ProAct heb eu hychwanegu at y ffigurau diweithdra, a'i bod yn rhaid croesawu hynny. Mae ProAct yn weddol lwyddiannus; y broblem i ni yw maint yr her a maint eich ymateb iddi, nad yw yn syml yn ddigon eang.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Nid oes dim sy'n debyg i'r cynllun ProAct erioed wedi ei gyflwyno gan yr un Llywodraeth Geidwadol. Dyna'r gwahaniaeth. O leiaf yr ydym wedi cyflwyno'r cynllun hwn. Ni chyflwynodd yr un Llywodraeth Geidwadol erioed gynllun a oedd yn caniatáu i bobl a oedd yn gweithio oriau byr gael eu cadw mewn gwaith, gan Lywodraeth, tra oeddent yn cael cyflog a chymhorthdal hyfforddi. Os gallwch nodi unrhyw Lywodraeth Geidwadol sydd wedi cyflwyno cynllun tebyg, ildiaf ichi yn awr. Y gwir yw na allwch. Dyna'r gwahaniaeth rhyngom ni, ar yr ochr hon i'r Siambra, a'r Ceidwadwyr.

Ymwelais â Calsonic Kansei, ffatri yn Llanelli, yr wythnos diwethaf, sydd wedi elwa o'n cynllun ProAct. Dywedodd rheolwr y ffatri wrth y rhaglen Today ar BBC Radio 4 yn ddiweddar fod

Llywodraeth y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol wedi bod yn gefnogol iawn inni—mae wedi datblygu'r fenter hon, a elwir ProAct, sy'n ymwneud yn benodol â helpu cwmniau modurol yng Nghymru. Yn y bôn, mae'n ddewis arall yn lle diswyddo.

Aeth ymlaen i ddweud bod

Calsonic Kansei nawr yn disgwyl gweld adferiad o 20 y cant yn ei fasnach erbyn yr haf eleni, yn dilyn gostyngiad o 50 y cant yn y galw er mis Awst.

Felly, yr ydym wedi helpu'r cwmni hwnnw i gynnal ei sylfaen sgiliau. Ddoe cyhoeddodd y Gweinidog dros Gyllid a Chyflenwi Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus bron i £120 miliwn o fuddsoddiad cyfalaf i alluogi pobl i godi tai newydd ac i ddarparu gwell ysgolion ac ysbytai. Bydd y buddsoddiad hwnnw'n creu dros 3,000 o swyddi yn ystod y cyfnod adeiladu. Mae cwmniau adeiladu'n dweud

that during this period of economic downturn, the Government needs to directly intervene by securing capital projects because the private sector is on its knees and the public sector here can provide it with vital support.

We are taking safeguarding jobs seriously. We have not sat on our hands and turned a blind eye to the situation. Since the G20 summit, every member state has acknowledged the importance of providing a fiscal stimulus to help the economy at this time. Even Angela Merkel took action in Germany. The only person who says that we should stop providing this financial stimulus is George Osborne. Let us make that perfectly clear: he has said that if he is elected and is made Chancellor of the Exchequer in the next Conservative Government, there will be a cut in our budget in 2010-11. Is that supported by the Conservatives here? I will allow an intervention, but they will not intervene on that because there will be a cut.

David Melding: I will intervene. The Deputy First Minister obviously does not read the Treasury's data, which state that our expenditure and block grant will be cut from now. Live in the real world.

The Deputy First Minister: I know what I am talking about. We have already suffered a cut to next year's budget—£260 million has already been stripped out of it. The Conservatives have said that they will cut even more. The first budget for 2010-11 will be cut by a Conservative Government. Therefore, what happens to the rate relief scheme that they want for small businesses? Where will the money come from under a Conservative Government in Westminster? That is the reality that we face as a result of what the Conservatives are suggesting. They say that they cannot support our amendment 1 because of the section of the amendment that talks about European funding. What about congratulating the Government on the £150 million JEREMIE scheme that will assist businesses in terms of their loans and which will enable Finance Wales to give loans to businesses at a substantially higher rate than any other region or country in the whole of Europe? What about congratulating

wrthym fod angen i'r Llywodraeth ymyrryd yn uniongyrchol, yn ystod y cyfnod hwn o ddirywiad economaidd, drwy sicrhau prosiectau cyfalaf gan fod y sector preifat ar ei liniau ac y gall y sector cyhoeddus yma roi cymorth hanfodol iddo.

Yr ydym o ddifrif ynglŷn â diogelu swyddi. Nid ydym wedi llaesu dwylo ac anwybyddu'r sefyllfa. Ers uwchgynhadledd yr G20, mae pob aelod wladwriaeth wedi cydnabod pwysigrwydd darparu ysgogiad ariannol i helpu'r economi ar yr adeg hon. Mae hyd yn oed Angela Merkel wedi gweithredu yn yr Almaen. Yr unig un sy'n dweud y dylem roi'r gorau i ddarparu'r ysgogiad ariannol hwn yw George Osborne. Gadewch inni wneud hynny'n berffaith glir: mae wedi dweud, os caiff ei ethol a'i wneud yn Ganghellor y Trysorlys yn y Llywodraeth Geidwadol nesaf, y bydd toriad yn ein cyllideb yn 2010-11. A yw'r Ceidwadwyr yn cefnogi hynny yma? Yr wyf yn fodlon caniatau ymyriad, ond ni fyddant yn ymyrryd ar hyn oherwydd fe fydd toriad.

David Melding: Fe ymyrraf fi. Nid yw'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn amlwg yn darllen data'r Trysorlys, sy'n dweud y bydd ein gwariant a'n grant bloc yn cael eu torri o hyn ymlaen. Dylech fyw yn y byd real.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn gwybod am beth yr wyf yn siarad. Yr ydym eisoes wedi dioddef toriad yng nghyllideb y flwyddyn nesaf—mae £260 miliwn eisoes wedi ei dynnu ohoni. Mae'r Ceidwadwyr wedi dweud y byddant yn torri mwy fyth. Caiff y gyllideb gyntaf ar gyfer 2010-11 ei thorri gan Lywodraeth Geidwadol. Felly, beth sy'n digwydd i'r cynllun rhyddhad ardrethi y maent yn ei ddymuno ar gyfer busnesau bach? O ble y daw'r arian dan Lywodraeth Geidwadol yn San Steffan? Dyna'r realiti sy'n ein hwynebu o ganlyniad i'r hyn y mae'r Ceidwadwyr yn ei awgrymu. Dywedant na allant gefnogi gwelliant 1 gennym ni oherwydd y rhan yn y gwelliant sy'n sôn am gyllid Ewropeaidd. Beth am longyfarch y Llywodraeth ar y cynllun JEREMIE gwerth £150 miliwn a fydd yn cynorthwyo busnesau o ran eu benthyciadau ac yn galluogi Cyllid Cymru i roi benthyciadau i fusnesau ar raddfa sylweddol uwch nag unrhyw ranbarth neu wlad arall

the Welsh Assembly Government on asking for the intervention rate to be raised? What about congratulating the Welsh Assembly Government on introducing EU money for the ProAct and ReAct schemes? Those are the kinds of things that are happening, while they talk of complacency.

I will finish with this point, and I want Nick Bourne to understand this once and for all so that he gets it right: he has challenged us on the manufacturing strategy, but I have made it clear that I have agreed with the manufacturing forum that there will be a manufacturing strategy. My officials are working with the manufacturing forum to bring that forward. Read the letter again, Nick. I have said that delivering a strategy is one thing, but you then need a delivery mechanism to ensure that that strategy works. That is what I said in the letter—

Nick Bourne: I have the letter here, and I quote:

‘I have asked the forum to review its strategy document in light of economic and other changes and, having agreed and outlined mechanisms for completion of the strategy, my officials will now agree with the forum a schedule of future delivery milestones’.

When can we expect the manufacturing strategy? You are being led by your officials. It is time that you acted like the Minister, not like an official.

The Deputy First Minister: I have had a meeting with the manufacturing forum. The strategy is now being finalised, it can be published and then—[*Interruption.*] It is all very well to talk about the strategy, as I have heard them do, but in order to deliver that strategy a delivery mechanism is needed. A strategy is fine on paper, but it needs to be delivered. That will be published.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. You need to wind up now.

drwy Ewrop gyfan? Beth am longyfarch Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru am ofyn am godi'r gyfradd ymyrryd? Beth am longyfarch Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru am gyflwyno arian UE ar gyfer cynlluniau ProAct a ReAct? Dyna'r mathau o bethau sy'n digwydd, tra maent hwy'n sôn am fod yn hunanfodlon.

Gorffennaf gyda'r pwynt hwn, ac yr wyf am i Nick Bourne ddeall hyn unwaith ac am byth er mwyn iddo ei gael yn iawn: mae wedi ein herio ar y strategaeth ar weithgynhyrchu, ond yr wyf wedi ei gwneud yn glir fy mod wedi cytuno â'r fforwm gweithgynhyrchu y bydd strategaeth ar weithgynhyrchu. Mae fy swyddogion yn gweithio gyda'r fforwm gweithgynhyrchu i ddod â honno gerbron. Darllenwch y llythyr eto, Nick. Yr wyf wedi dweud mai un peth yw darparu strategaeth, ond wedyn mae arnoch angen mecanwaith cyflawni i sicrhau bod y strategaeth honno'n gweithio. Dyna a ddywedais yn y llythyr—

Nick Bourne: Mae'r llythyr gennyf yma, a dywedwch:

Yr wyf wedi gofyn i'r fforwm adolygu ei strategaeth yng ngoleuni newidiadau economaidd a newidiadau eraill, ac ar ôl cytuno ac amlinellu mecanweithiau ar gyfer cwblhau'r strategaeth, bydd fy swyddogion yn awr yn cytuno â'r fforwm ar amserlen o gerrig milltir cyflawni yn y dyfodol.

Pa bryd y gallwn ddisgwyl y strategaeth ar weithgynhyrchu? Yr ydych yn cael eich arwain gan eich swyddogion. Mae'n bryd ichi weithredu fel y Gweinidog, nid fel swyddog.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yr wyf wedi cael cyfarfod gyda'r fforwm gweithgynhyrchu. Mae'r strategaeth yn cael ei chwblhau ar ei gwedd derfynol yn awr, gellir ei chyhoeddi ac yna—[*Tori a draws.*] Mae'n ddigon hawdd siarad am y strategaeth, fel yr wyf wedi'u clywed yn ei wneud, ond er mwyn gwireddu'r strategaeth honno mae angen mecanwaith cyflawni. Mae strategaeth yn iawn ar bapur, ond mae angen ei gwireddu. Caiff hynny ei gyhoeddi.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mae angen ichi ddirwyn i ben yn awr.

The Deputy First Minister: All that I can say to the Conservatives is that while they have accused us of complacency, I have not heard a single thing from them this afternoon that would give me confidence that the unemployed people of Wales would be better off with a Conservative Government. This Government is taking action while you are not.

Alun Cairns: I am sorry that I will not have a chance to go through every contribution that has been made, because we only have four minutes left. I want to say at the outset that what disappoints, frustrates and even angers me most, following the response of the Deputy First Minister, is the lack of acceptance of reality and how bad the situation is. In his contribution, he talked about ProAct, ReAct, JEREMIE and SCIF, which will be welcomed, and which we will support and recognise when that is deserved. We are happy to do that; I have just done so on the record. So, let us clear up that matter.

However, no matter what you say and no matter what programme you talk about or what an individual company said on Radio 4, unemployment in Wales is much higher than in any other nation or region of the United Kingdom. We cannot get away from that. For all the talk of the Deputy First Minister of all the schemes, successful objectives and fantastic performance of his department, unemployment is still higher. It is 7.1 per cent in Scotland, 7.1 per cent Northern Ireland, and 7.9 per cent in England, but it is 9.1 per cent in Wales. That is the reality of the situation, no matter what the Deputy First Minister says; that is how bad things are. If you look at the motion, you will see that this is one of the few times when we have tabled an opposition debate, since the change in the rules about motions, that the Government has not tabled an amendment stating 'Delete all'. At least it has not sought to delete the part that refers to the regret for the increase in unemployment, but, in amendment 1, in gobbledegook, you go on about the fantastic performance of the Welsh Assembly Government in supporting those people who are in work and in getting people back into

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Y cyfan y gallaf ei ddweud wrth y Ceidwadwyr yw, tra maent wedi ein cyhuddo ni o fod yn humanfodlon, nid wyf wedi clywed dim byd ganddynt y prynhawn yma a fyddai'n rhoi hyder imi y byddai pobl ddi-waith Cymru ar eu hennill gyda Llywodraeth Geidwadol. Mae'r Llywodraeth hon yn gweithredu tra nad ydych chi.

Alun Cairns: Mae'n ddrwg gennyf na chaf gyfle i fynd drwy bob cyfraniad a wnaethpwyd, oherwydd nid oes gennym ond pedair munud ar ôl. Yr wyf am ddweud ar y cychwyn mai'r hyn sy'n fy siomi, sy'n peri rhwystredigaeth imi a hyd yn oed yn fy nghythrudo fwyaf, yn dilyn ymateb y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog, yw'r methiant i dderbyn realiti a chydnabod mor ddrwg yw'r sefyllfa. Yn ei gyfraniad, siaradodd am ProAct, ReAct, JEREMIE a SCIF, sydd i'w croesawu, a byddwn yn eu cefnogi ac yn eu cydnabod pan fyddant yn haeddu hynny. Yr ydym yn hapus i wneud hynny; yr wyf newydd wneud hynny ar gofnod. Felly, gadewch inni glirio hynny.

Fodd bynnag, ni waeth beth a ddywedwch ac ni waeth pa raglen y siaradwch amdani na beth a ddywedodd cwmni unigol ar Radio 4, mae diweithdra yng Nghymru lawer yn uwch nag mewn unrhyw wlad neu ranbarth arall yn y Deyrnas Unedig. Ni allwn ddianc rhag hynny. Er gwaethaf holl siarad y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog am yr holl gynlluniau, yr amcanion llwyddiannus a pherfformiad gwych ei adran, mae diweithdra'n dal yn uwch. Mae'n 7.1 y cant yn yr Alban, 7.1 y cant yng Ngogledd Iwerddon, a 7.9 y cant yn Lloegr, ond mae'n 9.1 y cant yng Nghymru. Dyna realiti'r sefyllfa, ni waeth beth a ddywed y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog; mae pethau cynddrwg â hynny. Os edrychwch ar y cynnig, gwelwch fod hon yn un o'r adegau prin pan ydym wedi cyflwyno dadl gwrthblaid, ers y newid yn y rheolau ynglŷn â chynigion, pan nad yw'r Llywodraeth wedi cyflwyno gwelliant yn dweud 'Dileer y cyfan'. O leiaf nid yw wedi ceisio dileu'r rhan honno sy'n cyfeirio at y pryder ynglŷn â'r cynnydd mewn diweithdra, ond yng ngwelliant 1, mewn rwdl-mi-ri, yr ydych yn amlhau geiriau am berfformiad gwych Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn

work. If everything is so good, why do we have a higher unemployment level than any other nation or region of the United Kingdom?

I would like to take you back to when you were in opposition, Deputy First Minister. I could read one of the speeches that used to make in opposition, and it would blow a hole in the argument that you are making now. Perhaps you are not writing your speeches anymore and are leaving them to an official, but it sounds to me as though it is the same official that Rhodri Morgan used when he was the Minister for economic development and that Mike German used when he was the Minister for economic development. Perhaps it is even the same official that Andrew Davies used when he was the Minister for economic development.

5.20 p.m.

You can say what you like, but we have the facts before us, and they suggest that the situation is even worse than the 9.1 per cent unemployment rate that I mentioned. A report has been published this month by the Industrial Communities Alliance, which includes the Coalfields Community Campaign and the Steel Action Group. They came together to report on real unemployment—people who are out of work but not claiming benefits, or not making it onto the unemployment register for whatever reason. The report states that real unemployment in Blaenau Gwent is 17.9 per cent. Minister, is that the success of your administration? Of course it is not. The report also mentions that unemployment in Bridgend, which is supposed to be one of the industrial hubs of Wales, stands at 12.3 per cent, and this is hardly a report from a Tory economic think tank; it is an independent, hard-hitting report that exposes the weakness of this administration. It does not matter what positive policies you have come up with or whether this is an activist administration, as another Member mentioned, because your policies are simply not working and unemployment here is higher than in any other part of the UK.

cynorthwyo'r rheini sydd mewn gwaith ac yn helpu pobl i fynd yn ôl i weithio. Os yw popeth cystal, pam y mae gennym lefel uwch o ddiweithdra nag unrhyw wlad neu ranbarth arall yn y Deyrnas Unedig?

Hoffwn fynd â chi'n ôl i'r adeg pan oeddech yn wrthblaid, Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog. Gallwn ddarllen un o'r areithiau yr arferech eu gwneud pan oeddech yn wrthblaid, a byddai'n chwalu'r ddadl yr ydych yn ei gwneud yn awr. Efallai nad chi sy'n ysgrifennu eich areithiau mwyach a'ch bod yn eu gadael i swyddog, ond mae'n swnio i mi fel yr un swyddog ag a ddefnyddiai Rhodri Morgan pan oedd ef yn Weinidog dros ddatblygu economaidd ac a ddefnyddiai Mike German pan oedd yntau'n Weinidog dros ddatblygu economaidd. Efallai hyd yn oed mai'r un swyddog ydyw ag a ddefnyddiai Andrew Davies pan oedd ef yn Weinidog dros ddatblygu economaidd.

Gallwch ddweud beth a fynnwch, ond mae'r ffeithiau gennym o'n blaenau, ac maent yn awgrymu bod y sefyllfa'n waeth hyd yn oed na'r gyfradd ddiweithdra o 9.1 y cant a grybwyllais. Cyhoeddwyd adroddiad y mis hwn gan y Cynghair Cymunedau Diwydiannol, sy'n cynnwys Ymgyrch Cymuned y Meysydd Glo a'r Grŵp Gweithredu ar Ddur. Daethant ynghyd i lunio adroddiad ar ddiweithdra gwirioneddol—pobl sydd heb waith ond nad ydynt yn hawlio budd-daliadau, neu sydd heb eu cynnwys ar y gofrestr diweithdra am ba reswm bynnag. Dywed yr adroddiad fod diweithdra gwirioneddol ym Mlaenau Gwent yn 17.9 y cant. Weinidog, ai dyna yw llwyddiant eich gweinyddiaeth? Nage, wrth gwrs. Mae'r adroddiad hefyd yn crybwyl bod diweithdra ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr, yr honnir ei bod yn un o ganolbwytiau diwydiannol Cymru, yn 12.3 y cant, a phrin fod hwn yn adroddiad gan felin drafod economaidd Doriaid; mae'n adroddiad annibynnol, deifiol sy'n datgelu gwendid y weinyddiaeth hon. Nid oes ots pa bolisiau positif yr ydych wedi'u llunio neu a yw hon yn weinyddiaeth weithgar ai peidio, fel y soniodd Aelod arall, oherwydd nid yw eich polisiau'n gweithio ac y mae diweithdra yma yn uwch nag mewn unrhyw ran arall o'r DU.

In closing, I will summarise some of the positive suggestions made by the Welsh Conservatives. We have called for: a postponement of business rates; an increase in skill levels; the manufacturing strategy that Plaid Cymru once voted against, but now seems to be recognising; and a renegotiation of many European projects.

Jeff Cuthbert *rose—*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. I am sorry, but we are way over time on this debate.

Alun Cairns: Sorry, Jeff, but I am obviously not allowed to give way.

I will finish by telling the Deputy First Minister—

The Deputy First Minister *rose—*

Alun Cairns: I will happily give way to the Deputy First Minister.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. I am afraid that there is no time.

Alun Cairns: Deputy First Minister, are you proud of the unemployment figures following your two years in Government? You now carry the can for those failures in Blaenau Gwent, and in every other local authority across Wales.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is to agree the motion without amendment. Does any Member object? I see that there are objections, and therefore all voting is deferred until voting time.

*Gohiriwyd y pleidleisiau tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.
Votes deferred until voting time.*

I gloi, yr wyf am grynhau rhai o'r awgrymiadau positif a wnaethwyd gan Geidwadwyr Cymru. Yr ydym wedi galw am ohirio arddethi busnes; codi lefelau sgiliau; y strategaeth ar weithgynhyrchu y pleidleisiodd Plaid Cymru yn ei herbyn unwaith, ond y mae bellach fel pe bai yn ei chydnabod; ac ailnegodi nifer o brosiectau Ewropeaidd.

Jeff Cuthbert *a gododd—*

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mae'n ddrwg gennyf, ond yr ydym wedi cymryd llawer mwy na'r amser a ganiatawyd ar gyfer y ddadl hon.

Alun Cairns: Mae'n ddrwg gennyf, Jeff, ond yn amlwg ni chaniateir imi ildio.

Gorffennaf drwy ddweud wrth y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog—

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog *a gododd—*

Alun Cairns: Ildiaf yn llawen i'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mae arnaf ofn nad oes amser.

Alun Cairns: Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog, a ydych yn falch o'r ffigurau diweithdra ar ôl eich dwy flynedd mewn Llywodraeth? Chi bellach sy'n ysgwyddo'r bai am y methiannau hynny ym Mlaenau Gwent, ac ym mhob awdurdod lleol arall ar draws Cymru.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Y cynnig yw derbyn y cynnig heb welliant. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrthwynebu? Gwelaf fod gwrthwynebiadau, felly, caiff yr holl bleidleisiau eu gohirio tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.

Dadl Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru
Welsh Liberal Democrats Debate

Diweithdra yng Nghymru
Unemployment in Wales

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendment 1 in the name of Carwyn Jones and amendment 2 in the name of Alun Cairns. If amendment 1 is agreed, amendment 2 will be deselected.

Kirsty Williams: I move that

the National Assembly for Wales:

1. regrets the further rise in unemployment in Wales;

2. regrets that Wales saw the highest rise of all the nations and regions of the UK in the last quarter; and

3. calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to make available details of how it intends to achieve its long-term employment target of 80 per cent. (NDM4308)

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliant 1 yn enw Carwyn Jones a gwelliant 2 yn enw Alun Cairns. Os derbynir gwelliant 1, caiff gwelliant 2 ei ddad-ddethol.

Kirsty Williams: Cynigiaf fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. yn gresynu wrth y cynnydd pellach mewn diweithdra yng Nghymru;

2. yn gresynu bod Cymru wedi gweld y cynnydd mwyaf o holl wledydd a rhanbarthau'r DU yn ystod y chwarter olaf; a

3. yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i ddarparu manylion sut y mae'n bwriadu cyflawni ei tharged cyflogaeth hirdymor o 80 y cant. (NDM4308)

*Daeth William Graham i'r gadair am 5.22 p.m.
William Graham took the Chair at 5.22 p.m.*

I am sure that we would all agree that the issues that face the Welsh economy at the moment are worthy of two hours' discussion in the Chamber, to try to find a consensus on the way forward to help the many thousands of Welsh people who now find themselves without work.

In ‘One Wales’, under the heading ‘A prosperous society’, the Government committed itself to the implementation of a labour market strategy with the long-term goal of a full employment rate of 80 per cent. How hollow that goal now sounds, given the figures that confronted us last week—with unemployment back to levels it last reached in 1995, under the Tory Government at Westminster. Even this Government’s own Cabinet papers admit that there is no chance of coming anywhere near achieving that goal. Indeed, they state that it is optimistic to imagine that we will get halfway there from

Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddem i gyd yn cytuno bod y problemau sy'n wynebu economi Cymru ar y funud yn haeddu dwy awr o drafodaeth yn y Siambwr, i geisio cael consensws ynglŷn â'r ffordd ymlaen i helpu'r miloedd lawer o bobl Cymru sydd yn awr yn eu cael eu hunain heb waith.

Yn ‘Cymru’n Un’, dan y pennawd ‘Cymdeithas lewyrchus’, ymrwymodd y Llywodraeth i weithredu strategaeth marchnad lafur gyda nod hirdymor o gyflogaeth lawn ar raddfa o 80 y cant. Mor wag y mae'r nod hwnnw'n swnio'n awr, o gofio'r ffigurau a ddaeth i'r amlwg yr wythnos diwethaf—gyda diweithdra'n ôl ar y lefelau a gyrhaeddodd diwethaf yn 1995, dan y Llywodraeth Doriáidd yn San Steffan. Mae hyd yn oed papurau Cabinet y Llywodraeth hon ei hun yn cyfaddef nad oes dim gobaith dod yn agos at gyrraedd y nod hwnnw. Yn wir, dywedant mai optimistaidd

the starting point of 72 per cent—the peak employment level that has stubbornly remained with us for the last 10 years or so. The fact that it has been difficult for successive Welsh Governments to improve that figure and close the gap with the rest of the UK highlights some of the ongoing and historical reasons why the Welsh economy is weaker than its English counterpart.

Our historical reliance on industries such as coal and steel has meant that when those industries have been lost to us, it has had a disproportionate effect across the Welsh economy as a whole.

The First Minister, in a recent meeting of the Committee for the Scrutiny of the First Minister, said that it was only a matter of time until this issue would be addressed. However, I argue that we cannot simply wait for those generations that were previously employed in those industries to pass on into retirement age. The First Minister described that process as one of normalisation, meaning that when those people had passed into retirement age and were no longer a part of the labour market, that weakness would be normalised. That process of normalisation has become, for too many of our communities, a process of intergenerational worklessness—a hammering of aspiration and a complete obliteration of the belief that for individuals, and therefore the community, life could be better and different, and that they can aspire to a life of work and of providing for themselves and their families. With all due respect to the Conservatives, it will take a lot more than a simple manufacturing strategy to address some of these issues of intergenerational worklessness and of aspiration within individual communities where being unemployed is the norm.

Alun Cairns: We did speak about a manufacturing strategy, but we also spoke about raising skills levels for that group in society, which would help them. Therefore, we are not just talking about a manufacturing strategy—David Melding and I mentioned far more.

yw dychmygu y cyrhaeddwn hanner y ffordd o'r man cychwyn o 72 y cant—y lefel uchaf o gyflogaeth sydd wedi parhau'n ystyfnig gyda ni am y 10 mlynedd diwethaf yn fras. Mae'r ffaith fod Llywodraethau olynol yng Nghymru wedi cael anhawster i wella'r ffigur hwnnw a chau'r bwlc rhngom a gweddill y DU yn tynnu sylw at rai o'r rhesymau parhaus a hanesyddol pam y mae economi Cymru yn wannach nag economi Lloegr.

Mae ein dibyniaeth hanesyddol ar ddiwydiannu fel glo a dur wedi golygu, pan gollwyd y diwydiannau hynny, ei fod wedi cael effaith anghymesur ar draws economi Cymru gyfan.

Dyweddodd y Prif Weinidog, mewn cyfarfod yn ddiweddar o'r Pwyllgor Craffu ar y Prif Weinidog, mai mater o amser yn unig ydyw nes eir i'r afael â'r mater hwn. Fodd bynnag, fy nadl i yw na allwn ddisgwyl i'r cenedlaethau hynny a arferai gael eu cyflogi yn y diwydiannau hynny gyrraedd oed ymddeol. Disgrifiodd y Prif Weinidog y broses honno fel un o normaleiddio, gan olygu, pan fyddai'r bobl hynny wedi cyrraedd oed ymddeol a phan na fyddent mwyach yn rhan o'r farchnad lafur, y cai'r gwendid hwnnw ei normaleiddio. Mae'r broses honno o normaleiddio wedi datblygu, i ormod o'n cymunedau, yn broses o ddiweithdra rhwng cenedlaethau—yn darnio dyhead ac yn llwyr ddileu'r gred y gallai bywyd fod yn well ac yn wahanol, i unigolion ac felly i'r gymuned, ac y gallant ymgryraedd at fywyd o waith ac o ddarparu ar eu cyfer eu hunain a'u teuluoedd. Gyda phob dyledus barch i'r Ceidwadwyr, fe gymer lawer mwy na strategaeth weithgynhyrchu syml i fynd i'r afael â rhai o'r problemau hyn o ddiweithdra rhwng cenedlaethau a dyhead o fewn cymunedau unigol, lle mae bod yn ddi-waith yn norm.

Alun Cairns: Buom yn siarad am strategaeth ar weithgynhyrchu, ond buom yn siarad hefyd am godi lefelau sgiliau i'r grŵp hwnnw mewn cymdeithas, a byddai'n eu helpu. Felly, nid am strategaeth ar weithgynhyrchu'n unig yr ydym yn sôn—crybwylodd David Melding a minnau lawer rhagor.

Kirsty Williams: I accept that, but what I am trying to get at is that we have reached a stage in many of our Welsh communities where there are serious psychological and underlying factors that will be very difficult for any Government, of whatever colour, to address. If we do not take action now, we risk spreading that culture and lack of aspiration to many more of our communities. That would fly in the face of the fact that we, as a nation, have so much to offer our workers and, indeed, the world, if only we were able to harness and promote them and work together to create an offer that was attractive to individual entrepreneurs in Wales and in a wider market. We should aspire to Wales being the very best place to start and develop businesses, and we would do that by harnessing the attributes and the unique selling points that we have.

The challenge is more than just helping those who are close to the labour market, because, eventually, this recession will right itself. It is a question of time and the degree to which that happens, but, inevitably, we will come out of this recession as we have come out of them before, and those close to the labour market will find their way back to work. The real challenge for the Government is to be in a position to assist those who have been economically inactive for a long period of time, and, as Alun Cairns mentioned, the key to that must be around issues of education.

I wholeheartedly supported the Deputy First Minister last week when he concentrated on the need to develop links between our institutions of learning and employers, and to develop our skills base. That is why I am slightly concerned that the Government, in amending the Liberal Democrat motion, focused on its skills strategy. I am sure that you will acknowledge that that skills strategy was published in 2008, prior to the very difficult situation that we now find ourselves in now, and one wonders whether the strategy that was outlined at that time is still fit for purpose. While I may be convinced by the Deputy First Minister's arguments, I think that he is yet to convince his own Cabinet colleagues. It cannot be right for the Deputy First Minister on the one hand to call for this

Kirsty Williams: Yr wyf yn derbyn hynny, ond yr hyn yr wyf yn ceisio'i ddweud yw ein bod wedi cyrraedd adeg mewn nifer o gymunedau yng Nghymru lle mae ffactorau seicolegol a gwaelodol difrifol y bydd yn anodd iawn i unrhyw Lywodraeth, o ba liw bynnag, ymdrin â nhw. Oni weithredwn yn awr, mae perygl y caiff y diwylliant a'r diffyg dyhead hwennw ei ledaenu i lawer rhagor o'n cymunedau. Byddai hynny'n mynd yn groes i'r ffaith fod gennym, fel cenedl, gymaint i'w gynnig i'n gweithwyr, ac yn wir i'r byd, pe na baem ond yn gallu ei harneisio a'i hyrwyddo a gweithio gyda'n gilydd i greu arwy sy'n ddeniadol i entrepeneuriad unigol yng Nghymru ac mewn marchnad ehangach. Dylem anelu at sefydlu Cymru fel y lle gorau un i gychwyn a datblygu busnesau, a byddem yn gwneud hynny drwy harneisio'r priodoledau a'r rhagoriaethau unigryw sydd gennym.

Mae'r her yn fwy na rhoi help yn unig i'r rheini sy'n agos at y farchnad lafur, oherwydd maes o law bydd y dirwasgiad hwn yn unioni ei hun. Mae'n fater o amser ac i baraddau y bydd hynny ddigwydd, ond yn anochel down allan o'r dirwasgiad hwn fel yr ydym wedi dod allan ohonynt o'r blaen, a bydd y rhai sy'n agos at y farchnad lafur yn darganfod ffordd yn ôl i weithio. Yr her wirioneddol i'r Llywodraeth yw bod mewn sefyllfa i gynorthwyo'r rheini sydd wedi bod yn anweithredol yn economaidd ers cyfnod hir, ac fel y crybwylodd Alun Cairns, rhaid i faterion addysg fod yn allweddol i hynny.

Yr oeddwn yn llwyr gefnogi'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yr wythnos diwethaf pan ganolbwytiodd ar yr angen i ddatblygu cysylltiadau rhwng ein sefydliadau dysgu a chyflwynwyr, ac i ddatblygu ein sylfaen sgiliau. Dyna pam yr wyf braidd yn bryderus fod y Llywodraeth, wrth ddiwygio cynnig y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, wedi canolbwytio ar ei strategaeth sgiliau. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddech yn cydnabod bod y strategaeth sgiliau honno wedi ei chyhoeddi yn 2008, cyn y sefyllfa anodd iawn yr ydym yn ein cael ein hunain ynnddi ar hyn o bryd, a rhaid gofyn tybed a yw'r strategaeth a amlinellwyd bryd hynny yn dal yn addas at y diben. Er bod dadleuon y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog wedi fy argyhoeddi i efallai, ni chredaf ei fod eto wedi argyhoeddi ei gyd-

connection between education, skills and the economy, and then to see his own Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills slash the revenue budget for higher education and further education. I acknowledge that money has this very week gone into capital expenditure for educational institutions. However, it is actually the revenue budgets that keep those institutions going that will make all of the difference as to whether these institutions can deliver on the Deputy First Minister's agenda. Individual project money is a very small proportion of revenue budgets and the 5 per cent efficiency cuts for HE and FE could be absolutely catastrophic.

5.30 p.m.

At the moment, further education colleges are disincentivised to take on students aged over 19—the very people whom we need to be upskilled or to get back into education. The Deputy Minister says that he is prepared to realign his budgets with the further development work that he is doing. I wonder whether he could give the same commitment for the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills with regard to whether she will need to realign her budget in light of the strategy that the Deputy First Minister is now pursuing?

One thing that concerned me greatly last week was the declaration of the no-more-grants culture. In some ways, that is to be welcomed, but the message from the Deputy First Minister could certainly be interpreted as a signal of shutting up the Welsh shop to the world. Although we have problems with International Business Wales, which the Deputy First Minister is now more than aware of, we cannot turn our backs on the ability to attract inward investment. I dare say that, in response to the Liberal Democrat motion, Plaid Cymru backbenchers will get up and blame it all on the powers, saying 'If only we had the powers, we could act'. If that were the case, why has the Government not sought to draw down powers at all in this area over the past three years? This very afternoon, Plaid Cymru Members have said that, if only we had the powers, we could do

Aelodau yn y Cabinet. Ni all fod yn iawn i'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ar un llaw alw am y cysylltiad hwn rhwng addysg, sgiliau a'r economi, ac yna weld ei Weinidog ei hun dros Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau yn torri'r gyllideb refeniw ar gyfer addysg uwch ac addysg bellach. Yr wyf yn cydnabod bod arian wedi ei roi, yr wythnos hon, ar wariant cyfalaf ar gyfer sefydliadau addysgol. Fodd bynnag, mewn gwirionedd y cyllidebau refeniw sy'n cadw'r sefydliadau hynny i fynd a fydd yn gwneud y gwahaniaeth ac yn pennu a all y sefydliadau hynny gyflawni agenda'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog. Cyfran fach iawn o gyllidebau refeniw yw arian prosiect unigol, a gallai'r toriadau effeithlonrwydd o 5 y cant i AU ac AB fod yn gwbl drychinebus.

Ar hyn o bryd, mae anogaeth i golegau addysg bellach beidio â chymryd myfyrwyr dros 19 oed—yr union bobl y mae angen gwella'u sgiliau neu eu cael yn ôl i addysg. Dywed y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ei fod yn barod i addasu ei gyllidebau i sicrhau eu bod yn cyd-fynd â'i waith datblygu pellach. Ys gwn i a allai roi'r un ymrwymiad ar ran y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau i ddweud a fydd angen iddi hithau addasu ei chyllideb yng ngoleuni'r strategaeth y mae'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn ei dilyn bellach?

Un peth a achosodd bryder mawr imi yr wythnos diwethaf oedd y datganiad am y diwylliant dim-grantiau-mwyach. Mewn rhai ffyrdd mae hynny i'w groesawu, ond gallai'r neges gan y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn sicr gael ei dehongli fel arwydd ein bod yn cau siop Cymru i'r byd. Er bod gennym broblemau gyda Busnes Rhyngwladol Cymru, y mae'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn fwy nag ymwybodol ohonynt erbyn hyn, ni allwn droi ein cefnau ar y gallu i ddenu mewnfuddsoddi. Mae'n siŵr gennyf y bydd meincwyr cefn Plaid Cymru, mewn ymateb i gynnig y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, yn codi ac yn beio'r cyfan ar y pwerau, gan ddweud 'Pe bai'r pwerau gennym, gallem weithredu'. Os yw hynny'n wir, pam nad yw'r Llywodraeth wedi ceisio tynnu pwerau i lawr yn y maes hwn dros y tair blynedd diwethaf? Y prynhawn yma mae Aelodau Plaid Cymru

things differently, but there has been no attempt over the past three years by the Government to get these powers devolved.

The one exception, I suppose, was the Proposed Education (Wales) Measure, but that deals mainly with special educational needs. The Government's anti-child poverty Measure, the Proposed Children and Families (Wales) Measure, has no additional resources attached to it. Therefore, Plaid Cymru, it is not enough to fall back on the argument that, if only we had had the referendum or proper devolution, we could act differently. You have had the opportunity over the past three years to draw down powers in this area if you felt that your hands were being tied, but your Government has not done that.

I do not underestimate the difficulties that this Government faces—or that any Government of any colour would face—in addressing what have been dogged problems of the Welsh economy. However, at the moment, the lack of a published labour market strategy and the lack of spending on education must be severe worries that can surely only hamper rather than help our ability to help the nation to recover.

The Deputy Minister for Skills (John Griffiths): I move amendment 1 in the name of Carwyn Jones. Delete point 3 and replace with:

welcomes publication of the Assembly Government's strategy, 'Skills That Work for Wales', and the setting up of the Wales Employment and Skills Board, demonstrating the partnership approach to meeting the future needs of a growing Welsh economy.

David Melding: I move amendment 2 in the name of Alun Cairns. Add a new point at the end of the motion:

regrets the lack of an effective strategy from the Welsh Assembly Government to deal with

wedi dweud, pe bai'r pwerau gennym, y gallem wneud pethau'n wahanol, ond ni fu'r un ymgais gan y Llywodraeth dros y tair blynedd diwethaf i sicrhau bod y pwerau hyn yn cael eu datganoli.

Yr un eithriad, mae'n debyg, oedd Mesur Addysg Arfaethedig (Cymru), ond delio ag anghenion addysgol arbennig y mae hwnnw'n bennaf. Nid oes dim adnoddau ychwanegol ynghlwm wrth Fesur y Llywodraeth yn erbyn tlodi plant, Mesur Plant a Theuluoedd Arfaethedig (Cymru). Felly, Plaid Cymru, nid yw'n ddigon dibynnu ar y ddadl, pe baem wedi cael y refferendwm neu ddatganoli go iawn, y gallem weithredu'n wahanol. Yr ydych wedi cael y cyfle dros y tair blynedd diwethaf i dynnu pwerau i lawr yn y maes hwn os oeddech yn teimlo eich bod yn cael eich llyffetheirio, ond nid yw eich Llywodraeth wedi gwneud hynny.

Nid wyf yn bychanu'r anawsterau sy'n wynebu'r Llywodraeth hon—neu a fyddai'n wynebu unrhyw Lywodraeth o unrhyw liw—wrth ymdrin â'r hyn a fu'n broblemau diildio yn economi Cymru. Fodd bynnag, ar hyn o bryd rhaid bod y ffaith nad oes strategaeth wedi ei chyhoeddi ar gyfer y farchnad lafur a'r diffyg gwariant ar addysg yn bryderon difrifol na allant, yn sicr, ond rhwystro yn hytrach na helpu ein gallu i helpu'r genedl i adennill tir.

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Sgiliau (John Griffiths): Cynigiaf welliant 1 yn enw Carwyn Jones. Dileu pwynt 3 a rhoi yn ei le:

yn croesawu'r ffaith bod strategaeth Llywodraeth y Cynulliad sef 'Sgiliau Sy'n Gweithio i Gymru' wedi cael ei chyhoeddi, a'r ffaith bod Bwrdd Cyflogaeth a Sgiliau Cymru wedi'i sefydlu, sy'n amlygu'r dull partneriaeth a ddefnyddir er mwyn diwallu anghenion y dyfodol mewn economi sy'n tyfu yng Nghymru.

David Melding: Cynigiaf welliant 2 yn enw Alun Cairns. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn gresynu wrth ddiffyg strategaeth effeithiol gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i ddelio

the increasing unemployment.

I want to make two points in this debate. The first relates to youth unemployment and the second reflects on the change of economic development policy that was announced last week, which has been pithily described as moving from a grants culture to a loans culture. On youth unemployment, some 40 per cent of those unemployed are aged under 25. One reason why there has been a jump this quarter in the number of people who are unemployed is that many people have graduated and pupils have left school and are unable to find work. It is quite sobering to reflect on the fact that one reason for that jump is the rise at that end of the spectrum, among those seeking to enter the labour force for the first time. They are seeking their formative experiences of employment, and many of them face being frustrated unless we implement programmes that help them, even if we cannot necessarily generate work for them in the short term.

Therefore, what should we do with these people who will not get into the workforce as quickly as they had hoped? The first and probably most important thing that we can do is on the skills side. Many of them will have been acquiring skills, either through higher education or some post-16 course, so one thing that we could do would be to extend the period of their skills training. If they are in FE colleges, they may decide to acquire a higher level skill than they would otherwise have got at age 18 or seek to widen their range of skills. Instead of seeking to enter the workforce straight away, graduates could pursue a postgraduate degree. There is an issue there, because graduates face considerable debt. Therefore, unless we intervene and make postgraduate education more attractive, it will not be a realistic option for many of the people who would otherwise be seeking work. If we are careful in selecting the postgraduate programmes that we will back, we could take some very innovative action that will have a long-term effect on our economy. The best guide to how entrepreneurial a person is is whether they hold a postgraduate qualification. We need to focus on that and see that as a way not just of postponing entry into the job

â'r diweithdra cynyddol.

Hoffwn wneud dau bwynt yn y ddadl hon. Mae a wnelo'r cyntaf â diweithdra ymhlið pobl ifanc ac y mae'r ail yn ymdrin â'r newid yn y polisi datblygu economaidd a gyhoeddwyd yr wythnos diwethaf, ac a ddisgrifiwyd yn gryno fel newid o ddiwylliant grantiau i ddiwylliant benthyciadau. O ran diweithdra ymhlið pobl ifanc, mae rhyw 40 y cant o'r rheini sy'n ddiwaith dan 25 oed. Un rheswm pam y bu cynnydd yn y chwarter hwn yn nifer y bobl sy'n ddi-waith yw bod llawer o bobl wedi graddio a disgylion wedi gadael yr ysgol ac yn methu dod o hyd i waith. Mae'n ddigon i'n sobri pan ystyriwn mai un rheswm dros y naid hwnnw yw'r cynnydd ar y pen hwnnw o'r sbectrwm, ymhlið y rhai sy'n ceisio camu i'r farchnad lafur am y tro cyntaf. Maent yn chwilio am eu profiadau cychwynnol o gyflogaeth, a chaiff dyheadau llawer ohonynt eu drysu oni roddwn raglenni ar waith i'w helpu, hyd yn oed os na allwn o reidrwydd greu gwaith iddynt yn y tymor byr.

Felly, beth ddylem ni ei wneud â'r bobl hyn na fyddant yn gallu camu i'r gweithlu mor gyflym ag yr oeddent yn ei obeithio? Mae'r peth cyntaf, a'r pwysicaf mae'n debyg, y gallwn ei wneud ar yr ochr sgiliau. Bydd llawer ohonynt wedi bod yn dysgu sgiliau, un ai drwy addysg uwch ynteu drwy ryw gwrs ôl-16. Felly, un peth y gallem ei wneud fyddai ymestyn cyfnod eu hyfforddiant sgiliau. Os ydynt mewn colegau AB, efallai y byddant yn penderfynu dysgu sgiliau ar lefel uwch nag y byddent wedi'u cael fel arall yn 18 oed neu'n ceisio ehangu amrediad eu sgiliau. Yn lle ceisio camu i'r gweithlu yn ddiymdroi, gallai graddedigion wneud gradd ôl-radd. Mae rhywbeth i'w ystyried yno, oherwydd mae graddedigion yn wynebu dyledion sylweddol. Felly, oni fyddwn yn ymyrryd a gwneud addysg ôl-radd yn fwy deniadol, ni fydd yn ddewis realistig i lawer o'r bobl a fyddai fel arall yn chwilio am waith. Os byddwn yn ofalus wrth ddewis y rhagleni ôl-radd a gefnogwn, gallem gymryd rhai camau hynod arloesol a gaiff effaith tymor hir ar ein heonomi. Yr arweiniad gorau i ddangos mor entreprenaidd yw person yw a oes ganddo gymhwyster ôl-radd. Mae angen inni ganolbwytio ar hynny a gweld hynny nid yn

market, but also of adding critically to someone's skills.

We need schemes that encourage connections to the job market even when people are not able to get jobs immediately. These schemes, particularly for young people, keep them in contact with the working environment and can encourage a spirit of entrepreneurship. It is the loss of hope that people suffer. That psychological barrier that can come down. Evidence shows that that can affect people for 10 to 20 years. People who did not have a good experience in the 1980s are now suffering well into their middle and advanced years. Perhaps they should be earning more than they are, but their potential has been limited. We really need to concentrate on that area.

If the Deputy First Minister really wants to shift from a grants culture to more of a loans culture in the assistance that we can give those seeking to innovate in the Welsh economy, what is overwhelmingly likely to happen is more focus being given to small and medium-sized enterprises. That is not to move away from grants entirely, as there will always be the case to attract outside investors and companies into the Welsh economy, particularly when they meet a strategic objective that we have in any case—and, to be fair, he emphasised that point last week. There is always room for that. However, it is fair to say that where we have not taken enough action since the 1980s is in really trying to make Wales a more entrepreneurial country. That is where long-term growth and wealth creation will lie.

As David Rosser stated in the *Western Mail* this week, we need a transformation. I am not sure whether I agree with how he put it, but I will remind you of what he said: we should not just be pouring the concrete. Now, construction is important, and so I am sure that what he meant was that we need to be designing the buildings and owning the companies that get the big infrastructure contracts, or that they should be based in Wales. In some way, that sums up the aspiration that we should have, and our

unig fel ffordd i ohirio mynediad i'r farchnad swyddi, ond hefyd i ychwanegu'n hanfodol at sgiliau person.

Mae arnom angen cynlluniau sy'n annog cysylltiadau â'r farchnad swyddi hyd yn oed pan na all pobl gael swyddi ar unwaith. Mae'r cynlluniau hyn, yn enwedig i bobl ifanc, yn eu cadw mewn cysylltiad â'r amgylchedd gwaith, a gallant annog ysbryd o entrepreneuriaeth. Colli gobaith fydd pobl. Y rhwystr seicolegol hwnnw sy'n gallu taro pobl i lawr. Dengys tystiolaeth y gall effeithio ar bobl am 10 i 20 mlynedd. Mae pobl na chawsant brofiadau da yn y 1980au yn dioddef yn awr ymhell i'w canol oed a'u henoed. Efallai y dylent fod yn ennill mwy nag y maent, ond cyfyngwyd ar eu potensial. Mae gwir angen inni ganolbwytio ar y maes hwnnw.

Os yw'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog o ddifrif am symud oddi wrth ddiwylliant o grantiau i ddiwylliant sy'n dibynnu mwy ar fenthyciadau o ran y cymorth y gallwn ei roi i'r rheini sy'n ceisio arloesi yn economi Cymru, yw hyn sy'n fwyaf tebygol o bell ffordd o ddigwydd yw y canolbwytir mwy ar gwmnïau bach a chanolig eu maint. Nid yw hynny'n golygu symud yn llwyr oddi wrth grantiau, oherwydd bydd achos bob amser i ddenu buddsoddwyr a chwmnïau allanol i economi Cymru, yn enwedig pan fyddant yn bodloni amcan strategol sydd gennym beth bynnag—ac i fod yn deg, pwysleisiodd y pwynt hwnnw yr wythnos diwethaf. Mae lle i hynny bob amser. Fodd bynnag, mae'n deg dweud mai'r maes nad ydym wedi gwneud digon ynddo ers y 1980au yw mynd ati o ddifrif i geisio gwneud Cymru'n wlad fwy entrepreneuriaidd. Dyna ble bydd twf a chreu cyfoeth yn y tymor hir.

Fel y dywedodd David Rosser yn y *Western Mail* yr wythnos hon, mae arnom angen gweddnewidiad. Nid wyf yn siŵr a wyf yn cytuno â'r ffordd y mynegodd ef hynny, ond fe'ch atgoffaf o'r hyn a ddywedodd: nid arllwys y concrit yn unig y dylem ei wneud. Nawr, mae adeiladu'n bwysig, felly yr wyf yn siŵr mai'r hyn a olygai oedd bod angen inni fod yn dylunio'r adeiladau ac yn berchen ar y cwmnïau sy'n cael y contractau seilwaith mawr, neu y dylent fod yn seiliedig yng Nghymru. Mewn rhai ffyrdd, mae hynny'n

chance in this time of economic difficulty to create a more prosperous Wales.

Eleanor Burnham: While ProAct is good news, we must put it into context. My belief is that ProAct has saved 673 jobs in north Wales, which is really good news for those individuals concerned. However, it will not make much of a dent in the unemployment figures. I was at Wrexham jobcentre last week with a guy who oversees the whole of north and mid Wales as well as other parts. Things are looking grim. Given that 285 jobs a day have been lost in the past year, 673 being saved by ProAct is small fry.

Unemployment was last this high under the Conservatives in 1995. The most worrying thing is that the trend does not reverse immediately. It takes no time at all for a company to close, to switch off the lights, and for people to lose their jobs, but the process of rebuilding the economy takes much longer, as many of us know. From that very low point in 1995, it took almost eight years for unemployment to drop to its lowest level, when the economy was at its strongest. Can we really wait another eight years to return to that state, let alone reach the Government's target of 80 per cent full employment? ProAct and ReAct are helping, and are to be commended highly, but it is important to remember the scale of what we are talking about. ReAct has helped 173 people across Wales and ProAct has helped more than 4,000 people.

Jeff Cuthbert rose—

Eleanor Burnham: If you have other figures, I am sure that you can share them in a minute, but just let me carry on.

I am talking about north Wales. [Interruption.] I have a brief here, and I am trying my best. If I have been badly briefed, I am sure that you can all contradict me in a minute. I will finish what I was saying, so excuse me for a minute.

crynhai'r dyhead a ddylai fod gennym, a'n cyfle ar yr adeg hon o anawsterau economaidd i greu Cymru fwy llewyrchus.

Eleanor Burnham: Er bod ProAct yn newyddion da, rhaid inni ei roi mewn cyddestun. Credaf fod ProAct wedi achub 673 o swyddi yng ngogledd Cymru, sy'n newyddion gwirioneddol dda i'r unigolion hynny. Fodd bynnag, ni fydd yn gwneud lawer o dolc yn y ffigurau diweithdra. Yr oeddwn mewn canolfan gwaith yn Wrecsam yr wythnos diwethaf gyda dyn sy'n goruchwyllo gogledd a chanolbarth Cymru i gyd yn ogystal â rhannau eraill. Mae pethau'n edrych yn ddrwg. O gofio bod 285 o swyddi y dydd wedi eu colli yn y flwyddyn ddiwethaf, prin fod 673 wedi eu hachub gan ProAct yn arwyddocaol iawn.

Y tro diwethaf pan oedd diweithdra cyn uched â hyn oedd dan y Ceidwadwyr yn 1995. Yr hyn sy'n peri'r pryder mwyaf yw nad yw'r duedd yn troi o chwith ar unwaith. Nid yw'n cymryd dim amser i gwmni gau, diffodd y golau, ac i bobl golli eu swyddi, ond mae'r broses o ailadeiladu'r economi yn cymryd lawer yn hwy, fel y gŵyr nifer ohonom. O'r pwynt isel iawn hwnnw yn 1995, cymerodd bron i wyth mlynedd i ddiweithdra ddisgyn i'w lefel isaf, pan oedd yr economi ar ei chryfaf. A allwn ni mewn difrif ddisgwyl wyth mlynedd arall i gyrraedd y sefyllfa honno eto, heb sôn am gyrraedd targed y Llywodraeth o 80 y cant o gyflogaeth lawn? Mae ProAct a ReAct yn helpu, ac y maent i'w canmol yn fawr, ond mae'n bwysig cofio graddfa'r hyn yr ydym yn siarad amdano. Mae ReAct wedi helpu 173 o bobl ar draws Cymru ac y mae ProAct wedi helpu dros 4,000 o bobl.

Jeff Cuthbert a gododd—

Eleanor Burnham: Os oes gennych chi ffigurau eraill, yr wyf yn siŵr y cewch eu rhannu mewn munud, ond gadewch i mi barhau.

Yr wyf yn siarad am ogledd Cymru. [Torri ar draws.] Mae gennyf friff yma, ac yr wyf yn gwneud fy ngorau. Os wyf wedi cael fy mrifffio'n wael, yr wyf yn siŵr y cewch i gyd ddweud yn wahanol mewn munud. Yr wyf am orffen yr hyn yr oeddwn yn ei ddweud,

felly, maddeuwch imi am funud.

5.40 p.m.

ProAct has apparently helped 4,000 people, but that is against a backdrop of 45,000 people becoming unemployed in the past year. In our opinion, the Government has to alter its strategy if it wants matters to improve at a quicker rate than it did during the last recession.

The cuts to colleges' funding alone will have a devastating effect in my region. A 5 per cent cut to Yale College's funding equates to £1.3 million, which is the equivalent of making 40 lecturers redundant. That is drastic. That gives an impression of the scale of the cut, because colleges are making, and will have to make, difficult decisions about which courses to fund, how many students to take, and whether to invest in new equipment. They also have to refuse admissions, which is devastating. All that goes completely against the recommendations of the Webb report, which the Government was quick to accept when it was published, but which it now completely ignores in practice.

Let us remind ourselves that the Webb report argued, among other things, for additional cash for further education, which is the key to creating linkages for those people who are not doing well but who could, eventually, go on to higher education. The Webb report pointed out that FE colleges in Wales were grossly underfunded compared with those in England. With each successive cut to FE budgets, the situation only gets worse, because colleges are struggling to make ends meet. They are there to invest in our youth and in our future.

As part of the debate, we have identified two areas in which the Government needs to raise its game: in resourcing FE and HE; and in developing a tangible plan to reach its stated 80 per cent employment target. I believe that it has fallen down on that, and it is letting down our future and our youth. Various committees are looking at what happens

Mae'n debyg fod ProAct wedi helpu 4,000 o bobl, ond mae hynny mewn cyd-destun o 45,000 o bobl wedi mynd yn ddi-waith dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf. Yn ein barn ni, rhaid i'r Llywodraeth newid ei strategaeth os yw am i bethau wella'n gyflymach nag a wnaethant yn ystod y dirwasgiad diwethaf.

Caiff y toriadau yng nghyllid colegau yn unig effaith drychinebus yn fy rhanbarth i. Mae toriad o 5 y cant yng nghyllid Coleg Iâl yn golygu £1.3 miliwn, sy'n cyfateb i ddiswyddo 40 o ddarllithwyr. Mae hynny'n eithafol. Rhydd hynny syniad o faint y toriad, oherwydd mae colegau'n gwneud penderfyniadau anodd am ba gyrsiau i'w cylrido, faint o fyfyrwyr i'w derbyn, a buddsoddi mewn cyfarpar newydd neu beidio, a bydd yn rhaid iddynt wneud hynny. Rhaid hefyd iddynt wrthod derbyn myfyrwyr, sy'n drychinebus. Mae hynny i gyd yn mynd yn groes yn llwyr i argymhellion adroddiad Webb, a dderbyniwyd yn gyflym iawn gan y Llywodraeth pan gafodd ei gyhoeddi ond sy'n cael ei anwybyddu'n llwyr ganddi'n awr mewn gwirionedd.

Gadewch inni ein hatgoffa'n hunain fod adroddiad Webb wedi dadlau, ymysg pethau eraill, o blaid arian ychwanegol ar gyfer addysg bellach, sy'n allweddol er mwyn creu dolenni cyswllt i'r bobl hynny nad ydynt yn gwneud yn dda iawn ond a allai, maes law, fynd ymlaen i addysg uwch. Nododd adroddiad Webb fod colegau AB yng Nghymru yn cael eu tangyllido'n ddifawr o'u cymharu â'r rheini yn Lloegr. Gyda phob toriad olynol yng nghyllidebau AB, nid yw'r sefyllfa ond yn gwaethyg, oherwydd mae colegau'n cael anhawster i gael dau benllinyn ynghyd. Maent yno i fuddsoddi yn ein pobl ifanc ac yn ein dyfodol.

Fel rhan o'r ddadl, yr ydym wedi nodi dau faes lle mae angen i'r Llywodraeth wneud rhagor: darparu adnoddau AB ac AU; a datblygu cynllun pendant i gyrraedd y targed a gyhoeddwyd ganddi o gyflogaeth o 80 y cant. Credaf ei bod wedi methu yn hynny, ac y mae'n gadael ein dyfodol a'n pobl ifanc yn y baw. Mae pwylgorau amrywiol yn edrych

when young people are not in employment, education or training. It is a grave situation, and we challenge the Government on it.

Mohammad Asghar: Despite the rise in unemployment in these tough times, the Assembly Government has had relative success—particularly through ReAct and ProAct, which we all acknowledge and agree on—in limiting the number of job losses and cushioning the blow of the recession, which would—

Jeff Cuthbert: Would you be interested to know that the actual figure for those helped through ReAct across Wales is not under 200, as was just said, but more than 9,000? That is a little different, is it not?

Mohammad Asghar: Thank you, Jeff.

ProAct and ReAct have limited the number of job losses and cushioned the blow of the recession, which would undoubtedly have been much heavier had Ieuan Wyn Jones not acted so decisively. Almost 600 Corus employees in Wales are to benefit from skills support worth £1.1 million through ProAct funding. Back in April, Jonathan Williams, the plant manager of Calsonic Kansei, told the *Today* programme on Radio 4 that ProAct had allowed the Llanelli-based company to retain 80 people, who would otherwise have been made redundant. He said that the Welsh Assembly Government had been extremely supportive, as it had developed the ProAct initiative, which, he said, was aimed specifically at helping automotive companies in Wales. He said that it offers an alternative to redundancy. His company now expects to see a recovery of 20 per cent in its trade by next summer, following the 50 per cent drop in demand experienced since August 2008. That is at a time when Westminster is slashing our budgets, and a Tory administration would slash even more.

The Liberal Dems at Westminster are also involved in this Dutch auction of who can make the most savage cuts. As well as cushioning the blow, Ieuan has also laid the groundwork for a shift in Welsh economic policy by investing in skills and training,

ar yr hyn sy'n digwydd pan na fydd pobl ifanc mewn cyflogaeth, addysg na hyfforddiant. Mae'n sefyllfa ddifrifol, a rhaid inni herio'r Llywodraeth yn ei chylch.

Mohammad Asghar: Er gwaethaf y cynnydd mewn diweithdra yn y cyfnod anodd hwn, mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi cael llwyddiant cymharol—yn arbennig drwy ReAct a ProAct yr ydym i gyd yn eu cydnabod ac yn cytuno arnynt—wrth gyfyngu nifer y swyddi a gollir a meddalu ergyd y dirwasgiad, a fyddai—

Jeff Cuthbert: A fyddai o ddiddordeb ichi wybod mai gwir nifer y rhai sydd wedi cael cymorth drwy ReAct ar draws Cymru yw nid llai na 200, fel sydd newydd gael ei ddweud, ond dros 9,000? Mae hynny ychydig yn wahanol, onid yw?

Mohammad Asghar: Diolch, Jeff.

Mae ProAct a ReAct wedi cyfyngu nifer y swyddi a gollwyd ac wedi meddalu ergyd y dirwasgiad, a fyddai wedi bod lawer yn galetach yn ddiamheul pe na bai Ieuan Wyn Jones wedi gweithredu mor bendant. Mae bron i 600 o weithwyr Corus yng Nghymru yn mynd i elwa o gymorth sgiliau gwerth £1.1 miliwn drwy gyllid ProAct. Yn ôl ym mis Ebrill dywedodd Jonathan Williams, rheolwr ffatri Calsonic Kansei, wrth raglen *Today* ar Radio 4 fod ProAct wedi caniatáu i'r cwmni o Lanelli gadw 80 o bobl, a fyddai fel arall wedi eu diswyddo. Dywedodd fod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi bod yn eithriadol o gefnogol, gan iddi ddatblygu cynllun ProAct, a oedd, meddai, yn cael ei dargedu'n benodol i helpu cwmnïau modurol yng Nghymru. Dywedodd ei fod yn cynnig dewis amgen yn lle diswyddo. Erbyn hyn mae ei gwmni'n disgwyl adennill 20 y cant o'i fasnach erbyn yr haf nesaf, yn dilyn y gostyngiad o 50 y cant a gafwyd er mis Awst 2008. Mae hyn ar adeg pan yw San Steffan yn cwtogi'n cyllidebau ni, a byddai gweinyddiaeth Dorfaidd yn cwtogi mwy eto.

Mae'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn San Steffan hefyd yn rhan o'r ocsiwn o chwith i weld pwy all wneud y toriadau llymaf. Yn ogystal â meddalu'r ergyd, mae Ieuan hefyd wedi gosod y seiliau ar gyfer newid ym mholfi economaidd Cymru drwy fuddsoddi

which will be beneficial to our businesses and our economy in the long term. Wales will be ready to step out of the recession with hope and confidence, thanks to his vision. He has shown that the Government and businesses can work together even in the toughest of times. We realise that there are historic problems in the Welsh economy, especially with the dependency on extractive industries in the past, but Plaid in Government is not afraid to get to grips with difficult issues like this and make a difference.

Ieuan is ensuring that the upskilling of the workforce takes place and we are laying the ground for a green economy with lots of new green jobs for the future in Wales. Keeping people away from the dole queue is Plaid's vision and the Government's vision. There is no vision from the opposition parties at this particular moment. Plaid in Government is investing in the Welsh people and backing ourselves to come out of the recession confidently as soon as possible.

Not long ago, my Conservative colleague Angela Burns made a passionate speech in which she said that one of her constituents was made redundant because of a banking problem; there was enough equity but not liquidity. Therefore, please do not lay a finger on our Government; talk to the people outside our boundaries.

I thought that the Lib Dems were better statisticians than politicians, but, in this case, they are wrong. Their calculations are not right and they do not understand the situation with regard to the jobs that are being lost. For most of the jobs that have been lost, the paymaster was outside our boundaries and our subsidiary companies lost jobs here because of financial difficulties somewhere else. We all know that the current financial constraints are a global problem. We are part of the global village, so we are facing the music. There is no doubt about that; we all agree on that.

I am pleased with the leadership shown by the Government. It is spending money to invest £35 million in an education and

mewn sgiliau a hyfforddiant, a fydd o fudd i'n busnesau a'n heonomi yn y tymor hir. Bydd Cymru'n barod i gamu allan o'r dirwasgiad gyda gobaith a hyder, diolch i'w weledigaeth. Mae wedi dangos y gall y Llywodraeth a busnesau weithio gyda'i gilydd hyd yn oed ar yr adegau mwyaf anodd. Yr ydym yn sylweddoli bod problemau hanesyddol yn economi Cymru, yn enwedig oherwydd y ddibyniaeth ar ddiwydiannau echdynnol yn y gorffennol, ond nid oes ar y Blaid mewn Llywodraeth ofn mynd i'r afael â materion anodd fel hwn a gwneud gwahaniaeth.

Mae Ieuan yn sicrhau bod uwchsgilio'r gweithlu yn digwydd a'n bod yn braenaru'r tir ar gyfer economi werdd gyda nifer o swyddi gwyrdd newydd ar gyfer y dyfodol yng Nghymru. Cadw pobl draw o'r ciw dôl yw gweledigaeth y Blaid a gweledigaeth y Llywodraeth. Nid oes gweledigaeth gan y gwrthbleidiau ar y foment hon. Mae'r Blaid mewn Llywodraeth yn buddsoddi ym mhobl Cymru ac yn credu'n gryf y down allan o'r dirwasgiad yn hyderus cyn gynted â phosibl.

Ychydig yn ôl, gwnaeth fy nghyd-Aelod Ceidwadol Angela Burns araith lawn angerdd pan ddywedodd fod un o'i hetholwyr wedi colli ei swydd oherwydd problem bancio; bod digon o ecwiti ond nid digon o hylifedd. Felly, da chi peidiwch â bwrw'r bai ar ein Llywodraeth; siaradwch â'r bobl y tu hwnt i'n ffiniau ni.

Yr oeddwn yn credu bod y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn well ystadegwyr na gwleidyddion, ond yn yr achos hwn maent yn anghywir. Nid yw eu cyfrifiadau'n gywir, ac nid ydynt yn deall y sefyllfa o ran y swyddi sy'n cael eu colli. Gyda'r rhan fwyaf o'r swyddi sydd wedi eu colli, roedd y tâl-feistr y tu hwnt i'n ffiniau ni, a cholodd ein hisgwmniau yma swyddi oherwydd anawsterau ariannol rywle arall. Gwyddom i gyd fod y cyfyngiadau ariannol presennol yn broblem fydeang. Yr ydym yn rhan o'r pentref bydeang, felly, rhaid inni wynebu'r canlyniadau. Nid oes amheuaeth ynglŷn â hynny; yr ydym i gyd yn cytuno ar hynny.

Yr wyf wedi fy mhlesio gan yr arweinyddiaeth a ddangoswyd gan y Llywodraeth. Mae'n gwario arian i fuddsoddi

training centre in Ebbw Vale and £8.5 million in Prince Charles Hospital, which no-one has mentioned yet. This will create jobs and improve skill levels in the area that I represent. Therefore, I am very proud of what this Government is doing at the moment.

Michael German: I dread following that peroration, but I will attempt to dissect a few of its excesses. The purpose of today's debate is to look at how we can deal with the very specific issue of unemployment and those who are most at risk in the current economic climate. Oscar was warned at the beginning that we would expect Plaid Cymru to blame everyone else, but this is a problem that falls, in part, at the feet of the Welsh Assembly Government.

£35 miliwn mewn canolfan addysg a hyfforddiant yng Nglynebw y ac £8.5 miliwn yn Ysbyty'r Tywysog Charles, nad oes neb wedi'u crybwyl eto. Bydd hyn yn creu swyddi ac yn gwella lefelau sgiliau yn yr ardal yr wyf fi yn ei chynrychioli. Felly, yr wyf yn ymfalchiö'n fawr yn yr hyn y mae'r Llywodraeth hon yn ei wneud ar hyn o bryd.

Michael German: Yr wyf yn arswydo rhag dilyn y perorasiwn hwnnw, ond ceisiaf ddadelfennu rhywfaint o'r gor-ddweud ynddo. Pwrpas y ddadl heddiw yw ystyried sut y gallwn ddelio â mater penodol diweithdra a'r rheini sydd mewn mwyaf o berygl yn yr hinsawdd economaidd bresennol. Rhybuddiwyd Oscar ar y dechrau y byddem yn disgwyl i Blaid Cymru feio pawb arall, ond mae hon yn broblem sy'n disgyn, yn rhannol, wrth draed Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru.

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd i'r Gadair am 5.48 p.m.
The Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair at 5.48 p.m.*

I would like to follow on from what David Melding said. The underlying problems that this recession causes for individuals are the ones that we must seek to tackle with solutions today. There are three groups of people whose situation I want to address, where I think that the Government has not been as beneficial to their future as they could be. That is evidenced in their budget.

The first of these is the group most affected by unemployment. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has produced the figures and it does not take a wizard to tell you that the people who are most affected are the 16 to 25-year-olds. That is the group of people most affected by unemployment. If you are affected by unemployment before you have your first job, it is very unlikely that you will be ready for the job market moving ahead.

The people in that group are most affected in the poorest areas of Wales. It is absolutely right that we should have a learning campus in Ebbw Vale. The fact that it has taken 10 years to make the announcement and that it will be another three or four years before it is built belies the problem that we are facing

Hoffwn ddilyn ymlaen o'r hyn a ddywedodd David Melding. Y problemau gwaelodol y mae'r dirwasgiad hwn yn eu hachosi i unigolion yw'r rhai y mae'n rhaid inni geisio mynd i'r afael â nhw gydag atebion heddiw. Mae tri grŵp o bobl yr wyf am roi sylw i'w sefyllfa, lle credaf nad yw'r Llywodraeth wedi bod mor llesol i'w dyfodol ag y gallai fod. Mae hyn yn amlwg yn y gyllideb.

Y cyntaf o'r rhain yw'r grŵp y mae diweithdra'n effeithio fwyaf arno. Mae Sefydliad Joseph Rowntree wedi cynhyrchu'r ffigurau ac nid yw'n cymryd dewin i ddweud wrthych mae'r rhai yr effeithir fwyaf arnynt yw pobl 16 i 25 oed. Dyna'r grŵp o bobl y mae diweithdra'n effeithio fwyaf arnynt. Os yw diweithdra'n effeithio arnoch cyn ichi gael eich swydd gyntaf, mae'n annhebygol iawn y byddwch yn barod pan fydd y farchnad swyddi'n symud ymlaen.

Effeithir yn fwyaf ar y bobl yn y grŵp hwnnw yn y rhannau tlotaf o Gymru. Mae'n hollol iawn y dylai fod gennym gampws dysgu yng Nglynebw y. Mae'r ffaith ei bod wedi cymryd 10 mlynedd i wneud y cyhoeddiad ac y bydd yn dair neu bedair blynedd eto cyn y caiff ei hadeiladu yn rhoi

today. The majority of those affected by the unemployment that we are seeing now will be those young people. You can understand why: it is such a stretch and a strain to retain people in their jobs, to try to ensure that we hold on to what we have—that is what companies and the public sector do. Therefore, it is increasingly difficult for younger people to move into that jobs pool. That is the big problem that we want to tackle, and we need action to deal with it now, not in four or five years' time.

5.50 p.m.

The second group is the group that is going to come behind them: the 14 to 16-year-olds. The most difficult job is to tackle the disaffected in school, the people not in training, education, employment or training, or NEETS. That is the group of people who find it difficult in the education system. Those people will be backing up, behind those young people who are coming out of school. They will follow them and see no hope for the future. That is the second group of people on whom we should be spending and to whom we should be paying attention in our budget.

The third group is those people whom I would call the specifically skilled—people who have skills and talents for jobs that no longer exist or are about to cease to exist in our current economic climate. This is where the tragedy lies. We are facing a difficult position with far-right, extremist parties in this country. We are about to have a major debate on this in our country tomorrow. The evidence is that it is that group of people who do not have skills that are instantly transferable and are silent who are most likely to vote for those extremist parties. Underneath it all, unemployment issues drive people in that group to vote as they do.

Where do we find help? We look for it in the budget—the programme of funding that the Government puts before us. I know that the Deputy First Minister is not responsible for this budget, but he must have concerns about

camargraff o'r broblem sy'n ein hwynebu heddiw. Y bobl ifanc hynny fydd y mwyafri'r rhai yr effeithir arnynt gan y diweithdra yr ydym yn ei weld yn awr. Gallwch ddeall pam: mae'n gymaint o ymdrech a straen cynnal pobl yn eu swyddi, i geisio sicrhau ein bod yn dal ein gafael yn yr hyn sydd gennym—dyna y mae cwmnïau a'r sector cyhoeddus yn ei wneud. Felly, mae'n gynyddol anodd i bobl iau gamu i'r gronfa swyddi honno. Dyna'r broblem fawr yr ydym am fynd i'r afael â hi, ac y mae angen inni weithredu i ddelio â hynny'n awr, nid ymhen pedair neu bum mlynedd.

Yr ail grŵp yw'r grŵp sy'n mynd i ddod ar eu hól: plant 14 i 16 oed. Y dasg anodd yw mynd i'r afael â'r rheini sydd wedi dadrithio yn yr ysgol, y rhai nad ydynt mewn addysg, cyflogaeth na hyfforddiant, neu'r NEETS. Dyma'r grŵp o bobl a fydd yn ei chael hi'n anodd yn y gyfundrefn addysg. Bydd y bobl hynny'n cronni, y tu ôl i'r bobl ifanc sy'n gadael yr ysgol. Byddant yn eu dilyn ac ni fyddant yn gweld dim gobaith ar gyfer y dyfodol. Dyna'r ail grŵp o bobl y dylem fod yn gwario arnynt ac y dylem fod yn rhoi sylw iddynt yn ein cyllideb.

Y trydydd grŵp yw'r bobl hynny y byddwn i'n eu galw'n rhai sydd â sgiliau penodol—pobl sydd â sgiliau a doniau ar gyfer swyddi nad ydynt yn bodoli mwyach neu swyddi sydd ar fin diflannu yn ein hinsawdd economaidd bresennol. Yma y mae'r drasiedi. Yr ydym yn wynebu sefyllfa anodd gyda phleidiau eithafol, de eithaf yn y wlad hon. Yr ydym ar fin cael trafodaeth fawr ar hyn yn ein gwlad yfory. Y dystiolaeth yw mai'r grŵp hwnnw o bobl, nad oes ganddynt sgiliau sy'n trosglwyddo ar eu hunion ac sy'n dawedog, yw'r mwyaf tebygol o bleidleisio i'r pleidiau eithafol hynny. Yn waelodol i hynny, mae ystyriaethau diweithdra yn gyrru pobl yn y grŵp hwnnw i bleidleisio fel y gwnânt.

Ymhle y cawn ni gymorth? Yr ydym yn chwilio amdano yn y gyllideb—y rhaglen gyllido y mae'r Llywodraeth yn ei chyflwyno ger ein bron. Gwn nad yw'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn gyfrifol am y gyllideb hon, ond

it, because that is where the hurt is going to be felt the most. Those 16 to 24-year-olds and 14 to 16-year-olds come under the part of the budget that the Assembly Government has cut the most. Perhaps the answer that we are seeking today is the answer to the question: 'How do you intend to provide for the skills and employment needs of the most difficult groups if the budget does not provide for them?'. We are looking for the answer to that question.

The Deputy Minister for Skills (John Griffiths): We are keenly aware that the global downturn presents huge challenges, which we must meet and overcome. Among those, unemployment is a crucial concern. Statistics vary from month to month and quarter to quarter. Pre-recession, we saw sustained falls, reducing our figures below the UK average. Since then, we have had sharp increases and, most recently, it has been a mixed picture. The latest figures were disappointing, but it is still true to say that the current unemployment figures are still lower than was the case in almost every one of the Tory Government's 18 years. Over the devolution period, economic inactivity in Wales has been down by 1.6 per cent, compared with 0.3 per cent in the UK, and employment in Wales is up by 86,000 people.

Alun Cairns: When you go back to the years of Conservative Government and the different economic circumstances—*[Interruption.]* Do you believe that talking about the different economic circumstances that existed then and the unemployment rate now really helps the person in Blaenau Gwent who is out of work whom we were talking about earlier?

John Griffiths: It is highly relevant to reflect on the opposition's record in the past when it criticises our measures and activities in Government. As was said earlier, the idea that unemployment can be a price worth paying is an anathema to us but is presumably acceptable to the Tories. This is a global recession with financial aspects that are totally new, whereas the Conservative recessions were home-grown. We have to

rhaid ei fod yn pryderu ynglŷn â hi, oherwydd dyna lle y caiff y niwed ei deimlo fwyaf. Daw'r bobl hynny sy'n 16 i 24 oed ac yn 14 i 16 oed dan y rhan o'r gyllideb y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi'i thorri fwyaf. Efallai mai'r ateb yr ydym yn ei geisio heddiw yw'r ateb i'r cwestiwn: 'Sut ydych chi'n bwriadu darparu ar gyfer anghenion sgiliau a chyflogaeth y grwpiau anoddaf os nad yw'r gyllideb yn darparu ar eu cyfer?'. Yr ydym yn chwilio am ateb i'r cwestiwn hwnnw.

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Sgiliau (John Griffiths): Yr ydym yn ymwybodol tu hwnt fod y dirywiad byd-eang yn achosi heriau enfawr y mae'n rhaid inni ymateb iddynt a'u goesgyn. Ymhlieth y rheini mae diweithdra'n bryder tyngedfennol. Mae ystadegau'n amrywio o fis i fis ac o chwarter i chwarter. Cyn y dirwasgiad, gwelsom ostyngiadau cyson, gan ostwng ein ffigurau ni islaw cyfartaledd y DU. Ers hynny, yr ydym wedi cael codiadau llym, ac yn fwyaf diweddar darlun cymysg a gafwyd. Yr oedd y ffigurau diweddaraf yn siomedig, ond mae'n dal yn wir dweud bod y ffigurau diweithdra presennol yn dal yn is nag oeddent ym mhob un bron o 18 mlynedd y Llywodraeth Doriaidd. Dros y cyfnod datganoli, mae anweithgarwch economaidd yng Nghymru wedi gostwng 1.6 y cant, o'i gymharu â 0.3 y cant yn y DU, ac y mae cyflogaeth yng Nghymru 86,000 yn uwch.

Alun Cairns: Pan ewch yn ôl at y blynnyddoedd o Lywodraeth Geidwadol a'r amgylchiadau economaidd gwahanol—*[Torri ar draws.]* A ydych yn credu bod siarad am yr amgylchiadau economaidd gwahanol a fodolai bryd hynny a'r gyfradd ddiweithdra yn awr o ddifrif yn helpu'r person di-waith ym Mlaenau Gwent yr oeddym yn siarad amdano'n gynharach?

John Griffiths: Mae'n hynod berthnasol ystyried record yr wrthblaid yn y gorffennol pan fydd yn beirniadu ein mesurau a'n gweithgareddau ni fel Llywodraeth. Fel y dywedwyd yn gynharach, mae'r syniad y gall diweithdra fod yn bris gwerth ei dalu yn anathema i ni, ond yn ôl pob tebyg mae'n dderbynol i'r Toriaid. Mae hwn yn ddirwasgiad byd-eang gydag agweddau ariannol sy'n hollol newydd, tra oedd

place all of this in context.

Tackling unemployment and helping employers and businesses to face up to new realities and to prepare for new opportunities are at the core of our response. We are determined to take forward both the necessary short-term responses and our longer-term objectives, such as full employment. We have organised all-Wales summits, uniting Government, business and trade unions around rapid and comprehensive measures. This has established a strong partnership, on which we intend to build in the future.

I am glad that ProAct was mentioned by a number of Members and I am glad that there are over 7,000 workers, at all levels, receiving ProAct-sponsored training. That is preventing around a 1 percentage point increase on the unemployment register, were these individuals to be laid off. The opposition really should not be mealy mouthed about the ProAct scheme; it has rightly been praised and recognised across the UK and much further afield. Independent evaluations show that there have been high levels of added value from that scheme, such as real shifts in leadership and management within firms to high-performance working. ReAct provides training and wage subsidy to employees, to get redundant workers back into jobs. Some 3,000 new apprenticeships are being created, together with additional resource for post-16 education and training, including SkillBuild for the unemployed.

Contrary to the assertions that we have heard in this debate, the budgets for FE and HE have been maintained and we have prioritised an extra £20.5 million in the draft budget for the response to the recession. This week, we have seen SCIF funding for the Ebbw Vale learning campus and the Taff Ely campus and I am really sad that Mike German cannot find it within him to recognise the value of those developments for the learners in those areas. Good use is being made of European funding. Of course, we are also working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions.

dirwasgiadau'r Ceidwadwyr yn rhai cartref. Rhaid inni osod hyn i gyd yn ei gyd-destun

Mae mynd i'r afael â diweithdra a helpu cyflogwyr a busnesau i wynebu realiti newydd ac i baratoi ar gyfer cymleoedd newydd yn ganolog yn ein hymateb. Yr ydym yn benderfynol o symud ymlaen yr ymatebion tymor byr angenrheidiol a'n amcanion tymor hwy, megis cyflogaeth lawn. Yr ydym wedi trefnu uwchgynadleddau i Gymru gyfan, gan uno'r Llywodraeth, busnesau ac undebau llafur o amgylch mesurau cyflym a chynhwysfawr. Mae hyn wedi sefydlu partneriaeth gref y bwriadwn adeiladu arni yn y dyfodol.

Yr wyf yn falch fod ProAct wedi ei grybwyl gan nifer o Aelodau, ac yr wyf yn falch fod dros 7,000 o weithwyr, ar bob lefel, yn cael hyfforddiant a noddir gan ProAct. Mae hynny'n atal cynnydd o ryw un pwynt canran ar y gofrestr ddiweithdra, pe bae'r unigolion hyn yn cael eu diswyddo. Rhaid dweud na ddylai'r wrthblaid fod yn grintachlyd ynglŷn â chynllun ProAct; mae wedi cael canmoliaeth a chydnewyddiaeth haeddiannol ar draws y DU a thu hwnt. Dengys gwerthusiadau annibynnol bod lefelau uchel o werth ychwanegol wedi deillio o'r cynllun hwnnw, megis newidiadau gwirioneddol mewn arweinyddiaeth a rheolaeth o fewn cwmniau i sicrhau gweithio ar safon uchel. Mae ReAct yn darparu cymhorthdal hyfforddiant a chyflogau i weithwyr, i gael gweithwyr di-waith yn ôl i swyddi. Mae rhyw 3,000 o brentisiaethau newydd yn cael eu creu yn awr, ynghyd ag adnodd ychwanegol ar gyfer addysg a hyfforddiant ôl-16, gan gynnwys Adeiladu Sgiliau i'r di-waith.

Yn groes i'r haeriadau yr ydym wedi'u clywed yn y ddadl hon, mae'r cyllidebau ar gyfer AB ac AU wedi eu cynnal, ac yr ydym wedi blaenoriaethu £20.5 miliwn yn ychwanegol yn y gyllideb ddrafft i ymateb i'r dirwasgiad. Yr wythnos hon gwelsom gyllid o'r Gronfa Buddsoddi Cyfalaf Strategol ar gyfer campws dysgu Glynebwyr a chwmpws Taf-Elái, ac yr wyf yn wirioneddol drist na all Mike German fod yn ddigon hynaws i gydnabod gwerth y datblygiadau hynny i'r dysgwyr yn yr ardal oedd hynny. Mae defnydd da'n cael ei wneud o gyllid Ewropeidd. Wrth gwrs, yr ydym yn

gweithio'n agos hefyd gyda'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau.

David Melding, Mike German and others spoke about the disproportionate effect of this recession on 18 to 24-year-olds. That is why we are committed to delivering a young person's guarantee. There is evidence, as David Melding rightly mentioned, that previous surges in youth unemployment have blighted whole generations. They have created economic and social problems that are still with us today. Young people leaving education and training to take up jobs but finding none available, fell into inactivity and remain out of work decades later, with all of the economic and social problems that that brings. As part of that young people's guarantee, we have the Future Jobs fund. We have already successfully secured 18 projects in Wales, creating jobs for around 4,000 young people and attracting more than £25 million. We will put the training elements in place for that young people's guarantee.

'Skills That Work for Wales' sets out our longer-term strategy to integrate training with general business support, in terms of skills, and again to work closely with the Department for Work and Pensions and Jobcentre Plus. Kirsty, this autumn we will publish our joint labour market framework with the DWP, describing our shared approach to raising skills levels and increasing the economic activity rate in Wales. We have our 'One Wales' commitment to careers ladders and that will be taken forward with another pilot project, designed to make best use of available resources across all organisations, to sustain people so that they get into work and then progress in those jobs. We have set up the Wales employment and skills board to work with the UK commission to improve policy and practice. Last week, I published 'Investing in Skills', a consultation on our proposals for funding reforms and sector priorities, to support people to move into employment and to provide employees with skills to build a successful economy across Wales.

Siaradodd David Melding, Mike German ac eraill am effaith anghymesur y dirwasgiad hwn ar bobl 18 i 24 oed. Dyna pam yr ydym wedi ymrwymo i ddarparu'r gwarant pobl ifanc. Mae yna dystiolaeth, fel y crybwylloedd David Melding yn gywir, fod tonnau o ddiweithdra ymhlih pobl ifanc yn y gorffennol wedi difetha cenedlaethau cyfan. Maent wedi creu problemau economaidd a chymdeithasol sy'n dal gyda ni heddiw. Disgynnodd pobl ifanc, a oedd yn gadael addysg a hyfforddiant i fynd i swyddi ond a oedd yn gweld nad oedd swyddi ar gael, i anweithgarwch ac y maent yn dal yn ddiwaith ddegawdau'n ddiweddarach, gyda'r holl broblemau economaidd a chymdeithasol a ddaw yn sgil hynny. Fel rhan o'r gwarant hwnnw i bobl ifanc, mae gennym gronfa Swyddi'r Dyfodol. Yr ydym eisoes wedi sicrhau 18 prosiect yng Nghymru, gan greu swyddi i oddeutu 4,000 o bobl ifanc a denu dros £25 miliwn. Byddwn yn sefydlu'r elfennau hyfforddi ar gyfer y gwarant hwnnw i bobl ifanc.

Mae 'Sgiliau sy'n Gweithio i Gymru' yn gosod allan ein strategaeth tymor hwy i integreiddio hyfforddiant a chymorth busnes cyffredinol, o safbwyt sgiliau, ac eto i weithio'n agos gyda'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau a Chanolfan Byd Gwaith. Kirsty, yr hydref hwn byddwn yn cyhoeddi ein fframwaith ar y cyd â'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau ar gyfer y farchnad lafur, gan ddisgrifio ein dull gweithredu ar y cyd i godi lefelau sgiliau a chynyddu'r gyfradd gweithgarwch economaidd yng Nghymru. Mae gennym ein hymrwymiad yn 'Cymru'n Un' i ysgolion gyrfa, a chaiff y rheini ei symud ymlaen drwy brosiect peilot arall, a gynlluniwyd i wneud y defnydd gorau o'r adnoddau sydd ar gael ar draws pob sefydliad, i gynnal pobl er mwyn iddynt gamu i waith ac yna wneud cynnydd yn y swyddi hynny. Yr ydym wedi sefydlu bwrdd cyflogaeth a sgiliau Cymru i weithio gyda chomisiwn y DU i wella polisi ac arferion. Yr wythnos diwethaf cyhoeddais 'Buddsoddi mewn Sgiliau', sef ymgynghoriad ar ein cynigion i gyllido diwygiadau a blaenoriaethau sectorol, i gefnogi pobl i gamu i gyflogaeth ac i roi i weithwyr y sgiliau i

adeiladu economi lwyddiannus ar draws Cymru.

The recession has put the different principles and values of the political parties into stark relief. Whereas our Wales and UK Governments have mounted a huge effort to provide funding and policies to minimise the consequences, and made it clear that restoring public finances must wait until the recovery has taken root, the Tories would cut public spending during the recession, and the Liberal Democrats talk of savage cuts.

Mae'r dirwasgiad wedi dangos y gwahaniaeth rhwng egwyddorion a gwerthoedd y pleidiau gwleidyddol yn glir iawn. Tra mae Llywodraethau Cymru a'r DU wedi gwneud ymdrech enfawr i ddarparu cyllid a pholisiau i leihau'r canlyniadau i'r eithaf, a'i gwneud yn glir ei bod yn rhaid disgwyl nes bydd yr adferiad wedi gafael cyn adfer cyllid cyhoeddus, byddai'r Torïaid yn cwtogi gwariant cyhoeddus yn ystod y dirwasgiad, ac y mae'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn sôn am doriadau llym.

6.00 p.m.

Any Government is limited in what it can do in response to this global recession and financial crisis, but Governments have a responsibility to act, to protect their people, and there is much that can be done, as the policies of the Welsh Assembly Government and the UK Government clearly demonstrate. We will continue this huge effort to get Wales through the recession, ready to benefit and grow when the upturn comes and better times arrive.

Mae unrhyw Lywodraeth yn gyfyngedig yn yr hyn y gall ei wneud i ymateb i'r dirwasgiad a'r argyfwng ariannol byd-eang hwn. Ond y mae gan Lywodraethau ddyletswydd i weithredu, i warchod eu pobl, ac y mae llawer y gellir ei wneud, fel y mae polisiau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a Llywodraeth y DU yn ei ddangos yn glir. Byddwn yn parhau'r ymdrech enfawr hon i dywys Cymru drwy'r dirwasgiad, yn barod i elwa a thyfu pan fydd pethau'n gwella a chyfnod gwell yn cyrraedd.

Jenny Randerson: I emphasise that we have identified in this debate two areas where the Government needs to raise its game. They are in the resourcing of further and higher education, and in its plan to reach its stated 80 per cent target. For years, we as Welsh Liberal Democrats have argued that skills are essential for developing employment, ensuring that people can reach their employment potential, and attracting skilled jobs to Wales. You certainly cannot accuse us of being anything other than entirely consistent on this. That is why we find the 5 per cent cuts to further and higher education so galling. While the Government is imposing much smaller efficiency savings of only 1.6 per cent on itself, it expects FE and HE to find 5 per cent. That is not an efficiency saving; it is a cut in anyone's terms.

The second issue is that of having a decent plan to reach the entirely laudable 80 per cent

Jenny Randerson: Pwysleisiaf ein bod yn y ddadl hon wedi nodi dau faes lle mae angen i'r Llywodraeth wneud rhagor. Y rheini yw darparu adnoddau ar gyfer addysg bellach ac uwch, a'i chynllun i gyrraedd y targed o 80 y cant y mae wedi'i osod. Am flynyddoedd yr ydym ni fel Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru wedi dadlau bod sgiliau'n hanfodol er mwyn datblygu cyflogaeth, i sicrhau y gall pobl wireddu eu potensial o ran cyflogaeth, ac i ddenu swyddi crefftus i Gymru. Yn sic ni allwch ein cyhuddo o beidio â bod yn hollol gyson yn hynny. Dyna pam yr ydym yn teimlo bod y toriadau o 5 y cant mewn addysg bellach ac uwch mor anodd eu llyncu. Tra mae'r Llywodraeth yn gosod arbedion effeithlonrwydd llawer llai o 1.6 y cant yn unig iddi ei hun, mae'n disgwyl i AB ac AU ddod o hyd i 5 y cant. Nid arbediad effeithlonrwydd yw hynny: toriad ydyw yng ngeirfa unrhyw un.

Yr ail fater yw cael cynllun teilwng er mwyn cyrraedd y targed gwbl ganmoladwy o 80 y

target. ‘Skills That Work for Wales’ does not fulfil that role. The strategy was published in 2008, before the recession, and it was developed, undoubtedly, over at least a year before that. The target is reasonable, but the plan is all wrong now.

Much has been said about ProAct and ReAct by Oscar. I point out that those are reactive responses—perfectly good ones, but we are looking for a proactive plan for the future. We are not saying, Deputy Minister, that you can buck a world trend. Everyone expected unemployment to rise. What we are criticising you for is the fact that unemployment has risen more in Wales than elsewhere.

Jeff Cuthbert rose—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Are you taking interventions?

Jenny Randerson: Yes, if you will allow me the extra time, Deputy Presiding Officer.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I always do. Anybody who takes an intervention has a few additional minutes.

Jeff Cuthbert: I want to check whether the Lib Dems accept that the true figures for ReAct and ProAct are not as illustrated by Eleanor. In fact, 7,000 people have been helped by ProAct and over 9,000 by ReAct. No-one is suggesting that that is the solution to the problems of unemployment, but do you accept that the figures are far higher than those that one of your party’s spokespeople gave?

Jenny Randerson: I think that Eleanor corrected herself when she referred to a part of north Wales.

Mohammad Asghar said that we are part of the global village, and we agree, but we are doing worse than other parts of that village. You referred to a Dutch auction on cuts. You can call a 9 per cent cut, as set out by the Treasury, what you want—I do not mind. You can dress it up using more polite words than ‘savage’, but I believe that the man and

cant. Nid yw ‘Sgiliau sy’n Gweithio i Gymru’ yn cyflawni’r rôl honno. Cyhoeddwyd y strategaeth yn 2008, cyn y dirwasgiad, a chafodd ei datblygu, yn ddiamheuaeth, dros flwyddyn o leiaf cyn hynny. Mae'r targed yn rhesymol, ond mae'r cynllun yn gwbl amhriodol yn awr.

Soniodd Oscar lawer am ProAct a ReAct. Tynnaf sylw at y ffaith mai mesurau ymateb yw'r rheini—rhai holol briodol, ond yr ydym yn chwilio am gynllun rhagweithiol ar gyfer y dyfodol. Nid ydym yn dweud, Ddirprwy Weinidog, y gallwch drechu tuedd fyd-eang. Yr oedd pawb yn disgwyl i ddiweithdra godi. Yr hyn yr ydym yn eich beirniadu amdano yw'r ffaith fod diweithdra wedi codi mwy yng Nghymru nag mewn mannau eraill.

Jeff Cuthbert a gododd—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. A ydych yn cymryd ymyriadau?

Jenny Randerson: Ydwyt, os caniatewch chi'r amser ychwanegol imi, Ddirprwy Lywydd.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Gwnaf hynny bob amser. Mae pawb sy'n cymryd ymyriad yn cael rhai munudau ychwanegol.

Jeff Cuthbert: Yr wyf am gael cadarnhad a yw'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn derbyn nad y ffigurau a roddwyd gan Eleanor yw'r ffigurau cywir ar ReAct a ProAct. Yn wir, mae 7,000 o bobl wedi cael help gan ProAct a thros 9,000 gan ReAct. Nid oes neb yn awgrymu mai dyma'r ateb i broblemau diweithdra, ond a ydych yn derbyn bod y ffigurau hyn lawer yn uwch na'r rhai a roddwyd gan un o lefarwyr eich plaid?

Jenny Randerson: Credaf fod Eleanor wedi ei chywiro'i hun pan gyfeiriodd at ran o ogledd Cymru.

Dyweddodd Mohammad Asghar ein bod yn rhan o'r pentref byd-eang, ac yr ydym yn cytuno. Ond yr ydym yn gwneud yn waeth na rhannau eraill o'r pentref hwnnw. Cyfeiriech at ocsiwn o chwith mewn toriadau. Gallwch alw toriad o 9 y cant, fel a bennwyd gan y Trysorlys, yr hyn a fynnwch—nid oes ots gen i. Gallwch wneud iddo swnio'n well drwy

woman in the street will see it as such. That is what we have to do as a result of this situation. We are working as a party to 8 per cent, as I said earlier.

With great seriousness, I tell you all that any political party that denies that there will be heavy cuts is being dishonest with the public. The public is not a child; it understands the situation that we, as a country, are in. You also need to be warned that the worst is yet to come on unemployment. In Wales, we are overly dependent on the public sector. Unemployment is a lagging indicator in economic terms. We are facing budget cuts in the Assembly and across the whole of the public sector. Budget cuts will translate into the loss of jobs, which means that unemployment will continue to rise. You can pretend to the public that all is hunky-dory, but it will not be convinced. We are certainly not suggesting that the Government can isolate itself from the global recession, but we expect the Government in Wales to do as well as the rest of the world in combating the recession, and we hope that it will do better.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is that the motion be agreed without amendment. Is there any objection? I see that there is. Therefore, all voting on this item will be deferred until voting time.

Voting time was scheduled for no earlier than 5 p.m. It is now past that time, so I intend to move straight to the votes. Does any Member wish for the bell to be rung? I see that no-one does.

*Gohiriwyd y pleidleisiau tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.
Votes deferred until voting time.*

Cyfnod Pleidleisio Voting Time

*Cynnig NDM4306: O blaid 14, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 34.
Motion NDM4306: For 14, Abstain 0, Against 34.*

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

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

Bates, Mick	Andrews, Leighton
Bourne, Nick	Asghar, Mohammad
Burnham, Eleanor	Barrett, Lorraine
Cairns, Alun	Chapman, Christine
Davies, Paul	Cuthbert, Jeff
German, Michael	Davidson, Jane
Graham, William	Davies, Alun
Melding, David	Davies, Andrew
Millar, Darren	Davies, Jocelyn
Morgan, Jonathan	Evans, Nerys
Ramsay, Nick	Franks, Chris
Randerson, Jenny	Gibbons, Brian
Williams, Brynle	Griffiths, John
Williams, Kirsty	Griffiths, Lesley
	Hart, Edwina
	Hutt, Jane
	James, Irene
	Jenkins, Bethan
	Jones, Alun Ffred
	Jones, Carwyn
	Jones, Elin
	Jones, Gareth
	Jones, Helen Mary
	Jones, Ieuan Wyn
	Law, Trish
	Lewis, Huw
	Lloyd, Val
	Mewies, Sandy
	Morgan, Rhodri
	Sargeant, Carl
	Thomas, Gwenda
	Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
	Watson, Joyce
	Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y cynnig.
Motion not agreed.*

*Gwelliant 1 i NDM4306: O blaid 34, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 15.
Amendment 1 to NDM4306: For 34, Abstain 0, Against 15.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammad
Barrett, Lorraine
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Jocelyn
Evans, Nerys
Franks, Chris
Gibbons, Brian
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Davies, Paul
German, Michael
Graham, William
Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan
Ramsay, Nick
Randerson, Jenny
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Law, Trish
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Watson, Joyce
 Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment agreed.*

Motion NDM4306 as amended: that

the National Assembly notes with deep concern that unemployment in Wales now stands at 130,000 (9.1 per cent), an increase of 45,000 over the last year;

further notes:

- a) *the significant actions taken by the Assembly Government to support people either threatened by or facing redundancy, such as the new ProAct programme, enhancing ReAct programme and Skillbuild;*
- b) *the way in which the Assembly Government is maximising the use of European structural funds to tackle the challenges of the recession;*
- c) *the major programme for economic renewal launched by the Deputy First Minister last week which will plan for a stronger, more sustainable economy post recession;*
- d) *the partnership approach taken by the Assembly Government in tackling the recession with a wide range of stakeholders including the CBI, TUC and FSB; and*
- e) *the measures taken by the Welsh Assembly Government to ensure more focused support for business through Flexible Support for Business and the single investment fund.*

Cynnig NDM4306 fel y'i diwygiwyd: bod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn nodi â chryn bryder bod diweithdra yng Nghymru bellach yn 130,000 (9.1 y cant), cynnydd o 45,000 dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf;

yn nodi ymhellach:

- a) *y camau sylweddol sy'n cael eu cymryd gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad i gefnogi pobl sy'n cael eu bygwth gan ddiweithdra neu sy'n wynebu diweithdra, megis y rhaglen ProAct newydd, gwella'r rhaglen ReAct ac Adeiladu Sgiliau;*
- b) *y ffordd y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn defnyddio cronfeydd strwythurol Ewrop i'r eithaf er mwyn mynd i'r afael â heriau'r dirwasgiad;*
- c) *y rhaglen o bwys ar gyfer adfywiad economaidd a lansiwyd gan y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yr wythnos diwethaf a fydd yn cynllunio ar gyfer economi gryfach a mwy cynaliadwy ar ôl y dirwasgiad;*
- d) *y dull partneriaeth a arddelir gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad wrth fynd i'r afael â'r dirwasgiad gydag ystod eang o randdeiliaid gan gynnwys y CBI, y TUC a'r FSB; a*
- e) *y mesurau sy'n cael eu cymryd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i sicrhau cymorth mwy pendant ar gyfer busnesau drwy Gymorth Hyblyg i Fusnes a'r gronfa fuddsoddi sengl.*

*Cynnig NDM4306 fel y'i diwygiwyd: O blaid 34, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 15.
 Motion NDM4306 as amended: For 34, Abstain 0, Against 15.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
 Asghar, Mohammad
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Alun
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Evans, Nerys
 Franks, Chris
 Gibbons, Brian
 Griffiths, John
 Griffiths, Lesley
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 James, Irene
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Law, Trish
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Watson, Joyce
 Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd cynnig NDM4306 fel y'i diwygiwyd.
 Motion NDM4306 as amended agreed.*

*Cynnig NDM4308: O blaid 15, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 34.
 Motion NDM4308: For 15, Abstain 0, Against 34.*

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

Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Cairns, Alun
 Davies, Paul
 German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Melding, David
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Ramsay, Nick
 Randerson, Jenny
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

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

Andrews, Leighton
 Asghar, Mohammad
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Alun
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Evans, Nerys
 Franks, Chris
 Gibbons, Brian
 Griffiths, John
 Griffiths, Lesley
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 James, Irene

Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Watson, Joyce
Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y cynnig.
Motion not agreed.*

*Gwelliant 1 i NDM4308: O blaid 32, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 15.
Amendment 1 to NDM4308: For 32, Abstain 0, Against 15.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammad
Barrett, Lorraine
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Jocelyn
Evans, Nerys
Franks, Chris
Gibbons, Brian
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Watson, Joyce
Wood, Leanne

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Davies, Paul
German, Michael
Graham, William
Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan
Ramsay, Nick
Randerson, Jenny
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment agreed.*

Cafodd gwelliant 2 ei ddad-ddethol.

Amendment 2 deselected.

Motion NDM4308 as amended: that

the National Assembly for Wales:

1. regrets the further rise in unemployment in Wales;

2. regrets that Wales saw the highest rise of all the nations and regions of the UK in the last quarter; and

3. welcomes publication of the Assembly Government's strategy, 'Skills That Work for Wales', and the setting up of the Wales Employment and Skills Board, demonstrating the partnership approach to meeting the future needs of a growing Welsh economy.

Cynnig NDM4308 fel y'i diwygiwyd: bod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. yn gresynu wrth y cynnydd pellach mewn diweithdra yng Nghymru;

2. yn gresynu bod Cymru wedi gweld y cynnydd mwyaf o holl wledydd a rhanbarthau'r DU yn ystod y chwarter olaf; a

3. yn croesawu'r ffaith bod strategaeth Llywodraeth y Cynulliad sef 'Sgiliau sy'n Gweithio i Gymru' wedi cael ei chyhoeddi, a'r ffaith bod Bwrdd Cyflogaeth a Sgiliau Cymru wedi'i sefydlu, sy'n amlygu'r dull partneriaeth a ddefnyddir er mwyn diwallu anghenion y dyfodol mewn economi sy'n tyfu yng Nghymru.

Cynnig NDM4308 fel y'i diwygiwyd: O blaid 34, Ymatal 6, Yn erbyn 8.

Motion NDM4308 as amended: For 34, Abstain 6, Against 8.

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:

The following Members voted for:

Andrews, Leighton
 Asghar, Mohammad
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Alun
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Evans, Nerys
 Franks, Chris
 Gibbons, Brian
 Griffiths, John
 Griffiths, Lesley
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 James, Irene
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Law, Trish
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:

The following Members voted against:

Bourne, Nick
 Cairns, Alun
 Davies, Paul
 Graham, William
 Melding, David
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Williams, Brynle

Watson, Joyce
Wood, Leanne

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
German, Michael
Randerson, Jenny
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd cynnig NDM4308 fel y'i diwygiwyd.
Motion NDM4308 as amended agreed.*

Dadl Fer Short Debate

Croeso i Gymru Welcome to Wales

Darren Millar: It goes without saying that we are very proud in Wales of what our country has to offer. By striking a balance between a deep cultural and historic heritage and a progressive movement towards modernity and change, Wales manages to offer something for every generation and interest. When it comes to tourism, Wales has it all—mountains, valleys, beaches, lakes, hills, woodland, wildlife, castles, churches, cities, towns, villages, culture, theatres, art—the list goes on.

Darren Millar: Prin fod angen dweud ein bod yn falch iawn yng Nghymru o'r hyn sydd gan ein gwlad i'w gynnig. Drwy gael cydbwysedd rhwng treftadaeth ddiwylliannol a hanesyddol ddofn a symud cynyddol tuag at foderniaeth a newid, mae Cymru'n llwyddo i gynnig rhywbeth i bob cenhedlaeth a diddordeb. O safbwyt twristiaeth, mae'r cyfan gan Gymru—mynyddoedd, dyffrynnoedd, traethau, llynnoedd, bryniau, coetiroedd, bywyd gwylt, cestyll, eglwysi, dinasoedd, trefi, pentrefi, diwylliant, theatrau, celf—â'r rhestr ymlaen.

6.10 p.m.

I want to look briefly at some of the key links in the chain with regard to tourism in Wales, and challenge us to make more of the opportunities that arise. I am sure that you know what it is like. It is so easy to take what we have for granted and, in many ways, the phrase 'familiarity breeds contempt' is true. So, this afternoon, I want us to attempt to see Wales through the eyes of one of the tens of thousands of visitors who come here every year.

Our trip will take place in the most beautiful part of Wales—the north, of course—but I hope that the principles behind the visit will apply to the entire country. Like many visitors to north Wales, we will travel to Wales from north-west England and, like most visitors, our choice of transport will be

Yr wyf am edrych yn fyr ar rai o'r dolenni allweddol yn y gadwyn o ran twristiaeth yng Nghymru, a'n herio i wneud mwy o'r cyfleoedd sy'n codi. Yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn gwybod sut y mae hi. Mae mor hawdd cymryd yr hyn sydd gennym yn ganiataol, ac mewn llawer ffordd mae'r ymadrodd 'cynefindra a fag ddirmyg' yn wir. Felly, y prynhawn yma yr wyf am inni geisio gweld Cymru drwy lygaid un o'r degau o filoedd o ymwelwyr sy'n dod yma bob blwyddyn.

Bydd ein taith yn digwydd yn y rhan harddaf o Gymru—y gogledd, wrth gwrs—ond gobeithio y bydd yr egwyddorion wrth wraidd yr ymweliad yn gymwys i'r wlad i gyd. Fel nifer o ymwelwyr â gogledd Cymru, byddwn yn teithio i Gymru o ogledd-orllewin Lloegr, ac fel y rhan fwyaf o ymwelwyr, y

the car. The latest figures from 2005 indicate that over 80 per cent of tourist traffic comes to Wales by car. Although I am sure that that reflects transport patterns as a whole, it also presents us with our first obstacle. It is not that the A55 from Chester to Holyhead is a problem—there has been continuing improvement and we can be proud of this road—it is more that the alternatives are not attractive, and, in an age when we are meant to be seriously reducing our carbon footprint, they need to be much more attractive.

We could, of course, join the 5 per cent who travel into Wales on a bus or coach, or perhaps accompany the 6 per cent who travel in by train, or even join the 1 per cent who take to the air. The train might get you into Wales, but it can be extremely inconvenient. For example, those who come from Liverpool do not enjoy a direct rail service to north Wales and the train does not stop at some of our important holiday resorts, such as Towyn and Kinmel Bay. Worse still, if the experience of travelling on the train is anything like my trip to Cardiff this week—or like those described often in great detail and at great length by my friend, Eleanor Burnham—then, frankly, it would take some persuasion for it to be a serious contender for holiday travel.

How about buses? The main towns are served reasonably well, but if you fancy visiting anywhere off the beaten track or at the weekend, particularly on a Sunday, then you have had it. We all know that budgets are tight, but when public transport on routes such as the A5 between the tourism honey pots of Llangollen, Cerrigydruddion, Betws-y-Coed and Llandudno are being threatened and cut, we should be worried.

So, the car it is then, and our first destination is a seaside town—somewhere we visited as children with our parents, when the summers were longer and hotter and when Wagon Wheels and Mars bars were bigger. Perhaps we could stay with Rio Ferdinand, who recently holidayed in a caravan park in Prestatyn, or move further down to Rhyl, Kinmel Bay, Towyn, Pensarn, Llanddulas,

cludiant y byddwn yn ei ddewis fydd y car. Mae'r ffigurau diweddaraf o 2005 yn dangos bod dros 80 y cant o'r traffig ymwelwyr yn dod i Gymru yn y car. Er fy mod yn siŵr fod hynny'n adlewyrchu'r patrymau cludiant drwyddi draw, mae hefyd yn dod â ni wyneb yn wyneb â'n rhwystr cyntaf. Nid bod yr A55 o Gaer i Gaergybi yn broblem—bu gwella parhaus a gallwn fod yn falch o'r ffordd hon—y broblem yn hytrach yw nad yw'r dewisiadau amgen yn ddeniadol, ac mewn oes lle mae gofyn inni fod yn lleihau ein hól-troed carbon o ddifrif, mae angen iddynt fod lawer yn fwy deniadol.

Gallem, wrth gwrs, ymuno â'r 5 y cant sy'n teithio i Gymru ar fws neu goets, neu effalai deithio gyda'r 6 y cant sy'n cyrraedd ar y trê, neu hyd yn oed ymuno â'r 1 y cant sy'n hedfan. Efallai yr aiff y trê â chi i Gymru, ond gall fod yn eithriadol o anghyfleus. Er enghraifft, nid yw pobl sy'n dod o Lerwyl yn cael gwasanaeth rheilffordd uniongyrchol i ogledd Cymru, ac nid yw'r trê yn stopio yn rhai o'n trefi gwyliau pwysicaf, fel Tywyn a Bae Cinmel. Yn waeth fyfth, os yw'r profiad o deithio ar y trê rywbeith yn debyg i'm taith i i Gaerdydd yr wythnos hon—neu'n debyg i'r rheini a ddisgrifir yn fanwl ac yn faith yn aml gan fy nghyfaill, Eleanor Burnham—yna, a bod yn onest, byddai angen cryn berswâd i'w ystyried o ddifrif fel dull o deithio wrth fynd ar wyliau.

Beth am y bysiau? Mae gan y prif drefi wasanaeth gweddol resymol, ond os oes gennych awydd ymweld â rhywle mwy diarffordd neu ar benwythnos, yn enwedig ar y Sul, mae wedi canu arnoch. Gwyddom i gyd fod cyllidebau'n dynn, ond pan fydd cludiant cyhoeddus ar lwybrau fel yr A5 rhwng canolfannau twristiaeth fel Llangollen, Cerrigydruddion, Betws-y-Coed a Llandudno dan fygythiad ac yn cael ei docio, dylem boeni.

Felly, y car amdani, a'n cychfan cyntaf yw tref glan môr—rhywle yr ymwelwyr ag ef pan oeddym yn blant gyda'n rhieni, pan oedd yr hafau'n hirach ac yn boethach, a phan oedd *Wagon Wheels* and barrau *Mars* yn fwy o faint. Efallai y gallem aros gyda Rio Ferdinand, a fu ar wyliau'n ddiweddar ar faes carafannau ym Mhrestatyn, neu deithio ymhellach i'r Rhyl, Bae Cinmel, Tywyn,

Colwyn Bay or Rhos-on-Sea. Take your pick. Wherever we choose to stay, we will still be able to experience 'kiss-me-quick' tourism, including arcades and funfairs and candy floss or ice-cream on the beach. I pay tribute to the business owners, past and present, who have helped to shape this important part of our British identity and culture.

However, as we arrive in Wales, we will notice a few changes. Of course, there are exceptions, but on the whole, things look a little rundown when compared with our childhood memories. Some of the promenades need a face lift. For example, the pier at Colwyn Bay needs propping up before it falls into the sea. The view out to sea is no longer clear, and the silhouettes of sailing boats on the horizon at sunset are now joined by towering industrial wind turbines, and chances are, before long, your holidaying neighbours at the caravan park will have taken up permanent residence. The resulting change in dynamics and the extra strain on facilities at the resort will possibly convince you to go elsewhere next year.

However, thankfully, there is some light on the horizon of the industrial seascape. As Members are aware, the area from Colwyn Bay to Rhyl has been made a strategic regeneration area, for which £60 million of Welsh Assembly Government cash has been made available. That is great news, and the Welsh Conservatives have called for such an investment into our seaside resorts for many years, but we must ensure that we spend the money carefully for residents and tourists alike.

However, back to our holiday: we decide to spend a few days further inland. Last year, *The Daily Telegraph* listed the market town of Ruthin among its top 50 country towns in the UK, so, being an avid reader of *The Daily Telegraph*, it was an obvious choice. So we set off, but we struggle somewhat because even though it is a fairly large and important rural town with much to offer visitors, from high-quality shopping boutiques, the historic Ruthin castle and Nantclwyd-y-Dre, to the

Pen-sarn, Llanddulas, Bae Colwyn neu Landrillo-yn-Rhos. Dewiswch chi. Ble bynnag y dewiswn aros, bydd twristiaeth 'kiss-me-quick' yn dal ar gael inni, gan gynnwys arcedau a ffeiriau pleser, a blew siwgr neu hufen iâ ar y traeth. Rhof deyrnged i'r perchnogion busnes, o'r gorffennol a'r presennol, sydd wedi helpu llunio'r rhan bwysig hon o'n delwedd a'n diwylliant Prydeinig.

Fodd bynnag, wrth inni gyrraedd Cymru, byddwn yn sylwi ar rai newidiadau. Wrth gwrs, mae yna eithriadau, ond ar y cyfan mae pethau'n edrych braidd yn ddilewyrch o'u cymharu â'n hatgofion yn blant. Mae angen newid gwedd rhai o'r promenadau. Er enghraifft, mae angen cynhaliaeth ar y pier ym Mae Colwyn cyn iddo ddisgyn i'r môr. Nid yw'r olygfa allan i'r môr yn glir mwyach, ac ochr yn ochr â silwéti cychod hwylio ar y gorwel adeg y machlud erbyn hyn gwelwn dyrbinau gwynt diwydiannol enfawr, a'r tebygolrwydd yw y bydd eich cymdogion ar wyliau yn y maes carafannau cyn hir wedi mynd i fyw yno'n barhaol. O bosibl bydd y newid mewn dynameg a'r straen ychwanegol ar gyfleusterau yn y ganolfan yn eich argyhoeddi i fynd rywle arall y flwyddyn nesaf.

Fodd bynnag, diolch byth mae rhywfaint o oleuni ar orwel y morlun diwydiannol. Fel y gŵyr Aelodau, mae'r ardal o Fae Colwyn i'r Rhyl wedi ei gwneud yn ardal adfywio strategol, a darparwyd £60 miliwn o arian Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer hynny. Mae hynny'n newyddion gwych, ac y mae Ceidwadwyr Cymru wedi galw am fuddsoddiad o'r fath i'n trefi glan môr ers blynnyddoedd lawer. Ond rhaid inni sicrhau ein bod yn gwario'r arian yn ofalus er mwyn trigolion a thwristiaid fel ei gilydd.

Fodd bynnag, yn ôl at ein gwyliau: penderfynwn dreulio ychydig ddiwrnodau ymhellach i mewn i'r tir. Y llynedd, rhestrodd *The Daily Telegraph* dref farchnad Rhuthun ymysg ei 50 uchaf o drefi gwledig yn y DU, felly, gan fy mod yn ddarllenwr brwd o'r *Telegraph*, yr oedd yn ddewis amlwg. Felly, i ffwrdd â ni, ond cawn gryn anhawster, oherwydd er ei bod yn dref wledig gweddol fawr a phwysig sydd â llawer i'w gynnig i ymwelwyr, o siopau bwtic o safon

fantastic award-winning craft centre, which the Minister has visited, its profile is remarkably low due to the lack of signage to Ruthin along the A55 trunk road. There is little marketing in the seaside resorts of the wonderful attractions that it holds. We get there nonetheless, just in time for lunch, and have a Welsh *oggie*, perhaps, at Berwyn Bakery, which is opposite a gloriously good-looking Conservative club in Ruthin. On several occasions, I have highlighted the need for a market-town initiative in north Wales. I receive regular correspondence from business owners in towns such as Ruthin lamenting the gradual demise of town centres and the often unhelpful policies of the cash-strapped local authorities that serve them. During the current economic downturn, as many more people consider holidaying domestically, we should be doing more to convince people that Wales is the place to come, not just this year, but next year and in years to come.

I, as did other Members, received a briefing this year on the Welsh Assembly Government's tourism strategy 'Croeso Cynnes Cymreig—A Warm Welsh Welcome'. It is a commendable strategy that highlights the need to give every visitor a good impression of Wales through the various people and experiences that they might encounter. The title can be broken down into three components: 'Welcome to Wales', encouraging knowledge of local history, culture, food, attractions and so on; 'A warm welcome', encouraging and developing consistent, excellent customer service; and 'A Welsh welcome', encouraging a culturally Welsh experience, including an emphasis on the Welsh language.

I do not know what kind of uptake there has been of the scheme or what sort of feedback the Welsh Assembly Government is receiving, but the document reads well. Nonetheless, however good the scheme appears, more needs to be done to bring people into Wales and, when they are here, to encourage them to stay for a while. Of the three parts of 'Croeso Cynnes Cymreig', the third, the 'Croeso Cymreig', is particularly

uchel, castell hanesyddol Rhuthun a Nantclwyd-y-Dre, i'r ganolfan grefftaw wych sydd wedi ennill gwobrau ac y mae'r Gweinidog wedi ymweld â hi, mae ei phroffil yn hynod o isel oherwydd y diffyg arwyddion i Ruthun ar hyd cefnffordd yr A55. Nid oes fawr o farchnata ar ei hatyniadau rhagorol yn y trefi glan môr. Serch hynny, cyrhaeddwn yno, mewn pryd i gael cinio, a chael *oggie* Cymreig, yn Berwyn Bakery, sydd gyferbyn â chlwb Ceidwadol rhyfeddol o ddeniadol yr olwg yn Rhuthun. Yr wyf droeon wedi tynnu sylw at yr angen am gynllun trefi marchnad yng ngogledd Cymru. Caf ohebiaeth yn rheolaidd oddi wrth berchnogion busnesau mewn trefi fel Rhuthun yn gresynu am dranc graddol canol trefi, a pholisiau di-fudd yn aml gan yr awdurdodau lleol, prin o bres, sy'n eu gwasanaethu. Yn ystod y dirywiad economaidd presennol, wrth i lawer rhagor o bobl ystyried cymryd gwyliau gartref, dylem fod yn gwneud mwy i argyhoeddi pobl mai Cymru yw'r lle i ddod, nid eleni'n unig, ond y flwyddyn nesaf ac yn y blynnyddoedd i ddod.

Fel Aelodau eraill, cefais fy mriffio eleni ar strategaeth twristiaeth Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru 'Croeso Cynnes Cymreig—A Warm Welsh Welcome'. Mae'n strategaeth glodwiw sy'n tynnu sylw at yr angen am roi argraff dda o Gymru i bob ymwelydd drwy'r bobl a'r profiadau amrywiol y byddant yn dod ar eu traws. Gellir rhannu'r teitl yn dair elfen: 'Croeso i Gymru', sy'n annog gwybodaeth am hanes lleol, y diwylliant, bwyd, atyniadau, ac ati; 'Croeso cynnes', sy'n annog ac yn datblygu gwasanaeth rhagorol a chyson i gwsmeriaid; a 'Chroeso Cymreig', sy'n annog profiad diwylliannol Cymreig, gan gynnwys pwyslais ar y Gymraeg.

Ni wn faint sydd wedi manteisio ar y cynllun na pha fath o ymateb y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ei gael, ond y mae'r ddogfen yn darllen yn dda. Serch hynny, waeth pa mor dda y mae'r cynllun yn ymddangos, mae angen gwneud rhagor i ddod â phobl i Gymru, a phan fyddant yma i'w hannog i aros am ychydig. O'r tair rhan yn y 'Croeso Cynnes Cymreig', mae'r drydedd, y 'Croeso Cymreig', yn neilltuol o

important. The Welsh culture, and especially the language, makes us unique; nowhere else can offer those things to their visitors. Other countries have mountains, beaches and lakes, and they too are unique, but what sets us apart from them is the fact that we are Welsh. Much more needs to be done to creatively emphasise the Welsh experience for the visitor. I do not know whether that means looking at the inclusiveness of the eisteddfodau, or taking the ‘full English breakfast’ off the menu, but a balance must be struck, and we should use it much more effectively.

It certainly does not mean penalising businesses for flying the Welsh flag, which jobsworths at Conwy County Borough Council asked a holiday park to do in Towyn last year, and, indeed, forced it to remove the flag. While I am on the subject of a Welsh welcome, there are genuine concerns with regard to the progress of the proposed Welsh language LCO. It is clear that Peter Hain’s meddling will give us watered-down legislative competence, and some serious flaws have developed that will be to the detriment of the cultural experience in Wales. However, that is a debate for another day, so I will move on.

No holiday would be complete in Wales without a visit to a secluded, beautiful Welsh village and we have heaps of them. We will say goodbye to Ruthin, travel through rural north Wales, through Llansannan, Llanfair Talhaearn and Llangernyw in my constituency, and eventually come to St Winifred’s church in Gwytherin. It is easy to overlook the importance of religious sites in Wales, but a recent report indicated that faith communities in Wales care for over 1,600 listed buildings and welcome over 2.5 million visitors to Wales each year.

The church of St Winifred in Gwytherin is a gem. Evidence of a church at the site exists from early medieval times, but it has recently experienced something of a revival, at least in historical interest in the life of St Winifred,

bwysig. Mae diwylliant Cymru, ac yn arbennig yr iaith, yn ein gwneud yn unigryw; nid oes unman arall yn gallu cynnig y pethau hynny i’w ymwelwyr. Mae gan wledydd eraill fynyddoedd, traethau a llynnoedd, ac y maent hwy hefyd yn unigryw, ond yr hyn sy’n ein gosod ni ar wahân iddynt hwy yw’r ffaith ein bod yn Gymry. Mae angen gwneud rhagor i bwysleisio’r profiad Cymreig yn greadigol i’r ymwelydd. Ni wn a yw hynny’n golygu edrych ar ba mor gynhwysol yw’r eisteddfodau, neu dynnu’r ‘*full English breakfast*’ oddi ar y fwydlen, ond rhaid cael cydbwysedd, a dylem ei ddefnyddio lawer yn fwy effeithiol.

Yn sicr nid yw’n golygu cosbi busnesau am arddangos baner Cymru, rhywbeth y gofynnodd swyddogion pitw yng Nghyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Conwy i barc gwyliau yn Nhywyn ei wneud y llynedd, a’i orfodi, yn wir, i dynnu’r faner. Tra wyf yn sôn am groeso Cymreig, mae yna bryderon gwirioneddol am gynnydd y Gorchymyn Cymhwysedd Deddfwriaethol arfaethedig ynghylch y Gymraeg. Bydd ymyrraeth Peter Hain yn rhoi inni gymhwysedd deddfwriaethol wedi’i lastwreiddio, ac y mae rhai diffygion dirifol wedi datblygu a fydd yn andwyol i’r profiad diwylliannol yng Nghymru. Fodd bynnag, dadl ar gyfer diwrnod arall yw honno, felly, symudaf ymlaen.

Ni fyddai’r un gwyliau’n gyflawn yng Nghymru heb ymweld â phentref Cymreig hardd, anghysbell, ac y mae gennym lwythi ohonynt. Ffarweliwn â Rhuthun, teithiwn drwy ogledd Cymru wledig, drwy Lansannan, Llanfair Talhaearn a Llangernyw yn fy etholaeth i, a maes o law deuwn at Eglwys Gwenffrewi yng Ngwytherin. Mae’n hawdd diystyru pwysigrwydd safleoedd crefyddol yng Nghymru, ond dangosodd adroddiad yn ddiweddar fod cymunedau ffydd yng Nghymru yn gofalu am dros 1,600 o adeiladau rhestredig ac yn croesawu dros 2.5 miliwn o ymwelwyr i Gymru bob blwyddyn.

Mae Eglwys Gwenffrewi yng Ngwytherin yn drysor. Mae yna dystiolaeth o’r oesoedd canol fod eglwys ar y safle, ond y mae wedi cael cryn adfywiad yn ddiweddar, o leiaf o ran y diddordeb hanesyddol ym mywyd y

who is perhaps more famous for the well named after her at Hollywell, further along the north Wales coast. The church was closed some years ago, but, as a result of interest in the fascinating story of St Winifred, whose bones were pinched from Gwytherin by the monks of Shrewsbury abbey in 1128, it has seen something of a revival. Fortunately, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Wrexham, Edwin Reagan, is sympathetic to allowing one of the surviving relics, a finger bone, currently located in Holywell, to visit Gwytherin on an annual basis after a meeting with me. I am delighted that he has extended his support to returning the finger to Gwytherin. The church is now privately owned. The hope is that it can be developed into a local cultural centre and the project is already gathering momentum, I am happy to say, and a steady stream of pilgrims is making its way to the church

6.20 p.m.

Of course, even pilgrims may be tempted to stay—and possibly stop for a pint—in the fabulous The Lion Inn opposite the church in Gwytherin, to do their bit for the local economy. There is a pub called the Wheatsheaf in my constituency, in Betws-yn-Rhos, and on the wall there is a poster saying ‘Love your enemy’, and showing a monk bearing a sign saying ‘Drink is your enemy’. I cannot help but think that the pilgrims might agree.

Organisations such as Cadw do an excellent job in helping to safeguard much of our heritage, but the next step—bringing people in and connecting them to other local businesses and attractions—is often missing. I am also concerned that a significant number of important heritage sites are falling through the net of Cadw’s listing process. One such site in my own constituency is Plas Dulas in Llanddulas. This splendid building and its gardens, of national significance and dating from the early nineteenth century, have been left in disrepair for years, and is now under threat of demolition by a housing developer. Thankfully a conservation group has been established with a view to saving the building—I just hope it is not too late.

Santes Gwenffrewi, sydd efallai’n fwy enwog am y ffynnon a enwyd ar ei hôl yn Nhreffynnon, ymhellach ar hyd arfordir gogledd Cymru. Caewyd yr eglwys rai blynnyddoedd yn ôl, ond o ganlyniad i’r diddordeb yn stori swynol y Santes Gwenffrewi, y cafodd ei hesgynn eu dwyn o Wytherin gan fynachod o abaty Amwythig yn 1128, mae wedi gweld rhyw adfywiad. Yn ffodus, mae Esgob Catholig Wrecsam, Edwin Reagan, ar ôl cwrdd â mi, yn barod i ganiatáu i un o’r creiriau sydd wedi goroesi, asgwrn bys, ac sydd ar hyn o bryd yn Nhreffynnon, ddod i Wytherin bob blwyddyn. Yr wyf wrth fy modd ei fod wedi rhoi ei gefnogaeth i ddod â’r bys yn ôl i Wytherin. Mae’r eglwys mewn dwylo preifat erbyn hyn. Y gobaith yw y gellir ei datblygu’n ganolfan ddiwylliannol leol, ac y mae’r prosiect eisoes yn hel momentwm, yr wyf yn falch dweud, ac y mae llif cyson o bererinion yn ymlwybro tua’r eglwys.

Wrth gwrs, gall pererinion hyd yn oed gael eu temtio i aros—ac aros am beint efallai—yn nhafarn ragorol y Lion Inn gyferbyn â’r eglwys yng Ngwytherin, er mwyn cyfrannu at yr economi leol. Mae tafarn o’r enw y Wheatsheaf yn fy etholaeth i, ym Metws-yn-Rhos, ac ar y mur mae poster sy’n dweud ‘*Love your enemy*’, ac yn dangos mynach yn cario arwydd sy’n dweud ‘*Drink is your enemy*’. Ni allaf beidio â meddwl y byddai’r pererinion efallai yn cytuno.

Mae sefydliadau fel Cadw yn gwneud gwaith rhagorol i helpu diogelu llawer o’n treftadaeth, ond mae’r cam nesaf—dod â phobl yma a’u cysylltu â busnesau ac atyniadau lleol eraill—ar goll yn aml. Yr wyf hefyd yn pryderu bod nifer sylweddol o safleoedd treftadaeth pwysig yn disgyn drwy rwyd proses restru Cadw. Un safle o’r fath yn fy etholaeth i yw Plas Dulas yn Llanddulas. Mae’r adeilad ysblennydd hwn a’i erddi, sydd o arwyddocâd cenedlaethol ac yn dyddio o ddechrau’r bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg, wedi ei adael i ddadfeilio ers blynnyddoedd, ac erbyn hyn y mae’n wynebu bygythiad ei ddymchwel gan ddatblygwr tai. Diolch byth, mae grŵp cadwraeth wedi ei sefydlu gyda golwg ar achub yr adeilad—ni allaf ond gobeithio nad yw’n rhy hwyr.

Back to Gwytherin—where we have just lit a candle in the church. Gwytherin highlights a number of other issues around the tourist experience in Wales. Being a rural community, it epitomises the difficulties faced by many similar parts of Wales. For example, it is fortunate that BT has recently upgraded the phone lines in the village, because there is no mobile phone reception, and most of the local phone boxes have disappeared. In fact, there is only one left, and that is under threat of closure. Residents of Gwytherin are thankfully now able to access broadband for the first time, after a campaign of many years' standing. Again, compared to other rural areas, they might consider themselves fortunate in that respect.

However, until broadband is rolled out to everyone, and investment put in to eliminate the not spots that are the cause of so much frustration to so many people, then many beautiful, rural areas of Wales will remain at a disadvantage. It would be interesting to see what the loss is, in terms of marketing and bookings, when a rural business is unable to promote itself on the internet. With significant chunks of the holidaying sector now operating online, we must do more to enable smaller businesses—tourism-orientated or not—to access the web.

So, our holiday is coming to an end. We have been to the seaside, we have been inland, we have visited a heritage site, and we might be able to squeeze in a visit to other north Wales towns such as Llangollen, Caernarfon, in the Minister's constituency, or Menai Bridge, Criccieth, Porthmadog or Harlech. Before returning home, perhaps we should consider seeking out the bright lights of the capital city—maybe to coincide with a game at the millennium stadium. That sounds good to me—but then we would have to embark on one of the worst road trips you could imagine. In the time that it takes to get to London, we will probably still be stuck behind a tractor on the A483. It seems ridiculous that, in the twenty-first century, the north-south connection is still so difficult. When will the Welsh Assembly Government

Yn ôl i Wytherin—lle'r ydym newydd gynnau cannwyll yn yr eglwys. Mae Gwytherin yn tynnu sylw at nifer o faterion eraill ynglŷn â phrofiad twristaidd yng Nghymru. Gan mai cymuned wledig ydyw, mae'n nodweddiaid o'r anawsterau sy'n wynebu nifer o rannau tebyg o Gymru. Er enghraifft, mae'n ffodus fod BT wedi uwchraddio'r llinellau ffôn yn y pentref yn ddiweddar, oherwydd nid oes signal yno i ffonau symudol, ac y mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r blychau ffôn lleol wedi diflannu. Yn wir, dim ond un sydd ar ôl, ac y bygythiad i gau hwnnw. Diolch byth, mae trigolion Gwytherin yn awr yn gallu manteisio ar fand eang am y tro cyntaf, ar ôl ymgyrch a barodd flynyddoedd lawer. Eto, o'u cymharu ag ardaloedd gwledig eraill, gallent ystyried eu hunain yn ffodus yn y cyswllt hwnnw.

Fodd bynnag, nes caiff band eang ei gyflwyno i bawb, a nes eir ati i fuddsoddi i ddileu'r ardaloedd digyswllt sy'n peri cymaint o rwystredigaeth i gynifer o bobl, bydd llawer o ardaloedd gwledig hardd Cymru yn parhau dan anfantais. Byddai'n ddiddorol gweld faint yw'r golled, o ran marchnata ac archebion, pan fydd busnes gwledig yn methu hyrwyddo'i hun ar y rhyngrwyd. Gydag elfennau sylweddol o'r sector gwyliau yn gweithredu ar-lein erbyn hyn, rhaid inni wneud mwy i alluogi busnesau llai—boed yn fusnesau twristiaeth ai peidio—i fanteisio ar y we.

Felly, mae ein gwyliau'n dod i ben. Yr ydym wedi bod i lan y môr, yr ydym wedi bod i mewn i'r tir, yr ydym wedi ymweld â safle treftadaeth, ac efallai y llwyddwn i ymweld yn sydyn â rhai o drefi eraill y gogledd megis Llangollen, Caernarfon, yn etholaeth y Gweinidog, neu Borthaethwy, Cricieth, Porthmadog neu Harlech. Cyn dychwelyd adref, efallai y dylem ystyried ymweld â'r brifddinas—adeg gêm yn stadiwm y mileniwm, efallai. Mae hynny'n swnio'n dda i mi—ond wedyn byddai'n rhaid inni ymgymryd ag un o'r siwrneiau ffordd gwaethaf y gallech eu dychmygu. Yn yr amser a gymer ichi fynd i Lundain, mwy na thebyg y byddwn ni yn dal yn soud y tu ôl i dractor ar yr A483. Mae i'w weld yn chwerthinllyd, yn yr unfed ganrif ar hugain, fod y cysylltiad rhwng y gogledd a'r de yn

take this seriously? A speedy link between north and south would not only benefit both ends of the country, and the towns and villages en route, but the opportunities it would open up for business and tourism would be incredible.

There we are then, it is time to go home—all good holidays must come to an end. Today I hope that I have highlighted the importance of our seaside towns, our larger market towns, our heritage sites, Welsh culture, and transport and communication infrastructure—all in an attempt to challenge us to do more to raise the profile of Wales as a tourist destination. It is a fantastic tourist destination.

Hopefully, I have not painted too gloomy a picture regarding the bits that need sorting out—if I have, it is all for a good cause. As I said at the beginning, I believe that Wales has something great to offer everyone. I want us always to be proud to say, ‘Welcome to Wales; Croeso i Gymru’.

Alun Ffred Jones: I am tempted to say that there is no answer to that. This hymn of praise by Darren to his beloved north Wales coast has taken us on a fantastic journey. He has taken a few detours along the way, to some strange places. With reference to the proposed LCO, I must say in passing that it will certainly not be watered down. Your colleague Cheryl Gillan’s contribution to the Welsh Grand Committee was something to behold, if not slightly embarrassing. However, we will leave that, because we do not want to spoil the wonderful journey that you have taken us on.

With regard to the north-south connections, I would certainly agree with you that there are huge improvements to be made. However, Ieuan Wyn Jones has embarked upon a course of action that will improve matters, but not, I am afraid, with the support of everyone in the Chamber—including a few of your colleagues, unfortunately, Darren.

I will refer to two or three points that you mentioned. You said a great many things that

dal mor anodd. Pryd y bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cymryd hyn o ddifrif? Byddai cyswllt cyflym rhwng y gogledd a'r de nid yn unig o fudd i'r naill ben o'r wlad a'r llall, a'r trefi a'r pentrefi ar y ffordd, ond byddai'r cyfleoedd a fyddai'n datblygu i fusnesau a thwristiaeth yn anhygoel.

Dyna ni, felly, mae'n bryd mynd adref—rhaid i bob gwyliau da ddod i ben. Heddiw, gobeithio fy mod wedi tanlinellu pwysigrwydd ein trefi glan môr, ein trefi marchnad mwyaf, ein safleoedd treftadaeth, diwylliant Cymru, a'r seilwaith cludiant a chyfathrebu—i gyd mewn ymgais i'n herio i wneud rhagor i godi proffil Cymru fel cyrchfan twristiaeth. Mae'n gyrchfan twristiaeth gwirioneddol wych.

Gobeithio nad wyf wedi peintio darlun rhy ddigalon o'r rhannau y mae angen rhoi trefn arnynt—os wyf wedi gwneud hynny, mewn achos da yr oedd hynny. Fel y dywedais ar y dechrau, credaf fod gan Gymru rywbeth gwych i'w gynnig i bawb. Yr wyf am inni fod yn falch bob amser o ddweud, ‘Croeso i Gymru; Welcome to Wales’.

Alun Ffred Jones: Caf fy nhemtio i ddweud nad oes ateb i hynny. Mae'r emyn mawl hwn gan Darren i'w annwyl arfordir ar ogledd Cymru wedi mynd â ni ar siwrnai ryfeddol. Mae wedi mynd allan o'i ffordd yma ac acw, i rai mannau rhyfedd. O ran y Gorchymyn Cymhwysedd Deddfwriaethol arfaethedig, rhaid imi ddweud wrth fynd heibio na fydd yn sicr yn cael ei lastwreiddio. Yr oedd cyfraniad eich cyd-Aelod Cheryl Gillan i'r Pwyllgor Materion Cymreig yn ddigon o sioe, os nad yn destun embaras braidd. Fodd bynnag, gadawn hynny, oherwydd nid ydym am ddifetha'r siwrnai wych yr ydych wedi ein tywys arni.

O ran cysylltiadau rhwng y gogledd a'r de, byddwn yn sicr yn cytuno â chi fod angen gwneud gwelliannau enfawr. Fodd bynnag, mae Ieuan Wyn Jones wedi dechrau ar gynllun gweithredu a fydd yn gwella pethau, ond nid, mae arnaf ofn, gyda chefnogaeth pawb yn y Siambra—gan gynnwys rhai o'ch cyd-Aelodau, yn anffodus, Darren.

Cyfeiriaf at ddu neu dri phwynt a grybwyllywd gennych. Dywedasoch lawer

I would happily endorse, including what you said with regard to the deficiencies in services and so on, particularly in rural areas. You mentioned Ruthin and the possibility of having a market town initiative. There is nothing to stop some of those towns from coming together and presenting a scheme to the tourism partnership in north Wales, establishing themselves and formulating the appropriate strategies and plans. We must acknowledge that Ruthin, for example, has benefited from a range of heritage grants over the past 10 years—some £400,000 of financial assistance was allocated to the restoration of buildings in the town, apart from the new craft centre, which you referred to. The county jail received £100,000 and Nantclwyd y Dre received £83,000, and both are now thriving tourist attractions.

Denbigh is also benefiting from assistance and has successfully completed the first phase of its townscape heritage initiative scheme. I visited Denbigh in June and was most impressed, not only by the work that has been done, but also by the involvement of the town council. The commitment from individuals on the councils excited me and showed what can be achieved when you get local people involved in these initiatives. There is still a lot of work to be done in Denbigh, but, for those who have not been there, the views from the walls are more dramatic than I had ever thought. In fact, I thought that Denbigh castle was an ordinary castle, but the views from the ramparts are something else. More needs to be done to bring people in and encourage them to appreciate the beauty of its setting. As I have said, there is nothing to stop the towns from coming together and creating a partnership to promote themselves better.

We are getting good feedback on the Croeso Cynnes programme, but I would like to see more people getting involved. Since you come from that part of the world, Darren—although I am not sure whether it is in your constituency—the first success story has already been reported, with the Quay Hotel in Degannwy, which is the first business in Wales to complete the programme fully. I was there a few months ago and the general manager, who comes from the south of

iawn o bethau y byddwn yn hapus i'w cefnogi, gan gynnwys yr hyn a ddywedasoch am ddiffygion mewn gwasanaethau ac ati, yn enwedig mewn ardaloedd gwledig. Yr oeddech yn sôn am Ruthun a phosibilrwydd cael cynllun trefi marchnad. Nid oes dim i rwystro rhai o'r trefi hynny rhag dod ynghyd a chyflwyno cynllun i'r bartneriaeth twristiaeth yng ngogledd Cymru, gan sefydlu eu hunain a llunio'r strategaethau a'r cynlluniau priodol. Rhaid inni gydnabod bod Rhuthun, er enghraift, wedi elwa o amryw o grantiau treftadaeth dros y 10 mlynedd diwethaf—dyrannwyd rhyw £400,000 o gymorth ariannol tuag at adfer adeiladau yn y dref, ar wahân i'r ganolfan grefftau newydd y cyfeiriech ati. Cafodd carchar y sir £100,000 a chafodd Nantclwyd-y-Dre £83,000, ac y mae'r naill a'r llall yn atyniadau twristiaeth llewyrchus erbyn hyn.

Mae Dinbych hefyd yn elwa o gymorth, ac y mae wedi cwblhau cam cyntaf ei chynllun menter treftadaeth treflun yn llwyddiannus. Ymwelais â Dinbych ym mis Mehefin a gwnaethpwyd argraff fawr arnaf, nid yn unig gan y gwaith sydd wedi ei wneud, ond hefyd gan ymwned y cyngor tref. Ysgogwyd fi gan yr ymroddiad unigolion ar y cynghorau a ddangosodd yr hyn y gellir ei gyflawni pan fydd pobl leol yn cyfrannu at y mentrau hyn. Mae llawer o waith i'w wneud eto yn Ninbych, ond i'r rheini nad ydynt wedi bod yno, mae'r golygfeydd o'r muriau lawer yn fwy dramatig nag a dybiais i erioed. Yn wir, yr oeddwn yn credu mai castell cyffredin oedd castell Dinbych, ond y mae'r golygfeydd oddi ar y muriau yn ysgubol. Mae angen gwneud rhagor i dynnu pobl i mewn a'u hannog i werthfawrogi harddwch y lleoliad. Fel y dywedais, nid oes dim i rwystro'r trefi rhag dod ynghyd a chreu partneriaeth i hyrwyddo'u hunain yn well.

Yr ydym yn cael ymateb da i'r rhaglen Croeso Cynnes, ond hoffwn weld mwy o bobl yn cymryd rhan. Gan eich bod chi'n dod o'r rhan honno o'r byd, Darren—er nad wyf yn siŵr a yw yn eich etholaeth—mae'r stori gyntaf o lwyddiant eisoes wedi cael sylw, sef Gwesty'r Quay yn Negannwy, y busnes cyntaf yng Nghymru i gwblhau'r rhaglen yn llawn. Yr oeddwn yno rai misoedd yn ôl ac ni allai'r rheolwr cyffredinol, sy'n dod o dde Lloegr, gredu mor lwcus ydoedd o ran

England, could not believe his luck with regard to the setting of the Quay Hotel and the fact that he was now promoting local produce, and so on. That has been a success story; he has had an excellent year, with phenomenally high occupancy rates. In general, of course, the feedback from the industry points to it being quite a good summer, despite the awful weather. However, subsequently, with the weather in September and into October being such as it was, I am sure that many businesses have benefited from the unseasonable pleasant sunshine.

The Croeso Cynnes programme is important because when people come here, they must feel that they are coming to a special and different place, and that there is plenty of local knowledge to point them to the surrounding attractions, be they within the natural environment or the historical built environment. There is so much to enjoy here and that is the aim of the Croeso Cymru programme. You said something about the importance of that welcome, and the way that people interact with each other, and that is why we have set aside £130,000 for next year targeted at training for volunteers associated with the Ryder Cup, so that we can build on the very positive impression that visitors gained with the first Ashes series test here in Cardiff. That was an excellent example of how it should be done throughout the tourist trade.

I will now draw to a close. As you said, there is more that could and should be done on the marketing activity side. Certainly, we have to explore new avenues and be open to ideas all the time. I think that the innovative campaign by Visit Wales, which aimed to market Wales as the place to visit in 2009, has paid dividends. The autumn package campaign has proved to be successful up to now to the extent that we can measure that. However, those campaigns show that Visit Wales is alert to the possibilities in the market. We need to attract people in and, when they are in, we need to give them that special experience so that they will return.

Thank you for the opportunity to highlight some of the attractions of Wales in such a

lleoliad Gwesty'r Quay a'r ffaith ei fod yn awr yn hyrwyddo cynyrch lleol, ac ati. Bu honno'n stori o lwyddiant; mae wedi cael blwyddyn ragorol, gyda chyfraddau llenwi aruthrol o uchel. Yn gyffredinol, wrth gwrs, mae'r adborth gan y diwydiant yn dweud iddo fod yn haf pur dda, er gwaethaf y tywydd gael. Fodd bynnag, yn dilyn hynny, a'r tywydd fel yr oedd ym mis Medi ac i mewn i fis Hydref, yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd nifer o fusnesau wedi elwa o'r heulwen hyfryd, annisgwyd y tymor hwn.

Mae'r rhaglen Croeso Cynnes yn bwysig, oherwydd pan ddaw pobl yma rhaid iddynt deimlo'u bod yn dod i le arbennig a gwahanol, a bod digon o wybodaeth leol i'w cyfeirio at yr atyniadau cyfagos, boed yn yr amgylchedd naturiol ynteu'r amgylchedd adeiledig hanesyddol. Mae cymaint i'w fwynhau yma, a dyna yw nod rhaglen Croeso Cymru. Dywedasoch rywbedd am bwysigrwydd y croeso hwnnw, a'r ffordd y bydd pobl yn ymwneud â'i gilydd, a dyna pam yr ydym wedi neilltuo £130,000 ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf wedi'i dargedu at hyfforddi gwirfoddolwyr mewn cysylltiad â Chwpan Ryder, fel y gallwn adeiladu ar yr argraff gadarnhaol iawn a gafodd ymwelwyr yn ystod cyfres brawf gyntaf y Lludw yma yng Nghaerdydd. Yr oedd honno'n enghraifft ragorol o'r ffordd y dylid gwneud pethau drwy'r fasnach dwristiaeth.

Yr wyf am ddirwyn i ben yn awr. Fel y dywedasoch, mae llawer rhagor y gellid ac y dylid ei wneud o ran gweithgarwch marchnata. Yn sier, rhaid inni archwilio cyfleoedd newydd a bod yn agored i syniadau drwy'r amser. Credaf fod yr ymgrych arloesol gan Groeso Cymru, a oedd yn ceisio marchnata Cymru fel y lle i ymweld yn 2009, wedi talu ar ei chanfed. Mae ymgrych pecyn yr hydref wedi bod yn llwyddiannus hyd yma, i'r graddau y gallwn fesur hynny. Fodd bynnag, mae'r ymgyrchoedd hynny'n dangos bod Croeso Cymru yn effro i'r posibiliadau yn y farchnad. Mae angen inni ddenu pobl i mewn, ac ar ôl iddynt ddod yma mae angen inni roi'r profiad arbennig hwnnw iddynt fel y byddant yn dychwelyd.

Diolch am y cyfle i dynnu sylw at rai o atyniadau Cymru mewn modd mor hyfryd

delightful manner this evening.

heno.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Thank you very much, Minister. That brings today's business to a close.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Diolch yn fawr iawn, Weinidog. Daw hynny â chyfarfod heddiw i ben.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 6.30 p.m.
The meeting ended at 6.30 p.m.*

**Aelodau a'u Pleidiau
Members and their Parties**

Andrews, Leighton (Llafur – Labour)
 Asghar, Mohammad (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Barrett, Lorraine (Llafur – Labour)
 Bates, Mick (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Black, Peter (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Bourne, Nick (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Burnham, Eleanor (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Burns, Angela (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Butler, Rosemary (Llafur – Labour)
 Cairns, Alun (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Chapman, Christine (Llafur – Labour)
 Cuthbert, Jeff (Llafur – Labour)
 Davidson, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
 Davies, Alun (Llafur – Labour)
 Davies, Andrew (Llafur – Labour)
 Davies, Andrew R.T. (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Davies, Jocelyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Davies, Paul (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Elis-Thomas, Dafydd (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Evans, Nerys (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Franks, Chris (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 German, Michael (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Graham, William (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Gregory, Janice (Llafur – Labour)
 Griffiths, John (Llafur – Labour)
 Griffiths, Lesley (Llafur – Labour)
 Gibbons, Brian (Llafur – Labour)
 Hart, Edwina (Llafur – Labour)
 Hutt, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
 Isherwood, Mark (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 James, Irene (Llafur – Labour)
 Jenkins, Bethan (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Alun Ffred (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Ann (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Carwyn (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Elin (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Gareth (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Helen Mary (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Law, Trish (Annibynnol – Independent)
 Lewis, Huw (Llafur – Labour)
 Lloyd, David (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Lloyd, Val (Llafur – Labour)
 Melding, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Mewies, Sandy (Llafur – Labour)
 Millar, Darren (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Morgan, Jonathan (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Morgan, Rhodri (Llafur – Labour)
 Neagle, Lynne (Llafur – Labour)
 Ramsay, Nick (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Randerson, Jenny (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Ryder, Janet (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Sargeant, Carl (Llafur – Labour)

Sinclair, Karen (Llafur – Labour)
Thomas, Gwenda (Llafur – Labour)
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Watson, Joyce (Llafur – Labour)
Williams, Brynle (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
Williams, Kirsty (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Wood, Leanne (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)