



**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
The National Assembly for Wales**

**Cofnod y Trafodion
The Record of Proceedings**

**Dydd Mawrth, 15 Ionawr 2008
Tuesday, 15 January 2008**

**Cynnwys
Contents**

| | |
|----|--|
| 3 | Cwestiynau i'r Prif Weinidog Questions to the First Minister |
| 28 | Datganiad a Chyhoeddiad Busnes Business Statement and Announcement |
| 38 | Datganiad am Alphasteel yng Nghasnewydd Statement on Alphasteel in Newport |
| 53 | Pwynt o Drefn Point of Order |
| 54 | Datganiad Deddfwriaethol am y Cynigion ar gyfer Mesur Dysgu a Sgiliau (Cymru) 2008 Legislative Statement on Proposals for Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2008 |
| 75 | Adroddiad Blynyddol Arolygiaeth Gofal a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru 2006-07 (Trosolwg y Prif Arolygydd), Adroddiad Blynyddol Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru 2006-07, ac Adroddiad Blynyddol Gwasanaethau Gofal Cymru 2006-07 The Care and Social Services Inspectorate in Wales Annual Report 2006-07 (Chief Inspector's Overview), the Social Services in Wales Annual Report 2006-07, and the Care Services in Wales Annual Report 2006-07 |

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

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

*Cyfarfu'r Cynulliad am 2 p.m. gyda'r Llywydd (Dafydd Elis-Thomas) yn y Gadair.
The Assembly met at 2 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 Prif Weinidog Questions to the First Minister

Settling Backpay Claims

Q1 Jenny Randerson: Will the First Minister make a statement on giving support for local authorities to settle backpay claims? OAQ(3)576(FM)

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): We have made clear our preparedness to consider robustly argued cases for capitalisation directions. That will enable local authorities to fund backpay claims either by spreading the cost of backpay liabilities by borrowing over future years, or by using capital receipts.

Jenny Randerson: It is well known that several applications for capitalisation have already been received. Can you tell us when will you be making your decision, and exactly how much money will be available? I believe that the UK Government has indicated that, from its point of view, £500 million is the limit, and so I assume that the Barnett consequential figure for Wales will be between £25 million and £30 million. Can you confirm whether that assumption is correct? Will you also confirm what you regard to be a robustly argued bid? Have you received, recommended, or accepted bids that exceed that total? What will you do if local authorities underuse the money that they bid for, and so do not need the total amount requested, providing spare capacity later in the year?

The First Minister: We certainly expect to approve capitalisation directions for the current period by 31 January. Four applications have come in, though I do not

Setlo Hawliadau am Ôl-gyflog

C1 Jenny Randerson: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am roi cefnogaeth i awdurdodau lleol ar gyfer setlo hawliadau am ôl-gyflog? OAQ(3)576(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog (Rhodri Morgan): Yr ydym wedi mynegi'n glir ein parodrwydd i ystyried achosion sydd â dadleuon cadarn o blaid cyfarwyddiadau cyfalafu. Bydd hynny'n galluogi awdurdodau lleol i ariannu hawliadau am ôl-gyflog naill ai drwy ymestyn costau ôl-gyflog sy'n ddyledus drwy fenthyca dros y blynyddoedd i ddod neu drwy ddefnyddio derbyniadau cyfalaf.

Jenny Randerson: Gwyddys yn iawn fod amryw o geisiadau am gyfalafu wedi'u cyflwyno'n barod. A allwch ddweud wrthym pa bryd y byddwch yn penderfynu, a faint yn union o arian fydd ar gael? Credaf fod Llywodraeth y DU wedi nodi mai £500 miliwn yw'r uchafswm, o'i safbwynt hi, ac felly yr wyf yn tybio y bydd ffigur canlyniadol Barnett i Gymru rhwng £25 miliwn a £30 miliwn. A allwch gadarnhau a yw'r dybiaeth honno'n gywir ai peidio? A wnewch hefyd gadarnhau beth, yn eich barn chi, sy'n gais sydd â dadleuon cadarn? A ydych wedi cael, wedi argymhell neu wedi derbyn ceisiadau sy'n uwch na'r cyfanswm hwnnw? Beth a wnewch os bydd awdurdodau lleol yn tanddefnyddio'r arian y maent yn gwneud cais amdano, ac felly na fydd arnynt angen yr holl swm y gofynasant amdano, gan greu capasiti sydd dros ben yn ddiweddarach yn y flwyddyn?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydym yn sicr yn disgwyl cymeradwyo cyfarwyddiadau cyfalafu ar gyfer y cyfnod presennol erbyn 31 Ionawr. Mae pedwar cais wedi'u gyflwyno,

wish to specify which authorities they are from as the bids are still subject to internal negotiations. That is on top of the two councils, Torfaen and Neath Port Talbot, which settled and paid out their backpay claims in the 2006-07 financial year.

On whether we have an adequate sum in the budget, that is a matter on which the Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery should respond to you, and I will ask him to do so.

Helen Mary Jones: First Minister, for several years, your Government has given direct financial support to local authorities to enable them to meet some of their ongoing equal pay claims, if not full backpay. Could you talk to the relevant Minister to see what assessment is being made of how that existing resource is being used? I understand that the Government does not like ring-fencing money, but I have some concerns that this money is being distributed in a way that would not meet the Government's aspirations for it. Therefore, as well as looking forwards, as Jenny Randerson asked you to do, will you also look backwards and assess how local authorities have used the resources that you are making available to them, to ensure that we get justice for those low-paid women workers?

The First Minister: Indeed. You are quite right to say that we have been at the forefront of seeking to secure equal pay across the public sector. We spearheaded the Close the Pay Gap campaign over the six years from 2001 to 2007 in partnership with the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Wales Trades Union Congress. We have provided some £54 million of additional resources in the current financial year, with a few months remaining. If you have any grounds for questioning whether that resource of £54 million is being spent on the appropriate purpose, I would be interested in hearing them. I am sure that Andrew Davies, the Minister for finance, and Brian Gibbons, the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, would also be interested in knowing of any such evidence.

er nad wyf am fanylu gan ba awdurdodau y daethant gan fod y ceisiadau'n dal i gael eu trafod yn fewnol. Mae hynny ar ben y ddau gyngor, Tor-faen a Chastell-nedd Port Talbot, a setlodd eu hawliadau am ôl-gyflog, a'u talu, yn y flwyddyn ariannol 2006-07.

Ynghylch y cwestiwn a oes gennym swm digonol yn y gyllideb, mae hwnnw'n fater y dylai'r Gweinidog dros Gyllid a Chyflenwi Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus eich ateb yn ei gylch, a gofynnaf iddo wneud hynny.

Helen Mary Jones: Brif Weinidog, ers blynyddoedd lawer, mae eich Llywodraeth wedi rhoi cymorth ariannol uniongyrchol i awdurdodau lleol i'w galluogi i dalu rhai o'u hawliadau parhaus am gyflog cyfartal, os nad am ôl-gyflog yn llawn. A allech siarad â'r Gweinidog perthnasol i weld pa asesiad sy'n cael ei wneud o sut y defnyddir yr adnodd sydd eisoes yn bodoli? Yr wyf yn deall nad yw'r Llywodraeth yn hoff o neilltuo arian, ond yr wyf yn pryderu braidd fod yr arian hwn yn cael ei ddsbarthu mewn modd na fyddai'n bodloni dyheadau'r Llywodraeth ar ei gyfer. Felly, yn ogystal ag edrych ymlaen, fel y gofynnodd Jenny Randerson ichi wneud, a wnewch hefyd edrych yn ôl ac asesu sut y mae awdurdodau lleol wedi defnyddio'r adnoddau yr ydych yn eu darparu iddynt, er mwyn inni sicrhau cyfiawnder i'r menywod hynny sy'n gweithio am gyflogau isel?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yn wir. Yr ydych yn ddigon teg wrth ddweud ein bod wedi bod ar flaen y gad wrth geisio sicrhau cyflogau cyfartal ar draws y sector cyhoeddus. Arweiniasom yr ymgyrch Cau'r Bwlch Cyflog dros y chwe blynedd rhwng 2001 a 2007 mewn partneriaeth â'r Comisiwn Cyfle Cyfartal a Chyngres Undebau Llafur Cymru. Yr ydym wedi darparu adnoddau ychwanegol gwerth tua £54 miliwn yn y flwyddyn ariannol bresennol, ac ychydig fisoedd ar ôl o hyd. Os oes gennych unrhyw sail dros gwestiynu a yw'r adnodd hwnnw sy'n werth £54 miliwn yn cael ei wario at y dibenion priodol, byddai gennyf ddiddordeb mewn clywed beth yw'r sail honno. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai gan Andrew Davies, y Gweinidog dros gyllid, a Brian Gibbons, y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol hefyd ddiddordeb mewn

clywed am unrhyw dystiolaeth o'r fath.

The Leader of the Opposition (Nick Bourne): Good afternoon, First Minister. In view of the pressures being placed on local authorities, such as school spending and transport, and not just this pressure to settle backpay claims for equal pay, which is quite rightly being brought to bear, and in view of the poor local government settlement, which I think you would acknowledge is below the rate of inflation at 2.3 per cent and which has been roundly criticised by all political parties, not least your own, do you propose to revisit that so that local authorities do not have to raise council tax levels by massive amounts or cut services, or, indeed, do both?

The First Minister: There are pressures that apply to the United Kingdom Government, to us, and to local government, because we fund the services. If we get a settlement that is lower than that in previous years, there is bound to be an impact on the services that we fund, such as local government services.

When it comes to the funding of equal pay, there are 4,000 outstanding cases before employment tribunals. The implication of that is that it sometimes becomes easier for local authorities to accept a tribunal outcome and to spread it to people who have not already brought a case, because they feel that there is no point in going through the whole exercise again for people other than the 4,000 who already have a case before a tribunal. The Treasury treats funding for that as a special case, as do we. We also treat equal pay issues going forward as well as backpay issues as a special case for funding. We take the application of each local authority for assistance via capitalisation, so that they can spread it out through borrowing or through a special programme of selling capital assets to cover the costs via receipts. We commend the two pioneer authorities of Torfaen and Neath Port Talbot that covered this in the previous financial year, and we expect to say something further on the four outstanding applications before the end of this month.

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Nick Bourne): Prynawn da, Brif Weinidog. O ystyried y pwysau a roddir ar awdurdodau lleol, megis gwariant ysgolion a thrafnidiaeth, ac nid yn unig y pwysau hyn i setlo hawliadau ôl-gyflog am gyflogau cyfartal, sydd, yn gwbl briodol, yn cael mwy o sylw, ac o ystyried y setliad gwael i lywodraeth leol, setliad yr wyf yn credu y byddech yn cydnabod ei fod yn is na chyfradd chwyddiant, sef 2.3 y cant, ac sydd wedi cael ei feirniadu'n hallt gan bob plaid wleidyddol, yn enwedig eich plaid eich hun, a ydych yn bwriadu ailystyried hynny fel nad oes yn rhaid i awdurdodau lleol godi llawer iawn iawn ar y dreth gyngor neu dorri gwasanaethau, neu, yn wir, y ddau?

Y Prif Weinidog: Ceir pwysau sy'n berthnasol i Lywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig, i ni, ac i lywodraeth leol, oherwydd ni sy'n ariannu'r gwasanaethau. Os cawn setliad sy'n is na'r rhai a gafwyd mewn blynyddoedd blaenorol, bydd effaith ar y gwasanaethau yr ydym yn eu hariannu, megis gwasanaethau llywodraeth leol, yn anochel.

O ran ariannu cyflogau cyfartal, ceir 4,000 o achosion heb eu cwblhau o flaen tribiwnlysoedd cyflogaeth. Golyga hynny ei bod weithiau'n haws i awdurdodau lleol dderbyn canlyniad tribiwnlys a'i dderbyn ar gyfer pobl sydd heb gyflwyno achos yn barod, am eu bod yn teimlo na fyddai dim diben mynd drwy'r holl broses eto ar gyfer pobl heblaw'r 4,000 sydd eisoes wedi cyflwyno achos gerbron tribiwnlys. Mae'r Trysorlys yn trin y cyllid ar gyfer hynny fel achos arbennig, fel yr ydym ninnau. Yr ydym hefyd yn trin materion cyflogau cyfartal wrth fwrw ymlaen yn ogystal â materion ôl-gyflog fel achos arbennig ar gyfer cyllid. Yr ydym yn ymdrin â chais pob awdurdod lleol am gymorth drwy gyfalafu, er mwyn iddynt allu ei ymestyn drwy fenthycu neu drwy raglen arbennig o werthu asedau cyfalaf i dalu am y costau drwy dderbyniadau. Yr ydym yn cymeradwyo'r ddau awdurdod arloesol, Torfaen a Chastell-nedd Port Talbot a wnaeth hyn yn y flwyddyn ariannol ddiwethaf, ac yr ydym yn disgwyl dweud mwy am y pedwar cais sydd heb eu datrys cyn diwedd y mis hwn.

Nick Bourne: I was asking the First Minister about the other pressures, rather than that one; I understand that issue and appreciate the position. Given what he has just said about the pressures facing the Government here and in Westminster—it is true that we have increasing energy costs in the pipeline, food prices running way ahead of the current rate of inflation, and only £4 million set aside to help pensioners with their local council tax situation, although we do not yet know what his proposals are in that regard—and given the massive historic increases that we have seen in council tax over the past eight years, is he proposing to revisit this settlement, so that those most vulnerable to council tax increases, particularly pensioners, are able to meet their bills?

The First Minister: You must contain your patience until the final budget is published. That will be given to Assembly Members shortly, and it is not something that I want to anticipate now. When you publish a draft budget, you are effectively consulting on the shape and size of its allocations, and then you come back with a final budget. The publication of the final budget is, I believe, imminent.

Nick Bourne: It is not my patience that is at issue, but the patience of hundreds of thousands of pensioners who find so little set aside in the draft budget to help them with council tax increases. That is the real concern at the moment. I welcome what you said, as far as it goes, as it holds out the prospect of something being done. I hope that you agree with the analysis that there are massive pressures and that council tax payers in general have suffered massive increases well above the rate of inflation over the past eight years, but that those particularly hard hit are pensioners. The £4 million that is proposed in the budget to help them will only go a very short distance—it will not give much to the most hard-pressed council tax payers in our society. I hope that you are able to go a little further and say that it is important that that is tackled in the final budget.

Nick Bourne: Yr oeddwn yn holi'r Prif Weinidog ynghylch y pwysau eraill, yn hytrach na'r pwysau hwnnw; yr wyf yn deall y mater hwnnw ac yn gwerthfawrogi'r safbwynt. O ystyried yr hyn a ddywedwyd eisoes am y pwysau sy'n wynebu'r Llywodraeth, yma ac yn San Steffan—mae'n wir bod gennym gostau ynni cynyddol ar y gweill, fod prisiau bwyd yn cynyddu mwy o lawer na chyfradd chwyddiant ar hyn o bryd, ac mai dim ond £4 miliwn sydd wedi'i neilltuo i helpu sefyllfa'r pensïynwyr gyda'r dreth gyngor leol, er nad ydym yn gwybod eto beth yw ei gynigion ynghylch y mater hwnnw—ac o ystyried y codiadau hanesyddol anferth yn y dreth gyngor yr ydym wedi'u gweld dros yr wyth mlynedd diwethaf, a yw'n bwriadu ailystyried y setliad hwn, er mwyn i'r rhai y mae codiadau yn y dreth gyngor yn effeithio arnynt fwyaf, yn enwedig pensïynwyr, allu talu eu biliau?

Y Prif Weinidog: Bydd yn rhaid ichi fod yn amyneddgar nes i'r gyllideb derfynol gael ei chyhoeddi. Rhoddir honno i Aelodau'r Cynulliad yn y man, ac nid yw'n rhywbeth y mae arnaf eisiau ei ragweld ar hyn o bryd. Pan fyddwch yn cyhoeddi cyllideb ddrafft, byddwch i bob pwrpas yn ymgynghori ynglŷn â hyd a lled ei dyraniadau, ac wedyn yn cyhoeddi cyllideb derfynol. Credaf fod cyhoeddi'r gyllideb derfynol ar ddiwydd.

Nick Bourne: Nid fy amynedd i sydd dan sylw, ond amynedd cannoedd o filoedd o bensïynwyr y mae cyn lleied o arian wedi'i neilltuo yn y gyllideb ddrafft i'w helpu gyda chodiadau yn y dreth gyngor. Hynny sydd yn peri gwir bryder ar hyn o bryd. O ran hynny a ddywedaso, yr wyf yn ei groesawu, am ei fod yn cynnig y posibilrwydd y bydd rhywbeth yn cael ei wneud. Gobeithiaf eich bod yn cytuno â'r dadansoddiad bod pwysau anferth a bod y rhai sy'n talu'r dreth gyngor yn gyffredinol wedi dioddef codiadau anferth sydd yn fwy o lawer na chyfradd chwyddiant yn ystod yr wyth mlynedd diwethaf, ond mai'r bobl sy'n dioddef fwyaf yw'r pensïynwyr. Gwahaniaeth bach iawn a wnaiff y £4 miliwn a gynigir yn y gyllideb i'w helpu—ni fydd yn rhoi llawer i'r rhai sy'n talu'r dreth gyngor sydd dan y pwysau mwyaf yn ein cymdeithas. Gobeithiaf y gallwch fynd ychydig ymhellach a dweud ei bod yn bwysig mynd i'r afael â hynny yn y

gyllideb derfynol.

The First Minister: Pensioners are a special case group in the context of council tax. Council tax increases in Wales under Labour have been quite modest in comparison with what happened when the Tories were last in power—I do not think that anyone can argue with the mathematics of that, as there is no doubt about it. William Hague had a strategy of trying to increase council tax levels in Wales so that they caught up with levels in England, which we reversed. That means that council tax, band for band, is now considerably lower in Wales than in England, and far lower than would have been the case had the Conservatives been in charge. However, we entirely accept the proposition that if you are on a fixed pension, as pensioners frequently are, the level of council tax is going to impact quite heavily on your budget compared with the budget of, for example, a family with two incomes which is paying off a mortgage and where the key issue is probably mortgage interest rates. Younger age groups will look mostly at mortgage interest rates while older age groups—people who have paid off their mortgages—will be more concerned about council tax levels. We entirely accept that and are paying attention to it in terms of how we ensure that people access the benefits to which they are entitled. On average, only about 50 per cent of the benefits to which pensioners are entitled in relation to council tax and other areas are claimed. We must do something about that.

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae pensiynwyr yn achos arbennig yng nghyd-destun y dreth gyngor. Mae'r codiadau yn y dreth gyngor yng Nghymru dan y Blaid Lafur wedi bod yn weddol fach o'u cymharu â'r hyn a ddigwyddodd y tro diwethaf yr oedd y Ceidwadwyr mewn grym—yr wyf o'r farn na all neb anghytuno â'r fathemateg honno, gan nad oes dim dwywaith amdani. Strategaeth William Hague oedd ceisio cynyddu lefelau'r dreth gyngor yng Nghymru er mwyn iddynt gyrraedd yr un lefelau ag yn Lloegr, a newidiasom y strategaeth honno'n llwyr. Golyga hynny fod y dreth gyngor, fesul band, bellach yn is o lawer yng Nghymru nag yn Lloegr, ac yn llawer is nag y byddai petai'r Ceidwadwyr wedi bod mewn grym. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym yn derbyn yn llwyr y gosodiad os ydych ar bensiwn sefydlog, fel y mae pensiynwyr yn aml, y bydd lefel y dreth gyngor yn effeithio'n sylweddol ar eich cyllideb o'i gymharu â chyllideb teulu sydd â dau incwm sy'n talu morgais, er enghraifft, lle y mae'n debygol mai cyfraddau llog morgeisi yw'r mater allweddol. Mae grwpiau oedran iau'n edrych yn bennaf ar gyfraddau llog morgeisi tra bydd y grwpiau oedran hŷn—pobl sydd wedi talu eu morgeisi—yn pryderu mwy ynghylch lefelau'r dreth gyngor. Yr ydym yn derbyn hynny'n llwyr, ac yn rhoi sylw i'r mater o ran sut yr ydym am sicrhau bod pobl yn cael y budd-daliadau y mae ganddynt hawl i'w cael. Ar gyfartaledd, dim ond tua 50 y cant o'r budd-daliadau y mae gan bensiynwyr hawl iddynt yng nghyswllt y dreth gyngor a meysydd eraill sy'n cael eu hawlio. Mae'n rhaid inni wneud rhywbeth ynghylch hynny.

2.10 p.m.

Nick Bourne: We have had increases of over 100 per cent since you have been in power. I thought that you would raise this, so I checked the figures from when we were in Government, and council tax increased by 9.6 per cent between 1993 and 1995, when your favourite Secretary of State was in power in the Welsh Office, and 14 per cent between 1995 and 1997. Those are Government figures, so it is not true to say that council tax increased more quickly under us than under you. Leaving that to one side, you have to

Nick Bourne: Yr ydym wedi gweld codiadau o dros 100 y cant ers pan ydych mewn grym. Yr oeddwn yn meddwl y byddech yn codi'r mater hwn, felly edrychais ar y ffigurau pan oeddem ni mewn grym, a chynyddodd y dreth gyngor 9.6 y cant rhwng 1993 a 1995, pan oedd eich hoff Ysgrifennydd Gwladol mewn grym yn y Swyddfa Gymreig, a 14 y cant rhwng 1995 a 1997. Ffigurau'r Llywodraeth yw'r rheini, felly nid yw'n wir dweud bod y dreth gyngor wedi cynyddu'n gyflymach danom ni na thanoch chi. A rhoi'r

look to the future. Your problem is that you live in the past. You will not face the problems of the future and the present. People are asking what you are going to do now. They are not interested in what happened 10 or 15 years ago, but since you have raised the issue, we can rest that ghost, as your figures are wrong.

The First Minister: Actually, what I said was that John Redwood was quite good on this issue. What I said was quite factual: William Hague openly stated and published the policy that he wanted to see council tax levels in Wales rise so that the gap between council tax levels in England and Wales would be closed. I am not revealing a state secret: he boasted about it. Then, of course, Ron Davies, under the proposals to abide by the Tory proposals, had to continue William Hague's policy until 1999. Therefore, that did indeed happen over those four years. However, when Labour came into the Assembly in 1999, we put a stop to it. That is why there is a substantial gap, and council tax levels are very much lower, band for band, in Wales than in England. That is a fact: levels are around 25 per cent lower in Wales than in England, band for band. We accept the issue relating to pensioners in particular, and we will do something about it. Mostly, that relates to the fact that pensioners, for reasons of stigma or attitude, will not claim the benefits to which they are entitled, which include council tax benefit. Often, they think that the single person discount is all that they can get: it is not, and they should claim the full amount.

Support for Police Forces

Q2 William Graham: Will the First Minister make a statement on Welsh Assembly Government support for police forces in Wales? OAQ(3)578(FM)

The First Minister: We are providing £158 million in revenue support grant and non-

mater hwnnw o'r neilltu, mae'n rhaid ichi edrych tua'r dyfodol. Eich problem yw eich bod yn byw yn y gorffennol. Ni wynebwc broblemau'r dyfodol na phroblemau'r presennol. Mae pobl yn gofyn beth yr ydych yn mynd i'w wneud yn awr. Nid oes ganddynt ddiddordeb yn yr hyn a ddiwyddodd 10 neu 15 mlynedd yn ôl, ond gan eich bod wedi codi'r mater, gallwn adael llonydd i'r hen grachen honno, am fod eich ffigurau'n anghywir.

Y Prif Weinidog: A dweud y gwir, yr hyn a ddywedais oedd bod John Redwood wedi ymdrin â'r mater yn weddol dda. Yr oedd yr hyn a ddywedais yn ymwneud â'r ffeithiau: mynegodd William Hague y polisi'n agored, a'i gyhoeddi, ei fod am weld lefelau'r dreth gyngor yng Nghymru yn codi er mwyn cau'r bwlch rhwng lefelau'r dreth gyngor yng Nghymru a Lloegr. Nid wyf yn datgelu un o gyfrinachau'r wladwriaeth: ymffrostiai am y mater. Wedyn, wrth gwrs, bu'n rhaid i Ron Davies, dan y cynigion i gadw at gynigion y Ceidwadwyr, barhau â pholisi William Hague tan 1999. Felly, yn wir, digwyddodd hynny yn ystod y pedair blynedd hynny. Fodd bynnag, pan ddaeth Llafur i'r Cynulliad yn 1999, rhoesom derfyn ar hynny. Dyna pam mae bwlch sylweddol, a bod lefelau'r dreth gyngor yn is o lawer, fesul band, yng Nghymru nag yn Lloegr. Mae hynny'n ffaith: mae'r lefelau tua 25 y cant yn is yng Nghymru nag yn Lloegr, fesul band. Yr ydym yn derbyn y mater ynglŷn â phensiynwyr yn benodol, a gwnawn rywbeth ynghylch hynny. Yn bennaf, mae a wnelo hynny â'r ffaith na wnaiff pensiynwyr, am resymau'n ymwneud â stigma ac agwedd, hawlio'r budd-daliadau y mae ganddynt hawl iddynt, sy'n cynnwys budd-dal y dreth gyngor. Yn aml, credant mai'r disgownt i berson senl yw'r cyfan y gallant ei gael: nid yw hynny'n wir, a dylent hawlio'r swm yn llawn.

Cefnogaeth i Heddluoedd

C2 William Graham: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am gefnogaeth Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i heddluoedd yng Nghymru? OAQ(3)578(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydym yn darparu £158 miliwn mewn grant cynnal refeniw ac ardreth

domestic rate income to police authorities in Wales. That, combined with police grant and floor funding from the Home Office, will ensure that no police authority will receive less than a 2.5 per cent increase in revenue support.

William Graham: Thank you for your answer, First Minister. Would you not agree that it is grossly unfair not to implement the rise suggested by an independent tribunal for the police service in Wales? Nothing exemplifies public service delivery better than the police. Is it not grossly unfair? We are not talking about huge amounts of money, but it would make a considerable difference, particularly to new entrants into the police force. We are doing our best to make our society safe, so will the Government please implement this increase at once?

The First Minister: The public sector pay bill is a matter of considerable concern to the Prime Minister and the Treasury. In some areas, we have control over the public sector pay bill in Wales, for example with regard to nurses. In others, we do not. We do not have control over the police force pay bill. We do not participate in the pay negotiations, and therefore whatever the Home Office and the Chancellor and Prime Minister agree is agreed for England and Wales. It is not a matter in which we participate.

Jeff Cuthbert: On 4 January at about 9 p.m., a train travelling from Penarth to Rhymney was momentarily derailed at Llanbradach. Will you, as First Minister, support the British Transport Police in its desire to gather as much evidence and information as possible about the culprits? The train hit large pieces of debris that had been placed on the track. I understand that closed circuit television coverage has produced images of at least two youths, which BTP hopes will lead to their arrest and prosecution. Network Rail has described it as a significant strike. Do you agree with me and the British Transport Police that such actions are not only foolhardy and dangerous for the culprits concerned, but could have led to a significant

annomestig i awdurdodau'r heddlu yng Nghymru. Bydd yr arian hwnnw, ynghyd â grant yr heddlu ac ariannu gwaelodol gan y Swyddfa Gartref, yn sicrhau na fydd y cynnydd yn y cymorth refeniw yn llai na 2.5 y cant i ddim un awdurdod heddlu.

William Graham: Diolch am eich ateb, Brif Weinidog. Oni fydddech yn cytuno y byddai'n hynod annheg peidio â chyflwyno'r cynnydd a awgrymwyd gan dribiwnlys annibynnol i'r gwasanaeth heddlu yng Nghymru? Ni cheir enghraifft well o gyflenwi gwasanaeth cyhoeddus na'r heddlu. Oni yw hynny'n hynod annheg? Nid ydym yn sôn am symiau anferth o arian, ond byddai'n gwneud gwahaniaeth sylweddol, yn enwedig i newydd-ddyfodiaid i'r heddlu. Yr ydym yn gwneud ein gorau i wneud ein cymdeithas yn un ddiogel, felly a wnaiff y Llywodraeth gyflwyno'r cynnydd hwn ar unwaith, os gwelwch yn dda?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae bil cyflogau'r sector cyhoeddus yn destun cryn bryder i'r Prif Weinidog a'r Trysorlys. Mewn rhai meysydd, mae gennym reolaeth dros fil cyflogau'r sector cyhoeddus yng Nghymru, er enghraifft yng nghyswllt niysys. Mewn meysydd eraill, nid oes gennym reolaeth. Nid oes gennym reolaeth dros fil cyflogau'r heddlu. Nid ydym yn cymryd rhan yn y trafodaethau ynghylch y cyflog, ac felly mae beth bynnag y cytuna'r Swyddfa Gartref, y Trysorydd a'r Prif Weinidog arno yn berthnasol i Gymru a Lloegr. Nid yw'n fater yr ydym yn cymryd rhan ynddo.

Jeff Cuthbert: Ar 4 Ionawr tua 9 p.m., gyrrwyd trêen a oedd yn teithio o Benarth i Rymni oddi ar y cledrau am ychydig yn Llanbradach. A wnewch, fel Prif Weinidog, gefnogi Heddlu Trafnidiaeth Prydain yn eu hymdrech i gasglu cymaint o dystiolaeth a gwybodaeth â phosibl ynghylch y drwgweithredwyr? Tarodd y trêen ddarnau mawr o rwbel a oedd wedi'u rhoi ar y trac. Yr wyf yn cael ar ddeall fod lluniau teledu cylch cyfyng wedi dangos delweddau o ddau berson ifanc o leiaf, ac mae Heddlu Trafnidiaeth Prydain yn gobeithio y bydd hyn yn arwain at eu harestio a'u cosbi. Galwodd Network Rail y digwyddiad yn ergyd sylweddol. A gytunwch â mi fod gweithredoedd o'r fath nid yn unig yn wirion

loss of life and must be deplored?

The First Minister: I strongly deplore vandalism of this nature, which can result in a threat to life, and strongly support the efforts of the British Transport Police in trying to catch the miscreants. I strongly discourage teenagers from playing chicken on the line, and from leaving obstructions on the line, which can result in derailments and therefore a threat to life. Let us hope that BTP's inquiries lead to a successful prosecution.

Peter Black: Reports that I have heard indicate that South Wales Police faces an £8 million deficit in its budget this year and is struggling to close that gap. There has been talk of cuts in the number of police community support officers, among other things. What discussions has your Government had with the South Wales Police Authority about the future of policing in south Wales in relation to the current financial situation?

The First Minister: I had not heard that figure. We have provided an average revenue settlement for police authorities of 2.6 per cent for each of the next three years. I do not know whether that means 2.6 per cent, followed by 2.6 per cent and then another 2.6 per cent, or whether it is a mathematical average. The police settlement is largely determined by the Home Office, because it provides the formula with additional or lesser sums, all according to what it sees as the crime hot spots that a particular constabulary has to deal with. Our officials participate in the discussions but it is very much a Home Office-led exercise. Floor funding is also part of the exercise.

I am not sure where your figure relating to a gap has come from. We get more directly involved in things like the substance misuse action fund, which goes to the community safety partnerships. That is of great assistance to the police, and there has been a massive increase of some 660 per cent in the funding

ac yn beryglus i'r drwgweithredwyr dan sylw, ond y gallent hefyd fod wedi arwain at golli nifer sylweddol o fywydau, a dylid gresynu atynt?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn gresynu'n fawr at fandaliaeth o'r fath, a all beryglu bywydau, ac yr wyf yn cefnogi ymdrechion Heddlu Trafnidiaeth Prydain yn gryf wrth geisio dal y dihirod. Yr wyf yn argymhell yn gryf na ddylai pobl ifanc yn eu harddegau chwarae mig ar y rheilffordd, na gadael rhwystrau arni, a all yrru trenau oddi ar y cledrau, ac felly beryglu bywydau. Gobeithiwn y bydd ymholiadau Heddlu Trafnidiaeth Prydain yn arwain at erlyniad llwyddiannus.

Peter Black: Mae'r adroddiadau yr wyf wedi'u clywed yn awgrymu bod Heddlu De Cymru yn wynebu diffyg o £8 miliwn yn ei gyllideb eleni, a'i fod yn ei chael yn anodd cau'r bwloch hwnnw. Bu sôn am doriadau yn nifer swyddogion cymorth cymunedol yr heddlu, ymysg pethau eraill. Pa drafodaethau y mae eich Llywodraeth wedi eu cynnal ag Awdurdod Heddlu De Cymru am ddyfodol plismona yn y de yng nghyswllt y sefyllfa ariannol bresennol?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid oeddwn wedi clywed y ffigur hwnnw. Yr ydym wedi darparu setliad refeniw cyfartalog i awdurdodau heddlu o 2.6 y cant ar gyfer pob un o'r tair blynedd nesaf. Nid wyf yn gwybod a yw hynny'n golygu 2.6 y cant, yna 2.6 y cant ac yna 2.6 y cant arall, ynteu ai cyfartaledd mathemategol ydyw. Y Swyddfa Gartref sy'n bennaf cyfrifol am bennu'r setliad i'r heddlu, gan mai hi sy'n darparu'r fformiwla gyda symiau ychwanegol neu symiau llai, y cyfan yn unol â'r hyn y mae'n ei ystyried yn ardaloedd â phroblemau o ran troseddau y mae'n rhaid i heddlu penodol ymdrin â hwy. Mae ein swyddogion yn cymryd rhan yn y trafodaethau, ond y Swyddfa Gartref sy'n arwain yr ymarferiad, yn sicr. Mae ariannu gwaelodol hefyd yn rhan o'r ymarferiad.

Nid wyf yn siŵr lle y cawsoch eich ffigur sy'n ymwneud â bwlech. Yr ydym yn ymwneud yn fwy uniongyrchol â phethau megis y gronfa gweithredu ar gamddefnyddio sylweddau, sy'n mynd i'r partneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol. Mae hynny o gymorth mawr i'r heddlu, a bu cynnydd aruthrol o tua

for the SMAF.

660 y cant yn y cyllid i'r gronfa gweithredu ar gamddefnyddio sylweddau.

Nerys Evans: I add my voice to those calling on you to strengthen your representations to the Westminster Government and to follow Scotland's lead and back-date police pay. Good work is being done by Dyfed-Powys Police despite the unfair pay settlement, and it is imperative that the good reputation of the force is not undermined by the recent departure of the former chief inspector, who was able to leave his post through retirement in contravention of Home Office guidance. We have called for an investigation into why the police authority accepted that early retirement and allowed the former chief inspector to leave the force without allegations against him being properly scrutinised. The hard work of Dyfed-Powys Police must not be undermined, and will you support our calls for an investigation?

Nerys Evans: Ychwanegaf fy llais at y rhai sy'n galw arnoch i gryfhau eich sylwadau i Lywodraeth San Steffan a dilyn arweiniad yr Alban drwy ôl-ddyddio cyflog yr heddlu. Mae Heddlu Dyfed-Powys yn gwneud gwaith da er gwaethaf y setliad cyflog annheg, ac mae'n hanfodol na chaiff enw da'r heddlu ei danseilio gan ymadawiad y cyn brif arolygydd yn ddiweddar, a allodd adael ei swydd drwy ymddeol yn groes i ganllawiau'r Swyddfa Gartref. Yr ydym wedi galw am ymchwiliad i ganfod pam y derbyniodd yr awdurdod heddlu yr ymddeoliad cynnar hwnnw, gan adael i'r cyn brif arolygydd adael yr heddlu heb graffu'n briodol ar yr honiadau yn ei erbyn. Rhaid peidio â thanseilio gwaith caled Heddlu Dyfed-Powys, ac a gefnogwch ein galwadau am ymchwiliad?

The First Minister: I think that we would all accept that Dyfed-Powys Police is easily the most successful police force in England and Wales in terms of its follow-up rate and its successful arrest rate. It was sad to see a fantastically good reputation becoming sullied because of the very untoward circumstances that led to the sudden departure of the chief constable. The exact circumstances of that departure and how it cut across the possibility of completing the investigation is a matter of employment law, and, because it relates to a matter of law, I had better give a very considered reply to the points that you raised about the departure and the abortion of the investigation.

Y Prif Weinidog: Credaf y byddem oll yn derbyn mai Heddlu Dyfed-Powys yw'r heddlu mwyaf llwyddiannus o bellffordd yng Nghymru a Lloegr o ran ei gyfradd dilyniant a'i gyfradd o ran arestio'n llwyddiannus. Yr oedd yn drist gweld enw arbennig o dda'n cael ei bardduo oherwydd yr amgylchiadau anffodus a arweiniodd at ymadawiad sydyn y prif gwnstabl. Mae union amgylchiadau'r ymadawiad hwnnw a sut y torrodd ar draws posibilrwydd cwblhau'r ymchwiliad yn fater sy'n ymwneud â chyfraith cyflogaeth, a chan ei fod yn ymwneud â mater cyfreithiol, byddai'n well imi roi ymateb pwylllog iawn i'r pwyntiau a godwyd gennych am yr ymadawiad ac am atal yr ymchwiliad.

Y Llywydd: Trosglwyddwyd cwestiwn 3, OAQ(3)592(FM), i'w ateb yn ysgrifenedig.

The Presiding Officer: Question 3, OAQ(3)592(FM), has been transferred for written answer.

The Bali Agreement on Climate Change

Cytundeb Bali ar Newid yn yr Hinsawdd

Q4 Leanne Wood: What discussions has the First Minister had with the UK department of the environment regarding the implications for Wales of the Bali agreement on climate change? OAQ(3)589(FM)

C4 Leanne Wood: Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Prif Weinidog wedi eu cael gydag adran yr amgylchedd y DU ynghylch goblygiadau cytundeb Bali ar newid yn yr hinsawdd i Gymru? OAQ(3)589(FM)

The First Minister: I have had no direct discussions with UK Ministers in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid wyf wedi cynnal dim trafodaethau uniongyrchol gyda Gweinidogion y DU yn Adran yr

Affairs. I believe that it would be right to put on record the general commendation, which I support strongly, of the very constructive role played by the Secretary of State, Hilary Benn, at Bali in securing a clear and comprehensive agenda for the completion of negotiations on climate change against a timetable ending the year after next.

Leanne Wood: The energy sector accounts for almost 40 per cent of carbon dioxide emissions in Wales and is key to reaching not only the 'One Wales' targets on reducing carbon emissions, but any new targets that follow on from Bali. If Wales is to play its full part in reducing carbon dioxide emissions, is it not important, now more than ever, for powers to determine energy plants over 50 MW to be devolved to the Assembly as soon as possible?

The First Minister: That certainly is and continues to be our aspiration, because we accepted the invitation of the then energy Minister to apply for the transfer of powers relating to power stations of over 50 MW. Somehow or other, this got caught up in internal arguments in Whitehall, and we have not succeeded so far, but we continue to press for the transfer of these powers because we believe that it would be right for us to have roughly the same powers as Scotland to determine planning applications under section 36 for large-scale power generation projects. The big word, 'nuclear', has probably meant that it was seen as much more ticklish for the UK Government to agree to transfer those powers to us, and we have not succeeded so far.

2.20 p.m.

Darren Millar: A message arising from the Bali conference was the desperate need for adaptation and mitigation measures to deal with the consequences of climate change. In Wales, one of the greatest challenges that climate change presents is the increased risk of flooding to homes, businesses and vital infrastructure, such as schools and hospitals. There has been flooding across large parts of Wales this week, including in my

Amgylchedd, Bwyd a Materion Gwledig. Credaf y byddai'n briodol cofnodi'r gymeradwyaeth gyffredinol, a gefnogaf yn gryf, i'r rhan adeiladol iawn a chwaraeodd yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol, Hilary Benn, yn Bali i sicrhau agenda glir a chynhwysfawr ar gyfer cwblhau'r trafodaethau am newid yn yr hinsawdd o fewn amserlen a ddaw i ben y flwyddyn ar ôl yr un nesaf.

Leanne Wood: Y sector ynni sy'n gyfrifol am bron 40 y cant o'r gollyngiadau carbon deuocsid yng Nghymru, ac mae'r sector yn allweddol o ran cyrraedd targedau 'Cymru'n Un' i leihau gollyngiadau carbon, ynghyd ag unrhyw dargedau newydd a fydd yn deillio o Bali. Os yw Cymru am chwarae ei rhan lawn o ran lleihau gollyngiadau carbon deuocsid, onid yw'n bwysicach nag erioed i bwerau i wneud penderfyniadau am orsafoedd ynni dros 50 MW gael eu datganoli i'r Cynulliad cyn gynted â phosibl?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yn sicr, dyna yw ein dyhead, a bydd yn parhau felly, oherwydd derbyniasom wahoddiad y Gweinidog dros ynni ar y pryd i wneud cais am drosglwyddo pwerau sy'n ymwneud â gorsafoedd pŵer dros 50 MW. Rywsut neu'i gilydd, bu dadlau mewnol am hyn yn Whitehall, ac nid ydym wedi llwyddo hyd yn hyn, ond yr ydym yn parhau i bwysu am drosglwyddo'r pwerau hyn gan ein bod yn credu y byddai'n iawn inni gael yr un pwerau yn fras â'r Alban i benderfynu ar geisiadau cynllunio dan adran 36 ynghylch prosiectau cynhyrchu pŵer ar raddfa fawr. Mae'n debygol bod y gair mawr, 'niwclear', wedi golygu ei bod yn ymddangos yn llawer mwy lletchwith i Lywodraeth y DU gytuno i drosglwyddo'r pwerau hynny inni, ac nid ydym wedi llwyddo hyd yn hyn.

Darren Millar: Un neges a gododd o'r gynhadledd yn Bali oedd yr angen dybryd am fesurau addasu a lliniaru i ymdrin â chanlyniadau newid yn yr hinsawdd. Yng Nghymru, un o'r heriau mwyaf a gyflwynir gan newid yn yr hinsawdd yw'r cynnydd yn y pergyl y bydd llifogydd mewn cartrefi, busnesau a seilwaith hanfodol, megis ysgolion ac ysbytai. Cafwyd llifogydd ar draws rhannau mawr o Gymru yr wythnos

constituency. Over the past five years, capital has been available, but it has been underspent to the tune of over £7.5 million. That money could have protected areas of Wales from flooding. Given that the capital funds available for flooding will be cut in each of the next three years, according to the budget that will soon be laid before the Assembly, what will your Government do to help to prevent the floods, such as those that we have seen this week, from happening again?

The First Minister: We have to make new estimates on this and, as far as I know, we have already made new estimates of how high river and coastal defences ought to be. I do not have the exact figures on the percentage increase in the levels to which river and coastal defences are to be built, but there is a need for different standards to cope with the kind of weather that areas such as Abergwili, Abergavenny and Pontardawe have experienced today. Such weather will, unfortunately, become more frequent, so we need greater river protection and greater protection against coastal erosion. However, as far as I am aware, those new standards have already been set.

Mick Bates: Like you, First Minister, I welcome the agreements reached in Bali. However, they did not include carbon reduction targets. Given that Wales is the twelfth highest carbon emitter in the world and that your only current target for renewable energy—4 TWh of renewable generation by 2010—will be missed by at least 70 per cent, according to the best estimate, how will you ensure a reduction in carbon emissions? Will you share your Westminster colleagues' view that nuclear power will be the source of your carbon-free energy in future? Can you tell us today whether or not you will support a certain council in its demand for more nuclear power in Wales, which would leave a toxic legacy for future generations? That is hardly sustainable.

The First Minister: Our policy on nuclear power has not changed. We have expressed

hon, gan gynnwys yn fy etholaeth i. Dros y pum mlynedd diwethaf, bu cyfalaf ar gael, ond bu tanwariant o dros £7.5 miliwn. Gallai'r arian hwnnw fod wedi amddiffyn ardaloedd yng Nghymru rhag llifogydd. O ystyried y caiff y cyllid cyfalaf sydd ar gael ar gyfer llifogydd ei dorri ym mhob un o'r tair blynedd nesaf, yn ôl y gyllideb a gyflwynir gerbron y Cynulliad cyn bo hir, beth a wnaiff eich Llywodraeth i helpu i atal y llifogydd, megis y rhai yr ydym wedi'u gweld yr wythnos hon, rhag digwydd eto?

Y Prif Weinidog: Rhaid inni lunio amcangyfrifon newydd yn hyn o beth a, hyd y gwn, yr ydym eisoes wedi llunio amcangyfrifon newydd o ran pa mor uchel y dylai amddiffynfeydd afonydd ac arfordirol fod. Nid yw'r union ffigurau ynghylch y cynnydd canrannol yn uchder amddiffynfeydd afonydd ac arfordirol gennyf, ond mae angen gwahanol safonau i ymdopi â'r math o dywydd y mae ardaloedd megis Abergwili, y Fenni a Phontardawe wedi'i gael heddiw. Yn anffodus, bydd tywydd o'r fath yn digwydd yn amlach, felly mae arnom angen mwy o amddiffyniad mewn afonydd a mwy o amddiffyniad yn erbyn erydu arfordirol. Fodd bynnag, hyd y gwn, mae'r safonau newydd hyn eisoes wedi'u pennu.

Mick Bates: Fel chi, Brif Weinidog, yr wyf yn croesawu'r cytundebau a gafwyd yn Bali. Fodd bynnag, nid oeddent yn cynnwys targedau lleihau carbon. O ystyried mai Cymru yw deuddegfed gollyngwr carbon mwyaf y byd ac na chyrrhaeddir eich unig darged cyfredol ar gyfer ynni adnewyddadwy—4 TWh o gynhyrchu adnewyddadwy erbyn 2010—o 70 y cant o leiaf, yn ôl yr amcangyfrif gorau, sut y sicrhewch leihad mewn gollyngiadau carbon? A fyddwch yn cyd-weld â safbwynt eich cyd-aelodau yn San Steffan mai pŵer niwclear fydd ffynhonnell eich ynni digarbon yn y dyfodol? A allwch ddweud wrthym heddiw a fyddwch yn cefnogi cyngor penodol wrth iddo alw am fwy o bŵer niwclear yng Nghymru, a fyddai'n gadael etifeddiaeth wenwynig i genedlaethau'r dyfodol, ai peidio? Prin bod hynny'n gynaliadwy.

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid yw ein polisi ar bŵer niwclear wedi newid. Yr ydym wedi mynegi

great sympathy with the north-western half of Anglesey because of the danger posed to the general economy by the closure of Anglesey Aluminium Ltd and Wylfa nuclear power station, the two major employers in the area. The two have a symbiotic relationship, and we have devoted a great deal of effort to trying to extend the life of Wylfa A so that it can continue to provide a reasonable feedstock of energy to Anglesey Aluminium, and we will continue to do so.

On whether there would ever be a successor station on the Wylfa site, despite the UK Government's announcement on a general policy on nuclear energy last week, it was not site-specific. Decisions on where the first wave of nuclear power stations will be built will not be made for another 12 months.

The All-Wales Convention

Q5 Lynne Neagle: Will the First Minister make a statement about the upcoming work of the All-Wales Convention? OAQ(3)600(FM)

C6 Alun Ffred Jones: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am amserlen Confensiwn Cymru Gyfan? OAQ(3)585(FM)

The First Minister: The establishing committee of Labour and Plaid Cymru Assembly Members and Members of Parliament—of which Lynne Neagle is a member—is setting the terms of reference and membership for the convention under the 'One Wales' agreement. Only once it has done so can the convention's work start in earnest. It is hoped that the convention can begin its work by the summer.

Lynne Neagle: The establishing committee has already had two positive meetings, with constructive debate very much the order of the day. Do you agree that the convention, as outlined in 'One Wales', must engage with communities across Wales, not simply through established fora but through real engagement at grass-roots level, particularly with groups and individuals who are not usually engaged in such consultation? Do you agree that, for the convention to work properly, it must speak not only to the great

cydymdeimlad mawr â gogledd-orllewin Ynys Môn oherwydd y perygl i'r economi'n gyffredinol o gau Alwminiwm Môn Cyf a gorsaf pŵer niwclear yr Wylfa, dau brif gyflogwr yr ardal. Mae perthynas symbiotig rhwng y ddau, ac yr ydym wedi ymdrechu'n fawr i geisio ymestyn bywyd Wylfa A fel y gall barhau i ddarparu ynni i Alwminiwm Môn, a byddwn yn parhau i wneud hynny.

O ran a fyddai gorsaf arall ar safle'r Wylfa, er gwaethaf cyhoeddiad Llywodraeth y DU ynghylch polisi cyffredinol ynghylch ynni niwclear yr wythnos diwethaf, nid oedd yn benodol o ran safleoedd. Ni phenderfynir ynghylch lle i adeiladu'r don gyntaf o orsafoedd pŵer niwclear am 12 mis arall.

Confensiwn Cymru Gyfan

C5 Lynne Neagle: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am y gwaith sydd yn yr arfaeth gan Gofensiwn Cymru Gyfan? OAQ(3)600(FM)

Q6 Alun Ffred Jones: Will the First Minister make a statement on the timetable for the All-Wales Convention? OAQ(3)585(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'r pwyllgor o Aelodau'r Cynulliad ac Aelodau Seneddol o'r Blaid Lafur a Phlaid Cymru—y mae Lynne Neagle yn aelod ohono—sy'n sefydlu'r confensiwn yn pennu cylch gorchwyl ac aelodaeth y confensiwn o dan gytundeb 'Cymru'n Un'. Wedi i hynny gael ei wneud y gall gwaith y confensiwn ddechrau o ddifrif. Gobeithir y gall y confensiwn ddechrau ar ei waith erbyn yr haf.

Lynne Neagle: Mae'r pwyllgor sefydlu eisoes wedi cynnal dau gyfarfod cadarnhaol, lle y cafwyd digonedd o ddadlau adeiladol. A gytunwch fod yn rhaid i'r confensiwn, fel yr amlinellwyd yn 'Cymru'n Un', ymgysylltu â chymunedau ledled Cymru, nid yn unig drwy fforymau sydd wedi'u sefydlu eisoes, ond drwy ymgysylltu gwirioneddol ar lawr gwlad, yn enwedig â grwpiau ac unigolion na chânt eu cynnwys mewn ymgynghori o'r fath fel arfer? A gytunwch, er mwyn i'r confensiwn weithio'n iawn, fod yn rhaid iddo siarad â

and the good but to all the people of Wales who deserve a significant say on such an important subject?

The First Minister: I could not agree more. It is important that all people, whether in Sebstopol and Griffithstown in your constituency, or in Ely and Fairwater in mine, are as engaged as those who frequently go to lectures on constitutional matters. It is very difficult to engage people in any part of the world on constitutional issues unless they have the leisure time to consider constitutional matters. Somehow or other, we must bridge that gap.

Alun Ffred Jones: Yr wyf innau'n ategu sylwadau Lynne Neagle am y cyfarfodydd a'r angen i gysylltu â phobl ym mhob rhan o Gymru ac o bob haen ar y mater hwn. Gan gyfeirio at yr amserlen a'ch gobaieth y bydd y confensiwn yn dechrau ar ei waith cyn yr haf, er nad oes gennych reolaeth dros hynny, pryd ydych yn gobeithio y bydd y confensiwn yn gallu adrodd yn ôl i chi a'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog, Ieuan Wyn Jones?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'n bwysig bod pob rhan o'n cymdeithas yng Nghymru yn cael y siawns i gymryd rhan yn y trafodaethau. Mae'r grŵp o Aelodau Seneddol ac Aelodau'r Cynulliad o'r ddwy blaid wedi dechrau ar ei drafodaethau, ac felly mae'n bosibl y gall y confensiwn gynnal ei gyfarfod cyntaf, o dan gadeiryddiaeth Syr Emyr Jones Parry, yn ystod yr haf. Dylem gael trafodaeth gyda'r cadeirydd cyn ceisio rhagweld faint o amser y bydd arno ef a'r confensiwn ei angen i gyflwyno adroddiad i'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a minnau.

The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrat Group (Michael German): There appears to have been some confusion in reported matters about this convention. Could you tell us simply in your words what is it for?

The First Minister: The convention is intended to establish the extent of the information gap with the people of Wales, if there is such a gap, and so to establish what people would need to know before it can

holl bobl Cymru sy'n haeddu cael lleisio barn ar bwnc mor bwysig, ac nid â phwysigion yn unig?

Y Prif Weinidog: Cytunaf i'r carn. Mae'n bwysig i bawb, o Sebstopol a Griffithstown yn eich etholaeth chi, neu yn Nhrelái a'r Tyllgoed yn fy etholaeth i, gael eu cynnwys i'r un graddau â'r bobl hynny sy'n mynychu darlithoedd am faterion cyfansoddiadol. Mae'n anodd iawn ymgysylltu â phobl yn unrhyw ran o'r byd am faterion cyfansoddiadol, oni bai fod amser ganddynt i ystyried materion cyfansoddiadol. Rywsut neu'i gilydd, rhaid inni bontio'r bwlch hwnnw.

Alun Ffred Jones: I endorse Lynne Neagle's comments about the meetings and the need to connect with people in every part of Wales and from every social strata on this matter. Referring to the timetable and your hope that the convention will start its work before the summer, although you have no control over that, when do you hope that the convention will be able to report back to you and to the Deputy First Minister, Ieuan Wyn Jones?

The First Minister: It is important that every part of our society in Wales has the opportunity to participate in the discussions. The group of Members of Parliament and Assembly Members from both parties have started its discussion, and so it is possible that the convention will be able to hold its first meeting, under the chairmanship of Sir Emyr Jones Parry, during the summer. We should have a discussion with the chair before beginning to anticipate how long he and his convention will require to report to the Deputy First Minister and myself.

Arweinydd Grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Michael German): Ymddengys fod rhywfaint o ddrysych wedi bod yn yr hyn sydd wedi'i adrodd am y confensiwn hwn. A allech ddweud wrthym yn syml, yn eich geiriau chi, beth yw ei ddiben?

Y Prif Weinidog: Bwriedir i'r confensiwn ganfod maint y bwlch gwybodaeth gyda phobl Cymru, os oes bwlch o'r fath yn bodoli, a thrwy hynny, ganfod beth y byddai angen i bobl ei wybod cyn y gellid dweud yn

reasonably be said that we have an informed electorate for a referendum. Likewise, it is about measuring the state of Welsh public opinion in readiness for a referendum. 'One Wales' makes it clear that we want to hold a referendum under Part 4 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 before the end of this Assembly, and we want it to be successful, not unsuccessful. Given the fickle nature of Welsh public opinion on this matter, as those of us who remember the 1979 and 1997 referenda would testify, the issue is about finding the right measuring rod for the real state of Welsh public opinion. It is not about what people say if they are asked over the telephone, online or by a market researcher on the street whether they support full law-making powers for the Assembly, but rather what they would vote for in the sanctity and secrecy of the ballot box. That is the key point that we need to establish.

Michael German: Thank you for that answer. However, I am still a little unclear as to whether the intention is to sway the public mood in one way or another, to present an argument that is balanced so that people can make their own minds up, or simply to deduce whether people need to find out more. For example, we understand that one issue that has been floated as something that people may want to know more about relates to the number of Assembly Members that might be required. After all, we need to have the capacity to do the job properly if we are to be successful, and, if we are to have the capacity to do the job properly, we need the right number of Assembly Members to do the job. The Richard commission was clear about that. We do not want a Rolls-Royce of a model that matches the powers of Scotland, but which has the engine of a Mini, because we will not get anywhere. Therefore, do you think that the convention has a role in swaying public opinion, or is it acting as a public opinion poll, telling you what you need to do next?

The First Minister: It is none of those, and it is certainly not about swaying public opinion. Sir Emyr Jones Parry, as a lifetime civil servant, would be horrified at the thought of his job being to sway public opinion. Once a civil servant, always a civil servant; once a

rhesymol fod gennym etholaeth wybodus ar gyfer refferendwm. Yn yr un modd, mae'n fater o fesur cyflwr barn cyhoedd Cymru wrth baratoi ar gyfer refferendwm. Mae 'Cymru'n Un' yn ei gwneud yn glir ein bod yn dymuno cynnal refferendwm dan Ran 4 Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006 cyn diwedd y Cynulliad hwn, ac mae arnom eisiau iddo fod yn llwyddiannus, nid yn aflwyddiannus. O ystyried natur wamal barn cyhoedd Cymru am y mater hwn, fel y byddai'r rhai ohonom sy'n cofio refferenda 1979 a 1997 yn tystio, mae'n fater o ddod o hyd i'r ffon fesur gywir ar gyfer cyflwr gwirioneddol barn cyhoedd Cymru. Nid yw'n ymwneud â'r hyn y bydd pobl yn ei ddweud os gofynnir iddynt dros y ffôn, ar-lein neu gan ymchwilydd marchnata ar y stryd a ydynt yn cefnogi pwerau deddfu llawn i'r Cynulliad; y cwestiwn yw sut y byddent yn pleidleisio yn sancteiddrwydd a chyfrinachedd y blwch pleidleisio. Dyna'r pwynt allweddol y mae angen inni ei ganfod.

Michael German: Diolch ichi am yr ateb hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn dal ychydig yn aneglur ai'r bwriad yw dylanwadu ar farn y cyhoedd rywsut neu'i gilydd, cyflwyno dadl sy'n gytbwys fel y gall pobl benderfynu drostynt eu hunain, ynteu dim ond barnu a oes angen dysgu mwy ar bobl ai peidio. Er enghraifft, yr ydym yn cael ar ddeall fod un mater a grybwyllwyd fel rhywbeth y gall pobl ddymuno gwybod mwy amdano'n ymwneud â nifer yr Aelodau o'r Cynulliad y gallai fod eu hangen. Wedi'r cyfan, rhaid inni allu gwneud y gwaith yn iawn os ydym am lwyddo, ac os ydym am allu gwneud y gwaith yn iawn, mae arnom angen y nifer iawn o Aelodau o'r Cynulliad i wneud y gwaith. Yr oedd comisiwn Richard yn glir ynghylch hynny. Nid oes arnom eisiau model Rolls-Royce â'r un pwerau â'r Alban, gydag injan Mini, oherwydd nid awn i unman. Felly, a gredwch fod gan y confensiwn rôl o ran dylanwadu ar farn y cyhoedd, ynteu a yw'n gweithredu fel arolwg o farn y cyhoedd, i ddweud wrthy ch beth y mae angen ichi ei wneud nesaf?

Y Prif Weinidog: Dim un o'r rheini, ac yn sicr nid ei ddiben yw dylanwadu ar farn y cyhoedd. Byddai Syr Emyr Jones Parry, a fu'n was sifil gydol ei oes, yn arswydo o feddwl mai ei waith ef yw dylanwadu ar farn y cyhoedd. Mae gwas sifil yn was sifil bob

Foreign Office diplomat, always a Foreign Office diplomat—and very appropriate that is, too, in the circumstances. When the convention reaches the stage of establishing that the information gap has been closed, and so the public understands as well as it ever can in such circumstances what it needs to know before voting as an informed electorate in a referendum, then the convention drops out of it, and political parties and campaign bodies have to take over at that stage. I do not think that you would want to call that a convention; perhaps you could, but it would be a totally different kind of convention, and it would certainly not be chaired by Sir Emyr Jones Parry.

2.30 p.m.

You could think of this as a three-stage rocket: we having the establishing committee now, then the convention runs for a year or two or whatever, and then, in the final stage, campaign organisations would work for a 'yes' vote or a 'no' vote.

Michael German: The important point that you state there is quite clear: the convention is not a campaigning body. I agree that Sir Emyr Jones Parry would not be the right person to lead a campaigning organisation. I am sure that your experience of the referenda in the 1970s and the 1990s tells you that, unless you prepare early for a referendum, and unless the political parties are geared up for it, then you will not get a 'yes' vote. My party is committed to acquiring full powers for this National Assembly; it always has been, and we maintain that position. However, we believe that you have to campaign for those votes, and early preparation is important. That is why it was so tough for us in 1997—we did not have that ground to build on. The political parties had less than six months to prepare the ground together in order to fight the referendum campaign that led to the establishment of this Assembly. Would you therefore agree that we should start the campaign now, and that it should be a political campaign based around the political parties? I invite you and the other party leaders to join us, to ensure that we start that political campaign right now, so that we will have prepared early enough. We should not wait until the few months that

amser; a'r un modd o ran diplomydd yn y Swyddfa Dramor—ac mae hynny'n briodol iawn hefyd, dan yr amgylchiadau. Pan ddaw'r confensiwn i benderfynu bod y bwch gwybodaeth wedi'i gau, a bod y cyhoedd yn deall cystal ag y gallant byth dan amgylchiadau o'r fath beth y mae angen iddynt ei wybod cyn pleidleisio fel etholaeth wybodus mewn refferendwm, yna bydd y confensiwn yn rhoi'r gorau iddi, a rhaid i bleidiau gwleidyddol a chyrrff ymgyrchu gamu i'r adwy bryd hynny. Ni chredaf y byddech am alw hynny'n gonfensiwn; efallai y gallech, ond byddai'n fath hollol wahanol o gonfensiwn, ac yn sicr ni fyddai Syr Emyr Jones Parry yn gadeirydd arno.

Gallwch feddwl am hyn fel roced tri cham: ni'n ffurfio'r pwyllgor sefydlu yn awr, yna mae'r confensiwn yn para am flwyddyn neu ddwy neu beth bynnag y bo, ac yna, yn ystod y cam olaf, byddai mudiadau ymgyrchu yn gweithio o blaid pleidlais 'ie' neu 'na'.

Michael German: Mae'r pwynt pwysig a wnaethoch yn hynny'n weddol glir: nid corff ymgyrchu yw'r confensiwn. Cytunaf nad Syr Emyr Jones Parry fyddai'r person cywir i arwain mudiad ymgyrchu. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod eich profiad o'r refferenda yn yr 1970au a'r 1990au yn dweud wrthy, oni bai eich bod yn paratoi'n gynnar ar gyfer refferendwm ac oni bai fod y pleidiau gwleidyddol yn barod amdano, yna ni fyddwch yn llwyddo i gael pleidlais 'ie'. Mae fy mhlaid wedi ymrwymo i gael pwerau llawn i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol hwn; mae wedi gwneud hynny drwy'r amser, ac yr ydym yn glynu wrth y safbwynt hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, credwn fod yn rhaid i chi ymgyrchu i gael y pleidleisiau hynny, ac mae paratoi mewn da bryd yn bwysig. Dyna pam yr oedd yn dalcen mor galed inni yn 1997—nid oedd gennym y sylfaen honno i adeiladu arni. Prin chwe mis a gafodd y pleidiau gwleidyddol i fraenaru'r tir gyda'i gilydd er mwyn brwydro'r ymgyrch refferendwm a arweiniodd at sefydlu'r Cynulliad hwn. Onid ydych yn cytuno, felly, y dylem ddechrau ymgyrchu yn awr, ac y dylai fod yn ymgyrch gwleidyddol yn seiliedig ar y pleidiau gwleidyddol? Estynnaf wahoddiad i chi ac i arweinwyr y pleidiau eraill ymuno â ni, er mwyn sicrhau ein bod

seem to be left between the end of the convention and the potential vote in 2011, if that is the likely date.

The First Minister: I would define the function of the convention under Sir Emyr's chairing as preparing an informed electorate. There is nothing to stop political parties from choosing to start campaigning now, or, indeed, from seeking to meet other parties and forming campaign organisations, either locally or on a pan-Wales basis. There is nothing to stop that from happening now, but I do not want it to cut across, or vitiate, the work of the convention, which must have a reasonably free run when it starts, in six months' time or thereabouts. It needs to try to ensure that it knows what is missing with regard to having an informed electorate, and to then ensure that, by the time it finishes its work, we do have an informed electorate.

David Melding: Can you assure the Assembly that there is not any underlying tension in the Government between the Plaid Cymru Ministers, who want the convention to be a campaigning body, and the Labour Ministers, who seem to want an evidence-gathering convention that will lay the grounds for a debate, perhaps point the public in the direction of the crucial issues, and give everyone a chance to come forward with their views, thus allowing for a coherent referendum? The Electoral Commission was critical of the referendum in 1997, because of the disproportionate resources available to each side; we need to have a coherent national debate this time. From my point of view, if there is a split within the Government, the Labour opinion ought to prevail—because if we go out there as the great and the good united, and call for an affirmative referendum on a law-making body, then we may find that the public gives us a rude answer.

The First Minister: That could happen—absolutely. It is important that we are well-prepared for all eventualities, in terms of the state of public opinion over the next three and a half years. You know what it is like to be in

yn dechrau'r ymgyrch wleidyddol honno yn awr, fel y byddwn wedi cael cyfle i baratoi mewn da bryd. Ni ddylem ddisgwyl tan y misoedd prin a fydd ar ôl, yn ôl pob tebyg, rhwng diwedd y confensiwn a'r bleidlais bosibl yn 2011, os mai hynny yw'r dyddiad tebygol.

Y Prif Weinidog: Fy niffiniad o swyddogaeth y confensiwn dan gadeiryddiaeth Syr Emyr fyddai paratoi etholwyr gwybodus. Nid oes dim i atal pleidiau gwleidyddol rhag dewis dechrau ymgyrchu yn awr, nac, yn wir, rhag ceisio cyfarfod â phleidiau eraill a ffurfio mudiadau ymgyrchu, naill ai'n lleol neu ar sail Cymru gyfan. Nid oes dim i atal hynny rhag digwydd yn awr, ond nid wyf am i hynny dorri ar draws gwaith y confensiwn na'i ddifetha. Dylai gael rhwydd hynt pan fydd yn dechrau, ymhen rhyw chwe mis. Mae angen iddo geisio canfod y bylchau sy'n rhwystr rhag cael etholwyr gwybodus, ac yna sicrhau, erbyn y daw i ben â'r gwaith, fod gennym etholwyr gwybodus.

David Melding: A allwch sicrhau'r Cynulliad nad oes tensiwn dan yr wyneb yn y Llywodraeth rhwng Gweinidogion Plaid Cymru, sydd am i'r confensiwn fod yn gorff ymgyrchu, a Gweinidogion Llafur, sydd am gael confensiwn sy'n casglu tystiolaeth a fydd yn braenaru'r tir ar gyfer dadl, sydd efallai'n cyfeirio'r cyhoedd at y materion allweddol, ac sy'n rhoi cyfle i bawb gyflwyno'u barn, a thrwy hynny, yn galluogi cynnal refferendwm ystyrlon? Yr oedd y Comisiwn Etholiadol yn feirniadol o'r refferendwm yn 1997, oherwydd yr adnoddau anghyfartal a oedd ar gael i'r ddwy ochr; mae angen dadl genedlaethol ystyrlon arnom y tro hwn. O'm safbwynt i, os oes rhaniad yn y Llywodraeth, barn y Blaid Lafur a ddylai ennill y dydd—oherwydd os awn ati fel un teulu mawr cytûn, gan alw am refferendwm cadarnhaol ynghylch corff sydd â phwerau deddfu, yna efallai y bydd y cyhoedd yn rhoi ymateb haerllug iawn inni.

Y Prif Weinidog: Gallai hynny ddigwydd—yn hollol. Mae'n bwysig inni baratoi'n drylwyr ar gyfer popeth a all ddigwydd, o ran beth fydd barn y cyhoedd dros y tair blynedd a hanner nesaf. Gwyddoch sut beth yw bod â

a minority position in your party—not necessarily with regard to the Assembly group, but overall—and so it is important that you do not assume that there is an equally big divide within the Assembly Government. In fact, things have been pretty harmonious with regard to how to set up the convention, and how to agree on the setting up of the establishing group. The constructive nature of the first two meetings has astonished everybody involved.

Kirsty Williams: If you are to avoid anoraks talking to anoraks—a situation that you say is undesirable—the membership of the All-Wales Convention, and its methods of working, will be key in engaging with all communities across Wales, regardless of their economic background or geographical location. What discussions have you had with Sir Emyr Jones Parry, and, indeed, the establishing group, about the membership that you feel is best-suited to truly engaging with all aspects of Welsh society?

The First Minister: We took the view that it was probably better if the establishing group was not too much under the wing of the First Minister, the Deputy First Minister or any other Minister, so it is pushing along to set the terms of reference on a party-to-party, backbench-to-backbench, Assembly-to-Westminster basis. Therefore, it is too early to have discussions with Emyr Jones Parry except in the most general terms, but I strongly support this idea, which I think you are commending, that the argument has to be taken beyond the anoraks, and that will be seen as a key duty of the convention.

Water Quality

Q7 Brynle Williams: Will the First Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's priorities for water quality in Wales? OAQ(3)605(FM)

The First Minister: We have already discussed water quantity, of which we have too much. Water quality is an important issue and we place a high priority on it. That includes outcomes on maintaining and

safbwynt lleiafrifol yn eich plaid—nid o angenrheidrwydd o ran y grŵp yn y Cynulliad, ond yn gyffredinol—ac felly mae'n bwysig nad ydych yn cymryd yn ganiataol fod rhwyg yr un mor fawr o fewn Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Yn wir, yr oeddem yn weddol gytŷn wrth benderfynu ar sut i sefydlu'r confensiwn, ac wrth gytuno ar sut i ffurfio'r grŵp sefydlu. Mae pawb wedi synnu at natur adeiladol y ddau gyfarfod cyntaf.

Kirsty Williams: Os ydych am osgoi sefyllfa lle y mae'r rhai sy'n ymhel â gwleidyddiaeth yn siarad â'i gilydd—sefyllfa nad yw'n ddymunol, meddech—bydd aelodaeth Confensiwn Cymru Gyfan, a'i ddulliau o weithio, yn allweddol wrth geisio ymgysylltu â'r holl gymunedau ledled Cymru, waeth beth yw eu cefndir economaidd neu leoliad daearyddol. Pa drafodaethau yr ydych wedi'u cynnal â Syr Emyr Jones Parry, ac yn wir, y grŵp sefydlu, ynghylch yr aelodaeth sydd fwyaf addas, yn eich barn chi, i ymgysylltu â phob agwedd ar gymdeithas yng Nghymru?

Y Prif Weinidog: Daethom i'r canlyniad y byddai'n well pe na bai'r grŵp sefydlu ormod dan adain y Prif Weinidog, y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog, na dim un Gweinidog arall, felly mae'n bwrw ati i lunio cylch gorchwyl ar sail y pleidiau, y meinciau cefn, a'r Cynulliad a San Steffan. Felly, mae'n rhy gynnar i gynnal trafodaethau ag Emyr Jones Parry ar hyn o bryd, heblaw trafodaethau ar faterion cyffredinol iawn, ond yr wyf yn frwd o blaid y syniad hwn, y credaf eich bod yn ei gymeradwyo, fod yn rhaid i'r ddadl fynd y tu hwnt i'r gwybodusion, a bernir y bydd hynny'n un o ddyletswyddau allweddol y confensiwn.

Ansawdd Dŵr

C7 Brynle Williams: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am flaenoriaethau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer ansawdd dŵr yng Nghymru? OAQ(3)605(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydym eisoes wedi trafod faint o ddŵr sydd gennym, sef gormod. Mae ansawdd dŵr yn fater pwysig a rhoddwn flaenoriaeth uchel iddo. Mae hynny'n cynnwys canlyniadau o ran cynnal a

enhancing the quality of coastal waters and rivers, ensuring that our seas are clean—and we have had a few disappointments on that this summer—and maintaining high-quality drinking water supplies.

Brynle Williams: If your Government is genuinely concerned about improving water quality, why is it proposing to implement the European Commission's nitrates directive, which will prevent the spreading of slurry or cattle manure for 22 weeks, which it calls a closed period, thus encouraging all farmers to spread at once as soon as the closed period is over, increasing the risk of eutrophication—that is a big word for me, but you will understand what it means. The Government is failing to have an impact on the never-ending flow of poorly thought-out, impractical European regulations that undermine Welsh agriculture.

The First Minister: There has always been a clash between the European Commission and us over the nitrates directive. The commission has always taken a hard line on it. We have recently completed a public consultation exercise on the implementation of the nitrates directive in Wales and we extended, at the request of the farming industry, the consultation period by a month to four months, so that it closed on 14 December, and we are now considering the responses. I know how strong the feelings are in the farming industry. On the other hand, I know how strong the European Commission's infraction determination on this is, historically. Therefore, we are trying to broker a satisfactory answer for both sides.

Brynle Williams: Do you agree that it is a little ridiculous that farmers have to store slurry and manure for 22 weeks until the closed period has come to an end? If all that slurry is spread on day 1 and we have rain on day 2, we will end up with pollution in the ditches.

The First Minister: The nitrates directive is taken very seriously and the European Commission will not hesitate to issue infraction proceedings against us—it has done on several occasions. Environmental statutory agencies, such as the Countryside

gwella ansawdd afonydd a dyfroedd arfordirol, sicrhau bod ein moroedd yn lân—sy'n fater lle y cawsom ein siomi unwaith neu ddwy dros yr haf eleni—a chynnal cyflenwadau dŵr yfed o safon uchel.

Brynle Williams: Os yw eich Llywodraeth yn pryderu o ddifrif ynghylch gwella ansawdd dŵr, pam mae'n bwriadu gweithredu cyfarwyddeb y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd ar nitradau, a fydd yn atal pobl rhag taenu slyri neu dail gwartheg am 22 wythnos, a elwir yn gyfnod gwaharddedig, a thrwy hynny'n annog pob ffermwr i daenu ar ôl i'r cyfnod gwaharddedig ddod i ben, gan gynyddu'r perygl i ewtroffeiddio ddigwydd—mae hwnnw'n air mawr i mi, ond byddwch yn deall beth y mae'n ei olygu. Nid yw'r Llywodraeth yn gallu ymateb i'r llif di-dor o reoliadau Ewropeaidd anymarferol, nad ydynt wedi'u hystyried yn ddigon gofalus, sy'n tanseilio amaethyddiaeth yng Nghymru.

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae hi'n hen ddadl rhwng y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd a ni ynghylch y gyfarwyddeb ar nitradau. Mae'r comisiwn wedi cymryd agwedd lem iawn ar y mater drwy'r amser. Yn ddiweddar, yr ydym wedi cwblhau ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus ar weithredu'r gyfarwyddeb ar nitradau yng Nghymru, ac ar gais y diwydiant ffermio, ymestynasom y cyfnod ymgynghori o fis i bedwar mis. Daeth yr ymgynghoriad i ben ar 14 Rhagfyr, ac yr ydym yn awr yn ystyried yr ymatebion. Gwn mor gryf yw'r teimladau yn y diwydiant ffermio. Ar y llaw arall, gwn hefyd, yn hanesyddol, mor gryf yw'r penderfyniad ynghylch tor-dyletswydd gan y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd ar y mater hwn. Felly, yr ydym yn ceisio sicrhau ateb boddhaol i'r ddwy ochr.

Brynle Williams: A ydych yn cytuno ei bod yn chwerthinllyd bod yn rhaid i ffermwyr storio slyri a thail am 22 wythnos nes bod y cyfnod gwaharddedig wedi dod i ben? Os caiff yr holl slyri hwnnw ei daenu ar y diwrnod cyntaf, a hithau'n bwrw glaw drannoeth, bydd y ffosydd yn cael eu llygru.

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'r gyfarwyddeb ar nitradau'n cael ei chymryd o ddifri go iawn ac ni fydd y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd yn petruso cyn cychwyn achosion tor-dyletswydd yn ein herbyn—mae wedi gwneud hynny amryw o weithiau. Mae

Council for Wales, also say that we are not doing enough to restrict the spread of nitrates on land in case it pollutes watercourses and in case that contributes to eutrophication. The one thing that we all agree on is that we have to minimise the risk of having eutrophicated waters in Wales.

Lesley Griffiths: Scientific evidence from the World Health Organization and others states that the fluoridation of drinking water significantly reduces tooth decay. The *British Dental Journal* believes that children who drink bottled water rather than fluoridated tap water may miss out on the levels of fluoride that they need to protect their teeth from decay. Will the Government look again at this issue with a view to having a debate about the benefits of the fluoridation of our water supplies across the country?

The First Minister: You will be aware that there are widely differing opinions about fluoridation. Some people fear it as being mass medication and some fear it because of the yellowing of some teeth through fluorosis. Others say that where high levels of fluoride occur naturally, people's dental health is far better than it is in areas where there are not high levels of fluoride. If we had a debate that led to a vote, it would have to be on a free-vote basis. We have to make that clear now. I have no objection whatsoever to our having a debate to try to work out whether the arguments are sufficiently strong, especially given the poor dental health that we have in Wales.

2.40 p.m.

Priorities for the Vale of Glamorgan

Q8 Andrew R.T. Davies: Will the First Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's priorities for the Vale of Glamorgan? OAQ(3)584(FM)

The First Minister: In addition to delivering on 'One Wales' commitments in the Vale of Glamorgan, as elsewhere, there are some aspects that are particular to that area, namely

asiantaethau statudol amgylcheddol, megis Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru, hefyd yn dweud nad ydym yn gwneud digon i gyfyngu ar daenu nitradau ar dir, rhag ofn iddo lygru dyfrffyrdd a rhag ofn i hynny gyfrannu at ewtroffeiddio. Mae un peth yr ydym oll yn gytûn arno, rhaid inni leihau cymaint ag sy'n bosibl y perygl y bydd dyfroedd sydd wedi ewtroffeiddio yng Nghymru.

Lesley Griffiths: Mae tystiolaeth wyddonol gan Sefydliad Iechyd y Byd ac eraill yn datgan bod fflworeiddio dŵr yfed yn lleihau pydredd dannedd yn sylweddol. Mae'r *British Dental Journal* o'r farn nad yw plant sy'n yfed dŵr potel yn hytrach na dŵr tap sydd wedi'i fflworeiddio efallai'n cael y lefelau o fflworid y mae eu hangen arnynt i amddiffyn eu dannedd rhag pydru. A wnaiff y Llywodraeth ailedrych ar y mater hwn gan ystyried cynnal dadl am fanteision fflworeiddio ein cyflenwadau dŵr ledled y wlad?

Y Prif Weinidog: Gwyddoch fod safbwyntiau hollol wahanol am fflworeiddio. Mae rhai pobl yn poeni mai meddyginiaeth ydyw sy'n cael ei gweinyddu ar raddfa eang ac eraill yn poeni am fflworosis sy'n gallu troi rhai dannedd yn felyn. Ar y llaw arall, mae eraill yn dadlau mewn manau lle y mae lefelau uchel o fflworid yn naturiol, fod iechyd deintyddol pobl yn llawer gwell nag mewn ardaloedd lle nad oes lefelau uchel o fflworid. Pe byddem yn cynnal dadl a fyddai'n arwain at bleidlais, byddai'n rhaid iddi fod ar sail pleidlais rydd. Rhaid inni wneud hynny'n glir yn awr. Nid oes gennyf wrthwynebiad o gwbl inni gynnal dadl i geisio penderfynu a yw'r dadleuon yn ddigon cryf, yn enwedig o gofio'r iechyd deintyddol gwael sydd gennym yng Nghymru.

Blaenoriaethau ar gyfer Bro Morgannwg

C8 Andrew R.T. Davies: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am flaenoriaethau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer Bro Morgannwg? OAQ(3)584(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Yn ogystal â chyflawni ymrwymïadau 'Cymru'n Un' ym Mro Morgannwg, fel mewn manau eraill, mae rhai agweddau sy'n fwy perthnasol i'r ardal

maximising the opportunities presented by the defence training academy development, phase 1 of which it has been agreed will be in St Athan, and the completion of the council's ambition to modernise three major secondary schools.

Andrew R.T. Davies: We are all aware of the Metrix development, and many others have welcomed it and the economic advantages that it will give the Welsh economy. However, alongside the Metrix development in St Athan is the Welsh Assembly Government's aspiration to deliver an aerospace park, as set out in the 300 ha brief for the area. Over the Christmas recess, many constituents have come to me regarding the lack of consultation on the aerospace park. It has been crystallised by the South Wales Police force's desire to relocate its helicopter fleet to that area, an area that has no history of providing such a facility for 24-hour police cover across Gwent and south Wales. Will you give an assurance that you will look at the Welsh Assembly Government's role in consulting on developing the aerospace park, particularly with regard to the sensitivities of relocating various facilities, given the community's opposition to the relocation plans, which it was not consulted on?

The First Minister: We are very anxious to ensure that the aerospace park, which has received strong support from the community so far, continues to receive strong support. Our major concern has been to try to fit together the Ministry of Defence's requirements and the civilian aerospace requirements in terms of the potential customers, who would like to access the outstanding skills of the workforce in the area—or the workforce that used to work in the area that is perhaps now temporarily working in the middle east but would be glad to come home if we get the civilian aerospace park off the ground in the next few years. This is a different aspect in the sense that a particular development that wants to use some of the hangar space or the land is proving a bit unpopular with local people. Perhaps you could write to me about that, and I will ensure that it is brought to the attention of the appropriate authority to see what we

honno, sef manteisio i'r eithaf ar y cyfleoedd a ddaw yn sgîl datblygiad yr academi hyfforddiant amddiffyn, y cytunwyd eisoes y bydd cam 1 yn Sain Tathan, a chyflawni uchelgais y cyngor i foderneiddio tair ysgol uwchradd fawr.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Yr ydym i gyd yn ymwybodol o ddatblygiad Metrix, ac mae llawer o bobl eraill wedi'i groesawu a'r manteision eraill a ddaw yn ei sgîl i economi Cymru. Serch hynny, law yn llaw â datblygiad Metrix yn Sain Tathan y mae dyhead Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i sefydlu parc awyrofod, fel y datgenir yn y briff 300 hectar ar gyfer yr ardal. Dros wyliau'r Nadolig, mae llawer o'm hetholwyr wedi dod ataf i sôn am y diffyg ymgynghori ynghylch y parc awyrofod. Crisialwyd hynny gan ddyhead Heddlu De Cymru i ail-leoli ei fflyd o hofrenyddion yn yr ardal honno, ardal heb hanes o gwbl o ddarparu cyfleuster o'r fath ar gyfer presenoldeb 24 awr gan yr heddlu i warchod Gwent a De Cymru. A wnewch roi sicrhad y byddwch yn edrych ar rôl Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wrth ymgynghori ar ddatblygiad y parc awyrofod, yn enwedig wrth ystyried materion sensitif ail-leoli amrywiol gyfleusterau, gan gofio bod y gymuned yn gwrthwynebu'r cynlluniau hyn i ail-leoli, nad ymgynghorwyd â hi yn eu cylch?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydym yn awyddus iawn i sicrhau bod y parc awyrofod, sydd wedi cael cryn gefnogaeth gan y gymuned hyd yn hyn, yn parhau i gael y gefnogaeth gref honno. Ein prif bryder oedd ceisio cydblethu gofynion y Weinyddiaeth Amddiffyn â gofynion awyrofod sifiliaid, o ran y cwsmeriaid posibl, a fyddai'n dymuno manteisio ar sgiliau rhagorol y gweithlu yn yr ardal—neu'r gweithlu a arferai weithio yn yr ardal sydd, efallai, ar hyn o bryd yn gweithio dros dro yn y dwyrain canol ond a fyddai'n falch iawn o gael dychwelyd adref os gallwn ddechrau ar waith adeiladu'r parc awyrofod hwn i sifiliaid yn ystod y blynyddoedd nesaf. Mae hwn yn fater gwahanol oherwydd bod datblygiad penodol sydd am ddefnyddio rhywfaint o'r tir neu'r gofod yn yr awyrendy ychydig yn amhoblogaidd ymysg y bobl leol. Efallai y gallech ysgrifennu ataf am hynny, a sicrhaf y byddaf yn tynnu sylw'r awdurdod perthnasol ato er mwyn gweld beth y gallwn

can do to consult on that.

Chris Franks: What advice could you give to the new administration of the Vale of Glamorgan Council regarding the possible repayment of a substantial grant relating to Penarth headlands? You will recall the disastrous policy of the former Conservative administration that cost the ratepayers of the authority an absolute fortune.

The First Minister: This is a bit of a hot topic at the moment given the ongoing negotiations. It is my understanding that, after the Vale of Glamorgan authority decided that, because the cost had increased to £14 million and then £21 million from the original £7 million, it just could not build the project. The terms of the original grant for progressing the engineering work were clearly based on a repayment system if the project were aborted. It has now been aborted, and, therefore, under the terms of the original grant, it must repay it. I am aware of an approach by Councillor Alexander, the council leader, to Ieuan Wyn Jones, and I am aware of Ieuan Wyn Jones's reply; I believe that there are ongoing negotiations. I cannot comment any further on what is a sensitive issue—[*Interruption.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order. I found it very difficult to listen to that important information for all the residents of the Vale of Glamorgan. I would be grateful if the Conservatives could dissuade themselves from interrupting this year. I had thought that they had got better just before Christmas, but now it seems to have started again.

Cyllido Eisteddfodau

C9 David Lloyd: Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Prif Weinidog wedi'u cael ynglŷn â chyllido eisteddfodau? OAQ(3)0593(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Yn ôl yr hyn a ddeallaf, yr ydym yn rhoi cyllid o tua £0.5 miliwn i'r Eisteddfod Genedlaethol ac oddeutu £130,000 i Eisteddfod yr Urdd. Mae Eisteddfod Llangollen yn derbyn oddeutu £56,000 gan Gyngor Celfyddydau Cymru, ac mae grant bach o tua £50,000 ar gael i eisteddfodau bach.

ei wneud i ymgynghori ynghylch hynny.

Chris Franks: Pa gyngor y gallech ei roi i weinyddiaeth newydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg ynghylch ad-daliad posibl grant sylweddol yn ymwneud â phentir Penarth? Fe gofiwch bolisi trychinebus y weinyddiaeth Geidwadol flaenorol a gostiodd ffortiwn i drethdalwyr yr awdurdod.

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae hwn yn bwnc llosg iawn ar hyn o bryd, o gofio bod y trafodaethau'n dal i fynd yn eu blaen. Yn ôl a ddeallaf, ar ôl i awdurdod Bro Morgannwg wneud penderfyniad, gan fod y gost wedi cynyddu i £14 miliwn ac yna i £21 miliwn o'r £7 miliwn gwreiddiol, nid oedd yn bosibl iddo adeiladu'r prosiect. Yr oedd telerau'r grant gwreiddiol ar gyfer symud ymlaen â'r gwaith peirianyddol yn amlwg yn seiliedig ar system ad-dalu pe rhoddid y gorau i'r prosiect. Bellach, rhoddwyd y gorau i'r prosiect, ac felly, dan delerau'r grant gwreiddiol, rhaid ei ad-dalu. Gwn fod y Cynghorydd Alexander, arweinydd y cyngor, wedi siarad ag Ieuan Wyn Jones, ac yr wyf yn gwybod beth oedd ymateb Ieuan Wyn Jones; Credaf fod y trafodaethau'n dal i fynd yn eu blaen. Ni allaf roi rhagor o sylwadau ar fater sensitif—[*Torri ar draws.*]

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Cefais gryn drafferth gwrandao ar y wybodaeth bwysig honno i holl drigolion Bro Morgannwg. Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallai'r Ceidwadwyr ymatal rhag torri ar draws eleni. Yr oeddwn yn meddwl bod pethau wedi gwella cyn y Nadolig, ond yn awr mae'n ymddangos ei fod wedi ailddechrau eto.

The Funding of Eisteddfodau

Q9 David Lloyd: What discussions has the First Minister had regarding the funding of eisteddfodau? OAQ(3)0593(FM)

The First Minister: As I understand it, we fund the National Eisteddfod at around £0.5 million and the Urdd Eisteddfod at around £130,000. The Llangollen Eisteddfod receives around £56,000 through the Arts Council of Wales, and there is a small grant available for the smaller eisteddfodau of around £50,000.

David Lloyd: Cyn y Nadolig, clywsom fod banc Lloyds TSB am arallgyfeirio ei nawdd o'r Eisteddfod Genedlaethol i'r gemau Olympaidd yn Llundain. Heddiw, clywsom am y twll du o £1 biliwn yng nghyllideb y gemau Olympaidd. A oes gennych strategaeth i wrthsefyll symud unrhyw arian tebyg oddi wrth fudiadau pwysig yng Nghymru i gyfeiriad y Gemau Olympaidd yn Llundain?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid wyf yn siŵr a fydd unrhyw effaith yn sgîl y ffigurau diweddaraf. Bu cynnydd unwaith eto o £1 biliwn yn amcangyfrif cost derfynol y Gemau Olympaidd. Ni fydd y Gemau Olympaidd yn effeithio'n uniongyrchol ar y gronfa a'r ffigurau y soniais amdanynt yn gynharach. Drwy'r Gronfa Loteri Fawr bydd adnoddau yn gwyro tuag at y Gemau Olympaidd—hynny yw, arian na fydd ar gael i achosion da eraill, fel eisteddfodau yng Nghymru, a allai fod wedi cael arian oddi wrth y Gronfa Loteri Fawr. Mae'n rhaid inni ystyried effaith y Gemau Olympaidd a'r gorwario ar bob math o achosion da a fyddai wedi disgwyl cael eu hariannu drwy'r Gronfa Loteri Fawr.

Paul Davies: Mae eisteddfodau ar draws Cymru yn cyfrannu'n fawr at ddiwylliant ein cenedl, ac mae'r Eisteddfod Genedlaethol ac Eisteddfod yr Urdd yn cyfrannu'n helaeth at economi Cymru. Mae eisteddfodau bach a mawr yn gyfrifol am hybu'r iaith Gymraeg. O dan yr amgylchiadau, mae'n hanfodol bod eisteddfodau'n derbyn y gefnogaeth y maent yn ei haeddu. Fel y dywedodd Dai, yr ydym wedi gweld rhai cwmnïau preifat yn rhoi'r gorau i noddi eisteddfodau gan eu bod am ganolbwyntio'u blaenoriaethau rywle arall. A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog gadarnhau pa gynlluniau sydd gan y Llywodraeth i annog mwy o gefnogaeth i eisteddfodau, yn enwedig ymhlith y sector preifat?

Y Prif Weinidog: I gywiro'r hyn a ddywedais yn fy ateb i Dai, credaf mai'r elfen leiaf o ariannu—nid £50,000 ond £10,000—sy'n mynd i Fwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg ar gyfer hybu eisteddfodau bach.

Os bydd mwy o gwmnïau fel Lloyds TSB, sydd wedi bod yn hybu ac yn noddi'r Eisteddfod, yn peidio â gwneud hynny yn y

David Lloyd: Thank you for that response. Before Christmas we heard that Lloyds TSB was to redirect its sponsorship to the London Olympics from the National Eisteddfod and today we have heard of this black hole of £1 billion in the Olympic Games budget. Do you have a strategy to alleviate the effects of moving any money of this sort away from important organisations in Wales to the London Olympic Games?

The First Minister: I am not sure whether there will be any side effects as a result of the latest figures. There has been another increase of £1 billion in the estimated total cost of the Olympic Games. The Olympic Games will not have a direct impact on the fund and figures that I mentioned earlier. Resources will move to the Olympic Games through the Big Lottery Fund—money that will not be available to other good causes, such as eisteddfodau in Wales, which could have received money from the Big Lottery Fund. We must look at the effect of the overspend and the Olympic Games on all kinds of good causes that would have expected funding from the Big Lottery Fund.

Paul Davies: Eisteddfodau across Wales make a great contribution to our nation's culture, and the National Eisteddfod and the Urdd Eisteddfod make a significant contribution to the Welsh economy. Eisteddfodau, large and small, are responsible for promoting the Welsh language. Under the circumstances, it is vital that eisteddfodau receive the support that they deserve. As Dai said, we have seen some private companies pull out of providing sponsorship to eisteddfodau, and focus their priorities elsewhere. Will the First Minister confirm what plans the Government has to encourage more support for eisteddfodau, particularly in the private sector?

The First Minister: To correct what I said in reply to Dai, I believe that it is the smallest financial element—£10,000 rather than £50,000—that goes to the Welsh Language Board to promote small eisteddfodau.

If more companies like Lloyds TSB, which has sponsored and promoted the Eisteddfod, stop doing so in the future, because they

dyfodol am eu bod yn rhagweld mwy o broffil o ariannu'r Gemau Olympaidd, nid wyf yn siŵr beth y gallwn ei wneud. Fodd bynnag, bydd rhaid inni ymateb. Ni fydd angen ymateb os mai un enghraifft yn unig a fydd gennym. Pe bai Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg ac awdurdodau'r Eisteddfod yn methu â chael banc neu gorff arall i gymryd lle Lloyds TSB gellid cael argyfwng. Nid wyf am ragweld hynny yn awr gan fod rhaid inni dderbyn bod banciau a chyrrff yn y sector cyhoeddus yn newid eu strategaeth bob pum mlynedd; byddant am ddefnyddio agwedd ffres. Bydd rheolwr gyfarwyddwr neu reolwr cyllid newydd i sefydliad yn penderfynu nad yw am ariannu'r corff hwn neu'r llall mwyach ac felly bydd y corff yn newid cyfeiriad ac yn ariannu corff arall. Ni fedrwch atal y broses honno o newid meddwl gan gwmni mawr. Os yw'n troi'n duedd bydd rhaid inni ystyried hynny. Fodd bynnag, dim ond un enghraifft sydd gennym hyd yma.

Eleanor Burnham: Yr wyf yn deall y pwynt ynglŷn â chodi arian—mae'n anodd dros ben; yr wyf wedi gwneud hynny fy hun yn y gorffennol. Yr oedd yn ffrainc ac yn anrhydedd ddoe, fel un o is-lywyddion Eisteddfod Gerddorol Ryngwladol Llangollen, gael mynychu lansiad Eisteddfod 2008.

Fel pawb arall sydd wedi siarad, yr wyf yn teimlo'n gryf dros bob eisteddfod, megis Eisteddfod yr Urdd, yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol, a'r Eisteddfod Ryngwladol. Yn y pen draw, mae Eisteddfod Llangollen yn eithaf arbennig gan ei bod yn codi ymwybyddiaeth o Gymru ac yn hybu ei henw da dros y byd. Teimlaf yn gryf y dylech sicrhau gwerth am arian wrth gyfrannu at y Gemau Olympaidd, a hoffwn wybod sut y byddech yn sicrhau hynny. Mae pethau ar eu colled ar hyn o bryd a bydd pobl Cymru yn siomedig pan ddeallant fod cyn lleied o arian yn dod i Gymru drwy'r loteri am ei fod yn cael ei sugno i'r Gemau Olympaidd. Nid wyf yn teimlo bod gwerth am arian ar hyn o bryd; a deimlwch chi fod gwerth am arian? Beth yn union a wnewch ynglŷn â'r mater pwysig hwn?

2.50 p.m.

Y Prif Weinidog: Dim ond unwaith bob

believe that funding the Olympic Games will lead to a greater profile, I am not sure what we will be able to do. However, we will have to respond. We will not have to respond if there is only one such example. If the Welsh Language Board and Eisteddfod authorities were unable to secure funding from a bank or other organisation to replace the Lloyds TSB funding, there could be a crisis. I will not predict such a situation, as we must accept that banks and public sector organisations change their strategies every five years; they will want to adopt a fresh approach. A new managing director or financial manager will decide that they no longer wish to fund such and such a body, and will change direction in order to fund something else. You cannot stop large companies from doing that. If it happens a lot, we will have to look into it. However, we only have one example to date.

Eleanor Burnham: I understand the point about fundraising—it is extremely difficult; I have been a fundraiser myself in the past. It was a privilege for me, as one of the vice-presidents of the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, to attend the launch of the 2008 Eisteddfod yesterday.

I, like everyone else who has spoken, feel strongly about all eisteddfodau, including the Urdd Eisteddfod, the National Eisteddfod and the International Eisteddfod. Ultimately, the Llangollen Eisteddfod is unique because it raises awareness of Wales and promotes our good name throughout the world. I feel strongly that you should secure value for money in contributing to the Olympic Games and I would like to know how you intend to do that. Organisations are losing out at present, and the people of Wales will be disappointed to learn that so little money is coming to Wales through lottery funding because it is being absorbed by the Olympic Games. I do not feel that we are getting value for money at present; do you consider there to be value for money? What exactly do you intend to do about this important matter?

The First Minister: It is only once every 50

hanner canrif y mae'n weddus i wlad fawr fel y Deyrnas Unedig gyflwyno cais am rywbeth enfawr fel y Gemau Olympaidd. Felly, yr wyf yn hapus dros ben bod Prydain Fawr wedi ennill y frwydr yn erbyn Ffrainc a gwledydd eraill i gynnal y Gemau Olympaidd. Ni ellir gwneud hynny bob 10 mlynedd, ond mae'n weddus bob hanner canrif. Er hynny, rhaid inni fod ar ein gwylidwriaeth ynglŷn â'r effaith ar gyrff gwirfoddol nad oes ganddynt broffil uchel, fel cyrff diwylliannol, fel y cedwir cydbwysedd rhwng chwaraeon a diwylliant.

years that it is appropriate for a major country like the United Kingdom to submit a bid to host a major event such as the Olympic Games. Therefore, I am very happy that the United Kingdom won the battle against France and other countries to host the games. This is something that cannot be done every 10 years or so, but it is appropriate to do so every 50 years. However, we must be wary about the effect that this will have on voluntary organisations that do not have a high profile, such as those on the cultural side, so that we strike a balance between sport and the arts.

The Protection of Vulnerable Adults

Q10 Val Lloyd: What action is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to ensure the protection of vulnerable adults in Wales? OAQ(3)0586(FM)

The First Minister: We have in place our 'In Safe Hands' guidance, and that provides the framework for authorities to implement multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults. Adult protection measures are also included in the regulatory and national minimum standards regimes covering registered care homes and domiciliary care agencies. They are then covered by the various inspectorates.

Val Lloyd: Everybody would agree that protecting vulnerable children has, understandably, greater prominence in the public's perception than the similar issue of protecting vulnerable adults. On reading the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales's report, I was particularly concerned by the fact that 61 per cent of adult protection investigations in care homes relate to homes with nursing care. These homes represent only a quarter of the sector, but it is quite considerable and, with our age profile, increasing. They look after the most vulnerable adults in Wales. Can you tell me again what the Welsh Assembly Government is planning to address this, together with service providers and commissioners?

The First Minister: I will have to seek advice from the relevant inspectorates on that

Diogelu Oedolion sy'n Agored i Niwed

C10 Val Lloyd: Pa gamau mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn eu cymryd i sicrhau bod oedolion sy'n agored i niwed yng Nghymru yn cael eu diogelu? OAQ(3)0586(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydym wedi sefydlu ein canllawiau 'Mewn Dwylo Diogel', sy'n darparu'r fframwaith i awdurdodau weithredu polisïau a gweithdrefnau aml-asiantaeth i ddiogelu oedolion sy'n agored i niwed. Mae mesurau diogelu oedolion wedi'u cynnwys hefyd yn y cyfundrefnau rheoleiddio a safonau gofynnol cenedlaethol ar gyfer cartrefi gofal cofrestredig ac asiantaethau gofal cartref. Wedyn maent yn gyfrifoldeb yr amryfal arolygiaethau.

Val Lloyd: Byddai pawb yn cytuno bod lle mwy blaenllaw ym meddwl y cyhoedd i ddiogelu plant sy'n agored i niwed, a hynny'n ddealladwy, nag i bwnc cyffelyb diogelu oedolion sy'n agored i niwed. Wrth ddarllen adroddiad Arolygiaeth Safonau Gofal Cymru, testun pryder arbennig i mi oedd y ffaith bod 61 y cant o ymchwiliadau diogelu oedolion mewn cartrefi gofal yn ymwneud â chartrefi lle y ceir gofal nyrsio. Dim ond chwarter y sector yw'r cartrefi hyn, ond mae'n eithaf sylweddol ac, oherwydd ein proffil oedran, mae ar gynydd. Gofalant am yr oedolion mwyaf agored i niwed yng Nghymru. A allwch ddweud wrthyf eto beth sydd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar y gweill i fynd i'r afael â hyn, ynghyd â darparwyr a chomisiynwyr gwasanaethau?

Y Prif Weinidog: Bydd yn rhaid imi ofyn am gyngor gan yr arolygiaethau perthnasol

to ascertain whether, given the additional vulnerabilities concerned, you would expect a higher percentage to comprise those people who either have the pressure-sores-type of problem that indicates neglect or actual injuries and similar to indicate something far worse. Does that occur more frequently because of people's vulnerability, and is that a misleading comparison of the 61 per cent and the 25 per cent, or is it an indication that something serious is going wrong? When I have the chief inspector's reply, I will write to you about it.

Mark Isherwood: Part of protecting vulnerable adults is about giving them a voice. That is often carried out through local access and disabilities groups and fora. In fact, Carl Sargeant and I attended Flintshire Disability Forum's celebration last week, at which, as well as hearing about the celebration of success and expansion, we heard concerns that the lack of core funding for its professional staff could impact adversely on the delivery of support for its volunteer staff and its members.

On a similar but separate issue, members of the Committee on Equality of Opportunity have received an e-mail from the Arfon Access Group in which it refers to funding for such groups to carry out processes such as disability awareness training and disability equality duty training, or even, as it says, to stay in existence at all. What consideration can you and your ministerial colleagues give to addressing such concerns so that these fora and representative bodies can continue to ensure that these people have a voice?

The First Minister: You raise an important issue, and one which we take seriously. I do not think that I can deal with the particular query, but I can say that the safeguarding of vulnerable groups legislation will widen the range of the workforce requiring pre-employment Criminal Records Bureau checks. Also, there is the issue whereby, under the protection of vulnerable adults, there is a barring list similar to section 99 with regard to children. That will be rolled out incrementally over the next two to three years. Normally, if we impose additional

ynglŷn â hynny er mwyn canfod, o ystyried yr elfen ychwanegol o ran bod yn agored i niwed, a fyddech yn disgwyl i ganran uwch gynnwys y bobl hynny sy'n dioddef naill ai problem fel briwiau gorwedd sy'n arwydd o esgeulstod neu anafiadau a phethau tebyg sy'n arwydd o rywbeth llawer gwaeth. A ydyw hynny'n digwydd yn fwy mynych oherwydd bod pobl yn agored i niwed, ac a yw hynny'n gymhariaeth gamarweiniol rhwng y 61 y cant a'r 25 y cant, ynteu a ydyw'n arwydd fod rhywbeth difrifol yn mynd o'i le? Pan gaf ateb y prif arolygydd, ysgrifennaf atoch yn ei gylch.

Mark Isherwood: Mae a wnelo diogelu oedolion sy'n agored i niwed yn rhannol â rhoi llais iddynt. Gwneir hynny'n aml drwy grwpiau a fforymau lleol sy'n ymwneud ag anabledd a mynediad. Yn wir, aeth Carl Sargeant a mi i ddathliad Fforwm Anabledd Sir y Fflint yr wythnos diwethaf, ac yno, yn ogystal â chlywed am ddathlu llwyddiant ac ehangu, clywsom bryderon y gallai'r diffyg arian craidd ar gyfer ei staff proffesiynol gael effaith andwyol ar y gefnogaeth a roddir i'w staff gwirfoddol a'i aelodau.

O ran mater tebyg ond ar wahân, mae aelodau'r Pwyllgor Cyfle Cyfartal wedi cael e-bost oddi wrth Grŵp Mynediad Arfon lle y cyfeirir at yr angen am gyllid i grwpiau o'r fath i'w galluogi i gyflawni prosesau fel hyfforddiant mewn ymwybyddiaeth anabledd a hyfforddiant yn y ddyletswydd i sicrhau cydraddoldeb i bobl anabl, neu hyd yn oed, fel y dywedir, i ddal i fodoli o gwbl. Pa ystyriaeth y gallwch chi a'ch cyd-Weinidogion ei rhoi i ateb y pryderon hyn fel y gall y fforymau a'r cyrff cynrychioliadol hyn barhau i sicrhau bod gan y bobl hyn lais?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydych yn codi mater pwysig, ac un yr ydym yn ei gymryd o ddifrif. Ni chredaf y gallaf ddelio â'r ymholiad penodol, ond gallaf ddweud y bydd y ddeddfwriaeth ar gyfer diogelu grwpiau sy'n agored i niwed yn ehangu'r garfan o'r gweithlu y mae'n ofynnol iddynt gael gwiriad y Swyddfa Cofnodion Troseddol cyn eu cyflogi. Hefyd, ceir rhestr wahardd, dan drefniadau diogelu oedolion sy'n agored i niwed, rhestr sy'n debyg i adran 99 ar gyfer plant. Caiff honno ei chyflwyno fesul cam dros y ddwy i dair blynedd nesaf. Fel arfer,

duties of that kind, we try to ensure that neither the voluntary bodies nor the professional bodies suffer because of the additional costs of the additional CRB checks.

Leanne Wood: You will be aware of the case of Ama Sumani, the Ghanaian kidney-dialysis patient suffering from cancer who was forcibly removed from hospital in a wheelchair last Wednesday. I hope that you agree with groups such as Cytûn and Liberty that the treatment of this woman was barbaric. Ghana's High Commissioner has asked that Ama be returned to be treated. Will you write to the UK Government to say that you will ensure that she can continue to access Welsh NHS services for treatment if she is allowed to return?

The First Minister: This is a terribly sad event. I am sure that many people will have observed that the footballer, Al Bangura, has successfully fought a case to be allowed to stay in this country, following a good campaign run by Watford Football Club and its supporters, as well as local MP, Claire Ward, and so on. If you compare the urgency, they are not exactly the same cases, but it makes you think that, if it is okay for a footballer to have this treatment, should that not apply to this person from Ghana who is in need of dialysis? The Home Office may want to look at that comparison and perhaps draw a different conclusion.

os gosodwn ddyletswyddau ychwanegol o'r fath, ceisiwn sicrhau nad yw'r cyrff gwirfoddol na'r cyrff proffesiynol yn dioddef oherwydd costau ychwanegol gwiriadau'r Swyddfa Cofnodion Troseddol.

Leanne Wood: Byddwch yn ymwybodol o achos Ama Sumani, y claf o Ghana a oedd yn cael dialysis arenol, sy'n dioddef o ganser, yr aethpwyd â hi o'r ysbyty yn groes i'w hewyllys mewn cadair olwynion ddydd Mercher diwethaf. Gobeithio y cytunwch â grwpiau megis Cytûn a Liberty fod y modd y triniwyd y fenyw hon yn farbaraid. Mae Uchel Gomisiynydd Ghana wedi gofyn am i Ama gael ei hanfon yn ôl i gael triniaeth. A wnewch ysgrifennu at Lywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig i ddweud y gwnewch sicrhau y gall hi barhau i gael triniaeth gan wasanaethau GIG Cymru os caniateir iddi ddod yn ôl?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae hyn yn ddigwyddiad trist iawn. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd llawer o bobl wedi sylwi bod y pêl-droediwr, Al Bangura, wedi ymladd achos yn llwyddiannus i gael aros yn y wlad hon, wedi ymgyrch dda gan Glwb Pêl-droed Watford a'i gefnogwyr, yn ogystal â'r AS lleol, Claire Ward, ac yn y blaen. Os cymharwch y brys, nid yw'r ddau achos yr un fath yn union, ond mae'n gwneud ichi feddwl, os yw'n iawn i bêl-droediwr gael y driniaeth hon, oni ddylai hynny fod yn wir am y person hwn o Ghana y mae angen dialysis arni? Hwyrach y bydd ar y Swyddfa Gartref eisiau edrych ar y gymhariaeth honno ac efallai ddod i gasgliad gwahanol.

Datganiad a Chyhoeddiad Busnes Business Statement and Announcement

The Counsel General and Leader of the House (Carwyn Jones): I have two changes to report to this week's planned Government business. This afternoon, John Griffiths, the Deputy Minister for Skills, will make a statement to launch the consultation document proposals for the Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2008, which was circulated to Members earlier today. Tomorrow, the First Minister will make a statement on the appointment of the Commissioner for Older People. Business for the next three weeks is as set out in the draft

Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol ac Arweinydd y Tŷ (Carwyn Jones): Mae gennyf ddau newid i'w hadrodd ym musnes arfaethedig y Llywodraeth ar gyfer yr wythnos hon. Y prynhawn yma, bydd John Griffiths, y Dirprwy Weinidog Sgiliau, yn gwneud datganiad i lansio cynigion y ddogfen ymgynghori ar gyfer Mesur Dysgu a Sgiliau (Cymru) 2008, a ddosbarthwyd i Aelodau'n gynharach heddiw. Yfory, bydd y Prif Weinidog yn gwneud datganiad ynglŷn â phenodi'r Comisiynydd Pobl Hŷn. Mae'r busnes ar gyfer y tair wythnos nesaf fel y

business statement and announcement, which can be found in the agenda papers that are available to Members electronically.

William Graham: At this morning's Business Committee meeting I asked about a problem with the translation of the legislative statement by the Deputy Minister for Skills. Could you ensure that these papers are produced for Members at the earliest possible opportunity? You will recall that I have mentioned this to you before, and I would be grateful for your undertaking to the Assembly.

Carwyn Jones: I can now provide you with a fuller answer to the one that I gave you at this morning's Business Committee meeting. On the Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2008, the document could not be circulated until the Cabinet committee on legislation agreed its text. Embargoed copies of the document in English were circulated to party business managers following yesterday's meeting of the Cabinet committee on legislation; I understand that copies were hand-delivered to business managers shortly after that meeting, and before 5 p.m.. I also understand that electronic copies of the document in both Welsh and English were e-mailed to all Members at 12.26 p.m. today. We would not want to see this situation repeated, and I apologise for any difficulties that have been caused as a result.

Lesley Griffiths: The policies and utterances of the Chief Constable of North Wales Police are reserved matters for London, but, if the day ever dawns when his recent plan to legalise hard drugs becomes a reality, will you ensure that we have the opportunity in the Assembly to debate and discuss in full the implications for Welsh society? We would also need to discuss such issues as the impact of mass drug dependence, the huge mental health consequences that will flow from that, as well as how we will be expected to pay for the switch from hard drugs being a criminal matter to a health matter.

Carwyn Jones: It is unfortunate when a senior police officer suggests legalising all drugs, because it raises the question in the public's mind as to how serious he is about

mae wedi'i nodi yn y cyhoeddiad a'r datganiad busnes drafft, a welir ym mhapurau'r agenda sydd ar gael i'r Aelodau'n electronig.

William Graham: Yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Busnes y bore yma, holais ynglŷn â phroblem gyda chyfieithiad y datganiad deddfwriaethol gan y Dirprwy Weinidog Sgiliau. A allech sicrhau y caiff y papurau hyn eu darparu i'r Aelodau cyn gynted ag y bo modd? Fe gofiwch fy mod wedi crybwyll hyn wrthyh o'r blaen, a byddwn yn ddiolchgar am eich addewid i'r Cynulliad.

Carwyn Jones: Gallaf roi ateb llawnach ichi'n awr na hwnnw a roddais ichi yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Busnes y bore yma. Ynghylch Mesur Dysgu a Sgiliau (Cymru) 2008, ni ellid dosbarthu'r ddogfen nes byddai pwyllgor deddfwriaeth y Cabinet wedi cytuno ar ei thestun. Cafodd copïau embargo o'r ddogfen yn Saesneg eu dosbarthu i reolwyr busnes y pleidiau wedi cyfarfod pwyllgor deddfwriaeth y Cabinet ddoe; deallaf fod copïau wedi'u dosbarthu â llaw i'r rheolwyr busnes ychydig wedi'r cyfarfod hwnnw, a chyn 5 o'r gloch y prynhawn. Deallaf hefyd fod copïau electronig o'r ddogfen yn Gymraeg a Saesneg wedi'u hebstio at bob Aelod am 12.26 p.m heddiw. Ni fyddai arnom eisiau gweld ailadrodd y sefyllfa hon, ac ymddiheuraf am unrhyw anawsterau a achoswyd o ganlyniad.

Lesley Griffiths: Materion a gadwyd yn ôl ar gyfer Llundain yw polisïau a sylwadau Prif Gwnstabl Heddlu Gogledd Cymru, ond, os gwireddir ryw dro ei gynllun yn ddiweddar i gyfreithloni cyffuriau caled, a wnewch sicrhau y cawn y cyfle yn y Cynulliad i drafod a dadlau'n llawn am y goblygiadau i gymdeithas Cymru? Byddai angen inni drafod hefyd faterion megis effaith dibyniaeth dorfol ar gyffuriau, y canlyniadau aruthrol i iechyd meddwl a fydd yn deillio o hynny, yn ogystal â sut y disgwylir inni dalu am y trawsnewid yn sefyllfa cyffuriau caled o fod yn fater troseddol i fod yn fater iechyd.

Carwyn Jones: Mae'n anffodus pan fydd uwch swyddog o'r heddlu'n awgrymu cyfreithloni pob cyffur, oherwydd y mae'n codi cwestiwn ym meddwl y cyhoedd

enforcing the law regarding drugs, particularly regarding drug trafficking and supply. I believe that many of us would accept that drug addicts are themselves victims. As a result of their addiction, particularly to drugs such as heroin, people tend to steal in order for that addiction to be kept going; as a result, their actions have an impact on others in society. However, we know that the suppliers and the traffickers are the real parasites—and I use that word deliberately—who prey on the weaknesses and addictions of others. It raises the question in my mind of how serious North Wales Police intends to be in dealing with the drug problem. However, one thing is certain—if there ever came a day when there was a debate in this Chamber, or any other chamber, on the legalisation of drugs, there would be a full and frank debate.

Michael German: One change that was not mentioned in your announcement on the forward business was a statement from the Minister with responsibility for transport on the date of the opening of the new Ebbw Vale railway line. When do you propose to bring forward that statement so that we can discuss it?

3.00 p.m.

Today, a hammer blow will be dealt to 28 more post offices in south-east Wales. The Assembly needs to consider this issue. In terms of the post office development fund, Nantyglo post office previously received funding. We have heard statements from the Government on this matter in the past. Are you prepared to bring forward a statement or a debate on this issue so that we can examine the role of the Assembly Government in helping our post offices, which are such a valuable part of our communities, to survive?

Carwyn Jones: On the situation regarding post offices, you will be aware that a period of public consultation will now be entered into and which will last until 26 February. It is exceptionally important that all those concerned with the issue feed in their views to the consultation process. The One Wales Government has always recognised the social and community value of post offices,

ynghylch i ba raddau y mae o ddifrif ynghylch gweithredu'r gyfraith ar gyffuriau, yn enwedig o ran masnachu a chyflenwi cyffuriau. Credaf y byddai llawer ohonom yn derbyn mai dioddefwyr yw rhai sy'n gaeth i gyffuriau eu hunain. Yn sgîl eu caethiwed, yn enwedig i gyffuriau fel heroin, tuedda pobl i ddwyn er mwyn cynnal y caethiwed hwnnw; o ganlyniad, caiff eu gweithredoedd effaith ar eraill mewn cymdeithas. Fodd bynnag, gwyddom mai'r cyflenwyr a'r cludwyr yw'r parasitiaid go iawn—a defnyddiaf y gair hwnnw'n fwriadol—sy'n manteisio ar wendidau a chaethiwed eraill. Mae'n codi'r cwestiwn yn fy meddwl i ba raddau y bwriada Heddlu Gogledd Cymru fod o ddifrif wrth ddelio â phroblem cyffuriau. Fodd bynnag, mae un peth yn sicr—pe ceid dadl yn y Siambr hon ryw dro, neu unrhyw siambr arall, ar gyfreithloni cyffuriau, y ceid dadl lawn a heb flewyn ar dafod.

Michael German: Un newid na chrybwyllwyd yn eich cyhoeddiad am y busnes i ddod oedd datganiad gan y Gweinidog sydd â chyfrifoldeb am drafnidiaeth am ddyddiad agor rheilffordd newydd Glyn Ebwy. Pa bryd yr ydych yn bwriadu cyflwyno'r datganiad hwnnw er mwyn inni allu ei drafod?

Heddiw, caiff 28 swyddfa bost arall yn y de-ddwyrain ergyd drom. Mae angen i'r Cynulliad ystyried hyn. O ran y gronfa datblygu swyddfeydd post, cafodd swyddfa'r post yn Nant-y-glo arian o'r blaen. Yr ydym wedi clywed datganiadau gan y Llywodraeth am hyn yn y gorffennol. A ydych yn barod i gyflwyno datganiad neu ddadl ynglŷn â hyn er mwyn inni allu archwilio rôl Llywodraeth y Cynulliad o ran helpu ein swyddfeydd post i oroesi, a hwythau'n rhan mor werthfawr o'n cymunedau?

Carwyn Jones: O ran sefyllfa'r swyddfeydd post, gwyddoch y bydd cyfnod o ymgynghori cyhoeddus yn dechrau yn awr a fydd yn parhau tan 26 Chwefror. Mae'n eithriadol o bwysig i bawb sy'n ymwneud â'r mater gyfrannu eu barn i'r broses ymgynghori. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un wedi cydnabod drwy'r amser werth cymdeithasol a chymunedol swyddfeydd post, yn enwedig o

particularly in relation to supporting vulnerable people in our most isolated and disadvantaged communities. Personal experience informs me that where a strong case is made to keep a post office open, it can succeed. That has happened in terms of Kenfig Hill post office in my constituency. It is important that these views are strongly expressed to Post Office Limited before it considers further closures.

Bethan Jenkins: I understand that the Home Office is responsible for issues regarding asylum seekers, but I wish to raise awareness of the high-profile case of George William and his family who reside in Penlan in Swansea and who, over the Christmas period, were threatened with deportation back to Pakistan. They are currently the subject of a judicial review to see whether they can stay in Wales, but under section 4 of Home Office regulations, they may be moved to any part of the UK while the review is taking place. I urge the Government to make this clear to the Home Office and to emphasise the fact that Mr William and his family are secure in Swansea, have made friends among the Catholic community in the area and wish to stay there so that Mr William's daughters can finish their studies.

Carwyn Jones: There is some merit in allowing people to remain in situ until their cases are determined; that is a fair point to make. It is not possible for the Government to intervene in the judicial process, even if it were a devolved matter. I am not familiar with the details of the case—forgive me for that—but I am sure that if someone is going through a judicial process of this kind, there is some merit in ensuring that they are able to stay where they are until the case is concluded.

Mark Isherwood: I have four matters that I wish to refer to briefly. First, I ask for a Government statement on HIV/AIDS in Wales. In early December, I attended the world AIDS day service in Penmaenmawr. I greatly regret the fact that I was the only Assembly Member or Member of Parliament there—I do not say that in order to praise myself, but to highlight the lack of broader support for and awareness of this very

ran cefnogi sy'n pobl agored i niwed yn ein cymunedau mwyaf ynysig a difreintiedig. O brofiad personol, gwn, pan fydd dadl gref o blaid cadw swyddfa bost ar agor, y gall lwyddo. Dyna sydd wedi digwydd gyda'r swyddfa bost ym Mynyddcynffig yn fy etholaeth. Mae'n bwysig i'r safbwyntiau hyn gael eu mynegi'n gryf wrth Swyddfa'r Post Cyfyngedig cyn iddi ystyried cau rhagor.

Bethan Jenkins: Deallaf mai'r Swyddfa Gartref sy'n gyfrifol am faterion sy'n ymwneud â cheiswyr lloches, ond dymunaf godi ymwybyddiaeth o achos George William a'i deulu sy'n byw ym Mhen-lan yn Abertawe, achos a gafodd gryn sylw. Dros gyfnod y Nadolig, bygythiwyd eu hallgludo'n ôl i Bacistan. Ar hyn o bryd, cynhelir adolygiad barnwrol o'u hachos i weld a oes modd iddynt aros yng Nghymru, ond dan adran 4 rheoliadau'r Swyddfa Gartref, gellir eu symud i unrhyw ran o'r DU tra bydd yr adolygiad ar y gweill. Pwysaf ar y Llywodraeth i wneud hyn yn glir i'r Swyddfa Gartref ac i bwysleisio'r ffaith bod Mr William a'i deulu'n teimlo'n ddiogel yn Abertawe, fod ganddynt gyfeillion yng nghymuned Gatholig yr ardal a'u bod yn dymuno aros yno er mwyn i ferched Mr William gwblhau eu hastudiaethau.

Carwyn Jones: Mae'n gwneud rhywfaint o synnwyr gadael i bobl aros yn y fan lle y maent nes penderfynir ar eu hachos; mae hwnnw'n bwynt teg. Nid oes modd i'r Llywodraeth ymyrryd yn y broses farnwrol, hyd yn oed petai'n fater sydd wedi'i ddatganoli. Nid wyf yn gyfarwydd â manylion yr achos—maddeuwch imi am hynny—ond yr wyf yn siŵr os yw rhywun yn mynd drwy broses farnwrol o'r math hwn, ei bod yn gwneud rhywfaint o synnwyr sicrhau eu bod yn gallu aros lle y maent nes cwblhau'r achos.

Mark Isherwood: Mae gennyf bedwar mater y dymunaf eu crybwyll yn gryno. Yn gyntaf, gofynnaf am ddatganiad gan y Llywodraeth ynglŷn â HIV/AIDS yng Nghymru. Ddechrau mis Rhagfyr, euthum i wasanaeth diwrnod AIDS y byd ym Mhenmaen-mawr. Yr wyf yn gresynu'n fawr mai fi oedd yr unig Aelod Cynulliad neu Aelod Seneddol yno—ni ddywedaf hyn er clod i mi fy hun, ond i bwysleisio'r diffyg cefnogaeth ehangach i'r

important issue. As we heard, there has been a 30 per cent increase in the number of those infected in the UK over the past three years and, over the last year alone, there has been a 13 per cent increase just in north Wales. We also heard that the UK now has the highest infection rate in Europe and that, currently, approximately 75,000 people are known to be infected in the UK. Around 1,500 of those people live in Wales, but it was said that the figure is much higher in reality because many people go over the border to receive treatment in order to avoid stigmatisation in their own communities. It is a very important and increasing problem and I hope that the Assembly Government will consider it.

Secondly, the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government e-mailed the fifth annual substance misuse progress report to us in October. Will the Assembly Government bring this to the Assembly floor as the subject of a broader debate given the findings of the Tier 4 review into in-patient detoxification and residential rehabilitation services, which, although not formally published, is in wide circulation and has raised some very serious concerns?

Thirdly, could the Assembly Government find time to debate the economy, given the various statements and official reports released during the recess in relation to GVA per capita income that show that we are still bottom of the table and that Wales is falling further behind the other UK nations and regions, and also that unemployment and inactivity combined now exceed 0.5 million, once again, in Wales?

Finally, I endorse the comments about post offices. We have now had reports from two regions on the proposed post office closures. In a private discussion with the Post Office and Royal Mail in Wales, I asked what would happen if they proposed to close a post office that the Assembly Government had proposed to support through the post office development fund. I was told that they would

mater pwysig iawn hwn a'r diffyg ymwybyddiaeth ohono. Fel y clywsom, bu cynnydd o 30 y cant yn nifer y rhai a heintwyd yn y DU dros y tair blynedd diwethaf, ac yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf yn unig, bu cynnydd o 13 y cant yng ngogledd Cymru'n unig. Clywsom hefyd mai'r gyfradd heintio yn y DU yw'r uchaf yn Ewrop erbyn hyn a gwyddys bod tua 75,000 o bobl wedi'u heintio yn y DU. Mae tua 1,500 o'r bobl hynny'n byw yng Nghymru, ond dywedwyd bod y nifer yn uwch o lawer mewn gwirionedd oherwydd bydd llawer o bobl yn croesi'r ffin i gael triniaeth er mwyn osgoi'r stigma yn eu cymunedau eu hunain. Mae'n broblem bwysig iawn sy'n gwaethygu a gobeithiaf y bydd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ei hystyried.

Yn ail, fis Hydref, e-bostiodd y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol y pumed adroddiad cynnydd blynyddol am gamddefnyddio sylweddau atom. A wnaiff Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ei gyflwyno ar lawr y Cynulliad yn bwnc ar gyfer dadl ehangach o ystyried canfyddiadau'r adolygiad Haen 4 o wasanaethau dadwenwyno cleifion mewnol ac adsefydlu preswyl? Er nad yw'r adolygiad hwnnw wedi'i gyhoeddi'n ffurfiol, mae llawer wedi'i weld, ac mae wedi codi rhai pryderon difrifol iawn.

Yn drydydd, a allai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ddod o hyd i amser i gynnal dadl am yr economi, o ystyried yr amrywiol ddatganiadau ac adroddiadau swyddogol a gyhoeddwyd yn ystod y toriad ynghylch incwm GYC y pen sy'n dangos ein bod ar waelod y tabl o hyd a bod Cymru'n mynd ar ei hôl hi'n waeth o'i chymharu â gwledydd a rhanbarthau eraill y DU, a hefyd fod diweithdra ac anweithgarwch gyda'i gilydd bellach dros 0.5 miliwn, unwaith eto, yng Nghymru?

Yn olaf, ategaf y sylwadau am swyddfeydd post. Yr ydym bellach wedi cael adroddiadau gan ddau ranbarth ynghylch y cynlluniau i gau swyddfeydd post. Mewn trafodaeth breifat â Swyddfa'r Post a'r Post Brenhinol yng Nghymru, gofynnais beth a ddigwyddai petaent yn cynnig cau swyddfa bost yr oedd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi cynnig ei chefnogi drwy gyfrwng y gronfa datblygu

be prepared to discuss such situations. I now learn that Essex MPs have had a meeting with Post Office Ltd and it has now been ordered to open up its books to Essex County Council, with a view to the council assessing the viability of financially assisting and therefore keeping open those post offices proposed for closure. Could the Assembly Government give this some consideration and tell the Assembly, in Plenary, whether it could proceed with such investigations as a means of introducing the development fund at an earlier, rather than later, date?

The Presiding Officer: Order. The Leader of the House might care to select which of those many questions he prefers to answer. I would suggest that he answers two of them.

Carwyn Jones: I should first of all apologise to Mike German because I did not answer his question about the Ebbw Vale railway. Mike, you will be aware that Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council is now responsible for the delivery of the railway, but I can say that the project review meeting will take place tomorrow, during which we trust that the date for the start of the service is likely to be agreed. Hopefully, the situation will be clearer tomorrow than it is now.

The many questions that I was asked by Mark can all be dealt with in the form of questions to Ministers. We all recognise the problem of AIDS. It may be the case that since the late 1980s, when the illness first became known to people, there has been a drop in people's awareness of AIDS and its dangers, particularly with the treatments—not cheap treatments, as we know—that have become available in that time. Nevertheless, it remains a very dangerous disease. In terms of the other matters that you raised, I have dealt with post offices, and in terms of substance misuse and GVA, it is perfectly open for your party to table debates as you see fit.

Chris Franks: May I request a statement on pupils who leave school without any qualifications? I am particularly concerned about the reported high number of 15-year-

swyddfeydd post. Dywedwyd wrthyf y byddent yn barod i drafod sefyllfaoedd o'r fath. Deallaf yn awr fod ASau Essex wedi cynnal cyfarfod â Swyddfa'r Post Cyf a'i bod bellach wedi'i gorchymyn i agor ei llyfrau ar gyfer Cyngor Sir Essex, er mwyn i'r cyngor asesu hyfywedd rhoi cymorth ariannol i'r swyddfeydd post hynny y cynigir eu cau ac felly eu cadw ar agor. A allai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ystyried hyn a dweud wrth y Cynulliad, mewn Cyfarfod Llawn, a allai fwrw ymlaen ag archwiliadau o'r fath fel ffordd o gyflwyno'r gronfa datblygu'n gynharach, yn hytrach nag yn hwyrach?

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Efallai y byddai Arweinydd y Tŷ'n dymuno dewis pa rai o'r lluo o gwestiynau hynny y byddai'n well ganddo'u hateb. Byddwn yn awgrymu ei fod yn ateb dau ohonynt.

Carwyn Jones: Yn gyntaf, dylwn ymddiheuro i Mike German oherwydd nid atebais ei gwestiwn am reilffordd Glyn Ebwy. Gwyddoch, Mike, mai Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent sydd bellach yn gyfrifol am ddarparu'r rheilffordd, ond gallaf ddweud y cynhelir y cyfarfod i adolygu'r prosiect yfory, ac yn ystod y cyfarfod hwnnw, hyderwn ei bod yn debygol y cytunir ar ddyddiad dechrau'r gwasanaeth. Gobeithio y bydd y sefyllfa'n gliriach yfory nag y mae yn awr.

Mae'n bosibl ymdrin â'r lluo o gwestiynau a ofynnwyd imi gan Mark ar ffurf cwestiynau i Weinidogion. Yr ydym i gyd yn sylweddoli bod AIDS yn broblem. Efallai fod pobl yn llai ymwybodol o AIDS a'i beryglon yn awr nag a oeddent ddiwedd yr 1980au pan ddaeth y salwch i'w sylw am y tro cyntaf, yn enwedig yn sgîl y triniaethau sydd ar gael erbyn hyn—er nad yw'r rheini'n rhad, fel y gwyddom. Fodd bynnag, mae'n dal yn glefyd peryglus iawn. O ran y materion eraill a godwyd gennych, yr wyf wedi ymdrin â'r swyddfeydd post, ac o ran camddefnyddio sylweddau a GYC, mae rhwydd hynt i'ch plaid gyflwyno dadleuon fel y gwelwch yn dda.

Chris Franks: A gaf ofyn am ddatganiad ynglŷn â disgyblion sy'n ymadael â'r ysgol heb ddim cymwysterau? Yr wyf yn pryderu'n arbennig am y nifer fawr o ddisgyblion 15

olds who are leaving school without qualifications in Rhondda Cynon Taf and Cardiff.

My second and final point is to request a statement from the One Wales Government regarding the rising costs of the London Olympics. It is wrong that the most disadvantaged areas of Wales that rely so much on lottery funding are now losing such vast amounts of money.

Carwyn Jones: The points that you raise are clearly ones that you want answered, or you would not have raised them, however, may I suggest that you raise those matters with Ministers in correspondence? I am sure that answers would be forthcoming.

Alun Cairns: Minister, in relation to the teachers' pay settlement that has been announced today, there is some concern and alarm among many of the teaching unions. What plans does the Minister have to schedule a debate or a discussion on the matter because it could well have grave implications for the education of children in Wales?

Carwyn Jones: It is a non-devolved matter, of course. Power over the issue of teachers' pay and conditions is something that we have not sought in terms of devolution. If it is a matter that Members wish to raise with the appropriate Minister, that is a matter for them. However, as a Government, we seek to ensure that the debates that take place in Government time are designed to move forward legislation or to raise important devolved issues, and that we use the time constructively. However, it is perfectly open to opposition parties to raise whichever matters they choose in debates.

Kirsty Williams: I am sure that the Leader of the House will be aware of the recent demise of the Cardiff Chamber of Commerce. He will also be aware that that organisation had worked hard on behalf of businesses in the capital and that it survived economic recessions and two world wars. Will the Leader of the House ask the Minister with responsibility for economic

oed yr adroddir eu bod yn ymadael â'r ysgol heb ddim cymwysterau yn Rhondda Cynon Taf a Chaerdydd.

Fy ail bwynt a'r pwynt olaf yw gofyn am ddatganiad gan Lywodraeth Cymru'n Un ynglŷn â chostau cynyddol Gemau Olympaidd Llundain. Nid yw'n iawn bod ardaloedd mwyaf difreintiedig Cymru, sy'n dibynnu cymaint ar arian y loteri, yn awr yn colli'r fath symiau anferth o arian.

Carwyn Jones: Mae'r pwyntiau a godwyd gennych yn amlwg yn rhai yr ydych am gael ateb iddynt. Ni fydddech wedi'u codi oni bai am hynny. Fodd bynnag, a gaf awgrymu eich bod yn codi'r materion hynny gyda Gweinidogion drwy lythyr? Yr wyf yn siŵr y caech atebion.

Alun Cairns: Weinidog, ynglŷn â'r setliad cyflog i athrawon a gyhoeddwyd heddiw, mae llawer o undebau'r athrawon yn bryderus ac wedi dychryn braidd. Pa gynlluniau sydd gan y Gweinidog i drefnu dadl neu drafodaeth am hyn oherwydd gallai'r goblygiadau fod yn ddifrifol ar gyfer addysg plant yng Nghymru?

Carwyn Jones: Nid yw'n fater sydd wedi'i ddatganoli, wrth gwrs. Nid yw'r pŵer dros gyflogau ac amodau gwaith athrawon yn faes yr ydym wedi ceisio'i ddatganoli. Os yw'n fater y mae'r Aelodau'n dymuno'i godi gyda'r Gweinidog priodol, croeso iddynt wneud hynny. Fodd bynnag, fel Llywodraeth, ceisiwn sicrhau mai nod y dadleuon a gynhelir yn amser y Llywodraeth yw bwrw ymlaen â deddfwriaeth neu godi materion pwysig sydd wedi'u datganoli, a'n bod yn defnyddio'r amser yn adeiladol. Fodd bynnag, mae rhwydd hynt i'r gwrthbleidiau godi pa faterion bynnag y dymunant eu codi mewn dadleuon.

Kirsty Williams: Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd Arweinydd y Tŷ'n gwybod am ddiddymu Siambr Fasnach Caerdydd yn ddiweddar. Bydd yn gwybod hefyd fod y sefydliad hwnnw wedi gweithio'n galed ar ran busnesau yn y brifddinas a'i fod wedi goroesi dirwasgiadau economaidd a dau ryfel byd. A wnaiff Arweinydd y Tŷ ofyn i'r Gweinidog sy'n gyfrifol am ddatblygu economaidd roi

development to make a statement in the Chamber on the possibility of developing a new organisation that could perhaps represent businesses not only in Cardiff, but in the wider regional area?

Carwyn Jones: I can tell you that talks are planned for the establishment of a new chamber of commerce in south Wales, following the collapse of the Cardiff Chamber of Commerce. In some ways, the name 'Cardiff Chamber of Commerce' is a misnomer because it certainly operated as far west as Bridgend, in my experience of dealing with it. We know that the chamber of commerce was a strong voice for businesses across south Wales and we would want to fully support the establishment of an organisation that can continue the work carried out by the former chamber. As a Government, we are liaising with the administrator but, at the moment, we are not favouring any one proposal.

3.10 p.m.

Leanne Wood: Leader of the House, you will be aware that I have raised the case of Sarika Singh with you before, and I request a debate again today. Hundreds of protestors joined a cross-party group of Assembly Members outside the Assembly today to support Sarika, a 14-year old former pupil of Aberdare Girls' School, who was the only Sikh pupil in her school. She was taught in isolation for nine weeks because of her decision to wear the Kara as an expression of her faith and she is now excluded from that school. I understand that you are unable to comment on this specific case, as you said before, but will you agree to provide time for a debate on this issue when the Government publishes its guidance, which I understand is due to be published soon?

Carwyn Jones: Once the guidance comes out, it is open to you to ask questions to the Minister about the guidance. I note the demonstration that took place today but I also note that the matter has now been taken to the High Court by Liberty, so it would be unwise to comment further at this moment in time. It would be perfectly acceptable for Members to ask questions on the guidance once it is issued.

datganiad yn y Siambr am bosibilrwydd datblygu sefydliad newydd a allai efallai gynrychioli nid dim ond busnesau yng Nghaerdydd, ond busnesau ardal ehangach y rhanbarth?

Carwyn Jones: Gallaf ddweud wrthyh fod cynlluniau ar y gweill i drafod sefydlu siambr fasnach newydd yn y de yn sgîl diddymu Siambr Fasnach Caerdydd. Mewn rhai ffyrdd, mae'r enw 'Siambr Fasnach Caerdydd' yn gamarweiniol gan ei bod yn sicr yn gweithredu cyn belled i'r gorllewin â Phen-y-bont ar Ogwr, yn ôl fy mhrofiad i o ddelio â hi. Gwyddom fod y siambr fasnach yn llais cryf ar ran busnesau ar draws y de a byddem am gefnogi'n llwyr sefydlu corff a all barhau â'r gwaith a wnaeth y siambr flaenorol. Fel Llywodraeth, yr ydym yn cysylltu â'r gweinyddwr, ond, ar hyn o bryd, nid ydym yn ffafrio dim un cynnig yn fwy na'i gilydd.

Leanne Wood: Arweinydd y Tŷ, gwyddoch fy mod wedi codi achos Sarika Singh gyda chi o'r blaen, a gofynnaf am ddatl eto heddiw. Ymunodd cannoedd o brotestwyr â grŵp trawsbleidiol o Aelodau'r Cynulliad y tu allan i'r Cynulliad heddiw i gefnogi Sarika, cyn-ddisgybl 14 oed o Ysgol Merched Aberdâr, a hi oedd yr unig ddisgybl Sikh yn ei hysgol. Fe'i haddysgwyd ar ei phen ei hun am naw wythnos oherwydd iddi benderfynu gwisgo'r Kara fel arwydd o'i ffydd ac erbyn hyn, mae hi wedi ei gwahardd o'r ysgol honno. Deallaf na allwch sôn am yr achos penodol hwn, fel y dywedasoeh o'r blaen, ond a wnewch gytuno i neilltuo amser inni gael datl am hyn pan fydd y Llywodraeth yn cyhoeddi ei chanllawiau, a hynny'n fuan, yn ôl yr hyn a ddeallaf.

Carwyn Jones: Ar ôl cyhoeddi'r canllawiau, bydd cyfle ichi ofyn cwestiynau amdanynt i'r Gweinidog. Nodaf y brotest a gynhaliwyd heddiw ond nodaf hefyd fod y mater bellach wedi'i ddwyn gerbron yr Uchel Lys gan Liberty, felly byddai'n annoeth imi sôn mwy am hyn ar hyn o bryd. Byddai'n gwbl dderbyniol i Aelodau ofyn cwestiynau am y canllawiau ar ôl iddynt gael ei gyhoeddi.

Jonathan Morgan: The Leader of the House might be aware that the Minister for health issued a new target for the national health service last week, which is that ambulances need to ensure that patients are discharged into the care of accident and emergency departments within 15 minutes. Could the Leader of the House tell me why the Minister for health chose to make that statement last week when she could have waited until this week, bearing in mind that the Assembly was reconvening today? What was the urgency? Secondly, would the Leader of the House ask the Minister for health if she will make an oral statement so that Assembly Members can discuss with her the merits of the new target?

Carwyn Jones: It is important that Ministers have the freedom to make announcements outside of the Chamber from time to time. Ministers, of course, will want to make announcements in the Chamber as often as possible, and that is something I am sure that the Llywydd would support. However, there are occasions when statements have to be made outside of the Chamber. The Minister for health is nothing if not pro-active, and it is important that where targets are announced, those targets are announced as quickly as possible. It is also important that Members have the opportunity to scrutinise a target and a decision taken by a Minister, and Members are perfectly able to do that via questions to the Minister, in scrutiny sessions and in this Chamber.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Leader of the House, over the Christmas recess, I received various representations from farmers in my constituency who have had inspections in relation to the single farm payment regime. I understand that the Rural Payments Agency Wales, based in Aberystwyth, is having great difficulty in uploading maps from farm inspections and that that is delaying the release of moneys to agricultural businesses in what has been a particularly trying and difficult year. May I ask for a statement from the Government on what is happening with the Rural Payments Agency Wales in Aberystwyth in its adoption of the new software, because inspectors, as well as

Jonathan Morgan: Efallai fod Arweinydd y Tŷ'n gwybod i'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd gyhoeddi targed newydd ar gyfer y gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol yr wythnos diwethaf, sef bod angen i ambiwlansys sicrhau bod cleifion yn cael eu rhyddhau i ofal adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys o fewn 15 munud. A allai Arweinydd y Tŷ ddweud wrthyf pam y dewisodd y Gweinidog dros Iechyd wneud y datganiad hwnnw yr wythnos diwethaf pan allai fod wedi aros tan yr wythnos hon, o gofio bod y Cynulliad yn ailgynnull heddiw? Beth oedd y brys? Yn ail, a wnaiff Arweinydd y Tŷ ofyn i'r Gweinidog dros iechyd a wnaiff ddatganiad llafar er mwyn i Aelodau'r Cynulliad drafod rhinweddau'r targed newydd gyda hi?

Carwyn Jones: Mae'n bwysig i Weinidogion gael y rhyddid i wneud cyhoeddiadau y tu allan i'r Siambr o bryd i'w gilydd. Bydd Gweinidogion, wrth gwrs, am wneud cyhoeddiadau yn y Siambr mor aml ag sy'n bosibl, ac mae hynny'n rhywbeth yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai'r Llywydd yn ei gefnogi. Fodd bynnag, ar brydiau, rhaid gwneud datganiadau y tu allan i'r Siambr. Mae'r Gweinidog dros iechyd yn anad dim arall yn rhagweithiol, ac mae'n bwysig pan gyhoeddir targedau fod y targedau hynny'n cael eu cyhoeddi cyn gynted ag sy'n bosibl. Mae'n bwysig hefyd i'r Aelodau gael y cyfle i graffu ar darged ac ar benderfyniad gan Weinidog, ac mae'n gwbl bosibl i'r Aelodau wneud hynny drwy gyfrwng cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog, mewn sesiynau craffu ac yn y Siambr hon.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Arweinydd y Tŷ, yn ystod toriad y Nadolig, cefais amrywiaeth o sylwadau gan ffermwyr yn fy etholaeth sydd wedi cael archwiliadau yng nghyswllt y taliad sengl. Deallaf fod Asiantaeth Taliadau Gwledig Cymru, yn Aberystwyth, yn ei chael yn anodd iawn lanlwytho mapiau ar ôl archwilio ffermydd a bod hynny'n peri oedi wrth ryddhau arian i fusnesau amaethyddol a hithau wedi bod yn flwyddyn arbennig o feichus ac anodd. A gaf ofyn am ddatganiad gan y Llywodraeth ynglŷn â'r hyn sy'n digwydd gydag Asiantaeth Taliadau Gwledig Cymru yn Aberystwyth o ran mabwysiadu'r meddalwedd newydd, oherwydd dywed archwilwyr, yn ogystal â ffermwyr, wrthyf

farmers, are telling me that they have not even had the maps to verify? Therefore, there is a fundamental problem that is Wales-wide and not just constituency related, and I think that that is worthy of a written statement.

I also take sympathy with the leader of the Liberal Democrats in seeking a statement regarding the Ebbw Vale railway line. I notice that you did not address that issue and, as transport spokesman, I think that this is a relevant issue that should be addressed via a written statement.

Carwyn Jones: You are right to say that I failed to address it the first time around, but I did address it the second time around, when I said that there will be a meeting tomorrow, which will hopefully provide us with an opening date.

On the single farm payment, about 80 per cent of payments were made by the end of December, so it is not the case that there is a fundamental problem that affects the majority of farmers in Wales. Experience tells me that it is difficult to give an explanation as to why one farmer has been paid and another has not. I know full well that many farmers do not fill forms in properly and many farmers do not send them back in time, but it can sometimes be difficult to understand why someone has been paid or not. The issue regarding the maps is not something that I am aware of, although I am sure that Elin Jones would provide more information if that is needed.

Eleanor Burnham: Leader of the House, I have one question that relates to my grave concern about an important issue, namely the Health Commission Wales review. It is good to see the Minister for health here, as she is well aware of my concerns about some seriously ill constituents of mine. In view of the seriousness of the cases that many of us have brought to your attention and that of the Minister, can you assure us that, as soon as possible following the end of the review, which I believe will be completed by the end of the week, you will allow the Minister to make a statement on this, or at least that we have Government time to debate this serious issue?

Carwyn Jones: The review ends on Friday,

nad ydynt hyd yn oed wedi cael y mapiau i'w dilysu? Felly, mae problem sylfaenol yma ledled Cymru, nid dim ond mewn un etholaeth, a chredaf fod hynny'n teilyngu datganiad ysgrifenedig.

Cydymdeimlaf hefyd ag arweinydd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol wrth iddo ofyn am ddatganiad am reilffordd Glyn Ebwy. Sylwaf na chafodd ateb gennyh ynghylch hynny, ac fel llefarydd trafniadaeth, credaf fod hyn yn bwnc perthnasol y dylid rhoi sylw iddo drwy gyfrwng datganiad ysgrifenedig.

Carwyn Jones: Yr ydych yn iawn imi fethu ag ateb y tro cyntaf, ond atebais yr ail dro, pan ddywedais y cynhelir cyfarfod yfory, ac y cawn wybod y dyddiad agor bryd hynny, gobeithio.

Ynglŷn â'r taliad sengl, talwyd tuag 80 y cant o'r taliadau erbyn diwedd Rhagfyr, felly nid yw'n wir bod problem sylfaenol sy'n effeithio ar fwyafrif ffermwyr Cymru. O brofiad, gwn ei bod yn anodd esbonio pam mae un ffermwr wedi cael ei dalu ac un arall heb gael taliad. Gwn yn iawn fod llawer o ffermwyr nad ydynt yn llenwi'r ffurflenni'n iawn a bod llawer o ffermwyr nad ydynt yn eu dychwelyd mewn pryd, ond weithiau, gall fod yn anodd deall pam mae rhywun wedi cael ei dalu neu heb gael ei daliad. Nid wyf yn ymwybodol o broblem y mapiau, er fy mod yn siŵr y byddai Elin Jones yn darparu mwy o wybodaeth os oes angen.

Eleanor Burnham: Arweinydd y Tŷ, mae gennyf un cwestiwn sy'n ymwneud â'r pryder dwys sydd gennyf ynghylch mater pwysig, sef adolygiad Comisiwn Iechyd Cymru. Mae'n dda gweld y Gweinidog dros iechyd yma, ac mae'n ymwybodol iawn o'm pryderon ynghylch rhai o'm hetholwyr sy'n ddifrifol wael. O gofio mor ddifrifol yw'r achosion y mae llawer ohonom wedi'u dwyn i'ch sylw chi ac i sylw'r Gweinidog, a allwch ein sicrhau y byddwch, cyn gynted ag sy'n bosibl ar ôl diwedd yr adolygiad, a gwblheir erbyn diwedd yr wythnos yr wyf yn credu, yn caniatáu i'r Gweinidog wneud datganiad am hyn, neu o leiaf y cawn ddadl ar y mater difrifol hwn yn amser y Llywodraeth?

Carwyn Jones: Daw'r adolygiad i ben ddydd

and so, given that Edwina Hart is nothing if not proactive—and I said so earlier, but now that my colleague has joined me, I say it again—I am sure that she will wish to make that announcement and take a decision as quickly as possible.

Gwener, ac felly, o gofio bod Edwina Hart yn un mor rhagweithiol—a dywedais hynny'n gynharach, ond gan fod fy nghyd-Weinidog wedi ymuno â mi erbyn hyn, fe'i dywedaf eto—yr wyf yn sicr y bydd yn dymuno gwneud y cyhoeddiad hwnnw a gwneud penderfyniad mor fuan ag sy'n bosibl.

Y Llywydd: Diolch yn fawr i Arweinydd y Tŷ.

The Presiding Officer: I thank the Leader of the House.

Datganiad am Alphasteel yng Nghasnewydd Statement on Alphasteel in Newport

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Aeth cwmni Alphasteel Cyf. o Gasnewydd i ddwylo'r gweinyddwyr ar 20 Rhagfyr 2007 ac yr oedd y newyddion yn ergyd aruthrol i dros 400 o weithwyr, yn enwedig ychydig ddyddiau cyn y Nadolig.

The Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport (Ieuan Wyn Jones): The company, Alphasteel Ltd, based in Newport, went into receivership on 20 December 2007, which was devastating news for more than 400 employees, coming as it did just a few days before Christmas.

In 2003, Alphasteel was bought by Satico Ltd, a Swiss-registered company with substantial steel business interests in the middle east. Late in 2003, Assembly Government officials met the company's representatives to discuss their ambitions for investment, and the First Minister met them in 2004. The company was made fully aware of the ways in which the Welsh Assembly Government could support those plans. Despite these ambitious plans, the company got into difficulties, which led to the decision to place it into administration. As a Government, our immediate responsibility was to ensure that those affected by Alphasteel's administration could receive advice and guidance on redundancy payments and benefits. Despite being hindered by the holiday period, I am pleased to report that significant progress was made on that during the Christmas and new year period.

Yn 2003, prynwyd Alphasteel gan Satico Cyf, cwmni sydd wedi'i gofrestru yn y Swistir sydd â buddiannau busnes dur sylweddol yn y dwyrain canol. Ddiwedd 2003, cyfarfu swyddogion Llywodraeth y Cynulliad â chynrychiolwyr y cwmni i drafod eu cynlluniau buddsoddi, a chyfarfu'r Prif Weinidog â hwy yn 2004. Cafodd y cwmni wybodaeth lawn am y modd y gallai Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru gefnogi'r cynlluniau hynny. Er gwaethaf y cynlluniau uchelgeisiol hyn, aeth y cwmni i drafferthion ac arweiniodd hynny at y penderfyniad i'w roi yn nwylo'r gweinyddwyr. Ein cyfrifoldeb cyntaf fel Llywodraeth oedd sicrhau y byddai'r rhai yr effeithir arnynt o ganlyniad i roi Alphasteel yn nwylo'r gweinyddwyr yn gallu cael cyngor a chanllawiau ynghylch taliadau diswyddo a budd-daliadau. Er bod cyfnod y gwyliau wedi arafu pethau, yr wyf yn falch o ddweud bod cynnydd sylweddol wedi'i wneud o ran hynny dros gyfnod y Nadolig a'r flwyddyn newydd.

On 3 January, Jobcentre Plus initiated a joint meeting with Careers Wales and Communitas, the Community Union's education and training subsidiary, to finalise a plan to deliver advice and support options for those affected by the closure of the works. They continue to work closely together to ensure that all those affected are kept fully in the picture as regards advice and support. Over the weekends of 5 January and 12 January, Newport jobcentre was open to assist those affected by the closure in making benefit claims and to offer advice. I understand that redundancy payments are being dealt with swiftly and the unions have welcomed that. On 5 January, Communitas held a members' meeting in Newport and provided further details of the advice and support available. A building at the Orb Steelworks site, close to Alphasteel, was secured and, from 10 to 18 January, it will operate as an information and support facility. Communitas, Careers Wales and Jobcentre Plus will maintain a presence there throughout this period.

Redundancy Action funding, which is part funded by the European social fund and administered by the Assembly Government, will be available to former Alphasteel employees. ReACT funding, designed to complement and supplement the services offered to redundant workers by Jobcentre Plus and Careers Wales, aims to address the needs of people made redundant through a series of measures designed to remove barriers to obtaining new employment. Under ReACT, employment recruitment support provides a contribution of up to £2,080 towards the costs of employing an eligible individual. Employer training support is a training payment providing up to 70 per cent of approved training costs subject to a maximum of £1,000, provided that the recruit remains in employment after 20 weeks. Other support, such as with curriculum vitae preparation and interview techniques, is also available. However, our further and equally important responsibility is to ensure that we do all that we can to ensure the resumption of steel production at the Newport works.

Ar 3 Ionawr, trefnodd Canolfan Byd Gwaith gyfarfod ar y cyd â Gyrfa Cymru a Communitas, is-gorff addysg a hyfforddiant Undeb Community, i gwblhau cynllun i gynnig cyngor a dewisiadau cymorth i'r rhai y mae'r penderfyniad i gau'r gwaith yn effeithio arnynt. Maent yn parhau i gydweithio'n agos er mwyn sicrhau bod pawb yr effeithir arno'n cael yr holl wybodaeth ddiweddaraf o ran cyngor a chymorth. Dros benwythnosau 5 Ionawr a 12 Ionawr, bu canolfan waith Casnewydd ar agor i helpu'r rhai yr effeithir arnynt gyda cheisiadau am fudd-daliadau ac i gynnig cyngor. Yr wyf yn deall bod y taliadau diswyddo yn cael eu trafod yn gyflym ac mae'r undebau wedi croesawu hynny. Ar 5 Ionawr, cynhaliodd Communitas gyfarfod i aelodau yng Nghasnewydd a rhoddodd fwy o fanylion am y cyngor a'r cymorth sydd ar gael. Sicrhawyd adeilad ar safle gwaith dur Orb, yn agos i waith Alphasteel, a rhwng 10 a 18 Ionawr bydd yn cael ei redeg fel cyfleuster i roi gwybodaeth a chymorth. Bydd staff Communitas, Gyrfa Cymru a Canolfan Byd Gwaith ar gael yno drwy gydol y cyfnod hwn.

Bydd cyllid Redundancy Action, sy'n cael ei ariannu'n rhannol gan gronfa gymdeithasol Ewrop a'i weinyddu gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad, ar gael i gyn-weithwyr Alphasteel. Amcan cyllid ReACT, sydd â'r nod o ategu'r gwasanaethau a gynigir gan Canolfan Byd Gwaith a Gyrfa Cymru i weithwyr sydd wedi'u diswyddo, ac ychwanegu atynt, yw diwallu anghenion pobl sydd wedi'u diswyddo drwy gyfres o fesurau sydd â'r nod o ddileu'r ffactorau sy'n eu rhwystro rhag cael swyddi newydd. O dan ReACT, mae cymorth recriwtio cyflogaeth yn cyfrannu hyd at £2,080 tuag at gostau cyflogi unigolyn cymwys. Taliad hyfforddiant yw cymorth hyfforddiant y cyflogwr sy'n darparu hyd at 70 y cant o'r costau hyfforddi cymeradwy hyd at uchafswm o £1,000, ar yr amod bod y gweithiwr newydd yn dal i gael ei gyflogi ar ôl 20 wythnos. Mae cymorth arall, megis cymorth i baratoi *curriculum vitae* a thechnegau cyfweliadau, ar gael hefyd. Fodd bynnag, un cyfrifoldeb pellach sydd gennym sydd yr un mor bwysig yw sicrhau ein bod yn gwneud popeth o fewn ein gallu i sicrhau bod y gwaith yng Nghasnewydd yn aildechrau cynhyrchu dur.

On 9 January, I wrote to Begbies Traynor, the administrators of Alphasteel, to express the Assembly Government's willingness to work with them and any potential purchaser to secure a future for the works. We are, of course, mindful of the strict EU restrictions governing the provision of assistance to the steel sector, but the administrators have expressed interest in working with us once potential buyers are identified.

3.20 p.m.

This is an early stage in the administration process, and the administrators continue to prepare the necessary work ahead of releasing information to interested parties. They hope that that will be done by as early as next week. Although it is too early to speculate on potential buyers for Alphasteel, I am encouraged to hear the administrators' optimism over selling the site as a going concern, and the reports of significant international interest in buying the plant as a going concern.

The site has much potential. Its facilities are capable of delivering a first-class steel production and rolling facility, and it can offer a number of additional incentives to potential buyers. Alphasteel owns a wharf situated alongside the river Usk that is capable of taking vessels weighing up to 20,000 tonnes. The site is ideally situated close to the M4 corridor and benefits from a private connection to the rail network. The works also sit close to the Uskmouth power station. Steel production continues to be a vital element of Welsh life, providing good-quality jobs, directly and indirectly, and the industry is a significant contributor to the Welsh economy.

Gall Cymru fod yn falch o'i sector diwydiannol a'i hasedau dur sylweddol. Yr ydym ni, y Llywodraeth, yn barod i gydweithio â'r gweinyddwyr, yr undebau, ac eraill sydd â diddordeb mewn gweld y busnes yn cael ei werthu er mwyn caniatáu i Alphasteel ailddechrau cynhyrchu dur yn ddiweddarach eleni.

William Graham: Deputy First Minister, I welcome your statement today, and I am

Ysgrifennais at Begbies Traynor, gweinyddwyr Alphasteel, ar 9 Ionawr i ddweud bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn barod i gydweithio â hwy ac unrhyw brynwr posibl i sicrhau dyfodol y gwaith. Yr ydym, wrth gwrs, yn ymwybodol o gyfyngiadau caeth yr UE ar y cymorth a roddir i'r sector dur, ond mae'r gweinyddwyr wedi mynegi diddordeb mewn cydweithio â ni ar ôl canfod prynwyr posibl.

Newydd ddechrau y mae'r broses weinyddu, ac mae'r gweinyddwyr yn dal i baratoi'r gwaith sy'n angenrheidiol cyn dosbarthu'r wybodaeth i'r rhai sydd â diddordeb. Maent yn gobeithio y gwneir hynny mor gynnar â'r wythnos nesaf. Er ei bod yn rhy fuan i ddyfalu ynghylch prynwyr posibl ar gyfer Alphasteel, mae'n galonogol clywed bod y gweinyddwyr yn hyderus y gallant werthu'r safle fel busnes gweithredol, a'r adroddiadau bod diddordeb rhyngwladol mawr mewn prynu'r gwaith fel busnes gweithredol.

Mae potensial mawr i'r safle. Gall gynnig cyfleusterau cynhyrchu a rholio dur o'r radd flaenaf yn ogystal â nifer o gymhellion ychwanegol i brynwyr posibl. Mae Alphasteel yn berchen ar lanfa ar lan afon Wysg sy'n gallu derbyn llongau sy'n pwysu hyd at 20,000 o dunelli. Mae'r safle mewn lle delfrydol yn agos at goridor yr M4 ac mae cysylltiad preifat rhyngddo a'r rhwydwaith rheilffyrdd. Mae'r gwaith hefyd yn agos i orsaf drydan Aber-wysg. Mae cynhyrchu dur yn dal yn elfen hanfodol ym mywyd Cymru, gan ddarparu swyddi o ansawdd da, yn uniongyrchol ac yn anuniongyrchol, ac mae'r diwydiant yn cyfrannu'n sylweddol i economi Cymru.

Wales is rightly proud of its industrial sector and its significant steel assets. As a Government, we stand ready to work with the administrators, the unions, and others who have an interest in seeing a sale of the business that will allow Alphasteel to resume steel production later this year.

William Graham: Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog, croesawaf eich datganiad heddiw, ac yr wyf

grateful to you for making it at the earliest opportunity following the bad news of the closure of the Alphasteel works at Newport. I have some questions on this for you, however. First, I welcome the decision made by your staff to implement the best possible help for the redundant workers, particularly at Christmas and the new year, which is not a time at which any of us would wish for this to happen.

As you know—or, at least, I hope that you know—in April 2007, it was widely forecast that Alphasteel was having problems, particularly in *Metal Bulletin*, a well known steel industry publication. One of its main creditors had filed a petition to put Alphasteel into administrative receivership and, at that time, I received information, as I suspect did other Members, regarding the management, including allegations about the owner of the business. I sent that on to Andrew Davies, who was the responsible Minister at the time. What do you know of this, Deputy First Minister? Do you know whether anything was taken further? Was the information that was then available either accurate or acted upon?

You will know that Alphasteel operates a money purchase pension scheme. Are all accrued contributions made to the scheme safely held in that pension fund? Does the regeneration company, Newport Unlimited, require its role to be redefined in order for it to liaise with companies in the city to ensure their economic sustainability?

The Deputy First Minister: I am grateful to William Graham for his kind words at the beginning of his questions, and for the manner in which he put those questions. In view of the scale of these redundancies, I thought it was right and proper that the Government make a statement. I should mention that officials and the previous Minister were very much aware of the difficulties that the company had encountered. I emphasise that strenuous efforts were made to speak to the company to offer advice, but that advice was not always accepted. It is a matter of great regret that we now find ourselves in this position. My prime responsibility at this stage is not to go over

yn ddiolchgar i chi am ei wneud cyn gynted ag y cawsoch gyfle i wneud hynny ar ôl y newyddion drwg am gau gwaith Alphasteel yng Nghasnewydd. Mae gennyf rai cwestiynau i chi am hyn, fodd bynnag. Yn gyntaf, croesawaf y penderfyniad gan eich staff i ddarparu'r cymorth gorau posibl i'r gweithwyr a ddiswyddwyd, yn enwedig dros y Nadolig a'r flwyddyn newydd, nad yw'n adeg y byddai'r un ohonom yn dymuno i hyn ddigwydd.

Fel y gwyddoch—neu, o leiaf, fel yr wyf yn gobeithio y gwyddoch—yn Ebrill 2007, yr oedd llawer yn darogan bod Alphasteel mewn trybini, yn enwedig yn *Metal Bulletin*, sy'n gyhoeddiad adnabyddus yn y diwydiant dur. Yr oedd un o'i brif gredydwyr wedi gwneud cais am roi Alphasteel yn nwylo derbynwyr gweinyddol a chefais wybodaeth, bryd hynny, fel y cafodd Aelodau eraill, yr wyf yn amau, am y rheolwyr, gan gynnwys honiadau am berchennog y busnes. Anfonais hynny ymlaen at Andrew Davies, sef y Gweinidog a oedd yn gyfrifol ar y pryd. Beth a wyddoch am hyn, Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog? A wyddoch a gymerwyd camau pellach ar hyn? A oedd y wybodaeth a oedd ar gael ar y pryd yn gywir neu a gymerwyd camau ar ei sail?

Gwyddoch fod Alphasteel yn rhedeg cynllun pensiwn a brynir ag arian. A yw'r holl gyfraniadau cronedig i'r cynllun yn cael eu dal yn ddiogel yn y gronfa bensiw honno? A oes angen ailddiffinio rôl y cwmni adfywio, Newport Unlimited, er mwyn iddo gydgyssylltu â chwmnïau yn y ddinas i sicrhau eu bod yn gynaliadwy'n economaidd?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i William Graham am ei eiriau caredig ar ddechrau ei gwestiynau, ac am y modd y gofynnodd y cwestiynau hynny. O ystyried y nifer a ddiswyddwyd, credwn ei bod yn iawn ac yn briodol i'r Llywodraeth wneud datganiad. Dylwn grybwyll bod swyddogion a'r Gweinidog blaenorol yn ymwybodol iawn o'r anawsterau yr oedd y cwmni wedi'u hwynebu. Pwysleisiaf fod ymdrechion taer wedi'u gwneud i siarad â'r cwmni i gynnig cyngor, ond ni dderbyniwyd y cyngor hwnnw bob tro. Mae'n destun gofid mawr ein bod bellach yn ein cael ein hunain yn y sefyllfa hon. Fy mhrif gyfrifoldeb ar hyn o bryd, yn hytrach na mynd dros hanes y

the history of that period, but to work hard with the administrators to see whether we can identify potential purchasers, and to work with them to offer the help that is available. As I said in my statement, there are restrictions on the work that we can do to assist a steel-making company, but, within those regulations, we stand ready to assist in any way that we can.

I have to be candid with William Graham and say that I do not currently know the position with regard to the pension scheme. However, I can assure him that I will write to him with that information.

John Griffiths: Deputy First Minister, I thank you for making this statement today and for setting out the importance of the steel industry in Wales. You are right to say that it is still a major contributor to the Welsh economy, and long may that remain the case.

These were high quality jobs and are a great loss to the local economy and the local community. Their loss hit the affected workers and their families hard at an extremely unfortunate time, a few days before Christmas. Do you agree that it is extremely important that we recognise the efforts of the Welsh Assembly Government and other agencies to engage with this company? It is mystifying why those efforts did not get a proper response. Perhaps the fact that the company has gone into receivership even when the relevant steel market for its products is buoyant is a sign of poor management, or management that is difficult to understand—notwithstanding the quality workforce at Alphasteel.

When considering a buyer for Alphasteel, do you also agree that it is extremely important for that buyer to demonstrate a willingness and capacity to invest properly in the firm to take it forward with proper and efficient management, for it to have a long-term strategy, and for it to demonstrate a willingness to maximise the jobs that will be available? When potential buyers are identified, can you assure me today that you will seek assurances to those ends, in conjunction with the receivers?

cyfnod hwnnw, yw gweithio'n galed gyda'r gweinyddwyr i weld a allwn ddod o hyd i brynwyr posibl, a gweithio gyda hwy i gynnig y cymorth sydd ar gael. Fel y dywedais yn fy natganiad, mae cyfyngiadau ar yr hyn y gallwn ei wneud i helpu cwmni cynhyrchu dur, ond, o fewn y rheoliadau hynny, yr ydym yn barod i helpu sut bynnag y gallwn.

Rhaid imi ddweud y gwir plaen wrth William Graham sef na wn beth yw'r sefyllfa ar hyn o bryd mewn cysylltiad â'r cynllun pensiwn. Fodd bynnag, gallaf ei sicrhau y byddaf yn ysgrifennu ato i roi'r wybodaeth honno.

John Griffiths: Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog, diolchaf i chi am wneud y datganiad hwn heddiw ac am ddatgan mor bwysig yw'r diwydiant dur yng Nghymru. Yr ydych yn iawn wrth ddweud ei fod yn dal i gyfrannu'n helaeth i economi Cymru, a hir y parhaed felly.

Yr oedd y rhain yn swyddi o ansawdd da ac maent yn golled fawr i'r economi leol ac i'r gymuned leol. Bu eu colli'n ergyd drom i'r gweithwyr yr effeithiwyd arnynt a'u teuluoedd ar adeg dra anffodus, ychydig ddyddiau cyn y Nadolig. A ydych yn cytuno ei bod yn bwysig dros ben inni gydnabod ymdrechion Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ac asiantaethau eraill i drafod â'r cwmni hwn? Mae'n ddirgelwch pam na chafwyd ymateb priodol i'r ymdrechion hynny. Efallai fod y ffaith bod y cwmni wedi mynd i ddwylo'r derbynwyr er bod y farchnad ddur berthnasol ar gyfer ei gynhyrchion yn fywiog yn arwydd o reoli gwael, neu reoli y mae'n anodd ei ddeall—er gwaethaf y gweithlu rhagorol a oedd yn Alphasteel.

Wrth ystyried prynwr ar gyfer Alphasteel, a ydych yn cytuno hefyd ei bod yn bwysig dros ben i'r prynwr hwnnw ddangos parodrwydd a gallu i fuddsoddi'n briodol yn y cwmni i'w reoli'n briodol ac yn effeithlon, iddo fod â strategaeth hirdymor, ac iddo ddangos parodrwydd i gynnig y nifer fwyaf posibl o swyddi? Pan geir prynwyr posibl, a allwch fy sicrhau heddiw y byddwch yn ceisio cael sicrwydd i'r perwyl hwnnw, ar y cyd â'r derbynwyr?

The difficulty to engage with the firm, despite the best efforts of the Welsh Assembly Government and agencies, is mystifying; nonetheless, will efforts be made in due course to identify any lessons that can be learned, to ensure that such closures and redundancies are minimised in future for the good of the Welsh economy and workers within it?

I am also pleased that you mentioned the role of Community, the trade union, and Communitas, its training arm. Could you further assure me that you will seek to ensure that the Welsh Assembly Government continues to work as closely as possible with Community and its training arm and, indeed, that other agencies and the receivers do likewise? It is extremely important that the union that represents the workforce be closely involved in, and informed of, everything that takes place.

Finally, the well established 'Team Wales approach', as it is often described, of the Welsh Assembly Government and other agencies working closely together to provide advice and assistance on alternative jobs, training and benefits has been taken forward effectively for the benefit of workers and their families. It has once again been a good model in this instance, but will you ensure that that continues to be the case as matters move forward?

The Deputy First Minister: Thank you for those questions. Despite the fact that this particular company has encountered difficulties and has gone into administration, the great irony here is that the prospects for the steel industry, as you rightly highlighted, are very good. That is why we understand—although we have no firm details—that some interest has been shown by quite a number of companies making contact with the receivers. Even though we do not want to give people false hope, we understand that there is considerable interest in purchasing the business, and we want to do everything that we can to support that process.

3.30 p.m.

I have read all of the relevant information, and you are right to highlight the tremendous

Mae'r anhawster a gafwyd wrth drafod â'r cwmni, er bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a'r asiantaethau wedi gwneud eu gorau glas, yn ddirgelwch; er hynny, a geir ymdrech maes o law i ganfod unrhyw wersi y gellir eu dysgu, fel y bydd llai o weithfeydd yn cau a llai o ddiswyddiadau yn y dyfodol er budd economi Cymru a'r gweithwyr sy'n rhan ohoni?

Yr wyf yn falch hefyd eich bod wedi cyfeirio at Community, yr undeb llafur, ac at Communitas, ei gangen hyfforddi. A allech fy sicrhau ymhellach y byddwch yn ceisio sicrhau y bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn dal i gydweithio mor agos ag sy'n bosibl â Community a'i gangen hyfforddi ac, yn wir, y bydd asiantaethau eraill a'r derbynwyr yn gwneud yr un fath? Mae'n bwysig iawn i'r undeb sy'n cynrychioli'r gweithwyr gael gwybod am bopeth sy'n digwydd a chael cymryd rhan ynddo'n llawn.

Yn olaf, mae'r 'dull Tîm Cymru', fel y'i gelwir yn aml, sydd wedi'i hen sefydlu, lle y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ac asiantaethau eraill yn cydweithio'n agos i ddarparu cyngor a chymorth ynghylch swyddi eraill, hyfforddiant a budd-daliadau, wedi'i roi ar waith yn effeithiol er budd gweithwyr a'u teuluoedd. Bu'n batrwm da unwaith eto y tro hwn, ond a wnewch sicrhau y bydd yn parhau felly wrth i bethau ddatblygu?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Diolch ichi am y cwestiynau hynny. Er bod y cwmni penodol hwn wedi wynebu anawsterau ac wedi mynd i ddwylo'r gweinyddwyr, yr eironi mawr yn hyn o beth yw bod rhagolygon da iawn i'r diwydiant dur, fel y pwysleisiwyd gennych, yn hollol iawn. Dyna pam yr ydym yn deall—er nad oes gennym fanylion pendant—fod cryn nifer o'r cwmnïau a fu mewn cysylltiad â'r derbynwyr wedi dangos rhywfaint o ddiddordeb. Er nad ydym am ennyn gobaith di-sail, yr ydym yn deall bod cryn ddiddordeb mewn prynu'r busnes, ac yr ydym am wneud popeth o fewn ein gallu i hybu'r broses honno.

Yr wyf wedi darllen yr holl wybodaeth berthnasol, ac yr ydych yn iawn wrth

efforts made by officials, the previous Minister and his team and the First Minister to give the previous company every possible offer of assistance, and I have seen all the papers, which confirm that that is the case. Why those particular offers were not taken up is not for me to speculate upon at this point, but if I can jump to one of the other questions that he asked, about what lessons are to be learned, I will need to look at that and speak to others to ensure that if there was anything that we could have done, we would have done it, but from reading the files it is clear that the Government bent over backwards to try to help this company.

On the point that you made about giving assurances that we will work with the receivers, when I received a full briefing on the situation with Alphasteel, I immediately wrote to the receivers and made two points to them. First, I said that we wanted to work with the receivers to try to identify potential purchasers and to see what we could do to help. Secondly, I said that the receivers should tell potential purchasers that the Welsh Assembly Government stands ready to help, so that we can be involved in that process. In that sense, we must be even-handed with every potential purchaser at this point in time, and we want to see what we can do help. I also recognise the tremendous efforts made by the union to assist, not only by itself but also in collaboration with the Government. Since the company went into administration, the First Minister and I have spoken to the general secretary of the union to offer all the support that we can give to the union and the receivers, and to ensure that the receivers, the Government and the unions are working towards one end, which is the effort to try to restore steelmaking in this plant. There are good prospects here, and, hopefully, by working together we can make good progress.

David Melding: This type of issue would affect any type of Government in office, so I will not throw bricks at you from a partisan point of view. However, to add to the very sensible remarks of John Griffiths, we need to be a bit better at our intelligence-gathering to identify companies that may be at risk. We are living in a world that has seen remarkable

bwysleisio ymdrechion gwych y swyddogion, y Gweinidog blaenorol a'i dîm a'r Prif Weinidog i gynnig pob cymorth posibl i'r cwmni blaenorol, ac yr wyf wedi gweld yr holl bapurau, sy'n cadarnhau bod hynny'n wir. Nid fy lle i yn awr yw ceisio dyfalu pam na dderbyniwyd y cynigion arbennig hynny, ond os gallaf neidio at un o'r cwestiynau eraill a ofynnodd, ynghylch pa wersi y gellid eu dysgu, bydd angen imi edrych ar hynny a siarad ag eraill i sicrhau, petai unrhyw beth y gallem fod wedi ei wneud, y byddem wedi gwneud hynny, ond o ddarllen y ffeiliau mae'n amlwg i'r Llywodraeth wneud popeth o fewn ei gallu i geisio helpu'r cwmni hwn.

O ran y pwynt a wnaethoch ynghylch rhoi sicrwydd y byddwn yn gweithio gyda'r derbynwyr, pan gefais wybodaeth lawn am sefyllfa Alphasteel, ysgrifennais at y derbynwyr ar unwaith a gwneud dau bwynt. Yn gyntaf, dywedais ein bod am weithio gyda'r derbynwyr i geisio dod o hyd i ddarpar brynwyr ac edrych ar yr hyn y gallem ei wneud i helpu. Yn ail, dywedais y dylai'r derbynwyr ddweud wrth ddarpar brynwyr bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wrth law i helpu, er mwyn inni allu cymryd rhan yn y broses honno. Yn hynny o beth, rhaid inni fod yn deg wrth ymdrin â phob darpar brynwr ar hyn o bryd, ac yr ydym am weld beth y gallwn ei wneud i helpu. Yr wyf yn cydnabod hefyd yr ymdrechion mawr a wnaethpwyd gan yr undeb i helpu, nid yn unig ar ei ben ei hun ond hefyd ar y cyd â'r Llywodraeth. Ers i'r cwmni fynd i ddwylo'r derbynwyr, mae'r Prif Weinidog a minnau wedi siarad ag ysgrifennydd cyffredinol yr undeb i gynnig pob cymorth y gallwn ei roi i'r undeb ac i'r derbynwyr, ac i sicrhau bod y derbynwyr, y Llywodraeth a'r undebau yn gweithio tuag at yr un nod, sef yr ymdrech i geisio adfer cynhyrchu dur yn y gwaith hwn. Ceir rhagolygon da yma, a, gobeithio, drwy gydweithio, y gallwn wneud cynnydd da.

David Melding: Byddai mater fel hwn yn effeithio ar unrhyw fath o Lywodraeth sydd mewn grym, felly nid af ati i sgorio pwyntiau gwleidyddol. Fodd bynnag, ac ychwanegu at sylwadau synhwyrol iawn John Griffiths, mae angen inni wella'r ffordd yr ydym yn casglu gwybodaeth i weld pa gwmnïau a all fod mewn perygl. Yr ydym yn byw mewn

economic growth in the last 25 years, which has brought in new markets, which means that we now have companies that have owners that are Chinese, Indian, middle eastern, or whatever. It is a very different world from that of a generation ago, and I wonder, when we are concerned about the way a foreign-owned local plant is being managed, whether we should be working with the UK Government, and embassies abroad—that is how we would do trade missions—to see whether we can lever-in more critical attention so that these assets are not allowed to go to waste. If the company messes up with the asset, it is the worst outcome for the Welsh economy. With a bit of luck, we will find a buyer for this plant and that is certainly what we would all wish.

Finally, the other strategic objective, and an area that is much more under your control, is the importance of developing indigenous business in the local private sector—small and medium-sized enterprises. That remains an overwhelming need. We can be sure that that economy cannot shift as quickly as a plant that was owned three or four years ago by someone else again.

The Deputy First Minister: Thank you for those questions, David. I listened carefully to what you said about how we might be able to improve our intelligence-gathering, but I think that the intelligence in this case was quite good. In looking at the past history, it is fairly clear that problems were identified and that issues were addressed, but ultimately it takes two to talk. I can assure you that every possible effort was made to try to assist the company, but the offers, for reasons that we can only speculate upon, were ultimately not taken up.

The point that you make about hoping to find a buyer is right, because I made it clear in my statement that, while we clearly want to help those made redundant—in terms of redundancy payments, benefit payments, advice if they want to go for a job elsewhere, and so on—we also have to remember that steelmaking is currently a buoyant market, and there is no reason why a successful purchase should not be made. We want to

byd sydd wedi gweld twf economaidd nodedig dros y 25 mlynedd diwethaf, sydd wedi cyflwyno marchnadoedd newydd, sy'n golygu bod gennym, erbyn hyn, gwmniau y mae eu perchnogion yn hanu o Tsieina, India, y dwyrain canol neu lle bynnag y bo. Mae'n fyd gwahanol iawn i'r byd a fodolai genhedlaeth yn ôl, a thybed, pan fyddwn yn pryderu ynghylch y ffordd y caiff gwaith lleol sy'n eiddo i rywun tramor ei reoli, a ddylem fod yn gweithio gyda Llywodraeth y DU, a llysgenadaethau tramor—dyna sut y byddem yn trefnu teithiau masnach—i weld a allwn sicrhau mwy o sylw beirniadol rhag i'r asedau hyn fynd yn ofer? Os bydd y cwmni'n gwneud cawl o'r asedau, dyma'r canlyniad gwaethaf i economi Cymru. Gyda thipyn o lwc, down o hyd i brynwr ar gyfer y gwaith hwn ac yn sicr byddai pawb ohonom yn dymuno hynny.

Yn olaf, yr amcan strategol arall, a maes sydd lawer mwy o dan eich rheolaeth, yw pwysigrwydd datblygu busnesau cynhenid yn y sector preifat lleol—busnesau bach a chanolig. Erys hynny'n angen dybryd. Gallwn fod yn siŵr na all yr economi honno symud mor gyflym â gwaith a oedd yn eiddo i rywun arall eto dair neu bedair blynedd yn ôl.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Diolch ichi am y cwestiynau hynny, David. Gwrandewais yn ofalus ar yr hyn a ddywedasoch ynglŷn â sut y gallem wella'r ffordd yr ydym yn casglu gwybodaeth, ond credaf fod y wybodaeth yn yr achos hwn yn eithaf da. Ac edrych ar yr hanes, mae'n eithaf amlwg i broblemau gael eu canfod ac i faterion gael eu datrys, ond yn y pen draw, mae angen dau er mwyn cael sgwrs. Gallaf eich sicrhau bod pob ymdrech bosibl wedi cael ei gwneud i geisio helpu'r cwmni ond, am resymau na allwn ond dyfalu yn eu cylch, ni dderbyniwyd y cynigion.

Mae'r pwynt a wnewch ynglŷn â cheisio dod o hyd i brynwr yn gywir, oherwydd dywedais yn glir yn fy natganiad, er ein bod yn amlwg yn awyddus i helpu'r rhai sydd wedi colli eu swyddi—gyda thaliadau diswyddo, budd-daliadau, cyngor os ydynt am ymgeisio am swydd yn rhywle arall, ac yn y blaen—fod rhaid inni gofio hefyd fod y diwydiant dur yn farchnad fywiog ar hyn o bryd, ac nid oes rheswm pam na ellir gwerthu'r gwaith yn

ensure that the businesses that come forward are viable, and will continue steelmaking at the plant. That is what we are striving to achieve.

The more general point that you made, about assisting indigenous businesses, is a good one, and as a Government we are committed to doing that. It is fair to say, though, that in the particular circumstances here, and with this particular kind of company, we must understand that it will probably be an international buyer that will come in to look at it. We need to recognise that that is the case in this particular instance, although the general point about assistance for indigenous businesses is well-made.

Lesley Griffiths: Thank you for your statement on this important matter. I would like to say from the outset that I fully understand the sensitivity concerning Alphasteel's position, and the extent of what you can realistically say today, now that the company is in administration. As you and others have said, the announcement just prior to Christmas was a blow to those employed at the company.

However, I am pleased that the Welsh Assembly Government and its officials have been quick off the mark, and proactive, in discussing what help can be provided to the company within the scope of European Union law. I also welcome the offer of help that has been made by the Government to work with the administrators to secure a potential buyer for the Newport works. I would urge that your officials continue such discussions, as finding a buyer for the company is an important objective at present.

You mentioned the contact that you have had with the leadership of the trade union Community, and I am pleased that you confirmed that this contact will continue throughout this difficult period. As my colleague John Griffiths said, the staff at Alphasteel are a highly skilled workforce, so it is essential that a buyer is found for the company, so that Newport does not lose these valuable skills in this important industrial sector. I ask, Minister, that you please ensure that Members are kept up to date with

llwyddiannus. Yr ydym am sicrhau bod y busnesau sy'n gwneud cynnig yn hyfyw, ac y byddant yn parhau i gynhyrchu dur yn y gwaith. Dyna yr ydym yn ceisio'i gyflawni.

Mae'r pwynt mwy cyffredinol a wnaethoch, ynglŷn â rhoi cymorth i fusnesau cynhenid, yn bwynt da, ac fel Llywodraeth yr ydym wedi ymrwymo i wneud hynny. Mae'n deg dweud, serch hynny, yn yr amgylchiadau penodol hyn, a chyda'r math hwn o gwmni, fod yn rhaid inni ddeall mai prynwr rhyngwladol fydd yn mynd ati i edrych arno, mae'n debyg. Mae angen inni gydnabod mai dyna yw'r sefyllfa yn yr achos arbennig hwn, er bod y pwynt cyffredinol ynghylch cymorth i fusnesau cynhenid yn bwynt da.

Lesley Griffiths: Diolch ichi am eich datganiad am y mater pwysig hwn. Hoffwn ddweud o'r cychwyn fy mod yn deall yn llawn sensitifrwydd y sefyllfa o ran Alphasteel, a'r hyn y gallweh ei ddweud heddiw, gan fod y cwmni bellach yn nwylo'r derbynwyr. Fel y dywedasoch chi ac eraill, yr oedd y cyhoeddiad yn union cyn y Nadolig yn ergyd i'r rhai a gyflogid gan y cwmni.

Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn falch bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a'i swyddogion wedi gweithredu'n gyflym, ac yn rhagweithiol, o ran trafod pa gymorth y gellid ei roi i'r cwmni o fewn cwmmpas cyfraith yr Undeb Ewropeaidd. Croesawaf hefyd y cymorth a gynigiwyd gan y Llywodraeth i weithio gyda'r derbynwyr i sicrhau darpar brynwr ar gyfer y gwaith yng Nghasnewydd. Byddwn yn pwysu ar eich swyddogion i barhau â thrafodaethau o'r fath, gan fod dod o hyd i brynwr ar gyfer y cwmni yn nod pwysig ar hyn o bryd.

Soniasoch am y cyswllt yr ydych wedi ei gael ag arweinwyr yr undeb llafur Community, ac yr wyf yn falch eich bod wedi cadarnhau y bydd y cyswllt hwn yn parhau drwy'r cyfnod anodd hwn. Fel y dywedodd fy nghyd-Aelod John Griffiths, mae'r staff yn Alphasteel yn weithlu medrus iawn, felly mae'n hanfodol dod o hyd i brynwr ar gyfer y cwmni, er mwyn sicrhau na fydd Casnewydd yn colli'r sgiliau gwerthfawr hyn yn y sector diwydiannol pwysig hwn. Gofynnaf ichi, Weinidog, sicrhau bod yr Aelodau'n cael y

developments.

The Deputy First Minister: We all recognise how devastating this blow was—it was just before Christmas and the new year, and must have been quite devastating for the families, and our thoughts are with them over this difficult period. You acknowledged that there are limits to what the Assembly Government can do in terms of support, because of EU regulations—we cannot do as much as we could for other sectors, obviously, but I reiterate that, within those constraints, we stand ready to do as much as we possibly can. It is important, as I mentioned earlier, that we continue to work with the receivers and the trade unions. I was pleased with the attitude of the trade unions, which were very active in supporting their workers when it was difficult. They held a mass meeting on 5 January, which I think was well-attended, and good advice was given to those who had lost their jobs—being realistic, if you like, about the future, but understanding that there are good prospects. The fact that the workforce is highly skilled should be a strong point for those interested in taking over the plant.

Your final point was well-made, and I will certainly wish to keep Members up to date. I thought that it was right, in view of the scale of the redundancies here, that the Government make a statement, and, in that context, it is right therefore that, as significant developments happen, I keep Members informed. Obviously, I will be available for questions at the appropriate time, and where appropriate I will make further statements, probably written ones, to update Members on the position.

Michael German: Thank you for your statement. This is devastating for the economy of Newport. There are already 2,248 people in Newport on jobseekers' allowance, and adding a further 400 people to their number is obviously a devastating blow to the local economy. That is why it is so important that we do our best to ensure that

wybodaeth ddiweddaraf ynglŷn â'r datblygiadau.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yr ydym oll yn cydnabod bod hon yn ergyd drom—yn union cyn y Nadolig a'r flwyddyn newydd, ac yr wyf yn siŵr bod hynny wedi bod yn ergyd drom i'r teuluoedd, ac yr ydym yn meddwl amdanynt yn ystod y cyfnod anodd hwn. Cydnabuoch fod cyfyngiadau i'r hyn y gall Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ei wneud o ran cymorth, oherwydd rheoliadau'r UE—ni allwn wneud cymaint ag y gallem ei wneud i sectorau eraill, yn amlwg, ond ailadroddaf y ffaith ein bod, o fewn y cyfyngiadau hynny, yn barod i wneud cymaint ag y gallwn. Mae'n bwysig, fel y soniais yn gynharach, inni barhau i weithio gyda'r derbynwyr a'r undebau llafur. Yr oeddwn yn fodlon ar agwedd yr undebau llafur, a oedd yn gefnogol iawn i'w gweithwyr yn ystod cyfnod anodd. Cynhaliwyd cyfarfod mawr ar 5 Ionawr, a chredaf fod nifer dda'n bresennol, a rhoddwyd cyngor da i'r rhai a oedd wedi colli eu swyddi—gan fod yn realistig, os mynnwch, am y dyfodol, ond gan ddeall bod rhagolygon da. Dylai'r ffaith bod y gweithlu'n un medrus iawn fod yn fantais fawr i'r rhai a chanddynt ddi-ddordeb mewn prynu'r gwaith.

Yr oedd eich pwynt olaf yn bwynt da, a byddaf yn sicr yn awyddus i roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r Aelodau. Credwn ei bod yn briodol, o gofio graddfa'r diswyddiadau yn yr achos hwn, i'r Llywodraeth wneud datganiad, ac, yn y cyd-destun hwnnw, mae'n briodol felly, wrth i ddatblygiadau arwyddocaol ddigwydd, fy mod yn rhoi gwybod i'r Aelodau amdanynt. Yn amlwg, byddaf ar gael ar gyfer cwestiynau ar yr amser priodol, a lle bynnag y bo'n briodol byddaf yn gwneud rhagor o ddatganiadau, rhai ysgrifenedig mae'n debyg, er mwyn rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am y sefyllfa i'r Aelodau.

Michael German: Diolch ichi am eich datganiad. Mae hon yn ergyd drom i economi Casnewydd. Mae 2,248 o bobl yng Nghasnewydd eisoes yn cael lwfans ceisio gwaith, ac mae ychwanegu 400 yn rhagor atynt yn amlwg yn ergyd drom i'r economi leol. Dyna pam mae mor bwysig inni wneud ein gorau i sicrhau bod cyfleoedd i'r bobl hyn

there are job opportunities for these people. gael swyddi.

3.40 p.m.

I listened carefully to your answers to William Graham, and I think that it is clearly the case—given your response, and what others have said—that the management did not treat its workers well, and certainly did not go through the appropriate consultation procedure. Can you give us further indication of the strenuous efforts that you say the department made to deal with the former owners and employers of this company? The key issue for the workers, who have been treated so badly by the employer, is whether they will get any of the protective awards that are available for people who have been dismissed summarily, as they were. Do you have any further information on that?

The key interest now lies in what happens with any prospective buyer. If you have an opportunity to talk to both the unions and the receivers perhaps you can give an indication as to whether the whole of the plant is likely to be purchased in one go or whether the receivers are looking at splitting it up into smaller parts. The latter option is a possibility, but given the nature of the operations on the site, it seems unlikely that it would be a useful way to proceed. Do you have any indication from the receivers at this stage as to whether the plant and the potential purchasers are looking at the whole site, therefore providing an opportunity for a uniform system of steel production, or whether they are looking to break up the company?

The Deputy First Minister: To deal with your final point, I think, Mike, that you will recognise from your previous experience in this field that this is an early stage in the administration process, and therefore the amount of information that we were able to get from the receivers is not any greater than what I have been able to tell the Assembly this afternoon. The only information that we have is that the administrators have received a number of expressions of interest in the plant, and, as I understand it, those are for the whole plant. The situation may change, but that is our current understanding. I should

Gwrandewais yn ofalus ar eich atebion i William Graham, a chredaf ei bod yn amlwg—o gofio eich ymateb, a'r hyn y mae eraill wedi ei ddweud—na chafodd y gweithwyr eu trin yn dda gan y rheolwyr, ac yn sicr ni chynhaliwyd ymgynghoriad priodol. A allwch roi rhagor o wybodaeth inni am yr ymdrechion glew y dywedwch i'r adran eu gwneud i ymdrin â chyn berchnogion a chyflogwyr y cwmni hwn? Y prif fater i'r gweithwyr, sydd wedi cael eu trin mor wael gan y cyflogwr, yw a fyddant yn cael unrhyw un o'r dyfardaliadau diogelu sydd ar gael i bobl sydd wedi cael eu diswyddo'n ddiseremoni, fel y cawsant hwy eu diswyddo. A oes gennych ragor o wybodaeth am hynny?

Mae'r prif ddiddordeb yn awr yn yr hyn a fydd yn digwydd gydag unrhyw ddarpar brynwr. Os cewch gyfle i siarad â'r undebau a'r derbynwyr efallai y gallwch roi syniad a yw'r gwaith cyfan yn debygol o gael ei brynu gyda'i gilydd neu a yw'r derbynwyr yn ystyried ei rannu'n ddarnau llai. Mae'r opsiwn olaf yn bosibilrwydd, ond o gofio natur y gweithrediadau ar y safle, ymddengys ei bod yn annhebygol y byddai hwn yn opsiwn defnyddiol. A yw'r derbynwyr wedi rhoi unrhyw syniad ichi ynghylch a yw'r gwaith a'r darpar brynwyr yn edrych ar y safle cyfan, gan roi cyfle felly i sefydlu system unffurf o gynhyrchu dur, neu a ydynt yn bwriadu rhannu'r cwmni?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Gan ymdrin â'ch pwynt olaf, credaf, Mike, y byddwch yn cydnabod yn sgîl eich profiad yn y maes hwn yn y gorffennol, ei bod yn gynnar yn y broses weinyddu ar hyn o bryd, ac felly nid ydym wedi cael mwy o wybodaeth gan y derbynwyr na'r hyn yr wyf wedi gallu ei ddweud wrth y Cynulliad y prynhawn yma. Yr unig wybodaeth sydd gennym, yn ôl y gweinyddwyr, yw bod nifer o gwmnïau wedi mynegi diddordeb yn y gwaith, a hynny, yn ôl a ddeallaf, yn y gwaith cyfan. Gall y sefyllfa newid, ond dyna a wyddom ar hyn o bryd. Dylwn ychwanegu'r cafeat ei bod yn

add the caveat that this is an early stage in the process. As and when we receive further information, we will do everything we can to keep you up to date.

With regard to the department's strenuous efforts, I could spend a bit of time explaining how many times officials met the company. The company presented to the then Assembly Government a very ambitious plan to expand production at the site, and, following that, many meetings were held with officials. The previous Minister was heavily engaged in those discussions, and, in view of the importance of the sort of investment that Alphasteel was planning, the First Minister visited the site in 2004, and several efforts were made to advise the company of the assistance available within the constraints of EU regulations. That shows that, over some years, every effort was made to assist the company. For whatever reasons—certainly none that I can explain, and perhaps that no-one can explain—the company did not take up those offers. I am not sure that it is of great advantage now for us to dwell too much on that history, although it is important for us to make clear what efforts the Assembly Government made. You rightly point out that we must now ensure that people who previously worked for Alphasteel are given every opportunity to have their jobs back, and we will do everything that we can, in working with the receivers, to try to ensure that that happens.

Mohammad Asghar: Newport has been getting bad news for a long time. We lost thousands of jobs when Llanwern steelworks closed. I am sure that you will bring us good news shortly. I appreciate the efforts that you have made, as demonstrated in your statement. Will you give us an assurance that your officials will keep in touch with the unions and the receivers to ensure that everyone is working together to secure the future of the plant, including employees, overseas investors and local business people?

The Deputy First Minister: Thank you for the question, Oscar. What has underlined that, and much of the thrust of the questions and answers today, is that we must have a proper partnership approach with the

gynnar yn y broses. Pan gawn ragor o wybodaeth, gwnawn bopeth a allwn i roi'r wybodaeth honno ichi.

O ran ymdrechion glew yr adran, gallwn dreulio ychydig amser yn esbonio sawl gwaith y cyfarfu'r swyddogion â'r cwmni. Cyflwynodd y cwmni gynllun uchelgeisiol iawn i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad ar y pryd i ehangu'r gwaith cynhyrchu ar y safle, ac, yn sgîl hynny, cynhaliwyd llawer o gyfarfodydd gyda'r swyddogion. Cymerodd y Gweinidog blaenorol ran fawr yn y trafodaethau hynny, ac, yng ngoleuni pwysigrwydd y math o fuddsoddiad yr oedd Alphasteel yn ei gynllunio, ymwelodd y Prif Weinidog â'r safle yn 2004, a gwnaethpwyd sawl ymdrech i hysbysu'r cwmni am y cymorth sydd ar gael o fewn cyfyngiadau rheoliadau'r UE. Dengys hynny, dros gyfnod o rai blynyddoedd, i bob ymdrech gael ei gwneud i gynorthwyo'r cwmni. Am ba resymau bynnag—yn sicr dim un rheswm y gallaf fi ei esbonio, ac efallai na all neb ei esbonio—ni dderbyniodd y cwmni y cynigion hynny. Nid wyf yn siŵr a yw o fantais inni dreulio gormod o amser ar yr hanes hwnnw, er ei bod yn bwysig inni ddangos pa ymdrechion a wnaeth Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Dywedwch, a hynny'n gywir, fod yn rhaid inni yn awr sicrhau bod pobl a arferai weithio i Alphasteel yn cael pob cyfle i adennill eu swyddi, a gwnawn bopeth a allwn, drwy weithio gyda'r derbynwyr, i geisio sicrhau bod hynny'n digwydd.

Mohammad Asghar: Mae Casnewydd wedi bod yn cael newyddion drwg ers cryn amser. Collasom filoedd o swyddi pan gaeodd gwaith dur Llan-wern. Yr wyf yn siŵr y cawn newyddion da gennych cyn bo hir. Gwerthfawrogaf eich ymdrechion, fel y dangoswyd yn eich datganiad. A allwch ein sicrhau y bydd eich swyddogion yn cadw mewn cysylltiad â'r undebau a'r derbynwyr i sicrhau bod pawb yn cydweithio i ddiogelu dyfodol y gwaith, gan gynnwys cyflogeion, buddsoddwyr tramor a phobl fusnes leol?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Diolch ichi am eich cwestiwn, Oscar. Yr hyn sydd wedi tanlinellu hynny, a byrdwn y cwestiynau a'r atebion heddiw i raddau helaeth, yw bod yn rhaid inni weithredu drwy bartneriaeth

Assembly Government, the receivers and the trade unions working together for the benefit of Newport and its community. You are right in saying that previous years have seen numerous job losses in the steel sector. As I said earlier in respect of this decision, it is ironic that this company has failed despite the fact that the steel industry is a profitable market at this stage. We are hopeful that we can work to a successful conclusion, and we will continue to work as hard as we can in the next few days and weeks.

Rosemary Butler: Although we had some intelligence about what was happening with this company, the news just before Christmas was still a terrible shock to the workforce. As has already been said, you cannot imagine a worse time of year to be told that you have been made redundant. This workforce has been let down by a management that has a bunker mentality. The amount of help that it has been offered over the years is astounding, and the fact that it has ignored it and been able to get away with it is concerning. The workers are appreciative of the efforts that have been made, the advice and support that they have been given, the fact that the redundancy payments were swiftly paid, and the fact that a building on the Orb site will be an advice centre for a few weeks. I think that the workers appreciate that as much as possible is being done to help them. However, as William Graham has said, there is concern about pensions. I would appreciate being copied into your response, as will other Members from the region who have spoken, about what is happening with regard to pensions.

The site itself is a prime site; it is unique. As you said, it has its own key facility. I hope that inquiries to date will come to fruition. It is important that we keep steelmaking in Newport. We are attracting thousands of jobs from across the United Kingdom, and a lot is happening due to a partnership between the Assembly Government, the city council and others, but we cannot afford to lose quality manufacturing jobs in Wales, let alone in Newport. Those working at Alphasteel are not just from Newport; they come from

briodol wrth i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad, y derbynwyr a'r undebau llafur weithio gyda'i gilydd er budd Casnewydd a'i chymuned. Yr ydych yn llygad eich lle pan ydych yn dweud bod llawer o swyddi wedi'u colli yn y sector dur yn ystod y blynyddoedd blaenorol. Fel y dywedais yn gynharach wrth sôn am y penderfyniad hwn, mae'n eironig bod y cwmni hwn wedi methu er bod y diwydiant dur yn farchnad broffidiol ar hyn o bryd. Yr ydym yn gobeithio y gallwn gael canlyniad llwyddiannus, a byddwn yn dal i weithio cyn galeted ag y gallwn yn ystod y diwrnodau a'r wythnosau nesaf.

Rosemary Butler: Er bod gennym rywffaint o wybodaeth ynglŷn â'r hyn a oedd yn digwydd gyda'r cwmni hwn, yr oedd y newyddion ychydig cyn y Nadolig yn dal yn sioc ddychrynlyd i'r gweithlu. Fel sydd wedi cael ei ddweud yn barod, ni allwch ddychmygu adeg waeth o'r flwyddyn i glywed eich bod wedi colli eich gwaith. Mae'r gweithlu hwn wedi cael ei siomi gan reolwyr â meddylfryd amddiffynnol. Mae cymorth anhygoel wedi'i gynnig i'r cwmni dros y blynyddoedd, ac mae'r ffaith ei fod wedi llwyddo i anwybyddu'r cymorth hwnnw yn peri pryder. Mae'r gweithwyr yn gwerthfawrogi'r ymdrechion i'w helpu, y cyngor a'r cymorth a roddwyd iddynt, y ffaith bod y taliadau diswyddo wedi cael eu talu'n gyflym, a'r ffaith y bydd adeilad ar safle Orb yn ganolfan gynghori am ychydig wythnosau. Credaf fod y gweithwyr yn gwerthfawrogi bod cymaint ag sy'n bosibl yn cael ei wneud i'w helpu. Fodd bynnag, fel y dywedodd William Graham, mae pryder ynglŷn â phensiynau. Byddwn i, ac Aelodau eraill o'r rhanbarth sydd wedi siarad, yn falch pe gallech adael inni wybod beth fydd yn digwydd gyda'r pensiynau.

Mae'r safle ei hun yn safle ardderchog; mae'n unigryw. Fel y dywedasoch, mae ganddo'i gyfleuster allweddol ei hun. Yr wyf yn gobeithio y bydd yr ymholiadau sydd wedi cael eu gwneud hyd yn hyn yn dwyn ffrwyth. Mae'n bwysig inni gadw gwaith cynhyrchu dur yng Nghasnewydd. Yr ydym yn denu miloedd o swyddi o bob cwr o'r Deyrnas Unedig, ac mae llawer yn digwydd o ganlyniad i bartneriaeth rhwng Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, cyngor y ddinas ac eraill, ond ni allwn fforddio colli swyddi gweithgynhyrchu

Cardiff, Bristol, Ebbw Vale and right across the board. We have a loyal, well-trained workforce, which must not be lost. I thank you for your efforts, which, hopefully, will come to fruition. I hope that other companies in Wales will appreciate the Welsh Assembly Government's efforts in ensuring that we keep quality jobs in Newport.

The Deputy First Minister: I fully concur with the view that, whatever the rumours that might be flying around beforehand, a decision such as this is obviously a tremendous shock to the workforce. I sympathised with the workforce fully at the time and I continue to do so. As you said, the way in which decisions about advice, redundancy payments and so forth were quickly made is much appreciated. I think that the workforce welcomed that. The other point, as you said, is that we must ensure that we keep our eye on the other ball, which is to try to retain steelmaking in Newport.

Any information that I get on the pensions issue will be copied to you and to other Members who have raised the issue today. I re-emphasise the point about the site's potential; you made the point and it was emphasised in the statement. You made clear that these facilities are capable of delivering first-class steel production and, in addition, can offer a number of other incentives to potential buyers. When we get an opportunity, as I hope that we will in due course, to make contact with potential purchasers, we will want to make clear to them not only that the workforce is excellent, but that the potential for the site is also enormous.

Your point about the fact that Alphasteel provided employment not just to people living in Newport but also from the surrounding area was well made. If you have as many as 400 people working at the plant, the likelihood is that they would come from the surrounding areas too. Therefore, this is

da yng Nghymru, heb sôn am Gasnewydd. Nid o Gasnewydd yn unig y mae'r rhai sy'n gweithio yn Alphasteel yn dod; maent yn dod o Gaerdydd, Bryste, Glynebwy a llawer o leoedd eraill. Mae gennym weithlu teyrngar sydd wedi'i hyfforddi'n dda, ac nid ydym am ei golli. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar ichi am eich ymdrechion, a gobeithiaf y byddant yn dwyn ffrwyth. Gobeithio y bydd cwmnïau eraill yng Nghymru'n gwerthfawrogi'r hyn y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n ei wneud er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn cadw swyddi da yng Nghasnewydd.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn cytuno'n llwyr â'r farn bod penderfyniad fel hwn, beth bynnag oedd y si ar led cyn iddo gael ei wneud, yn amlwg yn sioc ddychrynlyd i'r gweithlu. Yr oeddwn yn cydymdeimlo'n llwyr â'r gweithwyr ar y pryd ac yr wyf yn dal i gydymdeimlo â hwy. Fel y dywedaso, mae'r ffaith bod penderfyniadau yn ymwneud â chyngor, taliadau diswyddo ac yn y blaen wedi cael eu gwneud yn fuan yn cael ei gwerthfawrogi'n fawr. Credaf fod y gweithlu'n croesawu hynny. Y pwynt arall, fel y dywedaso, yw bod yn rhaid inni sicrhau ein bod yn cadw golwg ar y nod arall, sef ceisio cadw gwaith cynhyrchu dur yng Nghasnewydd.

Bydd unrhyw wybodaeth a gaf ynglŷn â mater pensiynau'n cael ei hanfon atoch chi ac at Aelodau eraill sydd wedi codi'r mater heddiw. Yr wyf yn ailbwysleisio'r pwynt ynglŷn â photensial y safle; codwyd y pwynt gennych chi a chafodd ei bwysleisio yn y datganiad. Eglurwyd gennych y gall y cyfleusterau hyn gynhyrchu dur o'r safon uchaf, ac y gallant hefyd gynnig nifer o gymhellion eraill i ddarparu brynwyr. Pan gawn gyfle i gysylltu â darpar brynwyr, fel yr wyf yn gobeithio y cawn maes o law, byddwn yn awyddus i'w gwneud yn glir iddynt nid yn unig fod yma weithlu rhagorol, ond hefyd fod gan y safle botensial aruthrol.

Cafodd eich pwynt ynglŷn â'r ffaith bod Alphasteel yn darparu gwaith nid yn unig i bobl Casnewydd ond hefyd i bobl o'r cyffiniau ei egluro'n dda. Os oes gennych gynifer â 400 o bobl yn gweithio ar y safle, y tebygolrwydd yw y byddent yn dod o'r cyffiniau hefyd. Felly, mae hyn yn golled i

not just a loss to Newport but also to other communities.

3.50 p.m.

Trish Law: You might wonder why I should rise to speak on a closure that has sadly taken place but which is 20 miles away from Blaenau Gwent. The reason is that between 30 and 40 of the 300 employees who were laid off before Christmas live in my constituency of Blaenau Gwent. I send my heartfelt sympathies to them and their families. There is no such thing as a good time to close a manufacturing plant, but to lose one's job just before Christmas is a misfortune too terrible for most of us even to contemplate.

I want to impress on the Welsh Assembly Government that closures such as those that we have experienced in recent times in places like Abergavenny, Cwmbran, and as far afield as Newport, have a knock-on effect in Blaenau Gwent and, I am sure, in other parts of the Gwent valleys. I want you to fully understand that, as if the many recent closures directly affecting Blaenau Gwent were not bad enough, closures elsewhere can, and invariably do, affect employees who live in Blaenau Gwent, exacerbating the unemployment picture in my constituency.

I note that every effort is being made by the administrator to sell the company, and I understand that there is a fair amount of interest in acquiring the business. Should the worst-case scenario arise, I hope that Alphasteel (UK) Ltd workers will be afforded the same degree of help as Corus employees have received in the past, which is over and above what is prescribed in the ReACT programme.

The Deputy First Minister: You have made the important point that Rosemary touched on earlier, namely that, because more than 400 people worked at this plant, the likelihood is that a number would have come from the surrounding areas, and you have confirmed that that is the case. You have indicated that up to 10 per cent of the employees working

gymunedau eraill yn ogystal â Chasnewydd.

Trish Law: Efallai eich bod yn meddwl pam y dylwn i godi i siarad am waith sydd wedi cau yn anffodus ond sydd 20 milltir o Flaenau Gwent. Y rheswm yw bod rhwng 30 a 40 o'r 300 o weithwyr a ddiswyddwyd cyn y Nadolig yn byw yn fy etholaeth i, sef Blaenau Gwent. Yr wyf yn cydymdeimlo'n fawr â'r gweithwyr hyn a'u teuluoedd. Nid oes y fath beth ag adeg dda i gau safle gweithgynhyrchu, ond mae colli'ch swydd ar drothwy'r Nadolig yn drychineb gwaeth nag y gallai'r rhan fwyaf ohonom ei ystyried hyd yn oed.

Yr wyf yn awyddus i roi ar ddeall i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru fod diswyddiadau fel y rhai a welsom yn ddiweddar mewn lleoedd fel y Fenni, Cwmbrân, a chyn belled â Chasnewydd, yn cael effaith ganlyniadol ym Mlaenau Gwent ac, mae'n siŵr, mewn rhannau eraill o gymoedd Gwent. Yr wyf am ichi ddeall yn iawn, fel pe na bai'r diswyddiadau niferus sydd wedi effeithio ar Flaenau Gwent yn ddiweddar yn ddigon drwg, y gall diswyddiadau mewn lleoedd eraill effeithio ar weithwyr sy'n byw ym Mlaenau Gwent, a bod hynny'n digwydd fel rheol, a'i fod yn ychwanegu at broblem diweithdra yn fy etholaeth.

Yr wyf yn sylwi bod y gweinyddwr yn gwneud ei orau i werthu'r cwmni, a deallaf fod cryn dipyn o ddiddordeb mewn prynu'r busnes. Petaem yn wynebu'r sefyllfa waethaf, byddwn yn gobeithio y byddai gweithwyr Alphasteel (UK) Cyf yn cael cymaint o gymorth ag y mae gweithwyr Corus wedi'i gael yn y gorffennol, sy'n fwy na'r hyn sydd yn rhaglen ReACT.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yr ydych wedi gwneud y pwynt pwysig y soniwyd amdano gan Rosemary yn gynharach, sef ei bod yn debygol, gan fod dros 400 o bobl yn gweithio yn y gwaith hwn, y byddai llawer yn dod o'r cyffiniau, ac yr ydych wedi cadarnhau bod hynny'n wir. Yr ydych wedi dweud bod hyd at 10 y cant o'r gweithwyr a oedd yn

there just before the company went into administration came from Blaenau Gwent and, in that case, you have a particular and vital interest in this. You have also reiterated that the timing of this announcement could not have come at a worse time.

Currently, the Assembly Government's efforts are directed at two areas. One is to assist the workforce in terms of redundancy payments. We will assist all the other agencies to ensure that whatever help can be given is given, working with the trade unions. The second is to try to secure a buyer for the plant. All our efforts need to be directed at those objectives. I would like to address the outcome that you mentioned that might arise should there be no purchaser, at that time.

gweithio yno cyn i'r cwmni gael ei roi yn nwylo'r gweinyddwyr yn dod o Flaenau Gwent ac, o ganlyniad, fod gennych ddiddordeb penodol a hanfodol yn hyn. Yr ydych hefyd wedi ailddatgan na allai'r cyhoeddiad hwn fod wedi'i wneud ar adeg waeth.

Ar hyn o bryd, mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn canolbwyntio ar ddau faes. Un yw cynorthwyo'r gweithlu gyda golwg ar daliadau diswyddo. Byddwn yn cynorthwyo'r holl asiantaethau eraill i sicrhau bod pa gymorth bynnag y gellir ei roi yn cael ei roi, ac yn gweithio gyda'r undebau llafur. Yr ail yw ceisio sicrhau prynwr i'r gwaith. Mae angen cyfeirio'n holl ymdrechion at yr amcanion hynny. Hoffwn roi sylw i'r sefyllfa y dywedasoeh y gallai godi pe na baem yn dod o hyd i brynwr, bryd hynny.

Pwynt o Drefn Point of Order

Brynle Williams: As a Conservative, I am flattered to hear that the Government will support our ideas on red tape in the debate tomorrow.

I raise a point of order. I appreciate all that the Minister, Elin Jones, is doing but I would have liked her to have brought her statement to the Chamber this afternoon, as it is a business day. The comments made at a farmers' breakfast this morning were gratefully received—I emphasise that—but I wish that they had come out here this afternoon.

Y Gweinidog dros Faterion Gwledig (Elin Jones): Ymhellach i'r pwynt o drefn hwnnw, dywedais mewn brechwast y bore yma fy mod yn bwriadu ystyried nifer o agweddau ar bolisi yn fy mhortffolio, gan gynnwys un y byddaf yn barod i ymhelaethu arni brynhawn yfory yn ystod dadl yn y Siambr.

Ni all yr un blaid wleidyddol hawlio monopoli ar y pwynt hwn. Yr wyf wedi bod yn Aelod etholedig yma ers wyth mlynedd ac yr wyf wedi clywed Aelodau o bob plaid yn dweud eu bod o'r farn y dylid lleihau biwrocratiaeth ym mhob maes. Fodd bynnag,

Brynle Williams: Fel Ceidwadwr, yr wyf yn falch iawn o glywed y bydd y Llywodraeth yn cefnogi'n syniadau ynglŷn â biwrocratiaeth yn y dadl yfory.

Codaf bwynt o drefn. Yr wyf yn gwerthfawrogi'r cyfan y mae'r Gweinidog, Elin Jones, yn ei wneud ond byddwn wedi hoffi ei gweld yn dod â'i datganiad i'r Siambr y prynhawn yma, gan ei bod yn ddiwrnod busnes. Cafodd y sylwadau a wnaethpwyd mewn brechwast i ffermwyr y bore yma eu croesawu—yr wyf yn pwysleisio hynny—ond byddwn wedi hoffi ei gweld yn eu gwneud yma y prynhawn yma.

The Minister for Rural Affairs (Elin Jones): Further to that point of order, I said at a breakfast this morning that I intended to consider several aspects of policy in my portfolio, including one that I will be happy to expand upon tomorrow afternoon during a Plenary debate.

No one political party can claim a monopoly on this point. I have been an elected Member here for eight years and I have heard Members from all parties state that they think that bureaucracy should be reduced in all areas. However, I will be happy to expand on

byddaf yn barod i ymhelaethu ar y mater hwn yn y Siambr brynhawn yfory. [*Torri ar draws.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order. I have already had to have a few words with the Conservative frontbench about the volume of their interruptions. I heard the Minister say that she will deal with this issue tomorrow. However, of course, it is part of my responsibility, in my position, to guard the interests of the Assembly. I will at all times insist, as those who have been Ministers under my—I was about to say ‘presidency’, but that is the wrong word [*Laughter.*]. Those who have been Ministers during my time presiding will know that I always insist that Ministers come here to make statements. It appears that the Minister is open to be questioned on this matter in debate tomorrow, so, it seems to me that, if Brynle can wink at me, honour is satisfied on both sides.

this matter in the Chamber tomorrow afternoon. [*Interruption.*]

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Yr wyf wedi gorfod cael gair â mainc flaen y Ceidwadwyr yn barod ynglŷn â’u hymyriadau swnllyd. Clywais y Gweinidog yn dweud y bydd yn ymdrin â’r mater hwn yfory. Fodd bynnag, wrth gwrs, rhan o’m cyfrifoldeb, yn rhinwedd fy swydd, yw gwarchod buddiannau’r Cynulliad. Byddaf yn mynnu bob amser, fel y mae’r rhai sydd wedi bod yn Weinidogion dan fy—yr oeddwn ar fin dweud ‘llywyddiaeth’, ond nid hwnnw yw’r gair cywir [*Chwerthin.*]. Bydd y rhai sydd wedi bod yn Weinidogion yn ystod fy nghyfnod fel llywydd yn gwybod fy mod bob amser yn mynnu bod Gweinidogion yn dod yma i wneud datganiadau. Ymddengys fod y Gweinidog yn fodlon cael ei chwestiynu ar y mater hwn yn y ddadl yfory, felly, hyd y gwelaf, os gall Brynle roi winc imi, dylai’r ddwy ochr fod yn fodlon.

Datganiad Deddfwriaethol am y Cynigion ar gyfer Mesur Dysgu a Sgiliau (Cymru) 2008

Legislative Statement on Proposals for Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2008

The Deputy Minister for Skills (John Griffiths): Today is an important milestone in the implementation of our distinctive and groundbreaking policy for 14 to 19-year-olds—the 14-19 learning pathways. It is entirely appropriate that one of the first Assembly Measures should be concerned with the implementation of a policy that has been developed from the experience and expertise of practitioners from every relevant sector in Wales to meet the needs of young people. With that, I announce the publication of draft proposals for the Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2008.

Learning pathways have featured regularly in Education and Lifelong Learning Committee meetings and in Plenary debates, and the guidance has developed since 2002. The draft proposals I propose today underpin that policy, and they will assist in ensuring that all young learners have a better and a wider choice than is currently the case. This will promote equality of opportunity. The process has been a transparent one from the

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Sgiliau (John Griffiths): Mae heddiw’n garreg filltir bwysig yn y broses o weithredu’n polisi arbennig ac arloesol ar gyfer pobl ifanc 14 i 19 oed—y llwybrau dysgu 14-19. Mae’n gwbl briodol bod un o Fesurau cyntaf y Cynulliad yn ymwneud â gweithredu polisi sydd wedi cael ei ddatblygu o brofiad ac arbenigedd ymarferwyr o bob sector perthnasol yng Nghymru er mwyn diwallu anghenion pobl ifanc. Gyda hynny, yr wyf yn datgan bod cynigion drafft yn cael eu cyhoeddi ar gyfer Mesur Dysgu a Sgiliau (Cymru) 2008.

Mae llwybrau dysgu wedi cael eu trafod yn rheolaidd yng nghyfarfodydd y Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes ac mewn dadleuon yn y Cyfarfod Llawn, ac mae’r canllawiau wedi datblygu ers 2002. Mae’r cynigion drafft yr wyf yn eu cynnig heddiw yn ategu’r polisi hwnnw, a byddant yn helpu i sicrhau bod pob dysgwr ifanc yn cael dewis gwell ac ehangach nag sydd ar gael ar hyn o bryd. Bydd hyn yn hybu cyfle cyfartal. Mae’r

beginning, with a wide range of working groups building on the best practice of what works for learners in Wales. These working groups have involved representatives from all relevant sectors. Each of these representatives was mandated in turn to consult their colleagues in ensuring that the proposals were, at the same time, firmly based on evidence of good practice and sufficiently aspirational to secure world-class provision for Wales's young people. I firmly believe that the proposals contained in this Assembly Measure have the potential to achieve this. The 14-19 learning pathways consist of six key elements that, in combination, are sufficiently flexible to meet the needs of all our learners. The six key elements are: an individual learning pathway; a wide choice of high-quality options; a learning core; learning coach support; access to personal support; and improved impartial specialist careers information, advice and guidance.

Among the most distinctive aspects of 14-19 learning pathways is the attention to wider learning; a theme that is prevalent through the development of the Welsh baccalaureate. This will recognise the enhanced experiences that many of our most advantaged learners enjoy, and it will also secure enhanced experiences for those who may be less fortunate, enabling them to gain the skills, attitudes and values that they need to achieve their potential. The development of such skills, including basic skills, will assist in generating higher participation and attainment. It is an egalitarian policy approach that will address underachievement in all our communities.

The 14-19 networks, based on each local authority area and involving partners from all sectors, are already working hard to implement 14-19 learning pathways.

4.00 p.m.

A total of £32.5 million has been made available this year to support the implementation of the policy. Should the proposals for this learning and skills Measure go forward, they will ensure that 14-19 learning pathways will be available equitably

broes wedi bod yn un dryloyw o'r dechrau, gydag ystod eang o weithgorau'n adeiladu ar arferion gorau'r hyn sy'n gweithio i ddysgwyr yng Nghymru. Mae'r gweithgorau hyn wedi cynnwys cynrychiolwyr o bob sector perthnasol. Gofynnwyd i bob un o'r cynrychiolwyr hyn yn ei dro ymgynghori â'i gydweithwyr er mwyn sicrhau bod y cynigion, yr un pryd, wedi'u seilio'n gadarn ar dystiolaeth o arferion da a'u bod yn ddigon uchelgeisiol i sicrhau darpariaeth o'r safon uchaf i bobl ifanc Cymru. Yr wyf yn credu'n gryf fod y cynigion sydd yn y Mesur Cynulliad hwn yn meddu ar y potensial i gyflawni hyn. Mae'r llwybrau dysgu 14-19 yn cynnwys chwe phrif elfen sydd, gyda'i gilydd, yn ddigon hyblyg i ddiwallu anghenion ein holl ddysgwyr. Y chwe phrif elfen yw: llwybr dysgu unigol; dewis eang o opsiynau o safon uchel; craidd dysgu; cymorth anogwr dysgu; cyfle i gael cymorth personol; a gwybodaeth, cyngor a chanllawiau arbenigol, diduedd a gwell am yrfaeodd.

Un o'r agweddau mwyaf arbennig ar lwybrau dysgu 14-19 yw'r sylw i ddysgu ehangach; thema sydd wedi dod i'r amlwg drwy ddatblygu bagloriaeth Cymru. Bydd hyn yn cydnabod y profiadau gwell y bydd llawer o'n dysgwyr mwyaf breintiedig yn eu mwynhau, a bydd hefyd yn sicrhau gwell profiadau i'r rhai sydd efallai'n llai ffodus, gan eu galluogi i feithrin y sgiliau, yr agweddau a'r gwerthoedd y mae arnynt eu hangen er mwyn cyflawni eu potensial. Bydd datblygu sgiliau o'r fath, gan gynnwys sgiliau sylfaenol, yn helpu i gynyddu cyfranogiad a gwella cyrhaeddiad. Mae'n bolisi egalitaraidd a fydd yn rhoi sylw i dangyflawni ym mhob un o'n cymunedau.

Mae'r rhwydweithiau 14-19, sy'n seiliedig ar bob ardal awdurdod lleol ac sy'n cynnwys partneriaid o bob sector, eisoes yn gweithio'n galed er mwyn gweithredu llwybrau dysgu 14-19.

Mae £32.5 miliwn wedi cael ei ddarparu eleni i helpu i weithredu'r polisi hwn. Pe bai'r cynigion ar gyfer y Mesur dysgu a sgiliau hwn yn mynd rhagddynt, byddant yn sicrhau y bydd llwybrau dysgu 14-19 ar gael yn deg ar draws Cymru, drwy bennu hawl i

across Wales, by setting out an entitlement to learning provision and to learning and personal support.

This Measure will also place a duty on schools, further education institutions, and local authorities to co-operate with each other, and other partners, as a means to secure learners' entitlements to the wide-ranging local curriculum. We will use our funding and contractual arrangements with training providers to place similar duties on them in ensuring that all learners can access their entitlements. The proposals also recognise the important co-ordinating role played by local authorities in implementing learning pathways and 'Extending Entitlement'.

The 14-19 learning pathways set out to create a continuous and coherent phase of learning, which recognises the considerable developments and changes that happen to learners over this period in their lives. They set out to encourage all young people to access education and training, and to remain in learning post 16. I believe that our proposals, including our unique blend of support mechanisms, will be effective in securing participation on a voluntary basis.

The proposals that I am announcing today will be backed by powers to make regulations, give directions and issue guidance that will add to the existing 14-19 learning pathways guidance, and which will support the implementation of the Measure. In summary, the draft of the Measure will underpin the implementation of 14-19 learning pathways to secure equality of opportunity for 14-19 learners in Wales; secure learners' entitlement to select from a wide range of courses of study, including academic and vocational options, and with all five domains of learning available; and provide a regulation-making power to define the range of options to be made available to meet learners' entitlements.

Regulations will be introduced to set out the detail of learners' entitlement to select courses of study that contribute to the formal strand of an individual learning pathway. These will set out the minimum number of courses to be made available, and the number

ddarpariaeth ddysgu ac i gymorth dysgu a chymorth personol.

Bydd y Mesur hwn hefyd yn rhoi dyletswydd ar ysgolion, sefydliadau addysg bellach, ac awdurdodau lleol i gydweithredu â'i gilydd, ac â phartneriaid eraill, fel ffordd o sicrhau hawl dysgwyr i'r cwricwlwm lleol eang ei gwmpas. Byddwn yn defnyddio ein trefniadau cyllido a chontractio gyda darparwyr hyfforddiant i roi dyletswyddau cyffelyb arnynt hwythau i sicrhau bod pob dysgwr yn gallu manteisio ar ei hawliau. Mae'r cynigion hefyd yn cydnabod y rôl bwysig sydd gan awdurdodau lleol o ran cyd-drefnu wrth roi llwybrau dysgu ar waith ac 'Ymestyn Hawliau'.

Nod y llwybrau dysgu 14-19 yw creu cyfnod dysgu cydlynol a pharhaus, sy'n cydnabod y datblygiadau a'r newidiadau sylweddol sy'n digwydd i ddysgwyr yn ystod y cyfnod hwn yn eu bywydau. Eu nod yw annog pob person ifanc i fanteisio ar addysg a hyfforddiant, ac i aros ym myd addysg ar ôl 16 oed. Credaf y bydd ein cynigion, gan gynnwys ein cyfuniad unigryw o fecanweithiau cymorth, yn ffordd effeithiol o sicrhau cyfranogiad ar sail wirfoddol.

Yn gefn i'r cynigion yr wyf yn eu cyhoeddi heddiw bydd pwerau i wneud rheoliadau, i roi cyfarwyddiadau ac i gyhoeddi canllawiau a fydd yn ychwanegu at ganllawiau presennol y llwybrau dysgu 14-19, a byddant yn gymorth i weithredu'r Mesur. I grynhoi, bydd y Mesur yn ei ffurf ddrafft yn sylfaen er mwyn gweithredu'r llwybrau dysgu 14-19 i sicrhau cyfle cyfartal i ddysgwyr 14-19 yng Nghymru; sicrhau hawl dysgwyr i ddethol o blith ystod eang o gyrсияu, gan gynnwys opsiynau academaidd a galwedigaethol, a chyda phob un o'r pum parth dysgu ar gael; a byddant yn darparu pŵer i lunio rheoliadau i ddiffinio'r ystod o opsiynau a gaiff eu darparu er mwyn gwireddu hawliau dysgwyr.

Caiff rheoliadau eu cyflwyno i fanylu ar hawl dysgwyr i ddethol cyrsiau astudio sy'n cyfrannu at elfen ffurfiol llwybr dysgu unigol. Bydd y rhain yn pennu'r isafswm o gyrсияu y mae gofyn eu darparu, a faint o'r rhain a ddylai fod yn alwedigaethol eu natur.

of these that should be vocational in nature. We do not envisage that any single learning setting will be able to offer the full range of provision from 14 to 19. Therefore, the Measure includes a duty to consider co-operation with other learning settings to make the required number and range of options available.

On Welsh-medium provision, we will work closely with Welsh-medium and bilingual educators and trainers to ensure a programme of capacity building so that, year on year, more provision can be offered in a choice of languages. In 2008-09, pilot developments in vocational provision through the medium of Welsh are being undertaken across Wales.

To conclude, I trust that Members will study these proposals carefully. They will be the subject of extensive discussion with 14-19 networks, practitioners and young people. I believe that they will support and consolidate the significant developments that are already happening in Wales. This Measure will secure equality of opportunity for learners, raise the game for skills and qualifications in Wales, and support our social and economic growth.

Alun Cairns: I am grateful to the Minister for his statement today. I regret, as William Graham did in his questions to the Leader of the House, the timing of the publication; I received a copy quite late last night, and I have not had the opportunity to consider it in detail.

This document has been published only a few weeks after the publication of the Webb report. Quite obviously, the strategy within this proposed learning and skills Measure ties in very tightly with the Webb report as its principles are adopted within the draft of the Measure. It is important that the Webb report is given complete consideration by those who will be affected, particularly in sixth forms and further education institutions. What responses has the Minister received from FE institutions and headteachers and governing bodies of sixth forms on the implications of the Webb report? I find it amazing that you have the audacity to present such a Measure

Nid ydym yn rhagweld y bydd unrhyw sefydliad dysgu unigol yn gallu cynnig yr ystod lawn o ddarpariaeth o 14 i 19. Felly, mae'r Mesur yn cynnwys dyletswydd i ystyried cydweithredu â sefydliadau dysgu eraill i sicrhau bod y nifer a'r ystod sy'n ofynnol o opsiynau ar gael.

O ran darpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg, byddwn yn gweithio'n agos gydag addysgwyr a hyfforddwyr cyfrwng Cymraeg a dwyieithog i sicrhau rhaglen meithrin gallu fel y bydd modd cynnig rhagor o ddarpariaeth mewn dewis o ieithoedd o flwyddyn i flwyddyn. Yn 2008-09, mae datblygiadau peilot mewn darpariaeth alwedigaethol drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn cael eu rhoi ar waith ar draws Cymru.

I gloi, hyderaf y bydd yr Aelodau'n astudio'r cynigion hyn yn ofalus. Byddant yn destun trafodaeth helaeth gyda rhwydweithiau 14-19, ymarferwyr a phobl ifanc. Credaf y byddant yn cefnogi ac yn cyfnerthu'r datblygiadau sylweddol sydd eisoes yn digwydd yng Nghymru. Bydd y Mesur hwn yn sicrhau cyfle cyfartal i ddysgwyr, bydd yn codi lefel sgiliau a chymwysterau yng Nghymru, a bydd yn cefnogi ein twf cymdeithasol ac economaidd.

Alun Cairns: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r Gweinidog am ei ddatganiad heddiw. Yr wyf finnau, fel Wiliam Graham yn ei gwestiynau i Arweinydd y Tŷ, yn gresynu at amseriad y cyhoeddiad; yn weddol hwyr neithiwr y cefais gopi ohono, ac nid wyf wedi cael y cyfle i'w ystyried yn fanwl.

Cyhoeddwyd y ddogfen hon ychydig wythnosau'n unig ar ôl cyhoeddi adroddiad Webb. Yn gwbl amlwg, mae cysylltiad agos rhwng y strategaeth yn y Mesur dysgu a sgiliau arfaethedig hwn ac adroddiad Webb gan fod ei egwyddorion yn cael eu mabwysiadu yn y Mesur yn ei ffurf ddrafft. Mae'n bwysig i adroddiad Webb gael ei ystyried yn llwyr gan y rhai yr effeithir arnynt, yn enwedig yn y chweched dosbarth ac mewn sefydliadau addysg bellach. Pa ymatebion sydd wedi dod i law'r Gweinidog oddi wrth sefydliadau AB a phenaethiaid a chyrrff llywodraethu chweched dosbarth am oblygiadau adroddiad Webb? Yr wyf yn

so soon, as we now seem to be accepting the content of the Webb report as policy. I would have thought that the considered timetable for any Government would be to receive a report, to seek wider consultation and then to propose a debate in the Chamber so that the issues coming from the consultation can be discussed. That would then lead to Government policy being made. To present a Measure so soon after the publication of the Webb report seems to be quite a rushed move. I question the motivation and purpose behind rushing it through on this basis before having received full responses to a consultation.

My second point relates to the financial implications of the Measure. It seems that the money made available for the Measure is quite limited. After a quick glance, I am not overly impressed with how the cost and benefit implications and the detailed breakdown have been presented thus far. We can only assume that sixth forms in schools will be squeezed even further in the future and will be the subject of greater concern for Members, parents, teachers, headteachers and governing bodies. It is quite obvious that if many more extra choices are to be provided by sixth forms without any extra funding being allocated, the number of sixth forms will be reduced, there will be less choice and pupils may be forced to attend further education institutions even though they may wish to attend a sixth form. Schools will lose out on the added benefits further down in terms of the expertise that is kept in schools that have sixth forms. Those are the key issues that I would ask the Minister to respond to at this early stage. Will he categorically state that the Webb report is not up for negotiation and that it is now policy?

John Griffiths: I am rather puzzled by some of your comments. If you think that this Measure has suddenly been pulled out of a hat following the recent publication of the Webb report, you are completely and utterly wrong. There has been a clear direction of travel around 14-19 learning pathways for quite some time. Many important things have

synnu eich bod mor hy â chyhoeddi Mesur o'r fath mor fuan, oherwydd y mae'n ymddangos bellach ein bod yn derbyn cynnwys adroddiad Webb fel polisi. Byddwn wedi meddwl mai'r amserlen ddoeth i unrhyw Lywodraeth yw bod adroddiad yn dod i law, ei bod yn ymgynghori'n ehangach ac yna'n cynnig dadl yn y Siambr fel bod modd trafod y materion sy'n deillio o'r ymgynghoriad. Byddai hynny wedyn yn arwain at lunio polisi gan y Llywodraeth. Drwy gyflwyno Mesur mor fuan ar ôl cyhoeddi adroddiad Webb, mae'n ymddangos eich bod yn rhuthro. Yr wyf yn amheus o'r symbyliad a'r pwrpas sy'n peri ichi ruthro yn y fath fodd ar y sail hon cyn i'r ymatebion llawn i ymgynghoriad ddod i law.

Mae a wnelo fy ail bwynt â goblygiadau ariannol y Mesur. Mae'n ymddangos bod yr arian a ddarparwyd ar gyfer y Mesur yn bur gyfyngedig. Ar ôl cael cipolwg sydyn, nid wyf yn fodlon iawn ar sut y mae'r goblygiadau cost a budd a'r dadansoddiad manwl wedi cael eu cyflwyno hyd yma. Ni allwn ond tybio y bydd y chweched dosbarth mewn ysgolion yn cael ei wasgu ymhellach fyth yn y dyfodol ac y bydd yn destun mwy fyth o bryder i Aelodau, rhieni, athrawon, penaethiaid a chyrff llywodraethu. Mae'n ddigon amlwg, os oes llawer rhagor o ddewisiadau i gael eu darparu gan y chweched dosbarth heb i ddim arian ychwanegol gael ei ddyrannu, y bydd nifer y dosbarthiadau hynny'n gostwng, bydd llai o ddewis a chaiff disgyblion eu gorfodi efallai i fynychu sefydliadau addysg bellach er eu bod efallai am fynd i chweched dosbarth. Ni fydd ysgolion yn cael y manteision ychwanegol o ran yr arbenigedd sy'n cael ei gadw mewn ysgolion sydd â chweched dosbarth. Dyna'r materion allweddol y byddwn yn gofyn i'r Gweinidog ymateb iddynt yn gynnar fel hyn. A wnaiff ddatgan yn bendant nad rhywbeth sydd i'w drafod yw adroddiad Webb a'i fod bellach yn bolisi?

John Griffiths: Yr wyf wedi fy nrysu braidd gan rai o'ch sylwadau. Os ydych yn credu bod y Mesur hwn wedi cael ei dynnu o het yn sydyn ar ôl cyhoeddi adroddiad Webb yn ddiweddar, yr ydych yn gwbl anghywir. Mae symudiad clir o ran y llwybrau dysgu 14-19 ers cryn amser. Mae llawer o bethau pwysig wedi digwydd yn ddiweddar a bydd llawer o

happened recently and will happen this week, including this Measure going out to consultation today—it will go out to consultation. On Thursday, we have the launch of the skills and employment plan, and the Webb report, which is an independent report, was published recently. The direction of travel has been about widening choice for learners, tackling wasteful duplication and better co-operation among providers. This issue has been the subject of considerable debate in Plenary and the Enterprise and Learning Committee. It has also been the subject of guidance issued by the previous Welsh Assembly Government.

bethau pwysig yn digwydd yr wythnos hon, gan gynnwys mynd ati i ymgynghori ynghylch y Mesur hwn heddiw—bydd yn dod yn destun ymgynghori. Ddydd Iau, mae'r cynllun sgiliau a chyflogaeth yn cael ei gyhoeddi, a chafodd adroddiad Webb, sy'n adroddiad annibynnol, ei gyhoeddi'n ddiweddar. Hanfod y symudiad yw ehangu'r dewis i ddysgwyr, mynd i'r afael â dyblygu gwastraffus a gwell cydweithredu rhwng darparwyr. Mae'r mater hwn wedi bod yn destun trafod sylweddol yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ac yn y Pwyllgor Menter a Dysgu. Mae hefyd wedi bod yn destun canllawiau a gyhoeddwyd gan Lywodraeth flaenorol Cynulliad Cymru.

4.10 p.m.

I do not think that any of this should come as a surprise, and it would be completely wrong to think that this Measure has been produced suddenly to implement Webb. What we are seeing is a Measure that has been produced following a great deal of consensus building in the key sectors in Wales and that is the light in which it should properly be viewed. There is nothing audacious about it; it reflects long-standing and well-developed policy. When it comes to resource—[*Interruption.*]

Ni chredaf y dylai dim o hyn beri syndod, a byddai'n gwbl anghywir tybio bod y Mesur hwn wedi cael ei gynhyrchu'n sydyn er mewn rhoi Webb ar waith. Yr hyn yr ydym yn ei weld yw Mesur a gynhyrchwyd wedi llawer iawn o waith meithrin consensws yn y sectorau allweddol yng Nghymru ac yn y goleuni hwnnw y dylid yn briodol edrych arno. Nid oes dim yn hy yn ei gylch; mae'n adlewyrchu polisi datblygedig, sy'n bod ers tro. O droi at yr adnoddau—[*Torri ar draws.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order. Alun Cairns, this is the third time that I have had to ask you not to interrupt. You have had an opportunity to ask a series of questions and I must make it quite clear that the sanction that I have hung above the heads of some Members previously is that if Members will not desist from trying to interrupt while Ministers are responding or another Member is speaking, I will not call them and I do not mean just for that day.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Alun Cairns, dyma'r trydydd tro imi orfod gofyn ichi beidio â thorri ar draws. Yr ydych wedi cael cyfle i ofyn cyfres o gwestiynau a rhaid imi ei gwneud yn gwbl glir mai'r gosb yr wyf wedi ei bygwth i rai Aelodau o'r blaen yw, os na fydd yr Aelodau yn ymatal rhag ceisio torri ar draws tra mae Gweinidogion yn ymateb neu Aelod arall yn siarad, na fyddaf yn eu galw ac nid wyf yn golygu am y diwrnod hwnnw'n unig.

John Griffiths: Diolch, Lywydd. When it comes to resources, I mentioned in my speech that £32.5 million is available this year and is earmarked next year for the networks that take forward the learning pathways policy. Of course, that is important in terms of changing the way that provision is shaped. Next year, there will be an increase for those networks of between 30 per cent and 60 per cent, through that funding. Networks bring together all the key partners in taking the learning pathways forward, and

John Griffiths: Diolch, Lywydd. O droi at yr adnoddau, soniais yn fy araith fod £32.5 miliwn ar gael eleni ac wedi cael ei glustnodi y flwyddyn nesaf ar gyfer rhwydweithiau sy'n hyrwyddo'r polisi llwybrau dysgu. Wrth gwrs, mae hynny'n bwysig o safbwynt newid y ffordd y mae'r ddarpariaeth yn cael ei llunio. Y flwyddyn nesaf, bydd cynnydd i'r rhwydweithiau hynny o rhwng 30 y cant a 60 y cant, drwy'r cyllid hwnnw. Mae rhwydweithiau'n dod â'r holl bartneriaid allweddol ynghyd i hyrwyddo'r llwybrau

it is important to say that what those networks are increasingly doing is looking at the entire envelope of funding that is available for 14-19 education and training and how it can be better used. What we all want to see is much better use of the totality of resources around the agenda, an end of wasteful duplication, and the provision of much wider choice.

Janet Ryder: Thank you, Minister, for bringing forward this statement. The Minister is quite right when he says that it follows on from a lot of work that has already been done on the whole 14-19 agenda. We need to have a stringent debate on the recommendations that Adrian Webb put forward. If you look at what Webb recommended and at some of the issues that are brought forward in your statement, Minister, you could perhaps suggest that there may be a slight conflict in one or two areas and I think that we need to have a good debate on that. No change is now not an option; we have to seriously consider how we can improve the education of 14 to 19-year-olds given the series of results that we have been seeing year on year.

The move towards individual pathways is definitely the right one and we therefore need to encourage the development of individual support—career-wise and advice-wise, and everything else that goes along with that. We have to ensure, in this raft of options that is going to be made available, that those who favour an academic route are very well catered for as well as making sure that we increase the number of vocational options that are available to many people. The development of the Welsh baccalaureate should enable that to happen. Whenever you talk of changes of this nature, many concerns will be raised and I think that the Government needs to be ready to answer openly those concerns. You have already heard some of them being raised by the previous speaker.

It is not just the impact on the sixth form that the Government needs to consider, but the impact on the lower school as well. I hope that the Government is looking at the full impact that this could have on the entire

dysgu ac mae'n bwysig dweud mai'r hyn y mae'r rhwydweithiau hynny'n ei wneud fwyfwy yw edrych ar holl gwmpas y cyllid sydd ar gael i addysg a hyfforddiant 14-19 a sut y mae modd ei ddefnyddio'n well. Yr hyn y mae pawb ohonom am ei weld yw bod yr holl adnoddau ar gyfer yr agenda'n cael eu defnyddio'n well, rhoi terfyn ar ddyblygu gwastraffus, a darparu dewis llawer ehangach.

Janet Ryder: Diolch ichi, Weinidog, am gyflwyno'r datganiad hwn. Mae'r Gweinidog yn hollol iawn pan ddywed ei fod yn ddilyniant i lawer o waith sydd wedi cael ei wneud eisoes ar yr agenda 14-19 drwyddi draw. Mae angen inni gael dadl drylwyr ar yr argymhellion a gyflwynwyd gan Adrian Webb. Os edrychwch ar yr hyn a argymhellodd Webb ac ar rai o'r materion sy'n cael eu cyflwyno yn eich datganiad, Weinidog, gellid awgrymu efallai fod rhywfaint o wrthdaro mewn un neu ddau o feysydd a chredaf fod angen inni gael dadl dda am hynny. Nid yw newid dim yn opsiwn mwyach; rhaid inni ystyried o ddirif sut y gallwn wella addysg pobl ifanc 14 i 19 oed, o ystyried y gyfres o ganlyniadau yr ydym wedi eu gweld o flwyddyn i flwyddyn.

Y symudiad tuag at lwybrau unigol yw'r un iawn yn bendant ac mae angen felly inni annog datblygu cymorth unigol—o safbwynt gyrfa ac o safbwynt cyngor, a phopeth arall sy'n mynd law yn llaw â hynny. Rhaid inni sicrhau, yn y llu o opsiynau sy'n mynd i gael eu cynnig, fod darpariaeth dda iawn ar gyfer y rhai sy'n ffafrio llwybr academiaidd yn ogystal â gwneud yn siŵr ein bod yn cynyddu nifer yr opsiynau galwedigaethol sydd ar gael i lawer o bobl. Dylai datblygu bagloriaeth Cymru alluogi hynny i ddigwydd. Pa bryd bynnag yr ydych yn siarad am newidiadau o'r math hwn, caiff llawer o bryderon eu codi a chredaf fod angen i'r Llywodraeth fod yn barod i ateb y pryderon hynny yn agored. Yr ydych eisoes wedi clywed rhai ohonynt yn cael eu codi gan y siaradwr blaenorol.

Nid yr effaith ar y chweched dosbarth yw'r unig beth y mae angen i'r Llywodraeth ei ystyried, ond yr effaith ar yr ysgol iau hefyd. Gobeithiaf fod y Llywodraeth yn edrych ar yr holl effaith y gallai hyn ei chael ar y

education system. Extra funding is being made available, as you said, for the 14-19 areas, but I think that the Government seriously needs to consider the role of the lower school in this and how it is going to fund that lower school. I would like to know what the Government is doing to take that on as a serious issue. This will have implications for the whole of the education system and the whole pattern of education in Wales. We are taking a major step forward and we do need to have explored all the avenues, with all partners, and we need to be ready to change together because no change is no longer an option. We cannot stay as we are; we have to change for the sake of the pupils.

You make great play of equal access to opportunities, and yet we are all aware that there is hardly any access at all to Welsh-medium education, training courses or work-based training in further education colleges. I appreciate what the Deputy Minister says regarding the pilot studies under way, but I would rather see a strategy alongside those addressing how the Government will definitely develop Welsh-medium provision. If we are to provide true equality in access, the Government has to enable those students who wish to study through the medium of Welsh to do so. It is a natural consequence of taking the direction that we are taking.

A number of areas need further consideration, and I look forward to reading the consultation responses as they come in. I hope that everyone takes this with an open mind, and places the needs of students first and foremost. We have the groundwork to build on, and there are a number of hurdles on the way, but I am sure that the Government will consider those as we move forward.

John Griffiths: Thank you, Janet, for the welcome and for the recognition that we need to change. This Measure and the other developments that we have seen in recent times take forward the sort of change that we need to see.

gyfundrefn addysg yn gyfan gwbl. Mae cyllid ychwanegol yn cael ei ddarparu, fel y dywedasoch, ar gyfer y meysydd 14-19, ond credaf fod angen i'r Llywodraeth ystyried rôl yr ysgol iau yn hyn o ddifrif, a sut y mae'n mynd i gyllido'r ysgol iau honno. Hoffwn wybod beth y mae'r Llywodraeth yn ei wneud i fynd i'r afael â hynny fel mater difrifol. Bydd i hyn oblygiadau i'r gyfundrefn addysg yn ei chyfanrwydd ac i holl batrwm addysg yng Nghymru. Yr ydym yn cymryd cam mawr ymlaen ac mae angen inni fod wedi archwilio pob llwybr, gyda phob partner, ac mae angen inni fod yn barod i newid gyda'n gilydd oherwydd nid yw newid dim yn opsiwn mwyach. Ni allwn aros fel yr ydym; rhaid inni newid er mwyn y disgyblion.

Cafwyd llawer o sôn gennych am fynediad cyfartal at gyfleoedd, ac eto yr ydym oll yn ymwybodol nad oes fawr ddim mynediad o gwbl at addysg, cyrsiau hyfforddi neu hyfforddiant seiliedig ar waith drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg mewn colegau addysg bellach. Yr wyf yn deall yr hyn a ddywed y Dirprwy Weinidog am yr astudiaethau peilot sydd ar y gweill, ond byddai'n well gennyf weld strategaeth ochr yn ochr â'r rheini sy'n rhoi sylw i sut y bydd y Llywodraeth yn cymryd camau pendant i ddatblygu darpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg. Os ydym i gynnig gwir gydraddoldeb o ran mynediad, rhaid i'r Llywodraeth alluogi'r myfyrwyr hynny sy'n dymuno cael eu haddysg drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg i wneud hynny. Mae'n ganlyniad naturiol o ddilyn y llwybr hwn.

Mae angen ystyried nifer o feysydd ymhellach, ac edrychaf ymlaen at ddarllen yr ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad wrth iddynt ddod i law. Yr wyf yn gobeithio y bydd pawb yn agored ei feddwl am hyn, ac yn rhoi anghenion myfyrwyr yn gyntaf ac yn flaenaf. Gallwn adeiladu ar y seiliau hyn, ac mae nifer o rwystrau ar y ffordd, ond yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd y Llywodraeth yn ystyried y rheini wrth inni symud ymlaen.

John Griffiths: Diolch ichi, Janet, am groesawu hyn ac am gydnabod bod angen inni newid. Mae'r Mesur hwn a'r datblygiadau eraill yr ydym wedi'u gweld yn ddiweddar yn fodd i hyrwyddo'r math o newid y mae angen inni ei weld.

I agree with you that we need a strong and thorough debate on the important work carried out by Adrian Webb and his team. It was an independent report, and it took evidence from across Wales. It was a thorough piece of work. When we launch our skills and employment strategy for consultation on Thursday, we expect and invite people to respond to it by including their views on Webb's proposals. I am sure that that is exactly what they will do. Coming out of all that, we will have an action plan that incorporates our response to the Webb review, along with our response to the skills and employment strategy consultation around the new powers that we have and everything else of relevance. Therefore, in effect, all of our policies for 14 to 19-year-olds and for skills and employment are contained in that action plan, which is important for understandability and coherence. We are in a significant and important time. I agree that we have to get the balance right between vocational and academic education. The Welsh baccalaureate is important in that regard, as are the changes that we talked about for 14 to 19-year-olds, which have an impact on pupils lower down in the school, namely those below the age of 14, which is only right.

Janet, on Welsh-medium education, what is true here is true across the piece in the delivery of public services in Wales. Until we are a truly bilingual society—and we have a strategy and policies in place to move towards that—for obvious reasons, it is simply not possible to deliver public services through the medium of Welsh as we would wish. However, we need to make strong and effective progress, and we are trying to do that for Welsh-medium provision in further education. That is why we have these pilot projects, and why there is dedicated funding. We are to have a secondee to the Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills of the Welsh Assembly Government to ensure that we make further progress on that front, and, of course, the bilingual unit is the key as far as that is concerned. However, we recognise that we

Yr wyf yn cyd-weld â chi fod arnom angen dadl rymus a thrwyadl ar y gwaith pwysig a wnaeth Adrian Webb a'i dîm. Yr oedd yn adroddiad annibynnol, a chymerodd dystiolaeth ym mhob rhan o Gymru. Yr oedd yn waith trylwyr. Pan fyddwn yn lansio ein strategaeth sgiliau a chyflogaeth ar gyfer ymgynghori ddydd Iau, byddwn yn disgwyl i bobl ymateb iddi drwy gynnwys eu barn am gynigion Webb, ac yr ydym yn eu gwahodd i wneud hynny. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddant yn gwneud yr union beth hwnnw. O ganlyniad i hynny i gyd, cawn gynllun gweithredu sy'n cynnwys ein hymateb i adolygiad Webb, ynghyd â'n hymateb i'r ymgynghoriad ar y strategaeth sgiliau a chyflogaeth mewn cysylltiad â'r pwerau newydd sydd gennym a phopeth arall sy'n berthnasol. Felly, i bob pwrpas, mae pob un o'n polisiau ar gyfer rhai rhwng 14 a 19 blwydd oed ac ar gyfer sgiliau a chyflogaeth wedi'u cynnwys yn y cynllun gweithredu hwnnw, ac mae hynny'n bwysig o ran bod yn ddealladwy ac yn gydllynol. Mae hyn yn gyfnod pwysig ac arwyddocaol. Yr wyf yn derbyn bod yn rhaid inni ddal y ddysgl yn wastad rhwng addysg alwedigaethol ac addysg academaidd. Mae bagloriaeth Cymru yn bwysig yn hynny o beth, fel y mae'r newidiadau y soniasom amdanynt ar gyfer rhai rhwng 14 a 19 blwydd oed, sy'n effeithio ar ddisgyblion iau yn yr ysgol, sef rhai dan 14 oed, ac mae hynny'n gwbl briodol.

Janet, ynghylch addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg, mae'r hyn a welir yma'n wir yn gyffredinol am gyflenwi gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru. Nes byddwn yn gymdeithas wirioneddol ddwyieithog—ac mae gennym strategaeth a pholisiau sydd ar waith i symud tuag at hynny—am resymau amlwg, nid oes modd cyflenwi gwasanaethau cyhoeddus drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg fel y dymunem. Er hynny, mae angen inni wneud cynnydd pendant ac effeithiol, ac yr ydym yn ceisio gwneud hynny er mwyn cael darpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg mewn addysg bellach. Dyna pam y mae'r prosiectau peilot hyn gennym, a dyna pam y mae cyllid wedi'i neilltuo. Byddwn yn cael rhywun ar secondiad yn yr Adran Plant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau yn Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i sicrhau ein bod yn gwneud mwy o gynnydd yn y maes hwnnw,

need to make further progress, and we are committed to doing so.

4.20 p.m.

David Melding: I am slightly surprised to learn that the Government's response to Leitch/Webb will be made on Thursday, which is a day on which the Assembly in Plenary will not be sitting. It is a hugely significant policy announcement that you will make on Thursday. The response to Leitch has been long postponed. It is absolutely central to driving up our skills levels between now and 2020. It sets out some formidable challenges and, if we do not meet them, we will not have a healthy economy or a healthy and prosperous workforce. Therefore, I am disappointed that we will have to wait until next week, presumably, before we get any whiff of scrutiny in the Assembly of what is probably one of the most important policy statements that will be made in the third Assembly.

I now turn to the proposed Measure. In abstract, publishing a draft version for consultation is a good process, so I say that to be constructive on that point. You now need to work hard on the consultation between now and 29 April. I have not had a chance to read the consultation on the Measure thoroughly yet, because my office received it only at 12.30 p.m. today. However, I will read it thoroughly. What I have read so far is enough to tell me that it is pretty tough meat. You do not need to eat the whole cow to know that the steak is a bit chewy. Some people will find it difficult to engage in this consultation if we are not careful. For example, point 2 on page 2 has the heading,

'Wider choice and flexibility from a collaborative options menu'.

I was intrigued as to what that might mean, so I read on.

'The options menu for each learner, referred to in this Measure as the local curriculum'.

ac, wrth gwrs, yr uned ddwyieithog yw'r allwedd yn hynny o beth. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym yn derbyn bod angen inni wneud mwy o gynnydd, ac yr ydym wedi ymrwymo i wneud hynny.

David Melding: Yr wyf yn synnu braidd o ddeall y bydd y Llywodraeth yn ymateb i argymhellion Leitch a Webb ddydd Iau, sy'n ddiwrnod pan na fydd Cyfarfod Llawn o'r Cynulliad. Bydd y cyhoeddiad ar bolisi a wnewch ddydd Iau'n un pwysig dros ben. Mae'r ymateb i adroddiad Leitch wedi'i ohirio ers amser maith. Mae'n hollbwysig ar gyfer codi ein lefelau sgiliau rhwng hyn a 2020. Mae'n cyflwyno rhai heriau pur fawr ac, os na fyddwn yn ymateb iddynt, ni fydd gennym nac economi iach na gweithlu iach a llewyrchus. Felly, yr wyf yn siomedig y bydd yn rhaid inni aros tan yr wythnos nesaf, mae'n debyg, cyn y cawn unrhyw graffu o gwbl yn y Cynulliad ar yr hyn sydd, yn ôl pob tebyg, yn un o'r datganiadau pwysicaf ar bolisi a wneir yn y trydydd Cynulliad.

Trof yn awr at y Mesur arfaethedig. Mewn egwyddor, mae cyhoeddi fersiwn ddrafft ar gyfer ymgynghori'n broses dda, felly dywedaf hynny er mwyn bod yn adeiladol ar y pwynt hwnnw. Mae angen ichi weithio'n galed yn awr ar yr ymgynghoriad rhwng hyn a 29 Ebrill. Nid wyf wedi cael cyfle i ddarllen y ddogfen ymgynghori ar y Mesur yn drwyadl eto, gan na chafodd fy swyddfa hi tan 12.30 p.m. heddiw. Fodd bynnag, fe'i darllenaf yn drwyadl. Mae'r hyn a ddarllenais hyd yma'n ddigon i ddangos i mi ei fod yn gig eithaf gwydn. Nid oes angen ichi fwyta'r fuwch gyfan i wybod bod y stecen braidd yn anodd ei chnoi. Bydd rhai pobl yn ei chael yn anodd cymryd rhan yn yr ymgynghoriad hwn os na fyddwn yn ofalus. Er enghraifft, mae pwynt 2 ar dudalen 2 yn dwyn y pennawd,

Dewis ehangach a hyblygrwydd o ddewislen o ddewisiadau cydweithredol.

Yr oedd yn benbleth i mi beth y gallai hynny ei olygu, felly darllenais ymlaen.

Mae'r ddewislen o ddewisiadau ar gyfer pob dysgwyr, y cyfeirir ati yn y Mesur hwn fel y

cwricwlwm lleol.

I am fascinated to see an options menu that is actually a curriculum. There are many references to domains and other abstract concepts. I know that, strategically speaking, it is difficult to organise a curriculum that has specialities that can be delivered only on a regional level, on a local level, or even on a specific college or school level. However, we should remember that technical language is evolving all the time. It seems to be the fashion to write this Measure from a human rights point of view, stating that pupils have an entitlement. That is fine. As a way of doing it, it is coherent to some extent. However, it leads to some difficulty in understanding. That part of the consultation reads in full as follows.

‘The option menu for each learner, referred to in this Measure as the local curriculum, reflects their entitlement to a choice of programmes of study leading to qualifications from the wide range set out in the Approved List under section 99 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000.’

We are expecting a wide range of people, including employers, to respond to this consultation. I am not sure whether anyone reading that or the explanatory memorandum to the Measure would really know to what they refer. There are some references to the private sector and to the need for it and employers in general to be involved in training and to provide some training. I hope that that agenda will be taken forward enthusiastically in the spirit of the Leitch review. I am not convinced that it is quite there yet, but some references are made to it. Perhaps they will be strengthened in response to the consultation.

Finally, section 4 of the document, which is the list of consultation questions, makes no reference to what employers think is necessary in developing vocational skills. That is in danger of sending out a clear, albeit inadvertent, message to employers that they are not involved closely in this consultation, which would be a great pity.

Yr wyf yn ei chael yn ddiddorol iawn gweld dewislen o ddewisiadau sy'n gwricwlwm mewn gwirionedd. Mae llawer o gyfeiriadau at barthau a chysyniadau haniaethol eraill. Yr wyf yn gwybod, a siarad yn strategol, ei bod yn anodd trefnu cwricwlwm sydd ag arbenigaethau na ellir ond eu darparu ar lefel ranbarthol, ar lefel leol, neu hyd yn oed ar lefel coleg neu ysgol benodol. Er hynny, dylem gofio bod geiriau technegol yn datblygu drwy'r amser. Mae'n ymddangos mai'r ffasiwn yw ysgrifennu'r Mesur hwn o safbwynt hawliau dynol, gan ddatgan bod hawl gan ddisgyblion. Mae hynny'n burion. Mae'n ddull cydlynol i ryw raddau. Er hynny, mae'n ei wneud yn anodd ei ddeall braidd. Mae'r rhan honno o'r ddogfen ymgynghori, yn llawn, fel a ganlyn.

Mae'r ddewislen o ddewisiadau ar gyfer pob dysgwr, y cyfeirir ati yn y Mesur hwn fel y cwricwlwm lleol, yn adlewyrchu eu hawl i ddewis o raglenni astudio sy'n arwain at gymwysterau o'r ystod eang a gyflwynwyd yn y Rhestr Gymeradwy o dan adran 99 o Ddeddf Dysgu a Sgiliau 2000.

Yr ydym yn disgwyl cael ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad hwn gan lawer math o bobl, gan gynnwys cyflogwyr. Nid wyf yn sicr a fyddai unrhyw un sy'n darllen hynny neu'r memorandwm esboniadol i'r Mesur yn gwybod yn iawn at beth y maent yn cyfeirio. Mae rhai cyfeiriadau at y sector preifat ac at yr angen i hwnnw ac i gyflogwyr yn gyffredinol gymryd rhan mewn hyfforddiant a darparu rhywfaint o hyfforddiant. Yr wyf yn gobeithio y caiff yr agenda honno ei hyrwyddo'n frwdfrydig yn unol ag adolygiad Leitch. Nid wyf wedi fy argyhoeddi bod hynny'n digwydd yn hollol hyd yma, ond mae rhai cyfeiriadau ati. Efallai y cânt eu cryfhau mewn ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad.

Yn olaf, nid oes dim cyfeiriad o gwbl yn adran 4 yn y ddogfen, sef y rhestr o gwestiynau ymgynghori, at yr hyn y mae cyflogwyr yn ei ystyried yn angenrheidiol wrth ddatblygu sgiliau galwedigaethol. Mae perygl i hynny gyfleu'n glir, er yn anfwriadol, i gyflogwyr nad oes rhan o bwys iddynt yn yr ymgynghoriad hwn, a byddai hynny'n drueni mawr.

John Griffiths: What you said about the importance of the Leitch and Webb reviews is true, and Thursday will be a significant day. I am sure that there will be robust and extensive scrutiny here in due course on these important developments. Thursday is seen more as a launch day for practitioners in the field, and as a chance to engage with the media and ensure that everyone who should be aware is made aware of the importance of this strategy and the fact that it has been launched for consultation.

The drafting of Measures is a technical art, inevitably. The explanatory memorandum—although I note that you are not particularly impressed with that, either—and the narrative go some way towards making the Measure more accessible. I certainly hope that that is the case.

What you said about the private sector is important, David. We are very keen to engage with the private sector, as it has a huge role to play in all this, both in shaping the training and education that is provided, and in delivering some of it. We certainly want to ensure that there is no lack of commitment to engage effectively and properly with the private sector. That is very much the spirit in which we will take this forward.

Jeff Cuthbert: I welcome the statement and the further advance that we are making in securing parity of esteem for vocational education and training, while also ensuring that those who wish to pursue an academic route are given every opportunity to do so. During the earlier discussion on the business statement, Chris Franks referred to the scandal of the unacceptable numbers of young people who are leaving school with no, or next to no, qualifications. It is a scandal, and that alone should tell us that the current arrangements are not up to scratch when it comes to doing the business for younger people in Wales. We are not currently equipping them with the sorts of skills that they need to be successful in their adult lives, to move into full-time employment or self-employment.

John Griffiths: Mae'r hyn a ddywedasoch am bwysigrwydd adolygiadau Leitch a Webb yn wir, a bydd dydd Iau'n ddiwrnod pwysig. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd craffu manwl a chynhwysfawr yma gyda hyn ar y datblygiadau pwysig hyn. Mae dydd Iau'n cael ei ystyried yn fwy o ddiwrnod lansio ar gyfer ymarferwyr yn y maes, ac yn gyfle i ymgysylltu â'r cyfryngau a sicrhau bod pawb a ddylai wybod am bwysigrwydd y strategaeth hon yn cael gwybod am hynny ac am y ffaith ei bod wedi'i lansio ar gyfer ymgynghori.

Gwaith technegol yw drafftio Mesurau, yn anochel. Mae'r memorandwm esboniadol—er fy mod yn sylwi nad oes gennych ryw lawer o feddwl o hwnnw ychwaith—a'r naratif yn fodd i wneud y Mesur yn fwy hygyrch i ryw raddau. Yn sicr, yr wyf yn gobeithio bod hynny'n wir.

Mae'r hyn a ddywedasoch am y sector preifat yn bwysig, David. Yr ydym yn awyddus iawn i ymgysylltu â'r sector preifat, gan fod rôl bwysig iawn iddo yn hyn oll, o ran dylanwadu ar natur yr hyfforddiant a'r addysg a gynigir, ac o ran darparu rhywfaint ohono. Yn sicr, yr ydym am ofalu na fydd diffyg ymrwymiad o gwbl o ran ymgysylltu'n effeithiol ac yn briodol â'r sector preifat. Yn yr ysbryd hwnnw y byddwn yn mynd ati i wneud hyn.

Jeff Cuthbert: Croesawaf y datganiad a'r cynnydd pellach yr ydym yn ei wneud o ran sicrhau parch cydradd at addysg a hyfforddiant galwedigaethol, gan sicrhau hefyd fod y rhai sy'n dymuno dilyn llwybr academiaidd yn cael pob cyfle i wneud hynny. Yn ystod y drafodaeth gynharach ar y datganiad busnes, cyfeiriodd Chris Franks at warth y niferoedd annerbiniol o bobl iau sy'n gadael yr ysgol heb ddim cymwysterau neu heb fawr ddim cymwysterau. Mae'n warth, a dylai hynny fod yn ddigon i ddangos i ni nad yw'r trefniadau presennol cystal ag y dylent fod i ddiwallu anghenion pobl iau yng Nghymru. Ar hyn o bryd, nid ydym yn rhoi iddynt y mathau o sgiliau y mae arnynt eu hangen i lwyddo yn eu bywyd fel oedolion, i symud ymlaen i gyflogaeth neu hunangyflogaeth lawnamser.

Among the most significant of pathways is that of apprenticeships. I make no apology whatsoever for referring to the work of Sir Adrian Webb and some of the material in his report. He is absolutely right to make it clear that apprenticeships are an important pathway. It is critical that we do all that we can to boost their numbers. It is unfortunate that, although there is a growing number of people in apprenticeships in Wales, the numbers of those who are aged between 16 and 19 are relatively low when compared with figures in other parts of the UK. We have to bring about a change in attitude in that regard. I see the 14-19 pathways as critical to ensuring that young people are offered opportunities that are right for them, and which cover the range of needs of children of all abilities. The 14-19 pathways, in my view—and I trust that you agree, Deputy Minister—do not exist for the less able only, as remains the perception of some educationalists; they exist for children of all abilities, and we must ensure that we stress that important factor in the questionnaire in the consultation that is circulating.

One issue that has been raised, certainly by Webb—and it should come as no surprise to anyone, because we have discussed it many times—is the importance of key skills in the vocational agenda. Employers often complain that key skills are not taught in a contextualised fashion, and that the young people pursuing them, perhaps in a school environment, are not gathering the experiences and evidence that are necessarily relevant to life in the workplace. That is disappointing, because key skills are meant to be the cement that binds the world of education to the world of work. I hope that you will seek information about the accuracy of those views in the consultation, and to whether they relate to particular occupational areas more than others, so that we can learn from current practice. However, it is interesting to note that the way in which key skills are dealt with in the Welsh baccalaureate is generally regarded as a good model. That type of approach, linked with work-related education and entrepreneurship, is doing the business for young people, and that is a model that we will want to develop.

Finally, I agree with David Melding on the

Un o'r llwybrau pwysicaf yw prentisiaethau. Nid ymddiheuraf o gwbl am gyfeirio at waith Syr Adrian Webb a rhywfaint o'r deunydd yn ei adroddiad. Mae yn llygad ei le wrth egluro bod prentisiaethau'n cynnig llwybr pwysig. Mae'n hollbwysig inni wneud popeth a allwn i ychwanegu at eu niferoedd. Er bod y nifer sydd ar brentisiaethau yng Nghymru ar gynydd, mae'n anffodus bod niferoedd y rhai sydd rhwng 16 a 19 oed yn isel o'u cymharu â ffigurau ar gyfer rhannau eraill o'r DU. Rhaid inni beri newid agwedd yn hynny o beth. Credaf fod y llwybrau 14-19 yn hollbwysig i sicrhau bod pobl ifanc yn cael cynnig cyfleoedd sy'n addas iddynt, ac sy'n cwmpasu'r ystod o anghenion sydd gan blant o bob gallu. Yn fy marn i—a hyderaf eich bod yn derbyn hyn, Ddirprwy Weinidog—nid ar gyfer y rhai llai abl yn unig y mae'r llwybrau 14-19, fel y mae rhai addysgwyr yn tybio o hyd; maent ar gyfer plant o bob gallu, a rhaid inni sicrhau ein bod yn tynnu sylw at y ffactor pwysig hwnnw yn yr holiadur yn y ddogfen ymgynghori sy'n cael ei dosbarthu.

Un mater a godwyd, a hynny'n sicr gan Webb—ac ni ddylai beri syndod i neb, gan ein bod wedi'i drafod lawer gwaith—yw'r lle pwysig sydd i sgiliau allweddol yn yr agenda alwedigaethol. Mae cyflogwyr yn cwyno'n aml nad yw sgiliau allweddol yn cael eu haddysgu yn eu cyd-destun, ac nad yw'r bobl ifanc sy'n eu dilyn, yn amgylchedd yr ysgol o bosibl, yn cael profiadau a thystiolaeth sy'n berthnasol o anghenraid i fywyd yn y gweithle. Mae hynny'n siomedig, gan mai sgiliau allweddol yw'r hyn sydd i fod i gydasio byd addysg a byd gwaith. Yr wyf yn gobeithio y byddwch yn ceisio cael gwybodaeth am gywirdeb y farn honno drwy'r ymgynghoriad, ac yn canfod a yw'n ymwneud â rhai meysydd galwedigaethol yn fwy na'i gilydd, fel y gallwn ddysgu o'r arferion presennol. Fodd bynnag, mae'n ddiddorol nodi bod y modd y trafodir sgiliau allweddol ym magloriaeth Cymru'n cael ei ystyried yn batrwm da gan lawer. Mae dull gweithredu o'r fath, ynghyd ag addysg gysylltiedig â gwaith ac entrepreneuriaeth, yn diwallu anghenion pobl ifanc, a byddwn am ddatblygu'r model hwnnw.

Yn olaf, cytunaf â David Melding ynghylch

issue of employers. Turning to the same section of the consultation document as David Melding, the final paragraph of page 2 on the policy basis of the Measure talks of how,

‘Welsh Ministers have a duty to encourage individuals to actively participate in post 16 education and training and to encourage employers to participate in the provision of post 16 education and training’.

I agree absolutely with that, because they are key players in this partnership. Unless employers are actively engaged, I fear for the long-term success of the 14-19 pathways and the apprenticeship system that ought to follow and be linked in. Therefore, I urge you, as David has done, to ensure that employers, or their organisations, are fully engaged in this process and that the questions reflect the importance of employer engagement.

4.30 p.m.

John Griffiths: I know that you always take a great interest in this area. I have seen you at many of the events that I attend, including the one that was held yesterday evening, which demonstrates your interest.

We hear a great deal about parity of esteem, and for good reason. It is vital to this agenda, if we are to take vocational education forward as we wish. It must be central to this and I am sure that it will be. It was and is chastening to learn of the problems of youngsters leaving school without qualifications. It is a huge and ongoing problem, and one that has been difficult to address to the extent that we would wish. Our strategy for those not in education, employment or training is being developed apace, and we hope to publish it next month. That will be a big part of addressing that lack of attainment in general. We need to move that much more to centre stage, and I hope that the strategy will succeed in doing that. There is considerable work yet to be done, and what you say about that demonstrating the need for change is self-evidently right. It clearly shows that we need to make

mater cyflogwyr. Gan droi at yr un adran o'r ddogfen ymgynghori ag a wnaeth David Melding, mae'r paragraff olaf ar dudalen 2 ar sylfaen polisi'r Mesur yn dweud bod gan,

Weinidogion Cymru ddyletswydd i annog unigolion i gyfranogi'n weithredol mewn addysg a hyfforddiant ôl 16 ac i annog cyflogwyr i gyfranogi yn y gwaith o ddarparu addysg a hyfforddiant ôl 16.

Yr wyf yn cyd-weld yn llwyr â hynny, gan fod iddynt ran allweddol yn y bartneriaeth hon. Oni bai fod cyflogwyr yn cymryd rhan, pryderaf ynghylch llwyddiant hirdymor y llwybrau 14-19 a'r system brentisiaethau a ddylai eu dilyn a bod yn gysylltiedig â hwy. Felly, yr wyf yn eich annog, fel y gwnaeth David, i sicrhau bod cyflogwyr, neu'r cyrff y maent yn aelodau ohonynt, yn cymryd rhan yn llawn yn y broses hon a bod y cwestiynau'n adlewyrchu pwysigrwydd ymgysylltu â chyflogwyr.

John Griffiths: Gwn fod gennych ddiddordeb mawr yn y maes hwn bob amser. Yr wyf wedi eich gweld mewn llawer o'r digwyddiadau y byddaf yn eu mynychu, gan gynnwys yr un a gynhaliwyd neithiwr ac mae hynny'n brawf o'ch diddordeb.

Ceir llawer o sôn am barch cydradd, ac mae rheswm da dros hynny. Mae'n allweddol i'r agenda hon, os ydym am hyrwyddo addysg alwedigaethol fel yr ydym yn dymuno. Rhaid iddo fod yn ganolog i hyn ac yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd. Yr oedd yn sobreiddiol clywed am broblemau pobl ifanc sy'n ymadael â'r ysgol heb gymwysterau, ac mae'n sobreiddiol o hyd. Mae'n broblem enfawr a pharhaus, ac mae wedi bod yn anodd mynd i'r afael â hi i'r graddau y dymunem. Mae'r strategaeth sydd gennym ar gyfer y rhai nad ydynt mewn addysg, cyflogaeth a hyfforddiant yn cael ei datblygu'n gyflym, a gobeithiwn ei chyhoeddi y mis nesaf. Bydd hynny'n rhan fawr o fynd i'r afael â'r diffyg cyrhaeddiad hwnnw'n gyffredinol. Mae angen inni symud hynny'n nes at ganol y llwyfan, a gobeithiaf y llwydda'r strategaeth i wneud hynny. Mae gwaith mawr i'w wneud eto, ac mae'n amlwg bod yr hyn a ddywedwch ynglŷn â dangos yr

substantial and considerable changes, and that is what this Measure and the other policies and strategies that I have mentioned today are about. If we can take them forward effectively, we can have some confidence that we will make major inroads into the number of youngsters not achieving the qualifications, attainment levels and success in life that they should.

On apprenticeships, there is a great deal of agreement across Wales that it is important to increase the number of apprentices. We have already done so to quite an extent, but we need to build on that further. As you say, in terms of 16 to 19-year-olds, there is still some work to do, but that is an essential part of the pathway. The pathway is for all abilities, as you say, Jeff, and it is about key skills, and key skills contextualised in the workplace. Those skills are needed to enter into employment and to succeed in it. I expect the consultation to bring all of those issues to the fore. The Welsh baccalaureate is a good model, and it is increasingly successful and popular.

I agree with much of what David said about employers and also very much agree with what you said, Jeff. I expect the consultation to strongly highlight that area of concern. The consultation is designed to highlight any concerns, and, if that is the case, we will respond to it.

Kirsty Williams: I thank the Deputy Minister for his statement this afternoon, launching the Government's draft Measure. However, I find the timing of its publication slightly curious. Since the formation of the One Wales Government we have been told that we could not talk about the skills strategy, because it would be informed by the Webb review, that we could not have the Government's response to the Leitch review until we had the Webb review, and that those reviews would form the basis of the strategy. However, we have not yet heard the Government's response to the either the Webb or Leitch reviews, nor have we had the strategy, which we now understand will be published on Thursday. John said, in

angen am newid yn gywir. Mae'n dangos yn glir fod angen inni wneud newidiadau mawr a sylweddol, a dyna yw pwrpas y Mesur hwn a'r polisiau a'r strategaethau eraill a grybwyllais heddiw. Os gallwn eu hyrwyddo'n effeithiol, gallwn fod yn hyderus yr enillwn dir sylweddol o ran nifer y bobl ifanc nad ydynt yn cael y cymwysterau, y lefelau cyrhaeddiad a'r llwyddiant mewn bywyd fel y dylent.

O ran prentisiaethau, ceir llawer iawn o gytundeb ar draws Cymru ei bod yn bwysig cynyddu nifer y prentisiaethau. Yr ydym eisoes wedi gwneud hynny i raddau helaeth, ond mae angen gwneud mwy. Fel y dywedwch, o ran y rhai 16 hyd 19 oed, mae rhywfaint o waith i'w wneud o hyd, ond mae hynny'n rhan hanfodol o'r llwybr. Mae'r llwybr ar gyfer pob gallu, fel y dywedwch, Jeff, ac mae a wnelo â sgiliau allweddol, a sgiliau allweddol yng nghyd-destun y gweithle. Mae angen y sgiliau hynny i gael gwaith ac i lwyddo mewn gwaith. Disgwyliaf y bydd yr ymgynghori'n dod â'r materion hynny i gyd i'r wyneb. Mae bagloriaeth Cymru'n fodel da, ac mae'n fwyfwy llwyddiannus a phoblogaidd.

Yr wyf yn cytuno â llawer o'r hyn a ddywedodd David ynglŷn â chyflogwyr ac â llawer iawn o'r hyn a ddywedaso chithau, Jeff. Disgwyliaf i'r ymgynghori amlygu'r pryder hwnnw'n gryf. Mae'r ymgynghoriad i fod i amlygu unrhyw bryder, ac os bydd hynny'n digwydd, byddwn yn ymateb i hynny.

Kirsty Williams: Hoffwn ddiolch i'r Dirprwy Weinidog am ei ddatganiad y prynhawn yma, wrth lansio Mesur drafft y Llywodraeth. Fodd bynnag, credaf fod amseriad ei gyhoeddi'n rhyfedd braidd. Ers ffurfio Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un dywedwyd wrthym na allem sôn am y strategaeth sgiliau, oherwydd byddai adolygiad Webb yn sylfaen iddi, na allem gael ymateb y Llywodraeth i adolygiad Leitch nes byddem wedi cael adolygiad Webb, ac y byddai'r adolygiadau hynny'n sail i'r strategaeth. Fodd bynnag, nid ydym wedi clywed dim hyd yma ynglŷn ag ymateb y Llywodraeth i adolygiadau Webb na Leitch, ac nid ydym wedi cael y strategaeth chwaith, a deallwn bellach y caiff ei chyhoeddi ddydd Iau. Dywedodd John,

response to Janet Ryder, that he was seeking to promote understanding and coherence, but, in order to promote understanding and coherence, I would have thought that it would have made more sense to have had the Government's response to the Leitch and Webb reviews, then the publication of the strategy, and then to have the legislation arising from that strategy in order to deliver it. Instead, it is being done the other way around.

The Minister should not be surprised that the Webb review came along. He has stressed on several occasions that it is an independent report, but it was commissioned by your colleague, so it was hardly a punt on Sir Adrian Webb's behalf, kicking out something for the Government to respond to. I believe that the timing is confused. I can understand the Government's keenness to engage with the media on Thursday, in delivering the strategy to the media first; I only wish that it was as keen to engage with colleagues in the Assembly. When will the Minister come to the Chamber with a formal response to the Leitch and Webb reviews and their recommendations?

I do not fundamentally disagree with the aims that the Deputy Minister has set out, but he will be aware that entitlement is one thing, but turning that entitlement into a positive and practical manifestation is entirely different. We have a significant way to go in Wales to make that happen for our learners. The document talks of enabling, encouraging and supporting people to participate in post-16 education and training. Is the Deputy Minister therefore ruling out compulsory post-16 education and training, which is a policy that is currently being pursued by his Westminster colleagues?

Your statement is heavy on collaboration in delivering this agenda, Deputy Minister, but, as you will be aware, the Webb review pointed to a high level of unhelpful competition among Welsh institutions for learners, and that situation will potentially get worse in a scenario of falling rolls. Will the Deputy Minister set out how he intends to deal with the issue of competition for learners, and how he hopes to deliver this collaborative agenda within the context set

wrth ymateb i Janet Ryder, ei fod yn ceisio hybu dealltwriaeth a chydlyniaeth, ond, er mwyn hybu dealltwriaeth a chydlyniaeth, credwn y byddai'n llawer mwy synhwyrol pe caem ymateb y Llywodraeth i adolygiadau Leitch ac Webb, a chyhoeddi'r strategaeth wedi hynny, a'r ddeddfwriaeth yn codi yn sgîl y strategaeth honno er mwyn ei chyflawni. Yn hytrach, fe'i gwneir yn gwbl groes i hynny.

Ni ddylai'r Gweinidog synnu bod adolygiad Webb wedi digwydd. Mae wedi pwysleisio droeon mai adroddiad annibynnol ydyw, ond fe'i comisiynwyd gan eich cyd-Aelod, felly go brin mai gwthio'r cwch i'r dŵr ar ran Syr Adrian Webb ydoedd, gan greu rhywbeth i'r Llywodraeth ymateb iddo. Credaf fod yr amseru'n ddryslyd. Gallaf ddeall pam mae'r Llywodraeth yn awyddus i ymgysylltu â'r cyfryngau ddydd Iau, o ran cyflwyno'r strategaeth gerbron y cyfryngau yn gyntaf; o na bai yr mor awyddus i ymgysylltu â'i chyd-Aelodau yn y Cynulliad. Pryd y daw'r Gweinidog i'r Siambr i roi ymateb ffurfiol i adolygiadau Leitch a Webb a'u hargymhellion?

Nid wyf yn anghytuno'n sylfaenol â'r nodau y mae'r Dirprwy Weinidog wedi eu cyflwyno, ond gŵyr mai rhywbeth cwbl wahanol i hawl yw troi'r hawl honno'n rhywbeth cadarnhaol ac ymarferol. Mae llwybr hir o'n blaenau yng Nghymru cyn y gallwn sicrhau hynny i'n dysgwyr. Mae'r ddogfen yn sôn am alluogi, annog a chefnogi pobl i gyfranogi mewn addysg a hyfforddiant ôl-16. A yw'r Dirprwy Weinidog felly'n diystyru addysg a hyfforddiant gorfodol ôl-16, sy'n bolisi y mae ei gyd-aelodau yn San Steffan yn ei ddilyn ar hyn o bryd?

Ceir llawer o sôn yn eich datganiad am gydweithredu i gyflawni'r agenda hon, Ddirprwy Weinidog, ond, fel y gwyddoch, cyfeiriodd adolygiad Webb at y ffaith bod llawer iawn o gystadleuaeth ddi-fudd ymhlith sefydliadau Cymru am ddysgwyr, a gallai'r sefyllfa honno fynd yn waeth petai'r niferoedd yn gostwng. A wnaiff y Dirprwy Weinidog ddweud sut y mae'n bwriadu ymdrin â mater cystadleuaeth am ddysgwyr, a sut y mae'n gobeithio cyflawni'r agenda

out by the Webb review?

The document says that the lead role in developing and commissioning the local curriculum will be given to local education authorities. Is the Deputy Minister therefore ruling out the Webb review's recommendation of commissioning consortia and the cross-working of LEAs throughout Wales? To deliver a practical 14 to 19 agenda, the Webb review also recommended a new funding mechanism for post-14 education. Are you ruling out such a reform of post-14 funding, Deputy Minister? The Webb review also stated that a comprehensive 14 to 19 agenda could not be delivered without significant reconfiguration of the further education institutions in Wales. Will the Deputy Minister state whether he feels it necessary to reconfigure those institutions to deliver the measures that he sets out in the document?

The Deputy Minister was keen to stress equality of opportunity, and I commend him on that, but that goes beyond ensuring that pupils have the opportunity to learn in both English and Welsh. The document clearly states that individual institutions will no longer be the sole provider of an individual's learning experience, and that learners will probably have to learn on a variety of campuses to get the breadth of curriculum to which they will now be entitled. How does the Deputy Minister envisage this working in rural areas, where there could be considerable distances between institutions? Is there a guarantee that free transport will be provided to enable learners to travel between different campuses in order to have full choice, because that is not enshrined in the consultation draft of the Proposed Learner Travel (Wales) Measure that has previously come before the Assembly?

On the issue of employers, could you outline what mechanism employers will have to contribute to developing the national curriculum that the Assembly will set out, but, perhaps more importantly, the local curriculum? That is a key component if we are to give people the skills that they need to

gydweithrediadol hon o fewn y cyd-destun a osodwyd gan adolygiad Webb?

Dywedir yn y ddogfen y rhoddir rôl arweiniol o ran datblygu a chomisiynu'r cwricwlwm lleol i'r awdurdodau addysg lleol. A yw'r Dirprwy Weinidog felly'n diystyru argymhelliad adolygiad Webb ynghylch consortia comisiynu ac awdurdodau addysg lleol yn trawsweithio ledled Cymru? Er mwyn cyflawni agenda ymarferol o ran y rhai rhwng 14 a 19 oed, argymhellodd adolygiad Webb hefyd fecanwaith ariannu newydd ar gyfer addysg ôl-14. A ydych yn diystyru diwygiad o'r fath o ran ariannu ôl-14, Ddirprwy Weinidog? Dywedwyd hefyd yn adolygiad Webb na ellid cyflawni agenda 14 hyd 19 a fyddai'n gynhwysfawr heb ailgyflunio sefydliadau addysg bellach Cymru'n ddirfawr. A wnaiff y Dirprwy Weinidog ddatgan a yw'n credu bod angen ailgyflunio'r sefydliadau hynny er mwyn cyflawni'r mesurau y mae'n eu cyflwyno yn y ddogfen?

Yr oedd y Dirprwy Weinidog yn awyddus iawn i bwysleisio cyfle cyfartal, ac yr wyf yn ei ganmol am hynny, ond mae mwy i hynny na sicrhau bod gan ddisgyblion gyfle i ddysgu yn y Saesneg a'r Gymraeg. Dywedir yn glir yn y ddogfen nad sefydliadau unigol fydd unig ddarparwyr profiad dysgu unigolyn, a'i bod yn debygol y bydd yn rhaid i ddysgwyr ddysgu ar nifer o gampysau er mwyn cael y cwricwlwm eang y mae ganddynt bellach hawl iddo. Sut y mae'r Dirprwy Weinidog yn rhagweld y bydd hyn yn gweithio mewn ardaloedd gwledig, lle y gallai fod pellter mawr rhwng y sefydliadau? A oes sicrwydd y bydd trafniadaeth ar gael am ddim ar gyfer dysgwyr iddynt allu teithio rhwng gwahanol gampysau er mwyn cael dewis llawn, oherwydd nid yw hynny wedi ei bennu yn nrafft ymgynghori'r Mesur Arfaethedig ynghylch Teithio gan Ddysgwyr (Cymru) a fu gerbron y Cynulliad yn flaenorol?

Ynglŷn â chyflogwyr, a allech amlinellu pa fecanwaith a fydd ar gael i gyflogwyr gael cyfrannu at ddatblygu'r cwricwlwm cenedlaethol y bydd y Cynulliad yn ei osod, ond, yn bwysicach fyth o bosibl, y cwricwlwm lleol? Mae honno'n elfen allweddol os ydym am roi i bobl y sgiliau y

work in their local environment. Some pupils will want to go on to university and move out of their local environment, but others will need skills that are particularly relevant to the types of employment opportunities available in their locality. Employers will be key in setting out what those skills and qualifications need to be. Can you therefore outline what mechanisms will be available to employers?

4.40 p.m.

Finally, can you also outline how you intend to measure the outcomes of this particular Measure, and the quality of the training opportunities that will be provided? As I said, it is all very well enshrining an entitlement in a document, but if in reality that does not lead to high-quality educational and training experiences, then we will have failed.

A lot of that comes down to money, and there is scant detail in this documentation about the costs of delivery. The Deputy Minister will be aware of the huge pressure that many local authorities are already under. It is not just a matter of smarter distribution of the resources within individual education institutions. We will need considerable investment if we are to deliver on the coaching agenda and on access to additional help for learners. Will the Deputy Minister therefore give an indication of the money that he has ring-fenced for that particular aspect of the Measure?

John Griffiths: You raised many matters, Kirsty. If we take this forward effectively, it will be about better use of resources. That is why I said earlier that the networks taking forward the 14-19 learning pathways are looking at the total envelope of funding for education for 14 to 19-year-olds. If we achieve the sort of change that we are talking about—with less duplication, and better co-operation and collaboration—then that will obviously be a better use of money, and will deliver better outcomes. There will be ongoing evaluation, involving the kind of inspections that we are used to. We will be able to see whether improvements stem from the new co-operation and collaboration, from the wider choice that is available, from the better-quality support, the entitlement, and

mae arnynt eu hangen i weithio yn eu hamgylchedd lleol. Bydd rhai disgyblion am fynd i'r brifysgol a gadael eu hamgylchedd lleol, ond bydd angen sgiliau ar rai eraill sy'n arbennig o berthnasol i'r mathau o gyfleoedd o ran cyflogaeth sydd ar gael yn eu bröydd. Bydd cyflogwyr yn allweddol o ran pennu pa sgiliau a chymwysterau fydd y rheini. Felly a allwch amlinellu pa fecanweithiau a fydd ar gael i gyflogwyr?

Yn olaf, a allwch amlinellu hefyd sut yr ydych yn bwriadu cloriannu canlyniadau'r Mesur neilltuol hwn, a safon y cyfleoedd i gael hyfforddiant a ddarperir? Fel y dywedais, un peth yw gosod hawl mewn dogfen, ond oni fydd hynny'n arwain at brofiadau da yn y byd go iawn mewn addysg a hyfforddiant, yna byddwn wedi methu.

Diwedd y gân yw'r geiniog i raddau helaeth iawn, a phrin iawn yn y ddogfen hon yw manylion y costau sydd ynglŷn â chyflawni hyn. Gŵyr y Dirprwy Weinidog am y pwysau mawr sydd ar awdurdodau lleol eisoes. Nid mater o ddsbarthu'r adnoddau'n ddoethach yn unig ydyw o fewn sefydliadau addysg unigol. Bydd angen buddsoddiad sylweddol os ydym am gyflawni o ran yr agenda hyfforddiant a mynediad at help ychwanegol i ddysgwyr. A wnaiff y Dirprwy Weinidog roi syniad inni o'r arian y mae wedi ei neilltuo ar gyfer yr agwedd honno ar y Mesur?

John Griffiths: Codosoch lawer o faterion, Kirsty. Os ymdriniwn â hyn yn effeithiol, bydd yn ymwneud â defnyddio adnoddau'n well. Dyna pam y dywedais yn gynharach fod y rhwydweithiau sy'n rhoi'r llwybrau dysgu 14-19 ar waith yn edrych ar holl gwmpas ariannu addysg ar gyfer rhai 14 hyd 19 oed. Os cyflawnwn y math o newid yr ydym yn sôn amdano—gyda llai o ddyblygu, a gwell cydweithredu a chydweithio—yna mae'n amlwg y bydd hynny'n golygu defnyddio arian yn well, a bydd yn sicrhau canlyniadau gwell. Bydd gwerthuso parhaus, a fydd yn cynnwys y math o arolygiadau yr ydym wedi arfer â hwy. Byddwn yn gallu gweld a fydd gwelliannau'n codi yn sgîl y cydweithredu a'r cydweithio newydd, yn sgîl y dewis ehangach sydd ar gael, y cymorth gwell, yr

the duties that are contained in this Measure.

Of course, this Measure is not the totality of the Welsh Assembly Government's work in this area. We will launch the strategy on Thursday, and it is not a launch solely for the press—although the press is important in getting the message across that the strategy is there to be responded to in the consultation exercise—it is for practitioners, and for the sector. That is what Thursday is about, and I am sure that there will be ample time for scrutiny in this Chamber, and, indeed, in committee, as we move forward—although that is, of course, a matter for the Leader of the House and the usual channels.

When it comes to your more specific questions—for example, on compulsory education up to the age of 18—we have made our position as an administration quite clear. We have said that we want to pursue the sort of policies set out in the Measure, which put the onus on providers to make provisions that will ensure that young people will stay in education up to the age of 18, and hopefully beyond, because they will be able to see the advantages of it, and the wide choice and support available. That is our approach. We will watch with interest what is happening in England, and it will watch what happens here in Wales, and we will seek to learn from each other.

It is very important that we address the issues that you have, Kirsty, in your constituency, and in other rural areas of Wales, because there are particular difficulties there. However, there are many ways of overcoming those potential barriers. For example, it will not always be the case that it is the learner who will be required to travel between different learning settings—the lecturers and teachers could travel. It is also extremely important that we use new technologies effectively: distance learning via computers and videoconferencing, for example. We have funded videoconferencing facilities at all of the further education colleges in Wales—they should be used, and, of course, it is possible to combine the two: the new technologies, and all the possibilities they bring, can be combined with more traditional classroom teaching. It has already

hawl, a'r dyletswyddau sydd yn y Mesur.

Wrth reswm, nid y mesur hwn yw holl waith Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn y maes hwn. Byddwn yn lansio'r strategaeth ddydd Iau, ac nid lansiad ar gyfer y wasg yn unig ydyw—er bod y wasg yn bwysig o ran cyflwyno'r neges bod y strategaeth ar gael i ymateb iddi yn yr ymgynghoriad—mae ar gyfer ymarferwyr, ac ar gyfer y sector. Dyna yw pwrpas dydd Iau, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd digon o amser i graffu yn y Siambr hon, ac, yn wir, yn y pwyllgor, wrth inni fynd rhagom—er mai mater yw hynny, wrth reswm, i Arweinydd y Tŷ a'r sianelau arferol.

O ran y cwestiynau mwy penodol yr ydych wedi eu codi—er enghraifft, ynglŷn ag addysg orfodol hyd at 18 oed—yr ydym wedi datgan ein barn fel gweinyddiaeth yn eglur ddigon. Dywedasom ein bod am ddilyn y math o bolisiau a gyflwynir yn y Mesur, sy'n rhoi'r cyfrifoldeb ar y darparwyr i wneud darpariaethau a fydd yn sicrhau y bydd pobl ifanc yn aros mewn addysg hyd at 18 oed, ac wedi hynny gobeithio, oherwydd byddant yn gallu gweld bod hynny'n fanteisiol, a'r dewis a'r cymorth eang sydd ar gael. Dyna yw ein dull o ymdrin â hyn. Byddwn yn gwyllo gyda diddordeb yr hyn sy'n digwydd yn Lloegr, a bydd hithau'n gwyllo'r hyn sy'n digwydd yng Nghymru, a byddwn yn ceisio dysgu, y naill gan y llall.

Mae'n bwysig iawn inni roi sylw i'r problemau sydd gennych, Kirsty, yn eich etholaeth, ac mewn ardaloedd gwledig eraill yng Nghymru, oherwydd y mae anawsterau arbennig i'w cael yno. Fodd bynnag, mae llawer o ffyrdd o oresgyn y rhwystrau posibl hynny. Er enghraifft, nid y dysgwyr a fydd yn gorfod teithio rhwng gwahanol ganolfannau dysgu bob tro—gallai'r darlithwyr a'r athrawon deithio. Mae'n hynod bwysig hefyd inni ddefnyddio'r dechnoleg newydd yn effeithiol: dysgu o bell drwy gyfrwng cyfrifiaduron a fideo-gynadledda, er enghraifft. Yr ydym wedi cyllido cyfleusterau fideo-gynadledda ym mhob un o golegau addysg bellach Cymru—dylid eu defnyddio, ac, wrth gwrs, mae'n bosibl cyfuno'r ddau: mae modd cyfuno'r dechnoleg newydd, a'r holl bosibiliadau a ddaw yn eu sgîl, ag addysgu mwy traddodiadol yr ystafell

proved possible to take forward effectively the wider choice and the improved co-operation and collaboration that we want to see, in rural parts of Wales. We have no reason to believe that it will not be possible to strengthen and widen that across Wales in the future.

Sandy Mewies: Thank you for the draft proposals, which fit in with making future progress on learning pathways. 'Pathways' is one of the most important words in that—it is a pathway and it goes forward. However, as Janet Ryder said, it should look back to what happened before and it should share experience with other organisations.

There has been much talk about the recent Webb review and I am glad that we will talk about this in more depth in the future. I am sure that you are aware that one suggestion from that review is that Deeside College, Yale College, Wrexham, and the Welsh College of Horticulture should merge into a single unit. You will also be aware that Deeside College, which is in Flintshire but within the constituency of my colleague, Carl Sargeant, has just received an excellent report from Estyn. 'Outstanding' was the way in which the college and its work were described, and Estyn rarely gives that accolade. Every grade that it had was a grade 1, the principal's leadership and the progress made since 2003 was praised, as was the work of the staff and students. Will you be looking at that suggestion? Do you agree that such good practice should be disseminated as far as possible and that that Webb review suggestion might be one way of sharing it?

John Griffiths: As I said earlier, Professor Sir Adrian Webb and his team have done important work. The review document is important and it will inform our debate and our policies in taking 14-19 education forward and much else besides. There are many points in the Webb review and we will respond to them in due course. When it comes to reconfiguration and mergers, it is a matter for autonomous bodies to take forward their own proposals. We are going to have new powers and abilities, as I mentioned earlier, to shape things as we believe that

ddosbarth. Mae eisoes wedi bod yn bosibl bwrw ymlaen yn effeithiol â'r dewis ehangach a'r cydweithredu a'r cydweithio gwell yr ydym am eu gweld, mewn rhannau gwledig o Gymru. Nid oes rheswm dros gredu na fydd yn bosibl atgyfnerthu ac ehangu hynny ar draws Cymru at y dyfodol.

Sandy Mewies: Diolch yn fawr i chi am y cynigion drafft, sy'n cyd-fynd â gwneud cynnydd yn y dyfodol o ran llwybrau dysgu. Mae 'llwybrau' yn un o'r geiriau pwysicaf yn hynny—llwybr ydyw ac mae'n symud ymlaen. Fodd bynnag, fel y dywedodd Janet Ryder, dylai edrych yn ôl at yr hyn a ddigwyddodd o'r blaen a dylai rannu profiad gyda sefydliadau eraill.

Bu llawer o siarad am yr adolygiad diweddar gan Webb ac yr wyf yn falch y byddwn yn siarad am hyn yn fanylach yn y dyfodol. Yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn ymwybodol mai un awgrym yn yr adolygiad hwnnw yw y dylai Coleg Glannau Dyfrdwy, Coleg Iâl, Wrecsam a Choleg Garddwriaeth Cymru uno'n un uned. Byddwch yn ymwybodol hefyd fod Coleg Glannau Dyfrdwy, sydd yn sir y Fflint ond yn etholaeth fy nghyd-Aelod, Carl Sargeant, newydd gael adroddiad rhagorol gan Estyn. 'Eithriadol' oedd y ffordd y disgrifiwyd y coleg a'i waith, ac anaml y mae Estyn yn rhoi'r ganmoliaeth honno. Yr oedd pob gradd a gafodd yn radd 1, canmolwyd arweiniad y pennaeth a'r cynnydd a wnaethpwyd ers 2003, ynghyd â gwaith y staff a'r myfyrwyr. A fyddwch yn edrych ar yr awgrym hwnnw? A ydych yn cytuno y dylai arferion mor dda gael eu lledaenu mor eang â phosibl ac y gallai'r awgrym hwnnw yn adolygiad Webb fod yn un ffordd o'u rhannu?

John Griffiths: Fel y dywedais yn gynharach, mae'r Athro Syr Adrian Webb a'i dîm wedi gwneud gwaith pwysig. Mae dogfen yr adolygiad yn bwysig a bydd yn sail i'n dadl a'n polisiau wrth inni symud ymlaen o ran addysg 14-19 a llawer o waith arall hefyd. Mae llawer o bwyntiau yn adolygiad Webb a byddwn yn ymateb iddynt maes o law. O ran ailgyflunio ac uno, mater i gyrff ymreolaethol yw bwrw ymlaen â'u cynigion eu hunain. Bydd gennym ni bwerau a galluoedd newydd, fel y soniais yn gynharach, i siapio pethau fel y credwn y

they should be shaped. There is a duty in this Measure to consider co-operation but there is also a fallback for Welsh Ministers to ensure that that co-operation and collaboration takes place if there is a demonstrable need for it and it has not happened. Therefore, there is much that will happen in the future around all of that that it is not possible to pre-empt—we cannot do too much crystal-ball gazing at this stage.

Deeside College provides excellent further education. I recently visited the college and went around it with the principal and the chair of governors. It was impressive and it was easy to understand why Estyn bestowed all those impressive grade 1s on it. We want to see best practice exhibited at further education colleges such as Deeside College spread right across Wales. Spreading best practice is always a big part of the agenda of improving public services and we want to ensure that it happens in further education.

I am pleased with what you said about the pathways and looking back at what has been achieved, Sandy, because much of what I have said today and much of what is in the Measure is not new; it builds on previous guidance, the pathfinders and the work done by the networks. The direction of travel, as I said earlier, has been clear for some time and this builds on that and takes it forward. That is the correct and sustainable way of doing things.

You mentioned our colleague, Carl Sargeant. Deeside College lies in Carl's constituency and he is forever, rightly, bringing to my attention the good work that Deeside College does. I am sure that he will continue to do that in the future.

Y Llywydd: Diolch i'r Diprwy Weinidog am y datganiad deddfu. Mae'r rhain wedi dod yn rhan bwysig o'n gweithdrefnau.

4.50 p.m.

dylent gael eu siapio. Mae dyletswydd yn y Mesur hwn i ystyried cydweithredu ond mae gan Weinidogion Cymru ddarpariaeth wrth gefn hefyd i sicrhau bod y cydweithredu a'r cydweithio hwnnw'n digwydd os oes prawf amlwg bod galw amdano ac nad yw wedi digwydd. Felly, mae llawer a fydd yn digwydd yn y dyfodol ynglŷn â hynny oll nad yw'n bosibl inni achub y blaen arno—ni allwn syllu gormod i belen risial ar hyn o bryd.

Mae Coleg Glannau Dyfrdwy yn darparu addysg bellach ragorol. Yn ddiweddar, ymwelais â'r coleg a mynd o'i amgylch gyda'r pennaeth a chadeirydd y llywodraethwyr. Yr oedd yn gwneud cryn argraff ac yr oedd yn hawdd deall pam yr oedd Estyn wedi rhoi'r holl raddau 1 nodedig hynny iddo. Yr ydym am weld yr arferion gorau a welir mewn colegau addysg bellach fel Coleg Glannau Dyfrdwy yn cael eu lledaenu ar draws Cymru. Mae lledaenu'r arferion gorau bob amser yn rhan fawr o'r agenda o wella gwasanaethau cyhoeddus ac yr ydym am sicrhau ei fod yn digwydd mewn addysg bellach.

Yr wyf yn falch o'r hyn a ddywedasoich am y llwybrau ac am edrych yn ôl ar yr hyn sydd wedi cael ei gyflawni, Sandy, oherwydd nid yw llawer o'r hyn yr wyf wedi'i ddweud heddiw a llawer o'r hyn sydd yn y Mesur yn newydd; mae'n adeiladu ar ganllawiau blaenorol, y cynlluniau braenaru a'r gwaith a wneir gan y rhwydweithiau. Mae'r cyfeiriad, fel y dywedais yn gynharach, wedi bod yn glir ers cryn amser ac mae hyn yn adeiladu ar hynny ac yn ei hyrwyddo. Dyna'r ffordd gywir a chynaliadwy o wneud pethau.

Soniasoch am ein cyd-Aelod, Carl Sargeant. Mae Coleg Glannau Dyfrdwy yn etholaeth Carl ac mae byth a hefyd, yn gwbl briodol, yn dwyn y gwaith da y mae Coleg Glannau Dyfrdwy yn ei wneud i'm sylw. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd yn parhau i wneud hynny yn y dyfodol.

The Presiding Officer: I thank the Deputy Minister for the legislative statement. These have become an important part of our proceedings.

Adroddiad Blynyddol Arolygiaeth Gofal a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru 2006-07 (Trosolwg y Prif Arolygydd), Adroddiad Blynyddol Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru 2006-07, ac Adroddiad Blynyddol Gwasanaethau Gofal Cymru 2006-07

The Care and Social Services Inspectorate in Wales Annual Report 2006-07 (Chief Inspector's Overview), the Social Services in Wales Annual Report 2006-07, and the Care Services in Wales Annual Report 2006-07

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliant 1 yn enw Kirsty Williams, a gwelliannau 2 a 3 yn enw William Graham.

The Presiding Officer: I have selected amendment 1 in the name of Kirsty Williams, and amendments 2 and 3 in the name of William Graham.

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Wasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Gwenda Thomas):

The Deputy Minister for Social Services (Gwenda Thomas):

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. notes:

1. yn nodi:

(a) the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales Annual Report 2006-07 (Chief Inspector's Overview)

a) Adroddiad Blynyddol Arolygiaeth Gofal a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru 2006-07 (Trosolwg y Prif Arolygydd);

(b) the Social Services Inspectorate for Wales Report 2006-07

b) Adroddiad Arolygiaeth Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru 2006-07; ac

(c) the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales Report 2006-07. (NDM3838)

c) Adroddiad Arolygiaeth Safonau Gofal Cymru 2006-07. (NDM3838)

Yr wyf yn croesawu'n fawr iawn adroddiad blynyddol Arolygiaeth Safonau Gofal Cymru, adroddiad blynyddol Arolygiaeth Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru, a throsolwg y prif arolygydd. Mae'r ddadl hon yn rhoi cyfle i'r Cynulliad cyfan drafod y gwasanaethau a'r cymorth sy'n cael eu darparu gan wasanaethau cymdeithasol a darparwyr gofal cymdeithasol ledled Cymru. Mae'r adroddiadau hyn yn llawn gwybodaeth ac maent yn tynnu sylw at y tueddiadau a'r materion yr ydym yn eu hwynebu heddiw o ran ansawdd gwasanaethau. Mae trosolwg y prif arolygydd, sy'n cael ei gyhoeddi am y tro cyntaf eleni, yn edrych ar holl ystod y gwasanaethau cymdeithasol a'r ddarpariaeth gofal cymdeithasol sydd ar gael ledled Cymru.

I welcome very much the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales annual report, the Social Services Inspectorate for Wales annual report and the overview of the chief inspector. This debate gives the whole Assembly an opportunity to discuss the services and assistance provided by social services and social care providers throughout Wales. These reports are packed with information, and they draw attention to the trends and the issues that we face today with regard to the quality of services. The chief inspector's overview, which is published for the first time this year, looks at the range of social services and the provision of social care available throughout Wales.

The findings of the report indicate that, overall, 2006-07 has been a year of progress and improvement but that significant

Mae canfyddiadau'r adroddiad yn dangos bod 2006-07, drwyddi draw, wedi bod yn flwyddyn o gynnydd a gwelliant ond bod

challenges remain. Improvements in both local authority social services and in the care sector have been made, which reflect the hard work and commitment of many people. It is clear from the report that improvement has been underpinned by strong leadership, clear standards, and improved performance management. However, there is a widening gap between good performers and poor performers and a lack of consistency in delivering some of the basics of care and support and in the approach to assessment, care planning and review.

Local authorities and regulated providers also continue to struggle with workforce management issues. The report also notes that our expectations of social services and social care are continuing to rise; that in itself provides an added challenge. I welcome the improvements being made, as I am sure you do, but, like you, I remain concerned that that improvement is inconsistent. It is clear that local authorities and social care providers are giving a high priority to improving the services that they provide to vulnerable children and adults and that, in many areas, they are succeeding. Service providers in all parts of the sector have a statutory duty to ensure that the care that they provide is of the proper quality, and they must ensure that they live up to this requirement on a consistent basis. The core care practices are firmly in place in all service areas. For children in care, local authorities, as their corporate parents, should have high aspirations in their expectation and delivery of services to ensure that children are supported and encouraged to maximise opportunities and wellbeing.

For example, in residential care for adults, aspects such as statements of purpose, individual care plans for service users, number and suitability of staff, training and support for staff, risk management, adequate record-keeping and premises all still need to improve. The new regulatory requirement to strengthen changes to residential care for children from this summer should further improve the quality of care and outcomes for

heriau sylweddol o hyd. Mae gwelliannau wedi cael eu gwneud yng ngwasanaethau cymdeithasol yr awdurdodau lleol ac yn y sector gofal, sy'n adlewyrchu gwaith caled ac ymroddiad llawer o bobl. Mae'n glir o'r adroddiad fod y gwelliannau wedi cael eu seilio ar arweiniad cryf, safonau clir, a gwell rheolaeth dros berfformiad. Fodd bynnag, mae bwlch sy'n ehangu rhwng perfformwyr da a pherfformwyr gwael a diffyg cysondeb o ran darparu rhai o hanfodion gofal a chymorth ac yn y dull yr ymdrinnir ag asesu, a chynllunio ac arolygu gofal.

Mae awdurdodau lleol a darparwyr sy'n cael eu rheoleiddio yn dal i ymraffael â materion rheoli'r gweithlu. Mae'r adroddiad yn nodi hefyd fod yr hyn yr ydym yn ei ddisgwyl gan y gwasanaethau cymdeithasol a gofal cymdeithasol yn dal i gynyddu; mae hynny ynddo'i hun yn her ychwanegol. Croesawaf y gwelliannau sy'n cael eu gwneud, fel yr wyf yn siŵr y gwnewch chithau, ond, fel chithau, yr wyf yn dal yn bryderus bod y gwelliant hwnnw'n anghyson. Mae'n glir bod awdurdodau lleol a darparwyr gofal cymdeithasol yn rhoi blaenoriaeth uchel i wella'r gwasanaethau y maent yn eu darparu i blant ac oedolion sy'n agored i niwed a'u bod, mewn llawer o ardaloedd, yn llwyddo. Mae gan ddarparwyr gwasanaethau ym mhob rhan o'r sector ddyletswydd statudol i sicrhau bod y gofal y maent yn ei ddarparu o'r ansawdd priodol, a rhaid iddynt sicrhau eu bod yn bodloni'r gofyniad hwn yn gyson. Mae'r arferion gofal craidd wedi'u sefydlu'n gadarn ym mhob maes gwasanaeth. I blant mewn gofal, dylai fod gan awdurdodau lleol, fel eu rhieni corfforaethol, ddyheadau uchel yn yr hyn y maent yn ei ddisgwyl gan wasanaethau ac o ran darparu gwasanaethau i sicrhau bod plant yn cael eu cefnogi a'u hannog i fanteisio i'r eithaf ar gyfleoedd ac i gael y lles pennaf.

Er enghraifft, mewn gofal preswyl i oedolion, mae angen i agweddau megis datganiadau o bwrpas, cynlluniau gofal unigol i ddefnyddwyr gwasanaethau, nifer y staff ac addasrwydd y staff, hyfforddiant a chymorth ar gyfer staff, rheoli risg, cadw cofnodion digonol ac eiddo digonol i gyd wella o hyd. Dylai'r gofyniad rheoliadol newydd i gryfhau newidiadau mewn gofal preswyl i blant o'r haf hwn ymlaen wella mwy ar ansawdd y

children in these settings. It should also see improvements for staff who work in the residential childcare sector, where managers will have to demonstrate their efforts and commitment to training and sustained development of staff to meet occupational qualifications. In all service areas, employers must ensure that robust processes are in place and maintained for staff recruitment and management practices.

The majority of concerns are not about policies; they are more about implementation. It is essential that local authorities and service providers ensure that these key issues are addressed and that they are given a priority. This is about practice and leadership. Good practice is more likely to flourish where there is strong, committed and effective leadership; in a local authority context, that includes senior officers and elected members.

I strongly support the report's findings in respect of addressing abuse and ensuring dignity in care. These are essential factors in ensuring good health, wellbeing and independence, and key components of high-quality care for children and adults.

Dignity is one of the five United Nations principles that underpin our strategy for older people in Wales. Older people should never be subject to abuse and should be treated with respect. We want to create a situation where people are as outraged by abuse of, and disrespect for, older people as they are at the abuse of children.

Many staff take action on a daily basis to ensure that older people are valued and respected, as is their due. This must be the standard achieved in every case without exception. I have announced a three-year dignity in care programme as part of the implementation of the national service framework for older people. We will work with all interests across the health and care sector to raise awareness of this important issue and to ensure that local action plans are developed.

gofal a'r canlyniadau i blant yn y sefydliadau hyn. Dylai hefyd weld gwelliannau i'r staff sy'n gweithio yn y sector gofal plant preswyl, lle y bydd yn rhaid i reolwyr ddangos eu hymdrechion a'u hymrwymiad i hyfforddiant ac i ddatblygiad y staff yn barhaus i fodloni'r cymwysterau galwedigaethol. Ym mhob maes gwasanaeth, rhaid i gyflogwyr sicrhau bod prosesau cadarn ar waith, a'u bod yn cael eu cynnal, ar gyfer arferion yn ymwneud â recriwtio a rheoli staff.

Nid â pholisiau y mae a wnelo'r mwyafrif o bryderon; mae a wnelont fwy â gweithredu. Mae'n hanfodol i awdurdodau lleol a darparwyr gwasanaethau sicrhau bod y materion allweddol hyn yn cael sylw a bod blaenoriaeth yn cael ei rhoi iddynt. Mae a wnelo hyn ag arferion ac arweiniad. Mae arferion da yn fwy tebygol o ffynnu lle y ceir arweiniad cryf, ymroddedig ac effeithiol; yng nghyd-destun awdurdodau lleol, mae hynny'n cynnwys uwch swyddogion ac aelodau etholedig.

Yr wyf yn cefnogi canfyddiadau'r adroddiad yn gryf o safbwynt mynd i'r afael â chamdrin a sicrhau urddas mewn gofal. Mae'r rhain yn ffactorau hanfodol i sicrhau iechyd da, lles ac annibyniaeth, ac maent yn elfennau allweddol o ran gofal o ansawdd da i blant ac oedolion.

Mae urddas yn un o bum egwyddor y Cenhedloedd Unedig sy'n sylfaen i'n strategaeth ar gyfer pobl hŷn yng Nghymru. Ni ddylai pobl hŷn fyth gael eu cam-drin a dylent gael eu trin â pharch. Yr ydym am greu sefyllfa lle y mae pobl yn ffyrnigo cymaint pan fydd pobl hŷn yn cael eu cam-drin, a'u hamharchu, â phan fydd plant yn cael eu cam-drin.

Mae llawer o staff yn gweithredu'n ddyddiol i sicrhau bod pobl hŷn yn cael eu gwerthfawrogi a'u parchu, sef yr hyn y maent yn ei haeddu. Dyma'r safon y mae'n rhaid ei chyrraedd ym mhob achos yn ddieithriad. Yr wyf wedi cyhoeddi rhaglen dair blynedd ar urddas mewn gofal fel rhan o weithredu'r fframwaith gwasanaeth cenedlaethol i bobl hŷn. Byddwn yn gweithio gyda'r holl fuddiannau ar draws y sector iechyd a gofal i godi ymwybyddiaeth o'r mater pwysig hwn ac i sicrhau bod cynlluniau gweithredu lleol

yn cael eu datblygu.

As the report notes, the framework of regulations and national minimum standards has had a positive impact on standards and quality of care, as has the performance management framework in local authority social services. However, it is now five years since the regulations and national minimum standards were first introduced for adult care homes and three years for home care. I therefore plan, over 2008-09, to review the regulatory framework for these services. I will announce the details of the review in the spring.

Fel y noda'r adroddiad, mae'r fframwaith rheoliadau a'r safonau gofynnol cenedlaethol wedi cael effaith gadarnhaol ar safonau ac ansawdd gofal, fel y gwnaeth y fframwaith rheoli perfformiad yng ngwasanaethau cymdeithasol yr awdurdodau lleol. Fodd bynnag, mae pum mlynedd bellach ers i'r rheoliadau a'r safonau gofynnol cenedlaethol gael eu cyflwyno gyntaf ar gyfer cartrefi gofal i oedolion a thair blynedd ers eu cyflwyno i ofal cartref. Yr wyf, felly, yn 2008-09, yn bwriadu adolygu'r fframwaith rheoleiddio ar gyfer y gwasanaethau hyn. Byddaf yn cyhoeddi manylion yr adolygiad yn y gwanwyn.

In respect of adult placement schemes, the regulatory and national minimum standards came into effect on 1 August 2004. As it was a new service area to be embraced under a regulatory framework, we decided that it would be important to review the appropriateness and effectiveness of the regulations and associated national minimum standards. That review has now been undertaken and the responses were all generally supportive of the current arrangements, but believed that some improvements to the regulatory scheme could be made. I have, therefore, agreed that a consultation should be undertaken in the spring on proposed changes to the adult placement scheme regulations. Final decisions on whether and how to proceed will then be made.

O ran cynlluniau lleoliadau i oedolion, daeth y safonau rheoleiddio a'r safonau gofynnol cenedlaethol i rym ar 1 Awst 2004. Gan ei fod yn faes gwasanaeth newydd i gael ei gynnwys dan fframwaith rheoleiddio, penderfynasom y byddai'n bwysig adolygu priodoldeb ac effeithiolrwydd y rheoliadau a'r safonau gofynnol cenedlaethol cysylltiol. Mae'r adolygiad hwnnw wedi cael ei gynnal erbyn hyn ac yr oedd yr ymatebion i gyd yn gefnogol yn gyffredinol i'r trefniadau cyfredol, ond credent y gellid gwneud rhai gwelliannau yn y cynllun rheoleiddio. Yr wyf, felly, wedi cytuno y dylid cynnal ymgynghoriad yn y gwanwyn ynglŷn â'r newidiadau arfaethedig yn y rheoliadau o ran cynlluniau lleoliadau i oedolion. Gwneir y penderfyniadau terfynol ynghylch bwrw ymlaen a sut i fwrw ymlaen bryd hynny.

We do not support the amendment tabled by Kirsty Williams. Spending on social services has increased over the last five years, and amounts now to some £1.3 billion. Significant extra money has been identified for social services in the Assembly's published budgets up to 2008-09. The three-year local government funding settlement from 2008-09 will provide a more stable environment for financial planning and provides a fair and reasonable basis for local government to decide locally how much of its resources needs to be invested in social services. Implementation of our strategy for social services includes a commitment to a formal review of social services funding to identify the short-term and medium-term

Nid ydym yn cefnogi'r gwelliant a gyflwynwyd gan Kirsty Williams. Mae'r gwariant ar y gwasanaethau cymdeithasol wedi cynyddu dros y pum mlynedd diwethaf, ac erbyn hyn mae tua £1.3 biliwn. Mae arian ychwanegol sylweddol wedi cael ei bennu ar gyfer y gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yng nghyllidebau cyhoeddedig y Cynulliad hyd at 2008-09. Bydd y setliad tair blynedd ar gyfer cyllid llywodraeth leol o 2008-9 yn sicrhau amgylchedd mwy sefydlog ar gyfer cynllunio ariannol ac mae'n sicrhau sail deg a resymol i lywodraeth leol i benderfynu'n lleol faint o'i hadnoddau y mae angen ei fuddsoddi mewn gwasanaethau cymdeithasol. Mae gweithredu ein strategaeth ar gyfer gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yn cynnwys ymrwymiad i

implications of pressures from demographic and other changes.

We will also not support the second amendment in the name of William Graham on budget management. The vast bulk of social services spending is funded through the unencumbered revenue settlement, council tax and charges. This allows councils the flexibility to set their own spending priorities and manage in-year pressures across all service areas as they see fit, provided that the authority's overall expenditure is managed within the resources available.

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd (Rosemary Butler) i'r Gadair am 5.00 p.m.
The Deputy Presiding Officer (Rosemary Butler) took the Chair at 5.00 p.m.*

In respect of local authority performance, I am happy to accept the first amendment in the name of William Graham about improving local authority performance, in that it supports our motion and our strategic direction for social services more generally as well as the findings in the chief inspector's report.

This report from the chief inspector sets out not only the areas where service improvements have been made and the areas of continuing concern, but the need to address increasing service expectations and meet the key challenges ahead. Strong leadership at the local level will be crucial in addressing these concerns, and we have outlined clear expectations in this regard for the director of social services. I regard the statutory guidance that we are developing on the role of the director as being of the highest importance, and I expect it to be fully implemented by local authorities in a timely manner.

The chief inspector's report rightly points out that the challenge of improving social care in Wales will not be met by any one organisation or sector alone, but rather by collaborative and partnership working. Accordingly, it will be vital for local

adolygu'r cyllid ar gyfer y gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yn ffurfiol er mwyn gweld beth yw goblygiadau tymor byr a thymor canolig pwysau yn sgîl newidiadau demograffig a newidiadau eraill.

Ni fyddwn ychwaith yn cefnogi'r ail welliant yn enw William Graham ynglŷn â rheoli'r gyllideb. Caiff y rhan fwyaf o ddigon o'r gwariant ar wasanaethau cymdeithasol ei gyllido drwy'r setliad refeniw nad yw'n cael ei neilltuo, y dreth gyngor a thaliadau. Mae hyn yn rhoi hyblygrwydd i'r cynghorau i bennu eu blaenoriaethau gwariant eu hunain ac i reoli'r pwysau o fewn blwyddyn ar draws meysydd gwasanaeth fel y gwelant yn dda, ar yr amod bod gwariant yr awdurdod drwyddo draw yn cael ei reoli o fewn yr adnoddau sydd ar gael.

Yng nghyswllt perfformiad awdurdodau lleol, yr wyf yn fodlon derbyn y gwelliant cyntaf yn enw William Graham ynghylch gwella perfformiad awdurdodau lleol gan ei fod yn cefnogi ein cynnig a'n cyfeiriad strategol ar gyfer gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yn fwy cyffredinol yn ogystal â chanfyddiadau adroddiad y prif arolygydd.

Mae'r adroddiad hwn gan y prif arolygydd nid yn unig yn datgan ym mha feysydd y cafwyd gwelliannau yn y gwasanaeth a'r meysydd hynny lle y ceir pryder o hyd, ond yn datgan hefyd yr angen i fynd i'r afael â chodi disgwyliadau ynglŷn â'r gwasanaeth ac ymateb i'r heriau allweddol o'n blaenau. Bydd arweiniad cadarn ar y lefel lleol yn allweddol i fynd i'r afael â'r pryderon hyn, ac yr ydym wedi amlinellu disgwyliadau clir yn y cyswllt hwn ar gyfer y cyfarwyddwr gwasanaethau cymdeithasol. Credaf fod y canllawiau statudol yr ydym yn eu datblygu ynghylch rôl y cyfarwyddwr yn hollbwysig, a disgwyliaf iddynt gael eu gweithredu'n llawn gan awdurdodau lleol mewn da bryd.

Mae adroddiad y prif arolygydd yn tynnu sylw, yn hollol iawn, at y ffaith na fydd yr her o wella gofal cymdeithasol yng Nghymru yn cael ei hateb gan ddim un mudiad neu sector ar ei ben ei hun, ond yn hytrach drwy weithio ar y cyd ac mewn partneriaeth. O'r

authorities and providers to strengthen collaborative working and for social care to strengthen its partnership working with community services, housing, education and health.

Central to addressing all these issues is the delivery of the Assembly Government's 10-year strategy for social services in Wales, 'Fulfilled Lives, Supportive Communities'. Immediate priorities will include strengthening leadership and accountability, strengthening the commissioning of services and partnership working, developing a skilled workforce that can deliver a people-centred service, reviewing the long-term cost of social care, and developing our strategy for vulnerable children. The Assembly Government has set out in the strategy a clear strategic direction for social services, and we will now work with all our partners to achieve its full and effective implementation. Significant levers are now in place to drive change and improvement and to raise the standards of care. CSSIW, its partners, and the valued and hard-working staff who provide this care are well placed to deliver the necessary changes to ensure that these vital services for the most vulnerable in our society meet the high expectations that we all have for them.

Jenny Randerson: I propose amendment 1 in the name of Kirsty Williams. Add as a new point at the end of the motion:

notes the adverse impact that the proposed local government settlement will have on efforts to narrow the gap between the best and poorest social care services in Wales.

herwydd, bydd yn hanfodol i awdurdodau lleol a darparwyr gryfhau gweithio ar y cyd ac i ofal cymdeithasol gryfhau ei waith partneriaeth gyda gwasanaethau cymunedol, tai, addysg ac iechyd.

Rhywbeth sy'n ganolog o ran mynd i'r afael â'r holl faterion hyn yw cyflawni strategaeth 10 mlynedd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar gyfer gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yng Nghymru, 'Bywydau Bodlon, Cymunedau Cefnogol'. Bydd y blaenoriaethau a fydd yn cael sylw ar unwaith yn cynnwys cryfhau arweiniad ac atebolrwydd, cryfhau comisiynu gwasanaethau a gwaith partneriaeth, datblygu gweithlu medrus sy'n gallu darparu gwasanaeth sy'n canolbwyntio ar bobl, adolygu cost hirdymor gofal cymdeithasol, a datblygu ein strategaeth ar gyfer plant agored i niwed. Yn y strategaeth, mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi rhoi cyfeiriad strategol clir i wasanaethau cymdeithasol, a byddwn yn awr yn gweithio gyda'n holl bartneriaid i sicrhau bod hynny'n cael ei weithredu'n llawn ac yn effeithiol. Er mwyn ysgogi newid a gwelliant ac er mwyn codi safonau gofal, mae dulliau sylweddol ar waith bellach i gyflawni hyn. Mae AGGCC, ei phartneriaid, a'r staff gwerthfawr a gweithgar sy'n darparu'r gofal hwn mewn sefyllfa dda i gyflawni'r newidiadau angenrheidiol i sicrhau bod y gwasanaethau hanfodol hyn ar gyfer y rhai mwyaf agored i niwed yn ein cymdeithas yn bodloni'r disgwyliadau uchel sydd gennym oll yn eu cylch.

Jenny Randerson: Cynigiau welliant 1 yn enw Kirsty Williams. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn nodi'r effaith andwyol a gaiff setliad arfaethedig llywodraeth leol ar ymdrechion i gau'r bwlch rhwng y gwasanaethau gofal cymdeithasol gorau a gwaethaf yng Nghymru.

I welcome the opportunity to debate these reports. However, I must express my concern at the tight timetable in which we are expected to address a number of serious and complex issues. We owe it to this sector to devote a much greater length of time to an annual debate on this matter, especially as the three reports give us a picture in which there are serious concerns in significant areas that have either seen no improvement or, worse, in some cases, a backward trend.

Concentrating first on the amendment, the Welsh Assembly Government is asking local government to perform an impossible task in maintaining its momentum in improvement, where such exists, or in improving at all where there is a need to do so. The local government settlement was disastrously poor, and although I am glad that the Minister for finance has had slight second thoughts, I do not believe that it will amount to anything more than tinkering at the edges of the massive financial problem facing local government this year. The reality is that the negative increase in funding for local authorities, when transferred within their internal process to social services, is much starker in relation to that service simply because social services are dealing with ever more service users.

Between 2001 and 2005, the number using social services increased from 100,000 to 150,000, and that is the highest increase for adult social services. The Minister says that there has been an increase in the funding for social services, although I notice that she did not mention a percentage increase. We are therefore asking the same amount of money to stretch further and further—to be thinner and thinner on the ground. The evidence is in these reports, with no noticeable increase in the number of social workers employed, and with local authorities struggling to fill vacancies and citing poor pay as one reason why it is difficult to recruit. Therefore, this settlement will make a bad situation a whole lot worse. The Welsh Assembly Government regards social services as a core service, but it does not behave as if it is.

Croesawaf y cyfle i drafod yr adroddiadau hyn. Fodd bynnag, rhaid imi fynegi fy ngofid ynghylch yr amserlen dynn a neilltuwyd ar ein cyfer i fynd i'r afael â nifer o faterion difrifol a dyrys. Mae'n ddyletswydd arnom, o ran y sector hwn, roi llawer mwy o amser i gynnal dadl flynyddol ar y mater hwn, yn enwedig gan fod y tri adroddiad yn cyfleu darlun lle y ceir pryderon difrifol mewn meysydd sylweddol sydd naill ai heb wella o gwbl neu, yn waeth, mewn rhai achosion, lle y mae dirywiad wedi bod.

A chanolbwyntio i ddechrau ar y gwelliant, mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn gofyn i lywodraeth leol gyflawni tasg amhosibl yn cynnal ei momentwm gyda gwella, lle y mae hynny'n bodoli, neu wella o gwbl lle y mae angen gwneud hynny. Yr oedd y setliad ar gyfer llywodraeth leol yn drychinebus o wael, ac er fy mod yn falch bod y Gweinidog dros gyllid wedi ailfeddwl fymryn, ni chredaf y gwnaiff hynny fawr mwy na chwarae â chyrion y broblem ariannol enbyd sy'n wynebu llywodraeth leol eleni. Y gwir yw bod y cynnydd negyddol mewn cyllid ar gyfer awdurdodau lleol, o'i drosglwyddo drwy eu proses fewnol i wasanaethau cymdeithasol, yn waeth o lawer yng nghyswllt y gwasanaeth hwnnw am y rheswm syml bod gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yn delio â chynnydd parhaus yn y defnyddwyr gwasanaethau.

Rhwng 2001 a 2005, cynyddodd y nifer a oedd yn defnyddio gwasanaethau cymdeithasol o 100,000 i 150,000, a dyna'r cynnydd mwyaf o ran gwasanaethau cymdeithasol i oedolion. Cyfeiria'r Gweinidog at gynnydd yn y cyllid ar gyfer gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, er imi sylwi na soniodd am gynnydd canrannol. Yr ydym felly'n gofyn i'r un swm o arian ymestyn yn bellach o hyd—nes ei fod yn brinnach o hyd ar lawr gwlad. Mae'r dystiolaeth yn yr adroddiadau hyn, heb ddim cynnydd amlwg yn nifer y gweithwyr cymdeithasol a gyflogir, a'r awdurdodau lleol yn ymlafnio i lenwi swyddi gwag ac yn dweud bod cyflog gwael yn un rheswm dros y trafferthion wrth recriwtio. O'r herwydd, bydd y setliad hwn yn gwneud sefyllfa wael yn gan mil gwaeth. Yng ngolwg Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru mae gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yn wasanaeth craidd, ond nid yw'n ymddwyn fel

petai hynny'n wir.

I will move on to some of the serious concerns in these reports. As the Minister said, the report draws our attention to a widening gap between good and poor service providers. I wish to emphasise their concern that 61 per cent of adult protection investigations in care homes relate to homes with nursing care, particularly since these homes make up only 25 per cent of the sector. This means that those who are most vulnerable in our society are still being treated worst and with the least care, and are most subject to abuse.

The report also refers to delayed transfers of care. A series of in-depth reports from different parts of Wales recently expressed the complexity of the issues that affect delayed transfers of care, but they are still a serious matter of concern, despite improvement in some areas. The complexity of the issue emphasises that the Welsh Liberal Democrats are right when we say that we need shared budgets. Until you get those shared budgets, you will not get to the nub of the problem, and you will not entirely delete the temptation for one side, let us call it local government, to blame the other side, let us call it the NHS, and vice versa. I am afraid that that is an unedifying spectacle when it happens.

Again and again, these reports mention the increasing complexity of the problems faced—the systems of care, the information dealt with, the numbers and types of providers in the field, and the type of management required. A complex system needs more and more collaboration, and yet we have problems with recruitment, and problems with the number of care home places, which are stalled. How can the Government ensure that the elderly are provided with the care that they need if the number of care homes are not forthcoming? They will not be forthcoming until we have a better level of financial provision for this service and those who work in it.

Symudaf ymlaen at rai o'r pryderon difrifol yn yr adroddiadau hyn. Fel y dywedodd y Gweinidog, mae'r adroddiad yn tynnu ein sylw at fwllch cynyddol rhwng darparwyr gwasanaeth da a gwael. Carwn bwysleisio eu pryder bod 61 y cant o ymchwiliadau amddiffyn oedolion mewn cartrefi gofal yn ymwneud â chartrefi gyda gofal nyrsio, yn enwedig gan mai dim ond 25 y cant o'r sector yw'r cartrefi hyn. Golyga hyn mai'r rhai mwyaf agored i niwed yn ein cymdeithas sy'n dal i gael eu trin waethaf a chyda'r gofal lleiaf, a hwy sydd fwyaf tueddol o gael eu cam-drin.

Cyfeiria'r adroddiad hefyd at oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal. Cyfeiriodd cyfres o adroddiadau trylwyr o wahanol rannau o Gymru yn ddiweddar at gymhlethdod y materion sy'n effeithio ar oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal, ond mae hynny'n parhau'n destun pryder difrifol, er gwaethaf gwelliant mewn rhai ardaloedd. Mae cymhlethdod y broblem yn pwysleisio'r ffaith bod Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn llygad eu lle pan ddywedwn fod angen cyllidebau ar y cyd. Hyd nes cewch y cyllidebau hynny, nid ewch at wraidd y broblem, ac ni chewch wared yn llwyr â'r temtasiwn i un ochr, gadewch inni ddweud mai llywodraeth leol ydyw, feio'r ochr arall, gadewch inni ddweud mai'r GIG ydyw, neu fel arall. Mae arnaf ofn bod hynny'n sefyllfa warthus pan ddigwydd.

Dro ar ôl tro, cyfeiria'r adroddiadau hyn at gymhlethdod cynyddol y problemau a wyneb—y systemau gofal, y wybodaeth y delir â hi, niferoedd y darparwyr yn y maes a'r mathau o ddarparwyr, a'r math o reolaeth y mae ei hangen. Mae system ddyrys yn gofyn am fwy a mwy o gydweithredu, ac eto mae gennym broblemau gyda recriwtio, a phroblemau gyda nifer y lleoedd mewn cartrefi gofal, sy'n cael eu dal yn ôl. Sut y gall y Llywodraeth sicrhau bod yr henoed yn derbyn y gofal y mae ei angen arnynt os nad yw nifer y cartrefi gofal yn ddigonol? Ni fyddant yn ddigonol nes bydd darpariaeth ariannol well gennym ar gyfer y gwasanaeth hwn a'r rhai sy'n gweithio ynddo.

Jonathan Morgan: I propose amendments 2 and 3 in the name of William Graham. Amendment 2: add as a new point at the end of the motion:

notes the worrying trend in the varying performance of local authorities with regard to the delivery of social services.

Amendment 3: add as a new point at the end of the motion:

calls for action by the Welsh Government to address the significant overspend by local authorities in delivering social services.

In proposing these amendments, may I say how much we welcome the publication of these reports, as well as the overview that is provided by the chief inspector? I congratulate him and the entire team on their work, not just over the past year, but over many years, in keeping a watchful eye on the various providers of services in Wales, who have such a dramatic impact on the lives of children and elderly people in particular. We value and respect the need for a rigorous inspection regime; it is only through that that we can expect to see services improve in the next few years, if steps are taken to ensure that those improvements come about.

5.10 p.m.

I am delighted that the Minister supports our amendment 2 on the varying performance of local authorities. We are merely stating a fact in that amendment as we have found those facts in the documents. However, I am concerned that you are not willing to support our general concern about the financial challenges that local authorities face in Wales today. You cannot ignore the fact that local authorities have received a very bad settlement from the Government or that authorities, according to the most recent figures, have overspent on their social services allocation to the tune of £50 million. Admittedly, many local authorities have decided to spend more on local social services, but they have had to do so because

Jonathan Morgan: Cynigiau welliannau 2 a 3 yn enw William Graham. Gwelliant 2: ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn nodi'r duedd sy'n peri pryder sef bod perfformiad awdurdodau lleol yn amrywio yng nghyswllt darparu gwasanaethau cymdeithasol.

Gwelliant 3: ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn galw ar Lywodraeth y Cynulliad i weithredu i roi sylw i orwariant sylweddol awdurdodau lleol yng nghyswllt darparu gwasanaethau cymdeithasol.

Wrth gynnig y gwelliannau hyn, carwn ddweud cymaint o groeso yr ydym yn ei roi i gyhoeddi'r adroddiadau hyn, ynghyd â'r trosolwg a roddir gan y prif arolygydd. Yr wyf yn ei longyfarch ef a'r tîm cyfan am eu gwaith, nid yn unig yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf, ond dros sawl blwyddyn, yn cadw llygad barcud ar yr amrywiol ddarparwyr gwasanaethau yng Nghymru, sy'n cael effaith mor ddramatig ar fywydau plant a phobl oedrannus yn arbennig. Yr ydym yn gwerthfawrogi ac yn parchu'r angen am system arolygu gadarn; dim ond drwy system o'r fath y gallwn ddisgwyl gweld gwasanaethau'n gwella yn ystod y blynyddoedd nesaf, os cymerir camau i sicrhau bod y gwelliannau hynny'n digwydd.

Yr wyf wrth fy modd bod y Gweinidog yn cefnogi ein gwelliant 2 ynghylch perfformiad amrywiol awdurdodau lleol. Yr unig beth a wnawn yw datgan ffaith yn y gwelliant hwnnw, gan inni ganfod y ffeithiau hynny yn y dogfennau. Fodd bynnag, mae'n ofid i mi nad ydych yn fodlon cefnogi ein pryder cyffredinol am yr heriau ariannol a wyneba awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru heddiw. Ni allwch anwybyddu'r ffaith bod awdurdodau lleol wedi cael setliad gwael iawn gan y Llywodraeth na bod awdurdodau, yn ôl y ffigurau diweddaraf, wedi gorwario eu dyraniad gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, a hynny o £50 miliwn. Mae'n wir bod llawer o awdurdodau lleol wedi penderfynu gwario mwy ar wasanaethau cymdeithasol lleol, ond

they have recognised that the Government has given them particular challenges and they have had to comply with a raft of regulations and statutory requirements. One of the biggest challenges that local government now faces is to improve local social care service delivery. The Assembly Government should not bury its head in the sand and ignore the fact that those challenges exist. That £50 million is significant not only because the figure has increased quite rapidly, but because the overspend as a percentage of the overall social services budget has also increased, from 2 per cent to 5 per cent. That demonstrates the greater challenges that local authorities are facing when it comes to delivering the services that we all wish to see.

The reports refer to a variety of challenges in social services for children and adults. While we accept that certain local authorities have improved their position, some are struggling to improve services in the way that we would anticipate. I urge you to ensure that local government prioritises social care, particularly for the most vulnerable adults and young children, for the next five to 10 years. You can have all the strategies under the sun, Minister, but unless local government is willing to prioritise its expenditure in a political sense and the challenge of providing social care to vulnerable children and adults, we will not see the improvements that we all wish to see.

There is reference in the reports to the way in which we need to collaborate more with the private and voluntary sectors in commissioning and developing services. I would like to hear more from the Minister about how that will be achieved and how we will ensure that we have that interface between health and social care, because delayed transfers of care and discharges from the acute sector have a huge impact on social care, and vice versa. We need to do more to improve that particular aspect of social care planning in Wales. I would also like to see how this Government intends to enshrine dignity. I was delighted to hear what the

bu'n rhaid iddynt wneud hynny oherwydd iddynt sylweddoli bod y Llywodraeth wedi gosod heriau arbennig ar eu cyfer a'u bod wedi gorfod cydymffurfio â llu o reoliadau a gofynion statudol. Un o'r heriau mwyaf y mae llywodraeth leol yn ei hwynebu yn awr yw gwella'r ddarpariaeth gwasanaeth gofal cymdeithasol lleol. Ni ddylai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad gladdu ei phen yn y tywod ac anwybyddu'r ffaith bod yr heriau hynny'n bodoli. Mae'r £59 miliwn hwnnw yn arwyddocaol, nid yn unig oherwydd bod y ffigur wedi cynyddu'n bur gyflym, ond oherwydd bod y gorwariant fel canran o'r gyllideb gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yn gyffredinol hefyd wedi cynyddu, o 2 y cant i 5 y cant. Mae hynny'n brawf o'r heriau cynyddol y mae awdurdodau lleol yn eu hwynebu o ran darparu'r gwasanaethau yr ydym oll yn awyddus i'w gweld.

Cyfeiria'r adroddiadau at amrywiaeth o heriau gyda gwasanaethau cymdeithasol ar gyfer plant ac oedolion. Er ein bod yn derbyn bod rhai awdurdodau lleol wedi gwella'u sefyllfa, mae rhai yn ei chael yn anodd gwella gwasanaethau yn y ffordd y byddem yn ei rhagweld. Carwn eich annog i sicrhau bod llywodraeth leol yn blaenoriaethu gofal cymdeithasol, yn enwedig ar gyfer yr oedolion a'r plant ifanc mwyaf agored i niwed, yn ystod y pump neu 10 mlynedd nesaf. Gall fod pob strategaeth dan haul gennyhch, Weinidog, ond oni bai fod llywodraeth leol yn fodlon blaenoriaethu ei gwariant yn yr ystyr wleidyddol a'r her o ddarparu gofal cymdeithasol ar gyfer plant ac oedolion agored i niwed, ni welwn y gwelliannau yr ydym oll yn dymuno'u gweld.

Cyfeirir yn yr adroddiadau at y ffordd y mae angen inni gydweithredu mwy â'r sectorau preifat a gwirfoddol o ran comisiynu a datblygu gwasanaethau. Carwn glywed mwy gan y Gweinidog ynglŷn â sut y cyflawnir hynny a sut y byddwn yn sicrhau bod gennym y rhyng-gysylltiad hwnnw rhwng ieched a gofal cymdeithasol, oherwydd y mae oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal a rhyddhau cleifion o'r sector aciwt yn cael effaith aruthrol ar ofal cymdeithasol, ac fel arall. Mae angen inni wneud mwy i wella'r agwedd benodol honno ar gynllunio gofal cymdeithasol yng Nghymru. Carwn hefyd weld sut y mae'r Llywodraeth hon yn

Minister said about the dignity of older people who access health and social care services in Wales. I hope that this is something that the commissioner for older people will take forward, because we should all be very concerned about ensuring that vulnerable older people are treated with dignity.

Finally, some of the statistics in the reports cause concern. A total of 33 per cent of those children questions described the help that they had received from social services as 'not so good' or 'bad', 38 per cent of carers had not received any help in terms of their supporting or caring role, and 20 per cent of those questioned said that the help that they received met none of their needs. We need to ensure that people get a better experience of the range of social care services that we have in Wales. By the end of this Assembly, the people of Wales will expect to see huge advances in the care of children and vulnerable older people, and I hope that you will not let them down.

Lynne Neagle: I wish to pay tribute to the chief inspector and his team at the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales. They have once again produced excellent and thought-provoking reports. It is encouraging to see that, broadly speaking, we are looking at a pattern of improvement across the care sector in Wales, and that the CSSIW feels that the appropriate legislative framework is now in place to produce a care system that can treat the most vulnerable members of our society with the dignity that they deserve. However, despite this broadly positive message, there remain areas of serious concern. I wish to focus my remarks on one such area, namely the issue of staffing and training, which is a perennial problem in the care sector. Despite the continuous reporting on this issue by CSIW and SSIW, and now the amalgamated body, too little has been achieved in rectifying the problem.

With a well trained, well paid and highly motivated workforce in the sector, we could also expect to see other problems eliminated; however, the current picture on staffing in

bwriadu parchu urddas. Yr oeddwn wrth fy modd o glywed yr hyn a oedd gan y Gweinidog i'w ddweud am urddas pobl hŷn sy'n defnyddio gwasanaethau iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol yng Nghymru. Gobeithiaf y bydd hyn yn rhywbeth y bydd comisiynydd pobl hŷn yn gweithredu arno, oherwydd dylem oll fod yn awyddus iawn i sicrhau bod pobl hŷn sy'n agored i niwed yn cael eu trin ag urddas.

Yn olaf, mae rhai o'r ystadegau yn yr adroddiad yn peri pryder. Dywedodd cyfanswm o 33 y cant o'r plant hynny a holwyd fod y cymorth yr oeddent wedi'i gael gan wasanaethau cymdeithasol yn 'weddol' neu'n 'wael', nid oedd 38 y cant o ofalwyr wedi cael dim cymorth o ran eu rôl yn cefnogi neu'n gofalu, a dywedodd 20 y cant o'r rhai a holwyd na wnaeth y cymorth a gawsant fodloni dim o'u hanghenion. Erbyn diwedd y Cynulliad hwn, bydd pobl Cymru'n disgwyl gweld gwelliant aruthrol yn y gofal a roddir i blant a phobl hŷn sy'n agored i niwed, a gobeithiaf na fyddwch yn eu siomi.

Lynne Neagle: Carwn dalu teyrnged i'r prif arolygydd a'i dîm yn Arolygiaeth Gofal a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru. Maent unwaith yn rhagor wedi cynhyrchu adroddiadau ardderchog sy'n peri i rywun feddwl. Mae'n galonogol gweld, a siarad yn fras, ein bod yn edrych ar batrwm o welliant ar draws y sector gofal yng Nghymru, a bod AGGCC yn teimlo bod y fframwaith deddfwriaethol priodol bellach ar waith i greu system gofal sy'n gallu trin yr aelodau mwyaf agored i niwed yn ein cymdeithas gyda'r urddas y maent yn ei haeddu. Fodd bynnag, er gwaethaf y neges gadarnhaol hon at ei gilydd, erys meysydd sy'n peri pryder difrifol. Carwn ganolbwyntio yn fy sylwadau ar un maes o'r fath, sef mater staffio a hyfforddi, sy'n broblem oesol yn y sector gofal. Er gwaethaf adrodd parhaus ynglŷn â'r mater hwn gan ASGC ac AGCC, ac yn awr gan y corff cyfun, mae rhy ychydig wedi'i gyflawni i unioni'r broblem.

Gyda gweithlu sy'n cael ei hyfforddi'n dda, ar gyflog da ac yn cael ei symblu'n dda yn y sector, gallem ddisgwyl gweld dileu problemau eraill hefyd; fodd bynnag, mae'r

this year's report is still gloomy. In care home reports, 45 per cent had requirements relating to the suitability of staff. In children's homes, there has been further deterioration in relation to adequate staffing levels: 44 per cent of homes were felt to be insufficiently staffed, continuing a small, but gradual, year-on-year decline. There are continuing concerns about recruitment processes and the suitability of staff, with 49 per cent of homes having requirements in that area, compared with 33 per cent last year. In adult care homes, 45 per cent of the reports contained requirements in relation to the suitability of staff to work with vulnerable people. The highest number of requirements, at 66 per cent, related to training. That represents a significant deterioration since last year, when that was the case in 31 per cent of reports. That is just a snapshot of the challenges mentioned in the reports and without action we can expect only to battle crisis after crisis in the sector.

My experience in Torfaen suggests that, far from being increasingly valued, staff in care homes actually face a more difficult working environment. In particular, I have been dealing with constituents who work in care homes run by Hafod Care housing association, who have seen their pay and conditions harshly cut. It is such situations that serve only to undermine and demotivate further the workers on whom we rely to provide care. Unless we afford care workers the respect that they deserve, and unless we can provide them with dignity in their workplace, what hope do we have of providing a care sector that provides dignity to the most vulnerable people in Wales? Social care workers comprise more than 5 per cent of the Welsh workforce. Compare that figure with the 1.2 per cent of the workforce who make a living from agriculture, fishing and forestry and let us consider whether we pay enough attention, as politicians, to this vital sector.

I will end by touching on two issues quickly. The first relates to the Beeches Nursing Home in Blaenavon, which was deregistered and closed in 2006. The Minister at the time promised that lessons would be learned from

sefyllfa bresennol o ran staffio yn yr adroddiad eleni'n parhau'n ddilewyrch. Mewn adroddiadau ar gartrefi gofal, yr oedd 45 y cant yn ddiffygiol o ran addasrwydd staff. Mewn cartrefi plant, bu dirywiad pellach mewn perthynas â lefelau staffio digonol; teimlid nad oedd staff digonol mewn 44 y cant o'r cartrefi, gan barhau dirywiad blynyddol bach, ond graddol. Mae pryderon o hyd am brosesau recriwtio ac addasrwydd staff, gyda 49 y cant o gartrefi'n ddiffygiol yn hynny o beth, o'i gymharu â 33 y cant y llynedd. Mewn cartrefi gofal i oedolion, yr oedd 45 y cant o'r adroddiadau'n nodi gofynion o ran addasrwydd staff i weithio gyda phobl sy'n agored i niwed. Yr oedd y nifer uchaf o ofynion, sef 66 y cant, ym maes hyfforddiant. Mae hynny'n ddirywiad sylweddol ers y llynedd, pan oedd hynny'n wir mewn 31 y cant o adroddiadau. Dim ond ciplun yw hynny o'r heriau a grybwyllir yn yr adroddiadau, a heb weithredu ni allwn ond disgwyl brwydro ag argyfwng ar ôl argyfwng yn y sector.

Mae fy mhrofiad yn Nhor-faen yn awgrymu bod staff mewn cartrefi gofal, yn hytrach na chael eu gwerthfawrogi fwyfwy, yn wynebu amgylchedd gweithio anoddach mewn gwirionedd. Yn benodol, yr wyf wedi bod yn delio ag etholwyr sy'n gweithio mewn cartrefi gofal a redir gan gymdeithas dai Gofal Hafod, a welodd gwtogi llym ar eu cyflog a'u hamodau gwaith. Mae sefyllfaoedd o'r fath yn tansilio'r gweithwyr y dibynnwn arnynt i ddarparu gofal, gan roi ergyd i'w cymhelliant. Os na roddwn y parch dyledus i weithwyr gofal, ac os na allwn roi urddas iddynt yn eu man gwaith, pa obaith sydd gennym o ddarparu sector gofal sy'n rhoi urddas i'r bobl fwyaf agored i niwed yng Nghymru? Mae gweithwyr gofal cymdeithasol yn fwy na 5 y cant o weithlu Cymru. Cymharwch y ffigur hwnnw â'r 1.2 y cant o'r gweithlu sy'n gwneud bywoliaeth mewn amaethyddiaeth, pysgota a choedwigaeth a gadewch inni ystyried a ydym yn rhoi digon o sylw, fel gwleidyddion, i'r sector hollbwysig hwn.

I gloi, crybwyllaf ddau fater yn sydyn. Mae'r cyntaf yn ymwneud â Chartref Nyrsio'r Beeches ym Mlaenafon, a gafodd ei ddatgofrestru a'i gau yn 2006. Addawodd y Gweinidog ar y pryd y dysgid gwersi yn sgîl

the Beeches and the closure of the Hollies in Caerphilly, and the two tribunals that followed. I would be interested to hear from the Minister what changes have been forthcoming since that time.

Finally, in relation to the issues under discussion today, I welcome the appointment of the Commissioner for Older People in Wales. The reports of the chief inspector of Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales under discussion today are an invaluable resource, written as they are in a measured and factual tone. Occasionally, however, and quite rightly, the reports point the finger at us as politicians and ask difficult questions. No observation is more pertinent in the 'Care Services in Wales Annual Report 2006-2007' than the following comment:

'At the core of all improvement and development however, must be a greater valuing of older people. Unless this is achieved, the dignity that must underpin the way in which services are delivered will not exist in a consistent way'.

Therein lies the challenge for us all and the commissioner for older people most particularly. I wish Ruth Marks every success in her new role and I hope that, as an Assembly, we can support the commissioner by committing to doing more for vulnerable older people in Wales, and start by offering better support to staff in the care sector.

Kirsty Williams: In anticipation of today's debate, I had the opportunity to spend last Thursday with some of the staff who manage the care of the elderly team and the learning disability and mental health services in the Breconshire area of my constituency. The Minister will be aware that Powys County Council has not been immune to some of the difficulties that have faced local authorities in recent years, and previous inspection reports on my county have not been what we would have liked them to be.

The teams that I met on Thursday are dealing with a huge amount of pressure. An overspend of almost £3 million is affecting the care of the elderly team in Powys, which is putting huge pressure on its ability to

y Beeches a chau'r Hollies yng Nghaerffili, a'r ddau dribiwnlys a ddilynodd. Byddai'n ddiddorol clywed gan y Gweinidog pa newidiadau sydd wedi digwydd ers hynny.

Yn olaf, mewn perthynas â'r materion dan sylw heddiw, croesawaf benodi Comisiynydd Pobl Hŷn Cymru. Mae adroddiadau prif arolygydd Arolygiaeth Gofal a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru sydd dan sylw heddiw yn adnoddau amhrisiadwy, a hwythau wedi'u hysgrifennu mewn dull cytbwys a ffeithiol. Yn achlysurol, fodd bynnag, ac yn gwbl gyfiawn, mae'r adroddiadau'n pwytio bys atom ni wleidyddion gan ofyn cwestiynau anodd. Nid oes yr un sylw'n fwy perthnasol yn 'Adroddiad Blynyddol Gwasanaethau Gofal Cymru 2006-2007' na'r sylw canlynol:

'Fodd bynnag, wrth wraidd yr holl waith gwella a datblygu rhaid bod gwell gwerthfawrogiad o bobl hŷn. Heb gyflawni hyn, ni welir yr urddas cyson sy'n angenrheidiol fel sail i'r ffordd y cyflwynir gwasanaethau'.

Dyna lle y mae'r her inni i gyd ac i gomisiynydd pobl hŷn yn fwyaf arbennig. Dymunaf bob llwyddiant i Ruth Marks yn ei swydd newydd a gobeithiaf y gallwn, fel Cynulliad, gefnogi'r comisiynydd drwy ymrwymo i wneud mwy dros bobl hŷn sy'n agored i niwed yng Nghymru, gan ddechrau drwy gynnig gwell cymorth i staff yn y sector gofal.

Kirsty Williams: Gan ragweld y ddadl heddiw, cefais y cyfle i dreulio dydd Iau diwethaf gyda rhai o'r staff sy'n rheoli'r tîm gofal henoed a'r gwasanaethau anabledd dysgu ac iechyd meddwl yn ardal Sir Frycheiniog yn fy etholaeth. Bydd y Gweinidog yn ymwybodol nad yw Cyngor Sir Powys wedi llwyddo i osgoi rhai o'r anawsterau sydd wedi wynebu awdurdodau lleol yn ystod y blynyddoedd diweddar, ac nid yw adroddiadau arolygiadau blaenorol ar fy sir wedi bod fel y dymunasem iddynt fod.

Mae'r timau y cyfarfûm â hwy ddydd Iau'n delio â phwysau aruthrol. Mae gorrariant o bron £3 miliwn yn effeithio ar y tîm gofal henoed ym Mhowys, sy'n rhoi pwysau enfawr ar ei allu i gynnal gwasanaethau a

maintain services and take new people into the service. However, I must say that the new team leader is a formidable person who, I am glad to say, we have poached back from across the border. Having been born and brought up in the Ystradgynlais area, she spent all her social working career in England, but has now come home to Wales. Having met her and her staff on Thursday, I truly believe that Powys's prospects in the near future are bound to improve. The clear message on Thursday was that what my social workers and social care teams in Powys want is closer working between health and social care professionals.

5.20 p.m.

They find it difficult to understand why an authority is dealing with a relatively low number of people when it is geographically large, and why we need two separate organisations to deliver health and social care for the population. They want a social care system that focuses on outcomes, which are more than just the bald statistics of how many assessments have been carried out, and how many people have been revisited within the set timetable. They want outcomes that truly measure their success as social workers in promoting independence and improving the quality of people's lives. They want to focus, as the inspector's report says, on developing a system that focuses on individual planning and the personalisation of care, which focuses on what older people can do rather than what they cannot do. Perhaps we have a cultural issue to overcome here in Wales. When people get poorly or bad, we want to take care of them. Perhaps in the old days that meant putting them in what we regard to be safe places, such as a residential or nursing home, rather than seeking to promote their independence, and to keep them out of institutions for as long as possible.

On Thursday, I found the work of the rehabilitation team in the Ystradgynlais area impressive. It looks at people when they come out of hospital and focuses on what

derbyn pobl newydd i'r gwasanaeth. Fodd bynnag, rhaid imi ddweud bod yr arweinydd tîm newydd yn gymeriad gwydn yr ydym, mae'n dda gennyf ddweud, wedi ei chipio'n ôl dros y ffin. Wedi'i geni a'i magu yn ardal Ystradgynlais, treuliodd ei holl yrfa ym maes gwaith cymdeithasol yn Lloegr, ond bellach mae hi wedi dod adref i Gymru. Wedi cwrdd â hi a'i staff ddydd Iau, yr wyf yn gwbl grediniol bod pethau'n sicr o wella ym Mhowys yn y dyfodol agos. Y neges glir ddydd Iau oedd mai'r hyn y mae ar fy ngweithwyr cymdeithasol a'm timau gofal cymdeithasol ym Mhowys ei eisiau yw cydweithio agosach rhwng gweithwyr proffesiynol ym meysydd iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol.

Maent yn ei chael yn anodd deall pam y mae awdurdod yn delio â nifer cymharol fach o bobl ac yntau'n fawr yn ddaearyddol, a pham y mae arnom angen dau gorff ar wahân i ddarparu gwasanaeth iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol i'r boblogaeth. Mae arnynt eisiau system gofal cymdeithasol sy'n canolbwyntio ar ganlyniadau, a'r rheini'n fwy nag ystadegau moel ynghylch nifer yr asesiadau a wnaethpwyd, a faint o bobl a gafodd ail ymweliad o fewn yr amserlen benodedig. Mae arnynt eisiau canlyniadau sydd yn mesur yn wirioneddol eu llwyddiant fel gweithwyr cymdeithasol o ran hybu annibyniaeth a gwella ansawdd bywydau pobl. Mae arnynt eisiau canolbwyntio, fel y dywed adroddiad yr arolygydd, ar ddatblygu system sy'n canolbwyntio ar gynllunio unigol a phersonoli gofal, sy'n canolbwyntio ar yr hyn y gall pobl hyn ei wneud yn hytrach na'r hyn na allant ei wneud. Efallai fod gennym broblem ddiwylliannol i'w goresgyn yma yng Nghymru. Pan aiff pobl yn sâl neu'n wael, bydd arnom eisiau gofalu amdanynt. Efallai yn yr hen ddyddiau y golygai hynny eu rhoi mewn lleoedd yr ystyriwn eu bod yn fannau diogel, fel cartrefi preswyl neu nyrsio, yn hytrach na cheisio hybu'u hannibyniaeth, a'u cadw allan o sefydliadau cyhyd ag sy'n bosibl.

Ddydd Iau, edmygais waith y tîm ailalluogi yn ardal Ystradgynlais. Mae'n edrych ar bobl pan ddeuant allan o'r ysbyty gan ganolbwyntio ar yr hyn y gallant ei wneud.

they can do. It promotes, through six weeks of intensive work, people's ability to stay in their own homes. Recently, the team has reviewed all those who are in receipt of domiciliary care in the Ystradgynlais area, and has cut back on the number of domiciliary care hours being delivered to those individuals. That is not a cut in service; it is getting people back to higher levels of independence. After all, how many of us would really want carers coming into our homes to do things for us, when we could do those things for ourselves, given the skills, confidence and the re-ablement? Those cutbacks in the domiciliary care hours of those individuals allowed new individuals to come into the system to receive the care that they would like. As the inspector says, we have to focus on re-ablement and on promoting independence. That should be our first call.

I am greatly concerned about continuing problems in my constituency with the transition process, where children who reach the age of 18 come out of the children's section and go straight into the adult section. The most recent case in my constituency involved a young man who turned 18 in December, whose parents had been receiving one night of respite per week, one weekend per month, as well as additional help during the school holidays. Now that he has turned 18, his needs have not changed because he has reached adulthood, but the services and help that his parents enjoyed have suddenly disappeared. The family aid, which was six hours per weekend, is now three hours. There is no respite on the weekend or in the week. I believe that the transition from children's services to adult services is an area that needs more attention.

David Lloyd: I welcome the opportunity to debate these three reports before us on the care and social services in Wales. I also congratulate the chief inspector and all of her staff on the work done during the year.

There are some positives to be taken from these reports, namely the continued high standard of day care for children, and a continued improvement in domiciliary care

Drwy chwe wythnos o waith dwys, mae'n hybu gallu pobl i aros yn eu cartrefi eu hunain. Yn ddiweddar, mae'r tîm wedi adolygu pawb sy'n cael gofal cartref yn ardal Ystradgynlais, ac wedi cwtogi nifer yr oriau gofal cartref a roddir i'r unigolion hynny. Nid toriad yn y gwasanaeth yw hynny; mater ydyw o adfer pobl i lefelau uwch o annibyniaeth. Wedi'r cyfan, sawl un ohonom ni mewn gwirionedd a fyddai'n awyddus i ofalwyr ddod i'n cartrefi i wneud pethau drosom, pan allem ni wneud y pethau hynny drosom ein hunain, o gael y sgiliau, yr hyder a'r ailalluogi? Caniataodd y toriadau hynny yn oriau gofal cartref yr unigolion hynny i unigolion newydd ddod i mewn i'r system i gael y gofal a ddymument hwythau. Fel y dywed yr arolygydd, rhaid inni ganolbwyntio ar ailalluogi ac ar hyrwyddo annibyniaeth. Dyna ddylai fod yn nod cyntaf gennym.

Yr wyf yn bryderus iawn ynghylch problemau parhaus yn fy etholaeth gyda'r broses bontio, lle y bydd plant pan fyddant yn 18 oed yn dod allan o'r adran blant ac yn mynd yn syth i'r adran oedolion. Yr achos diweddaraf yn fy etholaeth oedd achos gŵr ifanc a oedd yn 18 oed yn Rhagfyr, yr oedd ei rieni wedi bod yn cael un noson o seibiant bob wythnos, un penwythnos bob mis, yn ogystal â chymorth ychwanegol yn ystod gwyliau'r ysgol. Ac yntau bellach yn 18 oed, nid yw ei anghenion wedi newid am ei fod wedi dod yn oedolyn, ond mae'r gwasanaethau a'r cymorth a fwynhâi ei rieni wedi diflannu'n sydyn. Tair awr o gymorth a roddir i'r teulu bob penwythnos erbyn hyn, lle gynt y ceid chwe awr. Ni roddir dim gofal seibiant ar y penwythnos nac yn yr wythnos. Credaf fod y trawsnewid o wasanaethau plant i wasanaethau oedolion yn faes sydd yn galw am fwy o sylw.

David Lloyd: Croesawaf y cyfle i drafod y tri adroddiad hyn ger ein bron ar y gwasanaethau gofal a chymdeithasol yng Nghymru. Llongyfarchaf y prif arolygydd a'i staff i gyd hefyd am y gwaith a wnaethpwyd yn ystod y flwyddyn.

Mae rhai pwyntiau cadarnhaol yn sgîl yr adroddiadau hyn, sef y parhad yn safon uchel gofal dydd i blant, a'r parhad yn y gwelliant mewn gwasanaethau gofal cartref. Yng

services. In Cardiff and Blaenau Gwent, improvements have resulted in a protocol for dealing with issues of serious concern being lifted. In Bridgend, improvements have not been sufficient to merit the protocol's withdrawal. The reports, however, highlight serious shortcomings in the delivery of care. That is a cause for concern, and merits urgent attention. Care processes, such as assessment, care planning and review, remain inconsistent. This is an obstacle to achieving the objective of promoting independent living and protection for those requiring care. This also has wider ramifications for issues such as delayed transfers of care.

The reports also note with concern a distinct lack of progress in many areas in meeting basic requirements to ensure that vulnerable children and adults are adequately protected and afforded the care that they deserve. On adult protection investigations in care homes, 61 per cent relate to homes with nursing care, which is particularly worrying, given that these homes represent only 25 per cent of the sector. People in care homes are also some of the most vulnerable in society, and this situation is clearly unacceptable.

The chief inspector, Rob Pickford, comments that local authorities and regulated providers need to provide strong leadership and better planning in some cases to ensure that staff are available to provide the high level of care expected. Some 45 per cent of care homes had issues regarding the suitability of staff. This places vulnerable people at risk and, again, is unacceptable.

The inspector has placed a responsibility on the social care workforce development partnerships to consider how they can ensure the provision of a stable, competent, and skilled workforce, as well as retaining their services. Currently, the turnover of staff is too great to provide stability.

While I accept the inspector's comments regarding the change in the make-up of those

Nghaerdydd a Blaenau Gwent, mae gwelliannau wedi arwain at godi protocol ar gyfer delio â materion sy'n achosi pryder difrifol. Ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr, nid yw'r gwelliannau wedi bod yn ddigon i beri dileu'r protocol. Mae'r adroddiadau, serch hynny, yn tynnu sylw at ddiffygion difrifol o ran sut y cyflwynir gofal. Mae hynny'n achosi pryder, ac mae gofyn rhoi sylw iddo ar fyrder. Mae prosesau gofal, megis asesu, cynllunio ac adolygu gofal, yn dal yn anghyson. Mae hyn yn rhwystr i gyflawni'r nod o hyrwyddo byw'n annibynnol a gwarchodaeth i rai sydd angen gofal. Mae gan hyn oblygiadau ehangach hefyd i faterion megis oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal.

Mae'r adroddiadau'n nodi gyda phryder hefyd ddiffyg datblygiad amlwg mewn llawer o feysydd o ran ateb y gofynion sylfaenol i sicrhau bod plant ac oedolion sy'n agored i niwed yn cael eu diogelu'n ddigonol a bod y gofal y maent yn ei haeddu'n cael ei roi iddynt. O ran ymchwiliadau diogelu oedolion mewn cartrefi gofal, mae 61 y cant yn ymwneud â chartrefi sydd â gofal nyrsio, sy'n destun pryder arbennig, o gofio mai dim ond 25 y cant o'r sector yw'r cartrefi hyn. Mae pobl mewn cartrefi gofal ymhlith rhai o aelodau mwyaf agored i niwed cymdeithas, ac yn amlwg mae'r sefyllfa hon yn annerbyniol.

Dywed y prif arolygydd, Rob Pickford, fod angen i awdurdodau lleol a darparwyr sy'n cael eu rheoleiddio roi arweiniad cryf a gwell cynllunio mewn rhai achosion i sicrhau bod staff ar gael i ddarparu'r lefel uchel o ofal a ddisgwylir. Yr oedd gan ryw 45 y cant o gartrefi gofal broblemau ynghylch addasrwydd staff. Mae hyn yn rhoi pobl sy'n agored i niwed mewn perygl ac, eto, mae'n annerbyniol.

Mae'r arolygydd wedi gosod cyfrifoldeb ar y partneriaethau datblygu gweithlu gofal cymdeithasol i ystyried sut y gallant sicrhau bod gweithlu sefydlog, cymwys a medrus yn cael eu darparu, yn ogystal â chadw eu gwasanaethau. Ar hyn o bryd, mae'r newidiadau yn y staff yn rhy fawr i gynnal sefydlogrwydd.

Er fy mod yn derbyn sylwadau'r arolygydd ynglŷn â'r newid yn natur y rhai sy'n darparu

providing care and the need for collaboration between the different sectors, what is paramount is the delivery of a consistent and high-quality service to those in need. It is clear from these reports before us this afternoon that that objective is not always being met.

Sandy Mewies: I take a lot of pleasure in participating in this take-note debate, which is considering some interesting reports, and I congratulate those who have produced them. It indicates that there has been some improvement in services for adults and children in Wales. However, there are still inconsistencies, and it is those particular inconsistencies that I wish to address. As I have said since I came to the Assembly, we should have no inconsistencies, neither across regions nor across local authority areas. People who need care from social services should be able to move seamlessly from one area of provision to another, and we should seek to provide that sort of care.

There are continuing concerns about the widening gap between good and poor performers, and there is still inconsistency in the assessment process. I was at a carers' meeting recently, where I was told by one carer that she had no idea that she was entitled to an assessment for herself. Care planning and review also need to be improved, but that is not to say that steps have not been taken. I was just looking at a domiciliary care report for the supported living service of Flintshire County Council, my own authority. That has come on apace, although there are still some inconsistencies.

I note that one of the amendments tabled links poor performance with funding. While that resonates in some areas, it is not a universal cause of failure. I was particularly concerned to see a comment by the chief inspector that poor performance can be linked to a lack of understanding of how services work at the point of delivery. That struck me as being a very basic deficit. It is worrying and it also indicates much deeper rooted problems. These issues are also being addressed through training, and so on. I particularly welcome the bringing together of

gofal a'r angen am gydweithio rhwng y gwahanol sectorau, yr hyn sy'n hollbwysig yw darparu gwasanaeth cyson o safon uchel i bobl mewn angen. Mae'n amlwg yn ôl yr adroddiadau hyn sydd ger ein bron y prynhawn yma nad yw'r nod hwnnw'n cael ei gyrraedd ym mhob achos.

Sandy Mewies: Mae'n gryn bleser imi gael cymryd rhan yn y ddadl hon, dadl i dynnu sylw, sydd yn ystyried adroddiadau diddorol, a llongyfarchaf y bobl a'u lluniodd. Mae'n dangos bod rhywfaint o welliant wedi bod mewn gwasanaethau i oedolion a phlant yng Nghymru. Fodd bynnag, mae anghysonderau o hyd, a'r hyn yr wyf am ei wneud yw rhoi sylw i'r anghysonderau arbennig hynny. Fel yr wyf wedi dweud ers dod i'r Cynulliad, ni ddylai fod dim anghysonderau, ar draws rhanbarthau nac ar draws ardaloedd awdurdodau lleol. Dylai pobl sydd angen gofal gan y gwasanaethau cymdeithasol allu symud yn ddirwysr o un maes darpariaeth i un arall, a dylem geisio darparu'r math hwnnw o ofal.

Ceir pryderon o hyd am y bwloch cynyddol rhwng perfformwyr da a gwael, ac mae anghysonder o hyd yn y broses asesu. Bwm mewn cyfarfod gofalwyr yn ddiweddar, lle y dywedwyd wrthyf gan un ofalwraig nad oedd ganddi ddim syniad bod ganddi hithau hawl i gael asesiad ar ei chyfer ei hun. Mae angen gwella'r broses o gynllunio ac adolygu gofal hefyd, ond nid yw hynny'n gyfystyr â dweud nad oes camau wedi'u cymryd. Yr wyf newydd fod yn edrych ar adroddiad ar ofal cartref ar gyfer gwasanaeth byw â chymorth Cyngor Sir y Fflint, sef fy awdurdod i. Mae hynny wedi gwella'n fawr, er bod rhai anghysonderau o hyd.

Sylwaf fod un o'r gwelliannau a gyflwynwyd yn cysylltu perfformiad gwael â chyllid. Er bod hynny'n wir mewn rhai meysydd, nid yw'n achosi methiant bob tro. Yr oeddwn yn arbennig o bryderus o weld sylw gan y prif arolygydd y gellir cysylltu perfformiad gwael â diffyg dealltwriaeth o sut y mae gwasanaethau'n gweithio yn y man lle y maent yn cael eu cyflwyno. I mi mae hynny'n ddiffyg sylfaenol iawn. Mae'n destun pryder ac yn arwydd o broblemau llawer dyfnach hefyd. Mae'r materion hyn yn cael sylw hefyd drwy hyfforddiant, ac yn y

the Social Services Inspectorate Wales and the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales. It should mean a stronger focus on performance management and quality assurance systems. Local service boards should also result in more robust and, hopefully, consistent services in Wales.

It has already been mentioned that good political leadership and good training are key in these areas. We have made progress, but I hope that we will continue to work on these clearly identified inconsistencies. As politicians, we should not turn our backs on them; we should hope that they will always be clearly identified, as our work here is to see that they are overcome. I hope that we will continue to make progress in this area in future.

Janice Gregory: Given the time constraints, I will keep my remarks brief. As Dai Lloyd mentioned, the protocol for dealing with serious concerns has had to remain in place in my local authority of Bridgend, because children's services there gave cause for such serious concern. I welcome the progress noted in the report and I, too, congratulate the inspectorates on pushing the council to start putting things right. However, I am still worried that there is no cabinet member in that local authority whose sole task it is to raise and maintain standards in this vital area. I hope that the Deputy Minister takes note of that, and agrees that it is shameful that the Liberal Democrat-led administration in Bridgend has dithered for more than 18 months over the reorganisation of cabinet responsibility for children's services. Vulnerable children are being failed by Bridgend authority. It now intends to lump this crucial and hugely demanding area in with education.

5.30 p.m.

The Deputy Minister for Social Services (Gwenda Thomas): I understand that I have about two minutes in which to wind up. I thank Members for their comments. I know that the chief inspector, Rob Pickford, who is, I think, in the public gallery, will take a

blaen. Croesawaf yn arbennig ddwyn ynghyd Arolygiaeth Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru ac Arolygiaeth Safonau Gofal Cymru. Dylai olygu mwy o ganolbwyntio ar systemau rheoli perfformiad a sicrhau ansawdd. Dylai byrddau gwasanaethau lleol hefyd arwain at wasanaethau mwy cadarn a mwy cyson, gobeithio, yng Nghymru.

Soniwyd eisoes fod arweiniad gwleidyddol da a hyfforddiant da'n allweddol yn y meysydd hyn. Yr ydym wedi gwneud cynnydd, ond gobeithio y gwnawn barhau i weithio ar yr anghysonderau hyn sydd wedi'u hamlygu'n glir. Fel gwleidyddion, ni ddylem droi'n cefnau arnynt; dylem obeithio y byddant bob amser yn amlwg a chlir, gan mai ein gwaith ni yma yw gwneud yn siŵr y cânt eu datrys. Gobeithio y gwnawn barhau i wneud cynnydd yn y maes hwn yn y dyfodol.

Janice Gregory: Oherwydd y cyfyngiadau o ran amser, byr fydd fy sylwadau. Fel y soniodd Dai Lloyd, mae'r protocol ar gyfer delio â phryderon difrifol wedi gorfod aros yn fy awdurdod lleol i, sef Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, oherwydd bod gwasanaethau plant yno wedi peri pryder mor ddifrifol. Croesawaf y cynnydd a nodwyd yn yr adroddiad ac yr wyf finnau, hefyd, yn llongyfarch yr arolygiaethau am wthio'r cyngor i ddechrau cywiro pethau. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn dal i boeni nad oes yr un aelod cabinet yn yr awdurdod lleol hwnnw sydd â'r dasg benodol o godi a chynnal safonau yn y maes allweddol hwn. Gobeithiaf y gwnaiff y Dirprwy Weinidog nodi hynny, a chytuno ei bod yn gywilyddus bod y weinyddiaeth dan arweiniad y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr wedi tin-droi ers mwy na 18 mis ynghylch ad-drefnu cyfrifoldeb y cabinet dros wasanaethau plant. Mae plant sy'n agored i niwed yn cael eu siomi gan awdurdod Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Yn awr mae'n bwriadu cyfuno'r maes allweddol ac anodd ofnadwy hwn ag addysg.

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Wasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Gwenda Thomas): Deallaf fod gennyf tua dau funud i grynhoi. Diolchaf i'r Aelodau am eu sylwadau. Gwn y bydd gan y prif arolygydd, Rob Pickford, sydd, fe gredaf, yn yr oriel gyhoeddus, ddiddordeb

particular interest in today's debate. Where specific issues have been raised, I will ensure that everyone gets a detailed answer.

I would like to sum up briefly the important points, as I see them. We must remember that both the SSIW and the CSIW—

Peter Black: I wish to refer to Janice Gregory's contribution. Do you not accept that if the Labour Party had not left Bridgend social services in a mess, the department would not have been in special measures in the first place?

Gwenda Thomas: All of us here today would want to say that we have the welfare of our children at heart, wherever they are. It is important that we stress that. That is what social services are about.

Both the SSIW and the CSIW have identified a growing commitment and willingness to deliver change, and we must take note of that. There has also been a much stronger focus on performance management and quality assurance systems. Of significant concern is the lack of progress in individual services in meeting basic requirements to ensure that vulnerable children and adults are protected and afforded the basic care and respect that they deserve. Jenny drew attention to that.

Local authorities and regulated providers continue to struggle, as we heard from Jonathan, with workforce management and planning. I am sure that we all look forward to the Care Council for Wales's action plan on workforce planning. Perhaps there will be an opportunity to debate that. Sandy mentioned providers and the need to stabilise leadership, and I endorse that. That is important, as is focusing on commissioning, and I have given a commitment to a fundamental review of the funding of social services, and that underpins 'Fulfilled Lives, Supportive Communities'.

We need to celebrate the fact that the chief inspector is saying that a distinctive Welsh social care sector is beginning to emerge and is developing a more confident voice, and promotes services that place citizens centre stage, which was one of your points, Kirsty.

mawr yn y ddadl hon heddiw. Lle y codwyd materion penodol, byddaf yn sicrhau bod pawb yn cael ateb manwl.

Hoffwn grynhoi yn fyr y pwyntiau pwysig, yn fy marn i. Rhaid inni gofio bod AGCC ac ASGC—

Peter Black: Hoffwn gyfeirio at gyfraniad Janice Gregory. Oni dderbyniwch pe na bai'r Blaid Lafur wedi gwneud cymaint o lanastr gyda gwasanaethau cymdeithasol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, na fyddai mesurau arbennig wedi cael eu gorfodi ar yr adran yn y lle cyntaf?

Gwenda Thomas: Byddai pawb ohonom yma heddiw am ddweud ein bod yn pryderu am les ein plant, lle bynnag y bônt. Mae'n bwysig inni bwysleisio hynny. Hynny yw diben gwasanaethau cymdeithasol.

Mae AGCC ac ASGC wedi nodi ymrwymiad a pharodrwydd cynyddol i sicrhau newid, a rhaid inni gymryd sylw o hynny. Cafwyd llawer mwy o ffocws hefyd ar systemau rheoli perfformiad a sicrhau ansawdd. Yr hyn sy'n peri cryn bryder yw diffyg cynnydd gwasanaethau unigol o ran diwallu gofynion sylfaenol i sicrhau bod plant ac oedolion sy'n agored i niwed yn cael eu hamddiffyn ac yn cael y gofal sylfaenol a'r parch y maent yn ei haeddu. Tynnodd Jenny sylw at hynny.

Mae awdurdodau lleol a darparwyr sy'n cael eu rheoleiddio yn parhau i gael anawsterau, fel y clywsom gan Jonathan, gyda rheoli a chynllunio'r gweithlu. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod pawb ohonom yn edrych ymlaen at weld cynllun gweithredu Cyngor Gofal Cymru ar gynllunio'r gweithlu. Efallai y bydd cyfle i gynnal dadl ar hynny. Soniodd Sandy am ddarparwyr a'r angen i sefydlogi arweiniad, a chefnogaf hynny. Mae hynny'n bwysig, yn ogystal â chanolbwytio ar gomisiynu, ac yr wyf wedi ymrwymo i gynnal adolygiad sylfaenol o ariannu gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, ac mae hynny'n sail i 'Bywydau Bodlon, Cymunedau Cefnogol.'

Mae angen inni ddathlu'r ffaith bod y prif arolygydd yn dweud bod sector gofal cymdeithasol Cymreig unigryw'n dechrau dod i'r amlwg ac yn datblygu llais mwy hyderus, gan hybu gwasanaethau sy'n canolbwytio ar y dinesydd, sef un o'ch

The Welsh social care sector is now clearly recognisable and definable.

pwyntiau chi, Kirsty. Mae sector gofal cymdeithasol Cymru bellach yn sector y gellir ei adnabod a'i ddiffinio'n glir.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is to agree amendment 1 in the name of Kirsty Williams. Does any Member object? I see that that is the case, therefore I call for a vote.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Y cynnig yw cytuno ar welliant 1 yn enw Kirsty Williams. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrthwynebu? Gwelaf fod rhai'n gwrthwynebu, felly galwaf am bleidlais.

*Gwelliant 1: O blaid 16, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 31.
Amendment 1: For 16, Abstain 0, Against 31.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burns, Angela
Cairns, Alun
Davies, Andrew R.T.
German, Michael
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Law, Trish
Melding, David
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
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Jocelyn
Evans, Nerys
Franks, Chris
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Watson, Joyce
Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is to agree amendment 2 in the name of William Graham. I see that there are no objections. In accordance with Standing Order No. 7.35, amendment 2 is therefore carried.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Y cynnig yw cytuno ar welliant 2 yn enw William Graham. Gwelaf nad oes gwrthwynebiad. Yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.35, caiff gwelliant 2 ei dderbyn.

*Derbyniwyd gwelliant 2.
Amendment 2 carried.*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is to agree amendment 3 in the name of William Graham. Does any Member object? I see that that is the case, therefore I call for a vote.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Y cynnig yw cytuno ar welliant 3 yn enw William Graham. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrthwynebu? Gwelaf fod rhai'n gwrthwynebu, felly galwaf am bleidlais.

*Gwelliant 3: O blaid 16, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 32.
Amendment 3: For 16, Abstain 0, Against 32.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burns, Angela
Cairns, Alun
Davies, Andrew R.T.
German, Michael
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Law, Trish
Melding, David
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
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Jocelyn
Evans, Nerys
Franks, Chris
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Gwenda
Watson, Joyce
Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

Motion NDM3838 as amended: that
the National Assembly for Wales:

1. notes:

(a) the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales Annual Report 2006-07 (Chief Inspector's Overview)

(b) the Social Services Inspectorate for Wales Report 2006-07

Cynnig NDM3838 fel y'i diwygiwyd: bod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. yn nodi:

a) Adroddiad Blynyddol Arolygiaeth Gofal a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru 2006-07 (Trosolwg y Prif Arolygydd);

b) Adroddiad Arolygiaeth Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru 2006-07; ac

(c) *the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales Report 2006-07;*

c) *Adroddiad Arolygiaeth Safonau Gofal Cymru 2006-07;*

2. *notes the worrying trend in the varying performance of local authorities with regard to the delivery of social services.*

2. *yn nodi'r duedd sy'n peri pryder sef bod perfformiad awdurdodau lleol yn amrywio yng nghyswllt darparu gwasanaethau cymdeithasol.*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is to agree the motion as amended. Does any Member object? I see that that is the case, therefore I call for a vote.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Y cynnig yw cytuno ar y cynnig fel y'i diwygiwyd. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrthwynebu? Gwelaf fod rhai'n gwrthwynebu, felly galwaf am bleidlais

*Cynnig NDM3838 fel y'i diwygiwyd: O blaid 47, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion NDM3838 as amended: For 47, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

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

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammad
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burns, Angela
Cairns, Alun
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Jocelyn
Evans, Nerys
Franks, Chris
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Ramsay, Nick
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Gwenda
Watson, Joyce

Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd cynnig NDM3838 fel y'i diwygiwyd.
Motion NDM3838 as amended carried.*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: That brings **Y Dirprwy Lywydd:** Daw hynny â
today's proceedings to a close. thrafodaethau heddiw i ben.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5.35 p.m.
The meeting ended at 5.35 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)