



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

**Cofnod y Trafodion
The Record of Proceedings**

**Dydd Mawrth, 5 Chwefror 2008
Tuesday, 5 February 2008**

Cynnwys
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2008, yn Cytuno i unrhyw Gynnydd mewn Gwariant o'r Math y Cyfeirir ato yn Rheol
Sefydlog Rhif 23.80(ii)(c) sy'n Codi o Ganlyniad Iddynt
Proposal that the National Assembly for Wales, for the Purposes of any Provisions
Resulting from the Proposed NHS Redress (Wales) Measure 2008, Agrees to any
Increase in Expenditure of a Kind Referred to in Standing Order No. 23.80(ii)(c)
Arising in Consequence Thereof
- 75 Dadl am y Gorchymyn Drafft, Gorchymyn Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
(Cymhwysedd Deddfwriaethol) (Addysg a Hyfforddiant) 2008, o dan Reol Sefydlog
Rhif 22.34
Standing Order No. 22.34 Debate on the Draft the National Assembly for Wales
(Legislative Competence) (Education and Training) Order 2008

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.

Teyrngedau i'r Arglwydd Thomas Tributes to Lord Thomas

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): Before First Minister's questions, I think it only right and proper for the Assembly to mark the sad passing of the Secretary of State for Wales from 1970 to 1974, Peter Thomas. He was previously the Member of Parliament for Conwy and, by 1970, was the Member for Hendon South.

Y Prif Weinidog (Rhodri Morgan): Cyn y cwestiynau i'r Prif Weinidog, credaf y byddai'n iawn ac yn briodol i'r Cynulliad nodi marwolaeth drist Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru rhwng 1970 a 1974, Peter Thomas. Yr oedd, cyn hynny, yn Aelod Seneddol dros Gonwy ac, erbyn 1970, ef oedd Aelod De Hendon.

I worked for him as a young civil servant in the former Welsh Office, and I remember helping to prepare speeches for him. I always found him to be exceptionally courteous and kind. He was a thoroughly professional politician as Secretary of State for Wales. I think it right that we should mark our respect for someone who was a major figure some 30 years ago, and who went on to have a distinguished career in the House of Lords after ceasing to be a Member of Parliament.

Gweithiais iddo pan oeddwn yn was sifil ifanc yn y Swyddfa Gymreig gynt, a chofiaf helpu i baratoi areithiau iddo. Yr oedd bob amser yn eithriadol o gwrtais a charedig. Yr oedd yn wleidydd cwbl broffesiynol pan oedd yn Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru. Credaf ei bod yn briodol inni fynegi ein parch at rywun a oedd yn ffigwr pwysig tua 30 mlynedd yn ôl, a rhywun a aeth yn ei flaen i gael gyrfa lwyddiannus yn Nhŷ'r Arglwyddi ar ôl peidio â bod yn Aelod Seneddol.

The Leader of the Opposition (Nick Bourne): I am grateful for the opportunity to endorse what Rhodri Morgan has said. Sadly, Peter Thomas, latterly Lord Thomas of Gwydir, passed away yesterday at the age of 87. He was the first Conservative Secretary of State for Wales and a former Conservative Party chairman, as well as Member of Parliament for Conway for 15 years. Indeed, at one stage, Wyn Roberts was parliamentary private secretary to Peter Thomas.

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Nick Bourne): Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am y cyfle i gefnogi'r hyn y mae Rhodri Morgan wedi'i ddweud. Yn drist iawn, bu Peter Thomas, yr Arglwydd Thomas o Wydir yn fwy diweddar, farw ddoe yn 87 oed. Ef oedd y Ceidwadwr cyntaf i fod yn Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru, ac yr oedd hefyd yn gyn Gadeirydd y Blaid Geidwadol, yn ogystal ag yn Aelod Seneddol dros Gonwy am 15 mlynedd. Yn wir, ar un adeg, Wyn Roberts oedd ysgrifennydd preifat seneddol Peter Thomas.

Lord Thomas played a critical role in Government and in opposition. His contribution to Welsh and Westminster politics was significant. He was a strong advocate for Wales at Westminster, especially on issues that related to his professional expertise as a barrister, but also to those concerning Welsh language policy. He was particularly noted for his strong support for the National Eisteddfod of Wales, and was responsible for changes to rules on

Chwaraeodd yr Arglwydd Thomas ran hollbwysig yn y Llywodraeth ac yn yr wrthblaid. Yr oedd ei gyfraniad at wleidyddiaeth Cymru a San Steffan yn sylweddol. Yr oedd yn eiriolwr cryf dros Gymru yn San Steffan, yn enwedig ynghylch materion a oedd yn ymwneud â'i arbenigedd proffesiynol fel bargyfreithiwr, ond hefyd yn ymwneud â pholisi'r iaith Gymraeg. Yr oedd yn arbennig o enwog am ei gefnogaeth gref i Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru, ac yr oedd

local council support for the eisteddfod.

yn gyfrifol am newid rheolau ynghylch cefnogaeth cynghorau lleol i'r eisteddfod.

Throughout his career, he went about his duties with passion, strength and conviction, and he was a strong voice for Wales. He will be greatly missed by me and by the Welsh Conservative Party.

Drwy gydol ei yrfa, aeth ati i gyflawni ei ddyletswyddau ag angerdd, â chryfder ac ag argyhoeddiad, ac yr oedd yn llais cryf dros Gymru. Byddaf fi, a'r Blaid Geidwadol Gymreig, yn ei golli'n fawr.

Cwestiynau i'r Prif Weinidog Questions to the First Minister

Sites for Gypsies and Travellers

Safleoedd ar gyfer Sipsiwn a Theithwyr

Q1 Brynle Williams: What discussions has the First Minister had with local authorities concerning the provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers? OAQ(03)0674(FM)

C1 Brynle Williams: Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Prif Weinidog wedi'u cael gydag awdurdodau lleol ynghylch darparu safleoedd ar gyfer Sipsiwn a Theithwyr? OAQ(03)0674(FM)

Good afternoon, First Minister. I imagine that everyone is feeling very joyful today following Saturday's rugby result. I congratulate the Wales deaf rugby team on its success, too.

Prynhawn da, Brif Weinidog. Yr wyf yn dyfalu bod pawb yn teimlo'n llawen iawn heddiw ar ôl canlyniad y rygbi ddydd Sadwrn. Yr wyf yn llongyfarch tîm rygbi byddar Cymru am ei lwyddiant hefyd.

The First Minister: I also want to refer to the happy events on Saturday, Brynle. These events were noted well outside the borders of Wales. Now that heaven has the latest IT, I understand that Lazarus posted a blog just after the final result, saying that, as comebacks go, it must rank in the top two of all time. [*Laughter.*]

Y Prif Weinidog (Rhodri Morgan): Yr wyf finnau hefyd am gyfeirio at y digwyddiadau hapus ddydd Sadwrn, Brynle. Rhoddwyd sylw i'r digwyddiadau hyn ymhell y tu hwnt i ffiniau Cymru. Gan fod y dechnoleg gwybodaeth ddiweddaraf ar gael yn y nefoedd bellach, yr wyf yn cael ar ddeall fod Lasarus wedi cyhoeddi blog yn syth ar ôl y chwiban olaf, yn dweud bod y ffordd y daeth Cymru yn ôl o farw'n fyw yn un o'r ddau atgyfodiad gorau erioed. [*Chwerthin.*]

To answer your question, Brynle, I have had no discussions with local authorities about the provision of sites. New planning guidance was issued in December, recommending that councils and Gypsy and Traveller groups work together to find suitable and sustainable sites.

Ac ateb eich cwestiwn, Brynle, nid wyf wedi cynnal dim trafodaethau gydag awdurdodau lleol ynghylch darparu safleoedd. Cyhoeddwyd canllawiau cynllunio newydd ym mis Rhagfyr, yn argymhell y dylai'r cynghorau a grwpiau'r Sipsiwn a'r Teithwyr weithio gyda'i gilydd i ddod o hyd i safleoedd addas a chynaliadwy.

Brynle Williams: The lack of dedicated sites and pitches throughout Flintshire is used, regrettably, as an excuse to justify the lack of planning enforcement at Dollar park at Holywell, despite the availability of pitches at Queensferry. One group came in and forced its way onto a piece of land that had

Brynle Williams: Yn anffodus, defnyddir y diffyg safleoedd dynodedig ledled sir y Fflint fel esgus, gwaetha'r modd, i gyfiawnhau'r diffyg gorfodi cynllunio ym mharc Dollar yn Nhreffynnon, er bod safleoedd ar gael yn y Fferi Isaf. Meddiannodd un grŵp ddarn o dir a oedd wedi'i brynu gan unigolyn preifat, gan

been bought by a private individual, destroying ancient woodland, I believe, and laying more than 1,000 tonnes of hardcore. It has now brought in a drill to drill for water. The list is endless—

The Presiding Officer: Order. Could we have a question, please?

Brynle Williams: First Minister, do you think that it is acceptable that some groups are allowed to run roughshod over the planning system, simply by undertaking work first and applying for the planning consent retrospectively? Is it acceptable that local councils appear to ignore Government guidance in that way, when the very same regulations and restrictions make it impossible for many young families to get a foot on the housing ladder? Is it not a case of one rule for one section of the community and another rule for everyone else?

The First Minister: I cannot discuss the merits of any individual planning application, as I am sure you understand, Brynle, because of the right to appeal to Ministers. I am aware of your concern over the Dollar park site in Flintshire, which has also been expressed by other Assembly Members. We must await the decision of Flintshire planning committee, which I believe is meeting tomorrow. We will have to see how that goes. That is about as far as I can go, given our appellate function.

Sandy Mewies: Following on from that, as you know, the Dollar park so-called site is in my Delyn constituency. As you quite rightly say, this is being dealt with by Flintshire County Borough Council tomorrow. I understand that the council is recommending refusal of the application, but I feel that this may lead to further proceedings—legal or otherwise. This matter has been of great concern, not only to the applicants, but also to local residents. It may be that part of this will come before the National Assembly. While I understand that we must preserve totally the integrity of any following procedures, is there anything that we can do, if we are involved, to ensure that an efficient and timely resolution is reached for all those who are involved, and have been involved for quite a long time?

ddinistrio coedwig hynafol, fe gredaf, a gosod mwy na 1,000 tunnell o seiliau caled. Mae'r grŵp hwn erbyn hyn wedi dod â dril yno i ddrilio am ddŵr. Mae'r rhestr yn ddiddiwedd—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. A allem gael cwestiwn, os gwelwch yn dda?

Brynle Williams: Brif Weinidog, a yw'n dderbyniol, yn eich tyb chi, fod rhai grwpiau yn cael sathru dros y system gynllunio, drwy wneud gwaith yn gyntaf, ac wedyn gwneud cais ôl-weithredol am ganiatâd cynllunio? A yw'n dderbyniol bod cynghorau lleol, i bob golwg, yn anwybyddu canllawiau'r Llywodraeth yn y ffordd honno, pan fydd yr un rheoliadau a chyfyngiadau yn union yn ei gwneud yn amhosibl i lawer o deuluoedd ifanc gael troed ar yr ysgol dai? Onid yw'n wir yn y cyswllt hwn fod un rheol i un rhan o'r gymuned, a rheol arall i bawb arall?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn deall, Brynle, na allaf drafod rhinweddau cais cynllunio unigol, oherwydd yr hawl i apelio at Weinidogion. Yr wyf yn ymwybodol o'ch pryder ynghylch parc Dollar yn sir y Fflint, ac mae Aelodau Cynulliad eraill wedi mynegi'r un pryderon. Rhaid inni aros am benderfyniad pwyllgor cynllunio sir y Fflint, sydd yn cyfarfod yfory, fe gredaf. Bydd yn rhaid inni weld beth a ddigwydd yn hwnnw. Dyna'r cyfan y gallaf ei wneud, o ystyried ein swyddogaeth apeliadol.

Sandy Mewies: Yn dilyn hynny, fel y gwyddoch, mae'r safle, fel y'i gelwir, ym mharc Dollar yn fy etholaeth, sef Delyn. Fel y dywedasoeh, yn gwbl gywir, bydd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Sir y Fflint yn trafod y mater hwn yfory. Yr wyf yn deall bod y cyngor yn argymhell y dylid gwrthod y cais, ond teimlaf y gall hyn arwain at weithdrefnau pellach—rhai cyfreithiol neu fel arall. Mae'r mater hwn wedi peri cryn bryder, nid yn unig i'r ymgeiswyr, ond hefyd i bobl leol. Mae'n bosibl y bydd rhan o'r mater hwn yn cael ei gyflwyno gerbron y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Er fy mod yn deall bod yn rhaid inni lwyr ddiogelu uniondeb unrhyw weithdrefnau sydd i ddod, a oes unrhyw beth y gallwn ei wneud, os byddwn yn ymwneud â hyn, i sicrhau ei fod yn cael ei ddatrys yn effeithlon ac amserol i bawb sydd ynglŷn â hyn, ac

wedi bod ynglŷn ag ef ers cryn amser?

The First Minister: Clearly, if we are talking about an application for retrospective planning permission, if there were an appeal, we would be under pressure to consider the appeal very quickly, as would be the case for all retrospective planning applications. It is premature to speculate whether or not it will come to that—we do not know. I recognise what you say; you have more information than I have on the officers' recommendations, but you do not know what the planning committee will decide, because it is not meeting until tomorrow. We perhaps need to come back to this when we have Flintshire's decision.

Kirsty Williams: Given that the Welsh Assembly Government took the time and trouble to consult on, and finally issue, guidance on the management of sites and site design, what is your opinion of councils that do not pay regard to that document? What role do you, as the Welsh Assembly Government, have in ensuring that guidance on this issue is followed by councils?

The First Minister: I am not an expert on planning law. My understanding of the impact of guidance is that it would have a pretty considerable impact on any inspector's recommendation. Were there a public inquiry, you would expect the inspector to use the guidance as an indication of how a policy should have been dealt with by councils, in terms of what they include or fail to include in development plans, or by applicants, who should be able to consider what the plan includes, whether it appears to meet their needs, and so on. Likewise, when it comes to Ministers, we would be expected to abide by our own guidance when the final decision comes to be made following an inspector's recommendation at the end of a public inquiry—if it goes to a public inquiry.

Helen Mary Jones: You will recall the report of the first Assembly's Committee on Equality of Opportunity on public service

Y Prif Weinidog: Yn amlwg, os ydym yn siarad am gais am ganiatâd cynllunio ôl-weithredol, petai apêl, byddem dan gryn bwysau i ystyried yr apêl yn gyflym iawn, a dyna fyddai'r drefn ar gyfer pob cais cynllunio ôl-weithredol. Mae'n rhy gynnar i ddyfalu a fydd hynny'n digwydd ai peidio—nid ydym yn gwybod. Yr wyf yn cydnabod yr hyn a ddywedwch; mae gennych fwy o wybodaeth nag sydd gennyf fi am argymhellion y swyddogion, ond ni wyddoch beth fydd penderfyniad y pwyllgor cynllunio, oherwydd nid yw'n cyfarfod tan yfory. Efallai y bydd angen inni ailgydio yn y mater hwn pan fyddwn wedi clywed penderfyniad sir y Fflint.

Kirsty Williams: O ystyried bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi treulio amser ac wedi mynd i'r drafferth i ymgynghori ynghylch canllawiau ar gyfer rheoli safleoedd a chynllunio safleoedd, ac o'r diwedd wedi'u cyhoeddi, beth yw eich barn am gynghorau nad ydynt yn ystyried y ddogfen honno? Pa rôl sydd gennych, fel Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, o ran sicrhau bod cynghorau'n dilyn y canllawiau ynghylch y mater hwn?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid wyf yn arbenigwr ar gyfraith cynllunio. Yr hyn yr wyf yn ei ddeall am effaith canllawiau yw y byddent yn effeithio'n eithaf sylweddol ar argymhelliad unrhyw arolygydd. Petai ymchwiliad cyhoeddus, byddech yn disgwyl i'r arolygydd ddefnyddio'r canllawiau fel arwydd o sut y dylid bod wedi delio â'r polisi gan gynghorau, o ran yr hyn y maent yn ei gynnwys neu'n methu â'i gynnwys mewn cynlluniau datblygu, neu gan ymgeiswyr, a ddylai allu ystyried yr hyn y mae'r cynllun yn ei gynnwys, pa un ai a ydyw'n bodloni eu hangenion, ac yn y blaen. Yn yr un modd, o ran Gweinidogion, disgwylid inni gadw at ein canllawiau ein hunain pan ddaw'n bryd gwneud y penderfyniad terfynol, ar ôl argymhelliad yr archwilydd ar ddiwedd yr ymchwiliad cyhoeddus—os cynhelir ymchwiliad cyhoeddus.

Helen Mary Jones: Byddwch yn cofio adroddiad Pwyllgor Cyfle Cyfartal y Cynulliad cyntaf ynghylch darparu

provision for Gypsies and Travellers, and that one recommendation was that more resource should be made available for official sites, particularly for families that continue to maintain their traditional way of life and continue to travel. I believe that that recommendation was accepted by the Government at the time. What plans does your Government have to make resources available to local authorities to enable them to provide additional sites, particularly for those Gypsy and Traveller families that are still travelling—what are commonly referred to as transit sites?

The First Minister: You make a good point. There is clearly an element within what was the traditional Traveller community that has ceased to travel, even though they may preserve some elements of that way of life. There are, however, others that continue with that way of life. The guidance covered both Gypsies and Travellers, and I would assume that it covered the group to which you refer, which wishes to maintain a semi-nomadic way of life, travelling from one fruit picking area to another, and so on, in a way that has been done for centuries, probably. You also mentioned resources. By and large, that is a little different to the issue of planning permission.

On the question of planning permission, what we have done is indicate to the Gypsy and Traveller communities what they should be doing, as regards their rights and responsibilities, and likewise to councils in terms of their development plans. We are trying to ensure that that need is met.

Fuel Poverty

Q2 Leanne Wood: Will the First Minister make a statement on the number of people experiencing fuel poverty in Wales? OAQ(03)0693(FM)

The First Minister: In 2004, there were 134,000 fuel-poor households. It was forecast that there would be 166,000 fuel-poor households in 2005, and 240,000 in 2006. Clearly, because of rocketing fuel prices, we would have expected the number to go well

gwasanaethau cyhoeddus i Sipsiwn a Theithwyr, ac mai un argymhelliad oedd y dylid darparu mwy o adnoddau i safleoedd swyddogol, yn enwedig i deuluoedd sy'n parhau i ddilyn eu dull traddodiadol o fyw ac yn parhau i deithio. Credaf fod y Llywodraeth wedi derbyn yr argymhelliad hwnnw ar y pryd. Pa gynlluniau sydd gan eich Llywodraeth i ddarparu adnoddau i awdurdodau lleol i'w galluogi i ddarparu safleoedd ychwanegol, yn enwedig ar gyfer teuluoedd y Sipsiwn a'r Teithwyr hynny sy'n dal i deithio—y safleoedd y cyfeirir atynt fel arfer fel safleoedd dros dro?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae eich pwynt yn un da. Yn amlwg, ceir elfen o fewn y gymuned draddodiadol o Deithwyr sydd erbyn hyn wedi peidio â theithio, er eu bod o bosibl yn dal i ddilyn rhai agweddau ar y dull hwnnw o fyw. Fodd bynnag, ceir rhai eraill sy'n dal i ddilyn y dull hwnnw o fyw. Yr oedd y canllawiau'n sôn am Sipsiwn a Theithwyr, a byddwn yn tybio eu bod yn sôn am y grŵp yr ydych yn cyfeirio ato, sydd am barhau i ddilyn dull lled-grwydrol o fyw, gan deithio o un ardal lle y cesglir ffrwythau i un arall, ac yn y blaen, fel sydd wedi digwydd ers canrifoedd, mae'n debyg. Soniasoch hefyd am adnoddau. At ei gilydd, mae hynny ychydig yn wahanol i fater caniatâd cynllunio.

Ynghylch caniatâd cynllunio, yr hyn yr ydym wedi'i wneud yw dweud wrth gymunedau'r Sipsiwn a'r Teithwyr beth y dylent fod yn ei wneud, yng nghyswllt eu hawliau a'u cyfrifoldebau, ac yn yr un modd wrth y cynghorau yng nghyswllt eu cynlluniau datblygu. Yr ydym yn ceisio sicrhau bod yr angen hwnnw'n cael ei fodloni.

Tlodi Tanwydd

C2 Leanne Wood: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am nifer y bobl sydd mewn tlodi tanwydd yng Nghymru? OAQ(03)0693(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Yn 2004, yr oedd 134,000 o gartrefi'n dlawd o ran tanwydd. Cafwyd rhagolwg y byddai 166,000 o gartrefi'n dlawd o ran tanwydd yn 2005, a 240,000 yn 2006. Yn amlwg, oherwydd bod prisiau tanwydd yn codi'n syfrdanol, byddem wedi

above 240,000.

disgwyl i'r nifer godi ymhell uwchben 240,000.

2.10 p.m.

Leanne Wood: First Minister, the figures that I have indicated that the number of people experiencing fuel poverty almost doubled between 2004 and 2006. In addition, today's press highlights the vast inequalities between fuel consumers in England and Wales. People's bills have rocketed recently, yet energy companies are creaming off massive profits. The UK Government has been criticised this week for failing to stop these companies from making excessive profits on the back of some of the most vulnerable people in society. Some of the measures that could combat fuel poverty include an increase in the winter fuel allowance, an expansion of the winter fuel allowance to include other vulnerable groups, intervention to reduce the inequalities faced by those people who have prepayment meters, and intervention to reduce the inequalities between fuel bill payers in England and Wales. Will you lobby your Westminster colleagues on the implementation of some, or all, of these measures? Also, do you support the devolution of powers over utilities?

Leanne Wood: Brif Weinidog, mae'r ffigurau sydd gennyf yn dangos bod nifer y bobl sydd mewn tlodi tanwydd wedi dyblu bron rhwng 2004 a 2006. Ar ben hynny, mae'r wasg heddiw yn tanlinellu'r anghyfartaledd helaeth rhwng defnyddwyr tanwydd yng Nghymru a Lloegr. Mae biliau pobl wedi codi'n syfrdanol yn ddiweddar, ac eto mae cwmnïau ynni'n gwneud elw anferth. Beirniadwyd Llywodraeth y DU yr wythnos hon am fetu â rhwystro'r cwmnïau hyn rhag gwneud elw gormodol ar draul rhai o'r bobl sy'n fwyaf agored i niwed mewn cymdeithas. Mae rhai o'r mesurau a allai fynd i'r afael â thlodi tanwydd yn cynnwys cynyddu'r lwfans tanwydd gaeaf, ehangu'r lwfans tanwydd gaeaf i gynnwys grwpiau eraill sy'n agored i niwed, ymyrryd i leihau'r anghyfartaledd sy'n wynebu'r rhai y mae ganddynt fesuryddion rhagdal, ac ymyrryd i leihau'r anghyfartaledd rhwng talwyr biliau tanwydd yng Nghymru a Lloegr. A wnewch llobio eich cyd-Weinidogion yn San Steffan i roi rhai o'r mesurau hyn, neu bob un ohonynt, ar waith? Hefyd, a ydych yn cefnogi datganoli pwerau dros gyfleustodau?

The First Minister: We would say that competitive rates need to be provided through social tariffs, or other means, to the least well off. We had a discussion about this last week. On the question of prepayment meters, which are generally used by those who find it difficult to budget, usually because they are less well off, the meters have higher rates because of the administrative costs. This means that these people pay more than those who pay via monthly direct debit or who receive quarterly bills. There is a lack of logic to that, as those who are the least well off should have the best treatment. We in Wales are particularly subject to high tariffs, and have been for about 10 to 15 years, and the figures revealed this morning make it even more of a pressing issue. Pensioner families and those who are less well off should have access to the most competitive prices.

Y Prif Weinidog: Byddem yn dweud bod angen darparu cyfraddau cystadleuol drwy dariffau cymdeithasol, neu drwy ffyrdd eraill, i'r rhai sydd yn y sefyllfa waethaf yn ariannol. Cawsom drafodaeth am hyn yr wythnos diwethaf. O ran mesuryddion rhagdal, a ddefnyddir yn gyffredinol gan y rhai sy'n ei chael yn anodd cyllidebu, am eu bod mewn sefyllfa wael yn ariannol, ceir cyfraddau uwch ar y mesuryddion oherwydd y costau gweinyddol. Mae hyn yn golygu bod y bobl hyn yn talu mwy na'r rhai sy'n talu bob mis drwy ddebyd uniongyrchol neu'r rhai sy'n cael biliau chwarterol. Mae diffyg rhesymeg ynglŷn â hynny, gan mai'r rhai sydd mewn sefyllfa wael a ddylai gael y driniaeth orau. Mae tariffau uchel yn cael cryn effaith yma yng Nghymru, ac mae hynny'n wir ers tua 10 neu 15 mlynedd, ac mae'r ffigurau a gyhoeddwyd y bore yma yn gwneud y mater yn fwy fyth o destun pryder. Dylai teuluoedd pensïynwyr a'r rhai sydd mewn sefyllfa wael yn ariannol allu cael y

prisiau mwyaf cystadleuol.

Mark Isherwood: The figures referred to are shocking, given that Welsh consumers pay up to 18 per cent more for their energy than consumers in England. You referred to the 240,000 households forecast as being in fuel poverty, which is roughly 20 per cent of households in Wales. I understand that 40 per cent of the households that rely on electricity for their heat are in fuel poverty. You rightly highlight the fact that fuel prices are a key component. How do you respond to the call by Energywatch for action on social tariffs? Will you be writing to the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform in Westminster concerning minimum standards in this area? Will you be engaging energy suppliers to discuss the concerns about fuel price rises?

The First Minister: Jane Davidson wrote a letter yesterday to Malcolm Wicks, who is the junior Minister with responsibility for energy, and her opposite number, in the Westminster Government. She reminded him of the request that she made a few months ago for the ministerial inter-administration group on fuel poverty to convene because of how fuel prices have risen this winter. The prices are wholesale and are world driven to some extent, but they have a particular impact in Wales. Therefore, we believe that it would be right to convene a meeting to discuss fuel poverty to see what can be done to alleviate the situation, which is particularly acute in Wales. There are pensioner social tariffs, which are very good. Many of my friends, as I am in that age group, take advantage of the pensioner tariffs, but, outside of the pensioner group, people are very much left on their own. Some people are encouraged to switch suppliers, but many people in Wales do not want to do this because playing the market is not something that comes to them instinctively. It is one of the standard ways recommended by the Westminster Government to reduce fuel bills, but there is a resistance to doing this, especially among less well off customers and especially in Wales. There is some sort of cultural factor at work here, with people in Wales thinking that because they always had

Mark Isherwood: Mae'r ffigurau y cyfeiriwyd atynt yn syfrdanol, o ystyried bod defnyddwyr yng Nghymru yn talu hyd at 18 y cant yn fwy am eu hynni na defnyddwyr yn Lloegr. Cyfeiriasoch at y rhagolwg y bydd 240,000 o gartrefi'n dlawd o ran tanwydd, sef tuag 20 y cant o'r cartrefi yng Nghymru. Yr wyf yn cael ar ddeall bod 40 y cant o'r cartrefi sy'n dibynnu ar drydan i gael gwres yn dlawd o ran tanwydd. Yr oeddech yn gywir wrth dynnu sylw at y ffaith bod prisiau tanwydd yn elfen allweddol. Sut yr ydych yn ymateb i'r galw gan Golwg ar Ynni am weithredu ynghylch tariffau cymdeithasol? A ysgrifennwch at yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Fusnes, Menter a Diwygio Rheoleiddio yn San Steffan ynghylch y safonau gofynnol yn y maes hwn? A fyddwch yn ymgysylltu â chyflenwyr ynni i drafod y pryderon ynghylch y cynnydd mewn prisiau tanwydd?

Y Prif Weinidog: Ysgrifennodd Jane Davidson lythyr ddoe at Malcolm Wicks, sef y Gweinidog iau sy'n gyfrifol am ynni, a'r Gweinidog sy'n cyfateb iddi, yn Llywodraeth San Steffan. Fe'i hatgoffodd am y cais a wnaethpwyd ganddi rai misoedd yn ôl i'r grŵp Gweinidogion rhyng-weinyddiaeth ynghylch tlodi tanwydd ymgynnull oherwydd y modd y mae prisiau tanwydd wedi codi y gaeaf hwn. Mae'r prisiau wedi codi ym mhobman ac mae'n sefyllfa fyd-eang i raddau, ond maent yn cael effaith arbennig yng Nghymru. Felly, credwn y byddai'n briodol cynnal cyfarfod i drafod tlodi tanwydd i weld beth y gellir ei wneud i leddfu'r sefyllfa, sy'n arbennig o ddifrifol yng Nghymru. Ceir tariffau cymdeithasol i bensynwyr, sy'n dda iawn. Mae llawer o'm ffrindiau, gan fy mod yn y grŵp oedran hwnnw, yn manteisio ar y tariffau i bensynwyr, ond, y tu allan i grŵp y pensynwyr, mae pobl ar eu pennau eu hunain i raddau helaeth. Anogir rhai pobl i newid cyflenwyr, ond mae llawer o bobl yng Nghymru yn anfodlon gwneud hyn am nad yw chwarae'r farchnad yn rhywbeth y maent yn ei wneud yn reddfol. Mae hyn yn un o'r dulliau safonol a argymhellir gan Lywodraeth San Steffan i leihau biliau tanwydd, ond mae amharodrwydd i wneud hyn, yn enwedig ymhlith cwsmeriaid sydd mewn sefyllfa wael yn ariannol ac yn enwedig yng Nghymru.

their electricity from what used to be Manweb or the South Wales Electricity Board, they would continue with the successor companies. This means that people are at a disadvantage, because the whole market is structured around people playing the market by switching suppliers to try to bring down prices, and doing this every winter until they get the best possible tariff. People in Wales do not seem to want to do that.

Alun Davies: As has already been mentioned this afternoon, this is a profoundly important issue for many thousands of households across Wales. It is also one of those issues on which we in Cardiff can and must work closely with our colleagues in Westminster and Whitehall to alleviate the impact of fuel poverty and to achieve the best results. The Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing, in a debate on 7 November, said that she would write to her UK Government counterpart to ask for the reconstitution of the cross-national group on fuel poverty. Could you give us an update on that and on the work that is being done to ensure that all UK administrations are working together effectively?

The First Minister: We have not yet had a reply, but we think that it is time that the ministerial group, which was an inter-administration group, should be reconstituted. We think that it should be reconstituted because many aspects of this operate at the UK or GB level, and because of how this winter has been, with oil having risen to \$90 a barrel from probably half that cost two or three years ago, and the impact on the price of gas and coal and on the electricity generated from oil, coal or gas. It is important that people realise what the impact is, and how severe it is in Wales specifically, as we can see from the fact that people in Wales pay, on average, 18 per cent per unit in excess of what is paid in England.

Y Broses Ddatganoli

Mae rhyw fath o elfen ddiwylliannol ar waith yn hyn o beth, a phobl yng Nghymru yn teimlo, am eu bod wedi cael trydan ers tro byd gan y cwmni a elwid yn Manweb neu Fwrdd Trydan De Cymru gynt, y dylent aros gyda'r cwmnïau a ddaeth yn eu lle. Mae hyn yn golygu bod pobl dan anfantais, oherwydd bod strwythur yr holl farchnad wedi'i seilio ar bobl yn chwarae'r farchnad drwy newid cyflenwyr er mwyn ceisio tynnu'r prisiau i lawr, a gwneud hyn bob gaeaf nes iddynt gael y tariff gorau posibl. Ymddengys nad oes ar bobl Cymru eisiau gwneud hynny.

Alun Davies: Fel y soniwyd eisoes y prynhawn yma, mae hyn yn fater eithriadol o bwysig i filoedd lawer o aelwydydd ledled Cymru. Mae hefyd yn un o'r materion lle'r ydym ni yng Nghaerdydd yn gallu gweithio'n agos gyda'n cyd-aelodau yn San Steffan a Whitehall—ac mae'n rhaid inni wneud hynny—i liniaru effaith tlodi tanwydd ac i sicrhau'r canlyniadau gorau. Dywedodd y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai, mewn dadl ar 7 Tachwedd, y byddai'n ysgrifennu at y Gweinidog sy'n cyfateb iddi yn Llywodraeth y DU i ofyn am ailgyfansoddi'r grŵp trawsgenedlaethol ynghylch tlodi tanwydd. A allech roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf inni am hynny, ac am y gwaith sy'n cael ei wneud i sicrhau bod holl weinyddiaethau'r DU yn gweithio gyda'i gilydd yn effeithiol?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid ydym wedi cael ateb eto, ond credwn ei bod yn bryd i'r grŵp gweinidogol, a oedd yn grŵp rhyng-weinyddiaeth, gael ei ailgyfansoddi. Credwn y dylid ei ailgyfansoddi oherwydd bod llawer o agweddau ar hyn ar waith ar lefel y DU neu Brydain Fawr, ac oherwydd yr hyn sydd wedi digwydd y gaeaf hwn, wrth i bris olew godi i \$90 y gasegennid er mai hanner y gost honno ydoedd ddwy neu dair blynedd yn ôl, mae'n debyg, a'r effaith ar bris nwy a glo ac ar y trydan a gynhyrchir o olew, glo neu nwy. Mae'n bwysig bod pobl yn deall yr effaith, ac mor ddifrifol ydyw yng Nghymru yn benodol, fel y gallwn weld yn sgîl y ffaith bod pobl Cymru'n talu 18 y cant yr uned, ar gyfartaledd, yn fwy na'r hyn a delir yn Lloegr.

The Devolution Process

C3 Nerys Evans: Pa drafodaethau mae'r Prif Weinidog wedi'u cael ynghylch y broses ddatganoli yng Nghymru? OAQ(03)0675(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Maent yn rhy niferus i'w cyfrif.

Nerys Evans: Mae gennyf gwestiwn penodol am y broses Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol. Clywsom yn ddiweddar fod gwahaniaeth rhwng y cyngor cyfreithiol yr ydych wedi'i dderbyn fel Llywodraeth a'r cyngor y mae San Steffan wedi'i dderbyn ynghylch gallu'r Llywodraeth hon i gael pŵer dros wahardd cosbi plant yn gorfforol. Clywsom rai wythnosau'n ôl nad yw'r Llywodraeth am herio cyngor cyfreithiol San Steffan, sydd yn groes i'r cyngor cyfreithiol a gafwyd yma fod modd inni gael y pŵer. Gan fod gennym Ysgrifennydd Gwladol newydd, a ydych wedi trafod y mater gydag ef, ac a ydych wedi ystyried herio cyngor cyfreithiol San Steffan, sydd yn wahanol i'r cyngor yr ydych chi wedi'i dderbyn?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae problem ambell waith o ran cyngor cyfreithiol ar yr ochr seneddol o'r corff hwn a'r cyngor ar yr ochr lywodraethol hyd yn oed, felly nid yw hyn yn rhywbeth newydd. Gall ddigwydd o fewn ein cyfundrefn yng Nghymru, mae wedi digwydd dros yr wyth mlynedd a hanner diwethaf ac mae'n parhau i ddigwydd. O ran y posibilrwydd o hollt fach arall yn y cyngor cyfreithiol, rhyngom a San Steffan, mae hynny yn gallu digwydd hefyd. Gallwch hefyd gael barn wleidyddol wahanol, ac mae'r ffactorau hynny wedi'u gweu gyda'i gilydd yn y mater hwn o gosb gorfforol a'i wahardd neu beidio. Yr ydym wedi trafod y mater yn gyffredinol gyda'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol newydd, a'r hyn sy'n bwysig—ac mae hyn yn wir am faterion eraill—yw ein bod yn gallu cyfathrebu gyda'n gilydd ac, os oes gwahaniaeth yn y farn wleidyddol neu gyngor cyfreithiol, yn ceisio dod o hyd i gytundeb.

The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrat Group (Michael German): In the many acres of newsprint devoted to the bugging of MPs today there has only been

Q3 Nerys Evans: What discussions has the First Minister had on the devolution process in Wales? OAQ(03)0675(FM)

The First Minister: They are too numerous to count.

Nerys Evans: I want to ask you specifically about the legislative competence Order process. We have heard recently that there is a difference between the legal advice that the Assembly Government has received and the advice given in Westminster regarding whether this Government can have the power to ban the corporal punishment of children. We heard some weeks ago that the Government does not wish to challenge the legal advice given in Westminster, which is different to the legal advice here that we can have the power. As we now have a new Secretary of State, have you discussed the matter with him, and have you considered challenging the legal advice given in Westminster, which is contrary to the advice that you have received?

The First Minister: There is an occasional problem with legal advice given on the parliamentary side of this organisation differing from advice given on the governmental side, therefore it is nothing new. It can be internal within our system in Wales; it has happened over the past eight and a half years and it continues to happen. In terms of the possibility of seeing another split in terms of legal advice, between us and Westminster, that can also be the case. You can also have differing political opinions, and all of those factors interweave on this question of corporal punishment and whether it should be banned or not. We have discussed the issue in general terms with the new Secretary of State, and what is important on this particular issue—and this is true for other matters—is that we are able to communicate effectively and, if there is a difference between the political opinion and the legal advice given, can try to reach an agreement.

Arweinydd Grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Michael German): Yn yr aceri lu o golofnau mewn papurau newydd sy'n trafod bygio ASau heddiw, dim

passing reference to AMs and other parliamentarians outside Westminster. The Wilson doctrine, of course, predates devolution. The issues of confidentiality that are so important to Members of Parliament are as important to Assembly Members: we serve the same people, help them with the same issues—crime, immigration and so on—and they expect the same levels of trust and confidentiality when we deal with their issues. Logically, any protection from bugging, however theoretical, that covers MPs, should be extended to other parliamentarians in the UK. I know that Harold Wilson could not have anticipated this back in 1966, but I do not think that his successors have an excuse for not considering it now. Have you had any discussion with your colleagues in Westminster about extending the convention to cover Assembly Members, or about enshrining that convention in law? If not, will you do so now?

2.20 p.m.

The First Minister: I am willing to listen to your representations on the issue. I do not think that the Wilson doctrine covers bugging; it only covers telephone calls, as I understand it. Bugging in other premises, such as a prison, with a bug installed in the wall of an interview room for example, is not covered by the Wilson doctrine—although it addressed the spirit of such an act. Questions of whether the doctrine should be extended to prevent bugging or police following MPs in the course of their normal duty need to be considered, as do cases of anything said in the sanctity of a confessional or in a GP's surgery, to ensure that information that could prevent crime and terrorism is passed on to the authorities. It applies to GPs and perhaps to Catholic priests hearing confession. We should also consider whether the doctrine should be extended to the Scottish Parliament, this Assembly and the Northern Ireland Assembly. If any Member has any suspicion that any consultation with a constituent was bugged—that telephones or interview rooms used were bugged—the Presiding Officer would be extremely interested to know, as would I. I am sure that the other party leaders would share my view

ond mân sôn a fu am ACau a seneddwyr eraill y tu allan i San Steffan. Wrth gwrs, mae athrawiaeth Wilson yn hŷn na datganoli. Mae'r materion sy'n ymwneud â chyfrinachedd sydd mor bwysig i Aelodau Seneddol yr un mor bwysig i Aelodau'r Cynulliad: yr ydym yn gwasanaethu'r un bobl, yn eu helpu â'r un materion—troseddu, mewnfudo ac yn y blaen—ac maent yn disgwyl yr un faint o ymddiriedaeth a chyfrinachedd wrth inni ymdrin â'u materion. Yn rhesymegol, dylid ymestyn unrhyw amddiffyniad rhag bygio, waeth pa mor ddamcaniaethol ydyw, sy'n berthnasol i ASau, i seneddwyr eraill yn y DU. Gwn na allai Harold Wilson fod wedi rhagweld hyn yn 1966, ond ni chredaf fod gan ei olynwyr esgus dros beidio â'i ystyried yn awr. A ydych wedi cynnal unrhyw drafodaeth â'ch cyd-aelodau yn San Steffan ynghylch ymestyn y confensiwn i gynnwys Aelodau'r Cynulliad, neu ynghylch ymgorffori'r confensiwn hwnnw yn y gyfraith? Os nad ydych, a wnewch hynny yn awr?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn fodlon gwrandao ar eich sylwadau am y mater. Ni chredaf fod athrawiaeth Wilson yn ymdrin â bygio; dim ond â galwadau ffôn, yn ôl a ddeallaf. Nid yw athrawiaeth Wilson yn ymwneud â bygio mewn mannau eraill, megis carchar, lle y gosodir byg yn wal ystafell gyfweld, er enghraifft—er ei bod yn ymdrin ag ysbryd gweithred o'r fath. Mae angen ystyried cwestiynau ynghylch a ddylid ymestyn yr athrawiaeth i atal bygio neu i atal yr heddlu rhag dilyn ASau wrth iddynt gyflawni eu dyletswyddau arferol, yn ogystal ag achosion o unrhyw beth a ddywedir yn sancteiddrwydd cyffsgell neu ym meddygfa meddyg teulu, er mwyn sicrhau bod gwybodaeth a allai atal troseddu a therfysgaeth yn cael ei rhoi i'r awdurdodau. Mae'n berthnasol i feddygon teulu ac efallai i offeiriaid Catholig sy'n clywed cyffes. Dylem ystyried hefyd a ddylid ymestyn yr athrawiaeth i Senedd yr Alban, y Cynulliad hwn a Chynulliad Gogledd Iwerddon. Os oes gan unrhyw Aelod amheuaeth bod unrhyw ymgynghoriad ag etholwr wedi cael ei fygio—fod ffonau neu ystafelloedd cyfweld wedi cael eu bygio—byddai gan y Llywydd, a minnau, ddiddordeb mawr mewn cael gwybod. Yr wyf yn siŵr y

that we would then need to take some pretty urgent action.

Michael German: The issue is whether whatever convention is used now and whatever conventions or rules arise from the current discussion extend to Assembly Members and other parliamentarians around the United Kingdom. Our constituents must have confidence that what they tell us will be treated confidentially. However, if there are cases where it is felt that the information is very important—even where an Assembly Member might be straying outside that understanding with their constituents—most Members would agree that, particularly if you discover something illegal, you should report it. That is part of a regime that we would all accept. However, this is a very live discussion between Members of Parliament and the Government, so are you prepared to say to the Government that this regime should be extended to cover parliamentarians and Members outside Westminster?

The First Minister: I would probably need to discuss that with the Presiding Officer, because it is about the rights of AMs in the whole establishment. The review has barely begun. I did not catch the name of the person—a high court judge, I believe—whom Jack Straw has asked to undertake the review as of yesterday. However, I need to discuss the matter with the Presiding Officer.

Michael German: The review is to report back rapidly to Government—to the Prime Minister and Jack Straw. The review is to take place quickly in order to allay the fears of constituents around the United Kingdom. It is important that we are part of that process; we should not forget that constituents in Wales are served by us with regard to issues that are of a highly confidential nature, because they touch on matters of the law.

The First Minister: I accept that, but as we do not have powers relating to criminal justice, terrorism or national security

byddai arweinwyr y pleidiau eraill yn cydfynd â mi y byddai angen inni weithredu ar frys pe bai hynny'n bod.

Michael German: Y cwestiwn yw a yw pa gonfensiwn bynnag a ddefnyddir yn awr, a pha gonfensiynau neu reolau bynnag a gyfyd o'r drafodaeth bresennol, yn ymestyn i Aelodau'r Cynulliad a seneddwyr eraill ledled y Deyrnas Unedig. Rhaid i'n hetholwyr fod yn hyderus y caiff yr hyn a ddywedant wrthym ei drin yn gyfrinachol. Fodd bynnag, os ceir achosion lle y teimlir bod y wybodaeth yn bwysig iawn—hyd yn oed lle y gallai Aelod Cynulliad fod yn crwydro y tu allan i'r ddealltwriaeth honno gyda'i etholwyr—byddai'r rhan fwyaf o Aelodau'n cytuno, yn enwedig os darganfyddwch rywbeth anghyfreithlon, y dylech roi gwybod amdano. Mae hynny'n rhan o gyfundrefn y byddem oll yn ei derbyn. Fodd bynnag, mae hyn yn drafodaeth berthnasol iawn ar hyn o bryd rhwng Aelodau Seneddol a'r Llywodraeth, felly a ydych yn barod i ddweud wrth y Llywodraeth y dylid ymestyn y gyfundrefn hon i gynnwys seneddwyr ac Aelodau y tu allan i San Steffan?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'n debygol y byddai angen imi drafod hynny gyda'r Llywydd, oherwydd y mae'n ymwneud â hawliau ACau yn yr holl sefydliad. Newydd ddechrau y mae'r adolygiad. Ni chlywais enw'r person—un o farnwyr yr uchel lys, fe gredaf—y mae Jack Straw wedi gofyn iddo gynnal yr adolygiad gan ddechrau ddoe. Fodd bynnag, mae angen imi drafod y mater gyda'r Llywydd.

Michael German: Bydd yr adolygiad yn adrodd yn ôl yn gyflym i'r Llywodraeth—i'r Prif Weinidog ac i Jack Straw. Bydd yr adolygiad yn digwydd yn gyflym er mwyn tawelu ofnau etholwyr ledled y Deyrnas Unedig. Mae'n bwysig inni fod yn rhan o'r broses honno; ni ddylem anghofio ein bod yn gwasanaethu etholwyr yng Nghymru mewn materion sy'n gyfrinachol iawn eu natur, gan eu bod yn ymwneud â materion cyfreithiol.

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn derbyn hynny, ond gan nad yw pwerau'n ymwneud â chyfiawnder troseddol, terfysgaeth na

devolved to us, a constituent would probably choose to see their MP rather than an Assembly Member about a highly sensitive matter relating to, for example, their legal status, a fear that they were being persecuted by the police, or the fact that they had just returned from Guantanamo Bay, because MPs have criminal justice responsibilities that we do not. That would not be true in Scotland, of course. However, they might choose to come to us, and, accepting that, if a Member went to see a constituent in prison or in other circumstances to discuss matters of extreme sensitivity, in the first place, they would need an assurance that the discussion was not being covertly overheard. Secondly, the Member would need some guidance—in the same way as a doctor or a Catholic priest hearing confession would—on the circumstances in which they would be obliged to pass on to the authorities something that they had been told in confidence, avoiding breaching some other sacrosanct duty of confidentiality towards their constituents.

Gwasanaethau Meddygon Teulu y Tu Allan i Oriau Arferol

C4 Paul Davies: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am ddarparu gwasanaethau meddygon teulu y tu allan i oriau arferol yng Nghymru? OAQ(03)0700(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae gwasanaethau y tu allan i oriau arferol wedi'u comisiynu gan y byrddau iechyd lleol ers Rhagfyr 2004. Cyflenwir y gwasanaethau hynny yn sir Benfro drwy gydweithrediad rhwng meddygon teulu lleol. Yr ydym yn talu £1.4 miliwn tuag at y gwasanaeth hwnnw a disgwylir i'r bwrdd iechyd lleol yn sir Benfro, fel mewn mannau eraill, fonitro a datblygu gwasanaethau yn ôl y galw.

Paul Davies: Yr wyf wedi siarad â llawer o'm hetholwyr yn ddiweddar sy'n anhapus â'r gwasanaeth hwn. Dywedodd un etholwraig wrthyf fod meddyg wedi methu â galw i weld ei gŵr un nos Sul ar ôl iddi siarad â dau feddyg dros y ffôn. Diolch byth, ni ddigwyddodd unrhyw beth i'w gŵr ond gallai'r canlyniadau fod wedi bod yn drychinebus.

diogelwch cenedlaethol wedi'u datganoli inni, mae'n debygol y byddai etholwr yn dewis gweld ei AS yn hytrach nag Aelod Cynulliad ynghylch mater sensitif iawn sy'n ymwneud, er enghraifft, â'i statws cyfreithiol, ofn bod yr heddlu'n ei erlid, neu'r ffaith ei fod newydd ddychwelyd o Fae Guantanamo, oherwydd y mae gan ASau gyfrifoldebau ym maes cyfiawnder troseddol, ac nid oes gennym ni. Ni fyddai hynny'n wir yn yr Alban, wrth gwrs. Fodd bynnag, efallai y byddent yn dewis dod atom ni, a, chan dderbyn hynny, petai Aelod yn mynd i weld etholwr yn y carchar neu dan amgylchiadau eraill i drafod materion sensitif iawn, i ddechrau, byddai angen eu sicrhau nad oedd neb yn gwrando ar y drafodaeth yn ddirgel. Yn ail, byddai ar yr Aelod angen rhywfaint o ganllawiau—yn yr un modd ag y byddai ar feddyg neu ar offeiriad Catholig yn clywed cyffes—am yr amgylchiadau pan fyddai'n rhaid iddynt rannu rhywbeth a ddywedwyd wrthynt yn gyfrinachol â'r awdurdodau, gan osgoi torri rhyw ddyletswydd o gyfrinachedd gysegredig arall tuag at eu hetholwyr.

GP Out-of-hours Services

Q4 Paul Davies: Will the First Minister make a statement on the provision of GP out-of-hours services in Wales? OAQ(03)0700(FM)

The First Minister: Out-of-hours services have been commissioned by the local health boards since December 2004. Those services in Pembrokeshire are delivered in collaboration between the local GPs. We pay £1.4 million towards that service and we expect the local health board in Pembrokeshire, as in other places in Wales, to monitor and develop services to meet patient need.

Paul Davies: I have spoken to a number of my constituents recently who are unhappy with this service. One constituent told me that a GP failed to call to see her husband one Sunday evening after she had spoken to two GPs on the telephone. Thankfully, nothing happened to her husband but the results could have been disastrous.

Clywsom yr wythnos diwethaf fod y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yn bwriadu monitro adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys mewn ysbytai. Efallai fod yr adrannau hyn o dan bwysau am fod diffyg hyder gan bobl yn y gwasanaeth meddygon teulu y tu allan i oriau arferol, ac felly'n ymweld ag ysbytai yn lle defnyddio'r gwasanaeth hwnnw. O dan yr amgylchiadau, a wnaiff y Prif Weinidog a'r Llywodraeth ystyried adolygu'r system hon, nad yw'n gweithio fel ag y dylai mewn rhai rhannau o Gymru?

Y Prif Weinidog: Bydd enghreifftiau bob amser o bobl yn syrthio drwy'r rhwyd. Ni chredaf y gallai unrhyw un ddatblygu system lle gellid rhoi gwarant na fyddai unrhyw un yn syrthio drwy'r rhwyd. Yr hyn sy'n bwysig yw eich bod yn ceisio sefydlu rhwyd, gystal ag y gallwch, rhwng y pedwar llwybr y gellir eu dilyn o ran gwasanaethau brys. Bydd Edwina Hart yn traethu ar y pwnc hwn ymhen rhyw hanner awr.

Darperir gwasanaethau brys yn yr ysbyty, a gwelir rhai pobl yn cyfeirio'u hunain heb fynd drwy'r gwasanaethau meddygon teulu; drwy'r gwasanaeth 999; drwy linell Galw Iechyd Cymru; a thrwy'r gwasanaethau y tu allan i oriau arferol gan y meddygon teulu. Mae'r pedwar dewis ar gael ichi ond a wyddoch pa un o'r llwybrau hynny sy'n weddus i chi o dan yr amgylchiadau? Os ydych mewn rhywfaint o banig am fod gennych fab neu ferch ifanc sy'n dost ac â thymheredd uchel ac ati, nid ydych yn hollol resymegol pan fo rhywbeth tebyg yn digwydd. Fodd bynnag, mae gennych bedwar dewis. Mae'n rhaid cydlynu'r pedwar dewis fel bod rhywun yn dweud wrthy, 'Dyma'r llwybr gweddus i chi a'r aelod o'r teulu sy'n dioddef'.

David Lloyd: Moves are afoot in England to make GPs open their surgeries for longer hours. Is there an intention to make GPs open their surgeries at night and at weekends in Wales?

The First Minister: I understand that the Department of Health is writing to all GPs in England but no such letter will be issued in Wales. The question is being negotiated

We heard last week that the Minister for Health and Social Services intends to monitor accident and emergency departments in hospitals. Perhaps these departments are under pressure because people have no confidence in the out-of-hours GP service, and therefore attend the hospital rather than use the GP service. In the circumstances, will the First Minister and the Government consider reviewing this system, which does not work as it should in some parts of Wales?

The First Minister: There will always be examples of people who fall through the net. I do not believe that anyone could develop a system where you could guarantee that no-one would fall through the net. What is important is that you try to establish a system as robust as possible between all four options of the emergency service. Edwina Hart will be talking about this very subject within the hour.

Emergency services are provided in hospitals, and you will see some people referring themselves without going through the GP services, the 999 service, the NHS Direct helpline, or the GP out-of-hours service. All four options are available to you; but do you know which is the most appropriate service for you under the circumstances? If you are slightly panicked because you have a young child who is ill and might be running a high temperature, you are not totally rational in your conduct when that kind of thing happens. However, you have those four options. Those four options need to be co-ordinated so that people can say, 'This is the appropriate route for you and the family member to take'.

David Lloyd: Mae symudiadau ar droed yn Lloegr i wneud i feddygon teulu agor eu meddygfeydd am oriau hwy. A yw'n fwriad gwneud i feddygon teulu agor eu meddygfeydd gyda'r nos ac ar benwythnosau yng Nghymru?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn deall bod yr Adran Iechyd yn ysgrifennu at bob meddyg teulu yn Lloegr, ond nid anfonir llythyr o'r fath yng Nghymru. Mae'r cwestiwn yn cael

directly with the British Medical Association in Wales, where the relationships between our health department, Minister for Health and Social Services and the BMA is considerably better than the relationships between the Department of Health and the BMA, or the GP-end of the BMA, in England. Undoubtedly, we will be drawn into it. As the information and communications technology systems are common, the negotiation is pretty much a single negotiation. However, we are attempting to see what can be done to ensure that the least possible damage is done by any breakdown in negotiations, because we understand that the BMA is going to go to ballot.

Nick Bourne: To develop that point, as the First Minister has said the contract is an England and Wales contract. Alan Johnson, the Secretary of State for Health, has taken the decision to write to GPs in England only, which is sensitive. I presume that he took that decision after some discussion with you, or possibly with the Minister, as to what we would do in Wales. Given that the problems that exist on the other side of the border are similar to those on this side of the border, and given the concerns that have been expressed about the GP contract, is the option of the Minister for Health and Social Services writing in a similar way to GPs in Wales being considered? If not, why not?

The First Minister: There was no consultation with us before that decision was made to write over the heads of the BMA directly to GPs in England. The key issue is that everyone accepts that there is a widespread popular feeling that two things should happen simultaneously, and the question then is whether you put the emphasis on one or the other.

2.30 p.m.

The GPs and the BMA would probably put the emphasis on additional services and specialist clinics that are not currently provided, such as osteoporosis clinics, and so on. The general public, and Alan Johnson, to a degree, as well as ourselves, would like to

ei drafod yn uniongyrchol gyda Chymdeithas Feddygol Prydain yng Nghymru, lle y mae'r berthynas rhwng ein hadran iechyd, y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a'r BMA yn llawer gwell na'r berthynas rhwng yr Adran Iechyd a BMA, neu ochr meddygon teulu y BMA, yn Lloegr. Yn ddiau, cawn ein cynnwys yn hyn. Gan fod y systemau technoleg gwybodaeth a chyfathrebu'n gyffredin, dim ond un drafodaeth a fydd, mewn gwirionedd. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym yn ceisio gweld beth y gellir ei wneud i sicrhau y gwneir cyn lleied â phosibl o niwed gan unrhyw fethiant yn y trafodaethau, oherwydd yr ydym yn cael ar ddeall bod y BMA am gynnal pleidlais.

Nick Bourne: A datblygu'r pwynt hwnnw, fel y dywedodd y Prif Weinidog, contract Cymru a Lloegr yw'r contract. Mae Alan Johnson, yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Iechyd, wedi penderfynu ysgrifennu at feddygon teulu yn Lloegr yn unig, sy'n sensitif. Cymeraf ei fod wedi gwneud y penderfyniad hwnnw ar ôl trafod gyda chi, neu o bosibl gyda'r Gweinidog, yr hyn y byddem yn ei wneud yng Nghymru. O ystyried bod y problemau sy'n bodoli ar yr ochr arall i'r ffin yn debyg i'r rhai ar yr ochr hon i'r ffin, ac o ystyried y pryderon a fynegwyd am y contract meddygon teulu, a yw'r posibilrwydd y bydd y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yn ysgrifennu mewn modd tebyg at feddygon teulu yng Nghymru yn cael ei ystyried? Os nad yw, pam nad yw?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid ymgynghorwyd â ni cyn gwneud y penderfyniad hwnnw i ysgrifennu heb drafod â'r BMA yn uniongyrchol at feddygon teulu Lloegr. Y mater allweddol yw bod pawb yn derbyn bod teimlad cyffredin ymysg pobl y dylai dau beth ddigwydd ar yr un pryd, a'r cwestiwn wedyn yw a ydych yn rhoi'r pwyslais ar y naill ynteu'r llall.

Mae'n debygol y byddai meddygon teulu a'r BMA yn rhoi'r pwyslais ar wasanaethau ychwanegol a chlinigau arbenigol nad ydynt yn cael eu darparu ar hyn o bryd, megis clinigau osteoporosis, ac yn y blaen. Carai'r cyhoedd, ac Alan Johnson, i ryw raddau, a

see some provision of additional hours, whether that means weekend cover or evenings, or whatever. Both those things need to be achieved, but which is the more important at present? That is where there is this big divide between the BMA and us. Given that it is an England-and-Wales offer, and it is an England-and-Wales-imposed contract, if so be it, then that is what will happen—we will have to encourage all GPs to accept the offer. However, we hope that we can do it in a spirit of continued close working, because the relationship with the BMA in Wales is pretty good, whereas it is not good in England.

The Presiding Officer: I call Jenny Randerson. I am sorry, the leader of the opposition has a supplementary question. I will call the Liberal Democrat health spokesperson afterwards. I am sorry; it is my excitement to include Liberal Democrats at all times that is to blame. [*Laughter.*]

Nick Bourne: We are always keen to include them as well—not always successfully. [*Laughter.*]

First Minister, the extra cost of the new contract has been calculated at £131 million, which is an increase of 44 per cent. This has been highlighted by our cross-party Audit Committee, which says that although there are good aspects to the contract, it is not believed that it is giving value for money in Wales. Given that circumstance, and given that it is difficult to act in isolation or, indeed, significantly differently, I would have thought, in relation to doctors in England and in Wales, should we not be looking at the prospect, or the option, of the Minister for Health and Social Services acting in a similar way—not in an identical way—to Alan Johnson, otherwise we will be very much out of step with the profession, which is, in terms of the contract, fused?

The First Minister: It will function as an England-and-Wales contract—there is no way of splitting the two contracts, one from the other. That does not necessarily mean that we should send exactly the same letter, going

ninnau hefyd, weld rhywfaint o oriau ychwanegol yn cael eu darparu, boed hynny'n golygu gwasanaeth dros benwythnos neu fin nos, neu beth bynnag y bo. Mae angen cyflawni'r naill beth a'r llall, ond pa un yw'r pwysicaf ar hyn o bryd? Dyna lle y ceir y gwahaniaeth barn mawr hwn rhwng y BMA a ninnau. O ystyried bod hwn yn gynnig ar gyfer Cymru a Lloegr, a'i fod yn gontract a roddir yng Nghymru a Lloegr, os felly y bydd, dyna beth fydd yn digwydd—bydd yn rhaid inni annog pob meddyg teulu i dderbyn y cynnig. Fodd bynnag, gobeithiwn y gallwn wneud hynny mewn ysbryd o gydweithio agos o hyd, oherwydd bod y berthynas â'r BMA yng Nghymru yn weddol dda, ond nid yw cystal yn Lloegr.

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf yn galw ar Jenny Randerson. Mae'n ddrwg gennyf, mae gan arweinydd yr wrthblaid gwestiwn atodol. Galwaf ar lefarydd ieched y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol wedyn. Mae'n ddrwg gennyf; fy mrawdfrydedd i gynnwys y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol bob amser sydd ar fai. [*Chwerthin.*]

Nick Bourne: Yr ydym ninnau bob amser yn awyddus i'w cynnwys hefyd—er nad ydym yn llwyddo bob tro. [*Chwerthin.*]

Brif Weinidog, cyfrifwyd mai £131 miliwn yw cost ychwanegol y contract newydd, sydd yn gynydd o 44 y cant. Tanlinellwyd hyn gan ein Pwyllgor Archwilio trawsbleidiol, a ddywed, er bod agweddau da ar y contract, na chredir ei fod yn rhoi gwerth am arian yng Nghymru. O ystyried hynny a'i bod yn anodd gweithredu ar wahân neu, a dweud y gwir, yn wahanol iawn, buaswn yn meddwl, yng nghyswllt meddygon yng Nghymru ac yn Lloegr, oni ddylem edrych ar y posibilrwydd, neu'r opsiwn, y byddai'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yn gweithredu mewn modd tebyg i Alan Johnson—er nad yr un fath yn union—neu byddwn yn wahanol iawn i'r proffesiwn sydd, o ran y contract, yn cyd-fynd?

Y Prif Weinidog: Bydd yn gweithredu fel contract Cymru a Lloegr—nid oes modd gwahanu'r naill gontract oddi wrth y llall. Nid yw hynny o reidrwydd yn golygu y dylem anfon yr un llythyr yn union at y

over the head of the BMA, to the GPs. You must calculate whether, in a Welsh context, given the good relationship that our health department and health Minister have with the BMA in Wales—or the GPs' half of the BMA in particular—it is better to negotiate without that letter. We must ask what we want from improvements to the contract. This is about trying to strike a delicate balance between having the specialist additional clinics that are not currently provided, but which are being offered by the BMA—that is what it sees as the right way forward, and we are keen on that—and having the additional hours, which it is not keen on, but which most patients are. Or should it be a balance between the two? We believe that our way of doing it will probably achieve better results in Wales.

Nick Bourne: I am grateful for that, First Minister, and I do not believe that my view differs significantly. However, given the tight settlement from Westminster and the Barnett block, which we keep coming back to, any money that is saved by ensuring that we get value for money from this contract, which, as I say, we do not at present according to the cross-party Audit Committee, is money that will be well saved and well spent on healthcare. Therefore, I hope that we can have an early statement on how we are to proceed on this issue, because it is of concern to patients as well as to doctors.

The First Minister: I agree. However, there is an old medical principle that says that you should not take your patient's temperature every five minutes, or they will never get better. Likewise, I cannot give a running commentary every five minutes on the state of delicate negotiations while those negotiations are ongoing. The more delicate they are, the more fearful I would be of trying to report back midway, or a quarter of the way or three quarters of the way through, because people then have to strike poses, and so on, and that is not conducive to completing negotiations. The negotiations are ongoing; they are highly sensitive, and we hope to achieve a successful outcome from

meddygon teulu, gan ddiystyru'r BMA. Rhaid ichi ystyried, yng nghyd-destun Cymru, o gofio'r berthynas dda sydd gan ein hadran iechyd a'n Gweinidog Iechyd â'r BMA yng Nghymru—neu hanner meddygon teulu'r BMA yn benodol—a yw'n well negodi heb y llythyr hwnnw. Rhaid inni ofyn beth y mae arnom ei eisiau gan welliannau i'r contract. Mae hyn yn ymwneud â cheisio cael cydbwysedd gofalus rhwng cael y clinigau ychwanegol arbenigol nad ydynt yn cael eu darparu ar hyn o bryd, ond sy'n cael eu cynnig gan y BMA—hynny yw'r ffordd iawn ymlaen yng ngolwg y BMA, ac yr ydym yn frwd dros hynny—a chael yr oriau ychwanegol, sef rhywbeth nad yw'n frwd drosto, ond y mae'r rhan fwyaf o gleifion yn frwd drosto. Neu a ddylai fod yn gydbwysedd rhwng y naill a'r llall? Yr ydym yn credu ei bod yn debygol y bydd ein dull ni o wneud hyn yn sicrhau canlyniadau gwell yng Nghymru.

Nick Bourne: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am hynny, Brif Weinidog, ac nid wyf yn credu bod gwahaniaeth barn mawr rhyngom. Fodd bynnag, o ystyried y setliad tynn gan San Steffan a'r bloc Barnett, y deugn yn ôl ato dro ar ôl tro, bydd unrhyw arian a arbedir drwy sicrhau ein bod yn cael gwerth am arian gan y contract hwn, nad ydym, fel y dywedaf, yn ei gael ar hyn o bryd yn ôl y Pwyllgor Archwilio trawsbleidiol, yn arian a gaiff ei arbed a'i wario'n dda ar ofal iechyd. Felly, gobeithiaf y cawn ddatganiad cynnar ynghylch sut y byddwn yn bwrw ymlaen ar y mater hwn, oherwydd ei fod yn peri pryder i gleifion yn ogystal ag i feddygon.

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn cytuno. Fodd bynnag, ceir hen egwyddor feddygol a ddywed na ddylech fesur tymheredd eich claf bob pum munud, neu ni fydd byth yn gwella. Yn yr un modd, ni allaf roi sylwebaeth drwy'r amser bob pum munud am gyflwr trafodaethau anodd wrth i'r trafodaethau hynny fynd rhagdynt. Po anoddaf ydynt, mwyaf ofnus y byddwn ynghylch ceisio adrodd yn ôl hanner y ffordd, chwarter y ffordd neu dri chwarter y ffordd drwy'r drafodaeth oherwydd bod yn rhaid i bobl wedyn ymhoni, ac yn y blaen, ac nid yw hynny'n helpu i gwblhau trafodaethau. Mae'r trafodaethau'n parhau; maent yn sensitif iawn a gobeithiwn sicrhau canlyniad llwyddiannus

the point of view of satisfying what patients are looking for, what is good value for money, as well as what the BMA in Wales is looking for.

The Presiding Officer: I call Jenny Randerson—at last.

Jenny Randerson: Thank you, Presiding Officer. Not only has the GPs' contract cost £131 million more than was expected, but, according to the evidence of the Audit Committee's report, the out-of-hours service has consistently cost £10,000 more per GP than expected. Since the out-of-hours service was instigated, there has been a massive increase in accident and emergency attendances, which was brought on, at least in part, by the lack of public confidence in, and awareness of, the out-of-hours service. I am surprised that there does not appear to be any intention to integrate a review of the out-of-hours service with the delivering emergency care strategy that was published today. Does your Government have any intention to review the out-of-hours service in this context?

The First Minister: It has now been some three years and two months since the responsibility for providing out-of-hours services was transferred from GPs to the local health board. The local health board had to separately commission the service: it could buy a service provided by the local GP co-operative—as I mentioned five minutes ago in answer to the original question—or, in other areas, it could commission a completely new service. You will remember that we had a huge blow up in Cardiff over the new service. After those pretty difficult first 12 months, there has been a considerable settling-down period, in which there have been very few complaints relative to the number of services provided and individual patients seen. I do not recognise the figures that you referred to; that does not mean that I disagree with them, I just do not recognise them, and therefore I cannot really comment on them.

On the question of the four potential routes,

o ran bodloni'r hyn y mae cleifion yn chwilio amdano, yr hyn sy'n werth da am arian, yn ogystal â'r hyn y mae'r BMA yng Nghymru yn chwilio amdano.

Y Prif Weinidog: Galwaf ar Jenny Randerson—o'r diwedd.

Jenny Randerson: Diolch, Lywydd. Nid yn unig y mae contract y meddygon teulu wedi costio £131 miliwn yn fwy na'r disgwyl, ond, yn ôl tystiolaeth adroddiad y Pwyllgor Archwilio, mae'r gwasanaeth y tu allan i oriau wedi costio £10,000 yn fwy fesul meddyg teulu na'r disgwyl yn gyson. Ers dechrau'r gwasanaeth y tu allan i oriau, bu cynnydd enfawr yn y niferoedd sy'n mynd i adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys, a hynny wedi deillio, i ryw raddau o leiaf, o ddiffyg hyder y cyhoedd yn y gwasanaeth y tu allan i oriau a diffyg ymwybyddiaeth ohono. Yr wyf yn synnu nad oes i bob golwg fwriad i integreiddio adolygiad o'r gwasanaeth y tu allan i oriau gyda'r strategaeth cyflenwi gofal brys a gyhoeddwyd heddiw. A yw'n fwriad gan eich Llywodraeth adolygu'r gwasanaeth y tu allan i oriau yn y cyd-destun hwn?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae tua thair blynedd a dau fis wedi mynd heibio ers trosglwyddo cyfrifoldeb darparu gwasanaethau y tu allan i oriau oddi wrth feddygon teulu i'r bwrdd iechyd lleol. Yr oedd yn rhaid i'r bwrdd iechyd lleol gomisiynu'r gwasanaeth ar wahân; gallai brynu gwasanaeth a ddarperid gan y cwmni cydweithredol o feddygon teulu lleol—fel y soniais bum munud yn ôl wrth ateb y cwestiwn gwreiddiol—neu, mewn meysydd eraill, gallai gomisiynu gwasanaeth newydd sbon. Byddwch yn cofio inni gael dadl fawr yng Nghaerdydd ynghylch y gwasanaeth newydd. Ar ôl y 12 mis cyntaf eithaf cythryblus, cafwyd cryn gyfnod o ymdawelu, a chymharol isel oedd nifer y cwynion a gafwyd yn ystod y cyfnod hwnnw o'u cymharu â nifer y gwasanaethau a ddarparwyd a nifer y cleifion unigol a welwyd. Nid wyf yn gyfarwydd â'r ffigurau y cyfeiriasoch atynt; nid yw hynny'n golygu nad wyf yn cytuno â hwy, ond nid wyf yn gyfarwydd â hwy, ac felly ni allaf roi sylwadau arnynt mewn gwirionedd.

Yng nghyswllt y pedwar llwybr posibl y

and their co-ordination, which any of us, individually, and all of us on behalf of our constituents, can use for unscheduled care, what we are trying to do—Edwina will say a great deal more about this later on this afternoon—is to make sure that everybody has the best possible guidance as to which is the most appropriate route for them. Should people contact NHS Direct or 999, or should they turn up at an accident-and-emergency department or use the family doctor's out-of-hours service? We are trying to make sure that people have the best possible understanding of the options, despite the fact that they will be under stress when they will be making those decisions.

Affordable Housing

Q5 Peter Black: Will the First Minister give an update on the use of Assembly-owned land for affordable housing? OAQ(03)0678(FM)

The First Minister: We are undertaking a number of mixed-use development projects on land that we own, which will provide a significant level of affordable housing. These include, for example, SA1 in Swansea, where over 200 affordable housing units will be built, and Ely Bridge, in my constituency, where 270 units will be provided.

Peter Black: As you know, if we can reduce the cost of land and the infrastructure attached to it, builders will be able to provide houses at much more affordable prices. Are you undertaking a systematic review of all Assembly-owned land to identify suitable housing land for the future and will you be producing a land-bank strategy along those lines in the near future?

The First Minister: We have produced a protocol for the disposal of surplus land for affordable housing. It ensures that if there is surplus land that is no longer required for the purposes for which it was originally acquired, whether that comes under the health or highways departments, and so on, it can be disposed of, including being disposed of for affordable housing.

Bethan Jenkins: Yr ydych wedi sôn am y ffaith eich bod chi am ddatblygu tai

gallai unrhyw un ohonom, fel unigolion, a phob un ohonom ar ran ein hetholwyr, eu defnyddio ar gyfer gofal heb ei drefnu, a chydlynu'r llwybrau hynny, yr hyn yr ydym yn ceisio'i wneud—bydd Edwina yn traethu llawer mwy am hyn yn nes ymlaen y prynhawn yma—yw sicrhau bod yr arweiniad gorau posibl gan bawb ynghylch y llwybr mwyaf priodol iddynt. A ddylai pobl gysylltu â Galw Iechyd Cymru neu 999, neu a ddylent fynd i adran damweiniau ac achosion brys ynteu defnyddio gwasanaeth y tu allan i oriau y meddyg teulu? Yr ydym yn ceisio sicrhau bod pobl yn deall yn iawn beth yw'r dewisiadau, er y byddant dan bwysau pan fyddant yn gwneud y penderfyniadau hynny.

Tai Fforddiadwy

C5 Peter Black: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am ddefnyddio tir sy'n eiddo i'r Cynulliad ar gyfer tai fforddiadwy? OAQ(03)0678(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydym yn cynnal nifer o brosiectau datblygiad defnydd cymysg ar dir sy'n eiddo inni, a fydd yn darparu lefel sylweddol o dai fforddiadwy. Mae'r rhain yn cynnwys, er enghraifft, SA1 yn Abertawe, lle yr adeiledir dros 200 o unedau tai fforddiadwy, a Phont Trelái, yn fy etholaeth, lle y darperir 270 o unedau.

Peter Black: Fel y gwyddoch, os gallwn leihau cost tir a'r seilwaith sydd ynghlwm wrtho, bydd adeiladwyr yn gallu darparu tai am brisiau llawer mwy fforddiadwy. A ydych yn cynnal adolygiad systematig o'r holl dir sy'n eiddo i'r Cynulliad i ddod o hyd i dir addas i dai ar gyfer y dyfodol ac a fyddwch yn cynhyrchu strategaeth banc tir i'r perwyl hwnnw yn y dyfodol agos?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydym wedi cynhyrchu protocol ar waredu tir dros ben ar gyfer tai fforddiadwy. Mae'n sicrhau os oes tir dros ben nad oes ei angen mwyach ar gyfer y dibenion y cafodd ei brynu'n wreiddiol, boed hynny dan yr adrannau iechyd neu briffyrdd, ac yn y blaen, y gellir ei waredu, gan gynnwys ei waredu ar gyfer tai fforddiadwy.

Bethan Jenkins: You have talked about the fact that you want to develop affordable

fforddiadwy, ond a oes unrhyw gynlluniau ar y gweill i ehangu darpariaeth tai cymdeithasol, er enghraifft, er mwyn gwneud yn siŵr bod pobl ym mhob sector o'r gymdeithas yn gallu manteisio ar dir a werthir gan y Cynulliad?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae tai fforddiadwy yn perthyn i ddau lun cyffredinol, sef tai ar rent wedi'u cyflenwi fel arfer gan gymdeithas dai, fel Gwalia yn Abertawe, neu dai neu fflatiau preifat gydag elfen o gymhorthdal, sy'n golygu bod rhywun yn prynu, i bob pwrpas, 75 y cant o'r eiddo. Rhaid talu'r cymhorthdal yn ôl os caiff yr eiddo ei werthu yn y pum mlynedd cyntaf, wrth i rywun dalu morgais er mwyn talu am y tŷ neu'r fflat 100 y cant.

housing, but are there any plans to extend social housing, for example, in order to ensure that people in every sector of society can take advantage of any land that the Assembly may sell?

The First Minister: Affordable housing can fit into two general pictures, namely houses for rent that are usually provided through housing associations such as Gwalia in Swansea, or private houses or flats that come with an element of subsidy, which means that people, to all intents and purposes, buy 75 per cent of the property. The subsidy would have to be repaid if the property is sold within the first five years, as someone repays a mortgage in order to own the property 100 per cent.

Education Spending

Q6 Michael German: Will the First Minister make a statement on education spending by local authorities in Wales?
OAQ(03)0680(FM)

The First Minister: Gross schools expenditure by local authorities, inclusive of expenditure financed by grants, was budgeted to increase by £121 million, or 5.8 per cent, to £2.21 billion in the financial year that is coming to a close in two months' time. An additional £32 million has been secured for the foundation phase for next year, as part of £107 million that will be available over the next three years to support its roll-out.

Michael German: Would you agree that spending above the indicator-based assessment is the best measure of how local authorities show their commitment to education?

2.40 p.m.

The First Minister: Yes, although we look at outcomes and not inputs. Someone could be spending above the IBA but producing appalling education results, and vice versa. By and large, it is a measure of commitment on the input side. However, if the sums of money are not well managed and well directed, you can end up spending more and getting poorer outcomes. We certainly do not

Gwariant Addysg

C6 Michael German: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am wariant addysg awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru?
OAQ(03)0680(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Nodwyd yn y gyllideb y byddai gwariant gros awdurdodau lleol ar addysg, gan gynnwys gwariant a gyllidir drwy grantiau, yn codi £121 miliwn, neu 5.8 y cant i £2.21 biliwn yn ystod y flwyddyn ariannol a ddaw i ben ymhen deufis. Sicrhawyd £32 miliwn ychwanegol ar gyfer y cyfnod sylfaen y flwyddyn nesaf, fel rhan o £107 miliwn a fydd ar gael dros y tair blynedd nesaf i gefnogi ei gyflwyno.

Michael German: A fydddech yn cytuno mai gwario mwy na'r asesiad wedi'i seilio ar ddangosyddion yw'r ffordd orau o fesur sut y mae awdurdodau lleol yn dangos eu hymrwymiad i addysg?

Y Prif Weinidog: Byddwn, er ein bod yn edrych ar y canlyniadau ac nid y mewnbwn. Gallai rhywun fod yn gwario mwy na'r asesiad wedi'i seilio ar ddangosyddion ond yn cynhyrchu canlyniadau addysg gwarthus, ac i'r gwrthwyneb. Yn gyffredinol, mae'n mesur yr ymrwymiad ar ochr y mewnbwn. Fodd bynnag, os na chaiff yr arian ei reoli'n dda a'i gyfeirio'n dda, gallwch wario mwy a

want that.

Janet Ryder: I would like to follow on from that question on standard spending on education in schools. Are you aware, First Minister, that residents in Denbighshire could be facing a cut of up to £1 million in social services provision? This has been put forward by the cabinet, which claims that it has to make these cuts in order to make up for the extra money demanded by the Estyn recovery plan that has been implemented. Do you agree, First Minister, that the action that led to the Estyn recovery plan, namely the years of underfunding in Denbighshire by the councillors, is their own responsibility? Seeking to blame the Assembly for the lack of funding is not the right way to address this. For the sake of Denbighshire residents, will you agree to look at this issue with your fellow Cabinet members to see if anything can be done to support the Estyn recovery plan, which is vital to the county council, while saving the social services from the mistakes of the county councillors?

The First Minister: I certainly agree with the first part of your proposition regarding the blame shifting. Having got itself into a crisis over the maladministration of education services, it is no-one's fault but Denbighshire County Council at senior level. However, I am not sure that the second part of your question does not get Denbighshire county councillors off the hook in a way, and I am not sure that I want to go down that road. We have discussed this extensively with Ann Jones, because she has been battering down the door of Denbighshire County Council and has been using her considerable muscle power to try to get it to up its expenditure on education for some years. Last year was the first year that she felt that it had come up to the IBA, or the expected level of expenditure. However, at the same time, because of the past years of underfunding, it has found itself in a terrible tangle as it did not have an effective administrative system. Therefore, it is very much up to Denbighshire to put its house in order.

Nick Ramsay: Do you agree that while the

chael canlyniadau gwaeth. Yn sicr nid oes arnom eisiau hynny.

Janet Ryder: Hoffwn ddilyn y cwestiwn hwnnw ar wariant safonol ar addysg mewn ysgolion. A ydych yn ymwybodol, Brif Weinidog, y gallai trigolion sir Ddinbych wynebu toriad o hyd at £1 miliwn yn y ddarpariaeth ym maes gwasanaethau cymdeithasol? Mae'r cabinet wedi cyflwyno hyn gan honni bod yn rhaid iddo wneud y toriadau hyn er mwyn gwneud iawn am yr arian ychwanegol sy'n ofynnol oherwydd cynllun adfer Estyn sydd wedi ei roi ar waith. A ydych yn cytuno, Brif Weinidog, mai'r cynghorwyr eu hunain sy'n gyfrifol am y camau a arweiniodd at gynllun adfer Estyn, sef blynyddoedd o dangyllido yn sir Ddinbych? Nid ceisio rhoi'r bai ar y Cynulliad am ddiffyg cyllid yw'r ffordd iawn o roi sylw i hyn. Er mwyn trigolion sir Ddinbych, a wnewch gytuno i edrych ar y mater hwn gyda'ch cyd-Weinidogion yn y Cabinet i weld a ellir gwneud rhywbeth i gefnogi cynllun adfer Estyn, sy'n hanfodol i'r cyngor sir, ar yr un pryd ag arbed y gwasanaethau cymdeithasol rhag camgymeriadau'r cynghorwyr sir?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn sicr yn cytuno â rhan gyntaf eich gosodiad ynghylch y taflu bai. Ac yntau'n wynebu argyfwng oherwydd camweinyddu ei wasanaethau addysg, bai Cyngor Sir Ddinbych ar lefel uwch a neb arall yw hyn. Fodd bynnag, nid wyf yn siŵr a yw ail ran eich cwestiwn yn achub croen cynghorwyr sir Ddinbych mewn ffordd, ac nid wyf yn siŵr a oes arnaf eisiau dilyn y trywydd hwnnw. Yr ydym wedi trafod hyn yn helaeth gydag Ann Jones, oherwydd ei bod wedi bod yn curo ar ddrws Cyngor Sir Ddinbych ac yn defnyddio'i grym sylweddol i geisio cael ganddo gynyddu ei wariant ar addysg ers rhai blynyddoedd. Y llynedd oedd y flwyddyn gyntaf iddi deimlo iddo gyrraedd yr asesiad wedi'i seilio ar ddangosyddion, neu'r lefel gwariant ddisgwyliedig. Fodd bynnag, ar yr un pryd, oherwydd tanwariant y blynyddoedd a fu, mae wedi bod yn dipyn o draed moch arno gan nad oedd ganddo system weinyddu effeithiol. Felly, sir Ddinbych sy'n gyfrifol am roi trefn ar bethau yno.

Nick Ramsay: A ydych yn cytuno, er bod yr

indicator-based assessment is a useful indicator in terms of education spending and is particularly helpful as a relative measure between authorities, it is not the end of the story? In fact, a number of authorities may not spend up to their IBA, but nonetheless deliver a better-than-average standard of education. Do you agree that the National Association of Head Teachers seems to have got the wrong end of the stick in this regard and that it is the quality of the education that matters and, more importantly, that we should ensure that local authorities maintain the right to set the level of spending on education, taking into account the IBA but not using it as the ultimate measure?

The First Minister: Yes, I agree. It is a fundamental democratic principle, which we can reinforce very strongly during an election year, that if local people are not happy with the level of education expenditure—and they are probably also unhappy with the level of council tax—a judgment has to be made by different political parties when they put forward their manifestos locally. It is a fundamental right, and there is no point in having elected councillors if you remove all of their rights to make decisions and to become responsible politicians. One of their major decisions is how much to spend on education because it is such a large part of local authority budgets. You made an interesting point about headteachers, because the biggest single variable that we are aware of, other than how much you spend, is how good the headteacher is. Headteachers are represented by the Secondary Heads Association and the Primary Headteachers Association, but most are represented by the National Association of Head Teachers, the union to which you referred. This is the big variable, because good headteachers attract good staff and lead their staff well, which gives them a good outcome. However, I am sure that a good headteacher would not want to have the fact that they may be making bricks without straw used as excuse by the local authority for spending less on education; they would want good leadership and a good budget to work with.

asesiad wedi'i seilio ar ddangosyddion yn ddangosydd defnyddiol o ran gwariant ar addysg a'i fod yn arbennig o ddefnyddiol fel mesur cymharol rhwng awdurdodau, nad yw'n dweud y cwbl? Mewn gwirionedd, efallai nad yw nifer o awdurdodau'n gwario hyd at eu hasesiad wedi'i seilio ar ddangosyddion, ond serch hynny maent yn darparu addysg o safon sy'n well na'r cyfartaledd. A ydych yn cytuno ei bod yn ymddangos fel petai Cymdeithas Genedlaethol y Prifathrawon wedi camdeall hyn ac mai ansawdd yr addysg sy'n bwysig ac, yn anad dim, y dylem sicrhau bod awdurdodau lleol yn cadw'r hawl i bennu lefel y gwariant ar addysg, gan ystyried yr asesiad wedi'i seilio ar ddangosyddion ond gan beidio â'i ddefnyddio fel y mesur pwysicaf un?

Y Prif Weinidog: Ydwyf, yr wyf yn cytuno. Mae'n egwyddor ddemocrataidd sylfaenol, y gallwn ei hatgyfnerthu'n gryf iawn yn ystod blwyddyn etholiad, sef os nad yw pobl leol yn hapus â lefel y gwariant ar addysg—ac mae'n debygol eu bod hefyd yn anhapus â lefel y dreth gyngor—fod yn rhaid i'r pleidiau gwleidyddol gwahanol wneud penderfyniad pan fyddant yn cyflwyno'u manifestos yn lleol. Mae'n hawl sylfaenol, ac nid oes diben cael cynghorwyr etholedig, os ydych yn tynnu eu holl hawliau i wneud penderfyniadau a dod yn wleidyddion cyfrifol. Un o'u prif benderfyniadau yw faint i'w wario ar addysg oherwydd ei fod yn rhan mor fawr o gyllidebau awdurdodau lleol. Gwnaethoch bwynt diddorol ynghylch penaethiaid, oherwydd yr elfen unigol fwyaf a all newid y gwyddom amdani, ac eithrio faint yr ydych yn ei wario, yw safon y pennaeth. Caiff penaethiaid eu cynrychioli gan Gymdeithas y Prifathrawon Uwchradd a Chymdeithas y Prifathrawon Cynradd, ond caiff y rhan fwyaf eu cynrychioli gan Gymdeithas Genedlaethol y Prifathrawon, yr undeb y cyfeiriasoch ato. Hyn yw'r elfen fwyaf o ran yr hyn a all newid, oherwydd y mae penaethiaid da yn denu staff da ac yn arwain eu staff yn dda, sy'n rhoi canlyniad da iddynt. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn siŵr na fyddai pennaeth da am i'r awdurdod lleol ddefnyddio'r ffaith eu bod efallai yn cyflawni'r gwaith heb yr adnoddau priodol yn esgus dros wario llai ar addysg; byddai arnynt eisiau arweiniad da a chyllideb dda i

weithio gyda hi.

Microgeneration

Q7 Mick Bates: Will the First Minister make a statement on the development of microgeneration in Wales? OAQ(03)0698(FM)

The First Minister: This is set out in our microgeneration action plan. There is also a reference in 'One Wales' to drawing up an energy strategy to include, among others, actions on microgeneration. Microgeneration will undoubtedly feature strongly in our consultation on a renewable energy route-map, which is to be published shortly.

Mick Bates: Thank you for that enlightening and comprehensive answer. In its microgeneration action plan, your Government proudly proclaims many aspirational targets, including that to achieve 20,000 microgeneration units installed by 2012. Another target related to a decision on the devolution of building regulations by the end of 2007. I believe that no such decision has been made. Was that just another aspiration of your Government? What is your Government doing to get the power for building regulations, so that Wales can decide on its own priorities and make real targets for microgeneration, and not just the aspirational, unenforceable targets that you have made all too often for renewable energy?

The First Minister: That is a little unfair in that we have no power to command another administration, namely Westminster. We cannot say, 'Thou shalt transfer the responsibility for building regulations'. Anyone who understands politics will understand that we need to persuade or negotiate a transfer of building regulations, and that has not happened, at least not yet. We continue to press and seek the assistance of the new Secretary of State for Wales in persuading the Westminster Government that it makes sense to do that.

Microgynhyrchu

C7 Mick Bates: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am ddatblygu microgynhyrchu yng Nghymru? OAQ(03)0698(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae hyn yn ein cynllun gweithredu microgynhyrchu. Yn ogystal mae cyfeiriad yn 'Cymru'n Un' at lunio strategaeth ynni gan gynnwys, ymysg pethau eraill, camau o ran microgynhyrchu. Nid oes dwywaith na fydd microgynhyrchu'n nodwedd amlwg yn ein hymgyngoriad ar fap llwybr ynni adnewyddadwy, a gaiff ei gyhoeddi cyn bo hir.

Mick Bates: Diolch yn fawr am yr ateb hwnnw, a oedd yn rhoi cryn oleuni ac yn gynhwysfawr. Yn ei chynllun gweithredu ar ficrogynhyrchu, mae eich Llywodraeth yn datgan gyda balchder lawer o dargedau uchelgeisiol, gan gynnwys yr un i osod 20,000 o unedau microgynhyrchu erbyn 2012. Yr oedd targed arall yn ymwneud â'r penderfyniad i ddatganoli rheoliadau adeiladu erbyn diwedd 2007. Ni chredaf fod penderfyniad o'r fath wedi'i wneud. Ai un arall o ddyheadau eich Llywodraeth ydoedd hynny? Beth y mae eich Llywodraeth yn ei wneud i gael y pŵer ar gyfer rheoliadau adeiladu, fel y gall Cymru benderfynu ar ei blaenoriaethau ei hun a llunio targedau gwirioneddol ar gyfer microgynhyrchu, ac nid rhagor o dargedau uchelgeisiol, na ellir eu gorfodi, yr ydych wedi'u gwneud yn llawer rhy aml ar gyfer ynni adnewyddadwy?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae hynny braidd yn annheg gan nad oes gennym bŵer i orchymyn gweinyddiaeth arall, sef San Steffan. Ni allwn ddweud, 'Bydded ichi drosglwyddo cyfrifoldeb am reoliadau adeiladu'. Bydd unrhyw un sy'n deall gwleidyddiaeth yn deall bod angen inni berswadio neu negodi ar gyfer trosglwyddo pŵer dros reoliadau adeiladu, ac nid yw hynny wedi digwydd, hyd yn hyn o leiaf. Yr ydym yn parhau i roi pwysau a cheisio cael cymorth yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol newydd dros Gymru i berswadio Llywodraeth San Steffan bod cymryd y cam hwnnw'n gwneud synnwyr.

The figures that you referred to are quite right: the target is for 20,000 microgeneration heating units and 10,000 microelectricity units to be installed by 2012, but for those numbers to be multiplied rapidly by 2020. There are implications to all of that, in the form of installing smart meters and in working out how the distributed electricity market will work. If you are generating energy in the home, you have to be able to feed that into the national grid and get it knocked off your electricity bill. You need to be able to feed energy into the grid as well as get additional supplementation from it, as and when you need to.

Gareth Jones: Brif Weinidog, a gytunwch y gallai meicrogynhyrchu ddod ag incwm sylweddol i gymunedau difreintiedig, a'n cynorthwyo i gyrraedd targedau Ewropeaidd ar gyfer ynni adnewyddadwy a fyddai'n sicrhau atebolrwydd cymunedol lleol, fel ein bod yn wynebu newid hinsawdd ac osgoi'r angen am gynlluniau diwydiannol canolog anferth, megis cynllun Gwynt y Môr ym mae Llandudno?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydym eisoes wedi dweud, a dywedaf eto, ein bod yn cefnogi'r egwyddor o gael ffermydd gwynt, boed yn rhai sylweddol neu gymedrol, ac ar y tir neu ar y môr. Weithiau, rhaid profi'r egwyddor drwy ddyfais cynnal ymchwiliad cyhoeddus, a dyna'r hyn a ddylai ddigwydd, o achos siâp a natur cynllun Gwynt y Môr, a'i effaith ar orwel Llandudno a lleoedd felly. Yr ydym wedi dweud eto wrth yr Adran Busnes, Menter a Diwygio Rheoleiddio—sef enw newydd yr Adran Masnach a Diwydiant—ein bod yn credu y dylid dilyn yr egwyddor honno, sef profi'r peth drwy gynnal ymchwiliad cyhoeddus.

Darren Millar: Fuel poverty has already been raised once in the Chamber today, but do you agree that grants to install microgenerators in homes could go a long way towards reducing fuel poverty in Wales? Can you advise us as to whether the introduction of such grants is being considered as part of the review of the home energy efficiency scheme, which your Government is currently conducting?

Mae'r ffigurau y cyfeiriasoch atynt yn hollol iawn: y targed yw gosod 20,000 uned gwresogi microgynhyrchu a 10,000 uned ficrodrydan erbyn 2012, ond bydd y ffigurau hynny'n cynyddu'n sylweddol erbyn 2020. Ceir goblygiadau ynghlwm wrth hyn i gyd, o ran gosod mesuryddion clyfar a chanfod sut y bydd y farchnad drydan wasgaredig yn gweithio. Os ydych yn cynhyrchu ynni yn y cartref, bydd yn rhaid ichi allu bwydo hynny i'r grid cenedlaethol a thynnu'r swm oddi ar eich bil trydan. Bydd angen ichi allu bwydo'r ynni i'r grid yn ogystal â chael pŵer ychwanegol oddi wrtho, yn ôl yr angen.

Gareth Jones: First Minister, would you agree that microgeneration could bring a significant income to disadvantaged communities, and could assist us in achieving European targets for renewable energy, which would ensure community accountability at a local level, so that we face climate change and avoid the need for large-scale central industrial schemes, such as the Gwynt y Môr scheme in Llandudno bay?

The First Minister: We have said in the past, and I say it again, we support the principle of having windfarms, whether they are substantial or moderate in size, and whether they are onshore or offshore. At times, one must test that principle by the device of holding a public inquiry, and that is what should happen, given the shape and nature of Gwynt y Môr, and its impact on the skyline of Llandudno and similar locations. We have told the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform—the new name for the Department of Trade and Industry—that that principle should be followed, namely to test it by holding a public inquiry.

Darren Millar: Mae tlodi tanwydd wedi cael ei godi eisoes unwaith yn y Siambr heddiw, ond a ydych yn cytuno y gallai grantiau i osod microgynhyrchwyr mewn cartrefi gyfrannu llawer at leihau tlodi tanwydd yng Nghymru? A allwch ddweud wrthym a yw cyflwyno grantiau o'r fath yn cael ei ystyried fel rhan o'r adolygiad o'r cynllun effeithlonrwydd ynni cartref, y mae eich Llywodraeth yn ei gynnal ar hyn o bryd?

The First Minister: I do not believe that we have done that, because you will be aware of a rapid increase in the demand for HEES grants—given the rise in fuel prices, I guess—which has resulted in the introduction of a rationing system. Far more people are now aware of the home energy efficiency scheme, and that raises issues of social equity over whether we should direct it only at the fuel poor or at a wider range of people, as at present, as well as issues of how far the scheme goes and whether we should include insulation costs again or keep it more focused on the cost of boilers and other major works, which is its current emphasis. There is a whole set of issues to consider there, but we have not gone as far as to say that microgeneration schemes should come under HEES.

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid wyf yn credu ein bod wedi gwneud hynny, oherwydd byddwch yn ymwybodol bod cynnydd sylweddol wedi bod yn y galw am grantiau'r cynllun effeithlonrwydd ynni cartref—oherwydd y cynnydd mewn prisiau tanwydd, o bosibl—sydd wedi arwain at gyflwyno system ddogni. Mae llawer iawn mwy o bobl bellach yn ymwybodol o'r cynllun effeithlonrwydd ynni cartref, ac mae hynny'n codi cwestiynau'n ymwneud â thegwch cymdeithasol sef a ddylem ei anelu at y rhai sy'n wynebu tlodi tanwydd ynteu at amrediad ehangach o bobl, fel y mae ar hyn o bryd, yn ogystal â chwestiynau ynghylch pa mor bell y mae'r cynllun yn mynd ac a ddylem gynnwys costau inswleiddio unwaith eto ynteu canolbwyntio mwy ar gostau boeleri a gwaith sylweddol arall, sef lle y mae'r pwyslais ar hyn o bryd. Mae nifer fawr o faterion i'w hystyried yn hynny o beth, ond nid ydym wedi mynd mor bell â dweud y dylai cynlluniau microgynhyrchu gael eu cynnwys dan y cynllun effeithlonrwydd ynni cartref.

Communities First Projects

Q8 Lesley Griffiths: Will the First Minister make a statement on Communities First projects in Wales? OAQ(3)0679(FM)

2.50 p.m.

The First Minister: Communities First is progressing well in Wales. It is a flagship scheme, and more than £160 million has been awarded under Communities First since its inception. Leighton Andrews, the Deputy Minister for Regeneration, made a statement to the Assembly last week on the transition of the scheme to Communities Next.

Lesley Griffiths: Last November, my colleague, Leighton Andrews, announced that the Hightown area in my constituency of Wrexham was to be designated a Communities First area. The local group of residents who campaigned for that status are to be congratulated. They have welcomed the opportunity and are determined to use it to acquire new skills, to develop local solutions to their specific problems, and to improve the prospects of the most disadvantaged in their

Prosiectau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf

C8 Lesley Griffiths: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am brosiectau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yng Nghymru? OAQ(3)0679(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn mynd rhagddo'n dda yng Nghymru. Mae'n gynllun arloesol, ac mae mwy na £160 miliwn wedi'i ddyfarnu ers sefydlu Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Gwnaeth Leighton Andrews, y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Adfywio, ddatganiad i'r Cynulliad yr wythnos diwethaf am y broses drosglwyddo i Cymunedau Nesaf.

Lesley Griffiths: Fis Tachwedd diwethaf, cyhoeddodd fy nghyd-Aelod, Leighton Andrews, y byddai ardal Hightown yn fy etholaeth, sef Wrecsam, yn cael ei dynodi'n ardal Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Dylid llongyfarch y grŵp o drigolion lleol a ymgyrchodd i ennill y statws hwnnw. Maent wedi croesawu'r cyfle ac maent yn benderfynol o'i ddefnyddio i ennill sgiliau newydd, i ddatblygu atebion lleol i'w problemau penodol, ac i wella rhagolygon y

community.

You know of the excellent work done in another Communities First area in my constituency, Caia park. Will you join me in urging the wider community of Hightown to embrace this opportunity and open channels of communication between projects to recognise and foster best practice?

The First Minister: I certainly will. It is good to hear that it is not a matter of our awarding it to them, but rather they are grasping this opportunity. That is what Communities First is about: people on the ground getting a grip on their own destinies and saying that they will improve their area, with support from us. I am also glad that you mentioned Caia park. By and large, that was the model throughout Britain for action groups seeking to improve the standard of living and services in areas that were not previously a byword for prosperity, and so on. Every community in Wales should aspire to have a Caia park project.

Mark Isherwood: Clearly, the index of multiple deprivation has led to an expansion in the number of areas across Wales that can now qualify for Communities First and Communities Next. I note that the strategy published ahead of Leighton's statement last week stated that child poverty will play a key role in the next phase.

Research for the Institute for Public Policy Research published during recess revealed that 68,000 children in Wales are living in poverty despite having at least one parent in work, and the figures have stayed the same over the past decade. What discussions have your colleagues had with Westminster on the broader recommendations for the tax and benefits system, highlighted as the main cause for that static figure?

The First Minister: I have not had such discussions since the previous Secretary of State for Wales and Secretary of State for Work and Pensions stepped down from his two roles. That was a frequent subject of

bobl fwyaf diffreintiedig yn eu cymuned.

Gwyddoch am y gwaith rhagorol a wnaethpwyd mewn ardal Cymunedau yn Gyntaf arall yn fy etholaeth, sef parc Caia. A wnewch ymuno â mi i annog cymuned ehangach Hightown i gofleidio'r cyfle hwn ac agor sianelau cyfathrebu rhwng prosiectau er mwyn cydnabod a meithrin yr arferion gorau?

Y Prif Weinidog: Gwnaf yn sicr. Mae'n braf clywed nad yr hyn sy'n digwydd yw ein bod ni'n dyfarnu hyn iddynt hwy, ond yn hytrach mai hwy sy'n bachu ar y cyfle hwn. Dyna hanfod Cymunedau yn Gyntaf: pobl ar lawr gwlad yn cymryd yr awenau dros eu tynged eu hunain a dweud y byddant yn gwella'u hardal, gyda chefnogaeth gennym ni. Yr wyf yn falch hefyd eich bod wedi sôn am parc Caia. At ei gilydd, hynny oedd y model ledled Prydain ar gyfer grwpiau gweithredu a oedd yn ceisio gwella safon byw a gwasanaethau mewn ardaloedd nad oeddent yn cael eu hadnabod cyn hynny'n ardaloedd ffyniannus, ac yn y blaen. Dylai pob cymuned yng Nghymru geisio ymgyswrtu at gael prosiect tebyg i un parc Caia.

Mark Isherwood: Yn amlwg, mae'r mynegai amddifadedd lluosog wedi arwain at ehangu nifer yr ardaloedd ledled Cymru sydd bellach yn gymwys ar gyfer Cymunedau yn Gyntaf a Cymunedau Nesaf. Sylwaf fod y strategaeth a gyhoeddwyd cyn datganiad Leighton yr wythnos diwethaf yn datgan y bydd tlodi ymhlith plant yn chwarae rôl alweddol yn y cam nesaf.

Canfu ymchwil ar gyfer y Sefydliad Ymchwil Polisi Cyhoeddus, a gyhoeddwyd yn ystod y gwyliau, fod 68,000 o blant yng Nghymru'n byw mewn tlodi er bod ganddynt o leiaf un rhiant yn gweithio, ac mae'r ffigurau wedi aros yr un peth dros y degawd diwethaf. Pa drafodaethau y mae eich cyd-Aelodau wedi'u cynnal gyda San Steffan ar yr argymhellion ehangach ar gyfer y system treth a budd-daliadau, a nodwyd fel y prif achos dros y ffigur statig hwnnw?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid wyf wedi cynnal trafodaethau o'r fath ers i gyn Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru a'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Waith a Phensiynau roi'r gorau i'w ddwy swydd. Yr oedd yn destun trafod

discussion between us, as it was between me and his predecessor at the Department for Work and Pensions, John Hutton, who was conscious of the impact of the benefits system on the child poverty figures. In fact, almost everything we do to improve child poverty will be drowned out by the big shifts in the benefits system—or lack thereof—in improving the child allowance or the tax credit system.

Nerys Evans: Bu llawer o drafodaeth ynghylch llwyddiant Cymunedau'n Gyntaf. Felly, wrth ddatblygu i Cymunedau Nesaf, beth, yn eich barn chi, fydd mesur y llwyddiant ar ddiwedd y cynllun?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae Leighton Andrews wedi tanlinellu'n glir fod angen llai o bwyslais ar adeiladu capasiti a mwy o bwyslais ar sut i ddatblygu yn economaidd a sut i ymladd yn erbyn tlodi plant yn ogystal â'r ffactorau eraill y bu iddo eu rhestru. Nid yw hynny'n golygu na fydd ardaloedd newydd yn gallu llwyddo wrth ofyn am grantiau er mwyn adeiladu capasiti o ran arweiniad. Mae hynny'n bwysig os ydych yn newydd i'r cynllun, ond os ydych wedi bod yn rhan o'r rhaglen ers chwe blynedd, mae'n bwysig symud ymlaen i ystyried beth i'w wneud gyda'r capasiti o ran yr arweiniad yr ydych wedi ei ddatblygu. Dyna paham y gosodwyd pwyslais y rhaglen nesaf ar ddatblygu economaidd a thlodi plant ac ati.

Eleanor Burnham: Mae'r bobl sy'n byw yn yr ardal nesaf at ardal un o'r prosiectau hyn yn teimlo eu bod yn haeddu cystal â phobl yr ardal honno. Sut y byddwch yn sicrhau chwarae teg o ystyried yr angen dybryd sydd mewn cymunedau nad ydynt yn rhan o'r rhaglen ar hyn o bryd?

Y Prif Weinidog: Ni allwch roi blaenoriaeth i unrhyw set o gymunedau, wardiau, cynghorau nac ysgolion heb greu elfen o genfigen yn yr ysgol, ward neu gyngor sydd ychydig y tu hwnt i'r ffin a osodwyd. Nid yw'n bosibl gwneud hynny heb achosi cenfigen, ac nid oes ffordd o gael gwared ar y teimlad eich bod ychydig y tu hwnt i'r mwyafswm neu'r lleiafswm a osodwyd ar gyfer rhoi grantiau. Nid oes gennyf ateb i hynny. Mae'n galed ond bydd dyn wastad yn creu gelynyon o roi cynllun fel hyn ar waith

mynych rhyngom, fel yr ydoedd rhyngof a'i ragflaenydd yn yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau, John Hutton, a oedd yn ymwybodol o effaith y system fudd-daliadau ar ffigurau tlodi ymhlith plant. Yn wir, caiff bron popeth a wnawn i wella tlodi ymhlith plant ei lyncu gan newidiadau mawr yn y system fudd-daliadau—neu ddiffyg yn hynny o beth—wrth wella'r lwfans i blant neu'r system credyd treth.

Nerys Evans: There has been a great deal of discussion about the success of Communities First. Therefore, in developing towards Communities Next, what, in your opinion, will be the measure of its success at the end?

The First Minister: Leighton Andrews has clearly underlined that we need less of an emphasis on capacity building and more of an emphasis on how to develop economically and how to fight child poverty, as well as the other factors that he listed. That does not mean that new areas will not be able to succeed in applying for grants to build capacity in leadership terms. That is important if you are new to the scheme, but if you have been a part of the programme for six years, it is important that you move on and consider what to do with that capacity that you have developed in terms of leadership. That is why the emphasis of the next programme is placed on economic development and child poverty and so on.

Eleanor Burnham: The people who live in the area next door to the area of one of these projects feel as though they are just as deserving as the people of that area. How will you be ensuring fair play, given the great need in communities that are not a part of the programme currently?

The First Minister: You cannot give priority to any set of communities, wards, councils or schools without creating an element of envy in the school, ward or council that is just beyond the boundary that you have set. It is not possible to do that without causing some envy, and there is no way of banishing that feeling that you are just beyond the reach of the maximum or minimum that was set for the awarding of grants. I do not have an answer for that. It is difficult, but one always creates enemies when putting a scheme such

nad yw ar gael i bawb ym mhob rhan o Gymru.

Karen Sinclair: As you will be aware, the closure of Dennis Ruabon Tiles Ltd, the only remaining quarry tile manufacturer in the UK, which has been located in Wrexham for more than 125 years, is a devastating blow to its local workforce, many of whom are likely to live in the nearby Communities First ward of Plas Madoc, which abuts Ruabon. Do you agree that it is very concerning that, in the weeks since the closure, the business and its management have done nothing to assist the local authority in contacting the workers who have been laid off to offer support? They have even refused to speak to officers at the economic development department of Wrexham County Borough Council. The authority has had to resort to trying to contact workers through the local media to offer support. Will you do everything in your power to look at this situation and examine what can be done to ensure that, when a business or company closes, it still has a responsibility to co-operate with the agencies that seek to assist workers to deal with the aftermath of such a sudden closure?

The First Minister: That would undoubtedly be good corporate responsibility. However, if the business collapses very quickly and goes into a nosedive, there are no people left against whom to exercise any sanctions. I believe that that is what happened on this occasion. There was no announcement of a 90-day consultation on closing the factory; the business suddenly collapsed. The administrators, Kroll Ltd, have done what you said should have happened before the firm went through: they have been in contact with and have welcomed in the rapid response team, but, by now, the workforce has dispersed, which makes it much more difficult. That is another reason why firms with good corporate responsibility should make urgent efforts to contact the relevant authorities as soon as they realise that a collapse is impending.

On the wider issue, Dennis Ruabon Tiles Ltd is one of the most famous brand names in Wales, and I believe that the administrators,

as this into operation, which is not available universally in Wales.

Karen Sinclair: Fel y gwyddoch, mae cau cwmni Dennis Ruabon Tiles Cyf, sef yr unig weithgynhyrchwr teils chwarel sydd ar ôl yn y DU ac sydd wedi bod yn Wrecsam ers dros 125 mlynedd, yn ergyd drom i'r gweithlu lleol, lawer ohonynt yn debygol o fod yn byw ym Mhlas Madog, y ward Cymunedau yn Gyntaf sydd gerllaw, sy'n ffinio â Rhiwabon. A ydych yn cytuno ei bod yn sefyllfa sy'n peri cryn bryder nad yw'r busnes na'i reolwyr, yn ystod yr wythnosau wedi i'r lle gau, wedi gwneud dim i gynorthwyo'r awdurdod lleol i gysylltu â'r gweithwyr sydd wedi colli eu swyddi i gynnig cymorth iddynt? Maent hyd yn oed wedi gwrthod siarad â swyddogion yn adran datblygu economaidd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Wrecsam. Gorfodwyd yr awdurdod i geisio cysylltu â'r gweithwyr drwy'r cyfryngau lleol i gynnig cymorth iddynt. A wnewch bopeth o fewn eich gallu i edrych ar y sefyllfa hon ac archwilio beth y gellir ei wneud i sicrhau, pan fydd busnes neu gwmni'n cau, fod ganddo gyfrifoldeb o hyd i gydweithio â'r asiantaethau sy'n ceisio cynorthwyo gweithwyr i ddelio â'r canlyniad wrth i fusnes gau mor sydyn?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid oes dwywaith amdani na fyddai hynny'n gyfrifoldeb corfforaethol da. Fodd bynnag, os yw busnes yn mynd â'i ben iddo yn gyflym iawn ac yn mynd i'r wal, nid oes pobl ar ôl i gymryd sancsiynau yn eu herbyn. Credaf mai dyna a ddigwyddodd y tro hwn. Ni chafwyd cyhoeddiad am 90 diwrnod o ymgynghoriad ar gau'r ffatri; aeth y cwmni i'r wal yn sydyn iawn. Mae'r gweinyddwyr, Kroll Cyf, wedi gwneud yr hyn y dywedasochoch y dylai fod wedi digwydd cyn i'r cwmni fynd i'r wal; maent wedi bod mewn cysylltiad â'r tîm ymateb cyflym ac wedi croesawu hwnnw, ond, erbyn hyn, mae'r gweithlu wedi gwasgaru, sy'n gwneud pethau'n anos fyth. Dyna reswm arall pam y dylai cwmni â chyfrifoldeb corfforaethol da wneud ymdrechion yn ddi-oed i gysylltu â'r awdurdodau perthnasol cyn gynted â'i fod yn sylweddoli bod y cwmni ar fin mynd i'r wal.

O ran y mater ehangach, mae Dennis Ruabon Tiles Cyf yn un o'r enwau brand mwyaf adnabyddus yng Nghymru, a chredaf fod y

Kroll Ltd, are hopeful that it can be sold as a going concern. I am sure that many of us here have slavered over and dreamt of having a kitchen tiled with Dennis Ruabon tiles, as they are the world's finest tiles.

gweinyddwyr, Kroll Cyf, yn obeithiol y gellir ei werthu fel busnes gweithredol. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod sawl un yma wedi glafoerio dros gegin â theils Dennis Ruabon ac wedi breuddwydio am un eu hunain, oherwydd dyma'r teils gorau yn y byd.

Regeneration Projects

Q9 Jeff Cuthbert: Will the First Minister make a statement on the development of the Angel Way and Bargoed town centre regeneration projects? OAQ(3)0697(FM)

The First Minister: The £32 million Angel Way scheme and the £33 million Bargoed town centre scheme are part of a package of developments going on in the upper Rhymney valley, the likes of which the upper half of the Rhymney valley has not seen for a century or more.

Jeff Cuthbert: Will you join me in congratulating Caerphilly County Borough Council and the development team on working to time and to budget on the Angel Way project? Together with the regeneration of Bargoed town centre, that will make a huge difference to the local area. These two projects, which I understand will be completed by 2010, with Angel Way being completed ahead of that later this year, are an excellent example of collaborative working between the local authority, the Welsh Assembly Government and private developers, and one that others would be wise to follow.

The First Minister: I am sure that I speak for the Deputy First Minister and Leighton Andrews, the Deputy Minister for Regeneration, when I say that we would always like to find partners among local authorities to deliver their part of the bargain on time and on budget. I hope that that continues to be true in the case of Caerphilly County Borough Council and these two exciting developments in the upper Rhymney valley.

William Graham: While congratulating Caerphilly County Borough Council on this scheme and its promotion of the Bargoed Big Idea, which is good to promote, I understand that there is only one new employer in the

Prosiectau Adfywio

C9 Jeff Cuthbert: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am ddatblygu prosiectau adfywio Angel Way a chanol tref Bargoed? OAQ(3)0697(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae cynllun Angel Way, sy'n werth £32 miliwn a chynllun canol tref Bargoed, sy'n werth £33 miliwn, yn rhan o becyn o ddatblygiadau sy'n digwydd yng nghwm Rhymni uchaf, datblygiad nad yw rhan uchaf cwm Rhymni wedi gweld ei debyg ers canrif neu fwy.

Jeff Cuthbert: A wnewch ymuno â mi i longyfarch Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili a'r tîm datblygu am weithio ar amser ac yn unol â'r gyllideb ar brosiect Angel Way? Ynghyd â'r cynllun i adfywio canol tref Bargoed, bydd hynny'n gwneud gwahaniaeth anferth i'r ardal leol. Mae'r ddau brosiect hyn, a gaiff eu cwblhau erbyn 2010 fel y deallaf, a chynllun Angel Way'n cael ei gwblhau cyn hynny yn ddiweddarach eleni, yn enghraifft wych o gydweithio rhwng yr awdurdod lleol, Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a datblygwyr preifat, ac yn un y byddai'n ddoeth i eraill ei ddilyn.

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn siŵr fy mod yn siarad ar ran y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a Leighton Andrews, y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Adfywio, wrth ddweud y byddem bob amser yn hoffi canfod partneriaid ymysg awdurdodau lleol i gyflawni eu rhan hwy o'r fargen ar amser ac o fewn y gyllideb. Gobeithio y bydd hynny'n parhau'n wir yn achos Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili a'r ddau ddatblygiad cyffrous hyn yng nghwm Rhymni uchaf.

William Graham: Er fy mod yn llongyfarch Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili ar y cynllun hwn a'r ffordd yr hyrwyddodd Syniad Mawr Bargoed, sy'n beth da i'w hyrwyddo, deallaf mai dim ond un cyflogwr

area: Jobcentre Plus. Much more needs to be done to encourage indigenous businesses to expand and new businesses to come in, because it is a major step forward for Bargoed. You will recall that the bridge between the counties at the bottom of the valley is to go, and that there will be a wonderful viaduct across the valley from Bargoed to Aberbargoed, which, as you said, is a most important innovation. That must not be squandered. We must have new businesses and new employers in that town to give heart once again to Bargoed.

3.00 p.m.

The First Minister: If you look at Bargoed and Blackwood, you realise that Blackwood is streets ahead of Bargoed, just as, in the glory days of the Bargoed Emporium, when James Howells was the main department store in the Valleys, Bargoed was streets ahead of Blackwood. That can happen. As regards the Bargoed town centre development, five developers are interested and it is going to include a food store, a cinema, retail units and possibly residential units and I understand that, on the council side, there will be a new library and health centre. Therefore, it is going to be a multipurpose urban regeneration scheme linked with the new bus station, the railway station and the bypass, through the viaduct, which, I think, is what you are referring to.

Mohammad Asghar: This scheme is vital to the regeneration of Bargoed and the whole of the Rhymney valley. Will the First Minister join me in congratulating the present Labour administration of Caerphilly County Borough Council on continuing the good work and building on the foundations laid by the previous Plaid Cymru administration?

The First Minister: I believe that we put a ban on questions like that until about 30 April. The key thing is that, in the upper Rhymney valley, in Ystrad Mynach and Bargoed, you now have four major schemes: Angel Way, Bargoed town centre, the new Caerphilly County Borough Council headquarters and the new Ystrad Mynach Hospital. Between those four schemes, you are talking about £230 million-worth of

newydd sydd yn yr ardal: Canolfan Byd Gwaith. Mae angen gwneud llawer mwy i annog busnesau cynhenid i ehangu a denu busnesau newydd, oherwydd y mae'n gam mawr ymlaen i Fargoed. Byddwch yn cofio bod y bont rhwng y siroedd ar waelod y cwm yn mynd i ddiplannu, ac y bydd traphont fendigedig yn croesi'r cwm o Fargoed i Aberbargoed, sydd, fel y dywedasoeh, yn ddatblygiad newydd pwysig iawn. Ni ellir colli'r cyfle hwn. Rhaid inni gael busnesau newydd a chyflogwyr newydd yn y dref honno i roi'r galon yn ôl i Fargoed.

Y Prif Weinidog: Os edrychwch ar Fargoed a'r Coed-duon, yr ydych yn sylweddoli bod y Coed-duon ymhell ar y blaen i Fargoed, yn yr un modd ag yr oedd y Bargoed ymhell ar y blaen i Goed-duon, yn oes aur y Bargoed Emporium, pan oedd James Howells yn brif siop adrannol yn y Cymoedd. Gall hynny ddigwydd. Gyda golwg ar ddatblygu canol tref Bargoed, mae gan bum datblygwr ddi-ddordeb a bydd yn cynnwys siop fwyd, sinema, unedau manwerthu ac, o bosibl, unedau preswyl, ac yr wyf yn deall, o ran y cyngor, y bydd llyfrgell a chanolfan iechyd newydd. Felly, bydd yn gynllun adfywio trefol amlbwrpas a fydd yn cysylltu â'r orsaf fysiau newydd, gorsaf y rheilffordd a'r ffordd osgoi, dros y draphont, sef yr hyn yr ydych yn cyfeirio ato, yr wyf yn credu.

Mohammad Asghar: Mae'r cynllun hwn yn hanfodol ar gyfer adfywio Bargoed a chwm Rhymni'n gyfan gwbl. A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ymuno â mi i longyfarch gweinyddiaeth Lafur bresennol Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili ar barhau â'r gwaith da ac adeiladu ar y sylfeini a osodwyd gan y weinyddiaeth flaenorol dan Blaid Cymru?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn credu inni wahardd cwestiynau o'r math hwnnw hyd tua 30 Ebrill. Y peth allweddol yw bod pedwar cynllun mawr bellach yng nghwm Rhymni uchaf, yn Ystrad Mynach ac ym Margoed: Angel Way, canol tref Bargoed, pencadlys newydd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili a'r ysbyty newydd, Ysbyty Ystrad Mynach. Rhwng y pedwar cynllun hynny, mae rhywun yn sôn am fuddsoddiad sy'n werth £230

investment, the overwhelming majority of which is public investment and most of that has come from us, although a bit has come from the council. If we pull off those four projects, the prospects for the middle and upper Rhymney valley will be totally transformed, and I think that everybody in Wales will say 'amen' to that.

Rhaglen y Gronfa Gydyfeirio

C10 Alun Ffred Jones: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am gynnydd rhaglen y gronfa gydyfeirio? OAQ(3)0690(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'r rhaglenni cydyfeirio ar agor i fusnes a bydd y prosiectau cyntaf yn cael eu cymeradwyo a'u hariannu o fewn ychydig o wythnosau.

Alun Ffred Jones: Faint o arian rhaglen cydyfeirio sydd wedi'i neilltuo ar gyfer ardaloedd Cymunedau'n Gyntaf? A yw'r arian hwnnw wedi'i gyfyngu yn union i'r ardaloedd hynny sydd wedi'u diffinio o fewn ffiniau Cymunedau'n Gyntaf?

Y Prif Weinidog: Ni allaf ateb hynny'n benodol. Bydd yn well imi ofyn i'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog, Ieuan Wyn Jones, sydd â'r cyfrifoldeb cyffredinol am hynny—er bod rhai agweddau yn dod o dan portffolio Jane Hutt—eich ateb yn benodol ynghylch wardiau a chymunedau sydd yn dod o fewn ffiniau Cymunedau'n Gyntaf a faint o arian sydd wedi'i glustnodi iddynt.

Alun Cairns: We are 13 months into the convergence programme and not a penny has been spent. At a similar stage of the last Objective 1 programme, the Assembly Government commissioned an independent report that came out with observations that Plaid Cymru strongly supported at the time: the report spoke of a significant leadership gap and a policy and strategy vacuum. You were the Minister responsible at that time, so you will no doubt recall this. Are you saying that, at this stage, it is a case of stop, start, stop, at best, or is it that we have a failed administration, or is it simply that there is a significant leadership gap and policy and strategy vacuum yet again?

miliwn, y rhan fwyaf o lawer ohono'n fuddsoddiad cyhoeddus a chafwyd y rhan fwyaf o hwnnw gennym ni, er bod ychydig wedi dod gan y cyngor. Os deugn i ben â'r pedwar prosiect hynny, bydd y rhagolygon ar gyfer canol a rhan uchaf cwm Rhymni wedi'u llwyr weddnewid, a chredaf y bydd pawb yng Nghymru'n croesawu hynny.

Convergence Fund Programme

Q10 Alun Ffred Jones: Will the First Minister make a statement on the progress of the convergence fund programme? OAQ(3)0690(FM)

The First Minister: The convergence programmes are open for business, and the first projects will be approved and funded within a matter of weeks.

Alun Ffred Jones: How much convergence funding has been allocated to Communities First areas? Is that money confined specifically to those areas that have been defined as being within the boundaries of Communities First?

The First Minister: I cannot answer that specifically. It would be better if I asked the Deputy First Minister, Ieuan Wyn Jones, who has general responsibility for this—although some aspects of it come within Jane Hutt's portfolio—to answer you directly about the wards and communities that come within the boundaries of Communities First, and how much money has been allocated to them.

Alun Cairns: Mae 13 mis o'r rhaglen gydyfeirio wedi mynd heibio ac ni wariwyd yr un geiniog. Ar adeg debyg yn ystod y rhaglen Amcan 1 ddiwethaf, comisiynodd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad adroddiad annibynnol a gyflwynodd sylwadau a ategwyd yn gryf gan Blaid Cymru ar y pryd: dangosodd yr adroddiad fod bwlch mawr o ran arweiniad a diffyg polisi a strategaeth. Chi oedd y Gweinidog a oedd yn gyfrifol bryd hynny, felly mae'n sicr y byddwch yn cofio hyn. A ydych yn dweud ei bod, ar y gorau, ar hyn o bryd, yn fater o stopio a chychwyn bob yn ail, neu ai'r rheswm yw bod gennym weinyddiaeth aflwyddiannus, neu'n syml fod bwlch mawr o ran arweiniad a diffyg polisi a strategaeth eto byth?

The First Minister: It is none of those. Had you followed any of the references made here by me or other Ministers with responsibility in this area, you would know that we have said that, in the convergence programme, we are going to be far more strategic and, therefore, it will not be as open to bottom-up ideas generated from the different partnerships and will instead involve a strategy being promulgated and working with the partnerships on the basis of the strategy that we will, and have, set out. Most people believe that that is the right way forward, because if there was a criticism of Objective 1, it was that it was too focused on the partnerships and not strategic enough in its approach. This time we are being strategic. We have very early approval, earlier than any other part of the United Kingdom, so the idea that there is some strategic vacuum is contrary to the facts. We have received plaudits from the EU commissioner responsible, Danuta Hübner, for getting the strategies agreed by the EU early. That should make you stop in your tracks rather than making these negative comments, but, somehow, I doubt that it will.

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid yw'n ddim un o'r rheini. Pe byddech wedi dilyn unrhyw un o'r cyfeiriadau a wnaethpwyd yma gennyf fi neu gan Weinidogion eraill sydd â chyfrifoldeb yn y maes hwn, gwyddech ein bod wedi dweud y byddwn yn llawer mwy strategol yn y rhaglen gydgyfeirio ac, felly, ni fydd yr un mor agored i syniadau a ddaw o'r gwaelod i fyny o'r gwahanol bartneriaethau a bydd, yn lle hynny, yn golygu lledaenu strategaeth a chydweithio â'r partneriaethau ar sail y strategaeth y byddwn yn ei gosod, ac a osodwyd gennym eisoes. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o bobl yn credu y dylid dilyn y llwybr hwnnw oherwydd, os oedd beirniadaeth ar raglen Amcan 1, y feirniadaeth oedd ei bod yn canolbwyntio'n ormodol ar y partneriaethau ac nad oedd yn ddigon strategol. Y tro hwn yr ydym yn strategol. Yr ydym wedi cael cymeradwyaeth yn gynnar iawn, yn gynt na'r un rhan arall o'r Deyrnas Unedig, felly mae'r syniad bod rhyw fath o ddiffyg strategaeth yn groes i'r ffeithiau. Canwyd ein clodydd gan y comisiynydd i'r UE sydd â chyfrifoldeb, Danuta Hübner, am gael cytundeb yn gynnar ar y strategaethau gan yr UE. Dylai hynny beri ichi ailfeddwl yn hytrach na gwneud sylwadau negyddol o'r fath, ond, rywsut, yr wyf yn amau na fydd.

Datganiad a Chyhoeddiad Busnes Business Statement and Announcement

Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol ac Arweinydd y Tŷ (Carwyn Jones): Mae tri newid i'w hadrodd ynglŷn â busnes cynlluniedig y Llywodraeth yr wythnos hon.

The Counsel General and Leader of the House (Carwyn Jones): There are three changes to report to the scheduled business of the Government this week.

Bydd y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yn gwneud datganiad ysgrifenedig yn lle datganiad llafar yfory am 'Agenda ar gyfer Newid'. Yn lle'r datganiad llafar hwnnw, bydd y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn gwneud datganiad am Ardd Fotaneg Genedlaethol Cymru. Bydd newid i drefn y cwestiynau llafar yfory. Bydd y cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai bellach yn drydydd ar yr agenda, yn lle yn gyntaf.

The Minister for Health and Social Services will make a written statement instead of an oral statement tomorrow regarding 'Agenda for Change'. In place of that oral statement, the Deputy First Minister will make a statement on the National Botanic Garden of Wales. There is also a change tomorrow to the order of oral questions. Questions to the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing will now be the third agenda item rather than the first.

Mae busnes y tair wythnos nesaf ar ôl y toriad fel y'i gosodwyd yn y datganiad busnes drafft sydd ar gael i Aelodau drwy'r

Business for the three weeks after the recess is as set out in the draft business statement, which is available to Members through the

agenda.

Mark Isherwood: I have two points. First, will the Government find time to make a statement on the closure of HM Revenue and Customs offices in Wales? As you and, I think, all Members are aware, planned action by the Public and Commercial Services Union has been postponed due to a promise by HMRC to enter into detailed talks regarding plans for the future of its estate. During that period, HMRC has agreed to a moratorium on announcements of office closures. However, PCS has said that it believes that this is now an ideal opportunity for all Welsh politicians, including those in Cardiff bay, to lobby and make representations to Jane Kennedy and other relevant Ministers in Whitehall. Could the Assembly Government respond to that?

My second point is that the UK Government has issued a letter to local authorities in England stating that, by law, small rural schools should not be closing. Will the Assembly Government be making a statement on that? I note that we do not have the same presumption against closure as in England, but I trust that you will not tell us that it is okay to close them in Wales, although not in England.

Carwyn Jones: The first issue is not a devolved matter, and there are no plans to make a statement on the HMRC closures, although I note the points that have been made. On rural schools, there is one issue that stands out more than any other in determining whether a school should continue—and that is whether it can provide education to the expected level. There are no plans to introduce a law that forbids the closure of small, rural schools. I note that, in England, the definition of ‘rural schools’ is somewhat different to ours—certainly, in the news report that I listened to on this issue, a school with 75 children was mentioned as a small, rural school. The situation is somewhat different in Wales.

Alun Ffred Jones: Mae’r cyhoeddiad heddiw y bydd cwmni Siemens Medical

agenda.

Mark Isherwood: Mae gennyf ddau bwynt. Yn gyntaf, a wnaiff y Llywodraeth neilltuo amser i wneud datganiad am gau swyddfeydd Cyllid a Thollau Ei Mawrhydi yng Nghymru? Fel y gwyddoch chi, a’r holl Aelodau, yr wyf yn credu, mae’r gweithredu arfaethedig gan Undeb y Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus a Masnachol wedi’i ohirio oherwydd addewid gan HMRC y bydd yn cymryd rhan mewn trafodaethau manwl ynghylch cynlluniau ar gyfer dyfodol ei ystâd. Yn ystod y cyfnod hwnnw, mae HMRC wedi cytuno i ohirio cyhoeddiadau am gau swyddfeydd. Fodd bynnag, mae PCS wedi dweud ei fod yn credu bod cyfle delfrydol yn awr i’r holl wleidyddion yng Nghymru, gan gynnwys y rhai ym mae Caerdydd, lobïo a chyflwyno sylwadau i Jane Kennedy ac i Weinidogion perthnasol eraill yn Whitehall. A allai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ymateb i hynny?

Yr ail bwynt sydd gennyf yw bod Llywodraeth y DU wedi anfon llythyr at awdurdodau lleol yn Lloegr yn datgan na ddylai ysgolion gwledig bach gau, yn ôl y gyfraith. A fydd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn gwneud datganiad am hynny? Sylwaf nad oes gennym yr un math o ragdybiaeth yn erbyn cau ag sydd yn Lloegr, ond hyderaf na fyddwch yn dweud wrthym ei bod yn iawn eu cau yng Nghymru, ond nid yn Lloegr.

Carwyn Jones: Nid yw’r mater cyntaf yn un sydd wedi’i ddatganoli, ac nid yw’n fwriad gwneud datganiad am gau swyddfeydd HMRC, er fy mod yn nodi’r pwyntiau a wnaethpwyd. Ynghylch ysgolion gwledig, mae un mater sy’n fwy amlwg na dim un arall wrth benderfynu a ddylai ysgol barhau—a hwnnw yw a ydyw’n gallu darparu addysg at y lefel ddisgwyliedig. Nid yw’n fwriad cyflwyno deddf sy’n gwahardd cau ysgolion gwledig bach. Sylwaf fod y diffiniad o ‘ysgolion gwledig’ yn Lloegr braidd yn wahanol i’r un sydd gennym ni—yn sicr, yn yr adroddiad ar y newyddion y gwrandewais arno am y mater hwn, cyfeiriwyd at ysgol a chanddi 75 o blant fel ysgol wledig fach. Mae’r sefyllfa braidd yn wahanol yng Nghymru.

Alun Ffred Jones: The announcement today that the Siemens Medical Solutions

Solutions Diagnostics yn dyblu ei gynnyrch yn Llanberis, yn fy etholaeth i, ac yn cyflogi hyd at 200 o weithwyr newydd, yn newyddion ardderchog i'r dref, ac i ogledd orllewin Cymru. Gofynnaf i'r Llywodraeth, felly, ganiatáu amser ar gyfer datganiad llawn am y cyhoeddiad cyn gynted â phosibl. Wedi'r cwbl, yr ydym yn cael datganiadau yn gyson am golli swyddi, a byddai'n briodol felly cael datganiadau am greu swyddi fel hyn, sy'n dangos llwyddiant staff a rheolwyr y cwmni.

Carwyn Jones: Mae Siemens yn un o gynhyrchwyr mwyaf y byd yn y sector gofal iechyd. Dechreuodd reoli safle Llanberis ym mis Gorffennaf 2006, ac mae'n hwb mawr i'r economi leol fod Siemens wedi penderfynu symud y gwaith cynhyrchu o Los Angeles yng Nghaliffornia i Lanberis, sy'n weddol anarferol i ni. Dros y flwyddyn neu'r 18 mis nesaf, caiff 192 o swyddi eu creu, ac mae'n bwysig bod hynny'n adeiladu ar sylfaen gadarn y 327 o swyddi sydd eisoes ar gael ar safle Llanberis. Mae'r Llywodraeth yn croesawu'r penderfyniad, sy'n destament i ansawdd y staff, ac i'r ffaith bod cwmni bydeang yn gweld Cymru yn lle cryf i wneud busnes ynddi.

3.10 p.m.

A ninnau'n Llywodraeth, rhaid i ni sicrhau y caiff y neges honno ei hanfon eto at ardaloedd eraill y byd. Ar ran y Llywodraeth, hoffwn ddweud y byddwn yn parhau i weithio gyda'r cwmni er mwyn cefnogi ei gynlluniau recriwtio a hyfforddi. Gobeithiaf y bydd hynny'n ddigonol i roi croeso cynnes i'r swyddi hyn.

Y Llywydd: Yr oedd hwnnw'n swnio fel datganiad gan y Llywodraeth i mi.

Nick Bourne: I thank the Leader of the House for the statement. Will he consider having a debate in Government time—not on a party-political issue, but on the importance of the hospice movement and the ways in which the Assembly can help it? Over the weekend, I had the opportunity to visit the Beacon of Hope Hospice. I know that the Minister has had dealings with it and its founder, Elizabeth Murphy. As a voluntary organisation, it provides fantastic free,

Diagnostics company will double its production in Llanberis, in my constituency, and will employ up to 200 new workers, is exceptionally good news for the town, and for north-west Wales. I ask the Government, therefore, to allow time for a full statement on this announcement as soon as possible. After all, we have statements regularly when jobs are lost, and it would be appropriate to have a statements when jobs such as these are created, demonstrating the success of the staff and managers at the company.

Carwyn Jones: Siemens is one of the world's largest producers in the healthcare sector. It took over the Llanberis site in July 2006, and it is a great boost to the local economy that Siemens has decided to move production from Los Angeles in California to Llanberis, which is relatively unusual. Over the next year to 18 months, 192 jobs will be created, and it is important that that builds on the firm foundation of the 327 jobs already at the Llanberis site. The Government welcomes this decision, which is a testament to the quality of the staff, and to the fact that global companies such as this see Wales as a strong place in which to do business.

As a Government, we must ensure that that message is sent out again to other parts of the world. On behalf of the Government, I wish to say that we will continue to work with the company in order to support its recruitment and training programmes. I hope that that is adequate to welcome these jobs warmly.

The Presiding Officer: That sounded like a Government statement to me.

Nick Bourne: Diolchaf i Arweinydd y Tŷ am y datganiad. A wnaiff ystyried cael dadl yn amser y Llywodraeth—nid ar fater pleidiol wleidyddol, ond ar bwysigrwydd mudiad yr hosbisau a'r modd y gall y Cynulliad ei helpu? Dros y penwythnos, cefais gyfle i ymweld â Hosbis Ffagl Gobaith. Gwn fod y Gweinidog wedi ymwneud ag ef a hefyd â'i sylfaenydd, Elizabeth Murphy. Fel corff gwirfoddol, mae'n darparu cymorth lleol a chynhwysfawr gwych, sydd ar gael ar

immediate, local and comprehensive assistance in a family setting. If there is any way that we can help such organisations, we should, as an Assembly. Therefore, will the Minister and the Leader of the House consider tabling such a debate so that we are able to look at ways of helping the hospice movement?

Carwyn Jones: I will certainly give consideration to what might be done to ensure that hospices are at the forefront of Members' minds, if I may put it that way. We should also ensure that, as a Government, we are open about what we propose to do to assist hospices. I will look to see whether there is scope for issuing a statement, written or oral, that will bring the good work that hospices do throughout Wales to the broad attention of the public.

Lesley Griffiths: Can we have a statement on Wales's bid to become a fair trade country? I know that it was hoped that this would have been achieved by the end of last year, and members of the Wrexham Fairtrade Coalition are becoming increasingly concerned about the delay.

Carwyn Jones: I will ensure that the appropriate Minister is made aware of your concerns, which I am sure can be allayed either through a statement or correspondence.

Michael German: Can we have a debate, or at least a statement, on convergence funding in Wales? We know that many people's jobs are on the line because the projects for which they work have come to an end and they are waiting for the results of bids. We should have time to scrutinise the Government on where it is spending the money and what is holding up the issuing of this money, because projects need to get under way.

Carwyn Jones: I am aware of a newspaper article criticising the delay of project approvals. A substantial number of requests has been received by the Welsh European Funding Office to register expressions of interest under the new programme. Potential projects are now moving quickly through the implementation arrangements that were established to ensure that European structural funds in Wales are properly spent and

unwaith yn rhad ac am ddim mewn awyrgylch teuluol. Os oes unrhyw fodd inni helpu cyrff o'r fath, fel Cynulliad, dylem wneud hynny. Felly, a wnaiff y Gweinidog ac Arweinydd y Tŷ ystyried cyflwyno dadl o'r fath fel y gallwn ystyried dulliau o gynorthwyo mudiad yr hosbisau?

Carwyn Jones: Byddaf yn sicr yn ystyried yr hyn y gellid ei wneud i sicrhau bod hosbisau yn flaenllaw ym meddyliau'r Aelodau, os caf ei gyfleu felly. Dylem sicrhau hefyd, fel Llywodraeth, ein bod yn agored ynghylch yr hyn yr ydym yn bwriadu ei wneud i gynorthwyo hosbisau. Edrychaf i weld a oes lle i roi datganiad, un ysgrifenedig neu un llafar, a fydd yn dod â gwaith da'r hosbisau ledled Cymru i sylw'r cyhoedd.

Lesley Griffiths: A allwn gael datganiad am ymgais Cymru i ddod yn wlad masnach deg? Gwn fod gobaith y byddai hyn wedi'i gyflawni erbyn diwedd y flwyddyn ddiwethaf, ac mae aelodau Cynghrair Masnach Deg Wrecsam yn mynd yn fwyfwy pryderus ynghylch yr oedi.

Carwyn Jones: Sicrhaf fod y Gweinidog priodol yn cael gwybod am eich pryderon, yr wyf yn sicr y gellir eu lleddfu un ai drwy ddatganiad neu drwy lythyr.

Michael German: A allwn gael dadl, neu ddatganiad o leiaf, am gyllid cydgyfeirio yng Nghymru? Gwyddom fod swyddi llawer o bobl yn y fantol am fod y prosiectau y maent yn gweithio iddynt wedi dod i ben ac maent yn aros am y canlyniadau i geisiadau. Dylem gael amser i graffu ar y Llywodraeth ynghylch lle y mae'n gwario'r arian a beth sy'n arafu'r broses o rannu'r arian hwn, gan fod angen i brosiectau ddechrau ar eu gwaith.

Carwyn Jones: Yr wyf yn ymwybodol o erthygl mewn papur newydd sy'n beirniadu'r oedi wrth gymeradwyo prosiectau. Mae Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru wedi cael nifer sylweddol o geisiadau i gofrestru diddordeb dan y rhaglen newydd. Mae prosiectau posibl yn symud yn gyflym yn awr drwy'r trefniadau gweithredu a sefydlwyd i sicrhau bod cyllid y cronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd yn cael ei wario'n briodol a bod

accounted for. We are working hard to ensure that approval is given as quickly as possible. Objective 1 will continue to operate until mid-2008, and some projects will receive funding until that time. Expenditure under convergence funding can be backdated, if necessary, to early 2007. However, it is worth emphasising that the European funding was never intended to support the core activities of organisations, but rather to provide additional resources for one-off projects that can add value to existing provisions; it is important to make that point. We are not talking about revenue funding for unspecified periods of time, and it is important that recipients understand that. Nevertheless, I am sure that, if there are particular difficulties with individual projects, those can be taken up with the appropriate Minister.

Janet Ryder: Will you consider bringing forward a debate on sport and its contribution to community regeneration and economic development? As you heard from Brynle Williams earlier, everyone is very pleased with Saturday's result. We know of Shaun Edwards's contribution to that victory, and we know that he learned his skills in rugby league—in super league—and Saturday also saw the start of the super league season. It is a special season, particularly for Celtic Crusaders in your constituency, as the team makes its bid for super league status this season. I would welcome a debate on the impact that that can have on the surrounding community, whether we can develop a super league team within Wales, and the huge benefits that that would bring to both codes of rugby in Wales, and particularly to the south Wales valleys area.

Carwyn Jones: Obviously, I add my congratulations to the Welsh team for its performance in the last 25 minutes at Twickenham, although I thought that the camera work left a lot to be desired—if I had wanted to watch the game from the sky, I would have been born a bird. It was quite questionable.

In terms of the Celtic Crusaders, I declare an interest as a season-ticket holder. It is

cyfrif priodol yn cael ei roi amdano. Yr ydym yn gweithio'n galed i sicrhau y rhoddir cymeradwyaeth cyn gynted ag y bo modd. Bydd rhaglen Amcan 1 yn dal i weithredu tan ganol 2008, a bydd rhai prosiectau'n cael cyllid tan hynny. Gellir ôl-ddyddio gwariant dan gyllid cydgyfeirio, os oes angen, i ddechrau 2007. Er hynny, mae'n werth pwysleisio nad oedd erioed yn fwriad i'r cyllid Ewropeaidd gynnal gweithgareddau craidd mewn cyrff, ond yn hytrach ddarparu adnoddau ychwanegol ar gyfer prosiectau penodol sy'n gallu ychwanegu gwerth at y darpariaethau presennol; mae'n bwysig gwneud y pwynt hwnnw. Nid cyllid refeniw ar gyfer cyfnodau amhenodedig sydd dan sylw, ac mae'n bwysig i'r rhai sy'n ei gael ddeall hynny. Er hynny, yr wyf yn sicr, os oes anawsterau penodol mewn cysylltiad â phrosiectau neilltuol, y gellir codi'r rheini gyda'r Gweinidog priodol.

Janet Ryder: A wnewch ystyried cyflwyno dadl am chwaraeon a'u cyfraniad at adfywio cymunedol a datblygu economaidd? Fel y clywsoch gan Brynle Williams yn gynharach, mae pawb yn fodlon iawn ar ganlyniad dydd Sadwrn. Gwyddom am gyfraniad Shaun Edwards at y fuddugoliaeth honno, a gwyddom iddo ddysgu ei sgiliau wrth chwarae rygbi'r gynghrair—yn yr uwch gynghrair—a dechreuodd tymor yr uwch gynghrair hefyd ddydd Sadwrn. Mae'n dymor arbennig, yn enwedig i Celtic Crusaders yn eich etholaeth, wrth i'r tîm ymgeisio am le yn yr uwch gynghrair y tymor hwn. Byddwn yn croesawu dadl am yr effaith y gall hynny ei chael ar y gymuned o amgylch, a allwn ddatblygu tîm uwch gynghrair o fewn Cymru, a'r manteision enfawr a ddeuai yn sgîl hynny i'r ddau god rygbi yng Nghymru, ac yn enwedig i ardal cymoedd y de.

Carwyn Jones: Yn amlwg, ychwanegaf fy llongyfarchiadau i dîm Cymru am ei berfformiad yn y 25 munud olaf yn Twickenham, er fy mod yn teimlo mai digon tila oedd y gwaith camera—petawn am wylïo'r gêm o'r awyr, byddwn wedi cael fy ngeni'n aderyn. Yr oedd yn eithaf dadleuol.

O ran y Celtic Crusaders, yr wyf yn datgan buddiant fel deiliad tocyn tymor. Mae'n

exceptionally important for Bridgend, the town and the surrounding area, that top-class sport is available. Losing the Celtic Warriors had a significant effect on the sporting and economic life of the town. As you and I know—we have worked together on this, you as patron of Welsh rugby league—we want to do all that we can to ensure that south Wales gets a super league club in the future. The grass-roots foundations are there in a way that were never there in years gone by. Having spoken to the First Minister, I know that he is keen to support the bid by the Celtic Crusaders, and we will look to organise events to promote that bid in the future.

David Lloyd: I would like to ask the leader of the house for a debate in Government time on electricity prices in Wales. I realise that the matter is not devolved, but its effects are devolved with average electricity prices in 2003 being £246 per year, rising to £424 per year by 2007, which is an increase of approximately 80 per cent in charges for electricity compared to those in England. It is a more than significant contribution to fuel poverty, which we have debated here several times. I feel that we must have that debate, as well as an Ofgem inquiry into the differential pricing policies for electricity customers in Wales and in England.

Carwyn Jones: There is no questioning that fuel and energy prices have increased. You note the impact that this has on fuel poverty. We have the home energy efficiency scheme in place to help the most vulnerable people in society to deal with that. I am not sure whether a debate on electricity prices would add a great deal to your valid point. I am sure that Members will be making their representations, especially on the last point that you raised with regard to Ofgem and differential pricing, which I took note of in newspaper reports this morning.

Bethan Jenkins: Fel y gwyddoch, mae llawer o bobl ifanc wedi cyflawni hunanladdiad yn ddiweddar ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr, gydag achos arall yn Nant-y-moel ddoe. A oes modd inni gael datganiad yn dilyn y drafodaeth ar hyn yn San Steffan

eithriadol o bwysig i Ben-y-bont ar Ogwr, y dref a'i chyffiniau, fod chwaraeon o'r safon uchaf ar gael. Cafwyd effaith sylweddol ar chwaraeon a bywyd economaidd y dref pan gollwyd y Celtic Warriors. Fel y gwyddoch chi a mi—yr ydym wedi cydweithio ar hyn, chi fel noddwr i rygbi'r gynghair yng Nghymru—mae arnom eisiau gwneud popeth a allwn i sicrhau y caiff de Cymru glwb uwch gynghair yn y dyfodol. Mae'r sylfeini yno mewn ffordd nad oeddent yno o gwbl yn y blynyddoedd a fu. Wedi siarad â'r Prif Weinidog, gwn ei fod yn awyddus i gefnogi cais y Celtic Crusaders, a cheisiwn drefnu digwyddiadau i hyrwyddo'r cais hwnnw yn y dyfodol.

David Lloyd: Hoffwn ofyn i arweinydd y tŷ am ddadl yn amser y Llywodraeth ynglŷn â phrisiau trydan yng Nghymru. Sylweddolaf nad yw'n fater sydd wedi'i ddatganoli, ond mae ei effeithiau wedi'u datganoli, gyda phrisiau trydan ar gyfartaledd yn 2003 yn £246 y flwyddyn, yn codi i £424 y flwyddyn erbyn 2007, sef cynnydd o tua 80 y cant mewn taliadau am drydan o'i gymharu â thaliadau yn Lloegr. Mae'n cyfrannu cryn lawer at dlodi tanwydd, yr ydym wedi ei drafod yma droeon. Teimlaf fod yn rhaid inni gael y ddadl honno, yn ogystal ag ymchwiliad gan Ofgem i'r polisïau prisio gwahaniaethol i gwsmeriaid trydan yng Nghymru ac yn Lloegr.

Carwyn Jones: Nid oes dim dwywaith nad yw prisiau tanwydd ac ynni wedi codi. Yr ydych chi'n nodi'r effaith a gaiff hyn ar dlodi tanwydd. Mae'r cynllun effeithlonrwydd ynni cartref gennym i helpu'r bobl fwyaf agored i niwed yn ein cymdeithas i ddelio â hynny. Nid wyf yn siŵr a fyddai dadl ar brisiau trydan yn ychwanegu llawer iawn at eich pwynt dilys. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd Aelodau'n gwneud eu sylwadau, yn enwedig ar y pwynt olaf a wnaethoch ynglŷn ag Ofgem a phrisio gwahaniaethol, y sylwais arno mewn adroddiadau papur newydd y bore yma.

Bethan Jenkins: As you know, a number of young people have committed suicide recently in Bridgend; there was another case in Nant-y-moel yesterday. Following the debate on this issue in Westminster on Thursday, would it be possible to have a

ddydd Iau, er mwyn inni gael rhyw syniad o beth fydd strategaeth y Cynulliad yng nghydestun San Steffan? A ydych wedi cael unrhyw drafodaethau gyda MIND Cymru, sy'n cynnig y dylai pob ysgol gael athrawes sy'n arbenigo yn y maes hwn yn benodol?

Carwyn Jones: Mae hyn wedi bod yn drasiedi fawr yn ardal eang Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr—nid yn unig yn y dref ond draw i Borthcawl ac i'r Cymoedd, yn enwedig yn Nant-y-moel. Mae'n anodd ceisio deall pam y mae pobl ifanc â phopeth o'u blaenau yn gwneud hyn. Mae'r effaith ar y rhieni a'r teulu yn fawr ac yn un a fydd yn para am byth.

Mae tasglu wedi'i sefydlu ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr, sy'n cynnwys yr heddlu, yr ysgolion a'r rhai sy'n gweithio ym maes iechyd, er mwyn gweld beth y gallwn ei wneud i atal hyn rhag digwydd yn y dyfodol. Lle ceir arwydd bod rhywun mewn perygl o gymryd ei fywyd ei hunan, mae'n bwysig bod rhywbeth y gellir ei wneud yn ei gylch. Gyda rhai o'r bobl ifanc sydd wedi lladd eu hunain yn ddiweddar, nid oedd arwydd. Yr wyf yn adnabod teulu un o'r bobl ifanc hyn; nid oedd y bachgen ifanc wedi dangos unrhyw arwydd ei fod am wneud yr hyn a wnaeth. Yr oedd popeth o'i flaen ac yr oedd yn gwneud yn dda yn yr ysgol. Fel y gallwch ddychmygu, yr oedd yn ergyd fawr i'r teulu.

3.20 p.m.

Mae'n anodd i chi feddwl am beth yn union y gallwch ei wneud i geisio osgoi rhywbeth sydd heb unrhyw arwydd. Fodd bynnag, mae'n rhaid inni geisio gwneud hynny. Yr wyf wedi sôn am y tasglu, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yn hapus i rannu â chi y cynlluniau sydd ar gael ynglŷn â delio â hunanladdiadau yn y dyfodol.

Chris Franks: Could I request a statement about the future of art centres and cinemas in Wales? You may be aware of the campaign to save the 100-year-old independent Barry cinema from closure. Some 4,000 people have already signed the petition to prevent the Theatre Royal from closing on 10 April. It does not make sense for the cinema to close, as it is making a profit and is very

statement here, to give us an idea of what the Assembly's strategy will be in relation to what is done in Westminster? Have you had any discussions with MIND Cymru, which is proposing that all schools should have one teacher specialising in this issue?

Carwyn Jones: This has been a huge tragedy for the wider Bridgend area—not only the town, but extending to Porthcawl and the Valleys, especially Nant-y-moel. It is difficult to try to understand why young people with everything to live for do this. The effect on their parents and families is profound, and one that will last forever.

A taskforce has been established in Bridgend, including representatives of the police, schools and those who work in health, in order to see what can be done to prevent any further cases. Where there are warning signs that someone is in danger of taking his or her own life, it is important that something can be done. There were no signs with some of the young people who have committed suicide recently. I know the family of one of those young people; the young lad had shown no signs that he would do what he did. He had everything to live for, and he was doing well in school. As you can imagine, it was a huge blow to the family.

It is difficult to think of what you can do to prevent something for which there are no warning signs. However, we must try. I have mentioned the taskforce, and I am sure that the Minister for Health and Social Services will be happy to share with you the plans that exist for dealing with suicides in the future.

Chris Franks: A gaf ofyn am ddatganiad am ddyfodol canolfannau celf a sinemâu yng Nghymru? Efallai eich bod yn ymwybodol o'r ymgyrch i achub sinema annibynnol ganmlwydd oed y Barri rhag iddi gael ei chau. Mae rhyw 4,000 o bobl eisoes wedi llofnodi'r ddeiseb i atal y Theatre Royal rhag cau ar 10 Ebrill. Nid yw'n gwneud synnwyr i'r sinema gau, gan ei bod yn gwneud elw ac

popular.

Carwyn Jones: I am aware of the story. I also understand that, potentially, a fully intact Edwardian theatre has been found on the site, and, from what I read in the papers, it seems that there may be an attempt to get the building listed by Cadw. I understand that that may be happening.

As I understand it, the Theatre Royal is a privately owned cinema, which makes it difficult to exercise control over how the building is used. It is a matter, ultimately, for the planning authority, in terms of what proposals might be put forward for the building's future. If the planning authority felt that those proposals were not in accordance with local and national planning policies, it could take an appropriate decision, if I can put it that way. However, in the age of the multiplex, it is sad to see a traditional cinema close its doors, particularly one that appears to have been doing well. We are now left with very few traditional cinemas; Brynaman cinema is one example, and one that I know well, from years gone by. It is important that we try to preserve our cinematic heritage, and I hope that the owner of the Theatre Royal will reconsider the decision that has been taken to close it.

yn boblogaidd iawn.

Carwyn Jones: Yr wyf yn ymwybodol o'r hanes. Deallaf hefyd fod theatr Edwardaidd hollol gyfan, o bosibl, wedi'i chanfod ar y safle, ac, yn ôl yr hyn a ddarllenaf yn y papurau, mae'n debyg y gall fod cais i gael rhestru'r adeilad gan Cadw. Deallaf fod hynny'n digwydd efallai.

Yn ôl a ddeallaf, sinema sy'n eiddo preifat yw'r Theatre Royal, sy'n ei gwneud yn anodd arfer rheolaeth dros sut y defnyddir yr adeilad. Yn y pen draw, mater i'r awdurdod cynllunio ydyw, o ran pa gynigion y gellid eu cyflwyno ar gyfer dyfodol yr adeilad. Pe teimlai'r awdurdod cynllunio nad oedd y cynigion hynny'n cyd-fynd â pholisiau cynllunio lleol a chenedlaethol, gallai gymryd penderfyniad priodol, os caf ei gyfleu felly. Fodd bynnag, yn oes y sinema aml-sgrin, mae'n drist gweld sinema draddodiadol yn cau ei drysau, yn enwedig un sydd i bob golwg wedi bod yn gwneud yn dda. Ychydig iawn o sinemâu traddodiadol sydd gennym ar ôl bellach; mae sinema Brynaman yn un enghraifft, ac yn un yr wyf yn gyfarwydd iawn â hi, o'r dyddiau a fu. Mae'n bwysig inni geisio cadw ein hetifeddiaeth sinematig, a gobeithiaf y gwnaiff perchennog y Theatre Royal ailystyried y penderfyniad a wnaethpwyd i'w chau.

Datganiad am Ddarparu Gofal Brys Statement on the Delivery of Emergency Care

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart): I am grateful for this opportunity to inform Members about the launch of the delivering emergency care strategy, known as DECS, which was distributed to all Assembly Members earlier this morning. Following the themes laid out in 'Designed for Life', the Assembly Government is determined to improve access and services for those patients needing emergency and other unplanned care. This strategy addresses the provision of all unscheduled care services, and provides a clear vision for how we believe the future of these services should be planned and delivered.

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Edwina Hart): Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am y cyfle hwn i hysbysu'r Aelodau am lansio'r strategaeth cyflenwi gwasanaethau gofal brys, neu DECS, a ddosbarthwyd i holl Aelodau'r Cynulliad yn gynharach y bore yma. Gan ddilyn y themâu a amlinellir yn y 'Cynllun Oes', mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn benderfynol o hwyluso mynediad a gwella gwasanaethau i gleifion sydd angen gofal brys a gofal arall sydd heb ei gynllunio. Mae'r strategaeth hon yn ymdrin â darparu pob gwasanaeth gofal sydd heb ei drefnu, ac yn cynnig gweledigaeth glir ar gyfer sut, yn ein barn ni, y dylid cynllunio a darparu'r gwasanaethau hyn yn y dyfodol.

This strategy is aimed at all those people who need access to health and social care that is not planned, ranging from those requiring emergency care to those needing help to care for themselves at home. The DECS strategy recognises that there are many different ways in which patients can access unscheduled care services, and streamlining how these services can work together is crucial. In many hospitals, up to 70 per cent of admissions are emergency or unplanned. Year on year, we are seeing a consistent increase in the number of patients attending major accident and emergency departments and other unscheduled care services across Wales.

It is important to see this strategy as a starting point for the future development of unscheduled care services. Work is already under way with health communities in a number of areas to demonstrate how we can make a reality of the future that the strategy outlines. Early adopter sites will test aspects of the strategy and lessons learned will be shared across Wales. In addition, a number of areas are identified in the strategy as needing particularly detailed work. That work will now follow on topics including: how we provide the public with information on how and when unscheduled care services should be used; workforce planning, to ensure that we best utilise the skills and competencies of our staff—I am particularly keen to see the development of enhanced roles for all members of the clinical team—and providing early intervention and services that can help avoid admission through integrated care pathways across health and social care.

We must remember that there have been real improvements in how many of our services are performing. However, we need to move beyond the operation of individual services to look at how the whole system works. This strategy will bring about improvements across the range of unscheduled care services. Much work has gone into the development of this strategy, and I am grateful to all those who have contributed. To deliver a strategy of this nature successfully, it is essential that we have fully engaged

Anelir y strategaeth hon at bawb sydd angen cael mynediad at iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol nad yw wedi'i gynllunio, gan amrywio o'r rhai sydd angen gofal brys i'r rhai sydd angen help i ofalu amdanynt eu hunain gartref. Mae strategaeth DECS yn cydnabod y gall cleifion gael mynediad at wasanaethau gofal mewn nifer o wahanol ffyrdd, ac mae symleiddio'r modd y gall y gwasanaethau hyn weithio gyda'i gilydd yn allweddol. Mewn llawer o ysbytai, mae hyd at 70 y cant o dderbyniadau'n rhai brys neu heb eu cynllunio. Flwyddyn ar ôl blwyddyn, gwelwn gynnydd cyson yn nifer y cleifion sy'n mynd i adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys a gwasanaethau gofal eraill heb eu trefnu ledled Cymru.

Mae'n bwysig gweld y strategaeth hon fel man cychwyn i ddatblygiad gwasanaethau gofal heb eu trefnu yn y dyfodol. Mae gwaith ar droed eisoes gyda chymunedau iechyd mewn nifer o ardaloedd i ddangos sut y gallwn wireddu'r dyfodol a amlinellir gan y strategaeth. Bydd safleoedd mabwysiadu cynnar yn rhoi agweddau ar y strategaeth ar brawf a rhennir y gwersi a ddysgir ar draws Cymru. At hynny, mae'r strategaeth yn nodi nifer o feysydd lle y mae angen gwaith arbennig o fanwl. Bydd y gwaith hwnnw'n dilyn yn awr ar bynciau'n cynnwys: sut y darparwn wybodaeth i'r cyhoedd am sut a pha bryd y dylid defnyddio gwasanaethau gofal heb eu trefnu; cynllunio'r gweithlu, i sicrhau ein bod yn gwneud y defnydd gorau o sgiliau a chymwyseddau ein staff—yr wyf yn arbennig o awyddus i weld datblygu rolau uwch i holl aelodau'r tîm clinigol—a darparu ymyriad a gwasanaethau buan a all helpu i osgoi derbyn i'r ysbyty drwy lwybrau gofal integredig ar draws iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol.

Rhaid cofio bod gwelliannau go iawn wedi bod o ran sut y mae llawer o'n gwasanaethau'n perfformio. Fodd bynnag, mae angen inni symud y tu hwnt i weithrediad gwasanaethau unigol i edrych ar sut y mae'r system gyfan yn gweithio. Bydd y strategaeth hon yn cyflwyno gwelliannau ar draws yr amrediad o wasanaethau gofal sydd heb eu trefnu. Mae llawer o waith wedi'i wneud i ddatblygu'r strategaeth hon, ac yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i bawb sydd wedi cyfrannu. I gyflenwi strategaeth o'r math

professional bodies and unions to ensure the issues facing front-line staff are addressed.

Following on from the official consultation, my officials have continued to engage with colleagues in Unison, the Royal College of Nursing and the British Medical Association in Wales. Their input and advice during the development of this document has been extremely useful; that, together with their ongoing commitment to work with us to help implement this strategy, is something that I would like to acknowledge. It was for that reason that I felt that it was important that representatives from each of those three bodies played a part in the launch of the strategy this morning. I would also like to pay tribute to the dedication of the staff involved in delivering the range of unscheduled care services. As this strategy shows, all those involved in providing these services are doing so in the face of ever-increasing demand.

I am determined that, as part of the implementation of the strategy, we will resolve a number of issues. First, we need to ensure that patients can access primary care services. There are some good examples of how these services are being delivered to high standards, with good access, but I am conscious that that is not universal; we must address that issue. We are looking at ways in which we can improve access for the public and I have already made an announcement about our intention to pilot wellbeing centres in Wales. Secondly, for those attending accident-and-emergency departments, we have a four-hour target that monitors the length of time that patients spend in the department. That has rightly focused attention on this important area of unscheduled care. However, I am concerned that these services are treating patients who perhaps could and should be treated elsewhere. We must ensure that we are helping patients to access the right services, at the right time. We will be monitoring attendances at those departments to see how this strategy is being implemented. Thirdly, we need to deliver speedier access for those who need emergency services. Ambulance-response times are very important, but we

hwn yn llwyddiannus, mae'n hanfodol inni gael cyrff proffesiynol ac undebau cwbl ymroddedig i sicrhau bod sylw'n cael ei roi i'r problemau sy'n wynebu staff rheng flaen.

Wedi'r ymgynghoriad swyddogol, mae fy swyddogion wedi parhau mewn cysylltiad â chydweithwyr yn Unsain, y Coleg Nyrsio Brenhinol a Chymdeithas Feddygol Prydain yng Nghymru. Mae eu mewnbwn a'u cyngor hwy wrth ddatblygu'r ddogfen hon wedi bod yn hynod o fuddiol; mae hynny, ynghyd â'u hymrwymiad parhaus i weithio gyda ni i helpu i weithredu'r strategaeth hon, yn rhywbeth yr hoffwn ei gydnabod. Dyna pam yr oeddwn yn teimlo ei bod yn bwysig bod cynrychiolwyr o bob un o'r tri chorff hynny wedi chwarae rhan yn lansiad y strategaeth y bore yma. Hoffwn dalu teyrnged hefyd i ymroddiad y staff sy'n ymwneud â chyflenwi'r amrywiaeth o wasanaethau gofal heb eu trefnu. Fel y dengys y strategaeth hon, mae pawb sy'n ymhel â darparu'r gwasanaethau hyn yn gwneud hynny yn wyneb galw sy'n cynyddu o hyd.

Yr wyf yn benderfynol y gwnawn ddatrys nifer o faterion wrth weithredu'r strategaeth. Yn gyntaf, mae angen inni sicrhau y gall cleifion gael mynediad at wasanaethau gofal sylfaenol. Mae rhai enghreifftiau da lle y caiff y gwasanaethau hyn eu cyflenwi i safonau uchel, gyda mynediad rhwydd, ond yr wyf yn ymwybodol nad yw hynny'n wir ym mhobman; rhaid inni roi sylw i hynny. Yr ydym yn edrych ar ffyrdd y gallwn wella mynediad i'r cyhoedd ac yr wyf eisoes wedi gwneud cyhoeddiad am ein bwriad i treialu canolfannau lles yng Nghymru. Yn ail, i rai sy'n mynd i adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys, mae gennym darged o bedair awr sy'n monitro faint o amser y mae cleifion yn ei dreulio yn yr adran. Mae hynny'n ddigon teg wedi canolbwyntio sylw ar y maes pwysig hwn o ran gofal heb ei drefnu. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn bryderus bod y gwasanaethau hyn yn trin cleifion a allai ac a ddylai gael triniaeth yn rhywle arall o bosibl. Rhaid inni sicrhau ein bod yn helpu cleifion i gael mynediad at y gwasanaethau iawn, ar yr amser iawn. Byddwn yn monitro'r niferoedd sy'n mynd i'r adrannau hynny i weld sut y mae'r strategaeth hon yn cael ei gweithredu. Yn drydydd, mae angen inni sicrhau mynediad cyflymach i rai sydd angen

need to ensure that we are sending ambulances to those patients who genuinely need them. I am concerned about the number of occasions on which ambulances are sent to people with minor problems. That is not to say that such patients do not need advice or treatment, but it should be achieved without dispatching a high-speed ambulance.

I am committed to improving and modernising health and social care services in Wales. We have improved access times for patients needing planned care and cancer services, and recently introduced a strategy for tackling chronic diseases. Today's announcement looks to improve services for the large number of patients who need help on an unplanned basis. The DECS strategy provides a framework for the NHS and its partners, as they work together towards this goal. I am pleased to commend the document to you today.

Jonathan Morgan: I will start by thanking the Minister for the statement. I agree that issues around unscheduled and emergency care need to be addressed. You and I both understand the pressures in the health service and the need for change. I also place on record my thanks to the BMA and the Royal College of Nursing—particularly the royal college, because it is always willing to participate. We must recognise the efforts of those outside organisations that have contributed. I do not want to diminish their efforts, but I must say that this strategy is not exactly what I had expected.

Having read the strategy, the narrative that is contained within it, and the outline of the challenge, I think that this is a missed opportunity. The strategy is very big on rhetoric, but is very small in terms of detailed action. This strategy has taken years to produce: it was started under the previous Minister for Health and Social Services and, at that point, it went out to consultation. There was a lack of willingness on the part of the previous Minister to publish anything

gwasanaethau brys. Mae amseroedd ymateb ambiwlansys yn bwysig iawn, ond mae angen inni sicrhau ein bod yn anfon ambiwlansys at y cleifion hynny y mae gwir angen yr ambiwlansys arnynt. Yr wyf yn bryderus ynghylch nifer yr achlysuron yr anfonir ambiwlansys at bobl a chanddynt fân broblemau. Nid yw hynny'n gyfystyr â dweud nad oes angen cyngor neu driniaeth ar y cleifion hynny, ond dylid ei roi heb anfon ambiwlans cyflym allan.

Yr wyf wedi ymrwymo i wella a moderneiddio gwasanaethau iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol yng Nghymru. Yr ydym wedi gwella amseroedd mynediad i gleifion sydd angen gofal wedi'i gynllunio a gwasanaethau canser, ac yn ddiweddar cyflwynasom strategaeth ar gyfer mynd i'r afael â chlefydau cronig. Mae'r cyhoeddiad heddiw'n ymgais i wella gwasanaethau i'r nifer fawr o gleifion y mae arnynt angen cymorth sydd heb ei gynllunio. Mae'r strategaeth DECS yn darparu fframwaith i'r GIG a'i bartneriaid, wrth iddynt gydweithio at y nod hwn. Yr wyf yn falch o gymeradwyo'r ddogfen i chi heddiw.

Jonathan Morgan: Dechreuaf drwy ddiolch i'r Gweinidog am y datganiad. Cytunaf fod angen gwneud rhywbeth am faterion gofal heb ei gynllunio a gofal brys. Yr ydych chi a minnau'n deall y pwysau yn y gwasanaeth iechyd a'r angen am newid. Yr wyf yn dweud ar goedd hefyd fy mod yn diolch i'r BMA a'r Coleg Nyrsio Brenhinol—yn enwedig y coleg brenhinol, gan ei fod bob amser yn fodlon cyfranogi. Rhaid inni gydnabod ymdrechion y cyrff allanol hynny sydd wedi cyfrannu. Nid oes arnaf eisiau bychanu eu hymdrechion, ond rhaid imi ddweud nad y strategaeth hon yw'r union beth yr oeddwn wedi'i ddisgwyl.

Wedi darllen y strategaeth, y naratif a geir o'i mewn, a'r amlinelliad o'r her, credaf mai cyfle sydd wedi'i gollu yw hyn. Mae cryn rethreg yn y strategaeth, ond nid oes fawr o gamau manwl. Cymerwyd blynyddoedd i lunio'r strategaeth hon: fe'i cychwynwyd dan y cyn Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, a'r pryd hwnnw aethpwyd ati i ymgynghori yn ei chylch. Yr oedd diffyg parodrwydd ar ran y Gweinidog blaenorol i gyhoeddi dim nes

until it went out to consultation. We have had little time to consider it in the Assembly and this is really our first opportunity to do so. The detail in this strategy does not match the rhetoric in the Assembly Government's press statement that went out last night. If you consider this in the context of the annual operating framework that is issued to the NHS every year, the annual operating framework that was issued for this year says that:

'The DECS strategy will form one element of a focused approach to the management of unscheduled care, which will be fully developed early in 2008'.

Bearing in mind, Minister, that this strategy, as you term it, does not have a timetable for implementation and does not set out any judged costings or work on costings, I cannot see how it will be fully developed early this calendar year, as your Government's guidance document states that it will.

3.30 p.m.

You said in your statement this afternoon that the strategy addresses the provision of all unscheduled care services. I am afraid that that is not true, because while the narrative of the document talks about the role of out-of-hours services, it does not point to what needs to change within the delivery of out-of-hours care as part of the package of unscheduled care services. We know that there are problems in the delivery of out-of-hours services, but for some reason there are no recommendations in the strategy that point to the way in which out-of-hours services need to be delivered. That has to be a fundamental part of delivering any unscheduled care services strategy.

You rightly say, on the second page of your statement, that we need to ensure that the public has proper information about how and when to access unscheduled care services. I fully accept that, but could you tell the Assembly how we will change the behaviour of those who turn up at accident and emergency departments because they simply have nowhere else to go? That brings me

byddid wedi mynd ati i ymgynghori yn ei gylch. Ychydig o amser yr ydym wedi'i gael i'w hystyried yn y Cynulliad ac mewn gwirionedd dyma'n cyfle cyntaf ni i wneud hynny. Nid yw'r manylion yn y strategaeth hon yn cyd-fynd â'r rhethreg yn natganiad Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i'r wasg, a gyhoeddwyd neithiwr. Os ystyriwch hyn yng nghyd-destun y fframwaith gweithredu blynyddol a roddir i'r GIG bob blwyddyn, dyma a ddywed y fframwaith gweithredu blynyddol a gyhoeddwyd eleni:

Bydd y strategaeth DECS yn ffurfio un elfen o agwedd sy'n canolbwyntio ar reoli gofal sydd heb ei drefnu, a ddatblygir yn llawn yn gynnar yn 2008.

Gan gofio, Weinidog, nad oes gan y strategaeth hon, fel y galwch hi, ddim amserlen ar gyfer gweithredu ac nad yw'n cyflwyno costau na gwaith ar gostau, ni allaf weld sut y caiff ei datblygu'n llawn yn gynnar yn y flwyddyn galendr hon, fel y dywed dogfen gyfarwyddyd eich Llywodraeth.

Dywedasoch yn eich datganiad y prynhawn yma fod y strategaeth yn rhoi sylw i ddarparu'r holl wasanaethau gofal heb ei drefnu. Mae arnaf ofn nad yw hynny'n wir, oherwydd er bod naratif y ddogfen yn sôn am rôl gwasanaethau y tu allan i oriau, nid yw'n awgrymu ym mha ffordd y mae angen i'r ddarpariaeth gofal y tu allan i oriau newid fel rhan o'r pecyn gwasanaethau gofal heb ei drefnu. Gwyddom fod problemau ynghlwm wrth ddarparu gwasanaethau y tu allan i oriau, ond am ryw reswm, nid oes dim argymhellion yn y strategaeth sy'n awgrymu sut y mae angen darparu'r gwasanaethau hynny. Rhaid i hynny fod yn rhan hanfodol o wireddu unrhyw strategaeth ynghylch gwasanaethau gofal heb ei drefnu.

Yr ydych yn llygad eich lle, ar ail dudalen eich datganiad, fod angen inni sicrhau bod y cyhoedd yn cael gwybodaeth iawn am sut a pha bryd y mae cael gwasanaethau gofal heb ei drefnu. Derbyniaf hynny'n llwyr, ond a allech ddweud wrth y Cynulliad sut y byddwn yn newid ymddygiad y rhai sy'n cyrraedd adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys am y rheswm syml nad oes unman arall

back to the point of out-of-hours care; if we are telling people that they should use the out-of-hours GP service, a service which we know to be flawed, how on earth can merely providing further information prevent them from going to accident and emergency departments?

In your statement, you rightly said that workforce planning needs to ensure that we utilise the skills and competencies of our staff. I agree with you on that. However, the Government press release that went out last night stated that patients should be able to see a more senior clinician upon arrival at our accident and emergency departments. Despite this, the Assembly Government has done absolutely nothing to increase the number of consultants working in accident and emergency departments across Wales. It is the lack of consultant support at accident and emergency departments that means that patients are not getting to see that senior clinician, as your official pointed out in the Government press release last night. If you compared similar sized accident and emergency departments in Wales and England, those in England have a far greater number of consultant clinicians than we have in Wales. That needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency. I do not understand why you cannot tell us what level of investment you will make in order to achieve this. Unless that investment is there—and it is not in the document—then we will not be able to increase the availability of senior clinicians for patients as they access accident and emergency departments.

On the final page of your statement, you refer to the piloting of the wellbeing centre in Wales. We would welcome any innovative models in Wales, and I am very keen to see how these wellbeing centres will work. Bizarrely, however, in your statement this afternoon, you did not refer to urgent care centres, which are referred to in the delivering emergency care services strategy. For some reason, your officials have not included this in your statement to Plenary

idduynt fynd? Daw hynny â mi'n ôl at y pwynt ynghylch gofal y tu allan i oriau; os ydym yn dweud wrth bobl y dylent ddefnyddio'r gwasanaeth meddygon teulu y tu allan i oriau, gwasanaeth y gwyddom ei fod yn ddiffygiol, sut ar y ddaear y gall darparu rhagor o wybodaeth, a dim mwy na hynny, eu hatal rhag mynd i adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys?

Yn eich datganiad, yr oeddech yn llygad eich lle wrth ddweud bod angen sicrhau, wrth gynllunio'r gweithlu, ein bod yn defnyddio sgiliau a chymwyseddau ein staff. Cytunaf â chi ynglŷn â hynny. Fodd bynnag, yn y datganiad i'r wasg a gyhoeddwyd gan y Llywodraeth neithiwr, dywedwyd y dylai cleifion allu gweld clinigydd uwch wrth gyrraedd ein hadrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys. Er gwaethaf hyn, nid yw Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi gwneud affliw o ddim i gynyddu nifer y meddygon ymgynghorol sy'n gweithio mewn adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys ledled Cymru. Diffyg cymorth meddygon ymgynghorol yn yr adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys sy'n golygu nad yw cleifion yn cael gweld y clinigydd uwch hwnnw, fel y dywedodd eich swyddog yn natganiad y Llywodraeth i'r wasg neithiwr. O gymharu adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys yng Nghymru ag adrannau tebyg o ran eu maint yn Lloegr, mae gan rai Lloegr fwy o glinigwyr ymgynghorol o lawer nag sydd gennym ni yng Nghymru. Mae angen rhoi sylw i hynny ar frys. Nid wyf yn deall pam na allwch ddweud wrthym faint y byddwch yn ei fuddsoddi er mwyn gwireddu hyn. Oni cheir y buddsoddiad hwnnw—ac nid yw yn y ddogfen, yna, ni fyddwn yn gallu sicrhau bod mwy o glinigwyr uwch ar gael i gleifion pan fyddant yn mynd i adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys.

Ar dudalen olaf eich datganiad, cyfeiriwch at raglen beilot y ganolfan les yng Nghymru. Byddem yn croesawu unrhyw fodelau arloesol yng Nghymru, ac yr wyf yn awyddus iawn i weld sut y bydd y canolfannau lles hyn yn gweithio. Yn rhyfedd iawn, fodd bynnag, yn eich datganiad y prynhawn, yma, nid oedd cyfeiriad at y canolfannau gofal brys y cyfeirir atynt yn y strategaeth cyflenwi gwasanaethau gofal brys. Am ryw reswm, nid yw eich swyddogion wedi cynnwys hyn yn

today. Surely, that should be the central part of increasing the capacity of the NHS to deal with unscheduled care and, more likely, emergency care, where people turn up to accident and emergency departments without need. I am thinking of, for example, the walking wounded—those people who may have had an accident, but do not need to be in an accident and emergency department. Can you expand on what those urgent care centres will mean? How many do you think we will need in Wales, and what sort of costing is likely to be associated with these centres? I accept that, on page 19 of your strategy, you say that they will be a part of what are called ‘early adopter sites’. I am not quite sure what that means, and I think that there will be plenty of people throughout Wales who are not sure what that means. I would like to hear more detail about the number of ‘early adopter sites’, how many urgent care centres will be piloted, what that will mean in the short term for resources, and how we will manage to implement the strategy in order to increase the capacity of the health service to treat people who do not need to go to accident and emergency departments.

I would like to make two final points. You have said, Minister, that you are concerned that accident and emergency departments are treating people who, perhaps, could be treated elsewhere. We all know that that is the case. However, could you tell the Assembly why more than one or two hospitals in Wales have altered accident and emergency services? The Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust is one example of where this has happened. The Royal College of Nursing said last week that there used to be GPs co-located within the accident and emergency department in question, but they were removed from the service. Surely that sort of innovation would help to reduce the pressure on accident and emergency departments, if we had those sorts of clinicians working alongside accident and emergency professionals. You have said that accident and emergency departments are treating people who do not need to be there, but a model was working in Cardiff to reduce the

eich datganiad i'r Cyfarfod Llawn heddiw. Oni ddylai hynny fod yn ganolog wrth gynyddu gallu'r GIG i ddelio â gofal heb ei drefnu, ac yn fwy tebygol, â gofal brys, lle y bydd pobl yn cyrraedd adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys heb fod angen? Yr wyf yn meddwl, er enghraifft, am y rhai sydd wedi'u clwyfo ond yn cerdded—y bobl hynny sydd o bosibl wedi cael damwain, ond nad oes angen iddynt fod mewn adran damweiniau ac achosion brys. A oes modd ichi ymhelaethu ar yr hyn y bydd y canolfannau gofal brys hynny'n ei olygu? Faint ohonynt y bydd eu hangen arnom yng Nghymru, yn eich barn chi, a pha fath o gostau sy'n debygol o fod yn gysylltiedig â'r canolfannau hyn? Derbyniaf eich bod yn dweud ar dudalen 19 yn eich strategaeth, y byddant yn rhan o'r hyn a elwir yn ‘safleoedd mabwysiadu cynnar’. Nid wyf yn gwbl sicr beth yw ystyr hynny, a chredaf y bydd digon o bobl ledled Cymru nad ydynt yn siŵr beth yw ystyr hynny. Hoffwn glywed rhagor o fanylion am nifer y ‘safleoedd mabwysiadu cynnar’, faint o ganolfannau gofal brys a fydd yn rhan o'r rhaglen beilot, beth fydd goblygiadau hynny yn y tymor byr o ran adnoddau, a sut y llwyddwn i roi'r strategaeth ar waith er mwyn gwella gallu'r gwasanaeth iechyd i drin pobl nad oes angen iddynt fynd i adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys.

Hoffwn wneud dau bwynt i orffen. Yr ydych wedi dweud, Weinidog, eich bod yn poeni bod adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys yn trin pobl y gellid, efallai, eu trin mewn man arall. Yr ydym i gyd yn gwybod mai felly y mae. Fodd bynnag, a allech ddweud wrth y Cynulliad pam mae mwy nag un neu ddau ysbyty yng Nghymru wedi newid eu gwasanaethau damweiniau ac achosion brys? Un enghraifft o hyn yw Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Caerdydd a'r Fro. Dywedodd Coleg Brenhinol y Nyrsys yr wythnos diwethaf mai'r sefyllfa o'r blaen oedd bod meddygon teulu wedi'u cydleoli yn yr adran damweiniau ac achosion brys dan sylw, ond eu bod wedi'u tynnu o'r gwasanaeth. Oni fyddai'r math hwnnw o arloesi'n gymorth i leihau'r pwysau ar adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys, petai gennym y mathau hynny o glinigwyr yn gweithio ochr yn ochr â gweithwyr proffesiynol damweiniau ac achosion brys? Yr ydych wedi dweud bod adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys yn

pressure on accident and emergency services.

Finally, Minister, you said that this strategy is there to provide a framework for the NHS. Having read the strategy this afternoon, to my mind, all it does is set out the narrative of the current model. It sets out the challenge that we have seen because of the increases in demand for urgent and unscheduled care, but it does not set out the direction in terms of timescale and resources and how this is going to be delivered. The NHS will need a lot more than this if it is going to get the changes, and if the people of Wales are going to get the changes, that are needed.

Edwina Hart: Thank you, Jonathan, for your contribution. I am sorry that you focused on what I regard as quite negative comments on the delivery of the delivering emergency care services strategy. The DECS strategy has not been an easy task in any shape or form as regards trying to bring together the various strands of dealing with unscheduled care. My starting point as Minister, when I had the information in front of me, was the need to talk more to the service before I delivered on some of the issues. Therefore, even though you may have doubts about this, I can assure you that the Royal College of Nursing, the British Medical Association and Unison were pleased to be involved in the launch today and to warmly welcome and support the way in which the strategy is developing.

This, as I have made quite clear, is the start of the process, not the end. You allude to all of the issues, and we recognise that there are enormous pressures in the health service. You also talk about the issues related to the out-of-hours service. I do not deny that there have been problems with the out-of-hours service across Wales, but the service has worked very well in some areas, where there has been a limited number of complaints and where people have experienced a very good and focused service. We need to build on that good out-of-hours service, which is part of the equation as discussions on the issue of unscheduled care develop.

trin pobl nad oes angen iddynt fod yno, ond yr oedd model ar waith yng Nghaerdydd a oedd yn lleihau'r pwysau ar wasanaethau damweiniau ac achosion brys.

Yn olaf, Weinidog, dywedasoeh mai pwrpas y strategaeth hon yw darparu fframwaith ar gyfer y GIG. Ar ôl darllen y strategaeth y prynhawn yma, i mi, y cyfan y mae'n ei wneud yw adrodd naratif y model sydd gennym ar hyn o bryd. Mae'n egluro'r her yr ydym wedi'i gweld oherwydd y cynnydd yn y galw am ofal brys a gofal heb ei drefnu, ond nid yw'n dangos y cyfeiriad o ran amserlen ac adnoddau na sut y gwiredir hyn. Bydd angen mwy o lawer ar y GIG na hyn er mwyn sicrhau'r newidiadau, ac er mwyn i bobl Cymru gael y newidiadau, y mae eu hangen.

Edwina Hart: Diolch, Jonathan, am eich cyfraniad. Mae'n ddrwg gennyf ichi ganolbwyntio ar yr hyn sydd yn fy marn i'n sylwadau eithaf negyddol am wireddu'r strategaeth cyflenwi gwasanaethau gofal brys. Nid yw llunio'r strategaeth hon wedi bod yn dasg hawdd o gwbl inni o ran ceisio dwyn ynghyd wahanol linyddau ymdrin â gofal heb ei drefnu. Fy man cychwyn fel Gweinidog, pan oedd y wybodaeth o'm blaen, oedd yr angen i siarad mwy â'r gwasanaeth cyn mynd i'r afael â rhai o'r problemau. Felly, er eich bod yn amau o bosibl, gallaf eich sicrhau bod Coleg Brenhinol y Nyrsys, Cymdeithas Feddygol Prydain ac Unsain yn falch o fod yn rhan o'r lansio heddiw ac o groesawu'r gynnes a chefnogi'r ffordd y mae'r strategaeth yn datblygu.

Dechrau'r broses yw hyn, nid ei diwedd, ac yr wyf am wneud hynny'n gwbl glir. Yr ydych yn cyfeirio at y problemau i gyd, a sylweddolwn fod pwysau aruthrol yn y gwasanaeth iechyd. Yr ydych yn sôn hefyd am broblemau'r gwasanaeth y tu allan i oriau. Nid wyf yn gwadu na fu problemau gyda'r gwasanaeth y tu allan i oriau ledled Cymru, ond mae'r gwasanaeth hefyd wedi gweithio'n dda iawn mewn rhai ardaloedd, lle y mae nifer y cwynion wedi bod yn fach iawn, a lle y mae pobl wedi gweld gwasanaeth da sydd â ffocws pendant iddo. Mae angen inni adeiladu ar sail y gwasanaeth da hwnnw, sy'n rhan o'r pecyn hwn wrth i'r trafodaethau ar

fater gofal heb ei drefnu ddatblygu.

You talk about the public and the issue around dealing with the public. We will have to consult the public in the long run and we will need a communication strategy to explain where people need to go. I do not think that we have been successful in the past in getting people to access the right services. There has to be more of a dialogue in that area and we will have to work hard on it in the coming 12 months, because there is still a very outdated view of what the service is. When you think about it, not so long ago, general practitioners came out on a Saturday and in the evenings; that has changed, but the public's perception has not necessarily changed. We have to work hard on those issues. What the strategy also looks at is the importance of understanding the needs of urban Wales and of rural Wales, and how we use the different systems in those areas.

Yr ydych yn sôn am y cyhoedd ac am fater delio â'r cyhoedd. Bydd yn rhaid inni ymgynghori â'r cyhoedd yn y tymor hir a bydd angen strategaeth gyfathrebu er mwyn esbonio i bobl i ble y mae angen iddynt fynd. Ni chredaf inni lwyddo yn y gorffennol i gael pobl i ddefnyddio'r gwasanaethau cywir. Rhaid cael mwy o ddeialog yn y maes hwnnw a bydd yn rhaid inni weithio'n galed ar hynny yn y 12 mis nesaf, oherwydd y mae ffordd hen ffasiwn iawn o edrych ar y gwasanaeth yn bodoli o hyd. Pan feddyliwch am y peth, nid oes fawr ers pan fyddai meddygon yn dod allan i gartrefi ar ddydd Sadwrn a gyda'r nos; mae hynny wedi newid, ond nid yw'r ffordd y mae'r cyhoedd yn gweld y sefyllfa o anghenraid wedi newid. Rhaid inni weithio'n galed ar y materion hynny. Peth arall y mae'r strategaeth yn edrych arno yw pwysigrwydd deall anghenion y Gymru drefol ac anghenion y Gymru wledig, a sut y mae defnyddio'r gwahanol systemau yn yr ardaloedd hynny.

Workforce planning is a key area; it is not about the empowerment of nurses and whether we have more nurse prescribers and more people leading. I understand your point about consultants because some of the best services in accident and emergency departments are consultant led, along with GP-led and nurse-led services. I have made it clear to the trusts that that is how I see accident and emergency services developing. As part of this strategy, these are the discussions that we want to have.

Mae cynllunio'r gweithlu'n faes allweddol; nid oes a wnelo hyn â grymuso nyrsys ac a oes gennym fwy o nyrsys sy'n rhagnodi a mwy o bobl yn arwain. Deallaf eich pwynt am feddygon ymgynghorol, oherwydd rhai o'r gwasanaethau gorau mewn adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys yw'r rhai a arweinir gan feddygon ymgynghorol, ynghyd â'r rhai a arweinir gan feddygon teulu a nyrsys. Yr wyf wedi ei gwneud yn glir i'r ymddiriedolaethau mai dyna sut yr wyf yn gweld gwasanaethau damweiniau ac achosion brys yn datblygu. Fel rhan o'r strategaeth hon, dyma'r trafodaethau y dymunwn eu cael.

We have talked about wellbeing centres and walk-in centres, which are also part of the equation. I indicated, in response to Jenny Randerson's short debate, that I was carrying out work in this area, and it is my intention to carry out further work in this area, and will hopefully have further discussions in the summer to see how this will fit neatly into what is a wide-ranging programme.

Yr ydym wedi sôn am ganolfannau lles a chanolfannau galw i mewn, sydd hefyd yn rhan o'r pecyn. Awgrymais, wrth ymateb i ddadl fer Jenny Randerson, fy mod yn gweithio yn y maes hwn ac mai fy mwriad yw gwneud rhagor o waith yn y maes hwn, a byddaf, gobeithio, yn cynnal rhagor o drafodaethau yn yr haf i weld sut y bydd hyn yn cyd-fynd â'r hyn sy'n rhaglen eang ei chwmpas.

We talk about my responsibilities, but I must talk about the responsibility of trust managers

Yr ydym yn sôn am fy nghyfrifoldebau, ond rhaid imi sôn hefyd am gyfrifoldeb rheolwyr

and how they manage their resources and personnel. I was delighted to have the opportunity this morning to speak to some nurses on the front line about what they would require in terms of their hospitals' structures for them to deliver on my targets. There are a lot of staff out there who are willing, within the trust context, to contribute to this discussion and to make DECS a living strategy.

I will keep the Assembly updated on projects and whether additional financial assistance will be required. I am more than happy to give a guarantee to the Chamber today that I will come back during the summer term to update Members on how things are developing across the piece in terms of DECS. I am sorry that you were disappointed, but I think that we have the right starting point for dealing with some of the unscheduled care issues, and we are taking it forward in co-operation with the workforce. Together with the workforce, the Government and trust management can make a difference across Wales.

3.40 p.m.

Sandy Mewies: I am extremely pleased to see the progress that has been made on this issue, particularly as it has been done with the co-operation of the British Medical Association, the Royal College of Nursing and Unison. They are best able to observe what is happening because they are in the thick of it day in, day out.

I am pleased that we are tackling the issues of accident and emergency departments and the emergency care that they provide. We are all aware of the problems that accident and emergency departments have faced for many years and of the difficulties that staff have had to face. I echo the view that it is up to management to ensure that staff have the resources to carry out their work properly and that they are also protected while they are undertaking that work.

I want to be assured—you have already said

ymddiriedolaethau a sut y maent yn rheoli eu hadnoddau a'u gweithwyr. Yr oeddwn wrth fy modd y bore yma o gael cyfle i siarad ag ychydig o nyrsys yn y rheng flaen, gan drafod yr hyn y byddai ei angen arnynt o ran strwythurau eu hysbytai er mwyn iddynt wireddu fy nhargedau. Mae llawer o staff yn y byd mawr sy'n barod, o fewn cyd-destun yr ymddiriedolaeth, i gyfrannu at y drafodaeth hon ac i wneud y strategaeth cyflenwi gwasanaethau gofal brys yn strategaeth fyw.

Rhoddaf y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r Cynulliad ynglŷn â phrosiectau ac a fydd angen cymorth ariannol ychwanegol ai peidio. Yr wyf yn fwy na bodlon rhoi sicrwydd i'r Siambr heddiw y deuaif yn ôl yn ystod tymor yr haf i ddweud wrth yr Aelodau sut y mae pethau'n datblygu drwyddi draw o ran y strategaeth cyflenwi gwasanaethau gofal brys. Mae'n ddrwg gennyf eich bod yn siomedig, ond credaf fod y man cychwyn iawn gennym i ymdrin â rhai o'r problemau hyn sy'n ymwneud â gofal heb ei drefnu, ac yr ydym yn bwrw ymlaen ag ef mewn cydweithrediad â'r gweithlu. Ar y cyd â'r gweithlu, gall y Llywodraeth a rheolwyr yr ymddiriedolaethau wneud gwahaniaeth ledled Cymru.

Sandy Mewies: Yr wyf yn hynod o falch o weld y cynnydd sydd wedi'i wneud gyda hyn, yn enwedig gan i hynny ddigwydd gyda chydweithrediad Cymdeithas Feddygol Prydain, Coleg Brenhinol y Nyrsys nac Unsain. Hwyl sydd yn y sefyllfa orau i wyllo'r hyn sy'n digwydd oherwydd eu bod yn ei chanol hi, drwy'r dydd, bob dydd.

Yr wyf yn falch ein bod yn mynd i'r afael â materion adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys, a'r gofal brys a ddarperir ganddynt. Yr ydym i gyd yn ymwybodol o'r problemau y mae adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys wedi'u hwynebu ers blynyddoedd lawer ac o'r anawsterau y mae'r staff wedi gorfod eu hwynebu. Ategap y farn mai cyfrifoldeb y rheolwyr yw sicrhau bod gan y staff yr adnoddau i wneud eu gwaith yn iawn a'u bod hefyd yn cael eu gwarchod wrth iddynt wneud y gwaith hwnnw.

Yr wyf am gael fy sicrhau—yr ydych eisoes

this, but I hope that you will repeat it—that you will report back to us sometime in the summer and that your consultation and the joint work that has been undertaken so far will continue as the strategy develops and strengthens.

Edwina Hart: In many hospitals, 70 per cent of admissions are emergency or unscheduled ones. That gives you an indication of the problems that we face in the NHS. You mentioned pressures on accident and emergency departments, but there are also enormous pressures on the ambulance service. I want the ambulance service to focus on providing more care at the scene because, sometimes, people will not need to be transported to hospital, and that will ease the issues faced by hospitals.

This is also about empowering staff to make decisions within this set-up so that we can get better results. I am keen to report back to the Assembly on what progress we make in this area and I thank you for your comments, particularly on the staff because we see the difficulties that they face at the sharp end in accident and emergency departments, but we also see the difficulties that they encounter at the other end when it comes to discharging patients into other types of care. We need a seamless transition across the piece in terms of how we deal with these issues.

Jenny Randerson: I welcome your statement, particularly as there has been a considerable period of time since the consultation document was published, some 20 months ago. In the light of the delay, I have to confess that this document is rather disappointing. The *Western Mail* article talked about a ‘shake-up’, but, if I may say so, the document is more of a tentative nudge. I would like your confirmation that we are heading towards a shake-up, because that is what is needed.

It seems to me that the problem with your statement today is what it excludes and not what it includes. It does not include the commitment to urgent care centres or to telemedicine, even though these seem to be

wedi dweud hyn, ond gobeithiaf y gwnewch ei ailadrodd—y deuwch yn ôl atom rywbryd yn yr haf gydag adroddiad ac y bydd yr ymgynghori a’r gwaith ar y cyd sydd wedi’i wneud hyd yn hyn yn parhau wrth i’r strategaeth ddatblygu ac ymgryfhau.

Edwina Hart: Mewn llawer o ysbytai, mae 70 y cant o’r achosion a dderbynnir yn rhai brys neu’n rhai sydd heb eu trefnu. Mae hynny’n rhoi syniad ichi ynghylch y’r problemau yr ydym yn eu hwynebu yn y GIG. Soniasoch am y pwysau ar adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys, ond mae pwysau anferth hefyd ar y gwasanaeth ambiwlans. Yr wyf am i’r gwasanaeth ambiwlans ganolbwyntio ar ddarparu mwy o ofal yn y fan a’r lle, oherwydd weithiau, ni fydd angen cludo pobl i’r ysbyty, a bydd hynny’n lliniaru’r problemau a wynebir gan ysbytai.

Mae a wnelo hyn hefyd â grymuso’r staff i wneud penderfyniadau o fewn y drefn hon er mwyn inni gael gwell canlyniadau. Yr wyf yn awyddus i adrodd yn ôl i’r Cynulliad am y cynnydd a wnawn yn y maes hwn a diolchaf ichi am eich sylwadau, yn enwedig ynglŷn â’r staff am ein bod yn gweld yr anawsterau a wynebir ganddynt a hwythau yn ei chanol hi yn yr adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys, ond gwelwn yr anawsterau hefyd a ddaw i’w rhan yn y pen arall pan ddaw’n adeg rhyddhau cleifion i fathau eraill o ofal. Mae angen trefniadau pontio di-dor drwyddi draw o ran sut yr ydym yn delio â’r materion hyn.

Jenny Randerson: Croesawaf eich datganiad, yn enwedig gan fod cryn amser wedi mynd heibio ers cyhoeddi’r ddogfen ymgynghori, tuag 20 mis yn ôl. Yng ngoleuni’r oedi, rhaid imi gyfaddef bod y ddogfen hon braidd yn siomedig. Yr oedd yr erthygl yn y *Western Mail* yn sôn am ysgwyd pethau, ond, os caf ddweud, mae’r ddogfen yn debycach i bwt bach petrus. Hoffwn gael cadarnhad gennych ein bod yn symud tuag at ysgwyd pethau, oherwydd dyna sydd ei angen.

Ymddengys i mi mai’r broblem gyda’ch datganiad heddiw yw’r hyn y mae’n ei hepgor yn hytrach na’r hyn y mae’n ei gynnwys. Nid yw’n cynnwys yr ymrwymiad i ganolfannau gofal brys nac i

key ideas in the consultation document. I respectfully point out that the press notice issued is much clearer than the statement that you have delivered today, as it gives us a much more concrete picture of where the Government intends to go. Other key issues that I see in the press statement relate to the expert patient. I know from Diabetes Cymru of the importance of the expert patient programme in terms of preventing the admission of diabetics to hospital. I was pleased to see issues relating to the integration of social services in the document, along with reference to other aspects of care, not only in relation to doctors and nurses, but therapists and pharmacists. I have talked many times about the key issue of the complete team, given that therapists and pharmacists have a key role in ensuring that people do not have to resort to emergency care and hospital admission.

I have compared the document today with the one sent out for consultation 20 months ago, and I have to say that I am disappointed with the lack of progress. Today's document is an interesting one. It makes good reading, it is clear, and I like the case studies. However, it does not move us on significantly in commitment terms from those early thoughts, 20 months ago. It is almost as though no-one wrote the last chapter. I hope that you will give us some of the answers this afternoon as to what will be in that last chapter.

The first issue is a review of the out-of-hours service, and I must press you on that, Minister. Research that I did some months ago showed that every local health board spent more on its out-of-hours service than was intended. The Audit Committee's judgment was that it equated to £10,000 per GP. It is time to ensure that we get a good service and value for money. Perhaps it could be adapted or relocated, in some cases, to do an even better job.

The second issue is the timescale for the urgent care centres. You talk of early adopter sites, but how long do you think it will be

delefeddygaeth, er bod y rhain, i bob golwg, yn syniadau allweddol yn y ddogfen ymgynghori. Gyda phob parch, tynnaf sylw at y ffaith bod y datganiad a gyhoeddwyd i'r wasg yn eglurach o lawer na'ch datganiad heddiw, gan ei fod yn rhoi darlun llawer mwy cadarn o'r llwybr y bwriada'r Llywodraeth ei ddilyn. Materion allweddol eraill a welaf yn y datganiad i'r wasg yw'r rhai sy'n ymwneud â'r claf arbenigol. Gwn drwy Diabetes Cymru mor bwysig yw rhaglen y claf arbenigol o ran atal pobl â diabetes rhag gorfod mynd i'r ysbyty. Yr oeddwn yn falch o weld yn y ddogfen faterion sy'n ymwneud ag integreiddio gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, ynghyd â chyfeiriad at agweddau eraill ar ofal, nid dim ond gyda golwg ar feddygon a nyrsys, ond gyda golwg ar therapyddion a fferyllwyr. Yr wyf wedi sôn droeon am fater allweddol y tîm cyflawn, o gofio bod gan therapyddion a fferyllwyr rôl allweddol o ran sicrhau nad oes yn rhaid i bobl droi at ofal brys a chael eu derbyn i'r ysbyty.

Yr wyf wedi cymharu'r ddogfen heddiw â'r un a anfonwyd ar gyfer yr ymgynghori 20 mis yn ôl, ac mae'n rhaid imi ddweud fy mod yn siomedig â'r diffyg cynnydd. Mae'r ddogfen heddiw'n ddogfen ddi-ddorol. Mae'n ddifyr i'w darllen, mae'n glir, ac yr wyf yn hoffi'r astudiaethau achos. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'n ein symud ymlaen yn sylweddol, o ran ymrwymiad, o'r meddyliau cynnar hynny 20 mis yn ôl. Mae bron fel pe na bai neb wedi ysgrifennu'r bennod olaf. Gobeithiaf y rhoddwch rai o'r atebion inni y prynhawn yma i ddatgelu beth fydd yn y bennod olaf honno.

Y mater cyntaf yw adolygu'r gwasanaeth y tu allan i oriau, a rhaid imi fynnu ymateb gennych am hynny, Weinidog. Dangosodd ymchwil a wneuthum rai misoedd yn ôl fod pob bwrdd iechyd lleol yn gwario mwy ar ei wasanaeth y tu allan i oriau nag a fwriedid. Barn y Pwyllgor Archwilio oedd bod hynny'n cyfateb i £10,000 y meddyg teulu. Mae'n bryd sicrhau ein bod yn cael gwasanaeth da a gwerth am arian. Efallai y gellid ei addasu neu ei adleoli, mewn rhai achosion, i wneud gwaith gwell fyth.

Yr ail fater yw'r amserlen o ran y canolfannau gofal brys. Yr ydych yn sôn am safleoedd mabwysiadu cynnar, ond faint o

before they are up and running? You will know that I am keen for an urgent care centre to be located at the site of the Cardiff Royal Infirmary; 10 years ago, we thought that we would get replacement facilities within a year or two at most, but still there is nothing on the horizon, so I would like a concrete commitment from you.

The third key issue is funding. This cannot be done without a great deal of pump-priming money. It is spending to save money. That pump-priming money will set up a system that will enable considerable savings. Accident-and-emergency departments cannot be a model of financial efficiency, and there must be a better way of doing it from the financial point of view, and not just from the patient's point of view. However, until we get these facilities up and running, we will not have the capacity to save money. You will have to spend more money on this, and I want to know how you will fund the roll-out of these new measures.

The final issue is one of staff resources. We know that there are queues of qualified physiotherapists who would love to be a part of this scheme, as they are waiting to take up jobs, but that is not the case with most of the skills involved. We will have to retrain staff, despite the fact that some may have the basic skills needed, so what facilities will be put in place to ensure that that happens?

Edwina Hart: Thank you, Jenny. You are not intruding on private grief, as I think that there is general grief over the Cardiff Royal Infirmary site, which has been the subject of much discussion for a long time. I am hoping to resolve the issues in the next few months, and I am aware of your views that some type of walk-in centre or facility to serve that part of Cardiff should be set up on that site.

You are right to say that we will have to look at the staffing issues and that there will be implications by way of costs and training, but we will work through those with the various health bodies, the professional bodies

amser a gymer cyn y byddant yn weithredol? Gwyddoch fy mod yn awyddus i ganolfan gofal brys gael ei lleoli ar safle Ysbyty Brenhinol Caerdydd; 10 mlynedd yn ôl, yr oeddem yn meddwl y caem gyfleusterau newydd o fewn blwyddyn neu ddwy ar y mwyaf, ond nid oes dim ar y gorwel o hyd, felly hoffwn gael ymrwymiad pendant gennych.

Y trydydd mater allweddol yw cyllid. Nid oes modd gwneud hyn heb lawer iawn o arian ysgogi. Mae'n golygu gwario i arbed arian. Bydd yr arian ysgogi hwnnw'n sefydlu system a fydd yn fodd i wneud arbedion sylweddol. Ni all adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys fod yn fodel o effeithlonrwydd ariannol, a rhaid bod gwell ffyrdd o'i wneud o safbwynt ariannol, ac nid dim ond o safbwynt y claf. Fodd bynnag, nes bydd y cyfleusterau hyn yn weithredol, ni fydd y capasiti gennym i arbed arian. Bydd yn rhaid ichi wario rhagor o arian ar hyn, ac yr wyf am wybod sut y byddwch yn cyllido'r gwaith o gyflwyno'r mesurau newydd hyn.

Mae a wnelo'r mater olaf ag adnoddau o ran y staff. Gwyddom fod rhesi o ffisiotherapyddion cymwysedig a fyddai wrth eu bodd o fod yn rhan o'r cynllun hwn, gan eu bod yn disgwyl ymgymryd â swyddi, ond nid yw hynny'n wir am y rhan fwyaf o'r sgiliau dan sylw. Bydd yn rhaid inni ailhyfforddi staff, er bod y sgiliau sylfaenol sy'n ofynnol gan rai efallai, felly pa gyfleusterau sydd yn cael eu sefydlu i sicrhau bod hynny'n digwydd?

Edwina Hart: Diolch, Jenny. Nid ydych yn tarfu ar ofid personol, oherwydd credaf fod gofid cyffredinol ynglŷn â safle Ysbyty Brenhinol Caerdydd, sydd wedi bod yn destun llawer o drafod ers amser hir. Yr wyf yn gobeithio datrys y materion dros y misoedd nesaf ac yr wyf yn ymwybodol o'ch barn y dylai rhyw fath o ganolfan neu gyfleuster galw i mewn i wasanaethu'r rhan honno o Gaerdydd gael ei sefydlu ar y safle hwnnw.

Yr ydych yn iawn wrth ddweud y bydd yn rhaid inni edrych ar y materion staffio ac y bydd goblygiadau o ran costau a hyfforddiant, ond awn ati i ddelio â'r rheini gyda'r cyrff iechyd amrywiol, y cyrff

concerned, and the trade unions.

On funding, there are already models to deliver the strategy within the current capital allocations. I am also asking authorities to identify costs in local delivery plans so that I have a better idea of costs as this comes out.

I am aware of the issues to do with the out-of-hours service, and, when I read the Record of this discussion, I will take on board the references that have been made about the out-of-hours services. I will consider these issues further and come back to Plenary.

I have discussed timescales for the early adopter sites with officials, and they should be up and running in six months' time, in some areas, so I will look at the issue in that context. We will have something concrete within six months and by the end of these 12 months so that we can measure the success of that.

3.50 p.m.

I am sorry that you are disappointed with my statement, but it has to be taken in conjunction with the document. That is important. In some areas, we already have a basis for urgent care centres, and we need to build on that. Telemedicine is absolutely the key to relations between rural and urban centres, and to how we deal with them, as well as homecare for people with chronic conditions. Therefore, I think that the example in the document was a good illustration of how we can use technology. The expert patient panels are also important, but so—you are right—is the role of pharmacists, as is building a better relationship with social services. When I made my statement today, I did so in the context of the document also being available; otherwise, I am afraid that the Presiding Officer would have told me off for taking up the full 30 minutes allocated.

The Presiding Officer: Order. Minister, you know that I will never tell you off—at least not publicly. [*Laughter.*] In view of the

proffesiynol perthnasol, a'r undebau llafur.

O ran cyllid, mae modelau eisoes i roi'r strategaeth ar waith o fewn y dyraniadau cyfalaf cyfredol. Yr wyf hefyd yn gofyn i'r awdurdodau nodi'r costau mewn cynlluniau cyflenwi lleol fel y bydd gennyf well syniad o'r costau wrth i hyn fynd rhagddo.

Yr wyf yn ymwybodol o'r materion yn ymwneud â'r gwasanaeth y tu allan i oriau, a phan fyddaf yn darllen y Cofnod o'r drafodaeth hon, byddaf yn nodi'r hyn sydd wedi'i ddweud am y gwasanaethau y tu allan i oriau. Byddaf yn ystyried y materion hyn ymhellach ac yn dod yn ôl i'r Cyfarfod Llawn.

Yr wyf wedi trafod amserlenni ar gyfer y safleoedd mabwysiadu cynnar gyda'r swyddogion, a dylent fod yn weithredol ymhen chwe mis, mewn rhai ardaloedd, felly byddaf yn edrych ar y mater yn y cyd-destun hwnnw. Bydd gennym rywbeth pendant o fewn chwe mis ac erbyn diwedd y 12 mis hyn fel y gallwn fesur llwyddiant hynny.

Mae'n ddrwg gennyf eich bod yn siomedig â'm datganiad, ond rhaid ei gymryd law yn llaw â'r ddogfen. Mae hynny'n bwysig. Mewn rhai ardaloedd, mae gennym eisoes sail ar gyfer canolfannau gofal brys, ac mae angen inni adeiladu ar hynny. Mae telefeddygaeth yn gwbl allweddol i'r cysylltiadau rhwng canolfannau gwledig a threfol, a sut yr ydym yn delio â nhw, yn ogystal â gofal cartref i bobl sydd â chyflyrau cronig. Felly, credaf fod yr enghraifft yn y ddogfen yn darlunio sut y gallwn ddefnyddio'r dechnoleg yn dda. Mae'r panelau cleifion arbenigol hefyd yn bwysig, ond felly hefyd—yr ydych yn iawn—rôl fferyllwyr, a meithrin gwell perthynas â'r gwasanaethau cymdeithasol. Pan wneuthum fy natganiad heddiw, gwneuthum hynny yn y cyd-destun bod y ddogfen ar gael; fel arall, mae arnaf ofn y byddai'r Llywydd wedi dweud y drefn wrthyf am gymryd y 30 munud llawn sydd wedi cael eu dyrannu.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Weinidog, gwyddoch na wnaif fyth ddweud y drefn wrthyf—o leiaf nid yn gyhoeddus. [*Chwerthin.*] O ystyried

importance of this statement, I propose to allow this debate to run until I have called all Members who wish to speak, especially the next one.

Helen Mary Jones: Thank you, Presiding Officer. We all acknowledge that unscheduled care is a major challenge facing our health and care services, and I regard the Minister's statement, and, more importantly, the strategy document, as a positive start. However, as the Minister has said, there is much more work to do, and I echo some of Jenny Randerson's comments about general practitioner out-of-hours services. The major challenge there is that they are so patchy: some areas are relatively well served, while others are served very poorly indeed. A key element of this strategy must be that it drives all those services up to the highest possible level over time.

I was particularly glad to see the strategy strongly supported by all the professional bodies that will be called upon to deliver it, and the Minister was wise to include the Royal College of Nursing, the British Medical Association and Unison in the public presentation of the strategy today. She will be aware that, under the previous administration, there were issues about the consultation and involvement of professionals, and I congratulate her on having achieved a strong consensus over these complicated issues. I look forward to that consensus leading to the delivery of services that meet the strategy's aspiration of centring upon the needs of individual patients, or people needing care, rather than sectoral boundaries, the convenience of professionals, or by people's fear that, unless they go into hospital, they will not receive a safe and timely service.

There are two specific questions that I will put to you, Minister. The strategy sets out an increased and enhanced role for social care in unscheduled care. In that context, I congratulate and draw your attention to a project in the Gwendraeth valley, which uses volunteer carers when ambulances attend a patient to help to care for that person overnight until the GP service can respond more appropriately to their needs in the

pwysigrwydd y datganiad hwn, yr wyf yn bwriadu gadael i'r ddadl hon barhau nes byddaf wedi galw'r holl Aelodau sy'n dymuno siarad, yn enwedig yr un nesaf.

Helen Mary Jones: Diolch, Weinidog. Yr ydym i gyd yn cydnabod bod gofal heb ei drefnu yn her fawr sy'n wynebu ein gwasanaethau iechyd a gofal, ac yr wyf yn ystyried datganiad y Gweinidog, ac, yn fwy pwysig, y ddogfen strategaeth, yn gychwyn positif. Fodd bynnag, fel y mae'r Gweinidog wedi dweud, mae llawer rhagor o waith i'w wneud, ac adleisiaf rai o sylwadau Jenny Randerson am wasanaethau y tu allan i oriau y meddygon teulu. Yr her fawr yw eu bod mor anghyson: mae rhai ardaloedd yn cael gwasanaeth cymharol dda, ond eraill yn cael gwasanaeth hynod o wael. Rhaid sicrhau mai elfen allweddol o'r strategaeth hon yw ei bod yn gwella'r holl wasanaethau hynny hyd at y lefel uchaf posibl dros amser.

Yr oeddwn yn arbennig o falch o weld bod y strategaeth yn cael ei chefnogi'n gryf gan yr holl gyrff proffesiynol y bydd gofyn iddynt ei gweithredu, ac yr oedd y Gweinidog yn ddoeth yn cynnwys Coleg Brenhinol y Nyrsys, Cymdeithas Feddygol Prydain ac Unsain wrth gyflwyno'r strategaeth yn gyhoeddus heddiw. Bydd yn ymwybodol, o dan y weinyddiaeth flaenorol, fod problemau'n ymwneud ag ymgynghori a rhoi llais i weithwyr proffesiynol, ac yr wyf yn ei llongyfarch ar sicrhau consensws cryf ynglŷn â'r materion cymhleth hyn. Edrychaf ymlaen at weld y consensws hwnnw'n arwain at gyflenwi gwasanaethau sy'n gwireddu dyhead y strategaeth o ganolbwyntio ar anghenion cleifion unigol, neu bobl y mae angen gofal arnynt, yn hytrach nag ar ffiniau sectorau, hwylustod gweithwyr proffesiynol, neu ofn pobl na chânt wasanaeth diogel ac amserol onid ydynt yn mynd i'r ysbyty.

Mae dau gwestiwn penodol yr wyf am eu gofyn ichi, Weinidog. Mae'r strategaeth yn gosod rôl ehangach a chryfach i ofal cymdeithasol mewn gofal heb ei drefnu. Yn y cyd-destun hwnnw, fe'ch llongyfarchaf a thynnaf eich sylw at brosiect yng nghwm Gwendraeth, sy'n defnyddio gofalfwyr gwirfoddol pan fydd ambiwlansys yn mynd at glaf i helpu i ofalu am y person hwnnw dros nos nes gall y gwasanaeth meddygon

morning. I hope that there will be opportunities for us to look at the use of volunteers to enhance those services, and I am sure that there will be. They are not to replace professionals, but to enhance and support their work. Do you foresee that enhanced role for social care having resource implications? Do you foresee having to consider transferring resources, perhaps ultimately from the acute healthcare sector? If the strategy is successful, we should, as Jenny Randerson said, see pressures beginning to lift from that sector and be placed increasingly onto social care, where there are real issues around funding.

Further, I ask you to say a little more about the timescale for the roll-out. You told us that we should have the early adopter sites—forgive me, Presiding Officer, I temporarily forgot the term, which is a slightly strange one—in place within six months. However, can you give us an indication of when you intend to be able to roll that out, because much good practice will be developed in those early adopter sites, and other areas of Wales will be impatient to follow?

Edwina Hart: I assure you that, in the future, when I take forward issues such as this, about the delivery of services, I will speak to people on the front line. I hope that they can work with us on the delivery of services, because there is no point in our sitting in the Assembly discussing this, or in my discussing it with my officials, consulting the world, without talking to practitioners on the ground. It is good practice, in my opinion, to take their views on board. Sometimes, there will be tensions involved in doing so, but they are well worth while for the delivery. I also think that there is an element of boosting patient confidence when they see politicians in Government speaking to the likes of the Royal College of Nursing, the Royal College of Midwives, Unison and the BMA about the delivery of services.

On social care and the volunteers in the Gwendraeth, I understand that that scheme is

teulu ymateb yn fwy priodol i'w anghenion yn y bore. Gobeithiaf y bydd cyfleoedd inni i ystyried defnyddio gwirfoddolwyr i wella'r gwasanaethau hynny, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd. Nid ydynt yn disodli gweithwyr proffesiynol, ond yn ychwanegu at eu gwaith ac yn ei ategu. A ydych yn rhagweld y bydd goblygiadau o ran adnoddau yn deillio o'r rôl ehangach honno i ofal cymdeithasol? A ydych yn rhagweld gorfod ystyried trosglwyddo adnoddau, o'r sector gofal iechyd aciwt efallai yn y pen draw? Os bydd y strategaeth yn llwyddiannus, dylem weld y pwysau'n dechrau codi oddi ar y sector hwnnw, fel y dywedodd Jenny Randerson, ac yn cael ei roi fwyfwy ar ofal cymdeithasol, lle y mae materion gwirioneddol yn ymwneud â chyllid.

Hefyd, gofynnaf ichi ddweud ychydig rhagor am yr amserlen ar gyfer cyflwyno hyn. Dywedasoch wrthym y dylai'r safleoedd mabwysiadu cynnar—maddeuwch imi, Lywydd, anghofiais y term, sy'n un digon rhyfedd, am ychydig—fod wedi cael eu sefydlu ymhen chwe mis. Fodd bynnag, a allwch roi awgrym inni pryd y bwriadwch allu sefydlu'r ddarpariaeth yn ehangach, oherwydd caiff llawer o arferion da eu datblygu ar y safleoedd mabwysiadu cynnar hynny, a bydd ardaloedd eraill o Gymru'n awyddus i'w dilyn?

Edwina Hart: Fe'ch sicrhaf, pan fyddaf yn ymdrin â materion fel hyn, sy'n ymwneud â chyflenwi gwasanaethau, yn y dyfodol, y byddaf yn siarad â phobl ar y rheng flaen. Gobeithiaf y gallant weithio gyda ni ar gyflenwi gwasanaethau, oherwydd nid oes diben i ni eistedd yma yn y Cynulliad yn trafod hyn, nac i mi ei drafod gyda'm swyddogion, ymgynghori â'r byd, heb siarad ag ymarferwyr ar lawr gwlad. Mae'n arfer da, yn fy marn i, rhoi sylw i'w barn hwy. Weithiau, ceir tensiynau wrth wneud hynny, ond maent yn werth eu hwynebu er mwyn cyflawni'r hyn sydd ei angen. Credaf hefyd fod elfen o hybu hyder cleifion pan welant wleidyddion mewn Llywodraeth yn siarad â chyrff fel Coleg Brenhinol y Nyrsys, Coleg Brenhinol y Bydwraedd, Unsain a'r BMA am gyflenwi gwasanaethau.

O ran gofal cymdeithasol a'r gwirfoddolwyr yn y Gwendraeth, deallaf fod y gwasanaeth

called the twilight service. Gwenda Thomas briefed me about it last week, and we had the opportunity to discuss it with Meryl Gravell. What an excellent service it is. It involves volunteers staying with people overnight, looking after them, and taking care of their needs. That is exactly the kind of voluntary service that we need to encourage and support in some way in government, whether that means us at the centre, local government or health bodies in any capacity, because it delivers additional value to patients. Therefore, I am delighted to support that service.

You are right to say that there will eventually be resource implications to this. If we are to have the turnaround that we want and if we are to be successful in delivering all of this, we will have to consider restructuring budgets and examining where money goes in the long run. That is the key, which is why I am currently working on putting out a timetable. I have to timetable this, but I want to timetable it with my partners, as it were, namely the health service and all the organisations that have been involved. Therefore, when I report back in the summer, I will give a detailed timetable about how we see this having an impact. We know that there are trust mergers under way, and it is important that they have specific priorities in their areas that we can develop with them. I hope that, by doing a further report, I will be able to clarify some of the issues around timescales.

William Graham: I welcome your statement, but it seems to be something of a legacy statement. It does not seem to have the robustness that we usually associate with statements from you.

You will know that this is a particularly serious problem, and one that all Assembly Members have to address from time to time with constituents. In my area, the Royal Gwent Hospital and Nevill Hall Hospital have some 10,000 patients every month and do an extremely good job, although, sadly, well over 10 per cent are seen within nowhere near the four-hour target. Patients

hwnnw'n cael ei alw'n wasanaeth cyfnos. Rhoddodd Gwenda Thomas wybod imi amdano yr wythnos diwethaf, a chawsom gyfle i'w drafod gyda Meryl Gravell. Mae'n wasanaeth rhagorol yn wir. Mae'n golygu bod gwirfoddolwyr yn aros gyda phobl dros nos, yn gofalu amdanynt, ac yn gofalu am eu hanghenion. Dyna'n union y math o wasanaeth gwirfoddol y mae angen inni ei annog a'i gefnogi mewn rhyw ffordd mewn llywodraeth, boed hynny'n cyfeirio atom ni yn y canol, llywodraeth leol neu gyrff iechyd o unrhyw fath, oherwydd y mae'n rhoi gwerth ychwanegol i gleifion. Felly, yr wyf wrth fy modd yn cefnogi'r gwasanaeth hwnnw.

Yr ydych yn iawn wrth ddweud y bydd goblygiadau o ran adnoddau yn sgîl hyn maes o law. Er mwyn inni gael y newid y mae arnom ei eisiau a chyn y gallwn roi hyn oll ar waith yn llwyddiannus, bydd yn rhaid inni ystyried ailstrwythuro cyllidebau ac archwilio i ble mae'r arian yn mynd yn y tymor hir. Dyna'r allwedd, a dyna pam yr wyf yn gweithio ar hyn o bryd ar ddarparu amserlen. Rhaid imi amserlennu hyn, ond yr wyf am ei amserlennu gyda'm partneriaid, fel petai, sef y gwasanaeth iechyd a'r holl gyrff sydd wedi bod ynglŷn â hyn. Felly, pan fyddaf yn adrodd yn ôl yn yr haf, rhoddaf amserlen fanwl o ran sut yr ydym yn gweld hyn yn cael effaith. Gwyddom fod trefniadau ar waith i uno ymddiriedolaethau, ac mae'n bwysig bod ganddynt flaenoriaethau penodol yn eu hardaloedd y gallwn eu helpu i'w datblygu. Gobeithiaf, drwy wneud adroddiad pellach, y byddaf yn gallu egluro rhai o'r materion yn ymwneud ag amserlenni.

William Graham: Croesawaf eich datganiad, ond mae'n ymddangos braidd fel datganiad etifeddiaeth. Nid yw'n ymddangos bod iddo'r cadernid yr ydym yn ei gysylltu fel arfer â'ch datganiadau chi.

Byddwch yn gwybod bod hon yn broblem neilltuol o ddifrifol, ac yn un y mae'n rhaid i holl Aelodau'r Cynulliad ymdrin â hi o bryd i'w gilydd gydag etholwyr. Yn fy ardal i, caiff Ysbyty Brenhinol Gwent ac Ysbyty Nevill Hall ryw 10,000 o gleifion bob mis ac maent yn gwneud gwaith arbennig o dda, er nad yw tipyn dros 10 y cant, gwaetha'r modd, yn cael eu gweld o fewn y targed o bedair

waiting for assessment and delays in finding beds for patients required to be admitted have been identified as the most persistent problems. I understand that that has impinged upon the problem already identified with regard to GPs' service in recent months. Often, the first few hours of a Monday morning in most accident-and-emergency departments are spent dealing with those patients who really should have gone to see their local doctor, but who went to hospital because their doctor was not available over the weekend or because they did not have confidence in the out-of-hours service. That is clearly ridiculous. Quite rightly, people are going to hospital to get reassurance; often, they are mothers with young children who require nothing more than that, but their GPs should offer them that. This accelerates the problem that you face. I ask you to look more closely at this matter, to monitor why those patients have come to the hospital and why they are in accident-and-emergency departments, and whether their problems would not be better addressed at facilities closer to their home.

Edwina Hart: These practical issues, of being able to get an appointment, people going to accident-and-emergency departments, and waiting times, are the ones that people raise with us all in our surgeries. There is often recognition on the part of constituents that they did not really want to go to an accident-and-emergency department, but they did so because they felt that that was the only option open to them. I hope that, by working on the delivering emergency care services project and taking our partners with us, we can address some of those key issues. As I indicated to Jenny Randerson, I have taken seriously the comments that Members have made to me about out-of-hours services, and I take them in context. I am usually accused of holding too many reviews, but I seem to hear a call for a review on this occasion.

Lorraine Barrett: Thank you for the strategy document, which is to be welcomed. In rolling out the various projects—the urgent

awr o bellffordd. Gwyddys mai'r problemau mwyaf cyson yw cleifion yn aros am asesiad ac oedi o ran dod o hyd i welyau i gleifion y mae angen eu derbyn. Deallaf fod hynny wedi effeithio ar y broblem a nodwyd eisoes o safbwynt gwasanaeth meddygon teulu dros y misoedd diwethaf. Yn aml, treulir yr oriau cyntaf ar fore Llun yn y rhan fwyaf o adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys yn delio â'r cleifion hynny a ddylai mewn gwirionedd fod wedi mynd i weld eu meddyg lleol, ond a aeth i'r ysbyty gan nad oedd eu meddyg ar gael dros y penwythnos neu gan nad oedd ganddynt hyder yn y gwasanaeth y tu allan i oriau. Mae hynny yn amlwg yn hurt. Yn gwbl briodol, mae pobl yn mynd i'r ysbyty i gael tawelwch meddwl; yn aml, mamau sydd â phlant ifanc ydynt nad oes angen dim mwy na hynny arnynt, ond dylai eu meddyg teulu gynnig hynny iddynt. Mae hyn yn cynyddu'r broblem yr ydych yn ei hwynebu. Gofynnaf ichi edrych yn fwy gofalus ar y mater hwn, i fonitro pam mae'r cleifion hynny wedi dod i'r ysbyty a pham maent mewn adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys, ac oni fyddai'n well i'w problemau gael sylw mewn cyfleusterau sy'n agosach i'w cartrefi.

Edwina Hart: Y materion ymarferol hyn, sef gallu cael apwyntiad, pobl yn mynd i adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys, ac amseroedd aros, yw'r rhai y mae pobl yn eu codi gyda phawb ohonom yn ein cymorthfeydd. Mae etholwyr yn aml yn cydnabod nad oeddent mewn gwirionedd am fynd i adran damweiniau ac achosion brys, ond eu bod wedi gwneud hynny am eu bod yn teimlo mai dyna'r unig ddewis a oedd ar gael iddynt. Gobeithiaf y gallwn, drwy weithio ar y prosiect cyflenwi gwasanaethau gofal brys a sicrhau bod ein partneriaid yn cyd-weld â ni, fynd i'r afael â rhai o'r materion allweddol hynny. Fel y dywedais wrth Jenny Randerson, yr wyf wedi cymryd y sylwadau y mae Aelodau wedi'u cyflwyno imi am y gwasanaethau y tu allan i oriau o ddifrif, ac yr wyf yn eu hystyried yn eu cyd-destun. Fel arfer caf fy nghyhuddo o gynnal gormod o adolygiadau, ond tybiaf fy mod yn clywed galw am adolygiad y tro hwn.

Lorraine Barrett: Diolch ichi am y ddogfen strategaeth, sydd i'w chroesawu. Wrth raddol gyflwyno'r gwahanol brosiectau—y

care centres or whatever else may come up— would you also look back at the previous initiative that was set up in Cardiff, namely the mobile casualty units, which were used for big event days? These days, there seems to be a big event in Cardiff nearly every Saturday. I feel strongly that people turning up at accident-and-emergency departments with alcohol-related injuries should not take up precious resources and take them away from those who are there through no fault of their own. Can you access any figures on the percentage of attendees at accident-and-emergency departments across Wales who are there because of alcohol abuse? Patients should get the most effective treatment, and those with alcohol-related injuries would not use up an inordinate amount of time if other facilities could be provided, particularly in our cities.

Edwina Hart: I am about to start a strand of collating statistics on alcohol-related issues, because alcohol has fuelled violence and aggression against staff in accident-and-emergency departments and ambulance staff, and that is not to be tolerated. There has also been enormous success. One year, during the Christmas period, I visited a city-centre drop-in centre to see how it was dealing with minor injuries, and thus avoiding sending people to accident and emergency departments. It was quite successful. I am more than happy to raise these issues again, because there are specific issues in city centres and areas that hold big events. Consider how packed Cardiff will be this Saturday; people who need some treatment might not need to go to an accident and emergency department, and we must think about the ease of access to such treatment. I am more than happy to take forward those issues.

4.00 p.m.

Nick Ramsay: I listened with interest to what you said and the contributions so far. I wish to focus on two aspects of what you have talked about and a related issue that was not mentioned. First, the ongoing challenge

canolfannau gofal brys neu beth bynnag arall a all godi—a fyddech hefyd yn edrych yn ôl ar y fenter flaenorol a sefydlwyd yng Nghaerdydd, sef yr unedau damweiniau symudol, a ddefnyddid ar ddiwrnodau pan oedd digwyddiadau mawr yn cael eu cynnal? Y dyddiau hyn, mae'n ymddangos bod digwyddiad mawr yng Nghaerdydd bob dydd Sadwrn bron. Teimlaf yn gryf na ddylai pobl sy'n mynd i adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys oherwydd anafiadau sy'n gysylltiedig ag alcohol fynd ag adnoddau gwerthfawr ac amddifadu'r rhai sydd yno nid oherwydd dim bai ar eu rhan hwy. A allwch gael unrhyw ffigurau am ganran y rhai sy'n mynd i adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys ar draws Cymru sydd yno oherwydd camddefnyddio alcohol? Dylai cleifion gael y driniaeth fwyaf effeithiol, ac ni fyddai'r rhai sydd ag anafiadau sy'n gysylltiedig ag alcohol yn mynd â gormod o amser pe gellid darparu cyfleusterau eraill, yn enwedig yn ein dinasoedd.

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf ar fin sefydlu llinyn i gasglu ystadegau am faterion yn ymwneud ag alcohol, oherwydd y mae alcohol wedi ysgogi trais ac ymosodedd yn erbyn staff mewn adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys a staff ambiwlans, ac ni chaiff hynny ei oddef. Bu llwyddiant enfawr hefyd. Un flwyddyn dros gyfnod y Nadolig, ymwelais â chanolfan galw heibio yng nghanol y ddinas i weld sut yr oedd yn ymdrin â mân anafiadau, a thrwy hynny'n osgoi anfon pobl i adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys. Yr oedd yn eithaf llwyddiannus. Yr wyf yn fwy na pharod i godi'r materion hyn eto, oherwydd y mae problemau penodol yng nghanol dinasoedd ac mewn ardaloedd sy'n cynnal digwyddiadau mawr. Meddyliwch mor llawn fydd Caerdydd ddydd Sadwrn; efallai na fydd yn rhaid i bobl sydd angen triniaeth fynd i adran damweiniau ac achosion brys, a rhaid inni ystyried mor hawdd ydyw i bobl gael triniaeth o'r fath. Yr wyf yn fwy na pharod i roi sylw i'r materion hynny.

Nick Ramsay: Gwrandewais yn llawn diddordeb ar yr hyn a ddywedwyd gennych chi ac ar y cyfraniadau eraill hyd yn hyn. Hoffwn ganolbwyntio ar ddwy agwedd ar yr hyn yr ydych wedi siarad amdano ac ar fater

of integrating care pathways is not easy, but it is a key to the implementation of the strategy. You have met me and representatives of North Gwent Cardiac Rehabilitation and Aftercare in the past. I know that it falls outside the scope of traditional health and social services, but such groups and their funding are key factors if we are to avoid admitting people to hospital and if we are to deal with people's health issues before they reach the point of needing emergency care. I am interested in what you have to say about how the strategy ties in with such groups.

Secondly, the ambulance issue clearly cannot be ignored. In Monmouthshire, we have some of the worst ambulance response times in Wales, with fewer than half of ambulances arriving within the eight-minute response time target. That is clearly a problem, and it must be dealt with. There is also the question of the handover period, which we spoke about a few weeks ago. I would be interested to know how both of those aspects of ambulance care are dealt with by this strategy. Have you consulted ambulance staff? They are at full stretch and doing their best. Sometimes, a strategy comes from above, and that can be the last straw for some people.

The third and final aspect is the issue of the Gwent Clinical Futures consultation in south-east Wales. I may be wrong, but I do not think that it was mentioned in the document. The consultation proposes a change to the way that the health service works in south-east Wales, where people are going to access emergency care, and the whole local general hospital structure. I would be interested to know how this strategy ties in with that, because many changes will occur over the years and decades to come in health service delivery in south-east Wales. We all agree that the document is well meant, although some of us are more reassured than others. However, many others are looking to be reassured by you, Minister. Therefore, please tell us how this strategy will be implemented

cysylltiedig na chyfeiriwyd ato. Yn gyntaf, nid yw'r her barhaus o integreiddio llwybrau gofal yn un hawdd, ond mae'n bwysig iawn o safbwynt gweithredu'r strategaeth. Yr ydych wedi fy nghyfarfod i a chynrychiolwyr Adsefydlu Cardiaidd ac Ôl-ofal Gogledd Gwent yn y gorffennol. Gwn nad yw'n rhan o waith gwasanaethau iechyd a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol traddodiadol, ond mae grwpiau o'r fath, ac arian ar eu cyfer, yn ffactorau pwysig os ydym am osgoi derbyn pobl i'r ysbyty ac os ydym am ymdrin â phroblemau iechyd pobl cyn iddynt gyrraedd y pwynt lle y mae angen gofal brys. Mae gennyf ddiddordeb yn yr hyn sydd gennych i'w ddweud ynglŷn â sut y mae'r strategaeth yn berthnasol i grwpiau o'r fath.

Yn ail, mae'n amlwg na ellir anwybyddu problem yr ambiwlansys. Mae amseroedd ymateb ambiwlansys sir Fynwy ymhlith y gwaethaf yng Nghymru, gyda llai na hanner yr ambiwlansys yn cyrraedd o fewn yr amser ymateb o wyth munud a bennwyd fel targed. Mae hynny'n amlwg yn broblem, a rhaid inni roi sylw iddi. Problem arall yw'r cyfnod trosglwyddo, y buom yn siarad amdano ychydig wythnosau'n ôl. Hoffwn wybod sut y mae'r strategaeth hon yn ymdrin â'r ddwy agwedd hyn ar ofal ambiwlans. A ydych wedi ymgynghori â staff y gwasanaeth ambiwlans? Maent wedi'u hymestyn i'r eithaf ond maent yn gwneud eu gorau glas. Weithiau, mae strategaeth yn cael ei chyflwyno gan rywun uwch eich pen, a gall hynny fod yn ddiogon i rai pobl.

Y drydedd agwedd, a'r un olaf, yw'r ymgynghoriad ar Ddyfodol Clinigol Gwent yn y de-ddwyrain. Efallai fy mod yn anghywir, ond nid wyf yn credu bod cyfeiriad ato yn y ddogfen. Mae'r ymgynghoriad yn cynnig newid y ffordd y mae'r gwasanaeth iechyd yn gweithio yn y de-ddwyrain, lle y bydd pobl yn cael gofal brys, a strwythur yr ysbyty cyffredinol lleol yn ei gyfanrwydd. Hoffwn wybod sut y mae'r strategaeth hon yn berthnasol i hynny, oherwydd bydd nifer o newidiadau'n digwydd yn ystod y blynyddoedd a'r degawdau sydd i ddod ym maes cyflenwi gwasanaethau iechyd yn y de-ddwyrain. Yr ydym i gyd yn cytuno bod y ddogfen yn llawn bwriadau da, er nad yw pawb mor dawl ei feddwl â'i gilydd. Fodd bynnag, mae llawer o bobl eraill a fyddai'n

and how you see it improving health overall.

Edwina Hart: On the last issue, we await a business case in relation to Gwent Clinical Futures. It will be important that we interrogate the project in light of any other changes in the health service and the way that those will fit in. It is important because what is proposed is such a massive change, and, therefore, a great deal of work will need to be done in that area with my officials and the trust before any final decisions are taken. With regard to the involvement of the ambulance service, paramedics were represented at the launch today, and their union has been involved in discussions on this strategy. I am concerned about the ambulance service and the delivery of its targets. I am concerned about several issues in the ambulance service that staff have brought to my attention, including the lack of time that they have to clean vehicles and the resulting risks of infection. Therefore, with the reviews that are ongoing in the ambulance service, these issues are coming to light, and that will help with the overall delivery of any long-term strategy.

I was delighted to meet you and the representatives from North Gwent Cardiac Rehabilitation and Aftercare; the dedication of the volunteers in that group was superb. I have discussed with my officials the continuation of these good services and the support that they should have from local health boards. I hope that that message has been communicated clearly. You are right that we are looking at chronic disease management in that context, which forms part of this discussion.

The Presiding Officer: Thank you, Minister for your statement and for taking questions.

hoffi ichi dawelu eu meddwl, Weinidog. Felly, a fyddech mor garedig â dweud wrthym sut y bydd y strategaeth hon yn cael ei gweithredu a sut y bydd yn gwella iechyd yn gyffredinol yn eich barn chi.

Edwina Hart: O ran y pwynt olaf, yr ydym yn aros am achos busnes yn ymwneud â Dyfodol Clinigol Gwent. Mae'n bwysig inni edrych yn fanwl ar y prosiect gan ystyried unrhyw newidiadau eraill yn y gwasanaeth iechyd a'r ffordd y bydd y newidiadau hynny'n cyd-fynd â hyn. Mae'n bwysig gan fod yr hyn sy'n cael ei gynnig yn newid mor aruthrol, ac, o ganlyniad, bydd angen gwneud llawer o waith yn y maes hwnnw gyda'm swyddogion a'r ymddiriedolaeth cyn gwneud unrhyw benderfyniadau terfynol. O ran cynnwys y gwasanaeth ambiwlans, yr oedd y parameddygon yn cael eu cynrychioli yn y lansiad heddiw, ac mae eu hundeb wedi bod yn rhan o drafodaethau ar y strategaeth hon. Yr wyf yn bryderus ynglŷn â'r gwasanaeth ambiwlans a gwireddu'r targedau sydd ganddo. Yr wyf yn bryderus ynglŷn ag amryw o faterion yn y gwasanaeth ambiwlans y mae'r staff wedi tynnu fy sylw atynt, gan gynnwys prinder amser i lanhau cerbydau a'r perygl i haint gael ei drosglwyddo o ganlyniad i hynny. Felly, o ganlyniad i'r adolygiadau sy'n cael eu cynnal yn y gwasanaeth ambiwlans, mae'r materion hyn yn dod i'r golwg, a bydd hynny o gymorth o ran y gwaith cyffredinol o weithredu unrhyw strategaeth hirdymor.

Yr oeddwn yn falch iawn o'ch cyfarfod chi a chynrychiolwyr Adsefydlu Cardiaidd ac Ôl-ofal Gogledd Gwent; yr oedd ymroddiad y gwirfoddolwyr yn y grŵp hwnnw'n wych. Yr wyf wedi trafod dyfodol y gwasanaethau da hyn a'r gefnogaeth y dylent ei chael gan fyrrdau iechyd lleol gyda'm swyddogion. Yr wyf yn gobeithio bod y neges honno wedi cael ei chyfleu'n glir. Yr ydych yn llygad eich lle wrth ddweud ein bod yn edrych ar reoli clefydau cronig yn y cyd-destun hwnnw, sy'n rhan o'r drafodaeth hon.

Y Llywydd: Diolch, Weinidog, am eich datganiad ac am gymryd cwestiynau.

Datganiad am y Wasg Gymraeg Statement on the Welsh-language Press

Y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth (Rhodri Glyn Thomas): Ar 9 Awst 2007, cyhoeddais fy mod wedi gofyn i Fwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg gynnal arolwg o'r wasg brintiedig cyfrwng Cymraeg yng Nghymru. Pwrpas yr arolwg oedd rhoi darlun clir a chynhwysfawr o sefyllfa'r wasg brintiedig cyfrwng Cymraeg yng Nghymru. Yr oeddwn am edrych ar sut y gall Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru weithredu, mewn ffordd gynaliadwy, yr argymhelliad yn 'Cymru'n Un'

The Minister for Heritage (Rhodri Glyn Thomas): On 9 August 2007, I announced that I had asked the Welsh Language Board to carry out a review of the Welsh-language print media in Wales. The purpose of the review was to obtain a clear and comprehensive picture of the state of the Welsh-language print media in Wales. I wanted to look at how the Welsh Assembly Government could implement in a sustainable way the recommendation of 'One Wales' to

'i gynyddu'r cyllid a'r gefnogaeth a roddir i gylchgronau a phapurau newydd Cymraeg, gan gynnwys sefydlu papur newydd dyddiol Cymraeg.'

'expand the funding and support for Welsh-medium magazines and newspapers, including the establishment of a Welsh-language daily newspaper.'

Penododd Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg Dr Tony Bianchi i gynnal yr arolwg. Mae adroddiad Dr Bianchi, 'Arolwg o'r Wasg Brintiedig Gymraeg', a gyhoeddwyd ar 14 Ionawr, yn cynnwys dadansoddiad manwl o sefyllfa cyhoeddiadau a oedd o fewn cylch gorchwyl yr arolwg—*Golwg, Y Cymro, Barn* a'r papur newydd dyddiol arfaethedig, *Y Byd*—ynghyd â chymariaethau rhyngwladol defnyddiol.

The Welsh Language Board appointed Dr Tony Bianchi to conduct the review, and his report 'A Review of the Welsh Language Print Media', which was published on 14 January, includes a detailed analysis of the publications that were within the review's terms of reference—*Golwg, Y Cymro, Barn*, and the new proposed Welsh-language daily newspaper, *Y Byd*—as well as useful international comparisons.

Mae dadansoddiad Dr Bianchi o'r bwriad i sefydlu papur dyddiol Cymraeg yn codi cwestiynau allweddol sydd wedi esgor ar drafodaeth frwd ac mae hynny'n sicr o barhau. Ceir ymdriniaeth fanwl o'r dadleuon o blaid ac yn erbyn sefydlu papur dyddiol Cymraeg. Er bod yr adroddiad yn nodi na phrofwyd ac na ellir profi y tu hwnt i bob amheuaeth bod papur dyddiol Cymraeg yn fenter ddichonadwy ar sail ymchwil farchnad na modelau cymaradwy mewn mannau eraill, mae'r bwriad i sefydlu papur dyddiol Cymraeg yn amlwg wedi ennyn diddordeb a chefnogaeth. Mae'r adroddiad yn cadarnhau ac yn cydnabod yr ymdrechion clodwiw a fu i sefydlu papur dyddiol Cymraeg.

Dr Bianchi's analysis of the intention to establish a Welsh-language daily newspaper raises crucial questions that have led to a keen debate that will certainly continue. There is detailed consideration of the arguments for and against establishing a Welsh-language daily newspaper. Although the report notes that the viability of a Welsh-language daily newspaper has not been fully demonstrated, nor can it be fully demonstrated on the basis of market research or the performance of comparable initiatives elsewhere, the intention to establish a Welsh-language daily newspaper has certainly attracted interest and support. The report confirms and recognises the commendable efforts to establish a Welsh-language daily newspaper.

Er bod yr adroddiad yn nodi bod y wasg brintiedig yng Nghymru yn fregus, yn anwastad ac yn anghyflawn, mae'n cyfeirio

Although the report notes that the print media sector in Wales is fragile, uneven and incomplete, it refers to the high standard of

at safon uchel nifer o'r cyhoeddiadau presennol. Mae'r adroddiad yn cynnig nifer o argymhellion a syniadau diddorol i gryfhau'r wasg brintiedig cyfrwng Cymraeg ym maes newyddion a materion cyfoes.

Yn sgîl yr ymrwymiad yn 'Cymru'n Un', yr wyf yn falch o gyhoeddi heddiw y bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn neilltuo £600,000 dros y tair blynedd nesaf i wireddu'r ymrwymiad yn 'Cymru'n Un', sef £200,000 y flwyddyn hyd at 2011. Mae hyn yn ychwanegol at y £173,000 a gaiff ei wario ar hyn o bryd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru drwy Gyngor Llyfrau Cymru ar gyhoeddiadau newyddion a materion cyfoes cyfrwng Cymraeg. Bydd y cyllid ychwanegol hwn yn hwb aruthrol i'r wasg brintiedig Gymraeg ac yn fodd iddi gryfhau ac ehangu'r ddarpariaeth bresennol. Bydd unrhyw ddatblygiad newydd yn y sector hwn yn adeiladu ar y gwaith da a wneir gan y cyhoeddiadau a drafodir gan Dr Bianchi yn yr adroddiad.

Sianelir cefnogaeth Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer cylchgronau a phapurau cyfrwng Cymraeg trwy Gyngor Llyfrau Cymru. Felly, Cyngor Llyfrau Cymru a ddylai arwain ar y datblygiadau cyffrous hyn sydd yn wynebu'r wasg brintiedig Gymraeg. Yr wyf wedi gofyn i Gyngor Llyfrau Cymru wahodd ceisiadau gan rai sy'n ymddiddori yn y maes o ran sefydlu papur dyddiol neu ddatblygiadau newydd i gryfhau'r ddarpariaeth newyddion wythnosol bresennol, gyda golwg ar gryfhau'r sector, gan gynnwys deunydd ar y we. Bydd y cyngor llyfrau yn gwneud cyhoeddiad pellach yn fuan ynglŷn â'r amserlen a'r trefniadau ymarferol o ran gwneud cais am grant. Bydd hyn yn gryn her i'r diwydiant ac yn ennyn diddordeb, gobeithio, ar draws y sector.

Yr wyf yn hyderus y bydd y cyhoeddiad hwn yn arwain at gynigion blaengar a fydd yn cynnig dulliau arloesol o weithredu, a allai gynnwys partneriaethau neu gydweithio pwrpasol. Bydd yn allweddol bod unrhyw ddatblygiad yn y maes, nid yn unig yn gynaliadwy ond hefyd yn arwain at gynnydd yn nifer darllenwyr Cymraeg, yn enwedig ymhlith pobl ifanc.

several current publications. The report offers a number of recommendations and interesting ideas to strengthen the Welsh-language print media in the field of news and current affairs.

Following the commitment in 'One Wales', I am delighted to announce today that the Welsh Assembly Government will provide £600,000 over the next three years to fulfil the commitment in 'One Wales', that is, £200,000 a year until 2011. That is in addition to the £173,000 currently being spent by the Welsh Assembly Government, through the Welsh Books Council, on Welsh-medium news and current affairs publications. This additional funding will be a significant boost to the Welsh-language print media and will strengthen and extend the current provision. Any new developments in this sector will build on the good work undertaken by the publications discussed by Dr Bianchi in the report.

The Welsh Assembly Government's support for Welsh-medium magazines and newspapers is channelled through the Welsh Books Council. Therefore, the Welsh Books Council should lead on these exciting developments facing the Welsh-language print media. I have asked the Welsh Books Council to invite applications from those interested in the field in relation to establishing a daily newspaper or new developments to strengthen the existing weekly news provision, with a view to strengthening the sector, including material on the internet. The books council will make a further announcement soon in relation to the timetable and the practical arrangements for applying for a grant. This will be a significant challenge to the industry and will generate interest, hopefully, across the sector.

I am confident that this announcement will lead to progressive bids that will offer innovative ways of operating, which could include partnerships or purposeful co-operation. It will be crucial that any developments in this field will not only be sustainable but will also lead to an increase in the number of people reading Welsh-language material, especially young people.

Mae'r ymateb buan hwn i adroddiad Dr Bianchi yn arwydd o ymrwymiad parhaol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i gefnogi'r wasg brintiedig cyfrwng Cymraeg. Bydd y cyllid ychwanegol, sydd yn mwy na dyblu'r arian sydd ar gael i gyhoeddiadau o'u bath yn y Gymraeg ar hyn o bryd, yn fodd i ddatblygu'r sector ymhellach ac i wireddu'r ymrwymiad yn 'Cymru'n Un'.

Paul Davies: Diolch i'r Gweinidog am ei ddatganiad. Yr wyf hefyd wedi darllen adroddiad Dr Tony Bianchi ac yr wyf yn croesawu'r gefnogaeth y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'i chadarnhau. Hoffwn ddiolch i Dr Bianchi am ei waith caled yn ystod y misoedd diwethaf.

Ar y cyfan, croesawaf y datganiad, ond nid wyf yn siŵr a ydyw'n ymrwymo i sefydlu papur dyddiol Cymraeg neu beidio. Dywedodd y Gweinidog:

'Yr wyf wedi gofyn i Gyngor Llyfrau Cymru wahodd ceisiadau gan rai sy'n ymddiddori yn y maes o ran sefydlu papur dyddiol neu ddatblygiadau newydd i gryfhau'r ddarpariaeth newyddion wythnosol bresennol'.

Efallai y byddai'r Gweinidog yn fodlon egluro'r sefyllfa. Mae'n glir o gasgliadau adroddiad Dr Bianchi fod diffyg ariannu i'r wasg Gymraeg ar hyn o bryd, nad yw'n bodloni anghenion darllenwyr Cymraeg yn yr oes fodern.

4.10 p.m.

Mae'n debyg bod rhai o'r papurau a'r cylchgronau y bu Dr Bianchi yn eu hadolygu wedi dod yn agos iawn at gau yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Efallai y gall y Gweinidog ehangu ychydig ar sut y bydd y Llywodraeth yn sicrhau sefydlogrwydd i'r wasg Gymraeg, a bod y papurau a'r cylchgronau sy'n bodoli heddiw yn parhau, oherwydd nid yw'r datganiad hwn yn mynd i unrhyw fanylder.

Mae'n debyg nad oes cyfrwng argraffu Cymraeg i newyddion sy'n torri ar frys, ac felly hoffwn gael gwybod a oes cynlluniau gan y Llywodraeth i sicrhau hyn. Mae'n

This early response to Dr Bianchi's report is an indication of the Welsh Assembly Government's continued support to the Welsh-language print media. The additional funding, which more than doubles the money available for such Welsh-language publications, will further develop the sector and fulfils the commitment in 'One Wales'.

Paul Davies: I thank the Minister for his statement. I have also read the report by Dr Tony Bianchi and I welcome the support that the Minister has confirmed. I would like to thank Dr Bianchi for his hard work over the last few months.

On the whole, I welcome the statement, but I am not sure whether it commits to establishing a Welsh-language daily newspaper or not. The Minister said:

'I have asked the Welsh Books Council to invite applications from those interested in the field in relation to establishing a daily newspaper or new developments to strengthen the existing weekly news provision'.

Perhaps the Minister would be willing to clarify what the situation is. It is clear from the conclusions of Dr Bianchi's report that there is a lack of funding for the Welsh-language press at the moment, which does not meet the needs of readers of Welsh in the modern age.

It seems that some of the newspapers and magazines that Dr Bianchi reviewed have come close to closing in recent years. Perhaps the Minister could expand a little on how he will ensure stability for the Welsh-language press, and that the papers and magazines that exist today continue, because this statement does not go into any detail.

It seems that there is no Welsh-language print media for breaking news, and therefore I would like to know whether the Government has plans to ensure this. It is also apparent

amlwg hefyd, o'r adolygiad, nad oes y gallu ar hyn o bryd i ehangu cyfleoedd ar y we. Gwelaf fod cyfeiriad at hyn yn yr adroddiad, felly a all y Gweinidog ddweud wrthym sut mae'r Llywodraeth yn bwriadu sicrhau hyn?

from the report that there is no ability at the moment to expand opportunities on the internet. There is reference to this in the report, therefore can the Minister tell us how the Government intends to ensure this?

Gwelaf hefyd nad yw'r Llywodraeth yn cyfeirio at argymhellion Dr Bianchi i sefydlu strategaeth dros y blynyddoedd nesaf sydd yn cynnwys targedu ariannu at ardaloedd penodol o fewn y wasg Gymraeg. Yr wyf yn siomedig nad oes sôn am strategaeth yn y datganiad hwn. A all y Gweinidog ddweud wrthym a yw'r Llywodraeth yn bwriadu dweud rhagor wrthym ynglŷn â hyn?

I also see that the Government does not refer to Dr Bianchi's recommendations to establish a strategy over the next few years that includes targeting finance at specific areas within the Welsh-language press. I am disappointed that there is no mention of a strategy in this statement. Could the Minister tell us whether the Government intends to tell us more about this?

Croesawaf y cymorth o £600,000, ond a all y Gweinidog ddweud wrthym a fydd ardal derfyn o amgylch yr ariannu hwn? A all hefyd gadarnhau a fydd yr arian ychwanegol hwn yn annibynnol ar unrhyw wariant arall o fewn ei bortffolio?

I welcome the £600,000 in support, but could the Minister tell us whether this money will be ring fenced? Could he also confirm whether this additional money will be independent of any other expenditure within his portfolio?

Er mwyn creu sefydlogrwydd, mae'n hanfodol bod yr ariannu dros gyfnod o flynyddoedd, a chroesawaf y ffaith y bydd y Llywodraeth yn sicrhau hyn. Mae'n hollbwysig bod yr ariannu'n ddigonol ar ddechrau unrhyw brosiect, ac felly hoffwn wybod a fydd y Llywodraeth yn sicrhau hyn, a hefyd sut mae'r ffigur hwn o £600,000 wedi cael ei benderfynu. A yw'r ffigur hwn wedi cael ei seilio ar ryw gynllun busnes, neu ar ryw fformiwla?

In order to ensure stability, it is crucial that the funding is over several years, and I welcome the fact that the Government will ensure this. It is crucial that there is sufficient funding at the beginning of any project, and therefore I would like to know whether the Government will ensure this, and also how this sum of £600,000 has been decided upon. Is this figure based on a business plan, or on a formula?

Ym mhob gwlad ddemocrataidd mae'n bwysig bod cyfryngau a'r papurau newydd yn annibynnol ar Lywodraeth. Mae hon yn egwyddor hynod o bwysig. Yn yr amgylchiadau, a all y Gweinidog ddweud wrthym sut y bydd y Llywodraeth yn sicrhau y bydd gwir annibyniaeth, gan y bydd y Llywodraeth yn ariannu'r sector hwn yn sylweddol? Nid wyf yn awgrymu y buasai'r Llywodraeth hon yn ceisio dylanwadu ar gynnwys y cyfryngau, ond pwy a wŷr beth fyddai Llywodraeth yn y dyfodol yn fodlon ei wneud? Felly, mae'r strwythurau y mae'r Llywodraeth hon yn eu gosod yn awr yn hollbwysig.

In every democratic country it is important that the media and newspapers are independent of Government. That is a vital principle. In the circumstances, could the Minister tell us how the Government will ensure that there is true independence, given that the Government will be funding the sector to a substantial degree? I am not suggesting that this Government would try to influence the content of the media, but who knows what a future Government would be willing to do? Therefore, the structures that the Government is putting in place now are crucial.

Yn sgîl y datganiad hwn, gobeithio y gall y Gweinidog gadarnhau na fydd papurau a chylchgronau eraill drwy Gymru yn dioddef oherwydd yr ariannu newydd hwn. Mae

In the wake of this statement, I hope that the Minister can confirm that other newspapers and magazines in Wales will not suffer as a result of this new funding. Dr Bianchi's

adroddiad Dr Bianchi yn awgrymu y dylai fod cronfa benodol sy'n targedu argraffu ar y we. A yw'r Llywodraeth yn bwriadu ystyried yr argymhelliad hwn, ac, os yw, beth yn union fydd y fath gronfa yn ei ariannu?

Ar y cyfan, mae'r wrthblaid yn croesawu'r datganiad hwn, er nad yw efallai yn dweud rhyw lawer. Gobeithiaf yn fawr fod dyfodol llwyddiannus i'r wasg Gymraeg, a bod y datganiad hwn yn mynd rywfaint o'r ffordd i sicrhau hynny.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Diolch, Paul, am eich sylwadau, ac am y croeso cyffredinol i'r datganiad. Cawsom rybudd amserol ynglŷn â'r posibiladau o sensoriaeth o ran newyddion gwleidyddol pe bai Llywodraeth Geidwadol yng Nghymru—nid bod hynny'n debygol o gwbl. Mae'n beth da bod pobl Cymru yn gwybod beth i'w ddisgwyl os cânt Lywodraeth Geidwadol, sef y bydd sensoriaeth ar newyddion.

Dywedodd Paul nad oedd y datganiad yn dweud llawer. Mae'n dweud y byddwn yn mwy na dyblu yr arian sydd ar gael ar gyfer y wasg brintiedig cyfrwng Cymraeg; mae hwnnw'n ddatganiad o bwys. Dyma'r dyfarniad mwyaf a wnaed o ran y wasg brintiedig cyfrwng Cymraeg—nid y cynnydd mwyaf, ond y dyfarniad mwyaf, ac mae'n cynyddu'r swm o £200,000 y flwyddyn i £373,000 y flwyddyn.

Mae'r datganiad yn benagored oherwydd nid wyf am ffrwyno unrhyw syniadau ynglŷn â sut y gallwn ddatblygu'r wasg brintiedig cyfrwng Cymraeg. Yr wyf am i bobl sydd â diddordeb yn y maes fod yn greadigol. Nid wyf yn bwriadu cynyddu'r swm o arian a roddir am yr hyn yr ydym yn ei dderbyn ar hyn o bryd. Yr wyf am weld pobl yn bod yn greadigol ac yr wyf eisiau iddynt edrych ar syniadau newydd a ffyrdd newydd o gyflwyno'r newyddion. Mae'r we yn rhan eithriadol o bwysig o hynny ac yn cynnig modd o ymateb i newyddion brys a sicrhau bod gwybodaeth yn cyrraedd y cyhoedd.

Credaf, Paul, eich bod wedi codi pwynt eithriadol o bwysig ynglŷn â'r drafodaeth sydd ei hangen yng Nghymru o ran y newyddion, a'r perygl fod y cyfryngau sydd

report suggests that there should be a specific fund that targets internet publishing. Does the Government intend to look at this recommendation, and, if so, what exactly would such a fund finance?

On the whole, the opposition welcomes this statement, although perhaps it does not say much. I very much hope that the Welsh-language press has a successful future, and that this statement goes some way towards ensuring that.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Thank you, Paul, for your comments, and for your general welcoming of the statement. I think that we got a timely warning about the possible censorship of political news should there be a Conservative Government in Wales—although that is not at all likely. It is good that the people of Wales should know what to expect should they get a Conservative Government, namely that news will be censored.

Paul said that the statement does not say much. It states that we will more than double the funding available for the Welsh-language print media; that is an important statement. This is the largest allocation of funding for the Welsh-language print media—it is not the biggest increase, but the biggest allocation, and it increases the sum of £200,000 a year to £373,000 a year.

The statement is open-ended because I do not want to stymie any ideas about how we can develop the Welsh-language press. I want those who have an interest in the field to be creative. I do not intend to increase the funding available for what we currently have. I want to see people being creative and I want them to look for new ideas and new ways of presenting the news. The internet is an extremely important part of that, and it offers a way of responding to breaking news, ensuring that the public have access to information.

I believe, Paul, that you raise an extremely important point with regard to the debate that is needed in Wales on the news, and the danger that the media is currently in a

gennym ar hyn o bryd yn wynebu sefyllfa o fonopoli. Mae gennym y BBC a Trinity Mirror, ond nid oes rhyw lawer yn ychwanegol at hynny; yr ydym yn gweld crebachu o ran yr hyn mae ITV Wales yn gallu ei gyflwyno. Mae hynny'n rhybudd amserol, a rhaid inni fod yn ymwybodol nad yw'n iach fod cyflwyno'r newyddion yng Nghymru yn nwylo dau gwmni yn unig mewn gwirionedd. Gobeithiaf y gall y wasg brintiedig Gymraeg wneud ei rhan i sicrhau annibyniaeth barn ac i sicrhau y cyflwynir y newyddion mewn ffordd nad yw wedi'i rheoli gan unrhyw gwmni nac, yn sicr, unrhyw Lywodraeth.

Alun Davies: Fel eraill, yr wyf am groesawu'r datganiad a'r hyn yr ydych wedi ei drafod y prynhawn yma. Credaf fod y gwaith a wnaethpwyd gan Tony Bianchi wedi creu sylfaen hynod o gryf a phwysig i'r drafodaeth ar ein polisi a fydd yn cael ei chynnal dros y misoedd nesaf. Croesawaf y gwaith sydd wedi cael ei wneud. Yr wyf hefyd yn croesawu—ychydig yn fwy cynnes, efallai, na'r Blaid Geidwadol—yr arian yr ydych wedi ei gyhoeddi y prynhawn yma i gryfhau'r wasg brintiedig Gymraeg. Mae eich datganiad yn ddechreuad arbennig o dda i wireddu'r datganiadau a geir yn 'Cymru'n Un'. Mae hynny'n rhywbeth yr wyf yn ei groesawu'n fawr iawn.

Cytunaf â'r dadansoddiad sydd yn yr adroddiad, ac efallai fod hynny'n bwysicach na'i groesawu'n unig. Drwy ddadansoddi'r wasg brintiedig Gymraeg, credaf fod Tony Bianchi wedi dweud sawl peth yr oeddem yn ei wybod eisoes a sawl peth nad oeddem yn ei wybod. Credaf inni ddarganfod sawl peth drwy ddarllen ei adroddiad. Yr wyf yn falch y bydd yr arian sy'n mynd i'r wasg brintiedig Gymraeg yn gallu sicrhau bod y datblygiadau yr ydym oll am eu gweld yn gallu digwydd. Mae hynny'n bwysig.

Yn ei adroddiad, mae Bianchi yn disgrifio'r wasg Gymraeg fel sector sy'n fregus, yn anwastad ac yn anghyflawn. Byddwn hefyd yn dweud bod y wasg Gymraeg yn egnïol, yn fywiog ac yn ffres. O ystyried y boblogaeth mae'r wasg yn ei gwasanaethu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, credaf ei bod yn un hynod egnïol sy'n bwysig ar gyfer y dyfodol. Beth yw rôl y Llywodraeth yn hyn oll, Weinidog? Yr wyf fi

monopoly situation. We have the BBC and Trinity Mirror, but not much more; what ITV Wales is able to produce in terms of output is shrinking. That is a timely reminder, and we must be aware that it is not healthy for news in Wales to be, in effect, in the hands of only two companies. I hope that the Welsh-language press can play its part in ensuring that we have an independent view and in ensuring that the news is presented in a way that is not dominated by any company or, certainly, any Government.

Alun Davies: Like other Members, I welcome the statement and what you have discussed this afternoon. I believe that the work done by Tony Bianchi has created a very strong and important foundation for the policy discussion that will be held over the coming months. I welcome the work that has been done. I also welcome—a little more warmly than the Conservative Party, perhaps—the funding that you have announced this afternoon to strengthen the Welsh-language press. Your statement is a very good start to realising the aims of 'One Wales'. That is something that I greatly welcome.

I concur with the report's analysis, which may be more important than merely welcoming it. By analysing the Welsh-language press, I believe that Tony Bianchi has said a number of things that we already knew, and a number of things that we did not know. I believe that we learned many things by reading his report. I am pleased that the money being directed towards the Welsh-language press will bring about the developments that we all want to see. That is important.

In his report, Bianchi describes the Welsh-language press as a fragile, uneven and incomplete sector. I would also describe it as energetic, lively and fresh. Given the size of the population that it serves through the medium of Welsh, I believe that it is extremely energetic and important for the future. What is the role of Government in this, Minister? I want to see the Government

am weld y Llywodraeth yn sicrhau y gall y wasg brintiedig Gymraeg barhau i ffynnu ac estyn allan i gyrraedd mwy o bobl—pobl nad ydynt, efallai, yn defnyddio'r Gymraeg neu'n cael cyfle i'w defnyddio bob dydd—i sicrhau mynediad at wybodaeth o ran beth sy'n digwydd yn y byd Cymraeg, ac i sicrhau bod pobl yn deall ac yn gallu cyfrannu at drafodaethau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Hefyd, yr wyf am i hynny ddigwydd heb y sensoriaeth y cyfeiriodd ein cyfaill o sir Benfro ato.

O ran y papur dyddiol, credaf fy mod i, fel eraill, yn cefnogi'r syniad o sefydlu papur dyddiol Cymraeg. Mae'n rhywbeth yr wyf wedi datgan cefnogaeth iddo yn y gorffennol ac yn rhywbeth yr wyf yn ei gefnogi heddiw. Mae Tony Bianchi wedi cydnabod y gwaith sydd eisoes wedi'i wneud ar y prosiect. Yr wyf yn deall eich bod yn awr y gwahodd Cyngor Llyfrau Cymru i wahodd ceisiadau gan y rhai sydd am sefydlu papur dyddiol Cymraeg. Bu ichi sôn yn barod am rôl Trinity Mirror a'r BBC, a'u monopoli dros newyddion Cymreig a Chymraeg; faint o gwmnïau sydd â diddordeb mewn sefydlu papur dyddiol Cymraeg?

4.20 p.m.

Hoffwn orffen drwy ofyn i chi am bwysigrwydd newyddion cyfrwng Cymraeg. Yr ydych wedi sôn ychydig am y pwnc hwn yn barod. Mae'n hynod bwysig ein bod yn gallu cael trafodaeth lawn drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, a bod y sector printiedig Cymraeg yn ddigon eang i gynnal trafodaeth ym mhob cwr o Gymru am yr hyn sy'n digwydd yn y Cynulliad ac yn y gwahanol gymunedau, mewn diwylliant agored lle mae newyddion a sicrhau bod pobl yn gallu cyfrannu i'r sector yn parhau i fod yn bwysig. A wnewch sicrhau bod yr arian datblygu a gyhoeddwyd gennych y prynhawn yma yn cyfeirio at faterion fel lluosogrwydd wrth inni sôn am newyddion Cymraeg, yn enwedig ymhlith yr ifanc? Croesawaf eich datganiad y prynhawn yma, a chroesawaf y gwaith a wnaethpwyd fel rhan o'r adroddiad hwn. Edrychaf ymlaen at y drafodaeth a fydd yn dilyn y datganiad y prynhawn yma.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Credaf dy fod, wrth gloi, wedi cyfeirio at yr egwyddorion

ensuring that the Welsh-language press continues to flourish and reach out to more people—people who do not, perhaps, use the Welsh language or do not have opportunities to use the language on a daily basis—to ensure that they have access to information on what is happening in Wales, and to ensure that people understand and are able to participate in debates through the medium of Welsh. In addition, I want that to be free of the censorship to which our friend from Pembrokeshire referred.

In terms of a daily newspaper, I believe that I, like others, support the idea of a Welsh-medium daily newspaper. It is something for which I have expressed support in the past, and something that I support today. Tony Bianchi has recognised the work that has already been done on the project. I understand that the Welsh Books Council is to seek applications from those who wish to set up a Welsh-medium daily newspaper. You have already talked about the role of Trinity Mirror and the BBC, and their monopoly over Welsh news; how many companies are interested in setting up a Welsh-medium daily newspaper?

I would like to close by asking you about the importance of news through the medium of Welsh. You have already referred a little to this subject. It is extremely important that we are able to debate all issues through the medium of Welsh, and that the Welsh-language press is broad enough to support that debate in all parts of Wales, in terms of what is happening in the Assembly and in our communities, in an open culture where news, and ensuring that people are able to participate in the sector, continue to be important. Will you ensure that the development funds that you have announced this afternoon refer to issues such as plurality as we discuss Welsh news, especially among young people? I welcome your statement this afternoon, and I welcome the work that was done for the report. I look forward to the debate that will follow this statement.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I believe that, in closing, you mentioned the fundamental

sylfaenol ynglŷn â datblygiadau o fewn y wasg brintiedig cyfrwng Cymraeg. Mae'n rhaid i'r wasg honno gyfrannu at y drafodaeth genedlaethol yng Nghymru, a chredaf ein bod i gyd yn sylweddoli nad yw'r drafodaeth wedi bod yn gyflawn yn y gorffennol. Gwelsom yn ystod refferenda 1979 ac 1997 nad oedd y drafodaeth gyhoeddus yng Nghymru yn debyg i'r drafodaeth yn yr Alban, er enghraifft, lle mae gwasg fywiog iawn a lle mae lluosogrwydd o fewn y wasg honno. Credaf fod yr elfen o luosogrwydd yn eithriadol o bwysig. Wrth ymateb i Paul, dywedais fod perygl, pan fydd trafodaeth yn cael ei chyflwyno drwy gyfrwng un neu ddau o gwmnïau yn unig, y bydd buddiannau yn dylanwadu ar yr hyn sy'n cael ei ddweud a'r ffordd y mae'n cael ei ddweud.

Cyfeiriaist at egwyddor eithriadol o bwysig, sef bod yn rhaid i unrhyw ddatblygiadau yn y maes hwn agor y drws i gynulleidfaedd newydd—i bobl nad ydynt, ar hyn o bryd, yn darllen unrhyw beth yn y Gymraeg. Mae'n bryder mawr i mi fod gan y cyfnodolion sydd ar gael ar hyn o bryd gyn lleied o gylchrediad. Cytunaf yn llwyr â'r hyn a ddywedaist ynglŷn â'u safon a'u hegri, a rhai o'r elfennau o fentro a blaengaredd sy'n perthyn iddynt, ond mae gofid ynglŷn â chyn lleied o gylchrediad sydd ganddynt. Gobeithiaf, felly, y bydd yr arian hwn yn esgor ar gynulleidfa newydd, yn enwedig ymhlith pobl ifanc, a'u bod yn darllen yn y Gymraeg ac yna'n trafod yn y Gymraeg, a bod hynny'n cyfrannu at y drafodaeth genedlaethol.

Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar iawn am dy sylwadau ynglŷn â chyfraniad Dr Tony Bianchi. Mae'r adroddiad yn gynhwysfawr. Nid oes unrhyw un wedi cwestiynu ei ddadansoddiad o'r sefyllfa bresennol na rhai o'r pwyntiau a godir ganddo ynglŷn â'r ffaith bod y wasg yn fregus, a'r risg sydd ynghlwm ag unrhyw fenter newydd. Yr oeddwn yn ymwybodol iawn na ddylai unrhyw ddatblygiadau newydd beryglu'r hyn sydd gennym yn barod. Mae'n rhaid i unrhyw un sydd am ymateb i'r her a'r sialens a gyflwynwyd gynnig syniadau newydd a gwneud pethau yn wahanol. O ran y wasg brintiedig yn y Gymraeg, a'r celfyddydau yn gyffredinol, ni ddylem ariannu pobl i wneud yr hyn maent

principles of developments within the Welsh-language press. It must contribute to the national debate in Wales, and I believe that we all realise that that debate has been incomplete to date. During the 1979 and 1997 referenda, we all saw that the public debate in Wales was nothing like the debate in Scotland, for example, where there is a very lively press and where there is plurality. I believe that plurality is extremely important. In responding to Paul, I said that there was a danger, when an argument is only presented by one or two companies, that self-interest influences what is said and the way in which it is said.

You referred to a crucial principle, in that any developments in this field must open the door to new audiences—people who do not currently read anything in Welsh. It is of great concern to me that the circulation of our current periodicals is so small. I fully agree with what you said about their quality and energy, and some of their innovative elements, but it is of concern that their circulation is so limited. I hope, therefore, that this money will lead to new audiences, especially among young people, and that they will read Welsh material and then debate issues through the medium of Welsh, contributing to the national debate.

I am very grateful for your comments about Dr Tony Bianchi's contribution. The report is comprehensive. No-one has questioned his analysis of the current situation nor the points that he raises in relation to the fact that the press is fragile, and the risks associated with any new venture. I was very aware of the fact that new developments should not threaten what we already have. Anyone who wants to respond to the challenge must offer new ideas and do things differently. In terms of the Welsh-language press, and the arts in general, we should not fund people to do what they have done for years just because they received money in the past. All those in receipt of Government funding must

wedi'i wneud ers blynyddoedd dim ond oherwydd eu bod wedi derbyn arian yn y gorffennol. Mae'n rhaid i bawb sy'n derbyn nawdd oddi wrth Lywodraeth ddangos eu bod yn ddyfeisgar, a'u bod yn gallu symud ymlaen a chynnig syniadau newydd mewn ffyrdd creadigol ac egnïol. Yr wyf yn hyderus fod yr arian hwn yn ddigonol i sicrhau bywiogrwydd newydd yn y wasg brintiedig cyfrwng Cymraeg.

Eleanor Burnham: Heb fod yn arbenigwr o gwbl ar y mater, yr wyf am gwestiynu dadansoddiad y person pwysig hwn, Dr Bianchi. Dywedodd rhywun o'r enw—a maddeuwch imi, nid wyf yn gwybod sut i ddweud yr enw hwn—Mairtín Ó Muilleoir, sef rheolwr gyfarwyddwr Belfast Media Group:

'If I had a blade of grass for every 'unviable' Irish language project which I've seen blossom to success, I'd have the Argentinian Pampas in my back garden'.

Nid fi sydd wedi dweud hyn, ond rhywun sydd ag arbenigedd yn y mater. Nid oes gennyf syniad pwy yw'r dyn hwn—efallai nad ydych yn credu ei fod yn bwysig—ond os yw'r person sy'n rhedeg y Belfast Media Group yn cwestiynu beth mae Dr Bianchi wedi'i ddweud, efallai y dylem ofyn a oes sail i'r hyn mae'n ei ofyn.

Yr wyf yn siomedig dros ben. Yr oeddwn wedi cymryd diddordeb mawr gan fy mod yn aelod o'r Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon. Pan oeddem yn datblygu ein maniffesto yr oeddem, fel pawb arall, o ran egwyddor, eisiau cefnogi *Y Byd* a'i staff brwdfrydig, diwyd, egnïol ac optimistaidd a'u gweledigaeth. Teimlaf yn drist heddiw. Er ein bod yn croesawu eich datganiad, Weinidog, a'r ffaith eich bod yn mynd i roi ychydig o arian i'r fenter, mae'n siom fod problemau ar y gorwel. Bùm ar ymweliad â phapur newydd *Berria* yng Ngwlad y Basg, a gwelais—er nad wyf yn arbenigwr ar faterion rhedeg busnesau cymhleth fel hyn—fod gan y cwmni hwnnw un papur o safon *The Guardian* ac amryw o bapurau eraill o safon is sy'n bwydo i mewn iddo ac yn annog pobl a chanddynt, efallai, safon ieithyddol is yn yr iaith Fasseg.

demonstrate creativity, and show that they are able to move forward with new and energetic ideas. I am confident that this money is sufficient to secure new life in the Welsh-language press.

Eleanor Burnham: Although I am no expert in this matter, I want to question the analysis of this important person, Dr Bianchi. Someone called—forgive me, I do not know how to pronounce his name—Mairtín Ó Muilleoir, managing director of the Belfast Media Group, said:

Pe bai gennyf laswelltyn am bob prosiect 'anhwyf' yn yr iaith Wyddeleg yr wyf wedi'i weld yn ffynnu, byddai Paith yr Ariannin gennyf yn fy ngardd gefn.

Those are not my words, but the words of an expert. I have no idea who this man is—you may not believe that he is important—but if the man who runs the Belfast Media Group questions what Dr Bianchi has said, we should, perhaps, ask whether there is any truth in what he has to say.

I am very disappointed. I had taken a keen interest as I was a member of the Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee. When we were developing our manifesto, we, like everyone else, were, in principle, supportive of *Y Byd* and its enthusiastic, diligent, energetic and optimistic staff and their vision. I am sad today. Although we welcome your statement, Minister, and the fact that you will give the venture some money, it is disappointing that there are problems ahead. I visited the *Berria* newspaper in the Basque Country, and saw—although I am no expert on running complex businesses—that it had one newspaper of *The Guardian* quality and a number of other papers of lower quality feeding into that, encouraging people who had, perhaps, less of a grasp of the Basque language.

Teimlaf hefyd bod cyfle yma i hysbysebu ac ati. Os ydym am gael papurau fel hyn, byddai cyfle inni eu defnyddio i hysbysebu pob math o bethau, a recriwtio yn y Gymraeg, yn enwedig gan fod hynny'n ddiffyg, yn fy marn i, i bobl sydd eisiau gweithio yn y Cynulliad neu i'r Llywodraeth.

Yr wyf yn siomedig. Diolch am yr arian. Nid wyf yn siŵr a allwch ateb y cwestiynau yr wyf wedi'u gofyn hyd yn hyn, ond byddai fy nghwestiynau eraill yn cynnwys sut y bydd yr arian hwn yn cael ei ddefnyddio a pha hwb y bydd yn ei roi i *Y Byd*? Dyna'r cwestiwn sylfaenol i mi.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Yr wyf yn cael ychydig o drafferth i gysylltu eich dyfyniad gydag adroddiad Tony Bianchi. Nid wyf yn siŵr beth yw'r cysylltiad rhwng y naill a'r llall. [*Torri ar draws.*]

Nid wyf yn credu bod unrhyw un arall yn cwestiynu adroddiad Tony Bianchi—cafodd ei benodi am ei fod yn arbenigwr. Mae pawb yr wyf wedi trafod y mater hwn gyda hwy, a phawb sydd wedi sylwebu arno, yn dweud bod yr adroddiad yn gytwys a'i fod yn adroddiad adeiladol iawn ynglŷn a'r wasg brintiedig yn y Gymraeg.

Nid yw'r adroddiad hwn, ac nid yw'r datganiad hwn, yn ymwneud ag un prosiect penodol. Mae prosiect penodol papur newyddion, dyddiol, cyfrwng Cymraeg, yn rhan o drafodaeth ehangach ynglŷn a'r wasg brintiedig drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Mae Tony Bianchi yn ystyried cymariaethau o wledydd eraill, a'r hyn mae'n ei ddweud yw fod diwylliant gwahanol mewn gwledydd eraill ynglŷn a darllen papurau a chyfnodolion yn yr iaith frodorol. Mae'r diwylliant yn wahanol yng Nghymru ac mae Tony Bianchi yn rhoi cryn dipyn o amser i ddadansoddi hynny'n fanwl. Nid oes neb wedi cwestiynu'r dadansoddiad hwnnw ychwaith. Er mwyn sôn am brosiect penodol, sefydlwyd papur dyddiol Gogledd Iwerddon yn y Wyddeleg, *Lá Nua*, gyda chymhorthdal o £400,000 dros ddwy flynedd gan Lywodraeth Gogledd Iwerddon, sef llai o arian nag yr ydwyf wedi ei gyhoeddi heddiw. Felly, os yw hi'n fwriad gan rywun gyhoeddi papur dyddiol yn Gymraeg, mae'n bosibl

I also feel that there is an opportunity here to advertise and so on. If we are to have newspapers like this, we could use them to advertise all sorts of things, and to undertake recruitment through the medium of Welsh, especially as that is a deficiency, in my opinion, for those who want to work for the Assembly or for the Government.

I am disappointed. Thank you for the money. I am not sure whether you will be able to answer the questions that I have already asked, but my other questions would include how will this money be used and how will it help *Y Byd*? That is the fundamental question as far as I am concerned.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I am having difficulty in linking the quotation that you used with Tony Bianchi's report. I am not sure what the connection is between the two things. [*Interruption.*]

I do not believe that anyone else has questioned Tony Bianchi's report—he was appointed because he is an expert. All those with whom I have discussed the matter, and all those who have commented on it, have said that it is a balanced and constructive report on the Welsh-language press.

The report and the statement were not about one specific project. The specific issue of a Welsh-language daily newspaper is part of a wider debate about the Welsh-language press. Tony Bianchi has looked at comparisons with other countries, and what he says is that a different culture exists in those countries with regard to reading newspapers and periodicals in native languages. The culture is different in Wales, and Tony Bianchi spent quite a long time analysing that in detail. No-one has questioned that analysis. In referring to a specific project, Northern Ireland's Gaelic daily newspaper, *Lá Nua*, was established with a £400,000 subsidy over two years from the Northern Ireland Government. This is less than the amount that I have announced today. Therefore, if there is anyone out there who wishes to establish a Welsh-language daily newspaper, this would be possible. It has already been achieved in Northern Ireland, and, to answer Alun's question, a number of people have expressed an interest.

gwneud hynny. Gwnaed hyn eisoes yng Ngogledd Iwerddon, ac, i ateb cwestiwn Alun, mae nifer wedi dangos diddordeb.

4.30 p.m.

Yr wyf yn ddyledus i Dyddiol Cyf. am ei waith. Rhaid i ni gydnabod y gwaith arloesol a wnaed gan Ned Thomas a'i gydweithwyr, ond nid Dyddiol Cyf. yw'r unig gwmni sydd wedi dangos diddordeb mewn sefydlu papur dyddiol drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Mae'r arian hwn ar gyfer syniadau a phrosiectau yn y wasg brintiedig cyfrwng Cymraeg, ac yr wyf finnau a'r cyngor llyfrau yn barod i ystyried unrhyw syniadau sy'n ymestyn y gynulleidfa o ran darllen y Gymraeg ac o ran cynnig cyfleoedd newydd i gyflwyno newyddion a materion cyfoes drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

Alun Ffred Jones: Croesawaf eich datganiad heddiw; mae'r newydd i'w groesawu'n fawr. Tra bod llawer o sôn am strategaethau, yn y bôn mae her fawr o safbwynt darganfod darllenwyr a fydd yn prynu'r papurau hyn. Clywaf lawer o bobl yn sôn am lyfrau a chylchgronau Cymraeg ond gwn cyn lleied sydd yn aml yn prynu'r rhain. Felly, mae'r her sy'n wynebu unrhyw un sy'n cychwyn papur newydd neu unrhyw gylchgrawn yn y Gymraeg yn un fawr.

A allwch chi egluro'r pwynt ynghylch y cyngor llyfrau? Bu i chi ofyn iddo wahodd syniadau ar bapur dyddiol neu rywbeth sy'n ymdebygu i hynny, ond ai'r cyngor llyfrau fydd yn dyfarnu ar y defnydd o'r arian hwn?

Yn ail, fe wnaethoch nodi bod swm o tua £180,000 eisoes yn cael ei ddosbarthu i gylchgronau a phapurau Cymraeg, sef *Barn*, *Y Cymro* a *Golwg*, ond a yw'n fwriad edrych o'r newydd ar y darpariaethau a'r dyfarniadau hyn, ac, os ydyw, pwy fydd yn gwneud hynny?

Nid oedd sôn yn eich datganiad am y cyfraniad mawr y mae papurau bro yn ei wneud. A oes unrhyw gymhorthdal yn cael ei gynnig i'r papurau bro, a phwy sy'n gyfrifol am hwnnw?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Ar y cwestiwn

I am indebted to Dyddiol Cyf. for its work. We need to acknowledge the innovative work of Ned Thomas and his colleagues, but Dyddiol Cyf. is not the only company to have shown an interest in establishing a Welsh-language daily newspaper. The funding is available for new ideas and projects within the Welsh-language print media, and the books council and I would be prepared to consider any ideas that extend the readership of Welsh-language material and in terms of providing new opportunities to present news and current affairs through the medium of Welsh.

Alun Ffred Jones: I welcome today's statement; this is welcome news indeed. While we have heard a lot about strategies, the reality is that we face a significant challenge when it comes to finding readers who will buy these publications. I often hear people talking about Welsh-language books and magazines but I am aware that very few actually buy them. Therefore, the challenge facing anyone who embarks on the publication of a new Welsh-language newspaper or magazine is a significant one.

Can you explain the point about the books council? You have asked it to seek ideas on a daily newspaper, or something similar, but will it be the council that decides how the funding is used?

Secondly, you said that around £180,000 is already allocated to Welsh-language magazines and newspapers, namely *Barn*, *Y Cymro* and *Golwg*, but do you intend to re-examine the provision and allocation, and, if so, who will be responsible for doing this?

Your statement did not refer to the significant contribution made by *papurau bro*. Will a grant be available for these papers, and who has responsibility for this?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: On the question of

ynghylch papurau bro, maent wedi profi'n llwyddiant diamod drwy Gymru, ac mae ein dyled yn fawr i'r gwirfoddolwyr sydd wedi gweithio'n galed i sefydlu papurau bro a'u cynnal dros y blynyddoedd. Mae'r papurau bro yn derbyn cymhorthdal oddi wrth Fwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg. Gofynnaf am y manylion ynghylch yr ariannu er mwyn eu trosglwyddo i Ffred ac Aelodau eraill sydd â diddordeb yn y pwnc.

Mae hwn yn her ac yn sialens fawr iawn. Mae'r sefyllfa, fel y dywedodd Tony Bianchi, yn peri pryder ar hyn o bryd er bod llawer o bethau i'w dathlu o safbwynt y wasg brintiedig cyfrwng Cymraeg. Mae her yn ein hwynebu, ac yr wyf yn mawr hyderu y bydd pobl yng Nghymru yn ymateb i'r her ac y byddant yn cyflwyno syniadau newydd, bywiog a gwahanol. Dyma gyfle, am y tro cyntaf, i bobl feddwl yng nghyd-destun buddsoddiad helaeth gan y Llywodraeth. Efallai fod y symiau ariannol a oedd ar gael yn y gorffennol wedi cyfyngu gweledigaeth pobl, sydd, o ganlyniad, wedi methu â mentro cymaint ag y byddent wedi dymuno ei wneud.

Ynghylch cwestiwn Ffred am y £173,000 sydd yn cael ei ddyfarnu a'i rannu ar hyn o bryd rhwng *Y Cymro*, *Barn* a *Golwg*, mae'r swm hwnnw wedi ei glustnodi ar gyfer y cyfnodolion hynny yn y flwyddyn ariannol nesaf, ond credaf ei bod yn bwysig ein bod yn monitro'n gyson y dyfarniadau ariannol sylweddol hyn a'r gwerth a gawn am yr arian. Byddaf yn ystyried y swm ar gyfer blwyddyn ariannol 2009-10, yn ogystal â'r £200,000, a byddaf yn cydweithio â Chyngor Llyfrau Cymru i edrych ar y ffordd fwyaf effeithiol o ddefnyddio'r arian hwnnw. Y cyngor llyfrau fydd y cyfrwng hyd braich a fydd yn ariannu'r prosiectau hyn; yr wyf yn credu'n gryf yn yr egwyddor o gael hyd braich rhwng y Llywodraeth a'r broses o ariannu'r celfyddydau a maes llyfrau a chyhoeddi, ond byddaf yn cymryd diddordeb personol yn y strategaeth a'r modd y gallwn sicrhau bod nifer y darllenwyr, a'r bobl ifanc a ddenir i ddarllen a thrafod materion drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, yn cynyddu.

Alun Cairns: Yr wyf yn diolch i'r Gweinidog am ei ddatganiad. Ar un lefel, yr ydym yn croesawu'r arian i gefnogi'r

papurau bro, these papers have been an unqualified success throughout Wales, and we are greatly indebted to the volunteers who have worked hard to establish and maintain these papers over the years. *Papurau bro* receive a grant from the Welsh Language Board. I will obtain the funding details and provide them to Ffred and other Members who have an interest in this.

This is a great challenge. The situation, as Tony Bianchi highlighted, is a cause for concern at the moment, even though there are many things to celebrate as regards the Welsh-language print media. We face a significant challenge, and I very much hope that people in Wales respond to the challenge and that they put forward new ideas that are innovative and different. People have an opportunity, for the first time, to think within the context of a substantial investment by the Government. The funding available in the past may have limited the vision of some people, who, as a result, did not take the risks that they perhaps would have liked to have taken.

On Ffred's question about the £173,000 that has been provided and shared between *Y Cymro*, *Barn* and *Golwg*, that amount has been allocated for these publications in the next financial year, but it is important that we regularly monitor the allocations and the value for money that we get in return. I will consider the funding for the 2009-10 financial year, along with the £200,000, and I will be working with the Welsh Books Council to consider how to make best use of the funding. The books council will be the arm's-length organisation that funds the projects; I am a great believer in the arm's-length principle in terms of the Government's funding of the arts, publishing and the print media, but I will take a personal interest in the strategy and the way in which we can ensure that the readership is expanded and that more young people are attracted to read and discuss matters through the medium of Welsh.

Alun Cairns: I thank the Minister for his statement. On one level, we welcome the funding that will be used in support of the

diwydiant a'r cynllun a gynigiwyd. Fodd bynnag, ar adeg pan fo nifer y bobl sy'n darllen papurau dyddiol ym mhob iaith bron yn cwmpo, pa ystyriaeth a roddodd y Gweinidog i ddefnyddio swm tebyg o arian i hybu'r defnydd o'r Gymraeg ar y we, a hynny ar wefannau cwmnïau preifat neu drwy gynhyrchu meddalwedd yn yr iaith Gymraeg? Gallai hynny olygu dyfodol mwy llewyrchus i'r iaith, yn wahanol i bapur dyddiol na fydd o bosibl yn parhau yn y tymor hir.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Bydd y we yn gyfrwng eithriadol o bwysig yn y dyfodol—mae'r Aelod ei hun yn flogiwr adnabyddus ac yn cynhyrchu blog hynod o ddiddorol. Byddai'n ddiddorol pe bai ychydig o Gymraeg yn ei flog—byddai hynny'n gyfraniad mawr i'r drafodaeth. Fodd bynnag, nid oes gennyf fwriad i ariannu blog Alun Cairns, ond byddai'n dda pe bai'n cynnwys y Gymraeg yn ei flog. Byddai darpariaethau ar y we yn rhan ddisgwyliedig o unrhyw becyn a gaiff ei ariannu gan y swm hwn o arian—dyna yw'r presennol a'r dyfodol, ac mae'n rhaid i ni sicrhau bod y Gymraeg yn cael ei lle yn y cyfrwng hwnnw, a bod cyfle i bobl i'w defnyddio ac i dderbyn gwybodaeth a newyddion drwyddi.

Chris Franks: This announcement is good news for Welsh-language print media; in these difficult financial times, such an investment is welcome. However, I am concerned about the level of funding for English print media. Will you indicate the degree of support for English print media?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Thank you, Chris; you raise an important point. Today's statement and the sum of money that we are talking about are there to ensure that we have a public debate in Wales about those matters that are important to the future of the Welsh nation. As I said in response to Alun Davies, I do not think that we have had that debate in the past through the media and the press to the extent that we would have wanted, and this is a contribution. However, it must be seen side by side with the contribution that will be made by the English-medium print

industry, and welcome the strategy that has been proposed. However, at a time when the readership of daily newspapers is dwindling, what consideration has the Minister given to using a similar amount of money to promote the use of the Welsh language on the internet—on the websites of private companies or through the production of Welsh-language software? That could mean a more prosperous future for the language, as opposed to what could be achieved through the production of a daily newspaper that may not last in the long term.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: The internet will be an exceptionally important medium in the future—the Member himself if a well-known blogger and produces a very interesting blog. It would be quite interesting if his blog were to contain some Welsh-language material—that would make a significant contribution. However, I do not intend to fund Alun Cairns's blog, but it would be good if he produced some Welsh-language material. Provisions on the internet would be expected as part of any package funded through this allocation—this is the present and the future, and we must ensure that the Welsh language is given its proper place in that medium and that people have an opportunity to use the language and to receive information and news through the medium of Welsh.

Chris Franks: Mae'r cyhoeddiad hwn yn newyddion da i'r wasg brintiedig cyfrwng Cymraeg; yn yr hinsawdd ariannol anodd hwn, mae buddsoddiad o'r fath i'w groesawu. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn pryderu am lefel y cyllid ar gyfer y wasg brintiedig cyfrwng Saesneg. A nodwch lefel y gefnogaeth i'r wasg brintiedig cyfrwng Saesneg?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Diolch, Chris; yr ydych yn codi pwynt pwysig. Mae datganiad heddiw a'r swm o arian yr ydym yn sôn amdano yno i sicrhau bod gennym ddadl gyhoeddus yng Nghymru ynghylch y materion hynny sy'n bwysig i ddyfodol y genedl Gymreig. Fel y dywedais wrth ateb Alun Davies, ni chredaf inni gael y ddadl honno yn y gorffennol drwy'r cyfryngau a'r wasg i'r graddau y byddem wedi dymuno, ac mae hyn yn gyfraniad. Fodd bynnag, rhaid ei gweld ochr yn ochr â'r cyfraniad a wneir gan y wasg brintiedig cyfrwng Saesneg a hefyd y

media and English-language media more generally. There is a debate about how we ensure plurality within the media and the press in Wales in the medium of both English and Welsh. It is important that this statement should be seen within that context, in that we need to ensure the possibility for people to participate in that debate in either language, or the language of their choice.

Mick Bates: Thank you for the statement, Minister, and I welcome your support. I sincerely hope one day to see a commercially viable Welsh language daily newspaper. If there were such a newspaper, it seems logical to place all job advertisements in the Welsh language in a Welsh daily newspaper. That would help the sustainability and commercial viability of any forthcoming daily newspaper. What consideration will you give to that concept?

4.40 p.m.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I have given that matter consideration. Of course, responsibility for placing advertisements does not lie within my portfolio. Responsibility lies with the Government and with the National Assembly for Wales. I have no means of providing any publication with a guarantee of advertising. It is problematic because there is a question of whether those advertisements should appear bilingually or separately in Welsh and in English, possibly in different publications. This is a debate on which many people have strong views. There is also the question of whether advertising will always appear in the printed press. Building on Alun Cairns's comments, it may be that, in future, those advertisements will not appear in the printed press but on the web, using IT. Therefore, there is a whole range of questions and there must be question marks over any business plan that is dependent on guaranteed advertising. The income has to be separate from a dependency on advertising.

cyfryngau eraill Saesneg eu hiaith. Ceir dadl ynghylch sut y sicrhawn luosogrwydd o fewn y cyfryngau a'r wasg yng Nghymru yn yr iaith Saesneg ac yn yr iaith Gymraeg. Mae'n bwysig bod y datganiad hwn yn cael ei weld o fewn y cyd-destun hwnnw, oherwydd mae angen inni sicrhau ei bod hi'n bosibl i bobl gyfrannu at y ddadl honno yn naill iaith neu'r llall, neu yn eu dewis iaith.

Mick Bates: Diolch ichi am eich datganiad, Weinidog, a chroesawaf eich cefnogaeth. Yr wyf yn gobeithio'n daer y gwelaf bapur newydd dyddiol Cymraeg sy'n fasnachol hyfyw. Pe ceid papur newydd o'r fath, ymddengys yn rhesymegol lleoli pob hysbyseb swydd yn yr iaith Gymraeg mewn papur newydd dyddiol Cymraeg. Byddai hynny'n helpu cynaliadwyedd a dichonoldeb masnachol unrhyw bapur newydd arfaethedig. Pa ystyriaeth a roddwch i'r cysyniad hwnnw?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Yr wyf wedi ystyried y mater hwnnw. Yn naturiol, nid yw'r cyfrifoldeb dros osod hysbysebion yn rhan o fy mhortffolio. Mae gan y Llywodraeth a Chynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru gyfrifoldeb yn hyn o beth. Nid oes gennyf unrhyw fodd i roi gwarant o hysbysebu i unrhyw gyhoeddiad. Mae'n broblem oherwydd y cwestiwn a ddylai'r hysbysebion hynny ymddangos yn ddwyieithog neu ar wahân yn Gymraeg a Saesneg, o bosibl mewn gwahanol gyhoeddiadau. Mae honno'n ddadl y bydd gan nifer o bobl farn gref yn ei chylch. Ceir y cwestiwn hefyd a fydd hysbysebion i'r dyfodol bob tro'n ymddangos yn y wasg brintiedig. Ac adeiladu ar sylwadau Alun Cairns, mae'n bosibl, i'r dyfodol, na fydd yr hysbysebion hynny'n ymddangos yn y wasg brintiedig, ond ar y we, gan ddefnyddio TG. O'r herwydd, ceir ystod gyfan o gwestiynau a rhaid amau unrhyw gynllun busnes sy'n dibynnu ar warant o hysbysebion. Rhaid i'r incwm fod ar wahân i'r ddibyniaeth ar hysbysebu.

Cynnig bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, at Ddibenion unrhyw Ddarpariaethau sy'n Deillio o'r Mesur Arfaethedig ynghylch Gwneud Iawn am Gamweddau'r GIG (Cymru) 2008, yn Cytuno i unrhyw Gynnydd mewn Gwariant o'r Math y Cyfeirir ato yn Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 23.80(ii)(c) sy'n Codi o Ganlyniad Iddynt

Proposal that the National Assembly for Wales, for the Purposes of any Provisions Resulting from the Proposed NHS Redress (Wales) Measure 2008, Agrees to any Increase in Expenditure of a Kind Referred to in Standing Order No. 23.80(ii)(c) Arising in Consequence Thereof

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart): I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales, for the purposes of any provisions resulting from the Proposed NHS Redress (Wales) Measure 2008, agrees to any increase in expenditure of a kind referred to in Standing Order No. 23.80(ii)(c) arising in consequence thereof. (NDM3855)

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Edwina Hart): Cynigiau fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, at ddibenion unrhyw ddarpariaethau sy'n deillio o'r Mesur Arfaethedig ynghylch Gwneud Iawn am Gamweddau'r GIG (Cymru) 2008, yn cytuno i unrhyw gynnydd mewn gwariant o'r math y cyfeirir ato yn Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 23.80(ii)(c) sy'n codi o ganlyniad iddynt. (NDM3855)

Y Llywydd: Ni welaf neb yn datgan eu bod am siarad am y cynnig hwn. Gan nad oes gwrthwynebiad, ac yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.35, felly, caiff y cynnig ei dderbyn.

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

The Presiding Officer: I do not see anyone wanting to speak to this motion. As there is no opposition to it, and in accordance with Standing Order No. 7.35, the motion is carried.

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd (Rosemary Butler) i'r Gadair am 4.42 p.m.
The Deputy Presiding Officer (Rosemary Butler) took the Chair at 4.42 p.m.*

Dadl am y Gorchymyn Drafft, Gorchymyn Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru (Cymhwysedd Deddfwriaethol) (Addysg a Hyfforddiant) 2008, o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 22.34

Standing Order No. 22.34 Debate on the Draft the National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Education and Training) Order 2008

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

the National Assembly for Wales in accordance with Standing Order No. 22.34:

approves the draft the National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Education and Training) Order 2008. (NDM3856)

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

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 22.34:

yn cymeradwyo Gorchymyn drafft Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru (Cymhwysedd Deddfwriaethol) (Addysg a Hyfforddiant) 2008. (NDM3856)

I am delighted to have the privilege of presenting the final draft of the National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Education and Training) Order 2008 for additional learning needs for your consideration. This is the first LCO to reach this stage and is, therefore, highly significant. Subject to final agreement by Members today and, subsequently, both Houses of Parliament, it will give the Assembly the power to pass Measures in the area of additional learning needs, a subject that many of you have shown a keen interest in over recent years.

As Members will be aware, the purpose of a legislative competence Order is to confer the power on the National Assembly for Wales to pass its own legislation—Assembly Measures—based on Welsh priorities and Welsh timescales, and, importantly, within the Welsh context. The first draft of this LCO was laid on 12 June 2007, when my predecessor made a statement in Plenary explaining that the current legislation would not allow us to tackle the emerging substantial issues surrounding additional learning needs.

Many of you will be well aware of these issues and several of you aired your concerns, which were highlighted during the cross-party comprehensive review of special education needs conducted by the previous Assembly's Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee. Following referral to an Assembly scrutiny committee established to consider this LCO, Members had the opportunity to examine in detail the scope of the powers being sought and to propose amendments to the Order. The proposed LCO was also presented for scrutiny to the House of Commons' Welsh Affairs Committee and the House of Lords' Constitution Committee.

This process of scrutiny has been extremely rigorous. Having been personally called to give evidence to both the Assembly scrutiny committee, ably chaired by Eleanor Burnham, and the Welsh Affairs Committee, I take this opportunity to congratulate them

Yr wyf wrth fy modd o gael y fraint o gyflwyno drafft terfynol Gorchymyn Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru (Cymhwysedd Deddfwriaethol) (Addysg a Hyfforddiant) 2008 ar gyfer anghenion dysgu ychwanegol ichi ei ystyried. Hwn yw'r Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol cyntaf i gyrraedd y cam hwn ac mae, o'r herwydd, yn hynod arwyddocaol. Yn amodol ar gytundeb terfynol gan Aelodau heddiw ac, wedi hynny, gan ddau dŷ'r Senedd, bydd yn rhoi'r pŵer i'r Cynulliad i basio Mesurau ym maes anghenion dysgu ychwanegol, pwnc y mae nifer ohonoch wedi dangos diddordeb byw ynndo yn y blynyddoedd diweddar.

Fel y gŵyr yr Aelodau, pwrpas Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol yw rhoi pŵer i Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i basio ei ddeddfau ei hun—Mesurau Cynulliad—ar sail blaenoriaethau Cymru ac amserlenni Cymru, ac, yn bwysig, o fewn cyd-destun Cymru. Cyflwynwyd drafft cyntaf y Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol hwn ar 12 Mehefin 2007, pan wnaeth fy rhagflaenydd ddatganiad mewn Cyfarfod Llawn yn esbonio na fyddai'r ddeddfwriaeth gyfredol yn caniatáu inni fynd i'r afael â'r materion sylweddol a oedd yn codi ym maes anghenion dysgu ychwanegol.

Bydd nifer ohonoch yn ymwybodol o'r materion hyn, a lleisiodd llawer ohonoch eich pryderon - pryderon y tynnwyd sylw atynt yn yr adolygiad cynhwysfawr trawsbleidiol o anghenion addysg arbennig a gynhaliwyd gan Bwyllgor Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau'r Cynulliad blaenorol. Wedi cyfeirio'r mater at bwyllgor craffu'r Cynulliad a sefydlwyd i ystyried y Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol hwn, cafodd Aelodau gyfle i archwilio'n fanwl sgôp y pwerau a geisid a chynnig gwelliannau i'r Gorchymyn. Yn ogystal cyflwynwyd y Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol arfaethedig i graffu arno gan Bwyllgor Materion Cymreig Tŷ'r Cyffredin a Phwyllgor Cyfansoddiad Tŷ'r Arglwyddi.

Bu'r broses graffu hon yn hynod drylwyr. Ar ôl cael fy ngalw'n bersonol i roi tystiolaeth i bwyllgor craffu'r Cynulliad, dan gadeiryddiaeth fedrus Eleanor Burnham, a'r Pwyllgor Materion Cymreig, carwn fanteisio ar y cyfle hwn i'w llongyfarch ar eu

on their thorough reviews of the proposed Order and on delivering such comprehensive reports, especially given that this was the first occasion on which they had been asked to consider a legislative competence Order.

The process has provided Members of Parliament and Assembly Members, whether they are members of the committees or not, along with interested parties, organisations and constituents with the opportunity to comment on, question, and suggest amendments to the Order.

All of the recommendations arising from the final reports of both committees have been considered very carefully, and the draft Order before the Assembly today reflects the outcome of that consideration. I do not propose to go into great detail about every aspect of the changes, as Members will find further information in the accompanying explanatory memorandum, which was laid with the final draft Order. However, I will specifically mention two recommendations arising from the Assembly scrutiny committee's final report.

The first focused on whether the definition of disability should be amended to include the word 'communication'. The second related to extending the scope of matter 5.10 of Schedule 5 to the Government of Wales Act 2006 to include travel provision to and from higher education institutions. We take the view that the words 'physical or mental impairment' include communication impairment. To insert a specific reference to communication impairment could have the unintended consequence of casting doubt on the generality of the current formulation of the Order. That conclusion is consistent with the views of the Select Committee on Welsh Affairs. I hope that the specific confirmation I am able to give today will reassure those, such as the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, and the all-Wales speech and language therapy managers committee, who had concerns as to whether the scope of the Order included communication impairment. Therefore, should it be necessary, I can confirm that it would be possible to bring forward a Measure that could specifically address issues around communications impairment,

hadolygiadau trylwyr o'r Gorchymyn arfaethedig ac am gyflwyno adroddiadau mor gynhwysfawr, yn enwedig gan mai dyma'r tro cyntaf y bu gofyn iddynt ystyried Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol.

Mae'r broses wedi rhoi cyfle i Aelodau Seneddol ac Aelodau'r Cynulliad, boed hwy'n aelodau o'r pwyllgorau ai peidio, ynghyd â phartïon â buddiant, mudiadau ac etholwyr, gynnig sylwadau, gofyn cwestiynau a chynnig gwelliannau i'r Gorchymyn.

Mae'r holl argymhellion sy'n codi o adroddiadau terfynol y ddau bwyllgor wedi'u hystyried yn ofalus iawn, ac mae'r Gorchymyn drafft sydd gerbron y Cynulliad heddiw'n adlewyrchu canlyniad yr ystyried hwnnw. Nid wyf yn bwriadu sôn yn fanwl iawn am bob agwedd ar y newidiadau, oherwydd bod rhagor o wybodaeth ar gael i'r Aelodau yn y memorandwm esboniadol, a osodwyd gyda'r Gorchymyn drafft terfynol. Fodd bynnag, cyfeiriaf yn benodol at ddau argymhelliad sy'n codi o adroddiad terfynol pwyllgor craffu'r Cynulliad.

Yr oedd y cyntaf yn canolbwyntio ar a ddylid diwygio'r diffiniad o anabledd i gynnwys y gair 'cyfathrebu'. Yr oedd yr ail yn ymwneud ag ymestyn cwmpas mater 5.10 Atodlen 5 Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006 i gynnwys darpariaeth teithio i sefydliadau addysg uwch ac oddi yno. Ein barn ni yw bod y geiriau 'nam corfforol neu feddyliol' yn cynnwys nam cyfathrebu. Gallai cynnwys cyfeiriad penodol at nam cyfathrebu arwain yn anfwriadol at fwrw amheuaeth ar gyffredinolrwydd y Gorchymyn yn ei ffurf bresennol. Mae'r casgliad hwnnw'n gyson â barn y Pwyllgor Dethol ar Faterion Cymreig. Gobeithiaf y bydd y cadarnhad penodol y gallaf ei roi heddiw'n tawelu meddyliau'r rhai, megis Coleg Brenhinol y Therapyddion Lleferydd ac Iaith, a phwyllgor rheolwyr therapi lleferydd ac iaith Cymru gyfan, a oedd yn poeni a oedd cwmpas y Gorchymyn yn cynnwys nam cyfathrebu. Felly, petai angen, gallaf gadarnhau y byddai'n bosibl cyflwyno Mesur a allai fynd i'r afael yn benodol â materion sy'n ymwneud â nam cyfathrebu, megis, er enghraifft, materion sy'n ymwneud ag unigolyn sydd ag atal dweud.

such as, for instance, those for an individual with a stammer.

The second recommendation related to extending the Assembly's current powers in the area of travel for 'persons in education' to encompass travel provision to and from higher education institutions. The Select Committee on Welsh Affairs also recommended that there should be such an extension. I have accepted this recommendation to the extent that a Measure could make provision about the travel to and from higher education for persons who fall within the definition of this LCO. In addition, there is a further change to the draft LCO that has emerged from consideration given to the proposed learner travel Measure. That has highlighted that the Assembly's current legislative competence does not extend to children under the age of two. I have addressed that by inserting a reference to nursery education. In relation to those persons captured by this LCO, these changes will ensure that the Assembly has powers to legislate in relation to travel irrespective of the age of the learner.

I am sure that Members will agree that our consideration of this Order today is an important step forward for devolution in Wales, as provided for by the Government of Wales Act 2006. Having additional learning needs as the subject of the first legislative competence Order is highly appropriate. It is precisely the sort of legislation that the Assembly should be considering under the Government of Wales Act 2006. A great deal has already been achieved since 1999 in improving services for children and young people with additional learning needs, but I recognise that much still needs to be done to remove barriers to learning and to achieve a consistent approach across Wales. Ensuring that we deliver the best possible services for pupils with additional learning needs will continue to be a key priority. As an Assembly Government, we have put social inclusion at the heart of all our policies.

Policy in this area of education has been developed on a collaborative basis, across the Assembly. If we are to achieve the significant improvements that were sought by the former

Yr oedd yr ail argymhelliad yn ymwneud ag ymestyn pwerau cyfredol y Cynulliad ym maes teithio i 'bobl mewn addysg' er mwyn cwmpasu'r ddarpariaeth teithio i sefydliadau addysg uwch ac oddi yno. Argymhelliad arall gan y Pwyllgor Dethol ar Faterion Cymreig oedd y dylid cael estyniad o'r fath. Yr wyf wedi derbyn yr argymhelliad hwn i'r graddau y gallai Mesur ddarparu ar gyfer teithio i addysg uwch ac oddi yno i bobl sy'n dod o dan ddiffiniad y Gorchymyn hwn. Yn ogystal â hyn, mae newid arall yn y Gorchymyn drafft sydd wedi codi yn sgîl ystyried y Mesur arfaethedig ynghylch teithio gan ddysgwyr. Mae hynny wedi tynnu sylw at y ffaith nad yw cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol y Cynulliad ar hyn o bryd yn cynnwys plant dan ddwyflwydd oed. Yr wyf wedi rhoi sylw i hynny drwy gynnwys cyfeiriad at addysg feithrin. O ran y bobl sy'n dod o dan y Gorchymyn hwn, bydd y newidiadau hyn yn sicrhau bod gan y Cynulliad bwerau i ddeddfu gyda golwg ar deithio, ni waeth beth yw oedran y dysgwr.

Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd yr Aelodau'n cytuno bod ystyried y Gorchymyn hwn heddiw'n gam pwysig ymlaen ar gyfer datganoli yng Nghymru, yn unol â darpariaeth Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006. Mae'r ffaith mai anghenion dysgu ychwanegol yw testun y Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol cyntaf yn briodol iawn. Dyma'r union fath o ddeddfwriaeth y dylai'r Cynulliad fod ei ystyried dan Ddeddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006. Llwyddwyd i wneud llawer iawn eisoes ers 1999 o ran gwella gwasanaethau i blant a phobl ifanc ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol, ond sylweddolaf fod angen gwneud llawer mwy eto i chwalu'r rhwystrau rhag dysgu ac i sicrhau agwedd gyson ledled Cymru. Bydd sicrhau ein bod yn darparu'r gwasanaethau gorau posibl i ddisgyblion sydd ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol yn dal yn flaenoriaeth allweddol. Fel Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, yr ydym wedi rhoi cynhwysiant cymdeithasol wrth wraidd ein polisiau i gyd.

Mae polisi yn y maes hwn o ran addysg wedi cael ei ddatblygu ar sail gydweithredol, ar draws y Cynulliad. Er mwyn sicrhau'r gwelliannau sylweddol a geisiwyd gan y

Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee and the Children's Commissioner for Wales, and which we all want to see put in place for those with additional learning needs, changes to the existing primary legislation are essential.

It is important to acknowledge the opportunities that this LCO offers to all age groups for lifelong learning, so that adult learners in the community sector, the adult education sector, the work-based, further education and higher education sectors can also benefit.

The granting of legislative competence for additional learning needs will enable us to carry forward our policies and make a real difference to the lives of vulnerable Welsh learners, enabling them to participate fully in the many learning opportunities that are available within Wales. Therefore, I commend the Legislative Competence (Education and Training) Order to you for your approval. Diolch yn fawr.

Eleanor Burnham: As Chair of the former Proposed Additional Learning Needs LCO Committee, I am delighted to be able to contribute to today's debate, as I believe that it is history in the making here in the Senedd.

4.50 p.m.

As we know, the committee was established to consider and report on the Order when it was proposed. In so doing, we considered the general principles and looked in considerable detail at how it was drafted to ascertain whether its terms were appropriate. My fellow committee members and I took very seriously the role with which we were tasked. It was important that the proposed Order, which was one of the first to come forward under the new powers introduced by the Government of Wales Act 2006, was subject to rigorous and effective scrutiny. In carrying out our work, we adopted an inclusive approach and consulted widely. We are very grateful to all those who gave evidence to the committee; it was invaluable in assisting us to formulate our report and reach our recommendations.

Pwyllgor Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau blaenorol a Chomisiynydd Plant Cymru, a'r gwelliannau yr ydym i gyd am eu gweld ar gyfer y rhai sydd ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol, mae'n hollbwysig newid y ddeddfwriaeth sylfaenol sydd gennym ar hyn o bryd.

Mae'n bwysig cydnabod y cyfleoedd y mae'r Gorchymyn hwn yn eu cynnig i bob grŵp oedran ar gyfer dysgu gydol oes, er mwyn i oedolion sy'n dysgu yn y sector cymunedol, y sector addysg oedolion, y sector seiliedig ar waith, addysg bellach ac addysg uwch elwa hefyd.

Drwy roi cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol ar gyfer anghenion dysgu ychwanegol, bydd modd inni fwrw ymlaen â'n polisïau a gwneud gwahaniaeth go iawn i fywydau dysgwyr agored i niwed yng Nghymru, gan eu galluogi i gymryd rhan yn llawn yn y llu o gyfleoedd dysgu sydd ar gael yng Nghymru. Felly, cyflwynaf y Gorchymyn Cymhwysedd Deddfwriaethol (Addysg a Hyfforddiant) i chi ei gymeradwyo. Diolch yn fawr

Eleanor Burnham: Fel Cadeirydd y cyn Bwyllgor ar y Gorchymyn Arfaethedig ynghylch Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol, yr wyf wrth fy modd o gael cyfrannu at y ddadl heddiw, gan fy mod yn credu ein bod yn creu hanes yma yn y Senedd.

Fel y gwyddom, sefydlwyd y pwyllgor i ystyried y Gorchymyn pan gynigiwyd ef ac i adrodd yn ei gylch. Wrth wneud hynny, ystyriwyd yr egwyddorion cyffredinol ac edrychwyd yn fanwl iawn ar sut yr oedd wedi'i ddrafftio er mwyn penderfynu a oedd ei eiriad yn briodol. Ymgymerais i, a'm cyd-aelodau ar y pwyllgor, o ddifrif â'r rôl a roddwyd inni. Yr oedd yn bwysig craffu'n fanwl ac yn effeithiol ar y Gorchymyn arfaethedig, un o'r rhai cyntaf i ddod ger ein bron dan y pwerau newydd a gyflwynwyd yn sgil Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006. Wrth wneud ein gwaith, yr oedd ein dull yn gynhwysol gan ymgynghori'n eang. Yr ydym yn ddiolchgar iawn i bawb a roddodd dystiolaeth i'r pwyllgor; yr oedd yn gymorth amhrisiadwy wrth inni baratoi'n hadroddiad a llunio'n hargymhellion.

I also thank Jane Hutt for co-operating so openly with the committee, and for giving due consideration to our report and subsequent recommendations, which she has responded to in a largely positive way. Personally, I wish to thank in particular the hard-working clerk, Liz Wilkinson, and her very effective staff. It has not been easy; I liken the process to swimming in custard.

As the committee's report states, we agreed, in principle, that the legislative competence for the area of additional learning needs should be conferred on the Assembly. We believe that that would provide an opportunity for the Assembly to introduce Measures aimed at improving the current statutory framework for special educational needs and the learning experience of those with additional learning needs. I am sure that we have many such people on our case books. Nevertheless, we felt that the Assembly Government should give further consideration to several issues, particularly the definition of disability and the exclusion of travel arrangements from the proposed Order. In a great deal of the evidence that the committee received, serious concern was raised about the definition of disability. It was a particular concern for several organisations, including the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, which the Minister mentioned previously.

After careful consideration, the committee agreed unanimously that a specific reference to communication impairment was required to provide greater clarity and to ensure that those with communication support needs would be covered by the proposed Order. It is therefore with some disappointment that I note that the Minister chose not to amend the proposed Order to reflect the committee's views on that. I am also slightly concerned that it appears to have been watered down: the title of the now draft Order merely refers to 'education and training', which, in my humble opinion, does not adequately cover the severity of some people's additional learning needs and the seriousness of the issue. I call on the Minister to give further assurance to the Assembly that individuals who have, or have had—because that is just as relevant—a communication impairment

Diolchaf hefyd i Jane Hutt am gydweithredu mor agored â'r pwyllgor ac am roi ystyriaeth ddyledus i'n hadroddiad ac i'n hargymhellion wedyn. Mae wedi ymateb iddynt yn gadarnhaol iawn ar y cyfan. Yn bersonol, dymunaf ddiolch yn benodol i'r clerwr gweithgar, Liz Wilkinson, a'i staff effeithiol iawn. Ni fu'n waith hawdd; byddwn yn cymharu'r broses â nofio mewn cwstard.

Fel y dywed adroddiad y Pwyllgor, yr oeddem yn cytuno, o ran egwyddor, y dylid rhoi cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol i'r Cynulliad ym maes anghenion dysgu ychwanegol. Credwn y byddai hynny'n rhoi cyfle i'r Cynulliad gyflwyno Mesurau sydd â'r nod o wella'r fframwaith statudol presennol ar gyfer anghenion addysgol arbennig a phrofiad dysgu'r rhai sydd ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod gennym lawer o bobl o'r fath ar ein llyfrau achosion. Fodd bynnag, teimlem y dylai Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ystyried sawl mater eto, yn enwedig y diffiniad o anabledd a'r ffaith bod trefniadau teithio wedi'u heithrio o'r Gorchymyn arfaethedig. Yr oedd llawer o'r dystiolaeth a gawsom yn mynegi pryder difrifol ynglŷn â'r diffiniad o anabledd. Yr oedd amryw o gyrff, gan gynnwys Coleg Brenhinol y Therapyddion Lleferydd ac Iaith, yn pryderu'n benodol am hyn, a soniodd y Gweinidog am hyn gynnu.

Ar ôl ystyried yn ofalus, yr oedd y pwyllgor yn unfryd bod angen cyfeirio'n benodol at nam cyfathrebu er mwyn egluro'r sefyllfa'n well ac er mwyn sicrhau y byddai'r rhai y mae arnynt angen cymorth i gyfathrebu yn cael eu cynnwys yn y Gorchymyn arfaethedig. Felly, yr wyf yn siomedig braidd o weld bod y Gweinidog wedi dewis peidio â diwygio'r Gorchymyn arfaethedig i adlewyrchu barn y Pwyllgor am hynny. Yr wyf yn pryderu braidd hefyd ei bod yn ymddangos iddo gael ei lastwreiddio gan nad yw teitl y Gorchymyn drafft bellach ond yn cyfeirio at 'addysg a hyfforddiant'. Yn fy marn ostyngedig i, nid yw hynny'n ddigonol ar gyfer difrifoldeb anghenion dysgu ychwanegol rhai pobl na difrifoldeb y mater. Galwaf ar y Gweinidog i roi mwy o sicrwydd i'r Cynulliad y bydd unigolion sydd â nam cyfathrebu, neu sydd wedi bod â nam

will be covered by the Order.

I welcome the amendment of the Order to bring it more in line with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. As you know, the committee received evidence from the then Disability Rights Commission, which highlighted the need to ensure that the Order would cover individuals with progressive health conditions, and to further ensure that, as such, they would be covered from the point of diagnosis. The commission also raised a concern that the proposed Order did not extend to persons who have had but no longer have a disability. I see that the Minister has addressed that in bringing forward the draft Order, and that is to be welcomed.

You recall, Minister, that, in giving evidence to the committee, you provided assurances that the Order would be drafted in the broadest terms possible and would encompass all persons with a disability. Given that you found it necessary to change the Order to make it more inclusive, it would seem that the Order was not as broad as you had anticipated. Therefore, although I welcome the changes to the Order, I seek further assurances from the Minister that it now captures the full range of disabilities, and does not, inadvertently or otherwise, exclude groups that it was intended should be covered.

Moving to the other key issue raised by the committee and mentioned by the Minister, that of the exclusion of travel arrangements, the Minister is aware that there was a general lack of clarity about the purpose of the exclusion. For this reason, we recommended that the proposed Order be amended to ensure that the reason for excluding travel arrangements from matter 5.17 and the relationship between matter 5.10 and matter 5.17 was made clear. I am therefore pleased to see that the explanatory note to the draft Order has been amended to take account of our views.

In considering the exclusion of travel

cyfathrebu—oherwydd bod hynny yr un mor berthnasol—yn cael eu cynnwys yn y Gorchymyn drafft.

Croesawaf ddiwygio'r Gorchymyn er mwyn sicrhau ei fod yn cydymffurfio mwy â Deddf Gwahaniaethu ar sail Anabledd 1995. Fel y gwyddoch, cafodd y pwyllgor dystiolaeth gan y Comisiwn Hawliau Anabledd, fel yr oedd ar y pryd, a bwysleisiodd fod angen sicrhau y byddai'r Gorchymyn drafft yn cynnwys unigolion sydd â chyflwr iechyd sy'n gwaethygu, a gofalu hefyd y byddent, drwy hynny, yn cael eu cynnwys o adeg y diagnosis. Roedd y ffaith nad oedd y Gorchymyn arfaethedig yn cynnwys pobl sydd wedi bod ag anabledd yn y gorffennol, ond nad ydynt yn anabl erbyn hyn, hefyd yn poeni'r comisiwn. Gwelaf fod y Gweinidog wedi ymdrin â hynny wrth gyflwyno'r Gorchymyn drafft ac mae hynny i'w groesawu.

Fe gofiwch, Weinidog, wrth roi tystiolaeth i'r Pwyllgor, i chi ein sicrhau y byddai'r Gorchymyn arfaethedig yn cael ei ddrafftio yn y ffordd fwyaf eang posibl ac y byddai'n cynnwys pawb a oedd ag anabledd. Gan ichi weld bod angen newid y Gorchymyn i'w wneud yn fwy cynhwysol, ymddengys nad oedd y Gorchymyn mor eang ag yr oeddech wedi rhagweld. Felly, er fy mod yn croesawu'r newidiadau yn y Gorchymyn, hoffwn i'r Gweinidog ein sicrhau eto ei fod yn awr yn cynnwys yr ystod lawn o anabledau ac nad yw, yn anfwriadol neu fel arall, yn eithrio grwpiau y bwriedid eu cynnwys.

A symud yn awr at y mater allweddol arall a godwyd gan y pwyllgor ac a grybwyllwyd gan y Gweinidog, sef bod trefniadau teithio wedi'u heithrio, mae'r Gweinidog yn ymwybodol, mae'n siŵr, fod y rheswm dros eithrio'r trefniadau teithio braidd yn annelwig. Oherwydd hynny, argymhellodd y pwyllgor y dylid diwygio'r Gorchymyn i sicrhau bod y rheswm dros eithrio trefniadau teithio o fater 5.17 a'r berthynas rhwng mater 5.10 a 5.17 yn cael ei egluro. Yr wyf, felly, yn falch o weld bod y nodyn esboniadol ar y Gorchymyn drafft wedi'i ddiwygio i ymateb i'n sylwadau.

Wrth ystyried bod trefniadau teithio wedi'u

arrangements from matter 5.17, it was necessary to explore the scope of matter 5.10. In doing so, we defined that, although matter 5.10 covered primary, secondary and further education and training, it did not extend to higher education. In view of that, we recommend that the legislative competence of the Assembly in respect of matter 5.10 be extended to enable Measures to be brought forward that make provision for travel to and from higher education institutions for persons with additional learning needs. I am sure that members of the former committee will be delighted, like me, that the Minister has accepted that recommendation.

It was somewhat disappointing not to be able to undertake more joint working on the proposed Order with the House of Commons Select Committee on Welsh Affairs. I commend the Chair, Hywel Francis, whom we met at the outset, and he was extremely positive. Regrettably, however, owing to timetabling constraints, we met only once. I am sorry about that, but I am delighted that members of the Select Committee attended our meetings in an observational capacity. They also scrutinised the proposal in detail and I am pleased to note that our respective reports largely complement each other.

I am sure that committee members and others who were involved in the scrutiny of the proposed Order will agree that it was a steep learning curve. As I said, it was like swimming in custard. However, I believe that we have achieved an extremely positive outcome, which proves that our work was effective and worth while. I look forward to a swift positive outcome in the UK Parliament so that we can truly begin to make a difference to those people whom some of us have a care for, and who are in great need of these improvements. In due course, primary powers can cut through the complications and the time constraints that we now have to endure.

On that note, I thank the Minister, the committee, and the Dirprwy Lywydd for her indulgence. I commend this legislative competence Order to you, and look forward to a swift conclusion.

heithrio o fater 5.17, yr oedd angen ymchwilio i gwmpas mater 5.10. Wrth wneud hynny, er bod mater 5.10 yn cwmpasu addysg gynradd, uwchradd, addysg bellach a hyfforddiant, yn ôl ein diffiniad ni, nid oedd yn cynnwys addysg uwch. Oherwydd hynny, argymhellwn y dylid ymestyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol y Cynulliad yng nghyswllt mater 5.10 fel y gellir cyflwyno Mesurau sy'n darparu ar gyfer pobl ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol yn teithio i sefydliadau addysg uwch ac oddi yno. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd aelodau'r pwyllgor blaenorol, a minnau yn eu plith, yn hynod o falch bod y Gweinidog wedi derbyn yr argymhelliad hwnnw.

Yr oedd braidd yn siomedig na fu modd inni gydweithio mwy ar y Gorchymyn arfaethedig gyda Phwyllgor Materion Cymreig Tŷ'r Cyffredin. Cymeradwyaf y Cadeirydd, Hywel Francis, y cyfarfuom ag ef ar y dechrau, ac yr oedd yn hynod o adeiladol. Yn anffodus, fodd bynnag, oherwydd yr amserlen, dim ond unwaith y llwyddasom i gyfarfod. Mae'n flin gennyf am hynny, ond yr wyf wrth fy modd i aelodau'r Pwyllgor Dethol ddod i'n cyfarfodydd fel sylwedyddion. Buont hefyd yn craffu'n fanwl ar y cynnig ac yr wyf yn falch o ddweud bod adroddiadau'r ddau bwyllgor yn ategu ei gilydd i raddau helaeth.

Yr wyf yn siŵr bod aelodau'r pwyllgor a phobl eraill a fu'n ymwneud â chraffu ar y Gorchymyn arfaethedig yn cytuno inni orfod dysgu llawer mewn cyfnod byr. Fel y dywedais, yr oedd fel nofio mewn cwstard. Fodd bynnag, credaf inni sicrhau canlyniad hynod o gadarnhaol, sy'n profi i'n gwaith fod yn effeithiol ac yn werth chweil. Edrychaf ymlaen at ganlyniad cadarnhaol di-oed yn Senedd y DU er mwyn inni ddechrau gwneud gwahaniaeth o ddifrif i'r bobl hynny y mae rhai ohonom yn poeni amdanynt, pobl y mae angen y gwelliannau hyn arnynt yn fawr. Maes o law, gall pwerau sylfaenol chwalu'r cymhlethdodau a'r prinder amser y mae'n rhaid inni eu dioddef ar hyn o bryd.

Wedi dweud hynny, diolchaf i'r Gweinidog, i'r pwyllgor, ac i'r Dirprwy Lywydd am ei goddefgarwch. Cymeradwyaf y Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol hwn ichi, ac edrychaf ymlaen at dynnu'r cyfan i ben yn ddi-oed.

Jeff Cuthbert: I endorse Eleanor's remarks. She has said most of what needs to be said, so I can reduce the length of my comments on the views of the committee. I wish to thank Eleanor for the way in which she chaired the committee, encouraged debate, and welcomed and encouraged the evidence providers. It was a great example to set for our future work on legislative competence Orders and Assembly Measures, in encouraging appropriate organisations and individuals to come to us with their ideas about how things can be improved. I also thank the clerk of the committee and all the staff who assisted us.

I was greatly impressed by the strength of feeling of many of the presenters who came to us, and also by some of the private research undertaken, particularly when I went to meet a number of deaf clubs and organisations working with British Sign Language, for example, which did not present to us formally but were nevertheless interested in our work. For those reasons, particularly the powerful argument presented by the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, I regret that communication impairment is not included explicitly in this legislative competence Order. Nevertheless, I have had many discussions with the Minister on it, and I am quite happy to accept in good faith that the issues raised so powerfully by those organisations will be considered extremely seriously as future Measures are considered and begin to roll out. It is crucial for those people suffering from a range of communication impairments who do not consider themselves to be physically or mentally impaired.

Therefore, there are problems, and we need to understand and recognise their needs. I trust that the Minister can assure us that she will introduce a mechanism for ensuring that organisations such as the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, the various deaf associations and those concerned with speech and language have an opportunity to come forward in an organised and co-ordinated way, to make sure that their concerns are heard and are taken up in the

Jeff Cuthbert: Ate gaf sylwadau Eleanor. Mae wedi dweud y rhan fwyaf y mae angen ei ddweud, felly gallaf gwtogi fy sylwadau i am safbwyntiau'r pwyllgor. Dymunaf ddiolch i Eleanor am y ffordd y cadeiriodd y pwyllgor, y ffordd y bu'n annog pobl i drafod, ac am y croeso a'r anogaeth a roddodd i'r rhai a fu'n rhoi tystiolaeth. Yr oedd yn esiampl wych ar gyfer ein gwaith yn y dyfodol ar Orchmynion cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol a Mesurau'r Cynulliad, o ran annog sefydliadau ac unigolion priodol i ddod atom gyda'u syniadau ynglŷn â sut y gellir gwella pethau. Diolchaf hefyd i glerc y pwyllgor a'r holl staff a fu'n ein cynorthwyo.

Gwnaeth cryfder teimladau llawer o'r cyflwynwyr a ddaeth ger ein bron argraff fawr arnaf, fel y gwnaeth rhywfaint o'r ymchwil breifat a wnaethpwyd, yn enwedig pan euthum i gyfarfod â nifer o glybiau a sefydliadau pobl fyddar sy'n gweithio gydag Iaith Arwyddion Prydain, er enghraifft. Ni ddaeth y rhain atom i roi cyflwyniad ffurfiol inni, er bod ganddynt ddiddordeb yn ein gwaith. Am y rhesymau hynny, yn enwedig y ddadl rymus a gyflwynwyd gan Goleg Brenhinol y Therapyddion Lleferydd ac Iaith, yr wyf yn gresynu nad yw nam cyfathrebu wedi'i gynnwys yn benodol yn y Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol hwn. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf wedi cael llawer o drafodaethau gyda'r Gweinidog am hyn, ac yr wyf yn eithaf bodlon ymddiried ynnddi a derbyn y caiff y materion a godwyd mor rymus gan y sefydliadau hynny eu hystyried yn ddifrifol iawn wrth ystyried Mesurau yn y dyfodol a dechrau eu cyflwyno. Mae hyn yn hollbwysig i'r bobl hynny sy'n dioddef o ystod o namau cyfathrebu ond nad ydynt yn eu hystyried eu hunain yn bobl sydd â nam corfforol neu feddyliol.

Felly, mae ganddynt broblemau, ac mae angen inni ddeall a chydabod eu hanghenion. Hyderaf y gall y Gweinidog roi sicrwydd inni y bydd yn cyflwyno mecanwaith i sicrhau bod sefydliadau megis Coleg Brenhinol y Therapyddion Lleferydd ac Iaith, yr amrywiol gymdeithasau i bobl fyddar a'r rhai sy'n ymwneud â lleferydd ac iaith yn cael cyfle i ddod gerbron mewn ffordd drefnus a chydlynol, er mwyn sicrhau bod rhywun yn gwranddo ar eu pryderon, a

detailed Measures that will follow. I am confident that we can work on that basis of good faith but I, and others, will be looking to make sure that it happens.

I welcome this LCO. It is a massive step forward for people across Wales in our ability to make an important difference to the quality of their learning and to the quality of their lives in general. I am delighted that we are now talking about additional learning needs and not special educational needs, because now we are talking about the development of all people, which is critical. The legislative competence Order refers to all persons.

5.00 p.m.

Many people still believe that we are talking about special educational needs within a school environment. While that is included, we are also talking about adults who are in work and who need that extra support, whether it is provided by their employers or perhaps through their trade union, through organisations such as the Wales Union Learning Fund. It is crucial that we stress that for all people in Wales.

It is cold comfort now for many of the workers who were employed by Remploy. However, for the future, I hope that we can have measures that will provide extra security for workers in sheltered or supported employment, who have as much right to have their professional development needs met as anyone else. I hope that, by working with employers and trade unions, we can make an important difference in that aspect of our additional learning needs support.

The benefits for us in Wales are enormous. If every one grasps this opportunity, I am convinced that the benefits to people, and to the economy, will be considerable. Those who draw down the extra support that we hope to provide will appreciate the issues. They will be grateful for what has been provided for them, and they will feel far more

bod hynny'n cael sylw yn y Mesurau manwl a ddaw wedyn. Yr wyf yn hyderus y gallwn weithio ar sail yr ymddiriedaeth honno, ond byddaf fi, a phobl eraill, yn ceisio gwneud yn siŵr bod hynny'n digwydd.

Croesawaf y Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol hwn. Mae'n gam anferth ymlaen i bobl ledled Cymru o ran ein gallu i wneud gwahaniaeth o bwys i ansawdd eu dysgu ac i ansawdd eu bywydau'n gyffredinol. Yr wyf wrth fy modd ein bod bellach yn sôn am anghenion addysgol ychwanegol, yn hytrach nag am anghenion addysgol arbennig, oherwydd yn awr yr ydym yn sôn am ddatblygiad pawb, sy'n hollbwysig. Mae'r Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol yn cyfeirio at bawb.

Mae llawer o bobl yn dal i gredu ein bod yn siarad am anghenion addysgol arbennig mewn ysgolion. Er bod hynny'n cael ei gynnwys, yr ydym yn siarad hefyd am oedolion sydd mewn gwaith ac y mae angen y cymorth ychwanegol hwnnw arnynt, pa un a yw'n cael ei ddarparu gan eu cyflogwyr neu efallai drwy eu hundeb llafur, drwy fudiadau megis Cronfa Ddysgu Undebau Cymru. Mae'n hanfodol inni bwysleisio hynny ar gyfer holl bobl Cymru.

Nid yw'n gysur o fath yn y byd i lawer o'r gweithwyr a oedd yn cael eu cyflogi gan Remploy. Fodd bynnag, i'r dyfodol, yr wyf yn gobeithio y gallwn gael mesurau a fydd yn rhoi sicrwydd ychwanegol i weithwyr mewn cyflogaeth warchodol neu gyflogaeth dan gymorth, sydd â chymaint o hawl i gael diwallu eu hanghenion datblygu proffesiynol â neb arall. Gobeithiaf, drwy weithio gyda chyflogwyr ac undebau llafur, y gallwn wneud gwahaniaeth pwysig yn yr agwedd honno ar ein cymorth tuag at anghenion dysgu ychwanegol.

Mae'r manteision i ni yng Nghymru yn enfawr. Os bydd pawb yn bachu ar y cyfle hwn, yr wyf yn argyhoeddedig y bydd y manteision i bobl, ac i'r economi, yn sylweddol. Bydd y rhai a fydd yn cael y cymorth ychwanegol yr ydym yn gobeithio'i ddarparu yn sylweddoli'r hyn sydd dan sylw. Byddant yn ddiolchgar am yr hyn sydd wedi

valued in society, as they should be.

Alun Cairns: There are three key levels to how I wish to approach this debate. The first level is the broad principle. The Welsh Conservative Party broadly supports the principle of this LCO. There are significant problems with the current arrangements, and with no apparent plans at Westminster to change the laws, it is right that the Assembly Government should seek to improve the support available to children with special needs in Wales.

The second level is that of the technical issues relating to the LCO itself. It is natural that the Minister wants the broadest possible powers transferred, to ensure that she has the potential to make the maximum impact without having to return to Westminster for more powers at a later stage. The committee considered a number of cases in this area. First, in relation to matter 5.17(a), Estyn and the Disability Rights Commission were broadly happy, although the Office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales wanted it extended to encompass bullying and looked-after children. To my mind there are potential difficulties in relation to this request, in that people who do not have a special need, but who may share in those backgrounds, could be included.

Furthermore, the request of the office of the children's commissioner would expand special educational needs support, and, potentially, statementing, to children whose home language is neither English nor Welsh, increasing the numbers of children dealt with by many local education authorities significantly, and making Wales a magnet for such support. That would be out of line with the Education Act 1996, although the Minister could make that policy decision. The organisation, Rights NOT, wanted a definition of 'greater difficulty in learning'. That is an important point, and although it is debatable whether the LCO need include an exact definition, such a definition would be essential in the code of practice. Having that expressed in percentiles would be one option, because that measure is widely used by

cael ei ddarparu iddynt, a byddant yn teimlo eu bod yn cael eu gwerthfawrogi lawer yn fwy mewn cymdeithas, sef yr hyn a ddylai ddigwydd.

Alun Cairns: Mae tair lefel allweddol i'r ffordd yr wyf am ymdrin â'r ddadl hon. Y lefel gyntaf yw'r egwyddor gyffredinol. Mae Plaid Geidwadol Cymru yn cefnogi egwyddor y Gorchymyn hwn yn gyffredinol. Mae problemau sylweddol gyda'r trefniadau cyfredol, a chan nad oes cynlluniau yn ôl pob golwg yn San Steffan i newid y deddfau, mae'n briodol i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad geisio gwella'r cymorth sydd ar gael i blant ag anghenion arbennig yng Nghymru.

Yr ail lefel yw'r materion technegol yn ymwneud â'r Gorchymyn ei hun. Mae'n naturiol bod y Gweinidog am i'r pwerau ehangaf posibl gael eu trosglwyddo, i sicrhau bod y potensial ganddi i greu'r effaith fwyaf heb orfod mynd yn ôl i San Steffan i gael rhagor o bwerau yn y dyfodol. Ystyriodd y pwyllgor nifer o achosion yn y maes hwn. Yn gyntaf, yng nghyswllt mater 5.17(a), yr oedd Estyn a'r Comisiwn Hawliau Anabledd yn fodlon yn gyffredinol, er bod Swyddfa Comisiynydd Plant Cymru am iddo gael ei ymestyn i gwmpasu bwlio a phlant sy'n derbyn gofal. Yn fy marn i mae anawsterau posibl yng nghyswllt y cais hwn, gan y gallai pobl nad oes ganddynt angen arbennig, ond a all fod fod â'r un cefndiroedd, gael eu cynnwys.

Hefyd, byddai cais swyddfa'r comisiynydd plant yn ehangu'r cymorth ar gyfer anghenion addysgol arbennig, ac, o bosibl, y drefn o roi datganiadau, i blant nad y Gymraeg na'r Saesneg yw iaith eu cartref, gan gynyddu nifer y plant y mae llawer o awdurdodau addysg lleol yn delio â hwy yn sylweddol, a chan wneud Cymru'n fagnet o ran cymorth o'r fath. Ni fyddai hynny'n unol â Deddf Addysg 1996, er y gallai'r Gweinidog wneud y penderfyniad polisi hwnnw. Yr oedd y mudiad, Rights NOT, am gael diffiniad o 'fwy o anhawster wrth ddysgu'. Mae hwnnw'n bwynt pwysig, ac er ei bod yn destun dadl a oes angen i'r Gorchymyn gynnwys diffiniad manwl, byddai diffiniad o'r fath yn hanfodol yn y cod ymarfer. Byddai mynegi hynny ar ffurf canraddau yn un opsiwn, oherwydd y mae'r

educational psychologists.

Matter 5.17(b) relates to the definition of disability. The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists wanted to make 'communication disability' a separate category. The LCO committee accepted this recommendation, but the Minister has rejected it on the grounds that it could limit the scope of the general definition, which already includes communication disabilities.

During the committee stage, I agreed with the speech and language therapists. However, having researched current practice, I note that communication is already included as part of the definitions in the codes and the Act. Therefore, I agree with the Minister's interpretation and intention. The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists believes that a specific classification for communication difficulties would underline the need for early intervention. I agree with the need for early intervention, but that should come from the Measures that would stem from this LCO.

The Royal National Institute of Blind People called for 'sensory loss' to be added, but, again, this is already covered under current practice and the proposed definition. The third technical area related to travel to higher education, and I am pleased that the Minister has accepted the need to extend the LCO in this regard.

The third level on which I wish to approach this LCO relates to outcomes and practicalities. The Minister has not stated explicitly how she intends to use the powers, and although we agree with the broad principle, there are huge risks to this approach, which partly stem from our constitutional settlement. I have concerns about how the Minister may want to use these powers. Currently, the 1996 Act places a duty upon the Minister to issue a code of practice. LEAs, schools and early years settings are to have regard to that code. I accept that the Minister wants to make the code statutory at one level and, at that one level, it will be stronger. However, the Minister will also be able to change the process and level of

mesur hwnnw'n cael ei ddefnyddio'n eang gan seicolegwyr addysgol.

Mae a wnelo mater 5.17(b) â'r diffiniad o anabledd. Yr oedd Coleg Brenhinol y Therapyddion Iaith a Lleferydd am wneud 'anabledd cyfathrebu' yn categori ar wahân. Derbyniodd pwyllgor y Gorchymyn hyn, ond mae'r Gweinidog wedi ei wrthod ar y sail y gallai gyfyngu cwrpas y diffiniad cyffredinol, sydd eisoes yn cynnwys anableddau cyfathrebu.

Yn ystod y cam pwyllgor, yr oeddwn yn cytuno â'r therapyddion iaith a lleferydd. Fodd bynnag, ar ôl ymchwilio i'r arfer cyfredol, nodaf fod cyfathrebu eisoes yn cael ei gynnwys fel rhan o'r diffiniadau yn y codau a'r Ddeddf. Felly, cytunaf â dehongliad a bwriad y Gweinidog. Cred Coleg Brenhinol y Therapyddion Iaith a Lleferydd y byddai dosbarthiad penodol ar gyfer anawsterau cyfathrebu yn tanlinellu'r angen am ymyrryd cynnar. Cytunaf â'r angen am ymyrryd cynnar, ond dylai hynny ddod o'r Mesurau a fyddai'n deillio o'r Gorchymyn hwn.

Galwodd Sefydliad Cenedlaethol Brenhinol y Deillion am ychwanegu 'colli cynneddf y synhwyrau', ond eto, mae hyn yn cael ei gwmpasu eisoes yn yr arfer cyfredol a'r diffiniad arfaethedig. Yr oedd a wnelo'r trydydd maes technegol â theithio i addysg uwch, ac yr wyf yn falch bod y Gweinidog wedi derbyn yr angen i ehangu'r Gorchymyn yn y cyswllt hwn.

Mae a wnelo'r drydedd lefel yr wyf am ymdrin â'r Gorchymyn hwn arni â chanlyniadau ac ystyriaethau ymarferol. Nid yw'r Gweinidog wedi datgan yn benodol sut y mae'n bwriadu defnyddio'r pwerau, ac er ein bod yn cytuno â'r egwyddor gyffredinol, mae peryglon enfawr yn y dull hwn o weithredu, sy'n deillio'n rhannol o'n setliad cyfansoddiadol. Yr wyf yn pryderu am y ffordd y bydd y Gweinidog efallai am ddefnyddio'r pwerau hyn. Ar hyn o bryd, mae Deddf 1996 yn rhoi dyletswydd ar y Gweinidog i gyhoeddi cod ymarfer. Mae AALLau, ysgolion a sefydliadau'r blynyddoedd cynnar i fod i roi sylw i'r cod hwnnw. Yr wyf yn derbyn bod y Gweinidog am wneud y cod yn statudol ar un lefel ac, ar

statutory intervention. SEN tribunals are increasing at a worrying rate. It is under the current arrangements, or the safeguards of the Act, that parents resort to a tribunal out of desperation.

The Minister has already highlighted a wish to reduce the number of statemented children from up to 5 per cent to 1 per cent or less. That can be done in one of two ways: either by improving the funding to LEAs dramatically, to allow for much better provision in schools for SEN children, or by diluting the rights of a child to a statement or to appeal the decision. This is where I fear that the goodwill extended to the Minister, from organisations and charities that have been supportive of the transfer of powers, could be lost. We must be careful that in the hope of improving support for SEN pupils, we do not dilute the ultimate right to a statement by raising the levels of statutory intervention, for example, or that the statement should be less specific under parts 2 and 3.

Let me offer you one brief example. Last week, I had a call from an individual whose local authority had cancelled the contract for speech and language therapy as a result of a lack of funds. The child got in touch with us and, on the basis of the specificity of the statement, which called for two interventions from a speech and language therapist per week, we threatened high-court action, which resulted in the local authority backing down immediately. Reducing the number of statemented children to 1 per cent or less will mean that most with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, for example, will not have a chance of a statement.

Finally, in the knowledge that the Minister will be happy to use the whip to drive special educational needs Measures through the Chamber, I hope that we do not rue the day that we supported the principle of transferring powers for the sake of better services. I would also like to thank the Chair, Eleanor, for the way in which she conducted the committee.

y lefel unigol honno, bydd yn gryfach. Fodd bynnag, bydd y Gweinidog hefyd yn gallu newid proses a lefel yr ymyrryd statudol. Mae tribiwnlysoedd AAA yn cynyddu ar gyfradd sy'n peri pryder. O dan y trefniadau cyfredol, neu'r mesurau diogelu yn y Ddeddf, y mae rhieni'n troi at dribiwnlys yn niffyg popeth arall.

Mae'r Gweinidog eisoes wedi amlygu dymuniad i ostwng nifer y plant sydd â datganiad o 5 y cant i 1 y cant neu lai. Gellir gwneud hynny mewn un o ddwy ffordd: un ai drwy wella'r cyllid i AALLau yn ddramatig, fel y bydd modd darparu'n llawer gwell mewn ysgolion ar gyfer plant AAA, neu drwy wanhau hawliau plentyn i gael datganiad neu i apelio yn erbyn y penderfyniad. Yn y fan hon yr wyf yn ofni y gallai'r ewyllys da a estynnwyd i'r Gweinidog, gan fudiadau ac elusennau sydd wedi cefnogi trosglwyddo'r pwerau, gael ei golli. Rhaid inni fod yn ofalus nad ydym, yn y gobaith o wella'r cymorth i ddisgyblion AAA, yn gwanhau'r hawl yn y pen draw i gael datganiad drwy godi'r lefelau ymyrryd statudol, er enghraifft, neu nad yw'r datganiad yn llai penodol o dan rannau 2 a 3.

Gadewch imi gynnig un enghraifft fer ichi. Yr wythnos diwethaf, cefais alwad gan unigolyn yr oedd ei awdurdod lleol wedi canslo'r contract ar gyfer therapi iaith a lleferydd oherwydd diffyg cyllid. Cysylltodd y plentyn â ni ac, ar sail natur benodol y datganiad, a oedd yn galw am ddau ymyriad gan therapydd iaith a lleferydd yr wythnos, bygythiasom achos uchel lys ac, o ganlyniad, ildiodd yr awdurdod lleol ar unwaith. Bydd gostwng nifer y plant sydd â datganiad i 1 y cant neu lai yn golygu na fydd gan y rhan fwyaf sydd ag anhwylder diffyg canolbwytio a gorfywiogrwydd, er enghraifft, obaith cael datganiad.

Yn olaf, gan wybod y bydd y Gweinidog yn fodlon defnyddio'r chwip i yrru Mesurau anghenion addysgol arbennig drwy'r Siambr, gobeithiaf na fydd yn edifar gennym ein bod wedi cefnogi'r egwyddor o drosglwyddo pwerau er mwyn cael gwell gwasanaethau. Hoffwn innau ddiolch i'r Cadeirydd, Eleanor, am y ffordd y mae wedi arwain y pwyllgor.

Janet Ryder: Like everybody else, I welcome this LCO in front of us today. It is a big step forward. Any of us who sat on the previous education committees and on the reviews into special educational needs know that those reviews clearly highlighted the shortfall in the powers of the Assembly to achieve what the committee was recommending. I hope that the Minister will now return to and pick up those recommendations.

Let us reflect a little on Alun Cairns's contribution to this debate, especially the latter part, as it highlights the quandary that the LCO committee was in. We were debating whether the Assembly should have the powers. That was the responsibility of the committee: should the Assembly hold these powers? That is what we were debating, but the temptation was to debate how the Minister would then use those powers. We have to guard against that as we proceed with this process. I agree with what everybody has said on the process: it is an extremely complicated path to follow, with a committee here, a committee in Westminster, a debate here, and a debate in Westminster, and then we will have to look at the Measures. I think that we have to be specific about what we are doing in all those different rounds. If we are going to look at whether we should hold the powers in the Assembly—as Plaid Cymru Members, we firmly believe that we should hold those powers and that they should be as wide as possible—let us debate that.

It is now up to the Minister to bring forward the Measures and that is when the debate should take place on how we are going to use the powers. Alun is quite right to raise the point that many parents have concerns about how the powers may now be used. However, that is a debate that we need to have and it must be based on whatever Measures the Minister chooses to bring forward. I sincerely hope that the Minister will consult with bodies widely, including all interest and parents' groups, as she brings those Measures forward and before she brings them forward. I am sure that she will do so.

I also share in people's regret that

Janet Ryder: Fel pawb arall, croesawaf y Gorchymyn hwn sydd o'n blaenau heddiw. Mae'n gam mawr ymlaen. Gŵyr unrhyw rai ohonom a fu'n gwasanaethu ar y pwyllgorau addysg blaenorol ac ar yr adolygiadau i anghenion addysgol arbennig i'r adolygiadau hynny amlygu'n glir y diffyg ym mhwerau'r Cynulliad o ran cyflawni'r hyn yr oedd y pwyllgor yn ei argymhell. Gobeithiaf y bydd y Gweinidog yn mynd yn ôl yn awr at yr argymhellion hynny ac yn ailafael ynddynt.

Gadewch inni bwysu a mesur rhywfaint ar gyfraniad Alun Cairns i'r ddatl hon, yn enwedig y rhan olaf, gan ei bod yn pwysleisio'r cyfyng gyngor yr oedd pwyllgor y Gorchymyn ynddo. Yr oeddem yn trafod a ddylai'r Cynulliad gael y pwerau. Dyna oedd cyfrifoldeb y pwyllgor: a ddylai'r Cynulliad feddu ar y pwerau hyn? Dyna yr oeddem yn ei drafod, ond y demtasiwn oedd trafod sut y byddai'r Gweinidog wedyn yn defnyddio'r pwerau hynny. Rhaid inni warchod rhag hynny wrth inni fwrw ymlaen â'r broses hon. Cytunaf â'r hyn y mae pawb wedi'i ddweud am y broses: mae'n llwybr eithriadol o gymhleth i'w ddilyn, gyda phwyllgor yma, pwyllgor yn San Steffan, dadl yma, a dadl yn San Steffan, ac yna bydd yn rhaid inni edrych ar y Mesurau. Credaf fod yn rhaid inni fod yn benodol am yr hyn yr ydym yn ei wneud ym mhob un o'r cylchoedd gwahanol hynny. Os ydym yn mynd i edrych ar bwy ddylai ddal y pwerau yn y Cynulliad—fel Aelodau Plaid Cymru, credwn yn gryf mai ni ddylai ddal y pwerau hynny ac y dylent fod mor eang â phosibl—gadewch inni drafod hynny.

Mater i'r Gweinidog yn awr yw cyflwyno'r Mesurau a dyna pryd y dylid cael y ddatl am sut yr ydym yn mynd i ddefnyddio'r pwerau. Mae Alun yn hollol iawn yn codi'r pwynt fod llawer o rieni'n pryderu am sut y gall y pwerau gael eu defnyddio yn awr. Fodd bynnag, mae honno'n ddatl y mae angen inni ei chael a rhaid ei seilio ar ba Fesurau bynnag y bydd y Gweinidog yn dewis eu cyflwyno. Gobeithiaf yn ddiffuant y bydd y Gweinidog yn ymgynghori'n eang â chyrff, gan gynnwys pob grŵp buddiant a grŵp rhieni, wrth iddi gyflwyno'r Mesurau hyn a chyn iddi eu cyflwyno. Yr wyf yn siŵr y gwnaiff hi hynny.

Yr wyf finnau'n siomedig na chafodd

'communication' was not included in the definition. I think that we had a strong argument on that. We heard all of the arguments, put from every side, and the committee still came to the conclusion that 'communication' should be included in the definition. However, I am pleased to hear the Minister's reassurance that she will consider Measures brought forward in the Assembly, by individuals or whoever else, so that we can address the concerns raised by the speech and language bodies regarding the availability of services.

5.10 p.m.

One of the points that they highlighted was that children who may have had treatment, perhaps a cochlear ear implant, would pass all of the tests and would not be seen as having special educational needs because they could hear, but might nevertheless still need some support to enable them to make up the ground that they had lost educationally. To some extent, the powers in this LCO will allow the Minister to bring forward Measures along those lines. However, I look forward to the possibility of a Member winning the ballot for a Measure and being able to bring a Measure forward on that. I hope that that would gain wide support within the Chamber. Plaid Cymru will certainly support this legislative competence Order. It is the first step, and we look forward to an interesting debate on the future Measures that the Minister will bring forward under these powers.

Kirsty Williams: I thank the committee for its hard work, and its Chair, my colleague, Eleanor Burnham, for the way in which the proposed Order was scrutinised. There is much to be welcomed and much to agree with in the LCO before us. However, Members will be aware from previous debates in previous Assemblies that I have a particular interest in speech and language therapy and services for children with such problems. I would therefore like to restrict my comments to the issue that has already been raised by the Minister and other speakers, namely the Government's refusal to add 'communication' to 'physical or mental impairment' as part of the definition in this

'cyfathrebu' ei gynnwys yn y diffiniad. Credaf fod gennym ddadl gref o ran hynny. Clywsom y dadleuon i gyd, wedi'u cyflwyno o bob ochr, ond daeth y pwyllgor i'r casgliad hyd yn oed wedyn y dylai 'cyfathrebu' gael ei gynnwys yn y diffiniad. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn falch o gael fy sicrhau gan y Gweinidog y bydd yn ystyried Mesurau a gyflwynir yn y Cynulliad, gan unigolion neu bwy bynnag arall, fel y gallwn ymdrin â'r pryderon a godwyd gan gyrff iaith a lleferydd ynglŷn â'r gwasanaethau sydd ar gael.

Un o'r pwyntiau y tynasant sylw ato oedd y byddai plant sydd efallai wedi cael triniaeth, mewnblaniad yn y cochlea hwyrach, yn pasio'r profion i gyd ac na fyddid yn ystyried bod ganddynt anghenion addysgol arbennig gan eu bod yn gallu clywed, ond gallai fod angen rhywfaint o gymorth arnynt serch hynny i adennill y tir yr oeddent wedi'i golli'n addysgol. I ryw raddau, bydd y pwerau yn y Gorchymyn hwn yn caniatáu i'r Gweinidog gyflwyno Mesurau i'r perwyl hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, edrychaf ymlaen at y posibilrwydd y bydd Aelod yn ennill y balot ar gyfer Mesur ac y gall gyflwyno Mesur yn ymdrin â hynny. Gobeithiaf y byddai hwnnw'n ennyn cefnogaeth eang o fewn y Siambr. Bydd Plaid Cymru yn sicr yn cefnogi'r Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol hwn. Dyma'r cam cyntaf, ac yr ydym yn edrych ymlaen at ddadl ddiddorol ar y Mesurau y bydd y Gweinidog yn eu cyflwyno o dan y pwerau hyn yn y dyfodol.

Kirsty Williams: Diolchaf i'r pwyllgor am ei waith caled, ac i'w Gadeirydd, fy nghyd-Aelod, Eleanor Burnham, am y ffordd y craffwyd ar y Gorchymyn arfaethedig. Mae llawer i'w groesawu a llawer i gytuno ag ef yn y Gorchymyn sydd ger ein bron. Fodd bynnag, bydd yr Aelodau'n ymwybodol yn sgîl dadleuon blaenorol mewn Cynulladau blaenorol fod gennyf ddiddordeb neilltuol mewn therapi iaith a lleferydd a gwasanaethau i blant sydd â phroblemau o'r fath. Hoffwn felly gyfyngu fy sylwadau i'r mater sydd eisoes wedi cael ei godi gan y Gweinidog a siaradwyr eraill, sef bod y Llywodraeth yn gwrthod ychwanegu 'cyfathrebu' at 'nam corfforol neu feddyliol'

LCO. The Minister has repeated her justification for this, that its inclusion:

‘could have the unintended consequence of casting doubt on the generality of the current formulation.’

What? Perhaps the first Measure that could arise under this LCO is one that improves the Government’s ability to communicate using ordinary language. The Government’s argument seems to be that, by making a direct reference to the issue of communication, the definition could become vague, but that leaving it out makes it clearer. That seems counterintuitive. If the Minister is concerned that the inclusion of ‘communication’ would, at a future date, lead to another form of impairment not being covered by this particular LCO because the word ‘communication’ had been added to ‘physical or mental impairment’, then I would challenge the Minister to name one and to come up with an example of why, at a later date, someone with another impairment would be left out.

The Government’s attitude establishes the principle that a communication impairment is either a physical or a mental impairment. That may be the case in established case law, but in reality, sensory impairments often have very different features, both in symptoms and origin, from those of physical or mental impairments. At no point during this debate, or when reading through the minutes of the LCO committee, have I seen an adequate explanation from the Minister regarding her belief that there is a legal basis for considering ‘physical and mental impairment’ to be an established phrase that addresses all impairments, including communication impairments, which has caused great concern.

The Liberal Democrats will support the LCO today, because, as I said, there is much to be welcomed in it. However, the failure to take on board the recommendations of many bodies and organisations with expertise in this particular field, and the recommendations of the committee, is to be regretted.

fel rhan o’r diffiniad yn y Gorchymyn hwn. Mae’r Gweinidog wedi ailadrodd ei chyfiawnhad dros hyn, y gallai ei gynnwys:

‘arwain yn anfwriadol at fwrw amheuaeth ar gyffredinolrwydd y Gorchymyn yn ei ffurf bresennol.’

Beth? Efallai mai’r Mesur cyntaf a allai godi o dan y Gorchymyn hwn fydd un sy’n gwella gallu’r Llywodraeth i gyfathrebu gan ddefnyddio iaith gyffredin. Mae’n ymddangos mai dadl y Llywodraeth yw y byddai’r diffiniad, drwy gyfeirio’n uniongyrchol at fater cyfathrebu, yn mynd yn amwys, ond bod ei hepgor yn ei wneud yn gliriach. Mae hynny’n ymddangos yn groes i’r hyn y byddid yn ei ddisgwyl. Os yw’r Gweinidog yn pryderu y byddai cynnwys y gair ‘cyfathrebu’ yn peri, yn y dyfodol, na fyddai math arall o nam yn cael ei gwmpasu gan y Gorchymyn penodol hwn oherwydd bod y gair ‘cyfathrebu’ wedi cael ei ychwanegu at ‘nam corfforol neu feddyliol’, yna byddwn yn herio’r Gweinidog i enwi un ac i gynnig esiampl i ddangos pam, yn y dyfodol, y câi rhywun sydd â nam arall ei adael allan.

Mae agwedd y Llywodraeth yn sefydlu’r egwyddor bod nam cyfathrebu un ai’n nam corfforol neu feddyliol. Efallai mai dyna’r sefyllfa mewn cyfraith prawf sefydledig, ond mewn gwirionedd, mae i namau ar y synhwyrau yn aml nodweddion gwahanol iawn, o ran symptomau a tharddiad, i nodweddion namau corfforol neu feddyliol. Nid wyf ar unrhyw adeg yn ystod y ddadl hon, nac wrth imi ddarllen drwy gofnodion pwyllgor y Gorchymyn, wedi gweld esboniad digonol gan y Gweinidog ynglŷn â’i chred bod sail gyfreithiol i ystyried bod ‘nam corfforol a meddyliol’ yn ymadrodd sefydledig sy’n ymdrin â phob nam, gan gynnwys namau cyfathrebu, ac mae hynny’n achosi pryder mawr.

Bydd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn cefnogi’r Gorchymyn heddiw, oherwydd, fel yr wyf wedi dweud, mae llawer i’w groesawu ynddo. Fodd bynnag, mae’r methiant i dderbyn argymhellion llawer o gyrff a mudiadau sydd ag arbenigedd yn y maes penodol hwn, ac argymhellion y pwyllgor, yn destun gofid.

Karen Sinclair: I take this opportunity to welcome this draft legislative competence Order to the Chamber today. I look forward to its impact, because I believe that this LCO will help the Assembly to prepare the Assembly Measures that are needed to assist thousands of young lives over the next few years. It will help provide children with special educational needs with the early, informed and comprehensive support that they need and will provide the bedrock upon which they can build their lives, giving them a chance to realise their full potential. I would also like to thank the members of the Proposed Additional Learning Needs LCO Committee for the report they have prepared. The work that they have done is authoritative and comprehensive, and I welcome the committee's contribution to the wider debate about the needs of those with special educational requirements.

I will curtail my comments to a couple of areas, the first of which is summarised in point 5 of the LCO committee report, namely the request that the Assembly Government gives consideration to amending the definition of disability set out in matter 5.17 of the proposed Order, to include the word 'communication' in the definition outlined in the LCO. I agree entirely with Kirsty. In reading the evidence taken by the committee on this point, it seems that there is widespread support for change, which I raised right at the beginning, when this LCO was first floated. The all-Wales speech and language therapy managers committee raised concern that the definition used in the proposed Order would not cover the full range of communication disabilities, emphasising the importance of early intervention for children with communication support needs—

Alun Cairns: Will you take an intervention?

Karen Sinclair: In a minute, Alun. The committee raised concern that the definition used in the proposed Order would not cover the full range of communication disabilities, emphasising the importance of early intervention for children with communication

Karen Sinclair: Achubaf y cyfle hwn i groesawu'r Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol drafft hwn i'r Siambr heddiw. Edrychaf ymlaen at ei effaith, oherwydd yr wyf yn credu y bydd y Gorchymyn hwn yn help i'r Cynulliad baratoi'r Mesurau Cynulliad y mae eu hangen i helpu miloedd o fywydau ifanc dros y blynyddoedd nesaf. Bydd yn helpu i roi i blant sydd ag anghenion addysgol arbennig y cymorth cynnar, gwybodus a chynhwysfawr y mae ei angen arnynt a bydd yn rhoi'r sylfaen y gallant adeiladu eu bywydau arni, gan roi cyfle iddynt wireddu eu potensial yn llawn. Hoffwn ddiolch hefyd i aelodau'r Pwyllgor ar y Gorchymyn ynghylch Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol am yr adroddiad y maent wedi'i baratoi. Mae'r gwaith y maent wedi'i wneud yn awdurdodol a chynhwysfawr, ac yr wyf yn croesawu cyfraniad y pwyllgor at y ddadl ehangach am anghenion y rhai sydd â gofynion addysgol arbennig.

Cyfyngaf fy sylwadau i ddau faes. Crynhoir y cyntaf ohonynt ym mhwynt 5 adroddiad pwyllgor y Gorchymyn, sef y cais am i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad ystyried newid y diffiniad o anabledd a gyflwynir ym mater 5.17 yn y Gorchymyn arfaethedig, i gynnwys y gair 'cyfathrebu' yn y diffiniad a amlinellwyd yn y Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol. Cytunaf yn llwyr â Kirsty. Wrth ddarllen y dystiolaeth a gymerodd y pwyllgor ar y pwynt hwn, mae'n ymddangos bod cefnogaeth gyffredinol o blaid ei newid, rhywbeth a godais ar y dechrau un, pan awgrymwyd y Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol hwn gyntaf. Mynegwyd pryder gan bwyllgor rheolwyr therapi iaith a lleferydd Cymru gyfan na fyddai'r diffiniad a ddefnyddir yn y Gorchymyn arfaethedig yn cynnwys holl amrediad yr anableddau cyfathrebu, a rhoddodd bwys ar ymyriadau cynnar ar gyfer plant sydd ag anghenion o ran cael cymorth i gyfathrebu—

Alun Cairns: A wnewch dderbyn ymyriad?

Karen Sinclair: Ymhen munud, Alun. Mynegodd y pwyllgor bryder na fyddai'r diffiniad a ddefnyddir yn y Gorchymyn arfaethedig yn cynnwys holl amrediad yr anableddau cyfathrebu, gan bwysleisio pwysigrwydd ymyriadau cynnar ar gyfer

support needs and providing appropriate educational support and provision for them.

Alun Cairns: I am grateful to the Member for giving way. I also want to support those people with communication difficulties. Those people are covered by current legislation, and the definitions contained within the LCO are based on the definitions currently covered. It is hardly my place to support the Minister in what she is saying, but current practice allows for it, and I believe that being specific only in one regard would potentially exclude others.

Karen Sinclair: The whole emphasis was on making it clear that communication was very important in providing additional help within classrooms. That word should have been included. I am aware that the Minister is concerned that, by adding the word 'communication' to the definition of impairment, she may cast doubt on the generality of the definition of physical or mental impairment. However, that view is not shared by many service providers on the ground. Indeed, in its evidence, the Royal National Institute for Deaf People said that a communication disability is a separate category to either physical or mental impairment. Culturally deaf people do not consider themselves to have a physical disability, and that is something that people need to understand. This warranted the insertion of the word 'communication' into the definition, which is what RNID wanted.

Having worked with many of these groups on these issues, I cannot stress enough how important it is that we take note of what practitioners and stakeholders on the ground say to us. I am disappointed that the Minister has not been persuaded by the evidence on this point.

The second issue that I want to raise is in regard to point 4 of the committee's report, which deals with those who have greater difficulty in learning than the majority of persons of the same age, in matter 5.17 of the proposed Order. I know that it is the

plant sydd ag anghenion o ran cael cymorth i gyfathrebu a chynnig cymorth a darpariaeth addysgol briodol iddynt.

Alun Cairns: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r Aelod am ildio. Yr wyf finnau am gynorthwyo'r bobl hynny sydd ag anawsterau cyfathrebu. Mae'r bobl hynny'n dod dan ddeddfwriaeth sy'n bod, ac mae'r diffiniadau sydd yn y Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol wedi'u seilio ar y diffiniadau sydd wedi'u cynnwys ar hyn o bryd. Prin mai fy lle i yw cefnogi'r Gweinidog yn yr hyn y mae'n ei ddweud, ond mae'r arferion presennol yn caniatáu hynny, a chredaf y byddai cyfeirio'n benodol at un mater yn unig yn gallu cau allan rhai eraill.

Karen Sinclair: Yr oedd yr holl bwyslais ar egluro bod cyfathrebu'n bwysig iawn wrth ddarparu cymorth ychwanegol mewn ystafelloedd dosbarth. Dylid bod wedi cynnwys y gair hwnnw. Yr wyf yn ymwybodol bod y Gweinidog yn bryderus y byddai, wrth ychwanegu'r gair 'cyfathrebu' at y diffiniad o nam, yn gallu bwrw amheuaeth ar gyffredinolrwydd y diffiniad o nam corfforol neu feddyliol. Fodd bynnag, nid felly y mae llawer o ddarparwyr gwasanaethau lleol yn meddwl. Yn wir, yn ei dystiolaeth, dywedodd Sefydliad Cenedlaethol Brenhinol Pobl Fyddar fod anabledd cyfathrebu'n gategori ar wahân i nam corfforol neu nam meddyliol. Nid yw pobl sy'n fyddar yn ddiwylliannol yn ystyried bod ganddynt anabledd corfforol, ac mae angen i bobl ddeall hynny. Yr oedd hyn yn cyfiawnhau cynnwys y gair 'cyfathrebu' yn y diffiniad, sef yr hyn a ddymunai'r RNID.

A minnau wedi gweithio gyda llawer o'r grwpiau hyn ar y materion hyn, ni allaf bwysleisio digon mor bwysig ydyw inni gymryd sylw o'r hyn y mae ymarferwyr a rhanddeiliaid lleol yn ei ddweud wrthym. Yr wyf yn siomedig nad yw'r Gweinidog wedi'i darbwyllo gan y dystiolaeth ar y pwynt hwn.

Mae'r ail fater y dymunaf ei godi'n ymwneud â phwynt 4 yn adroddiad y pwyllgor, sy'n ymdrin â'r rhai sy'n ei chael yn fwy anodd dysgu na'r rhan fwyaf o bobl o'r un oed, ym mater 5.17 yn y Gorchymyn arfaethedig. Gwn mai barn y pwyllgor yw y bydd y

committee's view that the Order is sufficiently broad in scope to encompass those who, for whatever reason, have additional learning needs and, consequently, require additional support for learning, but I have my doubts whether this will be the case. The Children's Commissioner for Wales made the point that children and young people may require additional support for a variety of reasons and proposed extending the Order to include persons who have additional learning needs as a consequence of other causes. That is a point on which I have to agree with the children's commissioner. We have said many times in the Chamber that the outcomes for vulnerable children, particularly in terms of educational outcomes, are woeful—looked-after children do not reach their full potential. They need, and have a right to, additional support at certain times in their life, to enable them to fulfil that untapped potential.

Those are just two issues with what is, on the whole, a very positive move for children with additional learning needs in Wales. There has been a glaring issue of social injustice within our education system and our society for some time, and I look forward to helping craft the first Assembly Measures on this important issue.

Mark Isherwood: I speak as a member of the Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee that produced reports on early intervention and statementing. There is much that needs to be done, some of which can be dealt with within existing powers, and some of which can not. I will cite two examples that could be dealt with. One is a case that was referred to by parents, where so-called 'naughty children' were excluded from school during an Estyn inspection week. These children had attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder and their parents have gone on to form a parent support group in north Wales. Another example is the good work done by Bangor University's School of Psychology in collaboration with Flintshire and Wrexham local education authorities, as well as with Gwynedd. Both projects relate to the delivery of applied behaviour analysis methods to teach skills and to manage difficult behaviours of young people with

Gorchymyn yn ddigon eang i gynnwys y rhai sydd ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol, am ba reswm bynnag, ac sydd, o ganlyniad, ag angen cymorth ychwanegol i ddysgu, ond yr wyf yn amau nad felly y bydd. Gwnaeth Comisiynydd Plant Cymru bwynt i'r perwyl y gall fod ar blant a phobl ifanc angen cymorth ychwanegol am amryw o resymau a chynigiodd ehangu cwmipas y Gorchymyn i gynnwys rhai sydd ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol o ganlyniad i achosion eraill. Rhaid imi gytuno â'r comisiynydd plant ar y pwynt hwnnw. Yr ydym wedi dweud droeon yn y Siambr fod y canlyniadau i blant sy'n agored i niwed, yn enwedig yng nghydestun canlyniadau addysgol, yn rhai truenus—nid yw plant sy'n derbyn gofal yn gwireddu eu potensial. Mae arnynt angen cymorth ychwanegol ar rai adegau yn eu bywyd, i'w galluogi i wireddu eu potensial, ac mae ganddynt hawl i'w gael.

Dim ond dau fater yw'r rheini sy'n codi mewn cysylltiad â'r hyn sydd, at ei gilydd, yn newid llesol iawn i blant sydd ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol yng Nghymru. Bu anghyfiawnder cymdeithasol amlwg yn ein system addysg ac yn ein cymdeithas ers cryn amser, ac edrychaf ymlaen at helpu i lunio'r Mesurau Cynulliad cyntaf ar y mater pwysig hwn.

Mark Isherwood: Siaradaf fel aelod o'r Pwyllgor Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau a luniodd adroddiadau ar ymyriadau cynnar a rhoi datganiadau. Mae llawer y mae angen ei wneud, a gellir delio â rhywfaint—ond nid y cyfan ohono—o dan y pwerau presennol. Cyfeiriai at ddwy enghraifft y gellid delio â hwy. Mae un ohonynt yn achos y cyfeiriwyd ato gan rieni, lle'r oedd 'plant drwg', fel y'u gelwid, wedi'u gwahardd o'r ysgol yn ystod wythnos pan gynhaliwyd arolwg gan Estyn. Yr oedd anhwylder diffyg canolbwyntio a gorfywiogrwydd ar y plant hyn ac mae eu rhieni wedi mynd ati i sefydlu grŵp cymorth i rieni yn y gogledd. Enghraifft arall yw'r gwaith da a wneir gan Ysgol Seicoleg Prifysgol Bangor ar y cyd ag awdurdodau addysg lleol sir y Fflint a Wrecsam, yn ogystal â Gwynedd. Mae'r ddau brosiect yn ymwneud â rhoi dulliau dadansoddi ymddygiad cymwysedig ar waith i addysgu sgiliau a rheoli mathau anodd o

autism. I, like many others, visited the Westwood project in Buckley before Christmas and saw the fantastic work that it does. However, I am advised that it would be better value for money if local authorities combined resources to make applied behaviour analysis available in schools to pupils with autistic spectrum disorder across the region and beyond, and to provide for other additional learning needs and conditions on a regional basis—perhaps that is something for regional partnership in the future.

5.20 p.m.

However, legislative competence through the LCO has the potential to tackle many other areas of concern. We have heard about the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists wanting to make communication disability a separate category to physical or mental impairment. We have also heard the advice that communication is already included as part of the definitions of the code and Act. Therefore, I must respect my colleague Alun Cairns's agreement with the Minister's interpretation and intention. Notwithstanding that, doubt now exists as to into which category children with communication impairment would fall—physical or mental categories—when communication impairment means a difficulty to decode or understand what is being said and a difficulty expressing oneself through the spoken word.

Many organisations representing deaf people also ask that the term 'communication' be added to the physical or mental categories which are part of the definition of this LCO. They acknowledge the advice from lawyers, as noted and followed by the Welsh Affairs Committee in its consideration of the Order, that communication impairments would be considered as being within the term 'physical or mental disability'. However, they add that it is not explained why adding a term to a phrase can, in turn, make it vaguer. They ask whether adding the phrase 'communication' means that, in future, communication impairment could be considered to be outside the terms of the Assembly's competency,

ymddygiad ymysg pobl ifanc sydd ag awtistiaeth. Fel llawer un arall, ymwelais â phrosiect Westwood ym Mwele cyn y Nadolig a gwelais y gwaith gwych y mae'n ei wneud. Fodd bynnag, fe'm hysbyswyd y ceid gwerth gwell am arian pe byddai awdurdodau lleol yn cyfuno'u hadnoddau er mwyn darparu dulliau dadansoddi ymddygiad cymwysedig mewn ysgolion ar gyfer disgyblion sydd ag anhwylder yn y sbectrwm awtistig ym mhob cwr o'r rhanbarth a'r tu hwnt, a darparu ar gyfer anghenion dysgu ychwanegol eraill a chyflyrau eraill yn y rhanbarth—efallai y gellid gwneud hynny drwy bartneriaeth ranbarthol yn y dyfodol.

Fodd bynnag, gellid defnyddio cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol y Gorchymyn i ddelio â llawer o feysydd eraill sy'n peri pryder. Yr ydym wedi clywed am ddymuniad Coleg Brenhinol y Therapyddion Iaith a Lleferydd i wneud anabledd cyfathrebu'n gategori ar wahân i nam corfforol neu feddyliol. Yr ydym hefyd wedi clywed y cyngor bod cyfathrebu eisoes yn rhan o ddiffiniadau'r cod a'r Ddeddf. Felly, rhaid imi barchu'r ffaith bod fy nghyd-Aelod Alun Cairns yn cyd-weld â dehongliad a bwriad y Gweinidog. Er hynny, mae amheuaeth yn awr ynghylch pa gategori y byddai plant sydd â nam cyfathrebu'n perthyn iddo—categori corfforol ynteu categori meddyliol—os yw nam cyfathrebu'n golygu anhawster wrth ddehongli neu ddeall yr hyn a ddywedir ac anhawster wrth eich mynegi'ch hun ar lafar.

Mae llawer o gyrff sy'n cynrychioli pobl fyddar yn gofyn hefyd am ychwanegu'r gair 'cyfathrebu' at y categorïau corfforol neu feddyliol sy'n rhan o'r diffiniad yn y Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol hwn. Maent yn cydnabod y cyngor a gafwyd gan gyfreithwyr, a nodwyd ac a ddilynwyd gan y Pwyllgor Materion Cymreig wrth iddo ystyried y Gorchymyn, y byddid yn ystyried bod namau cyfathrebu wedi'u cynnwys yn y term 'anabledd corfforol neu feddyliol'. Fodd bynnag, ychwanegant nad esbonnir pam y byddai ychwanegu term at ymadrodd yn gallu ei wneud wedyn yn fwy annelwig. Gofynnant a yw ychwanegu'r gair 'cyfathrebu' yn golygu y gellid ystyried bod nam cyfathrebu,

whereas its omission ensures its inclusion. They also ask if there are other forms of impairment of which inclusion within the competencies of the Assembly might be disputed if 'communication' were added, and, if so, which ones.

Speaking from personal experience, I know that the statementing process, which was intended as a safety net, became a certificate of entitlement. Having a statement is no guarantee that support will be provided, but having no statement can be a guarantee that support will not be provided. I also know that there is a geographical pattern to SEN tribunal cases, where some regions appear to have significantly less; we do not know what is behind that. It needs to be looked into—it could be good news or it could be something of greater concern.

In this context, the Assembly Government has a set of educational standards for those with additional learning needs. Although not perfect, they are a robust and useful set of standards. However, if these standards were set up universally, the number of children with statements would decrease significantly as their needs would be met without the need for the statementing process. However, currently, statements are for many children, in most LEAs, the only way of accessing the necessary support. This issue has ramifications for the statementing review process, which is not addressed by the aspirations of the former committee on which I sat nor by the Government's review to date on the issue. Statements are the only gateway to specialist services and, without proposals to ensure that these services exist of right, a reduction in statementing levels will simply deprive many children of essential education services. I am sure that that is not the intention of any Assembly Member.

Finally, the memorandum to the LCO is clear about the powers for those suffering from degenerative illness that can lead to impairment, but less clear about illnesses such as glue ear that can be remedied but can,

yn y dyfodol, y tu allan i gymhwysedd y Cynulliad, tra bod ei hepgor yn sicrhau ei fod yn cael ei gynnwys. Holant hefyd a oes mathau eraill o nam y gellid dadlau ynghylch eu cynnwys yng nghymhwysedd y Cynulliad ped ychwanegid 'cyfathrebu', ac, os felly, pa rai.

A siarad o brofiad, gwn fod y broses o roi datganiadau, y bwriedid iddi fod yn rhwyd ddiogelwch, wedi troi'n dystysgrif hawl. Nid yw bod â datganiad yn sicrhau y darperir cymorth, ond mae bod heb ddatganiad yn gallu golygu na roddir cymorth o gwbl. Gwn hefyd fod patrwm daeryddol i achosion y tribiwnlys anghenion addysgol arbennig, lle y mae'n ymddangos bod llai o lawer mewn rhai rhanbarthau; ni wyddom beth sy'n achosi hynny. Mae angen ymchwilio iddo—gallai fod yn newyddion da neu gallai fod yn rhywbeth sy'n achosi mwy o bryder.

Yn y cyd-destun hwn, mae gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad set o safonau addysgol ar gyfer y rhai sydd ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol. Er nad ydynt yn berffaith, maent yn set o safonau sy'n drwyadl ac yn fuddiol. Er hynny, pe cyflwynid y safonau hyn yn gyffredinol, byddai nifer y plant sydd â datganiadau'n gostwng yn sylweddol gan y byddai eu hanghenion yn cael eu diwallu heb fod angen proses o roi datganiadau. Fodd bynnag, ar hyn o bryd, yn achos llawer o blant yn y rhan fwyaf o'r AALLau, datganiadau yw'r unig fodd i gael mynediad at y cymorth angenrheidiol. Mae goblygiadau yn y mater hwn o ran y broses o adolygu datganiadau, na roddir sylw iddi yn nyheadau'r pwyllgor blaenorol yr eisteddwn arno nac ychwaith hyd yma yn adolygiad y Llywodraeth o'r mater. Datganiadau yw'r unig gyfrwng i gael gwasanaethau arbenigol ac, os na cheir cynigion i sicrhau bod y gwasanaethau hyn ar gael fel mater o hawl, yr unig ganlyniad i ostyngiad yn lefelau'r datganiadau fydd amddifadu llawer o blant o wasanaethau addysg hanfodol. Yr wyf yn siŵr nad yw hynny'n fwriad gan ddim un Aelod Cynulliad.

Yn olaf, mae'r memorandwm ar y Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol yn glir ynghylch y pwerau ar gyfer y rhai sydd â salwch dirywiol sy'n gallu achosi nam, ond mae'n llai clir ynghylch salwch megis

potentially, leave the child behind in his or her educational and social development. So, will the LCO allow the Assembly to legislate to encompass children who have a past communication impairment and no longer suffer from it, but, as the result of that impairment, would benefit from additional support?

The Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (Jane Hutt): I thank Members for their considered and helpful contributions this afternoon. This is complex, but I would not say, Eleanor, that it is like wading through custard. It is our opportunity to demonstrate our maturity and confidence to handle these new powers and opportunities. Again, I pay tribute to the role that you played, Eleanor, as the Chair of the first scrutiny committee on this important LCO.

The committee has played an important role, and its members, who have spoken today, have helped to scrutinise and clarify the opportunities and the extent and scope of the legislative competence Order. The scope is what we must look at to ensure that we get it right with this precious opportunity; I call it a precious opportunity because this is about changing primary legislation as a result of your input and scrutiny.

As Jeff said, the important and robust contributions that were made in the evidence-giving sessions is evidence again of how we are moving, in terms of our devolution settlement, to enabling the outside world—the professionals, users, consumers and civic society—to impact and influence the development of Welsh laws. It is about making law in Wales, and, as the Welsh Affairs Select Committee reminded us, it is about powers for a purpose. We are assured that these are our powers that we can take forward. I thank all those organisations for their response and contribution. Because we are accessible and because we want to ensure that we get this right, I take on board the concerns that have been raised about whether or not we should include communication difficulties in the Order.

gormod o gŵyr yn y glust y gellir ei wella ond a allai arafu datblygiad addysgol a chymdeithasol y plentyn. Felly, a fydd y Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol yn caniatáu i'r Cynulliad ddeddfu i gynnwys plant a oedd â nam cyfathrebu yn y gorffennol ac sydd bellach wedi gwella ar ei ôl, ond a fyddai, o ganlyniad i'r nam hwnnw, yn elwa o gael cymorth ychwanegol?

Y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau (Jane Hutt): Diolchaf i'r Aelodau am eu cyfraniadau ystyriol a buddiol y prynhawn yma. Mae hyn yn gymhleth, ond ni ddywedwn, Eleanor, ei bod yn debyg i gerdded drwy gwstard. Mae'n gyfle i ni ddangos ein haeddfedrwydd a'n hyder wrth drafod y pwerau a'r cyfleoedd newydd hyn. Unwaith eto, canmolaf y rhan a gymerasoch, Eleanor, fel Cadeirydd y pwyllgor craffu cyntaf ar y Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol pwysig hwn.

Mae'r pwyllgor wedi chwarae rôl bwysig, ac mae ei aelodau, sydd wedi siarad heddiw, wedi helpu i egluro a chraffu ar y cyfleoedd ac ar gwmpas a hyd a lled y Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol. Y cwmpas yw'r hyn y mae'n rhaid inni ei ystyried er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn llwyddo wrth achub y cyfle gwerthfawr hwn; fe'i galwaf yn gyfle gwerthfawr am fod hyn yn ymwneud â newid deddfwriaeth sylfaenol o ganlyniad i'ch mewnbwn a'ch craffu.

Fel y dywedodd Jeff, mae'r cyfraniadau pwysig a thrwyadl a gafwyd yn y sesiynau rhoi tystiolaeth yn dangos eto sut yr ydym yn symud ymlaen, o ran ein setliad datganoli, i alluogi'r rhai ar y tu allan—y gweithwyr proffesiynol, y defnyddwyr a chymdeithas ddinesig—i ddylanwadu ac effeithio ar y broses o ddatblygu deddfau yng Nghymru. Mae'n ymwneud â deddfu yng Nghymru, ac, fel y gwnaeth y Pwyllgor Dethol ar Faterion Cymreig ein hatgoffa, mae'n ymwneud â rhoi pwerau at ddiben penodol. Cawn ein sicrhau mai ein pwerau ni yw'r rhain, i'w defnyddio gennym. Diolchaf i bob un o'r cyrff hynny am eu hymateb a'u cyfraniad. Gan ein bod yn barod i wrando ac am ein bod am sicrhau ein bod yn llwyddo yn hyn o beth, ystyriaf y pryderon a fynegwyd ynghylch a ddylem gynnwys anawsterau cyfathrebu yn y Gorchymyn ai peidio.

I take on board Kirsty's point, but, as Minister, I must be clear that I am not constraining the competence that we are seeking. Therefore, I must make clear what I accept and what I will take forward in terms of this LCO. I also thank Alun for recognising the assurance that I have given that communication difficulties are included in physical and mental impairment. I have clearly indicated that that will come through in terms of a specific recognition in Measures.

Many people have raised concerns about the dangers in seeking to be too prescriptive as far as additional learning needs are concerned; Eleanor, Jeff, Kirsty, Karen and Janet referred to this. You have scrutinised this, but we must consider the advice, that there are real dangers in being too prescriptive as far as additional learning needs are concerned. It could prove that the courts might hold that, in being too prescriptive, the underlying purpose of having a generalised statement of physical and mental impairment would be undermined. To avoid that, we would need to provide a comprehensive list, which, as many Members would recognise, would be impossible. So, I have tried to make it consistently clear throughout the discussions leading to this debate, and reiterated in my opening statement, that I am satisfied that communication difficulties would be covered by the existing formulation of physical and mental impairment. If we included communication difficulties, what would happen about sensory difficulties, for example? There is a problem that, if you included communication difficulties, you might lose out sensory difficulties. There are other examples where there could be a case for explicit references in the proposed Order—not just sensory impairments but also, for example, odd intonation, idiosyncratic phrases and unusual expressive forms, which can often form part of the autistic spectrum disorder. As Jeff said, from my advice and in order to deliver on the opportunities that we have through the Measures, I hope that you will take on board the assurances that I have given.

Ystyriaf y pwynt a wnaeth Kirsty, ond, fel Gweinidog, rhaid imi fod yn glir nad wyf yn cyfyngu'r cymhwysedd yr ydym yn ei geisio. Felly, rhaid imi egluro'r hyn a dderbyniaf a'r hyn yr ymgymeraf ag ef yng nghyd-destun y Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol hwn. Diolchaf hefyd i Alun am dderbyn y sicrwydd yr wyf wedi'i roi fod anawsterau cyfathrebu wedi'u cynnwys dan nam corfforol a meddyliol. Yr wyf wedi datgan yn glir y bydd hynny'n ymddangos drwy ei gydnabod yn benodol mewn Mesurau.

Mae llawer o bobl wedi mynegi pryderon ynghylch y peryglon wrth geisio bod yn rhy gyfarwyddol mewn cysylltiad ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol; cyfeiriodd Eleanor, Jeff, Kirsty, Karen a Janet at hyn. Yr ydych wedi craffu ar hyn, ond rhaid inni ystyried y cyngor, sef bod peryglon gwirioneddol o fod yn rhy gyfarwyddol o ran anghenion dysgu ychwanegol. Gellid gweld y gallai'r llysoedd ddal y byddai'r amcan sylfaenol o gael datganiad cyffredinol o nam corfforol a meddyliol yn cael ei danseilio o fod yn rhy gyfarwyddol. Er mwyn osgoi hynny, byddai angen inni ddarparu rhestr gynhwysfawr, a byddai hynny'n amhosibl, fel y byddai llawer o Aelodau'n cydnabod. Felly, yr wyf wedi ceisio ei gwneud yn glir bob amser yn ystod y trafodaethau a arweiniodd at y ddadl hon, ac wedi dweud eto yn fy natganiad agoriadol, fy mod wedi fy argyhoeddi y byddai anawsterau cyfathrebu wedi'u cynnwys yn y geiriad presennol, sef nam corfforol a meddyliol. Pe byddem yn cynnwys anawsterau cyfathrebu, beth a ddigwyddai ynghylch anawsterau o ran y synhwyrau, er enghraifft? Mae problem yn codi oherwydd, pe byddech yn cynnwys anawsterau cyfathrebu, gallech adael allan anawsterau o ran y synhwyrau. Mae enghreifftiau eraill lle y gellid dadlau bod angen cyfeiriadau penodol yn y Gorchymyn arfaethedig—nid nam ar y synhwyrau'n unig ond hefyd, er enghraifft, goslef ryfedd, ymadroddion hynod a ffurfiau mynegiant anarferol, sy'n aml yn gallu bod yn rhan o anhwylder yn y sbectrum awtistig. Fel y dywedodd Jeff, yn ôl y cyngor a gefais ac er mwyn achub y cyfleoedd a gawn drwy'r Mesurau, yr wyf yn gobeithio y byddwch yn derbyn y sicrwydd yr wyf wedi'i roi.

Earlier today, I met with Alison Stroud from the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, and I suggested that we should meet when the Order goes through to explore possible ideas for future Assembly Members in the field of speech and language therapy. Alun made the point that we should be more specific as a Government, as did Kirsty and Janet. We are opening the door to opportunities for Measures that will deliver the policies. I am sure that we can demonstrate beyond doubt that the legal competence to cover communications difficulties is available under the current wording.

5.30 p.m.

It is important, as Jeff said, that there are wider opportunities for lifelong learners in Wales. The benefits for people, for the economy, and for learning institutions and education providers, as well as for employers, will be considerable. As Janet said, this is about debating whether we should have the power to take this forward in terms of Measures. I look forward to the opportunity for the Government and backbenchers to bring forward Measures on this subject. *[Interruption.]*

Alun Cairns: I am grateful to the Minister for giving way. Will she use the opportunity of this debate on the transfer of powers to guarantee that she does not plan to use the powers to adjust the statementing process so that the right to a statement is diluted—both for children with special needs, and their parents? Will she maintain the level at which the statement or statutory assessment would be instigated? Can the Minister guarantee that she will not dilute this when these powers are inherited?

Jane Hutt: I was coming to that point, in order to reassure you on the important policy points that you made this afternoon in relation to statementing, and indeed the role of the special educational needs tribunal. I can give you that assurance—we are committed to engaging all interested parties, and to fully engage the Assembly, in any discussions that we might have about reviewing the statutory assessment and statementing process. As I am sure you are

Yn gynharach heddiw, cyfarfûm ag Alison Stroud o Goleg Brenhinol y Therapyddion Iaith a Lleferydd, ac awgrymais y dylem gwrdd pan fydd y Gorchymyn yn mynd drwodd er mwyn ystyried syniadau posibl ar gyfer Aelodau'r Cynulliad yn y dyfodol ym maes therapi iaith a lleferydd. Gwnaeth Alun bwynt i'r perwyl y dylem fod yn fwy manwl fel Llywodraeth, fel y gwnaeth Kirsty a Janet. Yr ydym yn agor y drws i gyfleoedd ar gyfer Mesurau a fydd yn rhoi'r polisiâu ar waith. Yr wyf yn sicr y gallwn ddangos y tu hwnt i bob amheuaeth fod y cymhwysedd cyfreithiol i ddarparu ar gyfer anawsterau cyfathrebu ar gael dan y geiriad cyfredol.

Mae'n bwysig, fel y dywedodd Jeff, fod cyfleon ehangach i ddysgwyr gydol oes yng Nghymru. Bydd y budd i bobl, i'r economi, ac i sefydliadau dysgu a darparwyr addysg, yn ogystal ag i gyflogwyr, yn sylweddol. Fel y dywedodd Janet, mater yw hyn o ddadlau ynghylch a ddylem gael y grym i fwrw ymlaen â hyn o ran Mesurau. Edrychaf ymlaen at y cyfle i'r Llywodraeth ac aelodau'r meinciau cefn gyflwyno Mesurau ar y pwnc hwn. *[Torri ar draws.]*

Alun Cairns: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r Gweinidog am ildio. A wnaiff ddefnyddio'r cyfle a rydd y ddadl hon ar drosglwyddo pwerau i warantu nad yw hi'n bwriadu defnyddio'r pwerau hyn i addasu'r broses o roi datganiadau fel y caiff yr hawl i gael datganiad ei glastwreiddio—i blant ag anghenion arbennig a'u rhieni fel ei gilydd? A wnaiff gynnal y lefel lle yr ysgogid y datganiad neu'r asesiad statudol? A all y Gweinidog warantu na fydd yn glastwreiddio hyn pan gaiff y pwerau hyn eu trosglwyddo?

Jane Hutt: Yr oeddwn yn mynd i ddod at y pwynt hwnnw, er mwyn eich sicrhau ynglŷn â'r pwyntiau polisi pwysig a wnaethoch y prynhawn yma ynglŷn â rhoi datganiadau, ac yn wir, rôl y tribiwnlys anghenion addysgol arbennig. Gallaf roi'r sicrwydd hwnnw ichi—yr ydym wedi ymrwmo i gynnwys pob carfan sydd â diddordeb, gan gynnwys y Cynulliad cyfan, mewn unrhyw drafodaethau y gallem eu cael ynglŷn ag adolygu'r broses asesiadau a datganiadau statudol. Fel y

aware, last year we held five regional events throughout Wales on the way forward. This is about a review—it is not about ending statementing, and I have not said that we plan to reduce the number of statements. I am talking about reviewing the statutory assessment and statementing process. Indeed, we have a wide cross-section of professionals engaged in this, including local education authorities, and health and social services departments, and throughout this consultation process we have recognised that we would only make changes to the current system where there is sufficient evidence in favour of doing so. You should only make changes when you need to—when there is evidence in favour of doing so. It is not done on the basis of money or of resources, but on the basis of evidence. A formal consultation will of course follow any pilots, and no changes to the statutory assessment framework for SEN will happen without formal consultation.

I thought you made a good contribution, Alun, and a mature contribution in terms of the opportunities that we are taking forward—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Please wind up now, Minister.

Jane Hutt: Karen, you will be pleased that the Order will cover looked-after children and young carers, in terms of Measures that will come forward. We will see the opportunities in terms of the link with the proposed vulnerable children LCO.

In conclusion, we have the opportunity to use our powers for a purpose, for our children and young people with additional learning needs, and, on that basis, I commend this Order.

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

gwyddoch, mae'n siŵr, y llynedd cynaliasom bum digwyddiad rhanbarthol drwy Gymru i drafod y ffordd ymlaen. Sôn am adolygiad y mae hyn—nid am roi terfyn ar ddatganiadau, ac nid wyf wedi dweud bod gennym gynlluniau i leihau nifer y datganiadau. Sôn yr ydwyf am adolygu'r broses asesiadau a datganiadau statudol. Yn wir, mae gennym groestoriad eang o bobl broffesiynol wrthi gyda hyn—awdurdodau addysg lleol, ac adrannau iechyd a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol—a thrwy gydol y broses ymgynghori hon yr ydym wedi cydnabod na fyddem ond yn gwneud newidiadau yn y system gyfredol lle y ceir tystiolaeth ddigonol o blaid gwneud hynny. Dim ond pan fydd angen y dylid gwneud newidiadau—pan fydd tystiolaeth o blaid gwneud hynny. Ni wneir hyn ar sail arian, nac adnoddau, ond ar sail tystiolaeth. Bydd ymgynghori ffurfiol yn dilyn unrhyw gynllun peilot, wrth gwrs, ac ni wneir unrhyw newidiadau yn y fframwaith asesu statudol ar gyfer anghenion addysgol arbennig heb ymgynghori ffurfiol.

Gwnaethoch gyfraniad da yn fy marn i, Alun, a chyfraniad aeddfed ynglŷn â'r cyfleon yr ydym yn bwrw ymlaen â hwy—

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

Jane Hutt: Karen, byddwch yn falch y bydd y Gorchymyn yn ymdrin â phlant sy'n derbyn gofal, a gofawyr ifanc, o ran y Mesurau a gyflwynir. Cawn weld y cyfleon o ran y cysylltiad â'r Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol arfaethedig ynghylch plant sy'n agored i niwed.

I gloi, mae'r cyfle gennym i ddefnyddio'n pwerau i bwrpas, er mwyn ein plant a'n pobl ifanc sydd ag anghenion addysgol ychwanegol, ac ar sail hynny, cymeradwyaf y Gorchymyn hwn.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Cynigir bod y Cynulliad yn derbyn y cynnig. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrthwynebu? Gwelaf nad oes dim gwrthwynebiadau. Yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.35, felly, caiff y cynnig ei dderbyn.

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Today is an important day in the history of our constitution. This is the first draft legislative competence Order to be approved by the Assembly under our new powers introduced by the Government of Wales Act 2006. That brings today's proceedings to a close.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Mae heddiw'n ddiwrnod pwysig yn hanes ein cyfansoddiad. Dyma'r Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol drafft cyntaf i'w gymeradwyo gan y Cynulliad dan ein pwerau newydd a gyflwynwyd gan Ddeddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006. Daw hynny â chyfarfod heddiw i ben.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5.34 p.m.
The meeting ended at 5.34 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)