



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

**Cofnod y Trafodion
The Record of Proceedings**

**Dydd Mercher, 9 Ebrill 2008
Wednesday, 9 April 2008**

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

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

*Cyfarfu'r Cynulliad am 12.30 p.m. gyda'r Llywydd (Dafydd Elis-Thomas) yn y Gadair.
The Assembly met at 12.30 p.m. with the Presiding Officer (Dafydd Elis-Thomas) in the Chair.*

Y Llywydd: Galwaf y Cynulliad i drefn.

The Presiding Officer: I call the Assembly to order.

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

Parkinson's Disease

Q1 Helen Mary Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the provision of treatment for Parkinson's disease in Wales? OAQ(3)0472(HSS)

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart): Neurology services for patients with Parkinson's disease form part of the review of adult neurosciences in Wales, which is due to report to me in the summer. As part of Parkinson's Disease Awareness Week, I will visit the Parkinson's centre at Gorseinon Hospital tomorrow.

Helen Mary Jones: Thank you for your response. You will be aware of the concern of the Parkinson's Disease Society that funding for deep brain stimulation treatment in Wales is currently suspended. It understands that the reason for that suspension is do with resources and finances rather than a question over the clinical appropriateness of the treatment for certain people with Parkinson's disease. When you receive the review, will you undertake today to ensure that this issue is looked at again with a view to making additional resources available perhaps under the new commissioning arrangements that you intend to put in place?

Edwina Hart: Thank you for your question. I have had considerable correspondence from Members on the issue of deep brain stimulation and, as you know, I have also written to Members with a policy position. As long as things are clinically necessary, my view is that services should be commissioned and I would be prepared to take this matter up further.

Clefyd Parkinson

C1 Helen Mary Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ddarparu triniaeth ar gyfer clefyd Parkinson yng Nghymru? OAQ(3)0472(HSS)

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Edwina Hart): Mae gwasanaethau niwroleg ar gyfer clefion a chanddynt glefyd Parkinson yn rhan o'r adolygiad o niwrowyddorau oedolion yng Nghymru, sydd i fod i adrodd imi yn yr haf. Fel rhan o Wythnos Ymwybyddiaeth Clefyd Parkinson, byddaf yn ymweld â'r ganolfan clefyd Parkinson yn Ysbyty Gorseinon yfory.

Helen Mary Jones: Diolch ichi am eich ateb. Mae'n siŵr y gwyddoch am bryder y Gymdeithas Clefyd Parkinson fod arian ar gyfer triniaeth ysgogi yn nwf n yr ymennydd yng Nghymru wedi'i atal ar hyn o bryd. Dealla fod y rheswm dros yr atal yn ymwneud ag adnoddau ac arian yn hytrach na chwestiwn ynghylch pa mor glinigol briodol yw'r driniaeth ar gyfer rhai pobl a chanddynt glefyd Parkinson. Pan gewch yr adolygiad, a ymrwymwch heddiw i sicrhau yr edrychir ar y mater hwn eto gyda golwg ar sicrhau bod adnoddau ychwanegol ar gael efallai dan y trefniadau comisiynu y bwriadwch eu rhoi ar waith?

Edwina Hart: Diolch ichi am eich cwestiwn. Yr wyf wedi cael gohebiaeth sylweddol gan Aelodau ynghylch ysgogi yn nwf n yr ymennydd ac, fel y gwyddoch, yr wyf hefyd wedi ysgrifennu at Aelodau gyda safbwynt polisi. Cyn belled â bod pethau'n glinigol angenrheidiol, yn fy nhyb i, dylid comisiynu gwasanaethau, a byddwn yn barod i fynd â'r mater hwn ymhellach.

Jonathan Morgan: I am grateful for your response to Helen Mary Jones because it is clear that the decision to suspend the use of deep brain stimulation was made based on a lack of finances rather than on the clinical effectiveness of the treatment, which has been widely acknowledged. Based on what you have just said, will you speak to Health Commission Wales as a matter of urgency to ensure that it will commission this service in Wales and, therefore, reverse the decision that it has made?

Edwina Hart: The National Commissioning Advisory Board met on 13 March and I will have further discussions with HCW on this matter.

Jonathan Morgan: I am grateful to the Minister for that response, but, as you know, Minister, at that meeting on 13 March, the National Commissioning Advisory Board endorsed HCW's suspension of the use of that treatment in Wales. I urge the Minister to have a conversation with HCW as quickly as possible, because there are many people throughout Wales for whom this treatment was effective and they relied upon it quite considerably.

Edwina Hart: The matter is in hand.

Sandy Mewies: You are aware of the crucial role that can be played by Parkinson's disease nurse specialists in the care of sufferers. For the last two years, Flintshire Local Health Board, with the support of the Parkinson's Disease Society, has provided such a nurse, which has been of immense benefit. Will you look at a way of providing continued support for such nurses, not only in Flintshire, but throughout Wales?

Edwina Hart: The role of specialist nurses is important in many areas, as well as in relation to Parkinson's disease. I am looking at this. The report that will be delivered to me on the wider services issues by James Steers in July will influence what I will do about the provision of services, particularly valuable services such as that provided by the Parkinson's disease nurse in Flintshire.

Jonathan Morgan: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am eich ateb i Helen Mary Jones oherwydd mae'n amlwg i'r penderfyniad i atal defnyddio ysgogi yn nwf yn ymennydd gael ei wneud ar sail diffyg arian yn hytrach nag effeithlonrwydd clinigol y driniaeth, a gydnabuwyd yn helaeth. Ar sail yr hyn a ddywedasoeh yn awr, a siaradwch â Chomisiwn Iechyd Cymru yn ddiymdroi i sicrhau y bydd yn comisiynu'r gwasanaeth hwn yng Nghymru ac, felly, yn gwydroi'r penderfyniad y mae wedi'i wneud?

Edwina Hart: Cyfarfu'r Bwrdd Cyngori Cenedlaethol ar Gomisiynu ar 13 Mawrth a byddaf yn cael trafodaethau pellach gyda Chomisiwn Iechyd Cymru ar y mater hwn.

Jonathan Morgan: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r Gweinidog am yr ateb hwnnw, ond, fel y gwyddoch, Weinidog, yn y cyfarfod hwnnw ar 13 Mawrth, cefnogodd y Bwrdd Cyngori Cenedlaethol ar Gomisiynu benderfyniad Comisiwn Iechyd Cymru i atal defnyddio'r driniaeth honno yng Nghymru. Anogaf y Gweinidog i gael sgwrs â Chomisiwn Iechyd Cymru mor fuan â phosibl, oherwydd mae llawer o bobl ledled Cymru a oedd yn dibynnu cryn dipyn ar y driniaeth hon ac yn ei chael yn effeithiol.

Edwina Hart: Mae'r mater ar droed.

Sandy Mewies: Gwyddoch am y swyddogaeth hanfodol y gall nyrsys arbenigol ym maes clefyd Parkinson ei chwarae wrth ofalu am ddiodefswyr. Am y ddwy flynedd diwethaf, mae Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Sir y Fflint, gyda chefnogaeth y Gymdeithas Clefyd Parkinson, wedi darparu nyrs o'r fath, sydd wedi bod yn fuddiol tu hwnt. A edrychwch ar ffordd o ddarparu cefnogaeth barhaus i nyrsys o'r fath, nid yn unig yn sir y Fflint, ond ym mhob cwr o Gymru?

Edwina Hart: Mae swyddogaeth nyrsys arbenigol yn bwysig mewn nifer o feysydd, yn ogystal ag yng nghyswllt clefyd Parkinson. Yr wyf yn edrych ar hyn. Bydd yr adroddiad a gyflwynir imi ar faterion gwasanaeth ehangach gan James Steers ym mis Gorffennaf, yn dylanwadu ar yr hyn a wnaef ynghylch darpariaeth gwasanaethau, yn enwedig gwasanaethau gwerthfawr megis y

gwasanaeth a ddarperir gan y nyrs clefyd Parkinson yn sir y Fflint.

Eleanor Burnham: Thank you for your help and recognition of this important, complex and heart-wrenching issue. You know that I have written to you on behalf of someone in Flintshire. Can you reassure us about the use of the Walton Centre in Liverpool, where this treatment has been provided? Hopefully, it will continue to be used to aid Welsh patients and others.

Eleanor Burnham: Diolch ichi am eich cymorth ac am gydnabod y mater pwysig hwn, mater dyrys a thorcalonnus. Gwyddoch imi ysgrifennu atoch ar ran rhywun yn sir y Fflint. A allwch ein sicrhau ynghylch defnyddio Canolfan Walton yn Lerpwl, lle mae'r driniaeth hon wedi bod yn cael ei darparu? Gobeithio y bydd yn parhau i gael ei defnyddio i gynorthwyo cleifion o Gymru a chleifion o leoedd eraill.

Edwina Hart: There are two separate issues in your question, I think. I wish to indicate that it is pure mischief making for anyone to suggest that the neurosurgery facilities in Walton are not being currently utilised. That is absolute mischief making, as there has been no change in the arrangements. I await with interest James Steers's report, which will focus on the improvement of services in north Wales.

Edwina Hart: Credaf fod eich cwestiwn yn cynnwys dau fater gwahanol. Dymunaf ddynodi mai codi cynnen y mae unrhyw un sy'n awgrymu nad yw'r cyfleusterau niwrolawdriniaeth yn Walton yn cael eu defnyddio ar hyn o bryd. Codi cynnen yw hynny oherwydd ni fu unrhyw newid yn y trefniadau. Arhosaf yn eiddgar am adroddiad James Steers, a fydd yn canolbwyntio ar wella gwasanaethau yn y gogledd.

On your other point, on deep brain stimulation, I have already indicated to Helen Mary and Jonathan Morgan that I intend to discuss this with HCW.

Ynglŷn â'ch ail bwynt ar ysgogi yn nwfn yr ymennydd, yr wyf eisoes wedi dweud wrth Helen Mary a Jonathan Morgan fy mod yn bwriadu trafod hyn gyda Chomisiwn Iechyd Cymru.

Maternity Services

Gwasanaethau Mamolaeth

Q2 Rosemary Butler: Will the Minister make a statement about maternity services in the Royal Gwent Hospital in Newport? OAQ(3)0448(HSS)

C2 Rosemary Butler: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am wasanaethau mamolaeth yn Ysbyty Brenhinol Gwent yng Nghasnewydd? OAQ(3)0448(HSS)

Edwina Hart: I recently opened a new labour ward facility at the Royal Gwent Hospital—you were present, Rosemary, as was the Secretary of State—which, I hope, greatly improves the facilities available for women to ensure that the highest standard of care is provided. Working with staff and professional bodies and trade unions, new clinical and management arrangements have been implemented, and I have asked my chief nursing officer to report back to me on the success or otherwise of these new arrangements.

Edwina Hart: Yn ddiweddar, agorais gyfleuster ward genedigaethau yn Ysbyty Brenhinol Gwent—yr oeddech yno, Rosemary, ac felly hefyd yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol—a fydd, gobeithiaf, yn gwella'n aruthrol y cyfleusterau sydd ar gael i fenywod i sicrhau y darperir gofal o'r safon uchaf. Gan weithio gyda staff a chyrrff proffesiynol ac undebau llafur, rhoddwyd trefniadau clinigol a rheoli newydd ar waith, ac yr wyf wedi gofyn i'm prif swyddog nyrsio adrodd yn ôl imi ar lwyddiant y trefniadau hyn, neu fel arall.

Rosemary Butler: I thank you for meeting the midwives' representatives when you came to the Royal Gwent Hospital. They

Rosemary Butler: Diolchaf ichi am gwrdd â chynrychiolwyr y bydwagedd pan ddaethoch i Ysbyty Brenhinol Gwent. Yr oeddent yn

were pleased that you took time to talk to them personally, and I would also like to thank you on behalf of nurses and midwives across Wales for the implementation of the full nursing award—that is much appreciated. However, this is not just about salaries. If we want to retain experienced and dedicated medical staff, we must ensure that we have continuing professional development, good working conditions, and, above all, we must ensure that they feel valued. Can you tell us how you can implement this package in areas such as the Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust, and particularly at the Royal Gwent Hospital?

Edwina Hart: Following the meeting that you kindly organised with midwives for them to express their concerns to me, I have had a rise in the number and variety of complaints from Assembly Members about staff relationships within Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust. I understand that these complaints have been coupled with a massive drop in the staff satisfaction survey results for this year. I wish to obtain a clear picture about the situation in Gwent, and, to that end, I have asked David Jenkins to be an honest broker, and to go into the Gwent trust to look at the issues from both the management and the trade union point of view to see whether we can make progress. We are talking about midwives, community nursing, and concerns with mental health workers—I do not think that it is a healthy situation at all, and I want it resolved.

Nick Ramsay: I welcome what the Minister has just said with regard to looking at health services, particularly maternity services in the Gwent area. I am pleased that you are doing that. I know that you recently met midwives in my constituency at Neville Hall Hospital, and you have seen at first hand the low morale, and heard the serious concerns of many midwives who have worked in the profession for a long time about the restructuring process. You have mentioned that you have kicked off the process, but can you give me an assurance that you will act on the findings of the report and do what you can to ensure that midwives and others

falch ichi roi o'ch amser i siarad â hwy'n bersonol, a hoffwn hefyd ddiolch ichi ar ran y nyrsys a'r bydwagedd ledled Cymru am weithredu'r dyfarniad llawn i nyrsys—fe'i gwerthfawrogi yn fawr. Fodd bynnag, mae mwy i hyn na chyflogau. Os ydym am gadw staff meddygol profiadol ac ymroddedig, rhaid inni sicrhau ein bod yn cael datblygiad proffesiynol parhaus, amgylchiadau gwaith da ac, yn anad dim, rhaid inni wneud yn siŵr eu bod yn teimlo eu bod yn cael eu gwerthfawrogi. A allwch ddweud wrthym sut y gallwch roi'r pecyn hwn ar waith mewn ardaloedd megis Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Gofal Iechyd Gwent, ac yn Ysbyty Brenhinol Gwent yn arbennig?

Edwina Hart: Yn dilyn y cyfarfod y gwnaethoch, yn garedig iawn, ei drefnu gyda bydwagedd er mwyn iddynt gael mynegi eu pryderon wrthyf, yr wyf wedi cael mwy o gwynion gan Aelodau'r Cynulliad, a'r rheini'n gwynion mwy amrywiol, ynglŷn â'r berthynas ymhlith staff yn Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Gofal Iechyd Gwent. Deallaf fod y cwynion hyn yn cyd-fynd â gostyngiad anferthol ym modlonrwydd staff yn ôl canlyniadau'r arolwg o fodlonrwydd staff ar gyfer y flwyddyn hon. Dymunaf gael darlun clir o'r sefyllfa yng Ngwent, ac, i'r perwyl hwnnw, yr wyf wedi gofyn i David Jenkins fod yn frocer gonest, a mynd i ymddiriedolaeth Gwent i edrych ar faterion o safbwynt y rheolwyr a'r undeb llafur i weld a allwn wneud cynnydd. Yr ydym yn siarad am fydwagedd, nyrsys cymunedol, a phryderon yng nghyswllt gweithwyr ym maes iechyd meddwl—ni chredaf ei bod yn sefyllfa iach o gwbl, ac yr wyf am iddi gael ei datrys.

Nick Ramsay: Croesawaf yr hyn y mae'r Gweinidog newydd ei ddweud am edrych ar wasanaethau iechyd, yn enwedig gwasanaethau mamolaeth yn ardal Gwent. Yr wyf yn falch eich bod yn gwneud hynny. Gwn ichi'n ddiweddar gyfarfod â bydwagedd yn fy etholaeth yn Ysbyty Nevill Hall, ac yr ydych wedi gweld â'ch llygaid eich hun mor isel yw eu morâl, ac wedi clywed pryderon difrifol llawer o fydwagedd, sydd wedi gweithio yn y proffesiwn ers blynnyddoedd lawer, ynghylch y broses ailstrwythuro. Yr ydych wedi crybwyll ichi ddechrau'r broses, ond a allwch fy sicrhau y byddwch yn gweithredu ar

working in maternity services feel valued?

ganfyddiadau'r adroddiad ac yn gwneud yr hyn a allwch i wneud yn siŵr bod bydwagedd a gweithwyr eraill sy'n gweithio yn y gwasanaethau mamolaeth yn teimlo'u bod yn cael eu gwerthfawrogi?

Edwina Hart: I think that you raised this matter with me before the recess, and mentioned your concerns for your constituency, and the concerns of the midwives. I can assure you that the chief nursing officer has made a visit to the various maternity units and is reporting back to me about some of clinical issues that have been raised with midwives, which were a source of concern to me.

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf yn meddwl ichi godi'r mater hwn â mi cyn y toriad, ac ichi grybwyll eich pryderon am eich etholaeth, a phryderon y bydwagedd. Gallaf eich sicrhau bod y prif swyddog nyrsio wedi ymweld â'r gwahanol unedau mamolaeth ac yn adrodd yn ôl imi ynghylch rhai o'r materion clinigol a godwyd gyda'r bydwagedd, a oedd yn destun pryder imi.

Mohammad Asghar: I am pleased that the upgraded maternity facilities were officially opened at the Royal Gwent Hospital recently. Will the Minister give me an assurance that there are sufficient specialist nursing staff to provide the best possible services for mothers and babies in Newport?

Mohammad Asghar: Yr wyf yn falch i'r cyfleusterau mamolaeth a uwchraddiwyd gael eu hagor yn swyddogol yn Ysbyty Brenhinol Gwent yn ddiweddar. A wnaiff y Gweinidog fy sicrhau bod digon o staff nyrsio arbenigol i ddarparu'r gwasanaethau gorau posibl i famau a babanod yng Nghasnewydd?

Edwina Hart: I hope that we have the necessary staff resources in place in Gwent, but midwives are raising issues about workloads and the balance that is required. I hope that when David concludes his work we will have greater certainty and assurances on the issues that you have raised with me today.

Edwina Hart: Gobeithiaf fod gennym yr adnoddau angenrheidiol o ran staff yng Ngwent, ond mae bydwagedd yn codi materion am feichiau gwaith a'r cydbwysedd gofynnol. Ar ôl i David orffen ei waith, gobeithiaf y bydd gennym fwy o sicrwydd ar y materion yr ydych wedi'u codi gyda mi heddiw.

Carers

Gofalwyr

Q3 Trish Law: Will the Minister make a statement on the support given by the Welsh Assembly Government to carers? OAQ(3)0420(HSS)

C3 Trish Law: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y gefnogaeth a roddir i ofalwyr gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru? OAQ(3)0420(HSS)

Edwina Hart: As part of our carers—oh, I have done it again; this question was for my deputy to answer.

Edwina Hart: Fel rhan o'n strategaeth ar gyfer gofalwyr—o, yr wyf wedi ei wneud eto; cwestiwn i'm dirprwy ei ateb oedd hwn.

The Presiding Officer: I believe that this has happened before, Minister.

Y Llywydd: Credaf fod hyn wedi digwydd o'r blaen, Weinidog.

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Wasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Gwenda Thomas): Yr ydym yn cydweithio yn dda.

The Deputy Minister for Social Services (Gwenda Thomas): We do work together well.

As part of our carers strategy, we provide £4 million a year in grant to local authorities under our mental health carers grant scheme.

Fel rhan o'n strategaeth ar gyfer gofalwyr, yr ydym yn darparu £4 miliwn y flwyddyn mewn grant i awdurdodau lleol dan ein

This is in addition to the £5.9 million in resources from our previous carers grant that transferred into the local authority settlement from 2006-07.

Trish Law: We all know that if carers did not continue to provide unpaid care and support, the health service and social services would face immense problems. What concerns me is that initiatives such as Age Concern's healthy living project for carers in the lower Ebbw Fach valley in my constituency have had to be discontinued due to a lack of funding. Will you consider re-establishing the carers grant, which was a specific grant to local authorities that ceased in 2005-06, but which was effectively ring-fenced for the targeted benefit of carers?

12.40 p.m.

Gwenda Thomas: The previous £5.9 million in carers grant has been included in the revenue support grant. That money is still being paid via the revenue support grant. I can assure you that there is an excellent example of support for carers in Blaenau Gwent, and I am sure that you are aware of it. However, I take your point that it is very important to support the all-Wales voluntary sector organisations and, to that end, a grant of £1.5 million is being made available from this year.

Lesley Griffiths: I recently met members of the Maelor and north-east Wales branch of the Parkinson's Disease Society in Wrexham. That group is currently trying to persuade the local health board to appoint a Parkinson's disease specialist nurse locally, and I support that appointment. With over 450 registered Parkinson's disease sufferers living in Wrexham, it is extremely important that their carers have a person whom they can turn to for advice, when required. Will you assure me that, under the plans to reform the NHS in Wales, the voices of people such as the members of the Parkinson's Disease Society will still be heard by a new, larger LHB?

Gwenda Thomas: You know that I will be

cynllun grant gofalwyr iechyd meddwl. Mae hyn yn ychwanegol i'r £5.9 miliwn mewn adnoddau o'n grant blaenorol i ofalwyr a drosglwyddwyd i setliad yr awdurdod lleol o 2006-07.

Trish Law: Yr ydym oll yn gwybod y byddai'r gwasanaeth iechyd a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yn wynebu problemau difrifol pe na bai gofalwyr yn parhau i ddarparu gofal yn ddi-dâl. Yr hyn sy'n peri pryder imi yw bod cynlluniau megis prosiect byw'n iach Age Concern ar gyfer gofalwyr yn nyffryn Ebbw Fach isaf yn fy etholaeth wedi gorfod dod i ben oherwydd diffyg arian. A ystyriwch ailsefydlu'r grant ar gyfer gofalwyr—y grant penodol ar gyfer awdurdodau lleol a ddaeth i ben yn 2005-6—ond a neilltuwyd ar gyfer lles a dargedwyd ar gyfer gofalwyr?

Gwenda Thomas: Mae'r £5.9 miliwn blaenorol mewn grantiau gofalwyr wedi'i gynnwys yn y grant cynnal refeniw. Mae'r arian hwnnw'n dal i gael ei dalu drwy gyfrwng y grant cynnal refeniw. Gallaf eich sicrhau y ceir enghraifft ragorol o gefnogi gofalwyr ym Mlaenau Gwent, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y gwyddoch amdani. Fodd bynnag, derbyniaf eich pwynt ei bod yn bwysig iawn cefnogi mudiadau sector gwirfoddol Cymru gyfan ac, i'r perwyl hwnnw, bydd grant o £1.5 miliwn ar gael o'r flwyddyn hon ymlaen.

Lesley Griffiths: Yn ddiweddar, cyfarfûm ag aelodau cangen Cymdeithas Clefyd Parkinson Maelor a gogledd-ddwyrain Cymru yn Wrecsam. Ar hyn o bryd, mae'r grŵp yn ceisio perswadio'r bwrdd iechyd lleol i benodi nyrs arbenigol ym maes clefyd Parkinson yn lleol, ac yr wyf yn cefnogi'r penodiad hwnnw. Gyda mwy na 450 o bobl wedi'u cofrestru fel dioddefwyr clefyd Parkinson yn Wrecsam, mae'n hollbwysig bod gan eu gofalwyr unigolyn y gallant droi ato neu ati am gyngor pan fydd angen. A wnewch fy sicrhau y bydd lleisiau pobl megis aelodau'r Gymdeithas Clefyd Parkinson yn dal i gael eu clywed gan Fwrdd Iechyd Lleol newydd, mwy, dan y cynlluniau i ddiwygio'r GIG yng Nghymru?

Gwenda Thomas: Gwyddoch y byddaf yn

introducing a legislative competence Order at the end of the summer recess. I can assure you that I am already meeting with organisations from both the voluntary sector and the statutory sector. I met the Wales Carers Alliance today and its representatives raised points similar to those that you have just made. I also want to make arrangements to meet with the health service, which I think is just as important. I know that the Minister is fully supportive of organising those meetings.

Angela Burns: In my constituency, there is a crazy situation whereby an 84-year-old gentleman with a poor heart and lungs has to use an NHS-provided hoist to get his severely disabled wife out of bed and into a wheelchair. He then has to wheel her through to her day chair and put her into it. All of this happens while two carers—both of whom are young, fit and healthy—watch. Their reason for not helping her is that they have suddenly decided that the room that they insisted that she should be in, in that house, is too small for them to be able to operate effectively. I can move around that room with more than enough ease and I have helped that gentleman to get his wife in and out of her bed. Deputy Minister, I cannot get any sense from anybody at all. That gentleman is going to end up having some dreadful calamity of his own at this rate. If we are truly sincere about trying to keep people in their homes until the end of their days, we need to recognise that not everybody's home is a standard size and of optimum suitability. Is there a minimum standard? The bedroom that the couple use is pretty big by most people's standards: it is 12 foot by 13 foot.

Gwenda Thomas: It is for local authorities and local health boards to assess the needs of carers in their areas and how best to meet those needs. If you would write to me on that specific issue, I would be more than happy to inquire into the situation.

Jenny Randerson: In relation to legislation on carers, I noted with great pleasure that

cyflwyno Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol ddiwedd toriad yr haf. Gallaf eich sicrhau fy mod eisoes yn cyfarfod â mudiadau a sefydliadau o'r sector gwirfoddol a'r sector statudol. Cyfarfûm â Chynghrair Cynhalwyr Cymru heddiw a chododd ei chynrychiolwyr bwyntiau tebyg i'r rheini yr ydych chi newydd eu gwneud. Mae arnaf hefyd eisiau gwneud trefniadau i gyfarfod â'r gwasanaeth iechyd, sydd yr un mor bwysig yn fy nhyb i. Gwn fod y Gweinidog yn gwbl gefnogol i drefnu'r cyfarfodydd hynny.

Angela Burns: Yn fy etholaeth, ceir sefyllfa orffwyll lle mae gŵr bonheddig 84 oed â chalon wan ac ysgyfaint gwael yn gorfod defnyddio teclyn codi a ddarparwyd gan y GIG i godi ei wraig sy'n ddifrifol anabl o'i gwely i'w rhoi mewn cadair olwyn. Yna, mae'n gorfod ei gwthio at y gadair y bydd hi'n eistedd ynddi yn ystod y dydd ac yn ei rhoi ynddi. Bydd hyn yn digwydd tra mae dau ofalwr—a'r ddau ohonynt yn ifanc, yn heini ac yn iach—yn ei wlyio. Eu rheswm dros beidio â'i helpu hi yw eu bod yn ddisymwth wedi penderfynu bod yr ystafell y gwnaethant fynnu y dylai hi fod ynddi, yn y tŷ hwnnw, yn rhy fach iddynt allu gwneud eu gwaith yn effeithiol. Yr wyf fi'n gallu symud o amgylch yr ystafell honno heb ddim trafferth o gwbl ac yr wyf wedi cynorthwyo'r gŵr bonheddig i godi ei wraig o'i gwely a'i rhoi yn ôl ynddo. Ddirprwy Weinidog, ni allaf gael unrhyw synnwyr gan neb o gwbl. A phethau fel y maent ar hyn o bryd, caiff y gŵr bonheddig drychineb ofnadwy ei hun yn y pen draw. Os ydym yn wirioneddol ddiwyll o ran ceisio cadw pobl yn eu cartrefi hyd ddiwedd eu hoes, mae angen inni gydnabod nad yw cartref pawb yn faint safonol nac yn gwbl addas. A oes safon ofynnol? Mae ystafell wely'r cwpwl yn eithaf mawr o'i chymharu â maint y mwyafrif o bobl: mae'n 12 troedfedd wrth 13 troedfedd.

Gwenda Thomas: Gwaith awdurdodau lleol a byrddau iechyd lleol yw asesu anghenion gofalwyr yn eu hardaloedd a gweld beth yw'r ffordd orau o ddiwallu'r anghenion hynny. Petaech yn ysgrifennu ataf ynghylch y mater penodol hwnnw, byddwn yn fwy na bodlon holi am y sefyllfa.

Jenny Randerson: O ran deddfwriaeth ar ofalwyr, yr oedd yn bleser gennyf nodi i

'One Wales' referred to the fact that the Government will prepare legislation on the rights of carers. I was less happy when the Liberal Democrat motion on this issue was amended by the Government to make it much vaguer than it needed to be. I was very disappointed yesterday to read in the 'One Wales Delivery Plan 2007-2011' that the policy rationale behind this legislation is yet to be developed. Can you enlighten us on that?

Gwenda Thomas: I would be pleased to do so. What was said in the Liberal Democrat debate is definitely being taken into account, as, of course, is Helen Mary Jones's proposal. It is an issue of policy. However, first of all, we need to establish the legislative competence and that is where we are at this stage. That is why I am consulting widely and encouraging organisations and political parties to participate in the debate, so that while we are intent on getting the legislative competence, we are also preparing the ground for future Measures. We all need to work hard on this so that we can present the legislative competence Order and it can proceed as quickly as possible through the scrutiny process. I am sure that you would agree with that. There is a commitment to introduce this legislative competence Order and a commitment to develop Measures that we can draw down once we have that competence.

Jenny Randerson: I welcome that positive response, Deputy Minister. As I am sure that you are aware, the previous Government had a very poor reputation among many thousands of carers in Wales, so this Government needs to do a great deal to restore its reputation. There are two elements to an ideal piece of carers' rights legislation: the right to information and the right to access to respite care. Access to respite care will inevitably cost money, so are you looking at the financial implications with a view to implementing the right to respite care in the lifetime of this Government—I hope, much sooner than that?

'Cymru'n Un' gyfeirio at y ffaith y bydd y Llywodraeth yn paratoi deddfwriaeth ar hawliau gofalwyr. Nid oeddwn mor hapus pan ddiwygiwyd cynnig y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol ar y mater hwn gan y Llywodraeth i'w wneud yn fwy amwys o lawer nag yr oedd angen iddo fod. Cefais siom fawr ddoe wrth ddarllen yng 'Nghynllun Cyflenwi Cymru'n Un 2007-2011' nad yw rhesymeg y polisi sydd wrth wraidd y ddeddfwriaeth hon wedi'i datblygu eto. A allwch roi goleuni inni ar y mater?

Gwenda Thomas: Byddai'n bleser gennyf wneud hynny. Mae'r hyn a ddywedwyd yn nadl y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn bendant yn cael ei ystyried, yn yr un modd â chynnig Helen Mary, wrth gwrs. Mater o bolisi ydyw. Fodd bynnag, yn gyntaf oll, mae angen inni sefydlu'r cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol, a dyna beth yr ydym yn ei wneud ar hyn o bryd. Dyna pam yr wyf yn ymgynghori'n helaeth ac yn annog mudiadau a phleidiau gwleidyddol i gymryd rhan yn y ddadl fel ein bod, er yn awyddus i gael y cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol, hefyd yn paratoi ar gyfer Mesurau yn y dyfodol. Mae angen i bob un ohonom weithio'n galed ar hyn er mwyn inni allu cyflwyno'r Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol ac er mwyn iddo gael ei brosesu mor sydyn â phosibl drwy'r broses graffu. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddech yn cytuno â hynny. Ceir ymrwymiad i gyflwyno'r Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol hwn ac ymrwymiad i ddatblygu Mesurau y gallwn eu defnyddio ar ôl inni gael y cymhwysedd hwnnw.

Jenny Randerson: Croesawaf yr ateb cadarnhaol hwnnw, Ddirprwy Weinidog. Yr oedd gan y Llywodraeth flaenorol, fel y gwyddoch mae'n siŵr, enw gwael iawn ymhlith miloedd ar filoedd o ofalwyr yng Nghymru, felly, mae angen i'r Llywodraeth hon wneud cryn dipyn er mwyn adfer ei henw da. Ceir dwy elfen i ddam delfrydol o ddeddfwriaeth hawliau gofalwyr: yr hawl i gael gwybodaeth a'r hawl i gael mynediad at ofal seibiant. Bydd mynediad at ofal seibiant yn sicr o gostio arian, felly a ydych yn edrych ar y goblygiadau ariannol gyda'r bwriad o weithredu'r hawl i gael gofal seibiant yn ystod oes y Llywodraeth hon—neu'n llawer cynt, gobeithiaf?

Gwenda Thomas: We are, of course, looking at the resource implications of any Measures that we will seek to draw down in the future. The right to information and the right to respite care were prioritised in your debate and in Helen Mary's proposal, and I take that on board. However, that is for the future, and we need to prepare and arrange for financial assessments, but, at the moment, we need the competence. We did not embrace it as fully as we could have done because we thought that just prioritising the right to respite care and the right to information would not be wide enough; that stance has been supported today by the Wales Carers Alliance. I take your point on resources, but I can assure you that work is going on to establish the resource implications of the various Measures that could arise in the future.

Specialist and Critical Care Centre

Q4 Trish Law: Will the Minister provide a progress update on the review of evidence determining the location of Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust's proposed specialist and critical care centre? OAQ(3)0419(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Determining a scheme's location is an integral part of the outline business case stage of the approval process. An outline business case has recently been submitted, and the review is complete and will be considered alongside that business case, which indicates a start on any possible site in 2009, will be fully operational by 2013; therefore, work is in hand.

Trish Law: It is six months to the day, Minister—9 October 2007—when you announced that your officials were to review all of the available evidence on the siting of Gwent's proposed specialist and critical care centre. The Llanfrehfa Grange location was rightly identified in the Gwent Clinical Futures consultation as the most central and accessible site in the county. Unfortunately, lobbying by certain Newport Members has brought about this time-consuming and unnecessary review. Will you give me an assurance that, given that building work is

Gwenda Thomas: Yr ydym wrth gwrs yn edrych ar y goblygiadau o ran adnoddau unrhyw Fesurau y ceisiwn eu cyflwyno yn y dyfodol. Cafodd yr hawl i gael gwybodaeth a'r hawl i gael gofal seibiant flaenoriaeth yn eich dadl ac yng nghynnig Helen Mary, ac yr wyf yn derbyn hynny. Fodd bynnag, ar gyfer y dyfodol y mae hynny, ac mae angen inni drefnu a pharatoi ar gyfer asesiadau ariannol, ond, ar hyn o bryd, mae angen y cymhwysedd arnom. Ni wnaethom ei goleddu cymaint ag y gallem fod wedi'i wneud, oherwydd yr oeddem yn credu na fyddai blaenoriaethu'r hawl i gael gofal seibiant a'r hawl i gael gwybodaeth yn ddigon eang; mae'r safiad hwnnw wedi'i gefnogi heddiw gan Gynghrair Cynhalwyr Cymru. Derbyniaf eich pwynt am adnoddau, ond fe'ch sicrhaf fod gwaith ar y gweill i bennu'r goblygiadau o ran adnoddau a allai godi yn y dyfodol yn sgil yr amrywiol Fesurau.

Canolfan Gofal Arbenigol a Chritigol

C4 Trish Law: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddarparu'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am gynnydd yr adolygiad o dystiolaeth sy'n pennu lleoliad canolfan gofal arbenigol a chritigol arfaethedig Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Gofal Iechyd Gwent? OAQ(3)0419(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Mae pennu lleoliad cynllun yn rhan annatod o'r cam achos busnes amlinellol yn y broses gymeradwyo. Cyflwynwyd achos busnes amlinellol yn ddiweddar. Mae'r adolygiad wedi'i gwblhau a chaiff ei ystyried ochr yn ochr â'r achos busnes hwnnw, sy'n dangos y bydd gwaith dechreuol ar unrhyw safle posibl yn 2009, yn gwbl weithredol erbyn 2013; felly, mae gwaith ar droed.

Trish Law: Mae'n chwe mis i'r diwrnod Weinidog—9 Hydref 2007—pan gyhoeddasoch y byddai'ch swyddogion yn adolygu'r holl dystiolaeth a oedd ar gael am leoli canolfan gofal arbenigol a chritigol arfaethedig Gwent. Nodwyd yn gywir yn ymgynghoriad Dyfodol Clinigol Gwent mai Llanfrehfa Grange yw'r safle mwyaf canolog a hwylus yn y sir. Yn anffodus, mae lobio gan Aelodau penodol Casnewydd wedi arwain at yr adolygiad afraid hwn sy'n draul ar amser. A wnewch fy sicrhau, ac ystyried bod disgwyl i'r gwaith adeiladu ddechrau

due to start in 16 months' time, an early outcome to the review will be announced?

Edwina Hart: I can give you an absolute assurance, because, like you, I am concerned that we get this process off the ground. I must also be sure that, when elected representatives raise issues with me, we take the right course of action and look at things properly. We have done so. I am now satisfied with the work that has been undertaken, so we are moving ahead with a business plan, because I know that the people of Gwent are looking forward to the development of all these new services. I know that Lynne Neagle, as the Member for Torfaen, is also looking forward to the development of the specialist and critical care centre.

Irene James: Public transport will be a huge problem with regard to the new site for people in my constituency. Will you look closely at ensuring that people from my constituency have access to public transport for the new site?

Edwina Hart: We looked at travelling times to the possible locations of a new site in Newport, and some analysis work was done on that. I have indicated to officials that travel distances and times and the accessibility of public transport are key issues when developing new health projects. I am more than happy to ask my officials to look at what arrangements will be in place.

William Graham: Minister, can you comment on press reports that suggest that multibillion pound plans to modernise Gwent's hospital services will be vital to prevent massive disruption for thousands of patients? Without going into great detail, what they are suggesting is that there will be a relocation of major facilities from Nevill Hall Hospital to the Royal Gwent Hospital, which will necessitate a great deal more travel for people who would normally go to Nevill Hall and place additional burdens on the existing facilities at the Royal Gwent Hospital. Will you give an assurance that that will not be the case?

mewn 16 mis, y cyhoeddir canlyniadau'r adolygiad hwn yn fuan?

Edwina Hart: Gallaf eich sicrhau'n ddiamod, oherwydd yr wyf fi, fel chithau, yn pryderu am roi'r broses hon ar ben ffordd. Rhaid imi hefyd fod yn siŵr ein bod, pan fydd cynrychiolwyr etholedig yn codi materion gyda mi, yn cymryd y camau gweithredu cywir, ac yn edrych ar bethau'n iawn. Yr ydym wedi gwneud hynny. Yr wyf bellach yn fodlon â'r gwaith a gyflawnwyd, felly yr ydym yn symud ymlaen gyda chynllun busnes, oherwydd gwn fod pobl Gwent yn edrych ymlaen at weld yr holl wasanaethau newydd hyn yn cael eu datblygu. Gwn fod Lynne Neagle, Aelod Torfaen, hefyd yn edrych ymlaen at weld datblygu'r ganolfan gofal arbenigol a chritigol.

Irene James: Ac ystyried y safle newydd, bydd trafndiaeth gyhoeddus yn broblem enfawr i bobl yn fy etholaeth. A edrychwch yn ofalus ar sicrhau bod gan bobl yn fy etholaeth fynediad at drafndiaeth gyhoeddus i'r safle newydd?

Edwina Hart: Edrychwyd ar amserau teithio i leoliadau posibl safle newydd yng Nghasnewydd, a gwnaethpwyd rhywfaint o waith dadansoddi ar hynny. Yr wyf wedi dweud wrth swyddogion bod amserau a phellterau teithio a mynediad at drafndiaeth gyhoeddus yn faterion o bwys wrth ddatblygu prosiectau iechyd newydd. Yr wyf yn dra pharod i ofyn i'm swyddogion edrych ar ba drefniadau fydd ar waith.

William Graham: Weinidog, a allwch gynnig sylwadau am adroddiadau yn y wasg sy'n awgrymu y bydd cynlluniau gwerth biliynau a biliynau o bunnoedd i foderneiddio gwasanaethau ysbyty Gwent yn hanfodol i sicrhau na therfir yn aruthrol ar filoedd o gleifion? Heb fynd i fanylder, maent yn awgrymu y caiff prif gyfleusterau eu hadleoli o Ysbyty Nevill Hall i Ysbyty Brenhinol Gwent, a fydd yn golygu llawer mwy o deithio i bobl a fyddai fel rheol yn mynd i Nevill Hall, ac yn rhoi baich ychwanegol ar y cyfleusterau presennol yn Ysbyty Brenhinol Gwent. A sicrhewch na fydd hynny'n digwydd?

12.50 p.m.

Edwina Hart: As I have not seen the reports in the local press, I will ask officials to look at this matter and give you a more detailed reply.

Mohammad Asghar: I congratulate my colleague Trish Law on her campaign to make progress on the new centre for Gwent. It is a vital facility. I ask the Minister to do all that she can to progress the decision on the location and on getting this super hospital built.

Edwina Hart: It is important to recognise that a substantial amount of work has been done on the plans for Gwent. I have to be certain in my own mind that the plans are correct, that the business case stacks up and that, at the end of the day, it is what we require in terms of future services. There will be an element of delay in looking at these issues, but I hope to be able to prioritise some of the papers that are coming to me as soon as possible in order to make some early decisions. We have made progress on the broader Gwent agenda with the development of Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan, which is in Trish Law's constituency.

The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrat Group (Michael German): Minister, you have received two outline business cases, one for the critical care centre and one for the Newport local general hospital. The connection between the two is crucial, because if you move services to the proposed site in Torfaen, you will also have difficulty with the existing Royal Gwent Hospital. All of the plans, which have been strengthened by community support all over Gwent, have noted that the critical care centre and the new local general hospital in Newport should open at about the same time in order to avoid difficulties at the Royal Gwent Hospital. Can you give us any indication as to whether you will be determining both business cases simultaneously and that you intend to ensure that that linkage between the two hospitals remains?

Edwina Hart: You make some extremely valid points on this. These changes will be quite substantial in the context of Gwent,

Edwina Hart: Gan nad wyf wedi gweld yr adroddiadau yn y wasg leol, gofynnaf i swyddogion edrych ar y mater hwn a rhoi ateb manylach ichi.

Mohammad Asghar: Llongyfarchaf fy nghyd-Aelod Trish Law ar ei hymgyrch i symud ymlaen gyda'r ganolfan newydd ar gyfer Gwent. Mae'n gyfleuster hanfodol. Gofynnaf i'r Gweinidog wneud popeth yn ei gallu i fwrw ymlaen â'r penderfyniad am y lleoliad ac i adeiladu'r ysbyty arbennig hwn.

Edwina Hart: Mae'n bwysig cydnabod bod llawer iawn o waith wedi'i wneud ar y cynlluniau ar gyfer Gwent. Rhaid i mi fy hun fod yn bendant bod y cynlluniau'n gywir, bod yr achos busnes yn gwneud synnwyr, ac, yn y pen draw, mai dyna sy'n angenrheidiol o ran gwasanaethau yn y dyfodol. Bydd elfen o oedi wrth edrych ar y materion hyn, ond gobeithiaf allu blaenoriaethu rhai o'r papurau a ddaw imi cyn gynted â phosibl er mwyn gwneud rhywfaint o benderfyniadau cynnar. Yr ydym wedi gwneud cynnydd ar agenda ehangach Gwent gyda datblygiad Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan, sydd yn etholaeth Trish Law.

Arweinydd Grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Michael German): Weinidog, yr ydych wedi cael dau achos busnes amlinellol, un ar gyfer canolfan gofal critigol ac un ar gyfer ysbyty cyffredinol lleol Casnewydd. Mae'r cysylltiad rhwng y ddau yn allweddol, oherwydd os symudwch wasanaethau i'r safle arfaethedig yn Nhorfaen, cewch hefyd anhawster gydag Ysbyty Brenhinol Gwent. Mae'r holl gynlluniau, sydd wedi'u cryfhau gan gefnogaeth gymunedol ledled Gwent, wedi nodi y dylai'r ganolfan gofal critigol a'r ysbyty cyffredinol lleol newydd yng Nghasnewydd agor tua'r un pryd er mwyn osgoi anawsterau yn Ysbyty Brenhinol Gwent. A allwch roi unrhyw syniad inni a fyddwch yn penderfynu ar y ddau achos busnes ar yr un pryd, a'ch bod yn bwriadu sicrhau y bydd y cyswllt rhwng y ddau ysbyty yn parhau?

Edwina Hart: Yr ydych yn gwneud pwyntiau hynod ddilys ar hyn. Bydd y newidiadau hyn yn gymharol sylweddol yng

and, in an ideal world, I would like to be able to make the decisions simultaneously and I would like both projects to finish at the same time. I am not in a position to give you an absolute assurance today, but I indicate that what you have said to me is my direction of travel.

Investment Programme

Q5 Huw Lewis: Will the Minister make a statement on the investment programme planned for Prince Charles Hospital in Merthyr Tydfil? OAQ(3)0441(HSS)

Edwina Hart: I expect to receive a request to approve the full business case for the £46 million ward refurbishment scheme within the next two days. Additional investment plans are being developed, which include a £17.8 million unscheduled care facility that has received outline business case approval.

Huw Lewis: I can report to you that there is considerable relief within the community in Merthyr that, at last, these refurbishment commitments are being made real and visible. Quite recently I welcomed you to the opening of the new MRI scanner at the Prince Charles Hospital in Merthyr and I now extend an invitation to you to attend the opening of the refurbished accident and emergency department.

Edwina Hart: I would be delighted to accept your kind invitation, Huw. It is important that all of the resources that are now going into Prince Charles Hospital develop a much better health service for your constituents. It is important that we put our commitment into refurbishment and new equipment, such as diagnostic equipment, so that we can show our commitment to people's health across Wales.

William Graham: In welcoming the investment in the Prince Charles Hospital, could I make you aware of the local concern about the reduction in the number of beds for in-patients requiring acute mental health care services at St Tydfil's Hospital? How are you acting to ensure that care standards are maintained in all areas of treatment at this time?

nghyd-destun Gwent, ac mewn byd delfrydol, hoffwn allu gwneud y penderfyniadau ar yr un pryd, a hoffwn i'r ddau brosiect orffen ar yr un pryd. Nid wyf mewn sefyllfa i'ch sicrhau'n bendant heddiw, ond dywedaf y byddaf yn dilyn trywydd yr hyn yr ydych wedi'i ddweud wrthyf.

Rhaglen Buddsoddi

C5 Huw Lewis: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y rhaglen buddsoddi a gynlluniwyd ar gyfer Ysbyty'r Tywysog Siarl ym Merthyr Tudful? OAQ(3)0441(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Disgwyliaf gael cais yn y ddau ddiwrnod nesaf i gymeradwyo'r achos busnes llawn ar gyfer y cynllun gwerth £46 miliwn i adnewyddu ward. Mae cynlluniau buddsoddi ychwanegol yn cael eu datblygu, a'r rheini'n cynnwys cyfleuster gofal nas trefnwyd gwerth £17.8 miliwn, ac sydd wedi cael cymeradwyaeth achos busnes amlinellol.

Huw Lewis: Gallaf roi gwybod ichi y ceir rhyddhad sylweddol ymhlith y gymuned ym Merthyr bod yr ymrwymadau i adnewyddu, o'r diwedd, yn cael eu gwireddu ac yn weladwy. Yn gymharol ddiweddar fe'ch croesawais i agoriad y sganiwr MRI newydd yn Ysbyty'r Tywysog Siarl ym Merthyr, ac yr wyf yn awr yn eich gwahodd i fynd i agoriad yr adran damweiniau ac achosion brys ar ei newydd wedd.

Edwina Hart: Byddwn wrth fy modd yn derbyn eich gwahoddiad caredig Huw. Mae'n bwysig y bydd yr holl adnoddau sydd yn awr yn mynd i Ysbyty'r Tywysog Siarl yn datblygu gwasanaeth iechyd llawer gwell i'ch etholwyr. Mae'n bwysig inni roi ein hymrwymiad i adnewyddu ac i offer newydd, megis offer diagnostig, er mwyn inni allu dangos ein hymrwymiad i iechyd pobl ym mhob cwr o Gymru.

William Graham: Wrth groesawu'r buddsoddiad yn Ysbyty'r Tywysog Siarl, a allwn dynnu eich sylw at y pryderon lleol ynghylch lleihau nifer y gwelyau ar gyfer cleifion mewnol y mae angen gwasanaethau gofal iechyd meddwl aciwt arnynt yn Ysbyty Sant Tudful? Sut ydych yn gweithredu i sicrhau y cedwir safonau gofal ym mhob maes triniaeth ar hyn o bryd?

Edwina Hart: The issues around mental health care are essential in the provision that we have. I have already been quite honest in terms of my concerns about the provision of mental health facilities across Wales. In further discussions with officials about how we continue to prioritise mental health services, I will certainly raise the point that you have raised with me today.

Edwina Hart: Mae'r materion yn ymwneud â gofal iechyd meddwl yn hanfodol ac ystyried y ddarpariaeth sydd gennym. Yr wyf eisoes wedi bod yn eithaf gonest o ran fy mhryderon am ddarpariaeth cyfleusterau iechyd meddwl ledled Cymru. Byddaf yn sicr yn codi'r pwynt yr ydych wedi'i godi gyda mi heddiw mewn trafodaethau pellach gyda swyddogion ynghylch sut y byddwn yn parhau i flaenoriaethu gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl.

Y Llywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 6, OAQ(3)0473(HSS), yn ôl.

The Presiding Officer: Question 6, OAQ(3)0473(HSS), has been withdrawn.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health

Iechyd Meddwl Plant a'r Glasoed

Q7 Peter Black: What specific new measures or additional investment does the Welsh Assembly Government propose for child and adolescent mental health services? OAQ(3)0429(HSS)

C7 Peter Black: Pa fesurau newydd penodol neu fuddsoddiad ychwanegol mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n eu cynnig ar gyfer gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl plant a'r glasgoed? OAQ(3)0429(HSS)

Edwina Hart: It is important to recognise that CAMHS is not simply a health service issue, but that it is a concern for all sectors, including local authorities, social services and education departments. 'One Wales' said that this would be a priority in mental health services, including CAMHS, and we are investing an additional £4.8 million over the next three years and enhancing services provided by local health boards and Health Commission Wales.

Edwina Hart: Mae'n bwysig cydnabod nad mater yn ymwneud â'r gwasanaeth iechyd yn unig yw CAMHS—mae'n destun pryder i bob sector, gan gynnwys awdurdodau lleol, adrannau addysg a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol. Dywedodd 'Cymru'n Un' y byddai hyn yn flaenoriaeth yng nghyswllt gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl, gan gynnwys CAMHS, ac yr ydym yn buddsoddi £4.8 miliwn ychwanegol dros y tair blynedd nesaf ac yn ehangu gwasanaethau a ddarperir gan fyrddau iechyd lleol a Chomisiwn Iechyd Cymru.

Peter Black: Are you aware of the concerns of the Children's Commissioner for Wales regarding the mid and south Wales forensic adolescent consultation and treatment service for young people who exhibit sexually harmful behaviour? Will you take up with Health Commission Wales the fact that this service still has no consultant and is being led by the nurse member? Will you also ensure that a full service is put in place as soon as possible in south Wales?

Peter Black: A ydych yn ymwybodol o bryderon Comisiynydd Plant Cymru ynghylch gwasanaeth triniaeth ac ymgynghori ffforensig y glasgoed y de a'r canolbarth ar gyfer pobl ifanc sy'n dangos ymddygiad rhywiol niweidiol? A ewch chi a Chomisiwn Iechyd Cymru ar drywydd y ffaith nad oes gan y gwasanaeth hwn ymgynghorydd o hyd, ac y caiff ei arwain gan aelod sy'n nyrs? A sicrhewch hefyd y caiff gwasanaeth llawn ei roi ar waith cyn gynted â phosibl yn y de?

Edwina Hart: I am aware of the issues raised. However, this was not raised with me by the children's commissioner, but by another source. It is something that I will take

Edwina Hart: Gwn am y materion a godwyd. Fodd bynnag, nid y comisiynydd plant a soniodd am hyn wrthyf, ond ffynhonnell arall. Mae'n rhywbeth yr af ar ei

up with Health Commission Wales.

Bethan Jenkins: I was also going to raise that issue, but I will not now.

I will return to the issue of eating disorders and highlight the fact that, since we have launched the eating disorders awareness group, many young people have contacted us as they did not know where to go. Are you interested in initiating a Government-led awareness campaign—as has been done with the strategy dealing with suicides among young people in Wales—given that it is a pertinent issue that we should be discussing at an Assembly level?

Edwina Hart: I am delighted that an Assembly cross-party group has ensured that young people have started to contact us about these issues. It will be my job as Minister to look at the strategies that I can implement to assist the young people who have contacted you. I would be happy to look at that in the context of developing future strategies in this area.

Mark Isherwood: How will you address the concerns raised by the National Autistic Society when it launched its *I Exist* campaign in the Assembly recently that people with an autistic spectrum disorder who develop mental health problems currently experience difficulties accessing CAMHS? This is reflected in the concern of the children's commissioner regarding the exclusion from CAMHS of children and young people with learning disabilities and certain mental health problems.

Edwina Hart: There are issues regarding CAMHS, and a review of CAMHS provision at all levels through all agencies is currently being undertaken independently by the Wales Audit Office and Healthcare Inspectorate Wales. I very much hope that the points that were raised in that campaign can be taken forward in terms of that review. I hope that that review will contribute positively to future service developments for all groups.

drywydd gyda Chomisiwn Iechyd Cymru.

Bethan Jenkins: Yr oeddwn innau am godi'r mater hwnnw, ond ni wnaaf yn awr.

Dychwelaf at anhwylderau bwyta, a thynnu sylw at y ffaith bod nifer o bobl ifanc, ers inni lansio'r grŵp ymwybyddiaeth o anhwylderau bwyta, wedi cysylltu â ni gan na wyddent ble i fynd. A oes gennych ddi-ddordeb mewn dechrau ymgyrch codi ymwybyddiaeth dan arweiniad y Llywodraeth—fel y gwnaethpwyd gyda'r strategaeth sy'n delio â hunanladdiad ymhlith pobl ifanc yng Nghymru—ac ystyried ei fod yn fater perthnasol y dylem ei drafod ar lefel y Cynulliad?

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf yn hynod falch bod grŵp trawsbleidiol yn y Cynulliad wedi sicrhau bod pobl ifanc wedi dechrau cysylltu â ni ynghylch y materion hyn. Fy swyddogaeth i fel Gweinidog fydd edrych ar y strategaethau y gallaf eu gweithredu i gynorthwyo'r bobl ifanc sydd wedi cysylltu â chi. Byddwn yn fodlon edrych ar hynny yng nghyd-destun datblygu strategaethau i'r dyfodol yn y maes hwn.

Mark Isherwood: Sut yr ewch i'r afael â'r pryderon a godwyd gan y Gymdeithas Genedlaethol Awtistiaeth pan lansiodd ei hymgyrch *I Exist* yn y Cynulliad yn ddiweddar. Ei phryder yw bod pobl a chanddynt anhwylder yn y sbectrum awtistig, sy'n datblygu problemau iechyd meddwl, yn cael problemau cael mynediad at CAMHS ar hyn o bryd? Adlewyrchir hyn ym mhryder y comisiynydd plant ynghylch y ffaith bod plant a phobl ifanc gydag anableddau dysgu a phroblemau iechyd meddwl penodol yn cael eu hallgáu gan CAMHS.

Edwina Hart: Ceir problemau'n ymwneud â CAMHS, ac mae adolygiad o ddarpariaeth CAMHS ar bob lefel drwy bob asiantaeth yn cael ei chynnal yn annibynnol ar hyn o bryd gan Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru ac Arolygiaeth Gofal Iechyd Cymru. Gobeithiaf yn fawr y gellir cyflwyno'r pwyntiau a godwyd yn yr ymgyrch honno yng nghyswllt yr adolygiad hwnnw. Gobeithiaf y bydd yr adolygiad hwnnw'n cyfrannu'n gadarnhaol at ddatblygu'r gwasanaeth yn y dyfodol ar gyfer

pob grŵp.

Out-of-hours Provision

Q8 Karen Sinclair: Will the Minister make a statement on out-of-hours GP service provision in north-east Wales? OAQ(3)0469(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Out-of-hours general medical services in north-east Wales are continuing to develop. Wrexham and Flintshire services have recently merged to ensure a consistent approach for the people of these areas. The LHBs monitor the services to ensure that they meet patient need.

Karen Sinclair: Last week saw the start of the new out-of-hours GP service that will serve around 290,000 people across the counties of Wrexham and Flintshire in north-east Wales. As you will be aware, the new service—known as NEWDOC—is an example of the NHS working innovatively to provide primary care for patients on a local level. I am sure that the new service will be warmly welcomed by patients in north-east Wales. Indeed, over the last month, I have used out-of-hours doctors quite a lot, and they have been very good. However, many of the comments made in my surgeries relate to patients wanting to see their own GP, whom they cannot see during working hours because they are at work. They feel more willing to talk to them about their most intimate health problems. It is difficult to talk to a stranger. Minister, will you take this opportunity to update the Assembly on the work that you are doing to develop the arrangements for extending access to patients' own GPs during hours that are more convenient to them and fit around the needs and lives of twenty-first-century communities across Wales?

Edwina Hart: There are ongoing discussions with the British Medical Association about what we propose to do to enhance GP services and the hours that they are available.

Darpariaeth y Tu Hwnt i Oriau Arferol

C8 Karen Sinclair: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ddarpariaeth gwasanaethau meddygon teulu y tu allan i oriau arferol yng ngogledd-ddwyrain Cymru? OAQ(3)0469(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Mae gwasanaethau meddygol cyffredinol y tu allan i oriau yn y gogledd-ddwyrain yn dal i ddatblygu. Mae gwasanaethau Wrecsam a sir y Fflint wedi uno'n ddiweddar i sicrhau dull gweithredu cyson ar gyfer pobl yr ardaloedd hynny. Mae'r BILlau yn monitro'r gwasanaethau er mwyn sicrhau eu bod yn diwallu anghenion cleifion.

Karen Sinclair: Yr wythnos diwethaf, dechreuwyd gwasanaeth meddygon teulu newydd, y tu allan i oriau. Bydd yn gwasanaethu oddeutu 290,000 o bobl ar draws Wrecsam a sir y Fflint yn y gogledd-ddwyrain. Fel y gwyddoch, mae'r gwasanaeth newydd—a elwir yn NEWDOC—yn enghraifft o'r GIG yn gweithio'n arloesol i ddarparu gofal sylfaenol i gleifion ar lefel leol. Yr wyf yn siŵr y caiff y gwasanaeth newydd groeso brwd gan gleifion yn y gogledd-ddwyrain. Yn wir, yn ystod y mis diwethaf, yr wyf wedi defnyddio meddygon y tu allan i oriau droeon, ac maent wedi bod yn dda iawn. Fodd bynnag, mae nifer o'r sylwadau a wnaethpwyd yn fy nghymorthfeydd yn ymwneud â chleifion yn dymuno gweld eu meddyg teulu eu hunain, ac na allant ei weld yn ystod oriau gwaith gan eu bod yn gweithio. Maent yn fwy parod i siarad â hwy am eu problemau iechyd mwyaf personol. Mae'n anodd siarad â dieithryn. Weinidog, a fanteisiwch ar y cyfle hwn i roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r Cynulliad am y gwaith a wnewch i ddatblygu'r trefniadau ar gyfer ehangu mynediad at feddyg teulu personol y cleifion yn ystod oriau sy'n fwy cyfleus iddynt ac sy'n cyd-fynd ag anghenion a bywydau cymunedau'r unfed ganrif ar hugain ledled Cymru?

Edwina Hart: Mae trafodaethau'n cael eu cynnal gyda Chymdeithas Feddygol Prydain ar hyn o bryd ynghylch yr hyn y bwriadwn ei wneud i ehangu gwasanaethau meddyg teulu

These have yet to be concluded, but I will advise Members once these have been concluded.

a'r oriau y maent ar gael. Nid yw'r trafodaethau hyn wedi dod i fwcl eto, ond byddaf yn rhoi gwybod i Aelodau ar ôl i'r rhain ddod i ben.

Y Cynllun Iechyd Gwledig

The Rural Health Plan

C9 Alun Ffred Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ddatblygiad y cynllun iechyd gwledig? OAQ(3)0477(HSS)

Q9 Alun Ffred Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the development of the rural health plan? OAQ(3)0477(HSS)

Edwina Hart: The rural health plan is a key 'One Wales' commitment to assist those living in rural areas. Lord Elystan Morgan is leading the steering group. There will be a widespread process of consultation and engagement during the spring and summer and I hope to have a draft report in September and a final report available for publication in December. This will be followed by its implementation.

Edwina Hart: Mae'r cynllun iechyd gwledig yn un brif ymrwymiadau 'Cymru'n Un' i gynorthwyo'r rheini sy'n byw mewn ardaloedd gwledig. Yr Arglwydd Elystan Morgan sy'n arwain y grŵp llywio. Ceir proses eang o ymgynghori ac ymgysylltu yn ystod y gwanwyn a'r haf, a gobeithiaf gael adroddiad drafft ym mis Medi, ac adroddiad terfynol i'w gyhoeddi ym mis Rhagfyr. Fe'i rhoddir ar waith yn dilyn hyn.

1.00 p.m.

Alun Ffred Jones: Yr wyf yn bryderus ynglŷn â'r cysylltiad rhwng yr ad-drefnu sydd ar y gweill ynglŷn â'r byrddau iechyd lleol a'r syniad o lunio cynllun datblygu iechyd gwledig, oherwydd ei bod yn ymddangos y gallai'r ddau beth weithio yn erbyn ei gilydd. Un awgrym a wnaed oedd i un bwrdd iechyd gael ei sefydlu ar gyfer gogledd Cymru. Nid yw hynny fel y cyfryw yn fy mhoeni, ond mae tuedd wedi bod i ganoli gwasanaethau yn y dwyrain pan fo pethau'n digwydd ar draws y gogledd. Gallai hynny filwrio yn erbyn y cynllun iechyd gwledig. A fydd y sawl sydd yn gyfrifol am greu'r cynllun iechyd gwledig hefyd yn ystyried effaith yr ad-drefnu posibl ar y byrddau iechyd lleol yn y cyd-destun hwnnw?

Alun Ffred Jones: I am concerned about the link between the current reorganisation of local health boards and the idea of putting together a rural health development plan, because it appears that the two things could militate against each other. One suggestion that has been made is that there should be one health board for north Wales. That in itself does not concern me, but there has been a trend to centralise services in the east when things happen for north Wales as a region. That could militate against the rural health plan. Will those people responsible for creating the rural health plan also consider the impact of the possible reorganisation on the local health boards in that context?

Edwina Hart: The officials who are dealing with this and the people that I have put on the steering group are well aware of the issues that you have raised, and I am sure that they will consider them. The rural health plan is not just about structures; it is about the reality of the type of contracts that people will have in rural areas, where physiotherapists will be located, and where speech and language therapists will be. It is about turning the world into a different place.

Edwina Hart: Mae'r swyddogion sy'n delio â hyn a'r bobl yr wyf wedi'u dewis ar gyfer y grŵp llywio yn ymwybodol iawn o'r materion yr ydych wedi'u codi, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y byddant yn eu hystyried. Nid strwythurau'n unig sydd yn y cynllun iechyd gwledig; mae'n sôn am realiti'r math o gontractau y bydd gan bobl mewn ardaloedd gwledig, ymhle fydd ffisiotherapyddion yn cael eu lleoli, ac ymhle fydd therapyddion iaith a lleferydd. Mae'n fater o drawsnewid pethau er gwell.

I would like to give particular assurance about north-west Wales, as I have been pleased to do with regard to west Wales. In west Wales, look at the positive way in which we are now developing the Bronglais centre with the additional investment going in, where we are looking for new headquarters for the new Hywel Dda trust. We are looking towards the west, rather than to the more traditional areas of Carmarthen and Llanelli, where people thought that they would go, where there are large population bases. This is how I feel that things should proceed. You can take assurance from my comments about the realities of what is happening with Hywel Dda, in that there will not necessarily be that eastward drift of services in the north.

Paul Davies: In Withybush Hospital, as I am sure the Minister is aware, a service improvement plan is currently being implemented. This plan will, hopefully, improve the services at Withybush, thereby benefiting the whole of Pembrokeshire. Will the Minister confirm that this vital service improvement plan will not be jeopardised by the implementation of this new rural health plan?

Edwina Hart: It will definitely not jeopardise it. Withybush currently provides excellent services. We want to improve the excellence of services; it is not just about making what is good excellent. The future of Withybush is secure, and nothing in the rural health plan will take anything away from that.

Mick Bates: I welcome the development of a rural health plan, but there will be significant challenges, particularly in the cross-border provision of services. You are aware of one particular challenge facing us in Montgomeryshire, which is the provision of ambulance services, and the Llanfyllin ambulance station in particular, at the very tip of the county. Just this week, of 16 vacant shifts, only four could be filled, leaving 12 without any cover at all. This is a crisis situation, and many of my constituents are fearful that without enough staff to cover the

Hoffwn roi sicrwydd penodol ynghylch y gogledd orllewin, fel yr wyf wedi bod yn falch o wneud ar gyfer y gorllewin. Yn y gorllewin, edrychwch ar y ffordd gadarnhaol yr ydym yn awr yn datblygu canolfan Bronglais, a'r buddsoddiad ychwanegol, wrth inni chwilio am bencadlys newydd ar gyfer yr ymddiriedolaeth Hywel Dda newydd. Yr ydym yn edrych tua'r gorllewin, yn hytrach na tuag at yr ardaloedd mwy traddodiadol fel Caerfyrddin a Llanelli, lle'r oedd pobl yn credu y byddent yn mynd, a lle mae'r canolfannau poblogaeth mawr. Dyna sut yr wyf yn teimlo sut y dylai pethau fynd rhagddynt. Gallwch gael sicrwydd o'm sylwadau ynghylch yr hyn sy'n digwydd gyda Hywel Dda, nad yw'n anochel y bydd gwasanaethau'n symud tua'r dwyrain yn y gogledd.

Paul Davies: Yn Ysbyty Llwynhelyg, fel yr wyf yn siŵr bod y Gweinidog yn ymwybodol, mae cynllun gwella gwasanaethau yn cael ei roi ar waith ar hyn o bryd. Bydd y cynllun hwn, gobeithio, yn gwella'r gwasanaethau yn Llwynhelyg, a bydd hynny'n fanteisiol i sir Benfro yn ei chyfanrwydd. A wnaiff y Gweinidog gadarnhau na fydd gweithredu'r cynllun iechyd gwledig hwn yn peryglu'r cynllun gwella gwasanaethau hwn?

Edwina Hart: Yn bendant, ni fydd yn ei beryglu. Mae Llwynhelyg eisoes yn darparu gwasanaethau rhagorol. Yr ydym am wella'r gwasanaethau rhagorol; nid yw'n fater o wneud gwasanaeth da yn wasanaeth rhagorol yn unig. Mae dyfodol Llwynhelyg yn ddiogel, ac ni fydd unrhyw beth yn y cynllun iechyd gwledig yn peryglu hynny.

Mick Bates: Croesawaf y ffaith bod cynllun iechyd gwledig yn cael ei lunio, ond bydd heriau sylweddol, yn enwedig yng nghyswllt materion trawsffiniol wrth ddarparu gwasanaethau. Yr ydych yn ymwybodol o un her benodol sy'n ein hwynebu yn sir Drefaldwyn, sef darparu gwasanaethau ambiwlans, a gorsaf ambiwlans Llanfyllin yn benodol, ym mhen eithaf y sir. Yr wythnos hon, allan o 16 shift wag, pedair yn unig a lenwyd, gan adael 12 heb staff o gwbl. Mae hon yn sefyllfa argyfyngus, ac mae llawer o'm hetholwyr yn poeni os na fydd digon o

shifts, response times, which are already long, will be increased and, on occasion, there may be no local response at all. This is a matter of urgency. What can you do to address the current dire situation in our ambulance service?

Edwina Hart: I have recognised the difficulties by setting up a review of the ambulance service under Stuart Fletcher, chair of the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust. The chair of the ambulance service is due to meet me next week, and if you send me the details of this matter, I will raise it with him. I am concerned about ambulance cover, not only in rural Wales, but in urban Wales too. The ambulance service must improve, because people are feeling vulnerable. They are talking to ambulance staff, who sometimes paint a wholly different picture to that of the realities of the ambulance service portrayed in my formal reports.

Foreign Nationals

Q10 Darren Millar: Will the Minister make a statement on whether her department collects information on the number of foreign nationals in Wales registered with general practitioners? OAQ(3)0450(HSS)

Edwina Hart: This information is not collected centrally by my department.

Darren Millar: Do you agree with me that it is vital to have consistency across Wales with regard to the Welsh health service's treatment of foreign nationals? What is your department doing to ensure that patients do not see their services suffer as a result of limited NHS resources being spent inappropriately on treatment tourists who are not entitled to access them?

Edwina Hart: I am terribly sorry, but the direction of this question causes me some problems. I thought it the duty of a civilized society to treat sick people, and that has always been my rule of thumb in carrying out my responsibilities as Minister for health.

staff i lenwi'r shifftiau, bydd amseroedd ymateb, sydd eisoes yn hir, yn mynd yn hwy ac, ar brydiau, na fydd ymateb lleol o gwbl. Mae hwn yn fater brys. Beth allwch ei wneud i fynd i'r afael â'r sefyllfa echrydus sydd ohoni yn ein gwasanaeth ambiwlans?

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf wedi cydnabod yr anawsterau drwy sefydlu adolygiad o'r gwasanaeth ambiwlans dan Stuart Fletcher, cadeirydd Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Gwasanaethau Ambiwllans Cymru. Byddaf yn cwrdd â chadeirydd y gwasanaeth ambiwlans yr wythnos nesaf, ac os wnewch anfon manylion ataf am y mater hwn, gallaf ei godi ag ef. Yr wyf yn poeni am ddarpariaeth ambiwlansys, nid yng Nghymru wledig, ond yn ardaloedd trefol Cymru hefyd. Rhaid i'r gwasanaeth ambiwlans wella, oherwydd mae pobl yn teimlo'n fregus. Maent yn siarad â staff ambiwlans, sydd weithiau'n rhoi darlun hollol wahanol o realiti'r sefyllfa o'i gymharu â'r gwasanaeth ambiwlans a bortreadir yn fy adroddiadau ffurfiol.

Gwladolion Tramor

C10 Darren Millar: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am a yw ei hadran yn casglu gwybodaeth am nifer y gwladolion tramor yng Nghymru sydd wedi cofrestru gyda meddygon teulu? OAQ(3)0450(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Nid yw fy adran yn casglu'r wybodaeth hon yn ganolog.

Darren Millar: A ydych yn cytuno â mi ei bod yn hanfodol cael cysondeb ledled Cymru o ran sut y mae gwasanaeth iechyd Cymru'n trin gwladolion tramor? Beth mae eich adran yn ei wneud i sicrhau nad yw gwasanaethau i gleifion yn dirywio o ganlyniad i adnoddau cyfyngedig y GIG yn cael eu gwario ar drin ymwelwyr nad oes ganddynt yr hawl i gael y gwasanaethau hyn?

Edwina Hart: Mae'n flin iawn gennyf ond mae trywydd y cwestiwn hwn yn fy ngwneud yn anghyfforddus. Yr oeddwn o'r farn mai dyletswydd cymdeithas wâr oedd trin pobl sâl, a dyna'n fras sut yr wyf bob amser wedi cyflawni fy nyletswyddau fel Gweinidog iechyd.

Y Llywydd: Trosglwyddwyd cwestiwn 11, OAQ(3)0458(HSS), ar gyfer ateb ysgrifenedig.

The Presiding Officer: Question 11, OAQ(3)0458(HSS), has been transferred for written answer.

The Future of the NHS

Q12 The Leader of the Opposition (Nick Bourne): Will the Minister outline her vision for the future of the NHS in Wales? OAQ(3)0418(HSS)

Edwina Hart: My ultimate aim is to improve patient care and the patient experience. On 2 April, I launched a consultation on proposals to change the structure of the NHS in Wales. The aim is to meet the 'One Wales' pledge to end the internal market, improve health services for patients, and encourage co-operation in delivering public services.

Nick Bourne: I thank the Minister for that response. She and I recognise the importance of those changes, and the fact that they are perhaps more profound than the First Minister seemed to indicate yesterday. On the new NHS strategy board—or whatever the title of this body will be; it is perhaps to be determined—how does she see that operating? Will it be at arm's length from the Minister and from the Government, in much the same way as the Bank of England operates in relation to financial issues? Is that her intention? If not, how does she see it operating?

Edwina Hart: I have put three options in the paper on establishing a board for Wales. They are to have a special health authority, a civil service board, or an advisory board supporting the Assembly Government NHS chief executive. What I am trying to do now is to find out what people consider to be the best options in terms of that consultation. There has been much discussion about having an arm's-length organisation, so that politics should not be seen to input directly into the health service. However, politicians decide, through their manifestos, on the direction of travel in health and are elected on that, so there should be an element of involvement.

However, we could perhaps get a balance. I

Dyfodol y GIG

C12 Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Nick Bourne): A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu ei gwledigaeth ar gyfer dyfodol y GIG yng Nghymru? OAQ(3)0418(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Fy nod yn y pen draw yw gwella'r gofal i gleifion a'r profiad i gleifion. Ar 2 Ebrill, lansiais ymgynghoriad ar gynigion i newid strwythur y GIG yng Nghymru. Y nod yw gwireddu'r addewid yn 'Cymru'n Un' i ddod â'r farchnad fewnol i ben, gwella gwasanaethau iechyd i gleifion, ac annog cydweithrediad wrth ddarparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus.

Nick Bourne: Diolch yn fawr Weinidog am yr ateb hwnnw. Mae hi'n cydnabod, fel yr wyf finnau, pa mor bwysig yw'r newidiadau hynny, a'r ffaith eu bod efallai yn fwy difrifol na'r hyn a ddynododd y Prif Weinidog ddoe, yn ôl pob golwg. O ran bwrdd strategaeth newydd y GIG—neu beth bynnag fydd enw'r corff hwn; efallai nad oes enw wedi'i ddewis eto—sut yr ydych yn ei weld yn gweithio? A fydd yn gorff hyd braich oddi wrth y Gweinidog a'r Llywodraeth, yn debyg i'r ffordd y mae Banc Lloegr yn gweithredu o ran materion ariannol? Ai dyna yw ei bwriad? Os nad, sut y mae hi'n gweld y peth yn gweithio?

Edwina Hart: Cyflwynais dri dewis yn y papur ar sefydlu bwrdd ar gyfer Cymru, sef cael awdurdod iechyd arbennig, bwrdd gwasanaeth sifil, neu fwrdd ymgynghorol i gefnogi prif weithredwr GIG Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Fy mwriad yn awr yn yr ymgynghoriad hwnnw yw ceisio canfod pa un yw'r dewis gorau ym marn pobl. Mae cryn drafod wedi bod am gael sefydliad hyd braich, fel na roddir yr argraff bod gwleidyddiaeth yn effeithio'n uniongyrchol ar y gwasanaeth iechyd. Fodd bynnag, gwleidyddion sy'n penderfynu ar yr hyn sy'n digwydd ym maes iechyd, drwy eu manifestos, a chânt eu hethol ar sail hynny, felly dylai fod rhywfaint o ymgysylltiad.

Fodd bynnag, efallai y gallem gael

would welcome comments—like the ones that you are making to me today, Nick—coming quite forcefully from Assembly Members, political parties, and others, about how they see the direction in this area, because I am open to suggestions.

On the consultation document, this is a consultation, and if people have more radical views, or do not want us to go as far as is set out in the document, I need to hear those views. At the end of the consultation process, if someone comes up with ideas that I consider to be better than my own, and that are suitable in terms of how we can deal with issues, I am more than prepared to look at them.

Neurosurgery

Q13 Mark Isherwood: Will the Minister make a statement on the provision of neurosurgery in north Wales? OAQ(3)0434(HSS)

Edwina Hart: The independent Welsh neuroscience group has been established to recommend a high-quality, safe and sustainable neuroscience service model for the adult population of the whole of Wales, as close as home to possible. It provides its report to me in the summer.

Mark Isherwood: I am sure that you are aware that, last week, a group of retired people who have been prominent in the health service and public life in north Wales produced a report entitled 'Neurosurgery and Specialist Hospital Services for the People of North Wales'. They concluded that, although the proposal to transfer elective surgery to Swansea is now in abeyance, awaiting a review by James Steers, it has not been withdrawn, and that, even if Mr Steers were to recommend that the current service, both elective and emergency, should continue at Walton, you as Minister are not bound to accept that recommendation. What assurances can you give them, given their concluding comment, which I have just read to you?

cydbwysedd. Byddwn yn croesawu sylwadau—fel eich sylwadau heddiw, Nick—a leisir yn ddi-flewyn ar dafod gan Aelodau Cynulliad, pleidiau gwleidyddol, ac eraill, ynghylch sut y maent yn gweld pethau'n symud ymlaen yn y maes hwn, oherwydd yr wyf yn barod i wrando ar awgrymiadau.

O ran y ddogfen ymgynghori, ymgynghoriad ydyw, ac os oes gan bobl syniadau mwy radical, neu os nad ydynt am inni wneud cymaint o newidiadau ag a awgrymir yn y ddogfen, yna mae arnaf angen clywed y safbwyntiau hynny. Ar ddiwedd y broses ymgynghori, os oes rhywun yn cyflwyno gwell syniadau nag sydd gennyf eisoes yn fy marn i, a'u bod yn addas o ran sut y gallwn ddelio â'r materion, yr wyf yn fwy na pharod i edrych arnynt.

Niwrolawfeddygaeth

C13 Mark Isherwood: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ddarpariaeth niwrolawfeddygaeth yn y gogledd? OAQ(3)0434(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Mae grŵp annibynnol niwrowyddorau Cymru wedi cael ei sefydlu i argymhell model ar gyfer gwasanaeth niwrowyddorau o safon uchel, diogel a chynaliadwy i holl oedolion Cymru, mor agos â phosibl i'w cartrefi. Byddant yn cyflwyno eu hadroddiad imi yn yr haf.

Mark Isherwood: Yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn ymwybodol, yr wythnos diwethaf, bod grŵp o bobl sydd wedi ymddeol, ac sydd wedi bod yn ffigyrau amlwg yn y gwasanaeth iechyd ac ym mywyd cyhoeddus y gogledd, wedi cyhoeddi adroddiad dan y teitl 'Neurosurgery and Specialist Hospital Services for the People of North Wales'. Daethant i'r casgliad, er bod y cynnig i drosglwyddo llawdriniaeth ddewisol i Abertawe wedi cael ei roi o'r neilltu am y tro, wrth ddisgwyl adolygiad gan James Steers, nid yw serch hynny wedi cael ei dynnu'n ôl yn llwyr, a hyd yn oed petai Mr Steers yn argymhell y dylai'r gwasanaeth presennol, sef llawdriniaeth ddewisol ac mewn argyfwng, aros yn Walton, nad ydych fel Gweinidog yn rhwym i dderbyn yr argymhelliad hwnnw. Pa sicrwydd allwch ei roi iddynt, a chofio eu

sylwadau clo yr wyf newydd eu darllen?

Edwina Hart: I am sick and tired of this mischief-making about neurosurgery. It is getting patients upset and communities agitated and it is causing me a lot of work in terms of the correspondence that I have to reply to. James Steers is looking at this openly. I do not know how you can have any doubt, when you see who he is, and who is on the distinguished panel, that these things will be dealt with properly. Everyone is entitled to their opinion, but no existing arrangements have changed. At the end of the day, we have a review that is reporting in July. I would be a silly health Minister if I had a distinguished panel advising me to do something and then ignored it. Enough has been said on this matter and all this speculation in the press is not helping patients. My sole aim on neurosurgery and neuroscience is to improve service delivery across the piece, whether it is in south Wales, mid Wales, west Wales, north Wales, or any other part of Wales. That is the commitment of this Government.

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf wedi cael llond bol o'r holl godi cynnen am niwrolawfeddygaeth. Mae'n peri gofid i gleifion, yn cynhyrfu cymunedau ac mae'n creu llawer o waith i fi o ran yr holl ohebiaeth y mae'n rhaid ymateb iddo. Mae James Steers yn edrych ar y mater hwn yn agored. Nid wyf yn gwybod sut y gallech amau, gan gofio pwy ydyw a'r gwybodusion sydd ar y panel, na fydd y materion hyn yn cael eu trin yn briodol. Rhydd i bawb eu barn, ond nid yw'r trefniadau presennol wedi newid. Yn y pen draw, mae gennym adolygiad a fydd yn adrodd yn ôl ym mis Gorffennaf. Byddwn yn Weinidog iechyd ffôl iawn petai gennyf banel o wybodusion yn awgrymu y dylwn wneud rhywbeth a finnau'n eu hanwybyddu. Mae digon o sôn eisoes wedi bod am y mater hwn ac nid yw'r holl wagddyfalu yn y wasg yn helpu cleifion o gwbl. Fy unig nod ar gyfer niwrolawfeddygaeth a niwrowyddoniaeth yw gwella darpariaeth y gwasanaeth drwyddo draw, boed hynny yn y de, yn y canolbarth, yn y gorllewin, yn y gogledd neu yn unrhyw ran arall o Gymru. Dyna ymrwymiad y Llywodraeth hon.

Free Hospital Car Parking

Q14 Chris Franks: Will the Minister make a statement on free hospital car parking? OAQ(3)0446(HSS)

Edwina Hart: I refer you to my written statement of 3 March.

Chris Franks: What assessment has been made regarding the impact of free hospital car parking? What is your opinion of the Liberal Democrats, who are actively campaigning to keep car parking charges in hospitals such as those of Llandough and Barry? It was only a year ago—

The Presiding Officer: Order. The Minister for Health and Social Services has no responsibility for the Liberal Democrats.

Chris Franks: To conclude, are you grateful, Minister, that you have no responsibility for the Liberal Democrats? [*Laughter.*]

Parcio Ceir am Ddim mewn Ysbytai

C14 Chris Franks: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am parcio ceir am ddim mewn ysbytai? OAQ(3)0446(HSS)

Edwina Hart: Fe'ch cyfeirïaf at fy natganiad ysgrifenedig ar 3 Mawrth.

Chris Franks: Pa asesiad sydd wedi cael ei wneud ynghylch effaith parcio ceir am ddim mewn ysbytai? Beth yw eich barn am y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, sy'n ymgyrchu'n frwd dros gadw ffioedd parcio ceir mewn ysbytai megis Llanddoche a'r Barri? Gwta flwyddyn yn ôl—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid oes gan y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol gyfrifoldeb dros y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol.

Chris Franks: I gloi, a ydych yn ddiolchgar Weinidog, nad oes gennych gyfrifoldeb dros y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol? [*Chwerthin.*]

1.10 p.m.

Edwina Hart: Behind your question, there is a serious point about free car parking in hospitals. I believe that it is the right thing to do. I have been visiting in hospital quite a lot recently. It was before we made our decision. I could see that people were getting worried and going back to their cars all the time to put money into the parking pay machine, getting flustered trying to find a place to park and find change, and so on. I acknowledge that there have been some teething problems, but the trusts' chief executives and their expensive boards of personnel that deal with these matters need to sort out the practicalities of some of the issues that have arisen, because this is Government policy. It is here to stay and I think that it is a good thing.

Edwina Hart: Y tu ôl i'ch cwestiwn, mae gennych bwynt difrifol am barcio ceir am ddim mewn ysbytai. Credaf mai dyma'r peth iawn i'w wneud. Yr wyf wedi bod yn ymweld ag ysbyty gryn dipyn yn ddiweddar. Yr oedd hyn cyn inni wneud ein penderfyniad. Gallwn weld bod pobl yn poeni am hyn a'u bod yn dychwelyd at eu ceir drwy'r amser i roi arian yn y peiriant parcio, yn cynhyrfu drwyddynt wrth geisio chwilio am le i barcio a dod o hyd i newid, ac yn y blaen. Yr wyf yn cydnabod y cafwyd rhywfaint o broblemau ar y cychwyn, ond mae'n rhaid i brif weithredwyr yr ymddiriedolaethau a'u byrddau costus o bersonél sy'n delio â'r materion hyn fynd i'r afael â rhai o'r anawsterau ymarferol sydd wedi codi, oherwydd mae'n bolisi gan y Llywodraeth. Mae'n bolisi sydd yma i aros a chredaf fod hynny'n beth da.

Cwestiynau i'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Questions to the Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport

Gwella Cyswllt Trafnidiaeth

Improving Transport Links

C1 Alun Ffred Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y datblygiadau i wella cyswllt trafniadaeth rhwng y de a'r gogledd? OAQ(3)0463(ECT)

Q1 Alun Ffred Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on developments to improve transport links between the north and south? OAQ(3)0463(ECT)

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Euthum ati ym mis Hydref i amlinellu fy ngweledigaeth ar gyfer gwella cysylltiadau trafniadaeth rhwng y de a'r gogledd. Byddaf yn rhoi manylion pellach yn y man.

The Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport (Ieuan Wyn Jones): In October I outlined my vision for improving transport links between north and south. I will provide further details shortly.

Alun Ffred Jones: Yr wyf yn derbyn nad ydych mewn sefyllfa i wneud cyhoeddiadau, ond mae'r cysylltiadau hynny yn cynnwys yr A487 sy'n rhedeg o Fangor i Borthmadog, ac mae tri neu bedwar o gynlluniau arfaethedig ar y ffordd honno. A ellwch wneud unrhyw ddatganiad ynglŷn â sefyllfa'r llwybr arfaethedig o safbwynt osgoi Caernarfon o Bontnewydd neu Ddinas i gyfeiriad Plas Menai?

Alun Ffred Jones: I accept that you are not in a position to make announcements, but those links include the A487 running from Bangor to Porthmadog, and there are three or four schemes in the pipeline on that road. Can you make any statement regarding the position on the proposed route for bypassing Caernarfon from Bontnewydd or Dinas to the direction of Plas Menai?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mae nifer o gynlluniau ar y gweill, fel y gwyddoch, a byddaf mewn sefyllfa i roi mwy o fanylion yn nes ymlaen. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn falch o ddweud bod ffordd osgoi Caernarfon i Bontnewydd bellach yn gynllun gweithredol. Byddwn yn penodi ymgynghorwyr yn yr haf a byddant yn ystyried y llwybrau posibl ar gyfer y ffordd.

Mark Isherwood: The issue of health impact assessments was raised in the context of the A494, and it will also apply to north-south road links. British Medical Association Cymru has written to me, and probably to you as well, saying that it is in the process of drafting legislation that would enable Wales to put health impact assessments on a statutory basis for road schemes. What is your position on that?

The Deputy First Minister: I will await the representations and then I will respond.

Eleanor Burnham: Mae'n rhaid inni grybwyll trenau gan eu bod yn bwysig i lawer ohonom sy'n teithio o'r de i'r gogledd. Sut a pha bryd y byddwch yn cyhoeddi canlyniadau'r astudiaeth yr ydych yn ei chynnal ar wella ansawdd a dibynadwyedd y cysylltiad hwn? Yr wyf hefyd yn eich cofio yn dweud y byddech yn cael dosbarth busnes ar y trenau o'r gogledd i'r de. Fodd bynnag, y peth pwysicaf yw lleihau'r amser y mae'r siwrnai o Gaerdydd i Gaerdybi yn ei chymryd. Beth allwch ddweud wrthym am hynny?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Byddaf yn gwneud datganiad ar wella'r gwasanaethau trenau rhwng y de a'r gogledd cyn bo hir, a bydd hynny'n cynnwys canlyniadau'r astudiaeth yr ydym wedi ei chynnal ar gael trên cyflym o'r de i'r gogledd—o Gaerdybi yn y bore ac o Gaerdydd gyda'r nos—a gobeithiaf y gallwn wneud hynny yn eithaf buan.

Transport Priorities

Q2 Andrew R.T. Davies: Will the Minister make a statement on his transport priorities for the next 12 months? OAQ(3)0430(ECT)

The Deputy First Minister: As you know, a number of schemes have been proposed and I will be in a position to give further details in due course. However, I am pleased to say that the Caernarfon to Bontnewydd bypass is now an operational plan. We will be appointing consultants in the summer who will consider the possible routes for that road.

Mark Isherwood: Codwyd mater asesiadau effaith ar iechyd yng nghyd-destun yr A494, a bydd hynny hefyd yn berthnasol i gysylltiadau ffordd rhwng y de a'r gogledd. Mae Cymdeithas Feddygol Prydain (Cymru) wedi ysgrifennu ataf, ac atoch chi hefyd fwy na thebyg, gan ddweud mai yn ystod y broses drafftio deddfwriaeth y byddai Cymru'n gallu gwneud asesiadau effaith ar iechyd yn statudol ar gyfer cynlluniau ffyrdd. Beth yw eich safbwynt am hynny?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Byddaf yn disgwyl am y sylwadau ac yna'n ymateb.

Eleanor Burnham: We have to mention the trains as they are important for many of us who travel from north to south. How and when will you announce the results of your current study on improving the quality and reliability of this transport link? I also recall you saying that you would provide a business class service on trains from north to south. However, the most important thing is to reduce the journey time from Cardiff to Holyhead. What can you tell us on that issue?

The Deputy First Minister: I will be making a statement on improving rail services from north to south Wales relatively soon, which will include the results of the study that we have carried out on having a fast train service from north to south—from Holyhead in the morning and from Cardiff in the evening—and I hope to do so relatively soon.

Blaenoriaethau Trafnidiaeth

C2 Andrew R.T. Davies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ei flaenoriaethau trafndiaeth ar gyfer y 12 mis nesaf? OAQ(3)0430(ECT)

The Deputy First Minister: These will be outlined in the Wales transport strategy, the national plan and the regional transport plans, all of which will be published in the next 12 months.

Andrew R.T. Davies: A month or two ago, you announced, via the press, to the bus industry that you were doing away with the bus service operators grant. I have received many representations from bus operators on the difficult position in which that has put them. Your officials announced that there would be a review, but, to date, the bus industry has not been notified of a start date or the terms of reference for the review. In laying out your plans for the next 12 months, will you give us a start date and the terms of reference for this review, so that the bus industry can move forward with confidence about the support that they might enjoy from the Welsh Assembly Government?

The Deputy First Minister: I recognise that it is important to undertake that review quickly, and I understand the concerns that have been expressed to you, to other Members and to me. I have held meetings with representatives of the bus industry. I hope to be in a position to make an announcement on that review shortly.

Alun Davies: Over the past few months, I have made several representations to you on transport networks in south-west Wales—in Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire specifically. As part of your overall planning for the next few months, are you prepared to consider a specific transport strategy for the south-west Wales corridor, linking all the services west of Swansea to the Irish sea ports, to ensure that we have an integrated transport network with fast, reliable train services and an effective road network?

The Deputy First Minister: I had a meeting in Pembrokeshire fairly recently at which I discussed several of these issues with the county council and shipping operators. I am aware of these concerns. Shortly, when I

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Caiff y rhain eu hamlinellu yn strategaeth drafndiaeth Cymru, yn y cynllun cenedlaethol ac yn y cynlluniau trafndiaeth rhanbarthol, a gaiff eu cyhoeddi yn y 12 mis nesaf.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Fis neu ddau yn ôl, cyhoeddasoch i'r diwydiant bysiau, yn y wasg, eich bod yn diddymu'r grant gweithredwyr gwasanaeth bysiau. Yr wyf wedi cael llawer o sylwadau gan weithredwyr bysiau am y sefyllfa anodd y maent ynddi yn sgil hynny. Cyhoeddodd eich swyddogion y ceid adolygiad, ond, hyd yn hyn, nid yw'r diwydiant bysiau wedi cael gwybod pa bryd bydd yr adolygiad yn cychwyn na'i glych gorchwyl. Wrth gyflwyno eich cynlluniau ar gyfer y 12 mis nesaf, a wnewch roi dyddiad cychwyn inni a chylch gorchwyl ar gyfer yr adolygiad hwn, fel y gall y diwydiant bysiau symud ymlaen â hyder yn y gefnogaeth y gallant ei ddisgwyl gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn cydnabod ei bod yn bwysig cynnal yr adolygiad hwnnw'n sydyn, a deallaf y pryderon a fynegwyd i chi, i Aelodau eraill ac i finnau. Yr wyf wedi cynnal cyfarfodydd â chynrychiolwyr y diwydiant bysiau. Gobeithiaf fod mewn sefyllfa i wneud cyhoeddiad am yr adolygiad hwnnw cyn bo hir.

Alun Davies: Dros y misoedd diwethaf, yr ydych wedi cael nifer o sylwadau gennyf am rwydweithiau trafndiaeth yn y de orllewin—yn sir Gaerfyrddin ac yn sir Benfro yn benodol. Fel rhan o'ch cynllunio cyffredinol ar gyfer y misoedd nesaf, a ydych yn fodlon ystyried strategaeth drafndiaeth benodol ar gyfer coridor y de orllewin, gan gysylltu'r holl wasanaethau sydd i'r gorllewin o Abertawe hyd at borthladdoedd môr Iwerddon, er mwyn sicrhau bod gennym rwydwaith trafndiaeth integredig sydd â gwasanaethau trên cyflym a dibynadwy ynghyd â rhwydwaith ffyrdd effeithiol?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Cefais gyfarfod yn sir Benfro yn lled ddiweddar lle bûm yn trafod nifer o'r materion hyn gyda'r cyngor sir a gweithredwyr llongau. Yr wyf yn ymwybodol o'r pryderon hyn. Cyn bo hir, ar

have published my Wales transport strategy, the regional transport plans will need to be updated, and some of the details of the regional priorities will need to be included in them. When those priorities have been identified—and I would be very happy to discuss them with the regional transport consortia for your area—I will be happy to consider them in the overall context of the strategy that I will announce soon.

Peter Black: You are aware that one of Swansea council's priorities in the recent transport grant round was to find the resources to make a start on building the new bus station in the city centre. Unfortunately, the amount of money it has received from the transport grant for this purpose is insufficient to guarantee that start. Is there any flexibility in the transport grant to vire money from one area to another so that the council can get the bus station up and running?

The Deputy First Minister: There was an understanding of the urgent request here, which is why we included a sum of money in the transport package to which Peter refers for that development. I know that Peter is aware that there have been discussions between the local authority and my officials about the scope of this scheme and our requirement that there should be a contribution from the private sector in addition to the public sector contribution. Therefore, I ask that we examine fully all the options for private sector involvement in the scheme. When those options have been exhausted, we can have a look at this again.

Leanne Wood: I am sure that you are aware of the recent tragic accident on the A465 Heads of the Valleys road in which two teenage girls from Treherbert in the Rhondda were killed. From discussions I have had with you I know that road safety is one of your transport priorities, particularly on the Valleys roads. What discussions have you and your officials had with Rhondda Cynon Taf council on road safety?

The Deputy First Minister: We have

ôl imi gyhoeddi strategaeth drafnidiaeth Cymru, bydd angen diweddarau'r cynlluniau trafndiaeth rhanbarthol, a bydd angen cynnwys rhai o fanylion y blaenoriaethau rhanbarthol ynddynt. Ar ôl canfod y blaenoriaethau hynny—a byddwn yn fodlon iawn eu trafod gyda'r consortia trafndiaeth rhanbarthol ar gyfer eich ardal—byddaf yn fodlon eu hystyried yng nghyd-destun cyffredinol y strategaeth y byddaf yn ei chyhoeddi maes o law.

Peter Black: Yr ydych yn gwybod mai un o flaenoriaethau cyngor Abertawe yn y cylch grant trafndiaeth diweddar oedd dod o hyd i'r adnoddau i ddechrau adeiladu'r orsaf bysiau newydd yng nghanol y ddinas. Yn anffodus, nid yw'r arian a gafodd i'r diben hwn gan y grant trafndiaeth yn ddigon i warantu dechrau'r gwaith hwnnw. A oes unrhyw hyblygrwydd yn y grant trafndiaeth i drosglwyddo arian o un maes i un arall er mwyn i'r cyngor allu codi a chynnal yr orsaf bysiau?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yr oedd dealltwriaeth o'r cais brys yma, a dyna pam y bu inni gynnwys swm o arian yn y pecyn trafndiaeth y mae Peter yn cyfeirio ato ar gyfer y datblygiad hwnnw. Yr wyf yn gwybod bod Peter yn gwybod y bu trafodaethau rhwng yr awdurdod lleol a'm swyddogion ynghylch cwmpas y cynllun hwn a'n gofyniad y dylid cael cyfraniad gan y sector preifat yn ogystal â chyfraniad y sector cyhoeddus. Felly, yr wyf yn gofyn inni archwilio'n llawn yr holl opsiynau ar gyfer ennyn cyfranogiad y sector preifat yn y cynllun. Ar ôl inni archwilio'r opsiynau hynny, gallwn edrych ar hyn eto.

Leanne Wood: Yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn gwybod am y ddamwain drychinebus ddiweddar ar yr A465 ffordd Blaenau'r Cymoedd pan laddwyd dwy ferch o Dreherbert yn y Rhondda. O'r trafodaethau yr wyf wedi'u cael gyda chi, yr wyf yn gwybod bod diogelwch ar y ffyrdd yn un o'ch blaenoriaethau trafndiaeth, yn enwedig ar ffyrdd y Cymoedd. Pa drafodaethau ydych chi a'ch swyddogion wedi'u cael gyda chyngor Rhondda Cynon Taf ynghylch diogelwch ar y ffyrdd?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Byddwn yn cael

regular discussions. In view of the recent fatalities, we should extend our condolences to the families of the bereaved. Our thoughts are with them, today in particular. I have asked my officials to look again at the safety implications of that stretch of road; several safety measures were in place prior to the accident, but I have asked them to look at any further steps that could be taken there. I will now ask my officials to see whether further discussions with Rhondda Cynon Taf are necessary to establish whether there are more steps we can take following this accident.

Jeff Cuthbert: Considerable work has been done on the Rhymney valley rail line, particularly to lengthen platforms to accommodate longer trains. Will you undertake to contact Arriva Trains Wales to establish when it plans to start using trains of up to six carriages in length, particularly at peak times?

The Deputy First Minister: Yes, of course I will. You will be pleased to know that I will be meeting representatives of Arriva Trains in the next fortnight when I will put this point to them, as it has been raised by you and others.

1.20 p.m.

Irene James: In a letter dated 1 February 2005, the previous Minister for transport told me that there has been no change in the timescale for delivering the Newport link of the Ebbw valley rail line and that the service will be delivered in 2009. Since then, there seems to have been ambiguity about the provision of direct trains between Ebbw Vale and Newport. Will you give an assurance today that the Assembly Government is still in favour of the delivery of this project?

The Deputy First Minister: To be clear, the dedicated service to Newport cannot be provided before 2009-10 because that is when we will have all the studies available from Network Rail and thus be able to see whether the infrastructure constraints that are currently preventing the service from taking place are still in place. Once the review is complete and I have received the results of

trafodaethau rheolaidd. Ac ystyried y marwolaethau diweddar, dylem estyn ein cydymdeimlad i deuluoedd y rheini a fu farw. Yr ydym yn meddwl amdanynt, yn enwedig heddiw, yr wyf wedi gofyn i'm swyddogion ailedrych ar oblygiadau diogelwch y rhan honno o ffordd; yr oedd nifer o fesurau diogelwch ar waith cyn y ddamwain, ond yr wyf wedi gofyn iddynt edrych ar unrhyw gamau pellach y gellid eu cymryd yno. Byddaf yn awr yn gofyn i'm swyddogion weld a oes angen cael rhagor o drafodaethau gyda Rhondda Cynon Taf i ganfod a oes rhagor o gamau y gallwn eu cymryd yn dilyn y ddamwain hon.

Jeff Cuthbert: Mae llawer o waith wedi cael ei wneud ar reilffordd cwm Rhymni, yn enwedig i wneud platfformau'n hwy ar gyfer trenau hwy. A wnewch ymrwmo i gysylltu â Trenau Arriva Cymru i ganfod pryd y mae'n bwriadu dechrau defnyddio trenau hyd at chwe cherbyd o hyd, yn enwedig yn ystod yr oriau brig?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Gwnaf, wrth gwrs y gwnaf. Byddwch yn falch o glywed y byddaf yn cwrdd â chynrychiolwyr Trenau Arriva yn ystod y pythefnos nesaf pan fyddaf yn cyflwyno'r pwynt hwn iddynt, gan eich bod chi ac eraill eisoes wedi'i godi.

Irene James: Mewn llythyr dyddiedig 1 Chwefror 2005, dywedodd y cyn Weinidog dros drafnidiaeth wrthyf na fu newid yn yr amserlen ar gyfer darparu cyswllt Casnewydd o reilffordd Glyn Ebwy ac y byddai'r gwasanaeth ar waith yn 2009. Ers hynny, ymddengys y bu amwysedd ynghylch darparu trenau uniongyrchol rhwng Glynebwy a Chasnewydd. A wnewch ein sicrhau heddiw bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn dal o blaid darparu'r prosiect hwn?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Er mwyn bod yn glir, nid oes modd darparu'r gwasanaeth penodol i Gasnewydd cyn 2009-10 oherwydd dyna pryd bydd yr holl astudiaethau ar gael gan Network Rail ac felly dyna pryd byddwn yn gallu gweld a yw'r cyfyngiadau seilwaith sy'n rhwystro'r gwasanaeth ar hyn o bryd yn dal yno. Ar ôl cwblhau'r adolygiad ac ar ôl i mi gael canlyniadau'r astudiaeth

the feasibility study from Network Rail, I can make another announcement. However, there has been no change in the priority that the Government affords this scheme.

The Dualling of the A465

Q3 Huw Lewis: Will the Minister make a statement on the timetable for the dualling of the A465 road? OAQ(3)0437(ECT)

The Deputy First Minister: The next section of dualling between Abergavenny and Gilwern will be open to traffic in May. You will be pleased to know that I will make a statement on the third stage shortly.

Huw Lewis: Leanne has already referred to the recent tragic death of two young women, which has again thrown into sharp relief the danger associated with the three-lane sections of the A465. As you said, I am sure that all our thoughts are with the families of those young women and with the families of all those who have suffered similar tragedies on this treacherous stretch of road. It is a litany of death and serious injury, averaging a fatality every six months and a serious injury every week simply on the section between Hirwaun and Cefncoed in my constituency.

I wrote to you a month ago on the subject of the A465 dualling programme and I received my non-response from your office at 12.28 p.m. this afternoon by e-mail. That response contained no answers to the pertinent questions that I put to you on the timetable relating to this road. It has done nothing to alleviate my worries and those of my colleagues across the Valleys that this dualling programme has been delayed by you, or has mysteriously slipped back in its timetable by some other means. I asked in my letter and I ask of you again today please to provide the original timetable for the completion of the programme along with its spending commitments, and, should they differ, the current timetable and the current spending commitments. In the absence of any clear answer to such a clear question, it would seem to me that you are either revoking this massive public sector

ddichonoldeb gan Network Rail, gallaf wneud cyhoeddiad arall. Fodd bynnag, ni fu newid yn y flaenoriaeth y mae'r Llywodraeth yn ei rhoi i'r cynllun hwn.

Deuoli'r A465

C3 Huw Lewis: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am yr amserlen ar gyfer gwneud yr A465 yn ffordd ddeuol? OAQ(3)0437(ECT)

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Bydd y rhan nesaf a wnaethpwyd yn ffordd ddeuol rhwng y Fenni a Gilwern ar agor i gerbydau ym mis Mai. Byddwch yn falch o glywed y byddaf yn gwneud datganiad ar y trydydd cam cyn bo hir.

Huw Lewis: Mae Leanne eisoes wedi cyfeirio at farwolaeth drychinebus dwy fenyw ifanc, sydd unwaith eto wedi amlygu'r perygl sydd ynghlwm wrth adrannau tair lôn yr A465. Fel y dywedasoch, yr wyf yn siŵr ein bod i gyd yn meddwl am deuluoedd y menywod ifanc hynny ac am deuluoedd pawb sydd wedi dioddef trasedïau tebyg ar y rhan dwyllodrus hon o'r ffordd. Mae'n litani o farwolaethau ac anafiadau difrifol, lle, ar gyfartaledd, bydd rhywun yn colli ei fywyd bob chwe mis ac yn cael anaf difrifol bob wythnos, dim ond ar y darn rhwng Hirwaun a Cefncoed yn fy etholaeth.

Ysgrifennais atoch fis yn ôl ynghylch rhaglen deuoli'r A465 a chefais fy niffyg ateb gan eich swyddfa am 12.28 p.m. y prynhawn yma dros yr e-bost. Nid oedd yr ymateb hwnnw'n cynnwys dim atebion i'r cwestiynau perthnasol yr oeddwn wedi'u gofyn ichi ynghylch yr amserlen ar gyfer y ffordd hon. Nid yw wedi gwneud dim i liniaru fy mhryderon a phryderon fy nghyd-Aelodau ar draws y Cymoedd bod y rhaglen deuoli hon ar ei hôl hi o'ch herwydd chi, neu ei bod rywsut wedi llithro'n ôl yn ei hamserlen mewn rhyw ffordd arall. Gofynnais ichi yn fy llythyr ac yr wyf yn gofyn ichi eto heddiw i ddarparu'r amserlen wreiddiol ar gyfer cwblhau'r rhaglen ynghyd â'i hymrwymadau gwario, ac, os ydynt yn wahanol, yr amserlen gyfredol a'r ymrwymadau gwario cyfredol. Os na fydd ateb clir i gwestiwn mor glir, byddai'n ymddangos imi eich bod naill ai'n diddymu'r ymrwymiad sector cyhoeddus

commitment to the Valleys by stealth, or you simply do not know what you are about.

The Deputy First Minister: I have replied to numerous letters from Huw, I have answered his questions in the Chamber, and I have given evidence to committee when he questioned me, and I have given him no indication whatsoever that there has been any slippage in the A465 dualling programme. He knows that, and he knows that that is on the Record.

Huw wrote me a letter asking, ‘Will you give me the timetable when you publish the Wales transport strategy?’. There is no definite timetable in the strategy, Huw. That comes in the national transport plan, which will be published later this year.

Nick Ramsay: Thank you, Deputy First Minister, for your comments on the dualling of the A465, which is an important strategic route. At times, over the past few years, it has seemed that the light at the end of that proverbial tunnel was some way away. However, I am pleased to hear that the dualled section of the road will open in May.

There is no use in having a first-class trunk road network if, as soon as you leave that network, just a few yards away you find yourself on substandard rural roads. It is a massive problem across Wales, as you know. I know that the Assembly Government is giving a certain amount of money this year—£15 million, I believe—to help the rural roads situation, but that sum is nowhere near enough. My local authority in Monmouthshire will receive £500,000, which will merely be the tip of the iceberg. Although I understand that it is a long process, are you confident that your policies over the next four or five years will see a real improvement in the ability of local authorities to deliver a far superior rural road network?

The Deputy First Minister: The Tory policy in the Assembly is to spend, spend, spend, while the policy of the Conservatives at Westminster is to cut, cut, cut in relation to

enfawr hwn i'r Cymoedd yn llechwraidd, neu nid ydych yn gwybod beth yr ydych yn ei wneud.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yr wyf wedi ateb llythyrau lu gan Huw, yr wyf wedi ateb ei gwestiynau yn y Siambr, ac yr wyf wedi rhoi tystiolaeth i bwyllgor pan oedd yn fy holi, ac nid wyf wedi rhoi unrhyw reswm o gwbl iddo gredu y bu unrhyw lithriant yn rhaglen deuoli'r A465. Mae'n gwybod hynny, ac mae'n gwybod bod hynny ar Gofnod.

Ysgrifennodd Huw lythyr ataf yn gofyn ‘A wnewch roi'r amserlen imi pan fyddwch yn cyhoeddi strategaeth drafndiaeth Cymru?’. Nid oes amserlen bendant yn y strategaeth, Huw. Daw honno yn y cynllun trafndiaeth cenedlaethol, a gyhoeddir yn nes ymlaen eleni.

Nick Ramsay: Diolch, Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog, am eich sylwadau am ddeuoli'r A465, sy'n llwybr strategol pwysig. Ar adegau, dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf, mae hi wedi ymddangos fel petai'r golau ar ddiwedd y twnnel diarhebol hwnnw'n bell iawn i ffwrdd. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn falch o glywed y bydd adran ddeuol y ffordd yn agor ym mis Mai.

Nid oes diben cael rhwydwaith cefnffyrdd o'r radd flaenaf os, cyn gynted ag y byddwch yn gadael y rhwydwaith hwnnw, ychydig o lathenni i ffwrdd, byddwch ar ffyrdd gwledig is-safonol. Mae'n broblem enfawr ledled Cymru, fel y gwyddoch. Yr wyf yn gwybod bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn rhoi rhywfaint o arian eleni—£15 miliwn, yr wyf yn meddwl—i helpu'r sefyllfa o ran ffyrdd gwledig, ond nid yw'r swm hwnnw'n agos at fod yn ddigon. Bydd fy awdurdod lleol yn Sir Fynwy yn cael £500,000, a fydd prin yn crafu'r wyneb. Er fy mod yn deall bod hon yn broses hir, a ydych yn ffyddiog y bydd eich polisiau dros y pedair neu bum mlynedd nesaf yn gweld gwahaniaeth go iawn yng ngallu awdurdodau lleol i ddarparu rhwydwaith ffyrdd sy'n well o lawer?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Polisi'r Torïaid yn y Cynulliad yw gwario, gwario, gwario, ond polisi'r Torïaid yn San Steffan yw torri, torri, torri yng nghyswllt treth incwm. Y

income tax. The problem is that the Welsh Conservatives are demanding more money from London, but if the Conservatives ever got to power at Westminster, there would be less money for the Assembly. When we published the transport grant to local authorities, the sum was £68 million, which will go a long way towards alleviating many of the concerns that you mention.

Chris Franks: We have had several discussions on road safety in the Rhondda Cynon Taf area, and I record my thanks for your particular interest in safety along the A465. What additional steps have you and your officials taken to ensure better road safety, especially along the A4119 and the A465?

The Deputy First Minister: When there are serious accidents, particularly when they involve the trunk road network, it is incumbent on us as a Government to understand the issues that arise. My officials are working hard with all the agencies, including the police, to see whether new measures can be put in place to improve road safety. I have asked my officials to look at this matter, particularly the A465 because of the tragic accident there. Even if we have a plan to deal with the A465, there will always be a gap between the position that we are in now and that when the road is completed, so I want to ensure that the road is as safe as possible. I have asked them to look again at this, as a result of this accident, to see what else can be done. If any Member is concerned about a particularly dangerous stretch of road, which is a trunk road, I will ask my officials to do whatever possible to introduce road-safety measures there.

Economic Activity Rates

Q4 David Melding: Will the Minister make a statement on economic activity rates in South Wales Central? OAQ(3)0458(ECT)

The Deputy First Minister: I am committed to delivering the 'One Wales' commitment to our long-term goal of maintaining full

employment yw bod y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig yn mynnu cael rhagor o arian o Lundain, ond petai'r Ceidwadwyr byth yn cael pŵer yn San Steffan, byddai llai o arian i'r Cynulliad. Pan yr oeddem yn cyhoeddi'r grant trafniadaeth i awdurdodau lleol, £68 miliwn oedd y swm, a fydd yn mynd cryn bellter i liniaru nifer o'r pryderon yr ydych yn eu crybwyll.

Chris Franks: Yr ydym wedi cael nifer o drafodaethau am ddiogelwch ar y ffordd yn ardal Rhondda Cynon Taf, ac yr wyf yn cofnodi fy niolech am eich diddordeb penodol mewn diogelwch ar hyd yr A465. Pa gamau ychwanegol ydych chi a'ch swyddogion wedi'u cymryd i sicrhau gwell diogelwch ar y ffordd, yn enwedig ar hyd yr A4119 a'r A465?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Pan fydd damweiniau difrifol, yn enwedig pan fyddant ar y rhwydwaith cefnffyrdd, mae'n ddyletswydd arnom ni fel Llywodraeth i ddeall y materion a gyfyd. Mae fy swyddogion yn gweithio'n galed gyda'r holl asiantaethau gan gynnwys yr heddlu i weld a oes modd rhoi mesurau newydd ar waith i wella diogelwch ar y ffordd. Yr wyf wedi gofyn i'm swyddogion edrych ar y mater hwn, yn enwedig yr A465 oherwydd y ddamwain drychinebus yno. Hyd yn oed os oes gennym gynllun i ddelio â'r A465, bydd bob amser bwlch rhwng ein sefyllfa yn awr a phan fydd y ffordd wedi'i chwblhau, felly yr wyf eisiau sicrhau bod y ffordd mor ddiogel â phosibl. Yr wyf wedi gofyn iddynt ailedrych ar hyn, o ganlyniad i'r ddamwain hon, i weld beth arall gellir ei wneud. Os yw unrhyw Aelod yn poeni am ddarn o ffordd sy'n arbennig o beryglus, byddaf yn gofyn i'm swyddogion wneud beth bynnag sy'n bosibl i gyflwyno mesurau diogelwch ar y ffordd yno.

Cyfraddau Anweithgarwch Economaidd

C4 David Melding: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gyfraddau anweithgarwch economaidd yng Nghanol De Cymru? OAQ(3)0458(ECT)

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yr wyf wedi ymrwymo i gyflawni'r ymrwymiad 'Cymru'n Un' i'n nod tymor hir o gynnal cyflogaeth

employment at a rate of 80 per cent. Latest figures show that, over the year to September 2007, the economic activity rate in South Wales Central was 74.2 per cent.

David Melding: You will know that the latest figures are going in the wrong direction. We hope that that is rectified soon and that the current economic climate improves, so that we will see economic activity increase during the course of this Assembly term.

You rightly say that the 'One Wales' agreement commits this Government to an 80 per cent full employment rate in the longer term. Confusingly, that is referred to in the 'One Wales Delivery Plan 2007-2011', which is your description of activity between now and 2011. Can I at least infer that you would expect this Government to get nearer to the 80 per cent rate today even if you do not fully achieve that rate, because it is a long-term target?

The Deputy First Minister: We accept that this is a challenging target. We have made it clear that achieving 80 per cent is challenging. We are not giving a precise date on that because economic circumstances could change. Who could have foreseen, even when we wrote our 'One Wales' document, that the current economic turbulence affecting the world would hit us? Clearly, you have to face that. However, what is important to us is that the trend is going in the right direction. I have noted the point that you made, and you are right to say that there has been a small dip in the past 12 months, but the trend is going upwards significantly. I want to put economic policies in place that will deliver an improved employment rate and, at the end of this Assembly term, I want to see that rate improved.

David Melding: It may be unkind of me to throw back at the Deputy First Minister the former boasting of the Labour Party on ending boom and bust, but he is right to say that the current economic climate makes it difficult to deliver any commitment. He is

lawn ar raddfa o 80 y cant. Dengys y ffigurau diweddaraf, dros y flwyddyn hyd at fis Medi 2007, fod y gyfradd gweithgarwch economaidd yng Nghanol De Cymru yn 74.2 y cant.

David Melding: Byddwch yn gwybod bod y ffigurau diweddaraf yn mynd i'r cyfeiriad anghywir. Yr ydym yn gobeithio y caiff hyn ei gywiro cyn bo hir a bydd yr hinsawdd economaidd bresennol yn gwella, er mwyn inni weld gweithgarwch economaidd yn cynyddu yn ystod tymor y Cynulliad hwn.

Yr ydych yn dweud yn iawn bod cytundeb 'Cymru'n Un' yn ymrwmo'r Llywodraeth i gyfradd cyflogaeth lawn o 80 y cant yn y tymor hwy. Yn ddryslyd, cyfeirir at hynny yng 'Nghynllun Cyflenwi Cymru'n Un 2007-2011', sef eich disgrifiad o weithgarwch rhwng nawr a 2011. A allaf o leiaf awgrymu y byddech yn disgwyl i'r Llywodraeth hon gyrraedd yn nes at y gyfradd 80 y cant heddiw hyd yn oed os nad ydych yn cyflawni'r gyfradd honno, oherwydd ei bod yn darged tymor hir?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yr ydym yn derbyn ei bod yn darged heriol. Yr ydym wedi egluro bod cyflawni 80 y cant yn heriol. Nid ydym yn rhoi union ddyddiad ar hynny oherwydd gallai'r amgylchiadau economaidd newid. Pwy fyddid wedi gallu rhagweld, hyd yn oed pan oeddem yn ysgrifennu ein dogfen 'Cymru'n Un', y byddai'r cynnwrf economaidd cyfredol sy'n effeithio ar y byd yn ein taro? Yn amlwg, rhaid ichi wynebu hynny. Fodd bynnag, yr hyn sy'n bwysig inni yw bod y patrwm yn mynd i'r cyfeiriad iawn. Yr wyf wedi nodi'r pwynt a wnaethoch, ac yr ydych yn iawn pan ddywedwch y bu cwmp bach yn ystod y 12 mis diwethaf, ond mae'r patrwm yn mynd i fyny'n sylweddol. Yr wyf eisiau rhoi polisiau economaidd ar waith a fydd yn darparu cyfradd cyflogaeth well ac, ar ddiwedd tymor y Cynulliad hwn, yr wyf eisiau gweld bod y gyfradd honno wedi gwella.

David Melding: Efallai ei bod yn gas imi daflu yn ôl at y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog hen ymfalchïo'r Blaid Lafur ar roi diwedd ar ddigonedd o arian un funud a dim y nesaf, ond mae'n iawn pan ddywed fod yr hinsawdd economaidd gyfredol yn ei gwneud yn anodd

wise not to go on record to say that he thinks we will end up closer to the 8 per cent in 2011 than when he took up office. Be that as it may, he is open to criticism on the action points in the delivery plan.

I realise that economic activity rates relate to the whole of economic policy, but, given that we are talking about skilling some of the most vulnerable and poorest people in our community—and unemployed people have often been out of work for a long time—we need to focus on some key policies. As far as I can work out, the most direct policies in your delivery plan are Nos 50, 61 and 64. I hope that I have not been unkind, because I have genuinely tried to look at this effectively.

1.30 p.m.

No. 50 is the back to work programme, no. 61 is the improved work-based skills and learning programme, and no. 64 is procurement incentives for the training of the unemployed. These are all good schemes, no doubt, but I note that two of those schemes are not even for implementation, as far as you are predicting, during this Assembly. They are awaiting the outcome of initial activity. You seem to be guilty of a very soporific approach in this particular policy area. Will you put a bit of zip into this delivery plan and review it with regard to this area?

The Deputy First Minister: The delivery plan is a very active document, and we are very proud that it is the first time that any government has been as open and transparent about the policy it wishes to introduce, giving firm timelines. That is for the first time that I can remember, and it is done in a way for which we should congratulate ourselves. We are entitled to do that, because it is such an open document. David himself would acknowledge that looking at and dealing with economic inactivity goes much wider than just looking at three individual schemes. It is not just my department, the Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, or John Griffiths, the Deputy Minister, who need to do this; we need to work

cyflawni unrhyw ymrwymiad. Mae'n ddoeth nad yw'n dweud ar goedd ei fod yn meddwl y byddwn yn nes at yr 8 y cant yn 2011 na pan ddechreuodd ar ei swydd. Er hynny, mae'n agored i feirniadaeth ar y pwyntiau gweithredu yn y cynllun cyflenwi.

Yr wyf yn sylweddoli bod cyfraddau gweithgarwch yn ymwneud â'r polisi economaidd yn ei gyfanrwydd, ond, ac ystyried ein bod yn siarad am roi sgiliau i rhai o'r bobl dlotaf a fwyaf agored i niwed yn ein cymuned—ac yn aml mae pobl ddi-waith wedi bod heb waith ers tro byd—mae angen inni ganolbwyntio ar rai polisiâu allweddol. Hyd y gwelaf i, y polisiâu mwyaf uniongyrchol yn eich cynllun cyflenwi yw Rhifau 50, 61 a 64. Gobeithiaf nad wyf wedi bod yn gas oherwydd fy mod o ddifrif wedi ceisio edrych ar hyn yn effeithiol.

Rhif 50 yw'r rhaglen yn ôl i waith, rhif 61 yw'r rhaglen sgiliau a dysgu seiliedig ar waith, a rhif 64 yw cymhellion caffael i hyfforddi pobl ddi-waith. Mae'r rhain i gyd yn gynlluniau da, yn ddiamheuaeth, ond sylwaf na fydd dau o'r cynlluniau hynny hyd yn oed yn cael eu gweithredu, fel yr ydych yn rhagweld, yn ystod y Cynulliad hwn. Maent yn aros am ganlyniad gweithgarwch cychwynnol. Mae'n ymddangos eich bod yn ymdrin yn rhyw swrth iawn â'r maes polisi neilltuol hwn. A wnewch chi roi dipyn o dân yn y cynllun cyflenwi hwn a'i adolygu mewn perthynas â'r maes hwn?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mae'r cynllun cyflenwi yn ddogfen weithredol iawn, ac yr ydym yn falch iawn mai dyma'r tro cyntaf i unrhyw lywodraeth fod mor agored a thryloyw am y polisi y mae'n dymuno ei gyflwyno, gan roi llinellau amser pendant. Y tro cyntaf, hynny yw, y gallaf fi ei gofio, ac mae'n cael ei wneud mewn ffordd y dylem longyfarch ein hunain arni. Mae gennym hawl i wneud hynny, gan ei bod yn ddogfen mor agored. Byddai David ei hun yn cydnabod bod edrych ar anweithgarwch economaidd a delio ag ef yn mynd lawer yn ehangach na dim ond edrych ar dri chynllun unigol. Nid fy adran i, yr Adran Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau, neu John Griffiths, y Dirprwy Weinidog, yw'r

together. We have put in place many schemes and joint initiatives that will address this situation, not only in terms of what David has mentioned, but also in terms of basic skills, which are very often the skills that employers desperately need.

Chris Franks: You are aware of the Pride in Barry campaign, which you addressed in the Assembly last October. A petition on this matter will go to the committee tomorrow. What assessment has been made to ensure that there will be more investment in Barry to boost the economy in the largest town in Wales?

The Deputy First Minister: The organisation Pride in Barry has been informed, through the regeneration partnership board meetings, that, unfortunately, we are not able to give ringfenced funding to the organisation. However, any projects would be delivered, subject to a robust business case, through the normal business planning round. We now wait to see what projects will come forward.

Jenny Randerson: One way of boosting economic activity rates is to encourage local businesses, and I would have thought that this would be at the top of your priorities, in view of the statements that you made previously as leader of the opposition. You were very keen on a made-in-Wales approach. Yet we are facing a situation in which 50,000 shops are likely to close in the next seven years as a result of the impact, not only of big supermarkets, but, in particular, of post office closures. Are you aware of the statements made and surveys done by the Federation of Small Businesses, which show that over 80 per cent of small businesses believe that the post office closure programme will have a direct impact on them? What specifically are you doing to encourage, develop and support small businesses in the areas where post offices have closed as a result of the appalling policy of the Labour Government in London?

The Deputy First Minister: We all

unig rai y mae angen inni wneud hyn; mae angen inni weithio gyda'n gilydd. Yr ydym wedi sefydlu llawer o gynlluniau a mentrau ar y cyd i ymdrin â'r sefyllfa hon, nid dim ond o ran yr hyn y mae David wedi'i grybwyll, ond hefyd o ran sgiliau sylfaenol, sef y sgiliau y mae ar gyflogwyr angen dirfawr amdanynt yn aml.

Chris Franks: Yr ydych yn ymwybodol o'r ymgyrch Pride in Barry, a anerchwyd gennych yn y Cynulliad fis Hydref diwethaf. Bydd deiseb ar y mater hwn yn mynd i'r pwyllgor yfory. Pa asesiad sydd wedi cael ei wneud i sicrhau y ceir rhagor o fuddsoddi yn y Barri i hybu economi'r dref fwyaf yng Nghymru?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mae'r mudiad Pride in Barry wedi cael ei hysbysu, drwy gyfarfodydd bwrdd y bartneriaeth adfywio, na allwn, yn anffodus, roi cyllid wedi'i neilltuo i'r mudiad. Fodd bynnag, câi unrhyw brosiectau eu rhoi ar waith, yn amodol ar achos busnes cadarn, drwy'r cylch cynllunio busnes arferol. Yr ydym yn aros yn awr i weld pa brosiectau a ddaw gerbron.

Jenny Randerson: Un ffordd o hybu cyfraddau gweithgarwch economaidd yw annog busnesau lleol, a byddwn wedi meddwl y byddai hynny ar frig eich blaenoriaethau, ac ystyried y datganiadau a wnaethoch cynt fel arweinydd yr wrthblaid. Yr oeddech yn frwd iawn o blaid dull gweithredu a wnaed-yng-Nghymru. Eto i gyd, yr ydym yn wynebu sefyllfa lle mae 50,000 o siopau'n debygol o gau dros y saith mlynedd nesaf o ganlyniad i effaith, nid dim ond yr archfarchnadoedd mawr, ond, yn arbennig, cau swyddfeydd post. A ydych yn ymwybodol o'r datganiadau a wnaethpwyd a'r arolygon a gynhaliwyd gan y Ffederasiwn Busnesau Bach, sy'n dangos bod dros 80 y cant o fusnesau bach yn credu y bydd y rhaglen i gau swyddfeydd post yn effeithio'n uniongyrchol arnynt? Beth yn benodol ydych chi'n ei wneud i annog, datblygu a chefnogi busnesau bach yn yr ardaloedd lle mae swyddfeydd post wedi cau o ganlyniad i bolisi echrydus y Llywodraeth Lafur yn Llundain?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yr ydym i gyd

recognise the role that post offices play in many communities, because very often—and I am very aware of this—the post office is the only facility currently available in many areas, not only in terms of the economy of the area, but in terms of the services that it provides. I think that we are united on that. Substantial help has been given to small businesses through the enhanced business rate relief scheme that we have announced, and many more businesses will qualify for assistance under that scheme. I do not see why being in opposition previously and being in this position now alters my view on improving the role of indigenous companies. Clearly, what we will be trying to do when we formally announce the single investment fund and flexible business solutions in the next fortnight or so is to help those indigenous companies with potential for growth, and to improve the help that we offer them by introducing that simplified method of business support.

Ebbw Vale to Cardiff Railway Line

Q5 Rosemary Butler: Will the Minister give a progress report on passenger figures for the Ebbw Vale to Cardiff railway link since the new service was launched?
OAQ(3)0449(ECT)

The Deputy First Minister: Since the start of the service there have been over 100,000 passenger journeys on the line. I am delighted that the opening of this railway line has been such a huge success.

Rosemary Butler: I am sure that 100,000 passengers is a very good figure. However, I have no doubt that, if the rail link to Newport opened, the line would have far more people using it, because the people of the western Valley in Gwent need the opportunity to take advantage of the thousands of quality jobs, as well as the new shopping opportunities, available in Newport through the regeneration programme.

There has been justified criticism in the local press of the cost of the bus link from

yn cydnabod y rôl y mae swyddfeydd post yn ei chwarae mewn llawer o gymunedau, oherwydd yn aml iawn—ac yr wyf yn ymwybodol iawn o hyn—y swyddfa bost yw'r unig gyfleuster sydd ar gael ar hyn o bryd mewn llawer o ardaloedd, nid dim ond o ran economi'r ardal, ond o ran y gwasanaethau y mae'n eu darparu. Credaf ein bod yn unedig ar hynny. Mae help sylweddol wedi cael ei roi i fusnesau bach drwy'r cynllun rhyddhad ardrethi busnes ychwanegol yr ydym wedi'i gyhoeddi, a bydd llawer mwy o fusnesau yn gymwys i gael cymorth o dan y cynllun hwnnw. Nid wyf yn gweld pam mae bod yn yr wrthblaid gynt a bod yn y swydd hon yn awr yn newid fy marn am wella rôl cwmnïau cynhenid. Yn amlwg, yr hyn y byddwn yn ceisio ei wneud pan fyddwn yn cyhoeddi'r gronfa fuddsoddi sengl ac atebion busnes hyblyg yn ffurfiol o fewn y pythefnos nesaf yn fras yw helpu'r cwmnïau cynhenid hynny sydd â photensial i dyfu, ac i wella'r help yr ydym yn ei gynnig iddynt drwy gyflwyno dull symlach o gymorth busnes.

Y Rheilffordd rhwng Glynabwy a Chaerdydd

C5 Rosemary Butler: A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi adroddiad cynnydd am y ffigurau teithwyr ar gyfer y rheilffordd rhwng Glynabwy a Chaerdydd ers lansio'r gwasanaeth newydd?
OAQ(3)0449(ECT)

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Ers dechrau'r gwasanaeth bu dros 100,000 o siwrneiau teithwyr ar y rheilffordd. Yr wyf wrth fy modd fod agor y rheilffordd hon wedi bod yn gymaint o lwyddiant.

Rosemary Butler: Yr wyf yn siŵr bod 100,000 o deithwyr yn ffigur da iawn. Fodd bynnag, nid oes gennyf unrhyw amheuaeth, petai'r cyswllt rheilffordd â Chasnewydd yn agor, y byddai llawer rhagor o bobl yn defnyddio'r lein, oherwydd mae ar bobl y Cwm gorllewinol yng Ngwent angen y cyfle i fanteisio ar y miloedd o swyddi o safon, yn ogystal â'r cyfleoedd siopa newydd, sydd ar gael yng Nghasnewydd drwy'r rhaglen adfywio.

Bu beirniadaeth haeddiannol yn y wasg leol o gost y cyswllt bws o Dŷ-du i Gasnewydd—

Rogerstone to Newport—it is around £225,000 per year. It is obvious that the route that the bus takes needs to be reviewed, but were the rail link extended to Newport, then this costly bus link would not be necessary. It is essential that the rail link to Newport is opened at the earliest possible opportunity, so I ask you to continue to work—or, as David Melding eloquently said, put ‘a bit of zip’ into it—and ensure that the rail link is opened early next year.

The Deputy First Minister: What I can do is repeat that the service cannot start before 2009-10, because that is when Network Rail completes the first stage of the resignalling of the main line. There has been no u-turn whatsoever in terms of the Assembly Government’s desire to see service provision between Ebbw Vale and Newport, and when all the reports are in place, and all the infrastructure work has been done, then we will be in a position to make a further statement.

I very much share Rosemary’s concerns about the bus link, and its cost relative to its usage. I have asked my officials to urgently review that service with Newport City Council, because it is not currently delivering value for money, and I am not prepared to allow that to continue much longer.

William Graham: You will know that it takes one-and-a-half hours to get from Newport to Ebbw Vale via Cardiff Central, which is all the more reason for this link to be opened. You seem yet again to be fudging on the date. Can we have a firm declaration from you as to when this link will open?

The Deputy First Minister: I have made it clear that it cannot open before 2009-10 because of the infrastructure work that needs to be done. Once that work has been completed, I will be able to make a further statement. I cannot give you a date at the moment, because the infrastructure work has not yet been done.

mae oddeutu £225,000 y flwyddyn. Mae’n amlwg bod angen adolygu’r llwybr a gymerir gan y bws, ond pe câi’r cyswllt rheilffordd ei ymestyn i Gasnewydd, ni fyddai’r cyswllt bws costus hwn yn angenrheidiol wedyn. Mae’n hanfodol fod y cyswllt rheilffordd i Gasnewydd yn cael ei agor cyn gynted â phosibl, felly gofynnaf ichi barhau â’r gwaith—neu, fel y dywedodd David Melding mor huawdl, rhoi ‘dipyn o dân’ ynddo—a sicrhau bod y cyswllt rheilffordd y cael ei agor y flwyddyn nesaf.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yr hyn y gallaf ei wneud yw ailadrodd na all y gwasanaeth ddechrau cyn 2009-10, oherwydd dyna pryd y mae Network Rail yn cwblhau cam cyntaf y gwaith o ailosod signalau ar y brif lein. Ni fu tro pedol o unrhyw fath o ran awydd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i weld gwasanaethau’n cael eu darparu rhwng Glynebwy a Chasnewydd, a phan fydd yr adroddiadau i gyd ar gael, ac y bydd y seilwaith i gyd wedi cael ei ddarparu, yna byddwn mewn sefyllfa i wneud datganiad pellach.

Yr wyf yn rhannu pryderon Rosemary ynglŷn â’r cyswllt bws, a’i gost o’i gymharu â’r defnydd ohono, yn fawr iawn. Yr wyf wedi gofyn i’r swyddogion adolygu’r gwasanaeth hwnnw ar frys gyda Chyngor Dinas Casnewydd, oherwydd ar hyn o bryd nid yw’n rhoi gwerth am arian, ac nid wyf yn barod i ganiatáu i hynny barhau lawer yn hwy.

William Graham: Byddwch yn gwybod ei bod yn cymryd awr a hanner i fynd o Gasnewydd i Lynebwy drwy Gaerdydd Canolog ac nid yw hynny ond yn rheswm pellach i agor y cyswllt hwn. Mae’n ymddangos eich bod eto fyth yn osgoi rhoi dyddiad. A gawn ni ddatganiad pendant gennych ynglŷn â phryd y bydd y cyswllt hwn yn agor?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yr wyf wedi ei gwneud yn glir na all agor cyn 2009-10 oherwydd y gwaith seilwaith y mae angen ei wneud. Unwaith y bydd y gwaith hwnnw wedi cael ei gwblhau, gallaf wneud datganiad pellach. Ni allaf roi dyddiad ichi ar hyn o bryd, oherwydd nid yw’r gwaith seilwaith wedi cael ei wneud eto.

Mohammad Asghar: The train service between Ebbw Vale and Cardiff is making good progress, and good money, but the bus service from Rogerstone to Newport city centre, which is a journey of just a couple of miles, is losing a tremendous amount of money. What will you do about that? Can I press you further on the latest position on the opening of a train link between Newport, Ebbw Vale and Cardiff?

The Deputy First Minister: On the issue of the bus service, I have made it clear that it is not currently delivering value for money, and I have asked my officials to urgently review that service with Newport council. I will make an announcement about that review when it has been completed, and I will, hopefully, make a further announcement on the Ebbw Vale to Newport service when all the reports and infrastructure works have been concluded.

Integrated Transport System

Q6 Nick Bourne: Will the Minister outline his vision for a fully integrated transport system in Wales? OAQ(3)0423(ECT)

The Deputy First Minister: I will set out my vision for a fully integrated public transport system in my Plenary statement on the publication of the Wales transport strategy, which is now expected on 6 May 2008.

Nick Bourne: We look forward to that. I think that you will be aware of the transportation difficulties faced by the slate industry, as you are familiar with the area. The north Wales regional aggregate working party has noted that one of the major factors impeding economic growth in slate—or, indeed, in terms of just sustaining the slate industry at current levels—is logistical problems in transporting the goods. Are you taking that on board, and, if so, in what way will you respond to the concerns that have been expressed, particularly in north-west Wales?

Mohammad Asghar: Mae'r gwasanaeth trenau rhwng Glynebwy a Chaerdydd yn gwneud cynnydd da, ac arian da, ond mae'r gwasanaeth bws o Dŷ-du i ganol dinas Casnewydd, nad yw ond yn siwrnai o gwpl o filltiroedd, yn colli arian aruthrol. Beth wnewch chi am hynny? A gaf fi bwysu ymhellach arnoch ynglŷn â'r sefyllfa ddiweddaraf o ran agor cyswllt trên rhwng Casnewydd, Glynebwy a Chaerdydd?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Ar fater y gwasanaeth bws, yr wyf wedi ei gwneud yn glir nad yw'n rhoi gwerth am arian ar hyn o bryd, ac yr wyf wedi gofyn i'm swyddogion adolygu'r gwasanaeth hwnnw gyda chyngor Casnewydd ar fyrder. Byddaf yn gwneud cyhoeddiad am yr adolygiad hwnnw pan fydd wedi cael ei gwblhau, a byddaf, gobeithio, yn gwneud cyhoeddiad pellach am wasanaeth Glynebwy i Gasnewydd pan fydd yr holl adroddiadau a'r gwaith seilwaith wedi cael eu cwblhau.

System Drafndiaeth wedi'i Hintegreiddio

C6 Nick Bourne: A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu ei weledigaeth ar gyfer system drafndiaeth wedi'i hintegreiddio'n llawn yng Nghymru? OAQ(3)0423(ECT)

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Byddaf yn nodi fy ngweledigaeth ar gyfer system drafndiaeth wedi'i hintegreiddio'n llawn yn fy natganiad yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ar gyhoeddi strategaeth trafndiaeth Cymru, a ddisgwylir erbyn hyn ar 6 Mai 2008.

Nick Bourne: Edrychwn ymlaen at hynny. Credaf y byddwch yn ymwybodol o'r anawsterau trafndiaeth sy'n wynebu'r diwydiant llechi, gan eich bod yn gyfarwydd â'r ardal. Mae gweithgor agregau rhanbarthol gogledd Cymru wedi nodi mai un o'r ffactorau mawr sy'n rhwystro twf economaidd ym maes llechi—neu, yn wir, o ran cynnal y diwydiant llechi ar y lefelau cyfredol yn unig—yw'r problemau logistaidd o ran cludo'r nwyddau. A ydych yn rhoi sylw i hynny, ac, os felly, ym mha ffordd y byddwch yn ymateb i'r pryderon sydd wedi cael eu mynegi, yn enwedig yn y gogledd-orllewin?

1.40 p.m.

The Deputy First Minister: I am not aware of the specific issues that you mentioned in terms of the aggregate industry, but if you pass on those comments to me, I will make sure that they are fully investigated. I am anxious to promote the transportation of goods by rail in particular, and if there are ways in which we can make a modal shift away from road to rail as much as possible, then I would be very interested in looking at developing those plans.

Gareth Jones: Mae sefydlu llwybrau beicio diogel yn rhan bwysig o unrhyw system drafnidiaeth ac mae Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Conwy, ar ran etholaeth Aberconwy, yn gweithredu ar hyn. Wedi dweud hynny, mae sawl cynllun wedi methu am nifer o resymau gwahanol a gwrthwynebiadau. Mae grŵp newydd ei sefydlu yn Llandudno, Grŵp Seiclo Diogel Llandudno, sydd â diddordeb garw mewn sefydlu a datblygu llwybrau beicio drwy'r dref er mwyn cael rhyw fath o rwydwaith. Mae'r grŵp hwnnw hefyd yn teimlo'r un rhwystredigaeth â'r cyngor o ran datblygu cyfundrefn o'r fath. Pa anogaeth neu addewid y gallwch ei rhannu â ni'r prynhawn yma, ac efallai â Grŵp Seiclo Diogel Llandudno a chyngor Conwy, a fyddai'n eu cefnogi yn eu dyheadau i sicrhau llyddiant yn hyn o beth?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yn y datganiad diweddar ar y grant trafndiaeth, mae'r Llywodraeth wedi neilltuo £13 miliwn ar gyfer cerdded a seiclo, sy'n swm sylweddol yn y cyd-destun hwnnw. Yn amlwg mae gennyf ddiddordeb mawr mewn cynlluniau sy'n hybu'r defnydd o feicio a llwybrau penodol ar gyfer beicio. Yn naturiol, bydd yn anodd yn ystod yr wythnosau nesaf oherwydd yr etholiadau llywodraeth leol, ond byddaf yn ddigon hapus i drafod y mater â'r cyngor bwrdeistref sirol a'r mudiad y cyfeiriasoch ato unwaith y bydd yr etholiadau drosodd.

Kirsty Williams: Could you inform the Assembly as to whether your vision of an integrated transport policy extends across the border? Currently, my constituents in Presteigne can travel the 117 miles to Bangor for free, but have to pay to travel the 17 miles

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Nid wyf yn ymwybodol o'r materion penodol a grybwyllasoch o ran y diwydiant agregau, ond os anfonwch chi'r sylwadau hynny ataf, gwnaf yn siŵr ein bod yn ymchwilio'n llawn iddynt. Yr wyf yn awyddus i hyrwyddo cludo nwyddau ar y rheilffyrdd yn arbennig, ac os oes ffyrdd y gallwn ni beri newid modd oddi ar y ffyrdd i'r rheilffyrdd cyn belled ag y mae hynny'n bosibl, byddai gennyf ddiddordeb mawr mewn edrych ar ddatblygu'r cynlluniau hynny.

Gareth Jones: Establishing safe cycling routes is an important part of any transport system, and Conwy County Borough Council, on behalf of the constituency of Aberconwy, is implementing this. Having said that, a number of schemes are failing for a number of reasons and because of opposition to them. A newly established group in Llandudno, the Llandudno Safe Cycling Group, is interested in establishing and developing cycle routes in order to create some sort of network in the town. It is feeling the same frustration as the council in terms of developing such a system. What encouragement or pledge can you give us this afternoon, and to the Llandudno Safe Cycling Group and Conwy council, which would support them in their aspirations to ensure success in this area?

The Deputy First Minister: In the recent statement on the transport grant, the Government has allocated £13 million for walking and cycling, which is a significant amount in this context. I obviously have a great interest in schemes that promote the use of cycling and in designated cycling lanes. Naturally, it will be difficult over the next few weeks, because of local government elections, but I would be more than happy to discuss the issue with the county borough council and with the organisation to which you referred once the elections are over.

Kirsty Williams: A allech hysbysu'r Cynulliad a yw eich gweledigaeth ar gyfer polisi trafndiaeth wedi'i integreiddio yn ymestyn dros y ffin? Ar hyn o bryd, gall fy etholwyr yn Llanandras deithio'r 117 o filltiroedd i Fangor am ddim, ond rhaid

to Leominster. You have said previously that you could not move forward on an integrated concessionary fare scheme across the UK until England had caught up. As you will know, it did so on 1 April this year. What steps will you now be taking to ensure that pensioners in Wales can use their concessionary fares across the UK?

The Deputy First Minister: There is currently no system in place to allow the use of cross-border concessionary transport facilities, as it were. It is important to recognise that the concessionary fares scheme in Wales has been a huge success. We have invested substantial sums of money in it and we want to see that success continue. I cannot give you any comfort on the issue of cross-border journeys today, but I will make sure that I will respond to you when further information is available.

Kirsty Williams: I am not denigrating the success of the concessionary fares scheme. I am sure that we all agree that it has been a huge boost to pensioners in allowing them to travel throughout Wales. However, I am sure that you will agree that if Northern Ireland and southern Ireland can have a concessionary fares scheme that applies to citizens travelling between those areas, we could do the same in the UK.

Can you also give us an assurance about the future of the concessionary fare scheme on the Heart of Wales line? There has been some suggestion that the Assembly's funding for that initiative will come to an end in May this year. Will you take this opportunity to inform people that that is not the case and that they will continue to enjoy concessionary fares on the Heart of Wales line for the rest of this year?

The Deputy First Minister: I am not in a position to say that today, but I will write to you to clarify the position.

Lesley Griffiths: In the last month, Wrexham has received £1 million in the transport grant settlement to build a link road

idduynt dalu i deithio'r 17 o filltiroedd i Lanllieni. Yr ydych wedi dweud o'r blaen na allech symud ymlaen ar gynllun teithio rhatach integredig ar draws y DU nes byddai Lloegr wedi cyrraedd yr un sefyllfa â ni. Fel y gwyddoch, gwnaeth hynny ar 1 Ebrill eleni. Pa gamau fyddwch chi'n eu cymryd yn awr i sicrhau y gall pensiynwyr yng Nghymru ddefnyddio eu tocynnau teithio rhatach ar draws y DU?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Nid oes system wedi'i sefydlu ar hyn o bryd i ganiatáu defnyddio cyfleusterau teithio rhatach ar draws y ffin, fel petai. Mae'n bwysig cydnabod bod y cynllun teithio rhatach yng Nghymru wedi bod yn llwyddiant enfawr. Yr ydym wedi buddsoddi symiau sylweddol o arian ynddo ac yr ydym am weld y llwyddiant hwnnw'n parhau. Ni allaf roi unrhyw gysur ichi ar fater siwrneiau traws-ffiniol heddiw, ond byddaf yn gwneud yn siŵr fy mod yn ymateb ichi pan fydd gwybodaeth bellach ar gael.

Kirsty Williams: Nid wyf yn bychanu llwyddiant y cynllun teithio rhatach. Yr wyf yn siŵr ein bod i gyd yn cytuno iddo fod yn hwb enfawr i bensiynwyr drwy ganiatáu idduynt deithio ledled Cymru. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwch yn cytuno, os gall Gogledd Iwerddon a de Iwerddon gael cynllun teithio rhatach sy'n gymwys i ddinasyddion sy'n teithio rhwng yr ardaloedd hynny, y gallem ninnau wneud yr un peth yn y DU.

A allech ein sicrhau hefyd ynglŷn â dyfodol y cynllun teithio rhatach ar reilffordd Calon Cymru? Bu rhyw awgrym y bydd cyllid y Cynulliad i'r fenter honno'n dod i ben ym mis Mai eleni. A wnewch chi achub ar y cyfle hwn i hysbysu pobl nad dyna'r sefyllfa ac y byddant yn parhau i fwynhau tocynnau teithio rhatach ar reilffordd Calon Cymru am weddill y flwyddyn eleni?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Nid wyf mewn sefyllfa i ddweud hynny heddiw, ond byddaf yn ysgrifennu atoch i egluro'r sefyllfa.

Lesley Griffiths: Yn y mis diwethaf, mae Wrecsam wedi cael £1 miliwn yn y setliad grant trafnidiaeth i adeiladu ffordd gyswllt i

to the Wrexham industrial estate. That road is essential to the continuing economic success of the town. On 28 April, with further funding from the Government, the Wrexham, Shropshire and Marylebone Railway Company Limited will commence a direct service between Wrexham and London Marylebone. Is this not again proof that, despite claims to the contrary, the Welsh Assembly Government is committed to delivering an integrated transport system for all parts of Wales and is providing the funding to achieve it?

The Deputy First Minister: I was pleased to be able to make the announcement of money in the transport grant to improve access to the Wrexham industrial estate, which will enable the work to start. It is wonderful that there is to be a new service between Wrexham and Marylebone, which I understand will be starting shortly, and shows that, with goodwill and substantial investment, these new services can be put in place. Providing an integrated transport service is absolutely essential, which is why I was so pleased, in the transport grant settlement, to announce further moneys for integrated transport over and above what had been provided in the previous financial year.

Employment Figures

Q7 Rosemary Butler: Will the Minister make a statement about the latest employment figures for the under-25 age group in Newport? OAQ(3)0436(ECT)

The Deputy First Minister: According to the annual population survey, over the year ending September 2007, 9,000 under 25-year-olds in Newport were in employment.

Rosemary Butler: I am sure that you will agree that high-quality careers advice and appropriate training skills are essential if the young people of Newport are to take advantage of the thousands of new, good-quality jobs that have been created and are continuing to be created in the city. I congratulate my colleague, John Griffiths, on his leadership in this good skills agenda. Can you assure us this afternoon that sufficient

ystâd ddiwydiannol Wrecsam. Mae'r ffordd honno'n hanfodol er mwyn i lwyddiant economaidd y dref barhau. Ar 28 Ebrill, gyda chyllid pellach oddi wrth y Llywodraeth, bydd y Wrexham, Shropshire and Marylebone Railway Company Limited yn cychwyn gwasanaeth uniongyrchol rhwng Wrecsam a Marylebone Llundain. Onid yw hyn yn brawf unwaith yn rhagor, er gwaethaf yr honiadau i'r gwrthwyneb, fod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ymroi i ddarparu system drafnidiaeth integredig i bob rhan o Gymru a'i bod yn darparu'r cyllid i wireddu hynny?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yr oeddwn yn falch o allu gwneud y cyhoeddiad am arian yn y grant trafndiaeth i wella mynediad i ystâd ddiwydiannol Wrecsam, a fydd yn galluogi'r gwaith i ddechrau. Mae'n wych y bydd gwasanaeth newydd rhwng Wrecsam a Marylebone, a fydd yn dechrau'n fuan, yn ôl a ddeallaf, ac mae'n dangos y gellir, gydag ewyllys da a buddsoddiad sylweddol, sefydlu'r gwasanaethau newydd hyn. Mae darparu gwasanaeth trafndiaeth integredig yn gwbl hanfodol, a dyna pam yr oeddwn mor falch, yn y setliad grant trafndiaeth, o gyhoeddi mwy o arian ar gyfer trafndiaeth integredig uwchlaw a thros ben yr hyn a ddarparwyd yn y flwyddyn ariannol flaenorol.

Ffigurau Cyflogaeth

C7 Rosemary Butler: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y ffigurau cyflogaeth diweddaraf ar gyfer y grŵp oedran dan 25 yng Nghasnewydd? OAQ(3)0436(ECT)

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yn ôl yr arolwg poblogaeth blyneddol, am y flwyddyn a ddaeth i ben ym Medi 2007, yr oedd 9,000 o bobl dan 25 oed yng Nghasnewydd mewn cyflogaeth.

Rosemary Butler: Yr wyf yn siŵr y gwnewch gytuno bod cyngor gyrfadol o ansawdd da a sgiliau hyfforddi priodol yn hanfodol os yw pobl ifanc Casnewydd am gael manteisio ar y miloedd o swyddi da newydd sydd wedi'u creu ac yn dal i gael eu creu yn y ddinas. Llongyfarchaf fy nghyd-Aelod, John Griffiths, ar ei arweinyddiaeth yn yr agenda sgiliau da hwn. A allwch ein sicrhau y prynhawn yma fod digon o arian

funding has been allocated to implement the skills and training agenda, and that special attention will be given to ensure that young people from black and ethnic minorities are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities that are available to them in Newport?

The Deputy First Minister: I am not in a position to give you an assurance about the money allocated to that particular scheme, because it is not in my portfolio, but I can see John nodding, so it is clear that he feels that there is sufficient funding. What I can say is that Newport has done remarkably well in attracting new jobs and industries in recent years, and we want to see that continue. We are putting in the necessary skills, because employers often tell us that one of the attractions of coming to an area like Newport is that they are confident that the Welsh Assembly Government, working in consultation with them, can provide the necessary skills. We can congratulate ourselves about that. Not only are the basic skills going in, but our modern apprenticeship programme has been a great success, and over 15,000 young people and adults in training have benefited from it already.

Carbon Reduction

Q8 Mick Bates: What plans does the Welsh Assembly Government have to place carbon reduction at the heart of the Wales transport strategy? OAQ(3)0472(ECT)

The Deputy First Minister: I will publish the Wales transport strategy next month. It will set out how I intend to develop the transport network to ensure that transport plays its full part in reducing carbon-equivalent emissions, as well as other environmental impacts, in addition to supporting economic growth and promoting social inclusion.

Mick Bates: Those aims need to be backed up with equivalent funding. Your figures for 2007-08 show that the Government spent 49 per cent of the transport budget on roads, a meagre 13 per cent on buses and 4 per cent on integrating local transport, walking and

wedi'i glustnodi i weithredu'r agenda sgiliau a hyfforddiant, ac y rhoddir sylw arbennig i sicrhau yr anogir pobl ifanc o leiafrifoedd ethnig a chroenddu i fanteisio ar y cyfleon sydd ar gael iddynt yng Nghasnewydd?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Nid wyf mewn sefyllfa i'ch sicrhau am yr arian sydd wedi'i glustnodi i'r cynllun arbennig hwnnw, gan nad yw yn fy mhortffolio, ond gallaf weld John yn nodio'i ben, felly mae'n glir ei fod ef yn teimlo bod cyllid digonol. Yr hyn y gallaf ei ddweud yw bod Casnewydd wedi gwneud yn hynod o dda o ran denu swyddi a diwydiannau newydd yn y blynyddoedd diweddar, ac mae arnom eisiau gweld hynny'n parhau. Yr ydym yn cyflwyno'r sgiliau angenrheidiol, oherwydd dywed cyflogwyr wrthym yn aml mai un o atyniadau dod i ardal fel Casnewydd yw eu bod yn hyderus y gall Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, o weithio mewn ymgynghoriad â hwy, ddarparu'r sgiliau angenrheidiol. Gallwn longyfarch ein hunain am hynny. Nid yn unig y cyflwynir y sgiliau sylfaenol, ond mae ein rhaglen brentisiaethau modern wedi bod yn llwyddiant mawr, ac mae dros 15,000 o bobl ifanc ac oedolion mewn hyfforddiant wedi elwa arni'n barod.

Lleihau Carbon

C8 Mick Bates: Pa gynlluniau sydd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i roi lleihau carbon wrth galon strategaeth drafndiaeth Cymru? OAQ(3)0472(ECT)

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Byddaf yn cyhoeddi strategaeth drafndiaeth Cymru y mis nesaf. Bydd yn amlinellu'r modd y bwriadaf ddatblygu'r rhwydwaith trafndiaeth i sicrhau bod trafndiaeth yn chwarae ei rhan lawn i leihau allyriadau carbon-gyferth, ynghyd ag effeithiau amgylcheddol eraill, yn ogystal â chefnogi twf economaidd a hyrwyddo cynhwysiant cymdeithasol.

Mick Bates: Mae angen cefnogi'r amcanion hynny â chyllid cyferth. Mae eich ffigurau am 2007-08 yn dangos y gwariodd y Llywodraeth 49 y cant o'r gyllideb drafndiaeth ar ffyrdd, pitw 13 y cant ar fysis a 4 y cant ar integreiddio trafndiaeth leol,

cycling. In Scotland, 70 per cent of the transport budget is spent on those sustainable transport issues. I am sure that you would want to say that you want to invest more in public transport, walking and cycling in Wales. Will you, therefore, commit to following the Scottish example and increase your funding for sustainable transport to 70 per cent, so that we can develop a sustainable and efficient transport strategy for the future, which will meet your 'One Wales' commitment to reduce carbon emissions by 3 per cent?

The Deputy First Minister: A number of things need to be said in response to that. When the Wales transport strategy is published, it will take account of the 'One Wales' commitment to reductions in carbon-equivalent emissions. However, as you know, that will not be enough, because there will need to be sectoral targets, and transport will have to play its part in meeting those targets. I made it clear—I was pleased to be able to do so—that I will increase the integrated transport part of the transport grant this year. That shows that the Government is already committed to improving transport integration, which is very important in delivering our programme of enhanced use of public transport, both rail and buses. We particularly want to see development in the TrawsCambria service. Therefore, the Government has already shown its commitment in many of the areas that you have outlined.

1.50 p.m.

Rail Services between Cardiff and Pontypool

Q9 Lynne Neagle: Will the Minister make a statement on any planned improvements to rail services between Cardiff and Pontypool? OAQ(3)0440(ECT)

The Deputy First Minister: Twenty-seven services currently stop at Pontypool and New Inn station. Any further improvements to the service would need to be considered in the Network Rail route utilisation study and be

cerdded a beicio. Yn yr Alban, gwerir 70 y cant o'r gyllideb drafndiaeth ar y materion trafndiaeth cynaliadwy hynny. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddech yn awyddus i ddweud bod arnoch eisiau buddsoddi mwy mewn trafndiaeth gyhoeddus, cerdded a beicio yng Nghymru. A wnewch chi, felly, ymrwymo i ddilyn esiampl yr Alban a chynyddu eich cyllid i drafndiaeth gynaliadwy i 70 y cant, fel y gallwn ddatblygu strategaeth drafndiaeth gynaliadwy ac effeithlon i'r dyfodol, a fydd yn cyflawni eich ymrwymiad yn 'Cymru'n Un' i gwtogi 3 y cant ar allyriadau carbon?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mae angen dweud nifer o bethau mewn ymateb i hynny. Pan gyhoeddir strategaeth drafndiaeth Cymru, bydd yn cymryd i ystyriaeth yr ymrwymiad yn 'Cymru'n Un' i leihau allyriadau carbon-gyferth. Fodd bynnag, fel y gwyddoch, ni fydd hynny'n ddigon, oherwydd bydd angen targedau sectorol, a bydd yn rhaid i drafndiaeth chwarae ei rhan i gyflawni'r targedau hynny. Dywedais yn glir—yr oeddwn yn falch o allu gwneud hynny—y byddaf yn cynyddu'r rhan o'r grant trafndiaeth a aiff i drafndiaeth integredig eleni. Mae hynny'n dangos bod y Llywodraeth eisoes wedi ymrwymo i wella integreiddiad trafndiaeth, sydd yn bwysig iawn wrth gwblhau ein rhaglen o gael mwy o ddefnydd ar drafndiaeth gyhoeddus, yn drenau a bysus. Yn arbennig, mae arnom eisiau gweld datblygiad yn y gwasanaeth TrawsCambria. Felly, mae'r Llywodraeth eisoes wedi dangos ei hymrwymiad mewn llawer o'r meysydd a amlinellwyd gennych.

Gwasanaethau Rheilffyrdd rhwng Caerdydd a Phontypŵl

C9 Lynne Neagle: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am unrhyw welliannau sydd yn yr arfaeth ar gyfer gwasanaethau rheilffyrdd rhwng Caerdydd a Phontypŵl? OAQ(3)0440(ECT)

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mae saith ar hugain o wasanaethau ar hyn o bryd yn aros ym Mhontypŵl a New Inn. Byddai angen i unrhyw welliannau pellach i'r gwasanaeth gael eu hystyried yn astudiaeth defnydd

prioritised by the South East Wales Transport Alliance within its regional transport plan.

llwybrau Network Rail a'u rhoi mewn trefn flaenoriaeth gan Gynghrair Trafnidiaeth Deddwyrain Cymru o fewn ei gynllun trafniadaeth rhanbarthol.

Lynne Neagle: You will be aware that Cwmbrân station has recently undergone a multimillion pound regeneration programme—a most welcome investment in Torfaen's transport infrastructure. However, rail links to Pontypool remain substandard, and trains on the Cardiff to Abergavenny line are too infrequent and inconsistent. Will you look at urgently supporting an increase in services on this line and provide your backing to increasing local links between Cwmbrân and Pontypool?

Lynne Neagle: Byddwch yn ymwybodol bod gorsaf Cwmbrân wedi cael rhaglen adfywio'n ddiweddar ar gost o filiynau o bunnoedd—buddsoddiad sydd i'w groesawu'n fawr yn seilwaith trafniadaeth Torfaen. Fodd bynnag, mae'r cysylltiadau rheilffordd i Bontypŵl yn dal yn is-safonol, ac mae trenau ar lein Caerdydd i'r Fenni'n rhy anfynych ac yn anghyson. A wnewch chi edrych ar gefnogi'n ddiymdroi gynnydd yn y gwasanaethau ar y lein hon a rhoi eich cefnogaeth i gynyddu cysylltiadau lleol rhwng Cwmbrân a Phontypŵl?

The Deputy First Minister: I asked for information on the current use of Pontypool and New Inn station, and 15 north-bound services per day and 12 south-bound services per day currently stop at Pontypool and New Inn. If there were to be additional services to Abergavenny, which is one issue that has been raised—there are currently two to three services per hour—they would also stop at Pontypool and New Inn, and this, I understand, is the long-term aspiration of SEWTA, the regional transport consortium. If SEWTA, in looking at the regional transport plan, identifies the enhanced use of Pontypool station within its plan, I could consider that in the light of representations about funding for future years.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Gofynnais am wybodaeth am y defnydd cyfredol o orsaf Pontypŵl a New Inn, ac mae 15 gwasanaeth i'r gogledd a 12 gwasanaeth i'r de yn aros ym Mhontypŵl a New Inn bob dydd ar hyn o bryd. Pe ceid gwasanaethau ychwanegol i'r Fenni, sy'n un mater sydd wedi'i godi—ceir dau i dri gwasanaeth bob awr ar hyn o bryd—byddent hwythau'n aros ym Mhontypŵl a New Inn hefyd, a dyma, yn ôl a ddeallaf, yw dyhead SEWTA, y consortiwm trafniadaeth rhanbarthol, yn y tymor hir. Os bydd SEWTA, wrth edrych ar y cynllun trafniadaeth rhanbarthol, yn nodi mwy o ddefnydd o orsaf Pontypŵl o fewn ei gynllun, gallwn ystyried hynny yng ngoleuni ceisiadau am gyllid ar gyfer blynyddoedd i ddod.

Passenger Safety

Q10 Andrew R.T. Davies: What action is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to improve passenger safety on public transport in South Wales Central? OAQ(3)0429(ECT)

The Deputy First Minister: Many initiatives are helping to tackle criminal and anti-social behaviour on public transport throughout Wales. We continue to work with regional transport consortia, public transport operators, local police and passenger groups to ensure that people can travel safely.

Diogelwch Teithwyr

C10 Andrew R.T. Davies: Pa gamau y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n eu cymryd i wella diogelwch teithwyr ar drafniadaeth gyhoeddus yng Nghanol De Cymru? OAQ(3)0429(ECT)

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Mae llawer o fentrau'n helpu i fynd i'r afael ag ymddygiad troseddol a gwrthgymdeithasol ar drafniadaeth gyhoeddus drwy Gymru benbaladr. Yr ydym yn parhau i weithio gyda chonsortia trafniadaeth rhanbarthol, cwmnïau trafniadaeth gyhoeddus, heddlu lleol a grwpiau teithwyr i sicrhau y gall pobl deithio'n ddiogel.

Andrew R.T. Davies: From dialogue with Network Rail, I am led to believe that the closed circuit television provision at stations across south Wales is of a very poor quality. While there have been improvements in CCTV, externally and internally, on trains, the systems on platforms and stations in south Wales are of a dated nature, if they exist at all. What discussions are you having with Network Rail and Arriva Trains Wales to ensure that stations are safe and that, when CCTV is used at stations, it is of evidence quality, so that prosecutions can be undertaken by the authorities to safeguard the travelling public?

The Deputy First Minister: There has been quite a substantial investment in safety, particularly in CCTV. I can say, and you acknowledge, that we have invested £2 million to install CCTV on all trains in the Arriva Trains Wales fleet, and there was an earlier investment of £2.5 million for railway station improvements in south and mid Wales that included CCTV and electronic help and information points. Therefore, there has already been substantial investment. I will take the opportunity to raise this issue with Arriva Trains Wales when I next meet its representatives, to see how we could take that programme forward.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Yn sgil deialog gyda Network Rail, fe'm harweinir i gredu bod y ddarpariaeth deledu cylch cyfyng mewn gorsafoedd ledled y de o ansawdd gwael iawn. Er bod teledu cylch cyfyng wedi'i wella, yn allanol ac yn fewnol, ar drenau, mae'r systemau ar blatfformau ac mewn gorsafoedd yn y de yn hen-ffasiwn, os ydynt yn bodoli o gwbl. Pa drafodaethau yr ydych yn eu cael gyda Network Rail a Threnau Arriva Cymru i sicrhau bod gorsafoedd yn ddiogel a bod teledu cylch cyfyng, pan gaiff ei ddefnyddio mewn gorsafoedd, o ansawdd tystiolaeth, fel y gall yr awdurdodau erlyn drwgweithredwyr er mwyn diogelu teithwyr?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Buddsoddiwyd yn eithaf sylweddol mewn diogelwch, yn enwedig mewn teledu cylch cyfyng. Gallaf ddweud, ac yr ydych chi'n cydnabod, ein bod wedi buddsoddi £2 filiwn i osod teledu cylch cyfyng ym mhob un o drenau Arriva Cymru, a chafwyd buddsoddiad cyn hynny o £2.5 miliwn ar wella gorsafoedd rheilffordd yn y De a'r Canolbarth, gan gynnwys teledu cylch cyfyng a phwyntiau cymorth a gwybodaeth electronig. Felly, mae buddsoddi sylweddol wedi digwydd eisoes. Cymeraf y cyfle i godi'r mater hwn gyda Threnau Arriva Cymru pan gwrddaf â'u cynrychiolwyr nesaf, er mwyn gweld sut y gallem fynd â'r rhaglen honno yn ei blaen.

Pwynt o Drefn Point of Order

Huw Lewis: I raise a point of order under Standing Order No. 8.9(iv) relating to discourteous conduct. In response to my question on the Heads of the Valleys road, the Deputy First Minister made reference to a letter that I wrote to him and subsequently went on to misrepresent the content of that letter, either because he has still not properly read it—although I sent it to him a month ago, and only received an e-mail response just before the debate this afternoon—or because he is deliberately dodging the issues that I raise. I stated in my letter that I would welcome,

'in view of the upcoming publication of the Wales Transport Strategy, a fully

Huw Lewis: Codaf bwynt o Drefn dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 8.9 (iv) ynglŷn ag ymddygiad anghwrtais. Wrth ymateb i'm cwestiwn am ffordd Blaenau'r Cymoedd, cyfeiriodd y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog at lythyr a ysgrifennais ato ac yna aeth ymlaen i gamliwio cynnwys y llythyr hwnnw, un ai am nad yw wedi ei ddarllen yn iawn eto—er imi ei anfon ato fis yn ôl, ac mai dim ond cyn y ddadl y prynhawn yma y cefais ymateb drwy ebost—neu oherwydd ei fod yn mynd ati'n fwriadol i osgoi'r cwestiynau yr wyf yn eu codi. Dywedais yn fy llythyr y byddwn yn croesawu,

'gan y cyhoeddir Strategaeth Drafnidiaeth Cymru cyn bo hir, ddadansoddiad cwbl

comprehensive and detailed breakdown of the progress made so far in dualling the A465; and most importantly, a future timeline, matched by financial costings and commitments for the phases of work still to be completed’.

I did not ask for a breakdown of the transport strategy—that was mentioned in passing. If he has a strategy for transport, he might know what is happening about the A465. Now that I have clarified that point for the Deputy First Minister, perhaps he will apologise for his earlier response and his misrepresentation of my letter and get on with the job of answering questions.

The Presiding Officer: Order. That is not a matter for me. *[Interruption.]* I would be grateful if you would retake your seat while I respond to your point of order.

The content of a Minister’s answer is a matter for the Minister. Had the Minister, in his original reply, expressed anything that I would regard as disorderly, I would immediately have called him to order. Indeed, I would have been advised to do so by my advisers. Nothing disorderly has been said, neither has anything discourteous been said. *[Interruption.]* I do not want to continue this exchange, because the Deputy First Minister is responsible for his own answers. On the other hand, I do not regard the use of points of order to continue question time as being appropriate.

gynhwysfawr a manwl o’r hyn a gyflawnwyd hyd yma i ddeuoli’r A465; ac yn bwysicaf oll, amserlen ar gyfer y dyfodol, gyda’r costau ariannol ac ymrwymadau ar gyfer y camau o’r gwaith sydd eto i’w cwblhau’.

Ni ofynnais am ddadansoddiad o’r strategaeth drafnidiaeth—crybwyllwyd honno wrth fynd heibio. Os oes ganddo strategaeth drafnidiaeth, efallai y gwyddai beth sydd yn digwydd ynghylch yr A465. A minnau bellach wedi egluro’r pwynt hwnnw i’r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog, efallai y gwnaiff ymddiheuro am ei ymateb cynharach ac am gamliwio fy llythyr, a bwrw ati gyda’r gwaith o ateb cwestiynau.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid yw hynny yn fater i mi. *[Torri ar draws.]* Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe eisteddech yn ôl tra byddaf yn ymateb i’ch pwynt o drefn.

Mater i’r Gweinidog yw’r hyn a gaiff ei gynnwys yn ei ateb. Petai’r Gweinidog, yn ei ateb gwreiddiol, wedi mynegi unrhyw beth a fyddai’n anhrefnus yn fy ngolwg i, buaswn wedi ei alw i drefn yn syth. Yn wir, buasai fy nghynghorwyr wedi rhoi cyngor imi wneud hynny. Nid oes dim anhrefnus wedi’i ddweud, ac nid oes dim anghwrtais wedi’i ddweud. *[Torri ar draws.]* Nid oes arnaf eisiau parhau’r sgwrs hon, oherwydd mae’r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn gyfrifol am ei atebion ei hun. Ar y llaw arall, nid wyf yn ystyried bod defnyddio pwyntiau o drefn i barhau’r amser holi yn briodol.

Atal Rheolau Sefydlog Suspension of Standing Orders

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

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol â Rheolau Sefydlog Rhifau 35.6 a 35.8:

yn atal Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.18(i) a’r rhan honno o Reol Sefydlog Rhif 6.10 sy’n ei gwneud yn ofynnol bod y cyhoeddiad wythnosol o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 6.3 yn darparu’r amserlen ar gyfer busnes yn y Cyfarfod Llawn yr wythnos ganlynol, er

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

the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Orders Nos. 35.6 and 35.8:

suspends Standing Order No. 7.18 (i) and that part of Standing Order No. 6.10 that requires the weekly announcement under Standing Order No. 6.3 to constitute the timetable for business in Plenary for the following week, to allow the motion under

mwyn caniatáu i'r cynnig o dan eitem 3 gael ei ystyried yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ddydd Mercher 9 Ebrill 2008. (NNDM3907)

Item 3 to be considered in Plenary on Wednesday 9 April 2008. (NNDM3907)

Y Llywydd: Gwelaf fod pawb yn gytûn, felly, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.35, mae'r cynnig wedi ei dderbyn.

The Presiding Officer: I see that everyone is in agreement, therefore, in accordance with Standing Order No. 7.35, the motion is carried.

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

Ethol Aelod i'r Pwyllgor Darlledu Election of a Member to the Broadcasting Committee

Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol ac Arweinydd y Tŷ (Carwyn Jones): Cynigiau fod

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

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 10.3, yn ethol Nerys Evans (Plaid Cymru) yn aelod o'r Pwyllgor Darlledu yn lle Alun Ffred Jones (Plaid Cymru). (NNDM3904)

the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Order No. 10.3, elects Nerys Evans (Plaid Cymru) as a member of the Broadcasting Committee in place of Alun Ffred Jones (Plaid Cymru). (NNDM3904)

Y Llywydd: Gwelaf fod pawb yn gytûn, felly, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.35, mae'r cynnig wedi ei dderbyn.

The Presiding Officer: I see that everyone is in agreement, therefore, in accordance with Standing Order No. 7.35, the motion is carried.

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

Pwynt o Drefn Point of Order

Nick Bourne: I am grateful to you, Presiding Officer, for allowing this point of order, and I promise you that it has nothing to do with today's questions. It is on a matter that has previously been discussed with you, and relates to the Welsh Conservatives' debate this afternoon and amendments that have been tabled by Members on the Government's payroll that have the effect of deleting the entire motion.

Nick Bourne: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar ichi, Lywydd, am ganiatáu'r pwynt hwn o drefn, ac addawaf ichi nad oes a wnelo hwn ddim â chwestiynau heddiw. Mae'n ymwneud â mater sydd wedi'i drafod o'r blaen gyda chi, ac yn ymwneud â dadl Ceidwadwyr Cymru y prynhawn yma a gwelliannau sydd wedi'u cyflwyno gan Aelodau sy'n gweithio i'r Llywodraeth, gwelliannau a gaiff yr effaith o ddileu'r cynnig cyfan.

Prior to the Easter recess, we were faced with a similar situation, where the Leader of the House tabled a similar 'delete all' amendment. The only reason that we had not proposed amendments to our own motion was that we understood that we could have a vote on opposition business. That is what this

Cyn gwyliau'r Pasg, fe'n hwynebwyd â sefyllfa debyg, lle cyflwynodd Arweinydd y Tŷ welliant 'dileu popeth' tebyg. Yr unig reswm nad oeddem wedi cynnig gwelliannau i'n cynnig ein hunain oedd ein bod yn deall y gallem gael pleidlais ar fusnes y gwrthbleidiau. Dyna sydd wrth wraidd hyn i

is about. Opposition parties are entitled, in our system, to see the Government voting on opposition motions. However, this is being thwarted by people who are on the Government's payroll—by a Deputy Minister and by the Government Chief Whip. Therefore, I seek your guidance on this in the knowledge that there have previously been discussions behind the scenes. On that occasion, the Leader of the House withdrew the 'delete all' amendment. I seek your guidance, because it is a basic question about opposition parties having votes on opposition party business.

The Presiding Officer: I am grateful to the leader of the opposition for giving me notice of his point of order. He will recollect that I made a statement on this matter on 27 February, when I made it clear that I wished the Business Committee to find a more transparent way of ensuring fair and robust debate while also protecting the reasonable expectation by opposition parties to be able to vote on the substance of their proposals. At that time, I indicated my intention to refer the matter to the Business Committee, which I did. However, the Business Committee has not yet met as a procedure committee; I hope that it will do so soon. I had hoped, in the meantime, that the practice of Members from the governing parties tabling 'delete all' amendments to opposition motions would cease. As is evident from today's agenda, that has not happened. As he knows, I have significant sympathy with the point raised by the leader of the opposition, and I would like to see us reach a position where it is possible for opposition motions, in their own time, to be debated substantively. I therefore give an undertaking that I will now consider deselecting any 'delete all' amendments under my powers under Standing Order No. 7.19(iii) if I feel that that threatens the proper conduct of public business. Further to that point of order, Jocelyn Davies.

The Deputy Minister for Housing (Jocelyn Davies): This has not been raised with me as the business manager for the Plaid group, and I had not been given notice that this point of order was going to be raised. The amendment in the name of the Plaid group is tabled in my name not as someone on the Government's

gyd. Mae gan y gwrthbleidiau, yn ein system ni, hawl i weld y Llywodraeth yn pleidleisio ar gynigion y gwrthbleidiau. Fodd bynnag, mae hyn yn cael ei rwystro gan bobl sydd yn gweithio i'r Llywodraeth—gan Ddirprwy Weinidog a gan Brif Chwip y Llywodraeth. Felly, gofynnaf am eich arweiniad ar hyn, gan wybod bod trafodaethau wedi digwydd y tu ôl i'r llenni o'r blaen. Ar yr achlysur hwnnw, tynnodd Arweinydd y Tŷ y gwelliant 'dileu popeth' yn ôl. Ceisiaf eich arweiniad, oherwydd mae'n gwestiwn sylfaenol ynghylch caniatáu i wrthbleidiau gael pleidleisio ar fusnes y gwrthbleidiau.

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i arweinydd yr wrthblaid am roi rhybudd imi am ei bwynt o drefn. Bydd yn cofio imi wneud datganiad ar y mater hwn ar 27 Chwefror, pryd y dywedais yn glir fy mod yn dymuno i'r Pwyllgor Busnes ganfod ffordd fwy tryloyw o sicrhau dadl deg a chadarn gan warchod ar yr un pryd ddisgwyliad rhesymol y gwrthbleidiau i gael pleidleisio ar sylwedd eu cynigion. Bryd hynny, nodais fy mwriad i gyfeirio'r mater i'r Pwyllgor Busnes, a dyna a wneuthum. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'r Pwyllgor Busnes wedi cyfarfod eto fel pwyllgor gweithdrefn; gobeithiaf y gwna hynny'n fuan. Yr oeddwn wedi gobeithio, yn y cyfamser, y byddai arferiad Aelodau'r pleidiau llywodraethol o gyflwyno gwelliannau 'dileu popeth' i gynigion y gwrthbleidiau'n peidio. Fel sydd yn amlwg o agenda heddiw, nid yw hynny wedi digwydd. Fel y gŵyr ef, mae gennyf gryn gydymdeimlad â'r pwynt a godir gan arweinydd yr wrthblaid, a hoffwn ein gweld yn cyrraedd sefyllfa lle mae modd i gynigion y gwrthbleidiau, yn eu hamser eu hunain, gael eu trafod yn sylweddol. Felly rhoddaf addewid y byddaf yn awr yn ystyried dad-ddewis unrhyw welliannau 'dileu popeth' dan fy mhwerau dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 7.19(iii) os teimlaf fod hynny'n bygwth gweithrediad priodol busnes cyhoeddus. Ymhellach i'r pwynt hwnnw o drefn, Jocelyn Davies.

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Dai (Jocelyn Davies): Nid yw hyn wedi ei godi gyda mi fel y rheolwr busnes dros grŵp Plaid, ac nid oeddwn wedi cael rhybudd fod y pwynt hwn o drefn am gael ei godi. Mae'r gwelliant yn enw grŵp Plaid wedi'i gyflwyno yn fy enw i nid fel rhywun sydd yn gweithio i'r

payroll, but as the business manager for the Plaid Cymru group. This is a motion that is related to a non-devolved matter, and our amendment is in order. Furthermore, it is not a 'delete all' amendment; it is perfectly in line with the original Tory motion, but it improves it considerably. The motion as proposed by the Tories would mean that all current post offices would stay open for evermore, no matter what. We should be cautious about preventing groups from tabling any amendments to opposition motions—which is what this amounts to. This is not a 'delete all' amendment; it improves the original motion and furthermore expresses the Plaid Cymru group's view on the post office closure programme.

Llywodraeth, ond fel rheolwr busnes grŵp Plaid Cymru. Cynnig yw hwn sy'n ymwneud â mater sydd heb ei ddatganoli, ac mae ein gwelliant mewn trefn. Yn fwy na hynny, nid gwelliant 'dileu popeth' mohono; mae'n gwbl gyson â chynnig gwreiddiol y Torïaid, ond mae'n ei wella'n sylweddol. Byddai'r cynnig fel y mae wedi'i gynnig gan y Torïaid yn golygu y byddai'r holl swyddfeydd post sy'n bod yn awr yn aros yn agored am byth, beth bynnag a ddaw. Dylem fod yn ochelgar ynghylch atal grwpiau rhag cyflwyno unrhyw welliannau i gynigion y gwrthbleidiau—a dyna y mae hyn yn ei olygu. Nid gwelliant 'dileu popeth' yw hwn; mae'n gwella'r cynnig gwreiddiol a hefyd yn mynegi barn grŵp Plaid Cymru am y rhaglen ar gyfer cau swyddfeydd post.

2.00 p.m.

The Presiding Officer: I am grateful for your assistance. The points that you make, however, Jocelyn, are points of argument; they are not points relating to procedure, which is what concerns me in this matter. I find it difficult to distinguish between an amendment proposed in the name of an Assembly Member who is also a member of the Government and a Government amendment. That may be my difficulty—I will reflect further on the matter. [*Laughter.*]

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am eich cymorth. Fodd bynnag, mae'r pwyntiau yr ydych yn eu gwneud, Jocelyn, yn bwyntiau ar gyfer dadl; nid ydynt yn bwyntiau sy'n ymwneud â gweithdrefnau, sef yr hyn sy'n berthnasol i mi yn y mater hwn. Yr wyf yn ei chael yn anodd gwahaniaethu rhwng gwelliant sydd wedi'i gynnig yn enw Aelod o'r Cynulliad sydd hefyd yn aelod o'r Llywodraeth a gwelliant o eiddo'r Llywodraeth. Efallai mai anhawster i mi yw hynny—byddaf yn myfyrio ymhellach ar y mater. [*Chwerthin.*]

The Counsel General and Leader of the House (Carwyn Jones): I alluded to this difficulty at another place. The question is: what is a 'delete all' amendment? Further consideration needs to be given, as you indicated, as to what that means. The concern that the parties opposite have expressed is around when they have tabled a motion and the very substance of the motion has been changed, perhaps to a debate on something completely different. The pith and substance of the debate has been kept via these amendments, in that the debate was about post office closures and the amendments relate to post office closures too. You make the point that these are matters for debate at another time, but it is important to reflect on the fact that perhaps the critical issue will be to define what a 'delete all' amendment is and whether this should apply to all parties

Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol ac Arweinydd y Tŷ (Carwyn Jones): Cyfeiriais at yr anhawster hwn mewn lle arall. Y cwestiwn yw: beth yw gwelliant 'dileu popeth'? Mae angen ystyried ymhellach beth y mae hynny'n ei olygu, fel y dywedaso. Mae'r pryder y mae'r gwrthbleidiau wedi'i fynegi'n ymwneud â sefyllfa lle y maent wedi cyflwyno cynnig a bod holl sylwedd y cynnig wedi'i newid, efallai i'w droi'n ddadl am rywbeth hollol wahanol. Mae swm a sylwedd y ddadl wedi'u cadw drwy'r gwelliannau hyn, i'r graddau bod y ddadl yn ymwneud â chau swyddfeydd post a bod y gwelliannau'n ymwneud â chau swyddfeydd post hefyd. Yr ydych yn gwneud y pwynt bod y materion hyn i'w trafod rywdro arall, ond mae'n bwysig myfyrio am y ffaith mai'r mater hanfodol, o bosibl, fydd diffinio beth yw gwelliant 'dileu popeth' ac a ddylai hyn fod yn gymwys i bob plaid ac nid

and not just to those that happen to be in Government.

The Presiding Officer: I am grateful, as always, to the Leader of the House who, in the Chamber and in Business Committee, is helpful while being robust in defending the Government's interests, which it is his job to do. Certainly, as I made clear, I did not consider deselecting today's amendments, for some of the reasons that he has indicated, but I believe that there is an issue that we need to try to resolve in Business Committee, sitting as a procedure committee in the near future. I want a clear definition of what a substantive motion is and what a 'delete all' amendment is, wherever it comes from. That can only be established by discussion at the procedure committee.

I will call Kirsty Williams on behalf of the Liberal Democrats, and then I will call the Chief Whip, speaking as Carl Sargeant.

Kirsty Williams: I share your concern, as I also have difficulty distinguishing between an amendment tabled by a business manager or an Assembly Member on the Government payroll, on behalf of the Government, and an amendment tabled by a backbencher on the Government side. I wish to make it clear that Liberal Democrats in no way wish to curtail the Government's ability to table amendments to non-Government motions. That is perfectly in order, and we accept that that will be the practice that the Government will employ when tabling its amendments. An issue arises, however, in that we believe that we have the right, as an opposition party, to have a vote and a debate on a substantive motion that we have proposed, and we do not think it appropriate for the Government to try to scupper or circumvent it by using procedure available to it. *[Interruption.]*

The Presiding Officer: Order.

Kirsty Williams: I have given due regard to your request that my party refrain from the practice of tabling amendments to our own motions, as you believe that it is not in the

i'r rheini sy'n digwydd bod yn y Llywodraeth yn unig.

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar, fel y byddaf bob amser, i Arweinydd y Tŷ sy'n barod ei gymwynas yn y Siambr ac yn y Pwyllgor Busnes ac yn amddiffyn buddiannau'r Llywodraeth yn gadarn yr un pryd, fel y mae'n ddyletswydd arno wneud. Yn sicr, fel yr eglurais, nid ystyriais ddad-ddewis y gwelliannau heddiw, am rai o'r rhesymau y mae wedi'u nodi, ond credaf fod mater y mae angen inni geisio'i ddatrys yn y Pwyllgor Busnes, gan eistedd fel pwyllgor gweithdrefnau yn y dyfodol agos. Dymunaf gael diffiniad clir o'r hyn yw cynnig o sylwedd a beth yw gwelliant 'dileu popeth', o ble bynnag y daw. Dim ond drwy drafodaeth yn y pwyllgor gweithdrefnau y gellir pennu hynny.

Galwaf Kirsty Williams ar ran y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, ac wedyn galwaf y Prif Chwip, ym mherson Carl Sargeant.

Kirsty Williams: Yr wyf fi'n pryderu fel chithau, gan fy mod innau wedi'i chael yn anodd gwahaniaethu rhwng gwelliant wedi'i gyflwyno gan reolwr busnes neu Aelod o'r Cynulliad sy'n cael ei gyflogi gan y Llywodraeth, ar ran y Llywodraeth, a gwelliant wedi'i gyflwyno gan un o Aelodau'r meinciau cefn ar ochr y Llywodraeth. Hoffwn egluro nad yw'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn bwriadu o gwbl cyfyngu gallu'r Llywodraeth i gyflwyno gwelliannau i gynigion heblaw rhai'r Llywodraeth. Mae hynny'n gwbl dderbyniol, ac yr ydym yn derbyn mai hynny fydd arfer y Llywodraeth wrth gyflwyno'i gwelliannau. Mae cwestiwn yn codi, fodd bynnag, gan ein bod yn credu bod gennym hawl, fel gwrthblaid, i gael pleidlais a dadl ar gynnig o sylwedd yr ydym wedi'i gynnig, ac ni chredwn ei bod yn briodol i'r Llywodraeth geisio'i danseilio neu'i osgoi drwy ddefnyddio gweithdrefn sydd ar gael iddi. *[Torri ar draws.]*

Y Llywydd: Trefn.

Kirsty Williams: Yr wyf wedi rhoi sylw dyladwy i'ch cais i'm plaid ymatal rhag yr arfer o gyflwyno gwelliannau i'n cynigion ein hunain, gan eich bod yn credu nad hynny

best order according to this institution's procedures. We have refrained from doing that in the hope that the Government would also look carefully at its use of amendments in future. It seems to me that unless we can progress these discussions through the Business Committee, we in the Welsh Liberal Democrats—or, indeed, those on the Conservative benches—will have no option but to return to the practice of tabling such amendments.

The Presiding Officer: I will not respond to that final point, because my views on the matter are clear. However, I indicate my substantial sympathy with the main point that you make, which the Conservative opposition—the official opposition, if we have such a thing, although you are both official oppositions in this place, I suppose—also made. I share with you the expectation that when you have tabled a substantive motion in non-Government time—in other words, in Assembly and opposition time—there should be an opportunity for that motion to be voted on. That is the traditional practice in the House of Commons. As a former House of Commons person, I approve of that, and I would like to see it established here. I cannot do that without the consent of the procedure committee, but my views on this are clear, and I hope that we shall return to it. In the meantime, I call Carl Sargeant.

Carl Sargeant: This debate is a non-Government debate, and this is a non-Government amendment. This is a backbench Labour amendment, from me, and I am not a part of the Government. The leader of the opposition may wish to reconsider his statement that I am on the Government's payroll. That is not factual. [*Interruption.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order. I am anxious to hear Carl Sargeant deploy his argument.

Carl Sargeant: This amendment expresses a different view, while recognising that we are within the boundaries of the pith and substance of this debate. We have not

sy'n fwyaf priodol yn ôl gweithdrefnau'r sefydliad hwn. Yr ydym wedi ymatal rhag gwneud hynny gan obeithio y byddai'r Llywodraeth hithau'n edrych yn ofalus ar y modd y mae'n defnyddio gwelliannau yn y dyfodol. Mae'n ymddangos i mi, oni allwn yrru'r trafodaethau hyn ymlaen drwy'r Pwyllgor Busnes, na fydd dewis gennym ni yng ngrŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru—neu, yn wir, y rheini ar feinciau'r Ceidwadwyr—ond mynd yn ôl at yr arfer o gyflwyno gwelliannau o'r fath.

Y Llywydd: Nid ymatebaf i'r pwynt olaf hwnnw, gan fod fy marn am y mater yn glir. Fodd bynnag, nodaf fy mod yn cydymdeimlo â sylwedd y prif bwynt yr ydych yn ei wneud, a wnaethpwyd hefyd gan yr wrthblaid Geidwadol, os yw'r fath beth gennym, er bod y ddwy ohonoch yn wrthbleidiau swyddogol yn y lle hwn, debygwn i. Fel chithau, yr wyf yn disgwyl, os byddwch wedi cyflwyno cynnig o sylwedd mewn amser heblaw amser y Llywodraeth—hynny yw, yn amser y Cynulliad a'r gwrthbleidiau—y dylid cael cyfle i bleidleisio ar y cynnig hwnnw. Hwnnw yw'r arfer traddodiadol yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin. Fel un a fu'n aelod o Dŷ'r Cyffredin, yr wyf yn cymeradwyo hynny, a hoffwn ei weld yn cael ei sefydlu yma. Ni allaf wneud hynny heb gael cydsyniad y pwyllgor gweithdrefnau, ond mae fy marn am hyn yn glir, ac yr wyf yn gobeithio y byddwn yn dod yn ôl ato. Yn y cyfamser, galwaf Carl Sargeant.

Carl Sargeant: Nid yw'r ddadl hon yn un o eiddo'r Llywodraeth, ac nid yw'r gwelliant hwn yn un o eiddo'r Llywodraeth. Gwelliant gan un o feincwyr cefn Llafur yw hwn, gennyf fi, ac nid wyf yn rhan o'r Llywodraeth. Efallai y bydd arweinydd yr wrthblaid yn dymuno ailystyried ei ddatganiad fy mod yn cael fy nghyflogi gan y Llywodraeth. Nid yw hynny'n gywir. [*Torri ar draws.*]

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Yr wyf yn awyddus i glywed Carl Sargeant yn ymhelaethu ar ei ddadl.

Carl Sargeant: Mae'r gwelliant hwn yn mynegi barn wahanol, er cydnabod ein bod yn dal at swm a sylwedd y ddadl hon. Nid ydym wedi cynnig gwelliant 'dileu popeth',

proposed a 'delete all' amendment, as you suggest; this amendment adds to the debate on post office closures. Therefore, this is a clear definition of what we are doing today, and the only guidance that I can seek as a backbench Member, when tabling an amendment—[*Interruption.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order.

Carl Sargeant: This is a backbench amendment. I can only seek guidance from your Table Office, Llywydd. Therefore, it would be clearer for me, and other Members, if this debate were to carry on.

The Presiding Officer: Order. It is clear that these amendments are in order. The issue for me is the principle of allowing a vote on opposition parties' substantive motions. That is the issue. As I say, the place to debate this, and to resolve it hopefully, is in the Business Committee. I am anxious to make progress, but I will call Jenny Randerson, because of her expertise on the Standing Orders Committee.

Jenny Randerson: I fear that some Members are being rather disingenuous. Carl Sargeant says that he is not on the Government payroll. He is 100 per cent accurate on that, in that his allowance as whip or business manager comes from the Assembly via the Assembly Commission. However, he attends Cabinet meetings. When the Business Committee discusses this issue, it might consider the problem of how we denote whether motions are tabled by the Government or individuals acting on behalf of the Government, or whether they are being tabled by backbenchers. It is extremely difficult for us, on a day-to-day basis, to know the difference between Carwyn Jones as Minister, Carwyn Jones as leader of the house, Carwyn Jones as counsel general, and so on. It is difficult for the public to distinguish between those, because they do not always act consistently.

The Presiding Officer: Order. My only point of disagreement with Jenny Randerson is on salaries. All our salaries are paid by the Assembly Commission, which I chair. As I

fel yr ydych yn awgrymu; mae'r gwelliant hwn yn ychwanegu at y ddadl am gau swyddfeydd post. Felly, mae hwn yn ddiffiniad clir o'r hyn yr ydym yn ei wneud heddiw, a'r unig arweiniad y gallaf ei geisio fel un o Aelodau'r meinciau cefn, wrth gyflwyno gwelliant—[*Torri ar draws.*]

Y Llywydd: Trefn.

Carl Sargeant: Gwelliant gan un o Aelodau'r meinciau cefn yw hwn. Ni allaf ond ceisio arweiniad gan eich Swyddfa Gyflwyno, Lywydd. Felly, byddai'n gliriach i mi, ac i Aelodau eraill, petai'r ddadl hon yn mynd yn ei blaen.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae'n amlwg bod y gwelliannau hyn mewn trefn. Y mater i'w ystyried gennyf fi yw'r egwyddor o ganiatáu pleidlais ar gynigion o sylwedd o eiddo'r gwrthbleidiau. Dyna'r mater sydd dan sylw. Fel yr wyf yn dweud, y lle i drafod hyn, a'i ddatrys gobeithio, yw'r Pwyllgor Busnes. Yr wyf yn awyddus i symud ymlaen, ond galwaf Jenny Randerson, oherwydd ei harbenigedd ar y Pwyllgor Rheolau Sefydlog.

Jenny Randerson: Mae arnaf ofn bod rhai Aelodau braidd yn annidwyll. Dywed Carl Sargeant nad yw'n cael ei gyflogi gan y Llywodraeth. Mae'n hollol gywir wrth ddweud hynny, gan fod ei lwfans fel chwip neu reolwr busnes yn dod oddi wrth y Cynulliad, drwy Gomisiwn y Cynulliad. Fodd bynnag, mae'n mynd i gyfarfodydd y Cabinet. Pan fydd y Pwyllgor Busnes yn trafod y mater hwn, gallai ystyried y broblem sy'n codi o ran y modd yr ydym yn pennu a yw cynigion wedi'u cyflwyno gan y Llywodraeth neu gan unigolion yn gweithredu ar ran y Llywodraeth, neu a ydynt yn cael eu cyflwyno gan feincwyr cefn. Mae'n anodd iawn i ni wahaniaethu o ddydd i ddydd rhwng Carwyn Jones fel Gweinidog, Carwyn Jones fel arweinydd y tŷ, Carwyn Jones fel cwnsler cyffredinol, ac yn y blaen. Mae'n anodd i'r cyhoedd wahaniaethu rhwng y rheini, am nad ydynt yn gweithredu'n gyson bob tro.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Yr unig bwynt yr wyf yn anghytuno ag Jenny Randerson arno yw'r un sy'n ymwneud â chyflogau. Telir cyflogau pob un ohonom gan Gomisiwn y Cynulliad,

say, I do not want to prolong this matter, but the leader of the opposition has indicated that he wishes to contribute, and I know that the leader of the house wants to have the last word, but it will be the last word on this point of order.

Nick Bourne: I will withdraw comments about Carl Sargeant's being on the Government payroll if he is giving up his salary and going to the backbenches. I am sure that Jeff Cuthbert will be more than keen to take over. Are you giving up your salary, Carl?

The Presiding Officer: Order. That is not a point of order, as the leader of the opposition knows.

The Counsel General and Leader of the House (Carwyn Jones): I will clarify matters for Jenny Randerson. Members will see that the amendments have been tabled not in my name, but in the names of the Plaid Cymru business manager, Jocelyn Davies, and the Labour Party Chief Whip, Carl Sargeant. That makes it clear that they are not Government amendments. I hope that that will be clear in the future. The opposition parties say that they sometimes find it difficult to distinguish between the governing parties; all I can say is that it is a real problem for us to distinguish between the Tories and the Liberal Democrats.

2.10 p.m.

The Presiding Officer: As I indicated earlier, I recognise that these amendments are tabled in the names of Assembly Members, but I also recognise those names to be the names of Ministers, leaders and whips who have a close relationship with the Government of Wales. Therefore, I must consider the procedural effects of anything that is proposed, and not just the way in which those names appear on the agenda.

Jocelyn Davies: Further to that point of order, Members will know that I am a member of the Business Committee representing the Plaid Cymru group. I do not want to reveal what goes on in the Business

yr wyf yn gadeirydd arno. Fel yr wyf yn dweud, nid wyf am aros yn hir gyda'r mater hwn, ond mae arweinydd yr wrthblaid wedi nodi ei fod yn dymuno cyfrannu, a gwn fod arweinydd y tŷ am gael y gair olaf, ond hwn fydd y gair olaf am y pwynt o drefn hwn.

Nick Bourne: Tynnaf yn ôl sylwadau am Carl Sargeant yn cael ei gyflogi gan y Llywodraeth os gwnaiff ymwrthod â'i gyflog a mynd i'r meinciau cefn. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd Jeff Cuthbert yn awyddus iawn i gymryd drosodd. A ydych yn ymwrthod â'ch cyflog, Carl?

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid pwynt o drefn yw hwnnw, fel y gŵyr arweinydd yr wrthblaid.

Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol ac Arweinydd y Tŷ (Carwyn Jones): Egluraf faterion er mwyn Jenny Randerson. Bydd Aelodau'n gweld nad yw'r gwelliannau wedi'u cyflwyno yn fy enw i, ond yn enwau rheolwr busnes Plaid Cymru, Jocelyn Davies, a Phrif Chwip y Blaid Lafur, Carl Sargeant. Mae hynny'n dangos yn glir nad gwelliannau o eiddo'r Llywodraeth ydynt. Yr wyf yn gobeithio y bydd hynny'n glir yn y dyfodol. Dywed y gwrthbleidiau eu bod yn ei chael yn anodd weithiau gwahaniaethu rhwng y pleidiau llywodraethol; y cwbl y gallaf ei ddweud yw ei bod yn wirioneddol anodd i ni wahaniaethu rhwng y Torïaid a'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol.

Y Llywydd: Fel y nodais yn gynharach, yr wyf yn cydnabod bod y gwelliannau hyn wedi'u cyflwyno yn enwau Aelodau o'r Cynulliad, ond yr wyf hefyd yn cydnabod bod yr enwau hynny'n enwau ar Weinidogion, arweinwyr a chwipiaid sydd â chysylltiad clòs â Llywodraeth Cymru. Felly, rhaid imi ystyried effeithiau unrhyw beth a gynigir ar weithdrefnau, ac nid yn unig y modd y mae'r enwau hynny'n ymddangos ar yr agenda.

Jocelyn Davies: Ymhellach i'r pwynt o drefn hwnnw, bydd Aelodau'n gwybod fy mod yn aelod o'r Pwyllgor Busnes sy'n cynrychioli grŵp Plaid Cymru. Nid wyf am ddatgelu beth sy'n mynd ymlaen yn y Pwyllgor

Committee, but you will know that I regularly do not agree with the Labour representative at the Business Committee. There are people in this Chamber who regularly witness that, including you, and you can distinguish, as I do, between my role as business manager for the Plaid Cymru group and that as member of the Government—they are two entirely different things.

The Presiding Officer: I will not respond any further to this, except to say that as far as I am concerned, it is the effect that an amendment has on the conduct of debate and on Assembly proceedings that I have to study and be concerned about. If the opportunity for the opposition to have its debate substantively on its motion is affected by the way in which amendments are proposed by other Assembly Members who may or may not be supporters of the Government, I must have regard to that. However, we will no doubt return to this at a later date.

**Datganiad ar Gymeradwyaeth Ei Mawrhydi yn y Cyngor o'r Gorchymyn
Cymhwysedd Deddfwriaethol Addysg a Hyfforddiant
Statement on the Approval by Her Majesty in Council of the Education and
Training Legislative Competence Order**

Y Llywydd: Mae'n dda gennyf ddatgan yn y Cynulliad fod Ei Mawrhydi Y Frenhines heddiw wedi cytuno i, ac felly wedi gwneud, y Gorchymyn cyntaf yn y Cyfrin Gyngor i ddiwygio Atodlen 5 i Ddeddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006, yn unol ag adran 95 o'r Ddeddf, gan alluogi'r Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol ar addysg a hyfforddiant i gael ei basio yn y Cyfrin Gyngor ac, felly, i drosglwyddo pwerau yn y maes hwn i'r Cynulliad. [*Cymeradwyaeth.*]

The First Minister: Today is indeed a historic day. We could always argue how historic it is, and whether you should go back 600 years to the days of Owain Glyndwr or 1,000 years or more to the days of Hywel Dda, or whether you should say '*ers llawer dydd*' or 'forever and a day', without putting any date on it. However, it is the first time that any representative body democratically elected by the people of Wales is in a position to create genuine, 22-carat, proper, full-scale laws to help to improve the day-to-day lives of the people of Wales.

Busnes, ond byddwch yn gwybod fy mod yn anghytuno'n aml â chynrychiolydd Llafur yn y Pwyllgor Busnes. Mae rhai yn y Siambr hon sy'n dyst i hynny'n rheolaidd, a chithau yn eu plith, a gallwch wahaniaethu, fel yr wyf fi, rhwng fy rôl fel rheolwr busnes i grŵp Plaid Cymru a'm rôl fel aelod o'r Llywodraeth—maent yn ddau beth cwbl wahanol.

Y Llywydd: Nid ymatebaf ymhellach i hyn, heblaw dweud, o'm rhan i, mai'r effaith a gaiff gwelliant ar y dull o gynnal dadl ac ar drafodion y Cynulliad yw'r hyn y mae'n rhaid imi ei astudio a gofalu amdano. Os yw'r modd y cynigir gwelliannau gan Aelodau eraill o'r Cynulliad, pa un a ydynt yn cefnogi'r Llywodraeth ai peidio, yn effeithio ar y cyfle i'r gwrthbleidiau gael dadl ar sylwedd eu cynnig, rhaid imi ystyried hynny. Fodd bynnag, mae'n sicr y byddwn yn dod yn ôl at hyn rywdro yn y dyfodol.

The Presiding Officer: I am pleased to announce in the Assembly that Her Majesty The Queen has today agreed to, and therefore made, the first Order in Council to amend Schedule 5 to the Government of Wales Act 2006, in accordance with section 95 of the Act, enabling the legislative competence Order on education and training to be approved in the Privy Council, and, therefore, to transfer powers in this field to the Assembly. [*Applause.*]

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae heddiw'n ddiwrnod gwirioneddol hanesyddol. Mae'n sicr y gallem ddadlau ynghylch pa mor hanesyddol ydyw, ac a ddylid mynd yn ôl 600 mlynedd i ddyddiau Owain Glyndŵr neu 1,000 o flynyddoedd neu fwy i ddyddiau Hywel Dda, neu a ddylid dweud '*ers llawer dydd*' heb roi dyddiad pendant. Er hynny, hwn yw'r tro cyntaf i unrhyw gorff cynrychioladol wedi'i ethol yn ddemocrataidd gan bobl Cymru fod mewn lle i wneud deddfau dilys, priodol a chyflawn i helpu i wella bywydau pob dydd pobl Cymru.

Felly, mae'r beirniaid a oedd yn amau a oedd gan y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol y gallu, heb sôn am yr hawl, i ddeddfu wedi cael eu profi yn anghywir.

As this has been the first legislative competence Order, it has meant a massive learning curve for all of those involved, but everyone, including the clerks and the people who serve on the administration side and who have done the drafting work, has met the challenge. It demonstrates our growing maturity as a devolved system of Government as regards to this body's administration and scrutiny system as a legislature. We have not only steered it successfully through our scrutiny procedures in Cardiff bay—which we designed ourselves—but we have also persuaded my right honourable and honourable friends in both Houses of Parliament of the strength of the case for securing this specific set of law-making powers for the Assembly.

At this point, I express my sincere appreciation—and almost my jealousy, in a way—of Jane Hutt as the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, because it is her skills that have ensured its successful passage. She personally and ministerially piloted and tested the scrutiny procedures and got the Order to this point today. Perhaps those scrutiny procedures will always need to be retested, to check that they are fit for purpose, but I believe that they have passed muster in getting us to the stage we have reached today, where a little bit of Welsh history has been made of which everyone in the Assembly can be proud.

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

Having the opportunity as the Minister responsible for securing the first legislative competence Order of the National Assembly has been a privilege. To my mind, it demonstrates not only our ability to handle this type of legislation, but our commitment to providing every citizen with the opportunity to reach their full potential regardless of their circumstances or level of ability. For the first time, it enables us to

Therefore, the critics who wondered whether the Assembly had the ability, let alone the right, to legislate have been proved incorrect.

Gan mai hwn fu'r Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol cyntaf, mae wedi golygu gwaith dysgu aruthrol i bawb a fu'n gysylltiedig, ond mae pawb, gan gynnwys y clerod a'r rhai sy'n gwasanaethu ar yr ochr weinyddol ac sydd wedi gwneud y gwaith drafftio, wedi ateb yr her. Mae'n dangos ein haeddfedrwydd cynyddol fel system Lywodraeth ddatganoledig o ran gweinyddiaeth y corff hwn a'i system graffu fel deddfwrfa. Nid yn unig yr ydym wedi'i lywio'n llwyddiannus drwy ein gweithdrefnau craffu ym mae Caerdydd—a ddyfeisiwyd gennym ni ein hunain—ond yr ydym hefyd wedi darbwyllio fy ffrindiau anrhydeddus a gwir anrhydeddus yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin a Thŷ'r Arglwyddi o gryfder y ddadl dros sicrhau'r set benodol hon o bwerau deddfu i'r Cynulliad.

Yn y fan hon, mynegaf fy ngwerthfawrogiad didwyll—a'm cenfigen bron, ar ryw ystyr—o Jane Hutt fel y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau, oherwydd ei sgiliau hi sydd wedi sicrhau hynt lwyddiannus iddo. Llywiodd y gweithdrefnau craffu yn bersonol ac fel Gweinidog a rhoi prawf arnynt a dod â'r Gorchymyn i'r fan hon heddiw. Efallai y bydd angen ailbrofi'r gweithdrefnau craffu hynny o hyd, er mwyn sicrhau eu bod yn addas at y diben, ond credaf eu bod wedi llwyddo i'n cael i'r fan hon heddiw, lle mae ychydig o hanes Cymru wedi'i greu y gall pawb yn y Cynulliad fod yn falch ohono.

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

Mae cael y cyfle i sicrhau Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol cyntaf y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol wedi bod yn ffraind. Yn fy marn i, mae'n dangos nid yn unig ein gallu i ymdrin â'r math hwn o ddeddfwriaeth, ond ein hymrwymiad i sicrhau bod pob dinesydd yn cael y cyfle i gyflawni hyd yr eithaf, ni waeth beth yw ei amgylchiadau na lefel ei allu. Am y tro cyntaf, mae'n ein galluogi i allu diwallu anghenion penodol Cymru drwy

have the capacity to deliver truly Welsh solutions for particular Welsh needs. I thank Members across the Chamber for their constructive and effective scrutiny, which led to unanimous support for the Order. I also thank all those who contributed in the scrutiny committee—the stakeholders who added their expertise and experience.

The fact that this Order is in the field of additional learning needs is a bonus. This is an area in which the former Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee undertook a wide-ranging policy review and came forward with three important reports on early assessment and intervention, statementing and statutory assessment and transition arrangements. We accepted all of its recommendations, either fully or in principle. Many of the recommendations are already being implemented, with others receiving detailed consideration. In light of this ongoing work and future widespread consultations, it will now be possible for us to address each one of them fully, since any changes necessary to primary legislation are now firmly in our hands. Therefore, I believe that this is a landmark day for us, constitutionally. For all those who can be empowered by this legislation, we now have, for the first time, the full capacity to meet their needs.

Nick Bourne: What I have to say is more in response to the First Minister than to Jane, because I think that Alun Cairns will say something on the substance of the legislative competence Order. I agree with the First Minister that this is an historic moment, and I want to put on record our thanks for all the hard work done by civil servants and Assembly Members across parties, whom I know have worked hard not only on this legislative competence Order but on the many others that are in progress. It is important. However, I believe that this is only a staging post. As the First Minister knows, I believe that this process has demonstrated why we need full powers. A great deal of time and energy has been spent on this that need not have been spent, because the process could be greatly simplified. I look forward to that day. In the meantime, this is an historic occasion. The First Minister is right that this is the first of

gynnig atebion gwirioneddol Gymreig. Diolchaf i'r Aelodau ar ochr draw'r Siambr am eu gwaith craffu adeiladol ac effeithiol, a arweiniodd at gefnogaeth unfrydol i'r Gorchymyn. Diolchaf hefyd i bawb a gyfrannodd yn y pwyllgor craffu—y rhanddeiliaid a ychwanegodd eu harbenigedd a'u profiad.

Mae'n fonws mai ym maes anghenion dysgu ychwanegol y mae'r Gorchymyn hwn. Dyma faes lle y cynhaliodd y cyn bwyllgor Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau adolygiad polisi eang ei gwmpas gan gyflwyno tri adroddiad pwysig am asesu ac ymyrryd yn fuan, llunio datganiadau ac asesiadau statudol a threfniadau pontio. Derbynasom ei argymhellion i gyd, naill ai'n llawn neu mewn egwyddor. Mae llawer o'r argymhellion yn cael eu rhoi ar waith eisoes, ac eraill wrthi'n cael eu hystyried yn fanwl. Yng ngoleuni'r gwaith hwn sy'n mynd rhagddo, a'r ymgynghori eang yn y dyfodol, bydd modd inni bellach roi sylw llawn i bob un ohonynt, oherwydd os bydd angen newid deddfwriaeth sylfaenol o gwbl, yn ein dwylo ni y bydd hynny. Felly, credaf fod heddiw'n ddiwrnod hanesyddol i ni, o safbwynt cyfansoddiadol. I bawb y gellir eu grymuso drwy gyfrwng y ddeddfwriaeth hon, mae gennym yn awr, am y tro cyntaf, y gallu llawn i ddiwallu eu hanghenion.

Nick Bourne: Ymateb i'r Prif Weinidog, yn fwy nag i Jane yr wyf yn y sylwadau hyn, oherwydd credaf y bydd Alun Cairns yn dweud rhywbeth am sylwedd y Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol. Cytunaf â'r Prif Weinidog fod y foment hon yn un hanesyddol, a dymunaf gofnodi ein diolch am yr holl waith caled a wnaeth gweision sifil ac Aelodau'r Cynulliad ym mhob plaid. Gwn iddynt weithio'n galed, nid dim ond ar y Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol hwn ond ar y llu o rai eraill sydd ar y gweill. Mae'n bwysig. Fodd bynnag, credaf mai dim ond carreg filltir ar y daith yw hon. Fel y gŵyr y Prif Weinidog, credaf i'r broses ddangos pam y mae angen pwerau llawn arnom. Treuliwyd llawer iawn o amser ac egni diangen ar hyn oherwydd gellid symleiddio'r broses i raddau helaeth. Edrychaf ymlaen at y diwrnod hwnnw. Yn y cyfamser, dyma achlysur hanesyddol. Mae'r Prif Weinidog yn iawn mai dyma'r cyntaf o

many Orders going through the system and I congratulate the First Minister, the Minister concerned and everyone who has worked so hard on this.

Michael German: The Welsh Liberal Democrat group welcomes the passing of this first legislative competence Order. It is the first stage of the process of putting together the jigsaw of powers that make up the National Assembly's legislative framework. It is a faltering step because a great deal of time and effort are required to get the powers that are available to us. However, it is a step in the right direction and one that we welcome. However, the first few months of this process have shown us that it is extremely costly in terms of people's time and effort to get the powers necessary to make the first Measure in this area. I hope that the Government will proceed swiftly to providing the detail of the Measure to follow.

We must be careful not to think that the LCO process is the only process by which Schedule 5 is being amended. Framework powers, the route by which many of the additions to Schedule 5 are being made, are already making a substantive difference to our powers, and this has been happening for some months now. We must recognise that, just as we must look at the process of getting LCOs through, we must ensure that the framework powers that we acquire through Bills in Westminster are as deep and wide as possible. We must miss no opportunity of using those to extend our powers under Schedule 5. This must lead us to the inevitable conclusion that we need these powers within the National Assembly as rapidly and as swiftly as possible so that we can have a full legislation-powered Assembly.

2.20 p.m.

Alun Cairns: This is an important occasion and it is important to mark such an event. However, we need to recognise that this is merely the transfer of power, and transfers of powers have taken place in various ways in

blith llawer o Orchmynion sy'n mynd drwy'r system a llongyfarchaf y Prif Weinidog, y Gweinidog dan sylw a phawb sydd wedi gweithio mor galed ar hyn.

Michael German: Mae grŵp y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn croesawu pasio'r Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol cyntaf hwn. Dyma'r cam cyntaf yn y broses o roi jig-so'r pwerau at ei gilydd, y darnau sy'n creu fframwaith deddfu'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Mae'n gam petrusgar oherwydd mae angen llawer iawn o amser ac ymdrech er mwyn cael gafael ar y pwerau sydd ar gael inni. Fodd bynnag, mae'n gam i'r cyfeiriad iawn ac mae'n gam yr ydym yn ei groesawu. Serch hynny, mae ychydig fisoedd cyntaf y broses hon wedi dangos inni bod cael gafael ar y pwerau sy'n angenrheidiol er mwyn creu'r Mesur cyntaf yn y maes hwn yn hynod o gostus o ran amser ac ymdrech pobl. Gobeithiaf y bydd y Llywodraeth yn bwrw ymlaen yn ddi-oed i ddarparu manylion y Mesur a ddaw yn sgil hyn.

Rhaid inni ochel rhag meddwl mai proses y Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol yw'r unig broses a ddilynir i ddiwygio Atodlen 5. Mae pwerau fframwaith, y llwybr a ddilynir er mwyn gwneud llawer o'r ychwanegiadau i Atodlen 5 eisoes yn gwneud gwahaniaeth sylweddol i'n pwerau, ac mae hyn wedi bod yn digwydd ers cryn dipyn o fisoedd bellach. Rhaid inni gydnabod, yn ogystal â'i bod yn rhaid edrych ar broses cymeradwyo'r Gorchmynion, ei bod yn rhaid inni hefyd sicrhau bod y pwerau fframwaith a gawn drwy gyfrwng Mesurau yn San Steffan yr un mor ddwfn a'r un mor eang ag y bo modd. Rhaid inni beidio â cholli'r un cyfle i ddefnyddio'r rheini er mwyn ymestyn ein pwerau dan Atodlen 5. Wrth gwrs, mae hyn ein harwain at y casgliad anochel bod angen y pwerau hyn arnom yn y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol cyn gynted ac mor ddi-oed â phosibl er mwyn inni gael Cynulliad â phŵer deddfu llawn.

Alun Cairns: Mae hwn yn achlysur o bwys ac mae'n bwysig nodi digwyddiad o'r fath. Fodd bynnag, mae angen inni gydnabod mai dim ond trosglwyddo pŵer yw hyn, a bod trosglwyddo pwerau wedi digwydd mewn

the past. The important occasion must be when the first Measure is passed that stems from this legislative competence Order and the enhanced power that the Assembly Government has now inherited. I ask the Minister to outline at the earliest opportunity the Measures that she intends to introduce, because this mere transfer of power means nothing to the people who will depend on the improvements that we can, hopefully, bring about.

Eleanor Burnham: A minnau'n Gadeirydd y pwyllgor ar y Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol cyntaf yn y Cynulliad, yr wyf yn croesawu'r diwrnod hanesyddol hwn sydd yn ein galluogi i ddatblygu Mesurau i ddarparu gwell gwasanaeth i bobl fregus ag anghenion addysgol ychwanegol. Fel y siaradwr blaenorol, yr wyf yn gobeithio y cawn weld y Mesur cyntaf cyn gynted ag y bo modd i wneud gwell ddarpariaeth. Bydd y cyhoedd yn edrych arnom ac yn dymuno gweld ein bod yn gwneud ein gorau glas drostynt, heb gymryd oes i wneud hynny. Mae'r Gorchymyn ei hun wedi cymryd naw mis i'w basio, a mawr obeithiaf y caiff y broses o gwblhau'r jig-so cymhleth hwn ei chyflymu, gan fod y cyhoedd weithiau yn sarhaus tuag atom, ac yn dweud nad ydym yn rhoi digon o werth am arian iddynt. Edrychaf ymlaen at weld materion yn cael eu cyflymu. Gobeithiaf y gwelwn ddeddfwriaeth sylfaenol yn y Cynulliad y pen draw.

gwahanol ffyrdd yn y gorffennol. Yr achlysur pwysig, wrth gwrs, fydd hwnnw pan gaiff y Mesur cyntaf ei basio sy'n deillio o'r Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol hwn a'r pŵer ychwanegol y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn awr wedi'i etifeddu. Gofynnaf i'r Gweinidog sôn cyn gynted ag y bo modd am y Mesurau y bwriada'u cyflwyno, oherwydd nid yw'r trosglwyddo pŵer hwn ar ei ben ei hun yn golygu dim i'r bobl a fydd yn dibynnu ar y gwelliannau y gallwn, gobeithio, eu sicrhau.

Eleanor Burnham: As the Chair of the committee considering the Assembly's first legislative competence Order, I want to welcome this historic day, which will enable us to develop Measures that will provide better services to vulnerable people who have additional learning needs. Like the previous speaker, I hope that we will get to see the first Measure passed as soon as possible so as to improve provision in that area. The public will be looking to us, and will want to see that we are doing our level best for them, without taking too long over it. This Order alone has taken nine months to pass, and I very much hope that the process of completing this complex jigsaw will be sped up, given that the public can sometimes be quite disparaging about us, saying that we do not give them enough value for money. I look forward to seeing matters expedited. I hope that, at the end of the day, we will see primary legislation in the Assembly.

Cynnig Trefniadol Procedural Motion

Nerys Evans: Cynigiaf fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 7.26, yn cytuno i ohirio'r ddadl ar y cynnig yn fy enw i yn ceisio caniatâd y Cynulliad i gyflwyno Mesur arfaethedig Aelod ynghylch ailgylchu.

Y Llywydd: A oes gwrthwynebiad? Gwelaf nad oes gwrthwynebiad. Yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.35, felly, caiff y cynnig ei dderbyn.

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

Nerys Evans: I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales, under Standing Order No. 7.26, agrees to postpone the debate tabled in my name seeking the Assembly's leave to introduce a Member proposed Measure for recycling.

The Presiding Officer: Are there any objections? I see that there are none. In accordance with Standing Order No. 7.35, the motion is therefore agreed.

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd (Rosemary Butler) i'r Gadair am 2.22 p.m.
The Deputy Presiding Officer (Rosemary Butler) took the Chair at 2.22 p.m.*

**Dadl y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig
Welsh Conservatives Debate**

**Cau Swyddfeydd Post
Post Office Closures**

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendment 1 in the name of Carl Sargeant and amendment 2 in the name of Jocelyn Davies. If amendment 1 is carried, amendment 2 will be deselected.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliant 1 yn enw Carl Sargeant a gwelliant 2 yn enw Jocelyn Davies. Os derbynir gwelliant 1, caiff gwelliant 2 ei ddad-ddethol.

Mark Isherwood: I propose that

Mark Isherwood: Cynigiau fod

the National Assembly for Wales agrees that the UK Government should halt its post office closure programme in Wales. (NDM3902)

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru'n cytuno y dylai Llywodraeth y DU roi diwedd ar ei rhaglen i gau swyddfeydd post yng Nghymru. (NDM3902)

In contrast to the disunity exhibited earlier on the amendments to this motion, this debate is designed to unite the Assembly and send a strong Welsh voice to the Westminster Government that we are against its post office closure programme. I therefore call on every Assembly Member who has been fighting to keep their local post offices open to do the right thing and support this motion.

Yn groes i'r diffyg undod a welwyd yn gynharach yng nghyswllt y gwelliannau i'r cynnig hwn, nod y ddadl hon yw uno'r Cynulliad ac anfon neges gref o Gymru i Lywodraeth San Steffan ein bod yn gwrthwynebu ei rhaglen i gau swyddfeydd post. Felly, galwaf ar bob Aelod o'r Cynulliad sydd wedi bod yn brwydro i gadw'u swyddfeydd post lleol ar agor i wneud y peth iawn a chefnogi'r cynnig hwn.

I am proud to propose this motion calling for the National Assembly for Wales to agree that the UK Government should halt its post office closure programme in Wales. This follows a Conservative debate on 19 March in the House of Commons which called for the suspension of the post office closure programme. The motion was worded as follows.

Yr wyf yn falch o gyflwyno'r cynnig hwn sy'n galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i gytuno y dylai Llywodraeth y DU atal ei rhaglen i gau swyddfeydd post yng Nghymru. Mae hyn yn dilyn dadl gan y Ceidwadwyr ar 19 Mawrth yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin a oedd yn galw am ohirio'r rhaglen i gau swyddfeydd post. Dyma eiriad y cynnig.

'That this House regrets the proposal to close up to 2,500 post offices; recognises the vital role post offices play in local communities; notes the concern and unpopularity amongst the general public of closing such a large portion of the network; has concerns that the access criteria laid down for the closures consultation do not adequately take into account local geographical factors and public transport networks; is concerned that the consultation period is only for six weeks

Bod y Tŷ hwn yn gresynu at y cynnig i gau hyd at 2,500 o swyddfeydd post; yn cydnabod rôl hollbwysig swyddfeydd post mewn cymunedau lleol; yn nodi pryder y cyhoedd yn gyffredinol ynglŷn â chau cyfran mor fawr o'r rhwydwaith ac amhoblogrwydd hynny; yn poeni nad yw'r meini prawf hygrychedd a bennwyd ar gyfer ymgynghori ynglŷn â'r cau yn rhoi digon o sylw i ffactorau daearyddol lleol a rhwydweithiau trafniadaeth gyhoeddus; yn poeni mai dim

rather than three months, as recommended by Cabinet Office guidelines; believes that post offices must move with the times in the services they offer and that options for business expansion and developing business opportunities with local authorities should be explored further; and calls upon the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to instruct Post Office Limited to suspend the compulsory closure of sub-post offices while these issues are reassessed.'

Plaid Cymru Members of Parliament voted with us, 19 Labour MPs put their loyalty to their constituents above their party and voted with us, but 23 Welsh Labour MPs voted again for Labour's post office closure programme and only one honourable Member of Parliament from Wales in the Labour Party voted with us. Compare this with the fine words of Labour MP, Gordon Prentice.

'There is no need for anyone on this side to feel at all frightened about the prospect of voting with the Conservatives. Let me explain that it is the only option left open to us. It is the only option that we have left to stop or suspend the closure programme.'

'I believe post offices are a social good. They are not just about selling postage stamps. The network could not be recreated if it were smashed; it could not be put together again. There are all sorts of exciting innovative things that we could do with a revived post office network. I hope my friends swallow the prejudices of decades and do the right thing, which is to support the Conservative motion.'

Jeff Cuthbert: I have campaigned hard against four post office closures in my constituency, but what troubles me about your motion as it is written is that it simply calls on the UK Government to halt its post office closure programme in Wales; it does not seek to qualify it or talk about subsidising the post office or the issue of viability. Can we assume that, if you were in Government, there would be no post office closures in

and chwech wythnos, yn hytrach na thri mis, fel yr argymhellir yng nghanllawiau Swyddfa'r Cabinet, y bydd y cyfnod ymgynghori, yn credu ei bod yn rhaid i swyddfeydd post symud gyda'r oes o ran y gwasanaethau a gynigir ganddynt ac y dylid archwilio ymhellach y dewisiadau ar gyfer ehangu busnesau a datblygu cyfleoedd busnes gydag awdurdodau lleol, ac yn galw ar yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Fusnes, Menter a Diwygio Rheoleiddio i gyfarwyddo Swyddfa'r Post Cyf i ohirio gorfodi is-swyddfeydd post i gau tra bo'r materion hyn yn cael eu hailasesu.

Pleidleisiodd Aelodau Seneddol Plaid Cymru gyda ni, penderfynodd 19 o ASau Llafur fod eu teyrngarwch i'w hetholwyr yn bwysicach na'u teyrngarwch i'w plaid a phleidleisio gyda ni, ond pleidleisiodd 23 o ASau Llafur Cymru unwaith eto o blaid rhaglen Llafur i gau swyddfeydd post a dim ond un Aelod Seneddol anrhydeddus o Gymru yn y Blaid Lafur a bleidleisiodd gyda ni. Cymharwch hyn â geiriau didwyll yr AS Llafur, Gordon Prentice.

Nid oes angen i neb ar yr ochr hon deimlo'n ofnus o gwbl am bleidleisio gyda'r Ceidwadwyr. Gadewch imi esbonio mai dyna'r unig ddewis sydd ar ôl inni. Dyna'r unig ddewis sydd ar ôl inni er mwyn atal neu ohirio'r rhaglen cau.

Credaf fod swyddfeydd post er lles y gymdeithas. Nid dim ond gwerthu stampiau y maent. Ni fyddai modd ail-greu'r rhwydwaith petai'n cael ei chwalu; ni fyddai modd ei rhoi at ei gilydd eto. Mae pob math o bethau cyffrous, arloesol y gallem eu gwneud gyda rhwydwaith swyddfeydd post petai'n cael ei adfywio. Gobeithiaf y gwnaiff fy nghyfeillion lyncu rhagfarnau degawdau a gwneud yr hyn sy'n iawn, sef cefnogi cynnig y Ceidwadwyr.

Jeff Cuthbert: Yr wyf wedi ymgyrchu'n frwd yn erbyn cau pedair swyddfa bost yn fy etholaeth, ond yr hyn sy'n fy mhoeni am eich cynnig fel y mae wedi'i ysgrifennu yw nad yw'n gwneud dim mwy na galw ar Lywodraeth y DU i atal ei rhaglen i gau swyddfeydd post yng Nghymru; nid yw'n ceisio ymhelaethu ar hyn ac nid yw'n sôn am roi cymhorthdal i swyddfa'r post nac ychwaith am ei hyfywedd. A gawn dybio,

Wales? If so, how would you square that with the 3,500 post offices that your party closed when you were in Government?

Mark Isherwood: Jeff, you know very well that the rate of closure has doubled since Labour came to power. You will have closed one third of the network by the time you have finished with this programme.

This programme was voted on in Westminster; it is not an ad hoc closure programme nor is it a question of empty premises waiting for a new sub-postmaster or sub-postmistress to appear. This is a closure programme voted for in the House of Commons by your colleagues, in the face of strong cross-party opposition from all the other parties present in the Chamber.

Talking of other parties, this is what Elfyn Llwyd, Plaid Cymru's leader in the House of Commons said after the vote.

'There is a terrible whiff of hypocrisy in Westminster today. Many Labour Ministers and backbenchers are voting in favour of the closure of post offices while, at the same time, running around like headless chickens in their constituencies, pretending to campaign in favour of keeping these post offices open. They should have considered the full implication these closures would have prior to voting and not after. The Government began closing the post offices without adequately exploring how post offices could expand their services. The closure programme should be stopped and time should be given to explore how post offices can develop so that they remain part of our communities.'

We trust that our Plaid Cymru colleagues will share his sentiments.

Leighton Andrews: While we are quoting people who spoke in the Westminster debate on 19 March, are you aware of what was said by your shadow secretary of state when introducing your motion in Westminster?

'Let me make it clear that we fully expect the

petaech chi'n llywodraethu, na fyddai'r un swyddfa bost yn cau yng Nghymru? Os felly, sut y byddech yn cysoni hynny â'r 3,500 o swyddfeydd post a gaewyd gan eich plaid pan oeddech chi'n llywodraethu.

Mark Isherwood: Jeff, gwyddoch yn dda iawn fod y gyfradd cau wedi dyblu ers i Lafur ddod i rym. Byddwch wedi cau traean y rhwydwaith erbyn ichi orffen gyda'r rhaglen hon.

Pleidleisiwyd ar y rhaglen hon yn San Steffan; nid rhaglen cau ad hoc mohoni ac nid yw ychwaith yn fater o adeiladau gweigion sy'n disgwyl i isbostfeistr neu isbostfeistres newydd ymddangos. Rhaglen cau yw hon y pleidleisiodd eich cyd-Aelodau o'i phlaid yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin, yn wyneb gwrthwynebiad cryf o du pob plaid arall a oedd yn bresennol yn y Siambr.

A sôn am y pleidiau eraill, dyma'r hyn a ddywedodd Elfyn Llwyd, arweinydd Plaid Cymru yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin ar ôl y bleidlais.

Mae sawr rhagrith ofnadwy yn San Steffan heddiw. Mae llawer o Weinidogion Llafur a'i haelodau ar y meinciau cefn yn pleidleisio o blaid cau swyddfeydd post. Ar yr un pryd, maent yn rhedeg o gwmpas fel ffyliaid yn eu hetholaethau, yn esgus ymgychu o blaid cadw'r swyddfeydd post hyn ar agor. Dylent fod wedi ystyried oblygiad llawn y cau hwn cyn iddynt bleidleisio, nid wedyn. Dechreuodd y Llywodraeth gau'r swyddfeydd post heb archwilio'n ddigonol sut y gallai swyddfeydd post ehangu eu gwasanaethau. Dylid atal y rhaglen cau a rhoi amser i archwilio sut y gall swyddfeydd post ddatblygu, er mwyn iddynt aros yn rhan o'n cymunedau.

Hyderwn y bydd ein cyd-Aelodau ym Mhlaid Cymru'n cytuno â'i sylwadau.

Leighton Andrews: A ninnau'n dyfynnu pobl a siaradodd yn y ddadl yn San Steffan ar 19 Mawrth, a ydych yn ymwybodol o'r hyn a ddywedwyd gan ysgrifennydd gwladol yr wrthblaid wrth gyflwyno'ch cynnig yn San Steffan?

Gadewch imi ei gwneud yn glir ein bod yn

network to shrink in size. We have never given a guarantee that no post offices will close.'

That was Alan Duncan, the Conservative shadow secretary of state on 19 March in Westminster.

Mark Isherwood: Yes it was. We are calling to halt this closure programme, which has mandated the closure of 2,500 post offices across the islands of Britain, whatever the merits of local consultation processes or otherwise. You are closing down a network that you have made non-viable; we seek to restore that viability and keep as many post offices as possible open as a consequence. Today's vote will tell us whether the split between Plaid Cymru MPs and AMs is as wide as the split between its lunatic left and its moderate centre ground.

In response to Wrexham Labour MP, Ian Lucas's excuses for voting to close post offices in the local press, a disgruntled north Wales postmaster said that:

'The consultations are a charade'.

Postmasters have been told that if the post office decides to close their office, there is no appeal. If, after consultation, there is a change of plan, a neighbouring post office will be closed; 2,500 offices will close come what may.

Why is the Government ploughing £150 million a year into the post office? It is because its business plans diverted customers from the post office and made it unprofitable. Ian Lucas contrasted Government subsidy of the post office network with the absence of subsidy from the Conservative Government. He then took credit for Conservative proposals that working arrangements with banks, credit unions and local authorities should be established, but he voted against giving post offices the time to introduce the twenty-first century services that can restore their viability.

The Conservatives did not subsidise the post

llwyr ddisgwyl i'r rhwydwaith grebachu. Nid ydym erioed wedi rhoi gwarant na fydd yr un swyddfa bost yn cau.

Alan Duncan oedd hwnnw, ysgrifennydd gwladol yr wrthblaid Geidwadol ar 19 Mawrth yn San Steffan.

Mark Isherwood: Ie, dyna chi. Yr ydym yn galw am atal y rhaglen cau, sydd wedi gorfodi 2,500 o swyddfeydd i gau ar hyd ac ar led ynysoedd Prydain, prosesau ymgynghori lleol neu beidio. Yr ydych yn cau rhwydwaith yr ydych chi wedi'i wneud yn anhwyfwr; ein nod ni yw ei wneud yn hyfwr unwaith eto a chadw cynifer o swyddfeydd post ar agor yn sgil hynny. Bydd y bleidlais heddiw'n dangos inni a yw'r rhwyg rhwng ASau ac ACau Plaid Cymru yr un mor llydan â'r rhwyg rhwng ei chwith gorffwyll a'i thir canol cymedrol.

Gan ymateb yn y wasg leol i'r esgusodion a gafwyd gan AS Llafur Wrecsam, Ian Lucas, dros bleidleisio o blaid cau swyddfeydd post, dywedodd postfeistr anfodlon yn y gogledd:

Siarâd yw'r ymgynghori.

Mae postfeistri wedi cael ar ddeall na chânt apelio os bydd swyddfa'r post yn penderfynu cau eu swyddfa. Os newidir y cynllun ar ôl yr ymgynghori, caeir swyddfa bost gyfagos: caeir 2,500 o swyddfeydd, doed a ddelo.

Pam mae'r Llywodraeth yn bwydo £150 miliwn y flwyddyn i swyddfa'r post? Ai oherwydd bod ei chynlluniau busnes wedi cyfeirio cwsmeriaid oddi wrth swyddfa'r post a'i gwneud yn amhroffidiol. Soniodd Ian Lucas am y gwrthgyferbyniad rhwng y Llywodraeth yn rhoi cymhorthdal i rwydwaith y swyddfeydd post a'r diffyg cymhorthdal gan y Llywodraeth Geidwadol. Yna, cymerodd y clod am gynigion y Ceidwadwyr, sef y dylid sefydlu trefniadau gweithio gyda'r banciau, yr undebau credyd a'r awdurdodau lleol, ond pleidleisiodd yn erbyn rhoi amser i'r swyddfeydd post gyflwyno gwasanaethau'r unfed ganrif ar hugain a all eu gwneud yn hyfwr unwaith eto.

Ni roddodd y Ceidwadwyr gymhorthdal i

office because it was profitable and paid its profits to the Government year in, year out. Mr Lucas says that the best way to safeguard—

swyddfa'r post oherwydd yr oedd yn broffidiol ac yn talu ei helw i'r Llywodraeth flwyddyn ar ôl blwyddyn. Dywed Mr Lucas mai'r ffordd orau o ddiogelu—

2.30 p.m.

Alun Davies: Will you give way?

Alun Davies: A wnewch chi ildio?

Mark Isherwood: Time is running a bit short for me to take interventions, so let me carry on. Mr Lucas says that the best way to safeguard post offices is to increase the number of customers. Postmasters agree: they do not want subsidy, they want work. It was the former Prime Minister and his Chancellor, who is now the Prime Minister, who killed the profitability of post offices.

Mark Isherwood: Mae amser yn brin imi dderbyn ymyriadau, felly gadewch imi barhau. Dywed Mr Lucas mai'r ffordd orau o ddiogelu swyddfeydd post yw cynyddu nifer y cwsmeriaid. Mae postfeistri'n cytuno: nid cymorthdaliadau y mae arnynt eu heisiau, ond gwaith. Y cyn Brif Weinidog a'i Ganghellor, sydd bellach yn Brif Weinidog, wnaeth ladd proffidioldeb swyddfeydd post.

Alun Davies: Will you give way?

Alun Davies: A wnewch chi ildio?

Mark Isherwood: You will have plenty of opportunity to speak later.

Mark Isherwood: Cewch ddigon o gyfle i siarad yn nes ymlaen.

He did that first by encouraging post office customers to have their family allowance paid through a bank, and then by encouraging pensioners to have their pensions paid through a bank. The UK Government may deny it, but we all know that pensioners who chose to receive pensions through the post office received phone calls suggesting that it would be more convenient for them to receive the money through a bank. It is true that Labour MPs have met many postmasters and assured them that they had their full support to keep post offices open. MPs and Assembly Members can say what they like, but it is how they vote that matters. They cannot be all things to all people, but they must stand up and be counted. The morale of postmasters is at rock bottom. Many feel, even if they are not in the closure programme, that they will just wither on the vine and be forced to close without any compensation. For the sake of the people and communities of Wales, we appeal to Labour and Plaid Cymru to withdraw their amendments today. You say that you want to keep viable post offices open, but you deny post offices the chance to regain the viability that has been destroyed by UK Government policy since 1997.

Gwnaeth hynny'n gyntaf drwy annog cwsmeriaid swyddfeydd post i drefnu bod eu lwfans teulu yn cael ei dalu drwy fanc, ac yna drwy annog pensiynwyr i drefnu bod eu pensiynau yn cael eu talu drwy fanc. Efallai fod Llywodraeth y DU yn gwadu hyn, ond gwyddom oll fod pensiynwyr a ddewisodd gael eu pensiwn drwy'r swyddfa bost wedi cael galwadau ffôn yn awgrymu y byddai'n fwy cyfleus iddynt gael yr arian drwy fanc. Mae'n wir bod ASau Llafur wedi cwrrd â llawer o bostfeistri ac wedi'u sicrhau bod ganddynt eu cefnogaeth lawn o ran cadw swyddfeydd post ar agor. Gall ASau ac Aelodau Cynulliad ddweud yr hyn a fyddant, ond sut y maent yn pleidleisio sy'n bwysig. Ni allant fod yn bopeth i bawb, ond rhaid iddynt ddangos eu hochr. Mae morâl postfeistri ar ei lefel isaf bosibl. Mae llawer ohonynt yn teimlo, hyd yn oed os nad ydynt yn rhan o'r rhaglen cau swyddfeydd post, y byddant yn crebachu beth bynnag ac yn cael eu gorfodi i gau heb unrhyw iawndal. Er lles pobl a chymunedau Cymru, yr ydym yn erfyn ar i Lafur a Phlaid Cymru dynnu eu gwelliannau'n ôl heddiw. Yr ydych yn dweud bod arnoch eisiau cadw swyddfeydd post hyfyw ar agor, ond yr ydych yn gwadu'r cyfle i swyddfeydd post adennill yr hyfywedd y mae polisiau Llywodraeth y DU wedi'i ddinistrio er 1997.

Let us support council leaders in Monmouthshire, who have unanimously backed a campaign against post office closures. Let us support council leaders in Wrexham, who want to follow the pioneering lead of Essex County Council in planning to take over post offices facing closure. Let us support the leaders in Denbighshire who are looking at which post offices are likely to close and ways in which they can minimise the impact of those closures. Let us look imaginatively now at ways in which the post office development fund can be reopened and used to help achieve this. Gordon Brown defended the post office closure programme at Labour's recent Llandudno conference, but the Assembly should not be a slave to his bidding. Since Labour came to power, one in four post offices has closed, including some 324 in Wales. As I said earlier, by the time this closure programme ends, more than a third of the post office network will have been cut. The UK Government has missed the point on post offices, and we urge it to realise that they provide a huge social benefit. Post offices are at the heart of our communities and we will fight for them.

Carl Sargeant: I propose amendment 1 in my name. Delete all after 'should' and replace with 'be called upon to':

1. *recognise the concerns caused by the post office closure programme in Welsh communities;*
2. *make every effort to keep viable post offices open;*
3. *ensure alternative access to services in localities where post offices are identified for closure.*

Nerys Evans: I propose amendment 2 in the name of Jocelyn Davies. Delete all after 'halt' and replace with 'the closure of any post office in Wales that has a viable future.'

Gadewch inni gefnogi arweinwyr y cyngor yn sir Fynwy, sydd wedi rhoi eu cefnogaeth unfryd i ymgyrch yn erbyn cau swyddfeydd post. Gadewch inni gefnogi arweinwyr y cyngor yn Wrecsam, sydd am ddilyn arweiniad arloesol Cyngor Sir Essex o ran cynllunio i gymryd yr awenau mewn swyddfeydd post y bwriedir eu cau. Gadewch inni gefnogi'r arweinwyr yn sir Ddinbych, sy'n edrych ar ba swyddfeydd post sy'n debygol o gau a sut y gallant leihau'r effaith os cânt eu cau. Gadewch inni edrych yn greadigol yn awr ar ffyrdd o ailagor y gronfa datblygu swyddfeydd post a'i defnyddio i helpu i wireddu hyn. Bu i Gordon Brown amddiffyn y rhaglen cau swyddfeydd post yng nghynhadledd ddiweddar Llafur yn Llandudno, ond ni ddylai'r Cynulliad fod yn gaeth i'w orchmynion. Ers i Lafur ddod i rym, mae un ym mhob pedair swyddfa bost wedi cau, gan gynnwys tua 324 yng Nghymru. Fel y dywedais yn gynharach, erbyn diwedd y rhaglen hon o gau, bydd mwy na thraean y rhwydwaith swyddfeydd post wedi'i gau. Mae Llywodraeth y DU wedi methu â deall gwerth swyddfeydd post, ac yr ydym yn ei hannog i sylweddoli eu bod yn dod â manteision cymdeithasol anferth. Mae swyddfeydd post wrth wraidd ein cymunedau a byddwn yn brwydro i'w hachub.

Carl Sargeant: Cynigiau welliant 1 yn fy enw i. Dileu popeth ar ôl 'cytuno' a rhoi yn ei le 'y dylid galw ar Lywodraeth y DU i':

1. *gydnabod y pryderon a achoswyd gan y rhaglen cau swyddfeydd post yng nghymunedau Cymru;*
2. *gwneud pob ymdrech i gadw swyddfeydd post hyfyw ar agor;*
3. *sicrhau mynediad amgen i wasanaethau mewn ardaloedd lle nodir y bydd swyddfeydd post yn cau.'*

Nerys Evans: Cynigiau welliant 2 yn enw Jocelyn Davies. Dileu popeth ar ôl 'rhoi diwedd ar' a rhoi yn ei le 'gau unrhyw swyddfa bost yng Nghymru sydd â dyfodol hyfyw.'

Yn sicr, mae dyfodol ein rhwydwaith o The future of our network of post offices is

swyddfeydd post yn un o'r materion pwysicaf sy'n effeithio ar gynaliadwyedd cymunedau Cymru heddiw. Mae sicrhau datblygiadau cynaliadwy yn elfen ganolog o waith y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Eto, dyma bolisi sy'n ganolog i gynaliadwyedd degau o bentrefi trwy Gymru ac nid oes modd i ni, na Llywodraeth Cymru, i ymyrryd. Fel cyn-aelod o staff mewn swyddfa bost gwledig, yr wyf wedi gweld pa mor allweddol yw rôl economaidd a chymdeithasol swyddfeydd post yn ein cymunedau. Maent yn arf allweddol yn y broses o daclo eithrio cymdeithasol ac economaidd. Rhaid ystyried y ffactorau cymdeithasol hyn yn ogystal â grymoedd y farchnad a'r pwysau sydd ar bob swyddfa bost i greu incwm.

Mae Ffederasiwn y Busnesau Bach yng Nghymru yn amcangyfrif bod 20 y cant o fusnesau bach yn defnyddio swyddfeydd post bob dydd, a 47 y cant yn eu defnyddio bob wythnos. Os ydym yn sôn am daclo eithrio cymdeithasol ac economaidd, mae hwn yn ffactor hynod o bwysig sydd angen ei ystyried, oherwydd cyfraniad ein busnesau bach i'r economi. O'm profiad innau yng ngorllewin Cymru, gwn fod pobl wedi colli hyder yn y broses ymgynghori, a phrin iawn yw pwyso a mesur effaith cymdeithasol unrhyw newid i'r rhwydwaith. Yn wir, mae nifer o bwyntiau difrifol yn codi o'r holl broses.

There are serious issues with regard to the six-week consultation period. There is a growing realisation that the six-week consultation is just a process of going through the motions, and that any local campaign will not alter the global figure of 2,500 post office closures in the network change programme.

one of the most important factors affecting the sustainability of communities in Wales today. Ensuring sustainable development is central to the work of the National Assembly. Again, this is a policy central to the sustainability to tens of villages throughout Wales and neither us, nor the Government of Wales, have the means to intervene. As a former member of staff in a rural post office, I have seen just how crucial the economic and social role of post offices within our communities is. They are a crucial tool in the process of tackling social and economic exclusion. We need to consider these social factors as well as market forces and the pressures on all post offices to generate income.

The Federation of Small Business in Wales estimates that 20 per cent of small businesses use post offices every day, and 47 per cent use them weekly. If we are talking about tackling social and economic exclusion, this is a very important factor that needs to be considered, given the contribution of small businesses to our economy. From my experience in west Wales, I know that people have lost confidence in the consultation process, and there is little analysis of the social effect of any change to the network. Indeed, a number of important points arise from this area.

Ceir ystyriaethau difrifol o ran y cyfnod ymgynghori chwe wythnos o hyd. Mae mwy a mwy o bobl yn sylweddoli mai dim ond proses wag yw'r ymgynghoriad chwe wythnos, ac na fydd unrhyw ymgyrch leol yn newid cyfanswm nifer y swyddfeydd post a gaiff eu cau yn rhan o raglen newid y rhwydwaith, sef 2,500.

I was also shocked to learn of the covert way in which the Post Office Ltd operates, with random anonymous visits to post offices to check that 'key messages' are delivered to the public. Staff feel that they are being treated unfairly, as any redundancy pay will be subject to staff complying with these key messages. These staff are long-standing members of their communities, and feel duty bound to inform others of proposed closures, but are unable to do so given the Post Office Ltd's threat to stop any compensation payment.

I believe that uninhibited competition in markets is not always the best way of securing the universal provision of our public services, particularly in isolated and deprived communities. The post office network should be used as a unique tool for tackling financial and social exclusion, yet it has been systematically undermined by both Labour and Tory Governments at Westminster.

If post offices are to be viewed solely in terms of their ability to make profits, then the Westminster Government should let them compete and ensure that they retain their customers.

Alun Davies: I appreciate what you are saying, and the strong way in which you are expressing it. However, if Plaid Cymru feels so strongly about this matter, why did not a Plaid Cymru Member of Parliament take part in the debate on 19 March?

Nerys Evans: We voted to stop the closure programme, unlike most of the Welsh Labour Members of Parliament.

Let us be totally clear about this: the post office network change programme is the implementation of Westminster Government policy. This is a non-devolved issue, and that shows the weakness of the current constitutional settlement. This issue is of great importance to the sustainability of a great many communities in Wales, yet the

Cefais fy synnu hefyd pan glywais am y modd y mae Swyddfa'r Post Cyf yn gweithredu'n ddirgel, gan ymweld â swyddfeydd post yn ddiennw ac ar hap i wneud yn siŵr bod 'negeseuon allweddol' yn cael eu trosglwyddo i'r cyhoedd. Mae'r staff yn teimlo eu bod yn cael eu trin yn annheg, gan y bydd unrhyw dâl diswyddo yn ddibynnol ar y staff yn cydymffurfio â'r negeseuon allweddol hyn. Mae'r staff hyn yn aelodau hirsefydlog o'u cymunedau, a theimlant fod dyletswydd arnynt i roi gwybod i eraill am y bwriad i gau, ond ni allant wneud hynny yn sgil bygythiad Swyddfa'r Post Cyf i atal unrhyw dâl diswyddo.

Credaf nad cystadleuaeth ddirwystr mewn marchnadoedd, o reidrwydd, yw'r ffordd orau o sicrhau bod ein gwasanaethau cyhoeddus ar gael i bawb, yn enwedig mewn cymunedau diarffordd a rhai lle ceir amddifadedd. Dylid defnyddio rhwydwaith y swyddfeydd post yn arf unigryw i fynd i'r afael ag eithrio ariannol a chymdeithasol, ond er hyn cafodd ei danseilio'n systematig gan Lywodraethau Llafur a Thoriaidd yn San Steffan.

Os ystyried swyddfeydd post o ran eu gallu i wneud elw yn unig yw'r gwir fwriad, yna dylai Llywodraeth San Steffan adael iddynt gystadlu a sicrhau eu bod yn dal gafael ar eu cwsmeriaid.

Alun Davies: Gwerthfawrogaf yr hyn yr ydych yn ei ddweud, a'r ffordd gref yr ydych yn ei fynegi. Fodd bynnag, os yw Plaid Cymru yn teimlo mor gryf am y mater hwn, pam na wnaeth un o Aelodau Seneddol Plaid Cymru gymryd rhan yn y ddatl ar 19 Mawrth?

Nerys Evans: Bu inni bleidleisio o blaid atal y rhaglen cau swyddfeydd post, yn wahanol iawn i fwyafrif Aelodau Seneddol Llafur Cymru.

Gadewch inni fod yn gwbl eglur ynglŷn â hyn: mater o weithredu polisi Llywodraeth San Steffan yw rhaglen newid y rhwydwaith swyddfeydd post. Nid yw hwn yn fater sydd wedi'i ddatganoli, ac mae hynny'n dangos gwendid y setliad cyfansoddiadol presennol. Mae hwn yn fater pwysig iawn o ran cynaliadwyedd nifer fawr o gymunedau yng

Welsh Assembly Government cannot intervene.

Yet again, we seem today to have a bout of collective amnesia from the all the new Welsh Tories, who seem to forget that this current round of closures is a direct result of the great drive to privatise services under Tory Governments. It was your party that introduced the whole ethos of competition into the sector, and now, with another round of closures looming, you are suddenly in favour of restricting market forces for the sake of our communities. Mark Isherwood quoted Elfyn Llwyd saying that there was a whiff of hypocrisy at Westminster when Labour Members of Parliament supported the closure programme, but then campaigned in their constituencies to support their local post offices. I suggest that there is a distinct whiff of hypocrisy coming from the Tory benches this afternoon. Before 1997, the Tory Government closed over 3,500 post offices throughout Britain, and now this afternoon they want us to believe that they have suddenly changed their minds.

Since 1997, another 4,000 post offices have closed in the UK, and 300 in Wales, under the rule of New Labour. We in Plaid have imaginative proposals to work with post offices to develop a full range of over-the-counter banking services, geared at people who otherwise would be excluded from those services, effectively creating a people's bank. We also support the post office development fund, and are glad that the One Wales Government will re-introduce it. In our local government manifesto, we are committed to bringing new services to post offices in order to restore the viability that Labour in London has taken away.

This is one of the most important issues facing isolated and deprived communities in Wales, and I believe that the current round of closures should be stopped. I urge Members to support our amendment.

Paul Davies: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am y cyfle i gyfrannu at y ddatl hon y prynhawn

Nghymru ond, er hynny, ni all Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ymyrryd.

Unwaith eto, ymddengys bod pwl o anghofrwydd torfol wedi taro holl Doriad newydd Cymru heddiw, gan eu bod fel petaent yn anghofio bod y cylch presennol o gau swyddfeydd post yn ganlyniad uniongyrchol i'r ymgyrch fawr i breifateiddio gwasanaethau dan Lywodraethau Torïaidd. Eich plaid chi wnaeth gyflwyno'r holl ysbryd o gystadleuaeth i'r sector, ac yn awr, gan fod cylch arall o gau swyddfeydd post ar y gorwel, yr ydych, yn sydyn, o blaid atal grymoedd y farchnad er lles ein cymunedau. Clywsom Mark Isherwood yn dyfynnu Elfyn Llwyd yn dweud bod awgrym o ragrith yn San Steffan pan wnaeth Aelodau Seneddol Llafur gefnogi'r rhaglen gau, ond yna ymgyrchu yn eu hetholaethau i gefnogi eu swyddfeydd post lleol. Hoffwn awgrymu bod mwy nag awgrym o ragrith yn dod o feinciau'r Torïaid y prynhawn yma. Cyn 1997, bu i'r Llywodraeth Doriad gau dros 3,500 o swyddfeydd post ledled Prydain, ac yn awr, y prynhawn yma, mae arnynt eisiau inni gredu eu bod wedi ailfeddwl yn sydyn.

Er 1997, mae 4,000 o swyddfeydd post eraill wedi cau yn y DU, a 300 yng Nghymru, dan reolaeth Llafur Newydd. Mae gennym ni ym Mhlaid Cymru gynigion creadigol i weithio gyda swyddfeydd post i ddatblygu ystod lawn o wasanaethau bancio dros-y-cownter, wedi'u hanelu at bobl a fyddai fel arall yn cael eu heithrio o'r gwasanaethau hynny, gan greu banc i'r bobl, i bob diben. Yr ydym hefyd yn cefnogi'r gronfa datblygu swyddfeydd post, ac yr ydym yn falch y bydd Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un yn ei hailgyflwyno. Yn ein maniffesto llywodraeth leol, yr ydym wedi ymrwymo i ddod â gwasanaethau newydd i swyddfeydd post er mwyn adfer yr hyfywedd y mae Llafur yn Llundain wedi cael gwared arno.

Dyma un o'r materion pwysicaf sy'n wynebu cymunedau diarffordd a rhai lle ceir amddifadedd yng Nghymru, a chredaf y dyliid rhoi terfyn ar y cylch presennol o gau swyddfeydd post. Anogaf yr Aelodau i gefnogi ein gwelliant.

Paul Davies: I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this debate this

yma. Nid yw hyn y tro cyntaf i mi gymryd rhan mewn dadl yn y Siambr yn annog Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i bwysu ar Lywodraeth San Steffan stopio cau swyddfeydd post. Mae'r mater hwn yn holl bwysig i bobl drwy Gymru gyfan, ond yn fater lle mae Llywodraeth Lafur Prydain wedi methu amddiffyn buddiannau cymunedau Cymru. Mae swyddfeydd post yn cynnig gwasanaethau hanfodol i bobl drwy Gymru cyfan, a bydd cau mwy o swyddfeydd post yn cael effaith niweidiol iawn ar y cymunedau maent yn eu gwasanaethu.

Unwaith bod gwasanaeth fel hon yn cael ei chau, mae'n anodd ei hailsefydlu. Rhaid cofio mai aelodau mwyaf bregus ein cymunedau sydd yn dibynnu mwyaf ar wasanaethau swyddfeydd post. Mae'r gwasanaethau hyn yn aml yn gyfleus ac yn lleol i'r bobl bregus hyn. Nid yw teithio i swyddfa bost arall yn opsiwn bob amser i rai grwpiau fel pensiynwr, pobl anabl a phobl difreintiedig, er enghraifft. Bydd cau mwy o swyddfeydd post ond yn gwaethygu safon bywyd pobl felly, sydd yn bwynt pwysig iawn, yn enwedig mewn cymunedau yn fy etholaeth i. Canlyniad cau swyddfeydd post mewn cymunedau gwledig fydd pellhau cyfleusterau i mwy a mwy o bobl.

2.40 p.m.

Mae swyddfeydd post yn chwarae rhan allweddol o ran cynaliadwyedd cymunedau ac mae gwasanaeth o'r fath yn hanfodol. Dylem fod yn annog darparu mwy o wasanaethau drwy swyddfeydd post. Gan fod y Llywodraeth yn methu darparu mwy o wasanaethau drwy swyddfeydd post, bydd mwy ohonynt yn awr yn cau. Bydd y cynigion hyn, a'r cynigion i gau swyddfeydd treth, yn niweidiol iawn yn gymdeithasol ac yn economaidd.

Fel mae Aelodau eraill wedi gwneud heddiw, cymeraf y cyfle i alw unwaith eto ar Lywodraeth y Cynulliad i ailsefydlu'r gronfa datblygu swyddfeydd post cyn gynted ag sy'n bosibl. Byddai ailsefydlu'r gronfa yn cynnig cymorth i'r swyddfeydd post hynny sy'n ei gweld yn anodd parhau. Wrth ohirio hyn, mae'r Llywodraeth, yn anffodus, yn sicrhau bydd mwy o swyddfeydd post yn cau. Mae nifer o swyddfeydd post yn fy etholaeth yn

afternoon. This is not the first time that I have participated in a debate in the Chamber urging the Assembly Government to bring pressure to bear upon the Westminster Government to halt the closure of post offices. This matter is vital to people throughout Wales, but it is a matter on which the British Labour Government has failed to defend the interests of communities in Wales. Post offices offer essential services to people throughout Wales, and the closure of more post offices will have a detrimental impact on the communities that they serve.

Once a service such as this is closed, it is difficult to re-establish. We must remember that our most vulnerable members of society are the most dependent on post office services. Those services are often convenient for and local to these vulnerable people. Travelling to another post office is not always an option for some groups, such as pensioners, disabled people, and the underprivileged. The closure of more post offices will only reduce the quality of life of such people, which is an important point, particularly in communities in my constituency. Closing post offices in rural communities will put those facilities out of the reach of more and more people.

Post offices play a crucial role in the sustainability of communities and such services are essential. We should encourage the provision of more services through post offices. As the Government has failed to provide more services through post offices, more of them will now close. These proposals, and the proposals to close tax offices, will be both socially and economically detrimental.

As other Members have done today, I take the opportunity to call once again on the Assembly Government to re-establish the post office development fund as soon as possible. The re-establishment of the fund would offer assistance to those post offices that are finding it difficult to continue. By delaying this, the Government, unfortunately, is ensuring that more post offices will close. There are several post offices in my

gweiddi am gymorth o'r fath a, heb y cymorth hwnnw, maent yn poeni y bydd yn rhaid iddynt gau. Nid yw aros yn opsiwn i'r bobl hyn sy'n rhedeg nid unig y swyddfa bost lleol, ond, gan amlaf, y siop hefyd. Bydd gohirio sefydlu'r gronfa yn golygu y bydd yn rhy hwyr i lawer o swyddfeydd post yng Nghymru.

Alun Ffred Jones: Nid wyf yn anghytuno â llawer o'r hyn yr ydych wedi ei ddweud ynglŷn â phwysigrwydd y gwasanaeth. Fel y dywedwyd eisoes yn ystod y ddadl hon, yr hyn sy'n bwysig yw ceisio gwneud swyddfeydd post yn gynaliadwy ac yn hyfyw. Pa wasanaethau y mae'r Toriaid yn bwriadu eu cyflwyno neu ailgyflwyno er mwyn gwneud swyddfeydd post yn hyfyw?

Paul Davies: Yr wyf yn dod at hynny yn awr. Byddai ailsefydlu'r gronfa datblygu swyddfeydd post yn galluogi i swyddfeydd post gael eu datblygu a'u cefnogi. Yn fy marn i, dylid defnyddio arian o'r gronfa i gynnig gwasanaethau band eang a rhyngwyd. Mae rhai swyddfeydd post yn cynnig cytundebau ag undebau credyd, er enghraifft. Dyna'r mathau o wasanaethau yr hoffwn eu gweld yn cael eu darparu drwy'r swyddfeydd post. Mae nifer o bosibiliadau eraill y gallai swyddfeydd post eu hystyried i gyfrannu'n uniongyrchol at gynaliadwyedd cymunedau lleol.

Y realiti yw bod swyddfeydd post yn cynnig gwasanaeth cyhoeddus pwysig yn ein cymunedau yng Nghymru. Yr wyf yn annog Aelodau i gefnogi'r cynnig yr ydym wedi ei gynnig.

Lesley Griffiths: As we all know, post office policy is a non-devolved matter and the lead on such issues is taken by the UK Government. However, we all recognise the importance of the local post office in supporting community cohesion and promoting financial inclusion across Wales, in both urban and rural areas. As a consequence, the Welsh Assembly Government has made a series of robust and constructive representations to the UK Government on the nature and needs of the post office network in Wales and I am sure that it will continue to do so. Likewise, I am assured that Welsh Assembly Government

constituency that are shouting out for such help and, without it, they fear that they will have to close. Waiting is not an option for those who run not only the local post office but, quite often, the shop as well. Delaying the re-establishment of the fund will mean that it will be too late for many post offices in Wales.

Alun Ffred Jones: I do not disagree with much of what you have just said about the importance of the service. As has already been said during this debate, it is important to try to make post offices sustainable and viable. What services do the Tories intend to introduce or reintroduce to make post offices viable?

Paul Davies: I will come to that now. Re-establishing the post office development fund would enable post offices to be developed and supported. In my view, money from the fund should be used to enable post offices to offer broadband and internet services. Some post offices offer contracts with credit unions, for example. Those are the types of services that I would like to see being provided through post offices. There are several other possibilities that post offices could consider to contribute directly to the sustainability of local communities.

The reality is that post offices offer an important public service in our communities in Wales. I urge Members to support the motion that we have proposed.

Lesley Griffiths: Fel y gwyddom oll, mae polisi swyddfeydd post yn fater nad yw wedi'i ddatganoli, a Llywodraeth y DU sy'n arwain ar faterion o'r fath. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym oll yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd y swyddfa bost leol o ran cefnogi cydlyniant cymunedol a hybu cynhwysiant ariannol ledled Cymru, mewn ardaloedd trefol a gwledig. O ganlyniad, mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi cyflwyno cyfres o sylwadau cadarn ac adeiladol i Lywodraeth y DU ar natur ac anghenion y rhwydwaith swyddfeydd post yng Nghymru, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd yn parhau i wneud hynny. Yn yr un modd, cefais sicrwydd bod Gweinidogion

Ministers have met Post Office Ltd to make clear that whatever its proposals may be, they must be sensitive to the needs of local communities and, in particular, our most vulnerable communities, including those in rural areas of Wales.

It is also worth mentioning that, in the longer term, the UK Government has indicated that is examining how it might devolve responsibility for future decisions on the shape of our post office network closer to the affected communities. I believe that that is to be generally welcomed, as is the pledge to investigate what role local authorities and devolved administrations such as our own might play in decisions on service provision and whether there can be greater flexibility in terms of providing local funding.

To turn the motion that is before us today, Labour's amendment 1 calls on the UK Government, which, as I have just said, retains the ultimate responsibility for post offices, to recognise the concerns caused by the post office closure programme in Welsh communities. In fairness to the Welsh Assembly Government, it not only anticipated the difficulties with which post offices would be confronted in coming years, but put forward constructive ideas to help local post offices remain open. For example, since 1 April 2007, the small business rate relief scheme has provided relief to post offices in Wales, including shops containing post offices.

The Welsh Assembly Government has also pledged to reinstate and refocus the post office development fund to explore, with local government, ways in which post offices might be better used for local authority, business and for other local services and also to encourage the location of free ATMs in post offices. Thanks to initiatives such as those that I have just outlined, a great deal is being done to ensure that viable Welsh post offices will remain open.

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi cwrdd â Swyddfa'r Post Cyf i egluro, beth bynnag fo'i chynigion, ei bod yn rhaid iddynt fod yn ystyriol o anghenion cymunedau lleol ac, yn enwedig, ein cymunedau mwyaf agored i niwed, gan gynnwys y rheini yn ardaloedd gwledig Cymru.

Mae'n werth sôn hefyd bod Llywodraeth y DU wedi awgrymu, yn y tymor hwy, ei bod yn archwilio sut y gallai, o bosibl, ddatganoli'r cyfrifoldeb am benderfyniadau ynglŷn â ffurf ein rhwydwaith swyddfeydd post yn y dyfodol yn nes at y cymunedau yr effeithir arnynt. Credaf y dylem groesawu hynny'n gyffredinol, ac felly hefyd yr addewid i archwilio pa ran y gallai awdurdodau lleol a gweinyddiaethau datganoledig megis ein hun ni ei chwarae mewn penderfyniadau ynglŷn â darparu gwasanaethau, ac a ellir cael rhagor o hyblygrwydd o ran darparu cyllid lleol.

Gan droi at y cynnig sydd ger ein bron heddiw, mae gwelliant 1 Llafur yn galw ar i Lywodraeth y DU, sydd, fel y dywedais gynnau, yn parhau'n gyfrifol am swyddfeydd post yn y pen draw, gydnabod y pryderon y mae'r rhaglen cau swyddfeydd post wedi'u hachosi yng nghymunedau Cymru. Er tegwch i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, llwyddodd nid yn unig i ragweld yr anawsterau a fyddai'n wynebu swyddfeydd post yn y blynyddoedd i ddod, ond hefyd i gyflwyno syniadau adeiladol i helpu swyddfeydd post lleol i aros ar agor. Er enghraifft, er 1 Ebrill 2007, mae'r cynllun rhyddhad ardrethi i fusnesau bach wedi rhoi cymorth i swyddfeydd post yng Nghymru, gan gynnwys siopau sy'n cynnwys swyddfeydd post.

Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru hefyd wedi addo adfer ac ailffocysu'r gronfa datblygu swyddfeydd post er mwyn archwilio, gyda llywodraeth leol, sut y gallai swyddfeydd post gael eu defnyddio'n well ar gyfer gwasanaethau awdurdod lleol, busnes a gwasanaethau lleol eraill yn ogystal ag annog gosod peiriannau ATM rhad ac am ddim mewn swyddfeydd post. Diolch i gynlluniau megis y rhai yr wyf newydd eu hamlinellu, mae llawer yn cael ei wneud i sicrhau y bydd swyddfeydd post hyfyw'n cadw ar agor.

The third part of our amendment today relates to ensuring alternative access to services in localities where post offices are identified for closure. I am sure that Members will welcome today's announcement by Post Office Ltd that it is exploring more viable and lower cost post office models for the future by expanding trials of a new type of outreach. Post Office Ltd has already gone ahead with more than 100 outreach outlets in rural communities, which provide post office services for reduced hours through local partners or through a mobile post office, and now has a further 130 in the pipeline. Post Office Ltd has decided to extend the outreach trials into urban communities, which, if successful, could mean a significant number of additional outreach branches throughout Wales and the UK. These additional trials will be undertaken during the remainder of this year, and evaluated early next year. This is a separate initiative to the current network change programme. It is important that we urge the Welsh Assembly Government today to ensure that Wales pledges to throw open its doors to participate in the extended trials, and, in doing so, look at more innovative ways of delivering post office services across the country.

None of the decisions about the future of post office services in any part of the UK will be easy options. However, I am confident that, in Wales, we are open to finding innovative ways of protecting our most viable post offices and finding alternative access to services in the localities where closures are identified. I urge you to support our amendment today.

Jonathan Morgan: I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this afternoon's debate. What this debate is about is very straightforward: we are merely asking that the Assembly agrees that the UK should halt this post office closure programme. The motion is based on the amendment that was debated and voted on in the House of Commons, and, as we know, many members of the House of Commons, on all sides, supported the amendment that was tabled by the Conservative Members of Parliament. It

Mae trydedd ran ein gwelliant heddiw'n ymwneud â sicrhau mynediad amgen i wasanaethau mewn lleoliadau lle dynodwyd swyddfeydd post ar gyfer eu cau. Yr wyf yn sicr y bydd Aelodau'n croesawu cyhoeddiad heddiw gan Swyddfa'r Post Cyf eu bod yn archwilio modelau swyddfa post mwy hyfyw a rhatach ar gyfer y dyfodol drwy ehangu treialon gyda math newydd o wasanaeth maes. Mae Swyddfa'r Post Cyf eisoes wedi cychwyn dros 100 o gyfleusterau maes mewn cymunedau gwledig, sy'n darparu gwasanaethau swyddfa post am lai o oriau drwy bartneriaid lleol neu drwy swyddfa bost symudol, ac mae 130 ychwanegol yn yr arfaeth erbyn hyn. Mae Swyddfa'r Post Cyf wedi penderfynu ehangu'r treialon maes i gymunedau trefol, a allai, pe baent yn llwyddo, olygu nifer sylweddol o ganghennau maes ychwanegol ledled Cymru a Lloegr. Cyflawnir y treialon ychwanegol hyn tan ddiwedd y flwyddyn, a'u cloriannu ddechrau'r flwyddyn nesaf. Mae hwn yn gynllun ar wahân i'r rhaglen newid rhwydwaith gyfredol. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn annog Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru heddiw i sicrhau bod Cymru'n addo agor ei drws i gymryd rhan yn y treialon estynedig, a, thrwy wneud hynny, ystyried ffyrdd mwy arloesol o ddarparu gwasanaethau swyddfa post ym mhob cwr o'r wlad.

Ni fydd unrhyw benderfyniad am ddyfodol gwasanaethau swyddfa post yn unrhyw ran o'r DU yn opsiwn hawdd. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn ffyddiog ein bod ni, yng Nghymru, yn agored i ganfod ffyrdd arloesol o amddiffyn ein swyddfeydd post mwyaf hyfyw a chanfod mynediad amgen at wasanaethau yn yr ardaloedd lle pennwyd bod swyddfeydd i'w cau. Fe'ch anogaf i gefnogi ein gwelliant heddiw.

Jonathan Morgan: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar o'r cyfle i gyfrannu at ddadl y prynhawn yma. Mae hanfod y ddadl hon yn syml iawn: yr ydym yn gofyn i'r Cynulliad gytuno y dylai'r DU roi'r gorau i'r rhaglen hon i gau swyddfeydd post. Mae'r cynnig yn seiliedig ar y gwelliant a drafodwyd ac y pleidleisiwyd arno yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin, ac, fel y gwyddom, bu i nifer o aelodau o Dŷ'r Cyffredin, o bob ochr, gefnogi'r gwelliant a gyflwynwyd gan Aelodau Seneddol Ceidwadol. Mae'n syml ac yn rhwydd ei ddeall, a gallai gyfleu'r neges

is simple and easy to understand, and it could send the right message to the UK Government and to people throughout Wales, that the Assembly is united in its feeling that post offices should be valued in Wales, and that this post office closure programme is wrong.

I know from speaking privately to Assembly Members of all political parties that they value the role of post offices and the fact that post offices are at the heart of our communities. They mean something to local people, they are vital for community cohesion and they are supported. Through the history of the post office network, we know that changes have occurred that have caused great damage to its viability, and we could debate all afternoon who was responsible for that. However, the fact of the matter is that post offices are not as viable as they were years ago, and decisions have been taken that have meant that vital business has been removed from our post offices. As a result, we know that many post offices have struggled.

I deplore Members of Parliament, or politicians generally, taking one stance in their constituency, having a photograph taken outside something that is threatened with closure—a post office, a school, a hospital or anything else—and then taking a different stance when they return to the body in which they sit. It was dreadful to see Labour Members of Parliament and others, having campaigned against post office closures, either voting against the amendment in the House of Commons, or, as the Labour MP for Cardiff North did, sitting on their hands and abstaining. On an issue such as post office closures, I would imagine that most politicians would be able to take a decision as to whether they were in favour or against. It is absurd that Members of Parliament, such as my colleague, the Labour MP for Cardiff North, decided to sit on their hands. I will happily give way to the Labour chief whip.

Carl Sargeant: In terms of your disappointment about Labour Members of Parliament doing one thing in the constituency and another thing in Parliament, are you equally disgusted with your

gywir i Lywodraeth y DU ac i bobl ledled Cymru, bod y Cynulliad yn unfryd ei farn y dylid gwerthfawrogi swyddfeydd post yng Nghymru, a bod y rhaglen hon i gau swyddfeydd post yn anghywir.

Gwn o sgysiau anffurfiol ag Aelodau Cynulliad o bob plaid wleidyddol eu bod yn gwerthfawrogi rôl swyddfeydd post a'r ffaith bod swyddfeydd post wrth galon ein cymunedau. Maent yn golygu rhywbeth i bobl leol, mae'n yn hanfodol ar gyfer cydlyniant cymunedol ac maent yn cael eu cefnogi. O hanes rhwydwaith y swyddfeydd post, gwyddom i newidiadau ddigwydd a achosodd niwed sylweddol i'w hyfywedd, a gallem dreulio'r prynhawn cyfan yn trafod pwy oedd yn gyfrifol am hynny. Fodd bynnag, hanfod y mater yw nad yw swyddfeydd post mor hyfyw ag oeddent flynyddoedd yn ôl ac mae penderfyniadau wedi'u gwneud a welodd fusnes hanfodol yn cael ei gymryd oddi ar ein swyddfeydd post. O ganlyniad, gwyddom fod llawer o swyddfeydd post wedi wynebu caledi.

Gresynaf wrth Aelodau Seneddol, neu wleidyddion yn gyffredinol, sy'n gwneud un safiad yn eu hetholaeth, a chael tynnu eu llun y tu allan i rywbeth sy'n wynebu'r bygythiad o'i gau—swyddfa bost, ysgol, ysbyty neu rywbeth arall—ac yna'n gwneud safiad gwahanol pan ddychwelant at y corff lle'r eisteddant. Yr oedd yn warth gweld Aelodau Seneddol Llafur ac eraill, a ymgyrchodd yn erbyn cau swyddfeydd post, naill ai'n pleidleisio yn erbyn y gwelliant yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin, neu, fel y gwnaeth AS Llafur Gogledd Caerdydd, eistedd ar eu dwylo ac ymatal. Ar fater megis cau swyddfeydd post, dychmygwn y gallai'r rhan fwyaf o wleidyddion benderfynu a oeddent o blaid neu yn erbyn. Mae'n absŵrd bod Aelodau Seneddol, megis fy nghyfaiill, yr AS Llafur dros Ogledd Caerdydd, wedi penderfynu eistedd at eu dwylo. Ildiaf yn llawen i brif chwip Llafur.

Carl Sargeant: Yng nghyswllt eich siom bod Aelodau Seneddol Llafur yn gwneud un peth yn yr etholaeth a pheth arall yn y Senedd, a ydych yn gresynu gymaint wrth eich grŵp Ceidwadol ac ASau Ceidwadol

Conservative group and the Welsh Conservative MPs who did not respond to the Department of Trade and Industry consultation on post office closures?

2.50 p.m.

Jonathan Morgan: I am not aware of what they did and did not submit. The fact of the matter, Carl, is that there was a debate in the House of Commons, when MPs had the ability of discussing it, debating it and voting on it. Scores of Labour Members of Parliament either voted against the amendment, which would have halted post office closures, or abstained, because they did not have the principles and the wherewithal to make a decision. What most disgusted the people of Wales, and those in south Wales in particular, was seeing their MPs standing outside post offices to have photographs taken, and then doing something different in the House of Commons. That sends the wrong message to the electorate and it does great damage to the standing of politics and politicians. It demonstrates clearly that there were some Labour MPs who simply did not have the guts to say what their opinion was when they had the opportunity to do so. Your amendment to this debate today merely glosses over the damage that has been done to the post office network. Why could you have not simply allowed a vote to be taken on the motion that we had proposed? At least the people of Wales would then have known your view, as Labour Assembly Members, on this matter.

I represent, geographically, one of the smallest constituencies in Wales. We have very few post offices as it is, but the latest round of closures shuts two of them—one in Llandaff North and the other in Old St Mellons, villages where the inhabitants are struggling to ensure that the village way of life is kept alive. Both villages are different and face significant challenges, but the inhabitants told me that they felt that their post offices were viable and that there was an option for keeping them open in the future if only politicians and those in Government had come up with innovative ways of doing so.

There have been ideas on ways forward from

Cymru na ymatebodd i ymgynghoriad yr Adran Masnach a Diwydiant ynghylch cau swyddfeydd post?

Jonathan Morgan: Ni wn beth a gyflwynwyd neu na chyflwynwyd ganddynt. Hanfod y mater, Carl, yw i ddadl gael ei chynnal yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin, lle gallai ASau drafod y mater, dadlau yn ei gylch a phleidleisio arno. Bu i ugeiniau o Aelodau Seneddol Llafur naill ai bleidleisio yn erbyn y gwelliant, a fyddai wedi rhwystro cau swyddfeydd post, neu ymatal, gan nad oedd ganddynt mo'r egwyddorion na'r gallu i wneud penderfyniad. Y peth mwyaf gwrthun i bobl Cymru, a'r rheini yn y de yn enwedig, oedd gweld eu ASau yn sefyll y tu allan i swyddfeydd post i gael tynnu eu llun, ac yna gwneud rhywbeth gwahanol yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin. Mae hynny'n cyfleu'r neges anghywir i'r etholwyr ac yn gwneud niwed sylweddol i enw da gwleidyddiaeth a gwleidyddion. Mae'n dangos yn glir bod rhai ASau Llafur heb yr asgwrn cefn i ddatgan eu barn pan gawsant gyfle i wneud hynny. Yr unig beth y mae eich gwelliant i'r ddadl hon heddiw yn ei wneud yw gwyngalchu'r niwed a wnaed i rwydwaith y swyddfeydd post. Pam na fydddech wedi gallu caniatáu cynnal pleidlais ar y cynnig a gynigiwyd gennym? O leiaf wedyn byddai pobl Cymru wedi gwybod beth oedd eich barn, fel Aelodau Cynulliad Llafur, ynglŷn â'r mater hwn.

Yn ddaeryddol, cynrychiolaf un o etholaethau lleiaf Cymru. Ychydig iawn o swyddfeydd post sydd gennym ar y gorau, ond mae'r cylch diweddaraf o doriadau'n cau dwy ohonynt—un yng Ngogledd Llandaf a'r llall yn yr Hen Laneirwg, pentrefi lle mae trigolion yn ymladd i warchod ffordd bentrefol o fyw. Mae'r ddau bentref yn wahanol ac yn wynebu sialensiau sylweddol, ond dywedodd y trigolion wrthyf eu bod yn teimlo bod eu swyddfeydd post yn hyfyw ac y gellid eu cadw ar agor i'r dyfodol petai gwleidyddion ac eraill mewn Llywodraeth ond wedi dyfeisio ffyrdd arloesol o wneud hynny.

Cafwyd syniadau ynghylch ffyrdd ymlaen o

England; one county council in England has come up with an innovative way of keeping post offices open by delivering its services through the post office network. Why could the Assembly Government not do something along those lines? As a Government, why could you not have shown the same level of innovation that we have seen elsewhere in the United Kingdom? That is something that constituents are going to be looking for, and they are asking me questions as to why this Government has not been able to display the same level of innovation. You have done nothing to give me or my constituents any confidence that you are supporting the post office network, and when they learn what this debate has included today, they will merely conclude that the Labour Party in Wales now simply does not care.

Peter Black: The Welsh Liberal Democrats are happy to support the motion as it currently stands. One reason why I am particularly pleased, although not really pleased, about the way in which this debate has been heading is that the whole tenor of the debate over the last few months—perhaps the last year—has changed to be one where the Government is arguing that post office closures are purely down to commercial considerations. I think that we now have clear acknowledgment that this is a political decision on the part of the UK Government. That was implicit in Lesley Griffiths's speech and in Brian Gibbons's comments back in February, when he referred to post office closure plans being deferred until after the elections because it was *purdah*. That was clearly a Government action and clearly the closure of these post offices is a Government action taken for political reasons.

The Welsh Liberal Democrats are happy with the motion as it stands because the post office closure programme is currently not only unacceptable to us, but is also unacceptable to the vast majority of people in this country who are going to be devastated and affected as a result. It is not an argument that no post office should ever close, because some post offices have closed for other reasons—two have closed for other, legitimate reasons in the ward that I represent on Swansea City and County Council, which I could not do much

Loegr; mae un cyngor sir yn Lloegr wedi dyfeisio ffordd arloesol o gadw swyddfeydd post ar agor drwy ddarparu ei wasanaethau drwy rwydwaith y swyddfeydd post. Pam na allai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wneud rhywbeth cyffelyb? Fel Llywodraeth, pam na allech chi fod wedi dangos yr un arloesedd ag y gwelsom mewn rhannau eraill o'r Deyrnas Unedig? Mae hynny'n rhywbeth y bydd etholwyr yn chwilio amdano, ac maent yn gofyn i mi pam na lwyddodd y Llywodraeth hon i ddangos yr un arloesedd? Nid ydych wedi gwneud dim i'm hargyhoeddi i na'm hetholwyr eich bod yn cefnogi rhwydwaith y swyddfeydd post, a phan glywant am gynnwys y ddadl hon heddiw, dânt i'r casgliad anochel nad yw'r Blaid Lafur yng Nghymru yn malio'r un botwm corn bellach.

Peter Black: Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru'n hapus i gefnogi'r cynnig fel y saif ar hyn o bryd. Un rheswm pam yr wyf yn benodol o falch, er nad yn wirioneddol falch, â chyfeiriad y ddadl hon yw bod hanfod y ddadl dros yr ychydig fisoedd diwethaf—os nad y flwyddyn ddiwethaf—wedi newid i un lle ceir y Llywodraeth yn dadlau mai ystyriaethau masnachol yn unig sydd wrth wraidd cau swyddfeydd. Credaf fod gennym gydnabyddiaeth glir yn awr bod hwn yn benderfyniad gwleidyddol ar ran Llywodraeth y DU. Yr oedd hynny ymhlyg yn araith Lesley Griffiths ac yn sylwadau Brian Gibbons yn ôl ym mis Chwefror, pan gyfeiriodd at ohirio cynlluniau i gau swyddfeydd post tan ar ôl yr etholiadau oherwydd ei fod yn *purdah*. Yr oedd hynny'n amlwg yn weithred gan y Llywodraeth ac mae'n amlwg bod cau'r swyddfeydd post hyn yn weithred gan y Llywodraeth a gymerwyd oherwydd rhesymau gwleidyddol.

Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru'n hapus â'r cynnig fel y saif oherwydd nid yn unig y mae'r rhaglen cau swyddfeydd post fel y mae ar hyn o bryd yn annerbyniol gennym, mae hefyd yn annerbyniol i fwyafrif helaeth pobl y wlad hon sy'n wynebu trallod a dioddefaint yn ei sgil. Nid yw'n ddadl na ddylai'r un swyddfa bost fyth gau, oherwydd mae rhai swyddfeydd post wedi cau am resymau eraill—mae dwy wedi cau am resymau eraill, dilys yn y ward a gynrychiolaf ar Gyngor Dinas a Sir

about. I would like to see them replaced, although I do not expect that to happen in the current climate.

Post office closures are currently based on the premise that the Government wishes to reduce the amount of subsidy it pays to post offices, and to do that it must cut the number of post offices that exist in communities around Wales. In my view, that premise is flawed, because post offices are a social good and are important to their communities, whether urban or rural. It is therefore right that a subsidy should be paid to them to enable them to fulfil their social function.

Alun Davies: Peter, you sound as if you are unaware that the subsidy currently being paid to your post office is something new that was introduced by this Labour Government. There was previously no subsidy at all to post offices; it was introduced by this Government. You appear to be asking us to continue with our present policy, and we are happy to agree with you.

Peter Black: As I understand it, Alun, your present policy is to close post offices, so I have no intention of asking you to continue that policy. I am very happy that a subsidy is being paid, and if Labour introduced that policy, then all well and good. Why are you now committing a u-turn and trying to reduce that subsidy and close down post offices in communities that need them for very good social and community reasons?

The amendments tabled by Labour and Plaid Cymru water down the main motion, and we are not prepared to support them. If, however, those amendments become part of the substantive motion, we will support them, but only because they are the next best thing to the motion that we have in front of us. The Assembly has to send out a message on post offices. If we cannot do so because Plaid and Labour refuse to allow us to send out the message that the post office closure programme should end, then we will at least send out a message that we should try to

Abertawe, na allwn wneud fawr ddim yn ei gylch. Hoffwn weld rhywbeth yn dod yn eu lle, er na ddisgwyliaf i hynny ddigwydd yn yr hinsawdd bresennol.

Mae cau swyddfeydd post yn seiliedig ar hyn o bryd ar y rhagosodiad bod y Llywodraeth yn dymuno lleihau lefel y cymhorthdal y mae'n ei dalu i swyddfeydd post, ac er mwyn gwneud hynny, rhaid iddi docio nifer y swyddfeydd post sy'n bodoli mewn cymunedau ledled Cymru. Yr wyf o'r farn bod y rhagosodiad hwnnw'n wallus, oherwydd mae swyddfeydd post yn fudd cymunedol ac yn bwysig i'w cymunedau, boed hwy'n drefol neu'n wledig. Mae'n iawn felly talu cymhorthdal iddynt i alluogi iddynt gyflawni eu swyddogaeth gymdeithasol.

Alun Davies: Peter, rhowch yr argraff na wyddoch fod y cymhorthdal a delir i'ch swyddfa bost ar hyn o bryd yn rhywbeth newydd a gyflwynwyd gan y Llywodraeth Lafur hon. Gynt, nid oedd unrhyw gymhorthdal o gwbl i swyddfeydd post; fe'i cyflwynwyd gan y Llywodraeth hon. Ymddengys eich yn gofyn inni barhau â'n polisi cyfredol, ac yr ydym yn falch o gyuno â chi.

Peter Black: Yn ôl a ddeallaf, Alun, eich polisi cyfredol yw cau swyddfeydd post, felly nid oes gennyf unrhyw fwriad i ofyn ichi barhau â'r polisi hwnnw. Yr wyf yn hapus iawn bod cymhorthdal yn cael ei dalu, ac os Llafur a gyflwynodd hwnnw, da iawn nhw. Pam ydych chi yn awr yn gwneud tro pedol, ac yn ceisio lleihau'r cymhorthdal hwnnw a chau swyddfeydd post mewn cymunedau y mae eu hangen arnynt am resymau cymdeithasol a chymunedol da iawn?

Mae'r gwelliannau a gyflwynwyd gan Lafur a Phlaid Cymru yn glastwreiddio'r prif gynnig, ac nid ydym yn barod i'w cefnogi. Fodd bynnag, os daw'r gwelliannau hynny yn rhan o'r cynnig terfynol, fe'u cefnogwn, ond dim ond oherwydd eu bod y peth agosaf at y cynnig o'n blaenau. Rhaid i'r Cynulliad gyfleu neges am swyddfeydd post. Os methwn â gwneud hynny oherwydd bod Plaid a Llafur yn gwrthod caniatáu inni gyfleu'r neges y dylid rhoi'r gorau i'r rhaglen i gau swyddfeydd post, byddwn o leiaf yn cyfleu neges y dylem geisio gwneud swyddfeydd

make post offices as viable as possible and try to keep as many as possible open in that way.

The post office development fund, which was created under the former Liberal Democrat-Labour coalition Government, and which will hopefully be restarted next year, is crucial in helping to make those post offices viable. If we are serious about making post offices viable I hope that the Government listens to us on this and brings back that fund earlier than it had intended to do. If we are serious about doing this, perhaps the UK Government should also listen to Liberal Democrat policy, which is to create a £2 billion fund to invest in post office branches around the UK to make them more viable, to allow them to diversify and to allow them to survive as commercial going concerns and as the social lifeline for many communities. Such things need to be done if we are to keep post offices open. That is what I would expect to see from the Labour Party and Plaid Cymru, which are supposedly committed to the Post Office and to making the post office network viable. I hope that Plaid Cymru lives up to its rhetoric on this issue and that, instead of trying to water down this motion, it supports it as it is currently written. It is clear that the post office closure programme that we have in front of us is not fit for purpose; it will devastate communities, it will undermine the social networks in those communities, and will leave many pensioners and vulnerable people stranded without those services. If we do not stop it and if we do not revisit this issue in the way that this motion envisages, then we are letting those people down.

Angela Burns: I have listened to Peter Black's contribution with great interest, because he has emphasised again and again the point about viability, and he is absolutely right to do so. The point of post offices is to provide a service; they do not make widgets, they provide a service for the whole community, particularly those who are without transport, without access to a secure

post mor hyfyw â phosibl a cheisio cadw cynifer â phosibl ar agor drwy hynny.

Mae'r gronfa datblygu swyddfeydd post, a grëwyd dan y gyn Lywodraeth glymblaid rhwng y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol a Llafur, ac a fydd, gobeithio, yn cael ei hailgychwyn flwyddyn nesaf, yn hanfodol er mwyn helpu i wneud y swyddfeydd post hynny'n hyfyw. Os ydym o ddifrif ynghylch gwneud swyddfeydd post yn hyfyw, gobeithio bod y Llywodraeth yn gwrando arnom yng nghyswllt hyn ac yn adfer y gronfa honno yn gynt na'r bwriad gwreiddiol. Os ydym o ddifrif ynghylch gwneud hyn, efallai y dylai Llywodraeth y DU hefyd wrando ar bolisi'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, sef creu cronfa £2 biliwn i fuddsoddi mewn canghennau swyddfa post ledled y DU i'w gwneud yn fwy hyfyw, i ganiatáu iddynt arallgyfeirio, ac i ganiatáu iddynt oroesi fel busnesau masnachol ac fel anadl einioes y gymdeithas mewn nifer o gymunedau. Rhaid cymryd camau o'r fath os ydym i gadw swyddfeydd post ar agor. Dyna'r hyn a ddisgwylwn ei weld gan y Blaid Lafur a Phlaid Cymru, sydd i fod yn ymroddedig i Swyddfa'r Post ac i wneud rhwydwaith y swyddfeydd post yn hyfyw. Gobeithio yr anrhydedda Plaid Cymru ei rethreg ynghylch y mater hwn ac y gwnaiff, yn lle ceisio glastwreiddio'r cynnig hwn, ei gefnogi fel y mae wedi'i gofnodi ar hyn o bryd. Mae'n amlwg nad yw'r rhaglen i gau swyddfeydd post sydd o'n blaenau yn addas ar gyfer ei phwrpas; bydd yn chwalu cymunedau, bydd yn tanseilio'r rhwydweithiau cymdeithasol yn y cymunedau hynny, a bydd yn gadael pensïynwyr a phobl agored i niwed wedi eu hynysu heb y gwasanaethau hynny. Oni roddwn derfyn arni, ac oni ail-drafodwn y mater hwn yn y ffordd a ragwelir gan y cynnig hwn, yna yr ydym yn troi ein cefnau ar y bobl hynny.

Angela Burns: Yr wyf wedi gwrando ar gyfraniad Peter Black â chryn ddiddordeb, oherwydd mae wedi pwysleisio dro ar ôl tro y pwynt am hyfywedd, ac mae yn llygad ei le yn gwneud hynny. Hanfod swyddfeydd post yw darparu gwasanaeth; nid ydynt yn creu *widgets*, maent yn darparu gwasanaeth ar gyfer y gymuned gyfan, yn enwedig y rheini sydd heb gludiant, heb lwybr at gysylltiad

internet connection, and without bank accounts. Earlier, Nerys Evans said that we were against free-market forces. If that is the case, please tell me how refusing to allow post offices to sell television licences but letting the local co-op or the local paper shop in the same villages sell those very same licences can be a free-market force. Post offices are businesses; they need level playing fields. This Government has said, 'You will do this job, but we will tie one hand behind your back and not allow you to provide many of the services that other business around you can'. When I asked Post Office Ltd why it had done that, it said that it was because post offices would face too much competition. If anyone can understand that and translate it for me, I would be delighted.

We talk about the customers, but we do not often talk about the postmaster or the postmistress. These are people with their own businesses and, at the moment, they are in enormous jeopardy. Within my constituency, there are a number of post offices where the incumbent would like to retire and sell his or her business, but cannot do so. Who can sell a business when you do not know what your business is, what its value will be, or what it will be like tomorrow? These people are in an awful situation and quite a few of them are at a point where they would like to retire, but have no way out except to fold. Unless they are offered compensation—which is not adequate in many instances—to keep them going for the rest of their lives, then they are in a truly dreadful situation. These are individual businesses, and they should have the right to run their business and to offer the services to make that business as strong as possible. Some will fail, because they do not have the customer base, the imagination or whatever it may take, while others, like my local post office in Pembroke's High Street, will carry on succeeding because they have branched out into innovative sidelines. However, these people are being hamstrung by the post office closure programme.

3.00 p.m.

diogel â'r we a heb gyfrifon banc. Yn gynharach, dywedodd Nerys Evans ein bod yn erbyn grymoedd y farchnad rydd. Os felly, carwn ichi ddweud wrthyf sut mae gwrthod caniatáu i swyddfeydd post werth trwyddedau teledu, ond caniatáu i'r co-op lleol neu'r siop bapur leol yn yr un pentrefi werthu'r union drwyddedu hynny yn gallu bod yn rym y farchnad rydd. Mae swyddfeydd post yn fusnesau; mae angen meysydd chwarae gwastad arnynt. Mae'r Llywodraeth hon wedi dweud, 'Fe gyflawnwch y gwaith hwn, ond clymwn un llaw y tu ôl eich cefn ac ni chaniatawn i chi ddarparu llawer o'r gwasanaethau y caniateir i fusnesau eraill cyfagos eu darparu'. Pan ofynnais i Swyddfeydd Post Cyf pam iddynt wneud hynny, yr ateb a gefais oedd y byddai swyddfeydd post yn wynebu gormod o gystadleuaeth. Os gall unrhyw un ddeall hynny, a'i esbonio i mi, byddwn wrth fy modd.

Yr ydym yn sôn am gwsmeriaid, ond nid ydym yn sôn yn aml am y postfeistr neu'r bostfeistres. Mae'r rhain yn bobl â'u busnesau eu hunain ac, ar hyn o bryd, maent mewn perygl mawr. O fewn fy etholaeth, ceir nifer o swyddfeydd post lle'r hoffai'r deiliad ymddeol neu werthu ei fusnes/ei busnes, ond nid yw'n gallu gwneud hynny. Pwy all werthu busnes pan na wyddoch beth yw eich busnes, beth fydd ei werth, neu sut fusnes y bydd yfory? Mae'r bobl hyn mewn sefyllfa erchyll ac mae cryn nifer ohonynt mewn sefyllfa lle'r hoffent ymddeol, ond yr unig ffordd sydd ganddynt i adael yw mynd i'r wal. Oni chynigir iawndal iddynt—sy'n annigonol mewn nifer o achosion—i alluogi iddynt barhau am weddill eu bywydau, yna maent mewn sefyllfa ofnadwy. Busnesau unigol yw'r rhain, a dylent gael yr hawl i redeg eu busnes a chynnig eu gwasanaethau i beri bod y busnes hwnnw cyn gryfed ag sy'n bosibl. Bydd rhai yn methu, oherwydd nad oes ganddynt y cwsmeriaid, y dychymyg neu beth bynnag y mae ei angen, tra bydd eraill, fel fy swyddfa bost leol yn Stryd Fawr Penfro, yn dal ati i lwyddo oherwydd eu bod wedi ymestyn i ail fusnesau arloesol. Fodd bynnag, mae'r bobl hyn yn cael eu rhwystr gan y rhaglen cau swyddfeydd post.

What about the customers? In our race for technology, we all assume that everybody can access everything all the time. One of my constituents, a man in his mid-30s, has just lost £800 thanks to Her Majesty's Customs and Revenue. He does not have a bank account; he cannot manage one. He is somebody who really does not need a bank account if we want to avoid him getting into serious debt. He therefore nominated his girlfriend to receive his working tax credit, because he could not get it from the post office. Of course, he and his girlfriend have since split, but Her Majesty's Customs and Revenue will not refund him the £800 it owes him because it is owed for the time when his tax credit was paid into his girlfriend's bank account. Of course, she has his money and is laughing happily all the way to her bank. What a nonsense. Somebody like that needs the services that a post office can offer, but the post office people are being prevented from offering those types of services. Therefore, we are not serving our customers, either.

Finally, the Labour benches have accused us of hypocrisy in this matter, and yet, in my constituency—I have to say it as I see it—my Labour MP, Nick Ainger, ran around wringing his hands over the tragedy of post offices, such as the one at Lawrenny, closing, but he voted against the Westminster debate. That is real hypocrisy. The greatest shame of all is that all this grandstanding takes away from the fact that postmasters and postmistresses are being treated shamefully, and that the communities that they serve are being marginalised. Let us therefore stop the hypocrisy here in Wales and vote in favour of our motion.

Alun Davies: I have found this debate, as with previous debates on this subject in Plenary and elsewhere, to be as disappointing and dispiriting as any debate in which I have ever participated. We have seen little creative thinking from the opposition parties. We have had a rehearsal of previously heard arguments, but nothing at all about the future and how they see an alternative future for post offices. There has been little or no recognition of the reality, which is that social and technological change has driven and continues to drive changes in the way in

Beth am y cwsmeriaid? Yn ein ras am dechnoleg, yr ydym i gyd yn tybio bod pawb yn gallu cael mynediad at bopeth drwy'r amser. Mae un o'm hetholwyr, dyn yng nghanol ei 30au, newydd golli £800 diolch i swyddfa Cyllid a Thollau Ei Mawrhydi. Nid oes ganddo gyfrif banc; ni all reoli un. Mae'n rhywun nad oes arno angen cyfrif banc os ydym am osgoi ei weld yn mynd i ddyled ddifrifol. Felly enwodd ei gariad i gael ei gredd treth gwaith, oherwydd na allai ef ei gael o swyddfa'r post. Wrth gwrs, mae ef a'i gariad wedi gwahanu ers hynny, ond ni fydd swyddfa Cyllid a Thollau ei Mawrhydi yn addalu'r £800 sy'n ddyledus iddo oherwydd ei fod yn ddyledus am yr amser pan oedd ei gredd treth yn cael ei dalu i mewn i gyfrif banc ei gariad. Wrth gwrs, mae ei arian ef ganddi hi ac mae hi'n chwerthin yn hapus yr holl ffordd at ei banc. Y fath ddwli. Mae rhywun felly angen y gwasanaethau y gall swyddfa bost eu cynnig, ond mae pobl swyddfa'r post yn cael eu hatal rhag cynnig gwasanaethau o'r fath. Felly, nid ydym yn gwasanaethu ein cwsmeriaid ychwaith.

Yn olaf, mae'r meinciau Llafur wedi ein cyhuddo o ragrith yn y mater hwn, ac eto, yn fy etholaeth i—rhaid imi fynegi'r hyn a welaf—yr oedd fy AS Llafur, Nick Ainger, yn rhedeg o gwmpas fel petai'n poeni am y drasiedi swyddfeydd post, fel yr un yn Lawrenni, yn cau, ond fe bleidleisiodd ef yn erbyn y ddadl yn San Steffan. Rhagrith go-iawn yw hynny. Y trueni mwyaf oll yw bod yr holl ymgais yma i greu argraff yn dileu'r ffaith bod postfeistri a phostfeistresi yn cael eu trin yn warthus, a bod y cymunedau a wasanaethant yn cael eu gwrthio i'r ymylon. Gadewch inni felly atal y rhagrith sydd yma yng Nghymru a phleidleisio o blaid y cynnig.

Alun Davies: Cefais fod y ddadl hon, fel gyda dadleuon eraill blaenorol ar y pwnc hwn yn y Cyfarfod Llawn a manau eraill, mor siomedig a digalon ag unrhyw ddadl y cymerais ran ynddi erioed. Prin yw'r syniadau creadigol a welsom gan y gwrthbleidiau. Cawsom ddadleuon a glywyd o'r blaen yn cael eu hailadrodd, ond dim oll am y dyfodol a sut y gwelant ddyfodol amgen i swyddfeydd post. Prin fu'r gydnabyddiaeth, os cafwyd cydnabyddiaeth o gwbl, i realiti'r sefyllfa, sef bod newid cymdeithasol a thechnolegol yn hybu newidiadau, ac yn

which people use postal services, and that will continue to change in the future. It is misleading and irrational to believe that we can return to the days when the internet was in its infancy and people did not wish to exercise choice in how they access such services.

Angela Burns finished with the word 'hypocrisy'. Neither she nor any other Conservative responded to what Alan Duncan said in the House of Commons last month. He said,

'we...expect the network to shrink in size. We have never given a guarantee that no post offices will close, because such a guarantee is not ours to give.'

That is what members of the opposition cannot answer, which is why they are hypocrites today, as they will be tomorrow.

The motion, which I am happy to vote against, is fanciful. It represents woolly thinking, and it appears, at best, to be at odds not just with what is being said in Westminster, but also with the policies being followed at Westminster, by the Conservative Party. It is not just Alan Duncan saying that the post office network is going to close—he wants to ensure that more post offices close, because, on 19 March, he said that he would not guarantee the subsidy that Peter Black did not know about, but which the rest of did, of £1.7 billion that is being paid to post offices—

Peter Black *rose*—

Alun Davies: I will not take an intervention at the moment, I am sorry.

It is being paid to the Post Office to enable it to develop its services in the future. Not only would the Conservatives not guarantee the present number of post offices, they would not guarantee a single penny of funding in the future to support existing post offices. That is the reality of the Conservative position.

When you were in Government, you

parhau i hybu newidiadau, yn y ffordd y mae pobl yn defnyddio gwasanaethau post, newidiadau a fydd yn parhau yn y dyfodol. Camarweiniol ac afresymol yw credu y gallwn ddychwelyd at y dyddiau pan oedd y rhyngwyd yn ei babandod a phan nad oedd pobl yn dymuno dewis sut y caent fynediad at wasanaethau o'r fath.

Gorffennodd Angela Burns â'r gair 'rhagrith'. Ni wnaeth hi nac unrhyw Geidwadwr arall ymateb i'r hyn a ddywedodd Alan Duncan yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin y mis diwethaf. Meddai,

yr ydym...yn disgwyl i'r rhwydwaith grebachu o ran maint. Nid ydym erioed wedi rhoi gwarant na fydd unrhyw swyddfeydd post yn cau, oherwydd ni allwn roi gwarant o'r fath.

Dyna'r hyn na all aelodau'r gwrthbleidiau ei ateb, a dyna pam eu bod yn rhagrithwyr heddiw, fel y byddant yfory.

Mae'r cynnig, yr wyf yn falch o bleidleisio yn ei erbyn, yn un ffansiol. Mae'n dangos meddwl niwlog, ac i bob golwg y mae'n gwbl groes, nid yn unig i'r hyn a ddywedir yn San Steffan, ond hefyd i'r polisïau a ddilynir yn San Steffan gan y Blaid Geidwadol. Nid Alan Duncan yn unig sy'n dweud y bydd rhwydwaith y swyddfeydd post yn cau—mae ef am sicrhau bod mwy o swyddfeydd post yn cau, oherwydd, ar 19 Mawrth, dywedodd na fyddai'n gwarantu'r cymhorthdal o £1.7 biliwn sy'n cael ei dalu i swyddfeydd post, cymhorthdal na wyddai Peter Black amdano, ond y gwyddai'r gweddill ohonom amdano—

Peter Black *a gododd*—

Alun Davies: Ni chymeraf ymyriad ar hyn o bryd, mae'n ddrwg gennyf.

Mae'n cael ei dalu i Swyddfa'r Post i'w galluogi i ddatblygu ei gwasanaethau yn y dyfodol. Nid yn unig ni fyddai'r Ceidwadwyr yn gwarantu nifer presennol y swyddfeydd post, ni fyddent yn gwarantu ceiniog o gyllid yn y dyfodol i gynorthwyo swyddfeydd post fydd yn bodoli. Dyna realiti safbwynt y Ceidwadwyr.

Pan oeddech mewn Llywodraeth,

managed to close 3,542 post offices at a time when the Post Office was making money. Now that is quite an achievement for a party that is committed to the postal network. You creamed off the profit that the Post Office was making, and you call yourselves the party of business. The Conservatives did not invest in the future, which is one of the first lessons of business. They did not invest in understanding how the network would change, and would need to change. They did not invest a penny. What they did was make promises and make preparations to privatise the Post Office. They now come here with their crocodile tears and their misplaced quotations from Westminster.

I understand and appreciate how the Welsh Assembly Government has ensured and provided continuing support for the post office network through the development fund, as well as the small business rate relief scheme. That has provided post offices with real support, particularly in rural and deprived communities. However, I would like to see the Welsh Assembly Government, and the Westminster Government, going further. The Westminster Government and the Welsh Assembly Government have always stressed that post office closures should only take place when no other option is available.

We should continue to have a dialogue with the Post Office and it should be based on a realistic assumption of the impact of behavioural change on future business, which the two opposition parties fail to understand or appreciate. We need to have a dialogue that is based on the reality today, and we need to look at how we can actively seek alternative models for delivering postal services. I would like us to look for—

Nick Bourne: I am grateful to Alun for giving way, although I hesitate to stop him in mid flow. I am not clear whether he is against this closure programme or not. If he is against it, does he believe that Labour MPs at Westminster should have backed that closure programme as they did?

Alun Davies: I would not vote for a

llwyddasoch i gau 3,542 o swyddfeydd post ar adeg pan oedd Swyddfa'r Post yn gwneud elw. Yn awr mae hynny'n eithaf cyflawniad i blaid sydd wedi ymrwymo i'r rhwydwaith post. Cymerasoch yr elw yr oedd Swyddfa'r Post yn ei wneud, ac yr ydych yn eich galw eich hunain yn blaid busnes. Ni wnaeth y Ceidwadwyr fuddsoddi yn y dyfodol, sy'n un o wersi cyntaf busnes. Ni wnaethant fuddsoddi mewn deall sut y byddai'r rhwydwaith yn newid, a sut y byddai angen iddo newid. Ni wnaethant fuddsoddi ceiniog. Yr hyn a wnaethant oedd gwneud addewidion a gwneud paratodau i breifateiddio Swyddfa'r Post. Deuant yma yn awr â'u dagrau crocodeil a'u dyfyniadau anaddas o San Steffan.

Yr wyf yn deall ac yn gwerthfawrogi sut y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi sicrhau a darparu cymorth parhaus i rwydwaith swyddfa'r post drwy'r gronfa ddatblygu, yn ogystal â'r cynllun rhyddhad ardrethi i fusnesau bach. Mae hynny wedi rhoi gwir gymorth i swyddfeydd post, yn arbennig mewn cymunedau gwledig a difreintiedig. Fodd bynnag, hoffwn weld Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, a Llywodraeth San Steffan, yn mynd ymhellach. Mae Llywodraeth San Steffan a Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi pwysleisio erioed mai dim ond pan nad oes dewisiadau eraill ar gael y dylid cau swyddfeydd post.

Dylem barhau i gael trafodaeth gyda Swyddfa'r Post a dylai'r drafodaeth fod yn seiliedig ar dybiaeth realistig ynghylch effaith newid ymddygiad ar fusnesau yn y dyfodol, rhywbeth y methodd y ddwy wrthblaid â'i ddeall na'i werthfawrogi. Mae angen inni gael trafodaeth sy'n seiliedig ar y realiti heddiw, ac mae angen inni ystyried sut y gallwn ymofyn yn weithredol am fodelau amgen ar gyfer cyflawni gwasanaethau post. Hoffwn inni chwilio am—

Nick Bourne: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i Alun am ildio, er fy mod yn petruso rhag ei atal wrth iddo siarad. Nid wyf glir pa un a yw yn erbyn y rhaglen gau ai peidio. Os yw yn ei herbyn, a yw'n credu y dylai ASau yn San Steffan fod wedi cefnogi'r rhaglen gau fel y gwnaethant?

Alun Davies: Ni fyddwn yn pleidleisio dros

Conservative motion that was worded in the way that the motion of 19 March was worded and which comes from a party that knows more about closing post offices than any other party represented here, because it has closed more of them than any other party here. Therefore, it is not good enough, Nick, to come here with this woolly thinking and these motions that achieve nothing and do not move the debate forward. That is the biggest issue that I have with this debate, which we have had at other times. It does not move the issue forward, and it does not inject the creative thinking that we need to sustain a post office service into the future. I want to see a dialogue with the Post Office, and I want to see the Welsh Assembly Government working with the Post Office to ensure a sustainable future for all our post offices.

Kirsty Williams: The fact is, Alun, that, quite remarkably, your Government has managed to close more post offices than even the Tories managed to close in their years in Government. In my constituency—a part of the world, incidentally, that you are supposedly here to represent—we find ourselves in the middle of a closure programme. Some of the most remote villages and most deprived local government wards in Brecon and Radnorshire now see their post offices under threat.

Boughrood, for instance, has a full-time post office that serves two small villages and a large rural hinterland. That will be closed down and replaced by one of these so-called miracle outreach services. The Post Office's consultation document suggests the alternative full-time post offices that those people might like to use. Of course, there is no public transport to get them to any of them, but the Post Office believes that that is fine.

Llanfaes in St David's ward in Brecon has the densest collection of sheltered housing in Breconshire. Its post office is due to close. The post office in Pendre, in the St John's ward in Brecon, which is the most deprived ward in Brecon, is due to close. The local

gynnig Ceidwadol a gafodd ei eirio yn y ffordd y cafodd cynnig 19 Mawrth ei eirio ac sy'n deillio o blaid sy'n gwybod mwy am gau swyddfeydd post nag unrhyw blaid a gynrychiolir yma, oherwydd ei bod wedi cau mwy ohonynt nag unrhyw blaid arall yma. Felly, nid yw'n ddigon da, Nick, dod yma gyda'r meddwl niwlog hwn a'r cynigion hyn nad ydynt yn cyflawni dim ac nad ydynt yn symud y ddadl yn ei blaen. Dyna'r mater mwyaf sydd gennyf gyda'r ddadl hon, a gawsom ar adegau eraill. Nid yw'n symud y ddadl yn ei blaen, ac nid yw'n rhoi chwistrelliad o feddwl creadigol y mae ei angen arnom i gynnal gwasanaeth swyddfa'r post yn y dyfodol. Mae arnaf eisiau gweld trafodaeth gyda Swyddfa'r Post, ac yr wyf am weld Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn gweithio gyda Swyddfa'r Post i sicrhau dyfodol cynaliadwy ar gyfer ein swyddfeydd post i gyd.

Kirsty Williams: Y ffaith yw, Alun, bod eich Llywodraeth chi, yn eithaf hynod, wedi llwyddo i gau mwy o swyddfeydd post nag a lwyddodd hyd yn oed y Torïaid i'w cau yn ystod eu blynyddoedd mewn Llywodraeth. Yn fy etholaeth i—rhan o'r byd, gyda llaw, yr ydych chi i fod i'w gynrychioli yma—yr ydym yn canfod ein hunain yng nghanol rhaglen gau. Mae rhai o'r pentrefi mwyaf anghysbell a wardiau llywodraeth leol mwyaf difreintiedig yn siroedd Brycheiniog a Maesyfed yn awr yn gweld eu swyddfeydd post dan fygythiad.

Mae gan Fochrwyd, er enghraifft, swyddfa bost amser llawn sy'n gwasanaethu dau bentref bach a chefnwlad wledig sylweddol. Bydd honno'n cael ei chau a bydd yr hyn a elwir yn wasanaeth allgymorth gwyrthiol yn cymryd ei lle. Mae dogfen ymgynghorol Swyddfa'r Post yn awgrymu'r swyddfeydd post amser llawn eraill y byddai'r bobl hynny, efallai, yn hoffi eu defnyddio. Wrth gwrs, nid oes trafndiaeth gyhoeddus i'w cludo i unrhyw un ohonynt, ond mae Swyddfa'r Post yn credu bod hynny'n iawn.

Mae gan Lan-faes yn ward St David yn Aberhonddu y casgliad dwysaf o dai gwarchod yn Sir Frycheiniog. Bwriedir cau ei swyddfa bost. Bwriedir cau swyddfa'r post ym Mhendre, yn ward St John yn Aberhonddu, sef y ward fwyaf difreintiedig

police use that site as a point for information sharing, and to meet the community. The area has a large amount of social housing. I daresay that most people here have never heard of the village of Gladestry, and would not know where to find it if they had. It is a tiny village whose post office is due to close, as a result of which, no doubt, its shop will close. Its post office is to be replaced by a service for two hours a week in the community centre, at a time when working people in that village will not have access to it. However, it is all right because, as we have just heard from Alun Davies, this is a cogent, well-argued and rational approach to developing the post office business.

yn Aberhonddu. Mae'r heddlu lleol yn defnyddio'r safle hwnnw fel man i rannu gwybodaeth, ac i gyfarfod â'r gymuned. Mae nifer sylweddol o dai cymdeithasol yn yr ardal. Mentraf ddweud nad yw'r rhan fwyaf o bobl yma erioed wedi clywed am bentref Llanfair Llythynwg, ac na fyddent yn gwybod sut mae dod o hyd iddo hyd yn oed petaent wedi clywed amdano. Pentref bach ydyw y bwriedir cau ei swyddfa bost, ac o ganlyniad i hynny, mae'n siŵr, bydd ei siop yn cau. Yn lle swyddfa bost y pentref bydd gwasanaeth am ddwy awr yr wythnos yn y ganolfan gymdeithasol, ar adeg pan na fydd pobl y pentref hwnnw sy'n gweithio yn gallu ei ddefnyddio. Fodd bynnag, mae hynny'n iawn oherwydd, fel y clywsom gan Alun Davies, mae hwn yn ddull effeithiol a rhesymol, wedi'i ddadlau'n dda, i ddatblygu busnes swyddfa'r post.

3.10 p.m.

However, I guess that Gladestry does better than Evenjobb, because when the Evenjobb post office closes, the people of Evenjobb will get nothing at all. That is an example of where the Government is happy to see people using services across the border, because those people will have to go Kington and Hereford to get to a post office. Two branches are also to close in Llandrindod Wells, and they are situated in the most deprived wards of that town.

Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn dyfalu bod Llanfair Llythynwg yn gwneud yn well nag Einsiob, oherwydd pan fydd swyddfa bost Einsiob yn cau, ni fydd pobl Einsiob yn cael unrhyw beth o gwbl. Mae hynny'n enghraifft o fan lle mae'r Llywodraeth yn fodlon gweld pobl yn defnyddio gwasanaethau ar draws y ffin, oherwydd bydd yn rhaid i'r bobl hynny fynd i Geintun a Henffordd i gyrraedd swyddfa bost. Bwriedir cau dwy gangen hefyd yn Llandrindod, ac maent hwy wedi'u lleoli yn wardiau mwyaf difreintiedig y dref honno.

For my constituents, the reality is that the post office is at the heart of the community. It is a bit tricky to have conversations with your neighbours in the back of a mobile post office van, if that is what you will get in return for giving up your precious post office. It is not the same. In places like Bochrwd, Llanbister and Gladestry, the post office is in the shop, and it is the post office element of that business that helps to keep the shop viable. Therefore, in reality, those communities will not only lose their post office but also their shop. Many older people, single parents and people who do not have access to their own transport who live in those communities do not just lose a shop or a post office but they also lose their independence and their ability to manage for themselves, to go out on their own, and to have access to their cash to buy

I'm hetholwyr i, y realiti yw bod swyddfa'r post wrth galon y gymuned. Braidd yn ddyrys yw cael sgwrs gyda'ch cymdogion yng nghefn fan swyddfa bost symudol, os hynny yw'r hyn a gewch yn gyfnewid am ildio eich swyddfa bost werthfawr. Nid yw yr un fath. Mewn lleoedd fel Bochrwyd, Llanbister a Llanfair Llythynwg, mae swyddfa'r post yn y siop, ac elfen swyddfa'r post y busnes hwnnw sy'n cynorthwyo i gadw'r siop yn ddichonadwy. Felly, mewn gwirionedd, bydd y cymunedau hynny nid yn unig yn colli eu swyddfa bost ond hefyd eu siop. Mae llawer o bobl hŷn, rhieni sengl a phobl nad oes ganddynt eu cludiant eu hunain, sy'n byw yn y cymunedau hynny, nid yn unig yn colli siop a swyddfa bost, ond yn colli hefyd eu hannibyniaeth a'u gallu i ymdopi eu hunain, mynd allan ar eu pen eu

groceries. They will surrender their services and independence and other people will have to do those jobs for them, because it will be impossible for them to make the journeys to the alternative provision that the Post Office says it is putting in place.

Peter Black has explained our attitude to the amendments. It makes me smile a little when that they talk about viable post offices remaining open. It is the actions of the Labour Government—the decision to move away from the old system of books—that has made these businesses unviable. I remember when it was family allowance day in my house when I was a child, because the family allowance was the only money to which my mum had direct access. She would have the book in her hand and we would be down to the village post office to cash that in and get her money for the week.

Alun Davies: Kirsty, you have spent four and a half minutes telling us what you are against; will you spend the next 30 seconds telling us what you are in favour of?

Kirsty Williams: As opposed to you, I am in favour of standing up for the people of Llanbister and Gladestry who want to keep their post office. We want to keep open all of the post offices that are due for closure. We want to invest in the post office network and we want to see the Government giving the contract for the second generation of the post office card account to the Post Office. We want to see local government investing in post offices so that people can access services there, and we want to see the post office being bolstered and not undermined by Government actions, which is what your party has done over successive years, which has led to the difficulties in which these post offices and postmasters find themselves.

There is at least one person here representing Brecon and Radnorshire who is willing to stand up for these post offices, even if Alun Davies is not. I am not surprised. In all of the

hunain, a chael mynediad at eu harian i brynu bwydydd. Byddant yn ildio'u gwasanaethau a'u hannibyniaeth a bydd pobl eraill yn gorfod gwneud y gorchwylion hynny drostynt, gan y bydd yn amhosibl iddynt ymgymryd â'r teithiau i'r ddarpariaeth arall y dywed Swyddfa'r Post ei bod yn ei sefydlu.

Mae Peter Black wedi esbonio ein hagwedd at y gwellianmau. Pan siaradant am swyddfeydd post dichonadwy yn aros yn agored, mae hynny'n gwneud imi wenu ychydig. Gweithredoedd y Llywodraeth Lafur—y penderfyniad i symud ymaith oddi wrth yr hen system o lyfrau—sydd wedi gwneud y busnesau hyn yn annichonadwy. Cofiaf pan fyddai'n ddiwrnod lwfans y teulu yn fy nhŷ i pan oeddwn yn blentyn, oherwydd lwfans y teulu oedd yr unig arian yr oedd gan fy mam fynediad uniongyrchol ato. Byddai'r llyfr yn ei llaw a byddem yn mynd i lawr i swyddfa bost y pentref i dalu hwnnw i mewn a chael ei harian am yr wythnos.

Alun Davies: Kirsty, yr ydych wedi treulio pedwar munud a hanner yn dweud wrthym beth yr ydych yn ei erbyn; a wnewch chi dreulio'r 30 eiliad nesaf yn dweud wrthym beth yr ydych o'i blaid?

Kirsty Williams: Yn wahanol i chi, yr wyf o blaid sefyll dros bobl Llanbister a Llanfair Llythynwg sydd am gadw eu swyddfa bost. Yr ydym am gadw'n agored yr holl swyddfeydd post y bwriedir eu cau. Yr ydym am fuddsoddi yn rhwydwaith y swyddfeydd post, ac yr ydym am weld y Llywodraeth yn rhoi'r contract am ail genhedlaeth cyfrif cerdyn swyddfa'r post i Swyddfa'r Post. Yr ydym am weld llywodraeth leol yn buddsoddi mewn swyddfeydd post fel y bydd pobl yn gallu cael mynediad at wasanaethau ynddynt, ac yr ydym am weld swyddfa'r post yn cael ei hatgyfnerthu ac nid ei thanseilio gan weithredoedd y Llywodraeth, sef yr hyn a wnaeth eich plaid chi dros flynyddoedd olynol, ac mae hynny wedi arwain at yr anawsterau a ddaeth i ran y swyddfeydd post a'r postfeistri hyn.

Mae o leiaf un unigolyn yma sy'n cynrychioli Brycheiniog a Maesyfed ac sy'n fodlon sefyll o blaid y swyddfeydd post hyn, hyd yn oed os nad yw Alun Davies yn fodlon gwneud

public meetings that I have attended over the past two weeks, Alun Davies has not been to one, although neither have any of the regional Members for that matter. At least one of us is willing stand up for these post offices, Alun.

Eleanor Burnham: Fel pawb yn y gogledd, yr wyf yn bryderus am y sefyllfa. Nodais fod adroddiad da gan Gyngor Gwynedd wedi ei gyhoeddi ym mis Mawrth ynglŷn â'r hyn sy'n digwydd i gefn gwlad, y diffyg gwasanaethau cyffredinol a'r gost ychwanegol sydd i bobl sy'n byw yno. Mae hyn yn ergyd arall i'r bobl sy'n byw mewn cymunedau yng nghefn gwlad, a themlaf yn gryf y dylem wneud ein gorau drostynt.

Mae Llafur yn rhagrithiol dros ben. Yr wyf yn cymeradwyo beth y mae'r Blaid Lafur yn y Cynulliad yn ceisio ei wneud yn y maes hwn, ond nid yw o unrhyw werth o gymharu â'r hyn y mae'r Blaid Lafur yn San Steffan yn ei wneud oherwydd mai ganddi hi mae'r grym. Yn y pen draw, mae'n anodd—

Alun Ffred Jones: A wnewch chi ildio?

Eleanor Burnham: Nid wyf am dderbyn ymyriad.

Mae pobl gogledd Cymru yn cymharu hyn â thoriadau Beeching ar y rheilffyrdd, ac effaith ddinistriol hynny ar eu cymunedau a'u ffordd o fyw. Gyda phris tanwydd yn codi mor arw a diffyg trafniadaeth gyhoeddus, mae hyn yn taro'n drwm ar bobl yng nghefn gwlad. I am concerned about the fact that many of our communities are very fragile. If there are any further cuts to any of their services, quite frankly, I am not sure where people—

Alun Ffred Jones: Bu ichi sôn am Wrecsam yn benodol, a dywedodd Kirsty—ac yr wyf yn cytuno â hi—y dylem annog llywodraeth leol i ddefnyddio swyddfeidd post, yn enwedig gyda'r cardiau talu. Sawl cyngor sydd â'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn eu harwain sydd wedi cyflwyno'r gwasanaeth hwn?

Eleanor Burnham: Mae arnaf ofn na allaf

hynny. Nid wyf yn synnu. Yn yr holl gyfarfodydd cyhoeddus a fynychais dros y ddwy flynedd diwethaf, nid aeth Alun Davies i un ohonynt, er, yn wir, nad aeth unrhyw un o'r Aelodau rhanbarth ychwaith. Mae un ohonom o leiaf yn fodlon sefyll o blaid y swyddfeidd post hyn, Alun.

Eleanor Burnham: Like everyone else in north Wales, I am concerned about this situation. I note that a good report was published by Gwynedd Council in March on the situation in rural Wales, the lack of general services and the additional costs faced by people who live in those areas. This is another blow to the people who live in rural communities, and I feel strongly that we should do our best for them.

Labour is exceptionally hypocritical. I commend what the Labour Party in the Assembly is trying to do, but it is of no value compared with what the Labour Party in Westminster is doing, as it is the party there that has the power. Ultimately, it is difficult—

Alun Ffred Jones: Will you give way?

Eleanor Burnham: I will not take an intervention.

The people of north Wales compare this to the Beeching cuts on the railways, and the detrimental effect that that had on communities and their way of life. With the price of fuel increasing so greatly and given the lack of public transport, this has a big impact on people in rural areas. Yr wyf yn bryderus ynglŷn â'r ffaith bod nifer o'n cymunedau'n fregus iawn. Os cyflwynir rhagor o doriadau i unrhyw rai o'u gwasanaethau, a bod yn onest, nid wyf yn siŵr i ble y bydd pobl—

Alun Ffred Jones: You mentioned Wrexham specifically, and Kirsty said—and I agree with her—that we must encourage local government to make use of the post office, particularly with the payment cards. How many Liberal Democrat-led councils have introduced this service?

Eleanor Burnham: I am afraid that I cannot

ateb y cwestiwn hwnnw; nid wyf yn arbenigo yn y materion hyn. Y cyfan yr oeddwn yn ei ddweud oedd bod arweinydd cyngor Democratiaidd Rhyddfrydol Wrecsam wedi addo edrych yn fanwl ar hyn. Mae'r cyngor wedi dechrau trafod sut i fynd i'r afael â'r her fawr sy'n ein wynebu.

I wonder where the people of cefn gwlad Cymru will go, because, frankly, given the increasing cost of living in the countryside and the lack of services, the situation is becoming impossible. The Liberal Democrat Party will continue to do its best. I do not believe that a mobile service that visits once a week is sufficient. It is certainly not sufficient for people who have mobility problems. I wonder whether the Labour Party realises what a dreadfully negative impact this has on its strategy. I cannot understand it; if it can, I feel for it.

Nick Bourne: When we were talking earlier about history being made today, with the first legislative competence Order being passed—which was indeed a historic event—little did I think that we would be making history again this afternoon. However, I believe that we are, because this is the first opposition party debate in which no Minister has been put forward to respond on behalf of the Government. I find it absolutely staggering and deeply shaming. There is a vacuum at the heart of the Government. As if on cue, up gets the Deputy Minister responsible, who should be replying to this debate.

Leighton Andrews: I think that I have already replied to two Conservative party debates—certainly two opposition party debates—on post offices, and I have regularly replied to Assembly questions on this. The Government is not replying to the debate today because the motion does not call on the Government in Wales to do anything.

Nick Bourne: If you have had the practice that you claim to have, and if you were any good, you would be up here doing it again today. The Government should have a view on the motion—and I would be very surprised if it did not—and it should be

answer that question; I am not an expert on these issues. All I was saying was that the Liberal Democrat council leader in Wrexham has pledged to look in detail at this. The council has held discussions about what it can do to assist in tackling the great challenge that faces us now.

Mae'n anodd meddwl i ble y bydd pobl cefn gwlad Cymru'n mynd, oherwydd, yn y bôn, ac ystyried cost gynyddol byw yng nghefn gwlad a'r prinder gwasanaethau, mae'r sefyllfa'n mynd yn amhosibl. Bydd Plaid y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn dal i wneud ei gorau. Nid wyf yn credu bod gwasanaeth teithiol sy'n galw unwaith yr wythnos yn ddigonol. Yn sicr nid yw'n ddigonol i bobl sydd â phroblemau symud. Tybed a yw'r Blaid Lafur yn sylweddoli pa mor negyddol yw'r effaith y mae hyn yn ei gael ar ei strategaeth? Ni allaf ei deall; os yw'n sylweddoli, yr wyf yn teimlo drosti.

Nick Bourne: Pan oeddem yn siarad yn gynharach am greu hanes heddiw, drwy basio'r Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol cyntaf—a oedd yn wir yn ddigwyddiad hanesyddol—ychydig a feddylw'n y byddem yn creu hanes unwaith eto y prynhawn yma. Fodd bynnag, credaf ein bod yn creu hanes, oherwydd dyma'r ddadl gyntaf i'w chyflwyno gan yr wrthblaid lle nad oes Gweinidog wedi cael ei gyflwyno i ymateb ar ran y Llywodraeth. Mae hyn yn syfrdanol ac yn gywilyddus. Mae gwactod yng nghalon y Llywodraeth. Ar y gair, pwy sy'n codi ar ei draed ond y Dirprwy Weinidog sy'n gyfrifol am y maes hwn, ac a ddylai fod yn ymateb i'r ddadl hon.

Leighton Andrews: Credaf fy mod eisoes wedi ymateb i ddwy ddadl gan y blaid Geidwadol—dwy ddadl gwrthblaid yn sicr—ar swyddfeydd post, ac yr wyf wedi ymateb yn rheolaidd i gwestiynau'r Cynulliad ar hyn. Nid yw'r Llywodraeth yn ymateb i'r ddadl heddiw gan nad yw'r cynnig yn galw ar y Llywodraeth yng Nghymru i wneud dim.

Nick Bourne: Os ydych wedi cael cymaint o ymarfer ag yr ydych yn honni eich bod wedi'i gael, a phetaech yn werth eich halen, byddech yma'n gwneud yr un peth eto heddiw. Dylai'r Llywodraeth fod â barn ynglŷn â'r cynnig—a byddwn yn synnu'n

putting its view forward from the front bench. I find it staggering that there is this vacuum at the heart of Government.

Jenny Randerson: I am sure that you realise, Nick, as most of the rest of us do, that there is no Government spokesperson because there is no single Government view. There are two Government views, and the Government could not decide on even one amendment to the motion.

Nick Bourne: I suspect that you are right.

Let me deal with some of the contributions that we have had from the Labour benches. I am surprised by the people who have been getting up to speak in this debate. First, we heard from Jeff Cuthbert. I presume that he will be having words with the person who opposed the Conservative motion in Westminster to stop the closure programme—one Wayne David, someone I have no doubt Jeff Cuthbert is familiar with—to convince him that he has done the wrong thing in relation to the post offices now destined for closure in Jeff's part of the world.

Jeff Cuthbert: I have discussed this issue with Wayne many times, and his view is quite clear that the Conservative motion in Parliament was nothing more than mischief-making, as is this motion. You have not presented any positive proposals. I challenged Mark earlier to say whether the motion meant that, if you were in power in Wales, there would be any post office closures. There was no answer to that. Neither did I hear any regret for your party's closure of 3,500 post offices when it was in Government.

Nick Bourne: It is a very clear, positive motion, as was the case in Westminster, calling for the closure programme to be halted. Governments can do these things. The Government owns all of the shares in the Post Office. If it were out of order, the Speaker in the House of Commons would not have allowed the motion to be tabled. It could have been stopped there and then if all—or even half—the Labour MPs for Wales had voted in

fawr pe na bai ganddi farn ar y mater—a dylai fod yn mynegi ei barn o'r fainc flaen. Yr wyf yn synnu'n fawr at y gwactod hwn yng nghalon y Llywodraeth.

Jenny Randerson: Yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn sylweddoli, Nick, fel y mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r gweddill ohonom, nad oes llefarydd ar ran y Llywodraeth gan nad yw'r Llywodraeth yn gallu cytuno ar un farn. Mae gan y Llywodraeth ddwy farn, ac ni allai'r Llywodraeth benderfynu hyd yn oed ar un gwelliant i'r cynnig.

Nick Bourne: Tybiaf eich bod yn iawn.

Gadewch imi ymdrin â rhai o'r cyfraniadau a gawsom gan feinciau Llafur. Mae'r bobl sydd wedi bod yn codi i siarad yn y ddadl hon yn fy synnu. Yn gyntaf, clywsom gan Jeff Cuthbert. Cymeraf y bydd yn cael gair â'r sawl a wrthwynebodd gynnig y Ceidwadwyr yn San Steffan i atal y rhaglen gau—rhywun o'r enw Wayne David, y mae Jeff Cuthbert mae'n debyg yn gyfarwydd ag ef—er mwyn ei argyhoeddi ei fod wedi gwneud y peth anghywir mewn perthynas â'r swyddfeydd post a fydd yn cau yn awr yn rhan Jeff o'r byd.

Jeff Cuthbert: Yr wyf wedi trafod y mater hwn gyda Wayne droeon, ac mae'n hollol siŵr nad oedd cynnig y Ceidwadwyr yn y Senedd yn ddim byd mwy na ffordd o greu helynt, yn union fel y cynnig hwn. Nid ydych wedi cyflwyno unrhyw gynigion cadarnhaol. Heriais Mark yn gynharach i ddweud a oedd y cynnig yn golygu, petaech chi mewn grym yng Nghymru, na fyddai unrhyw swyddfeydd post yn cael eu cau. Ni chefais ateb i hynny. Ni chlywais neb ychwaith yn gresynu bod eich plaid chi wedi cau 3,500 o swyddfeydd post pan oedd mewn Llywodraeth.

Nick Bourne: Mae'n gynnig clir a chadarnhaol iawn, fel y cynnig yn San Steffan, ac mae'n galw am atal y rhaglen gau swyddfeydd post. Gall Llywodraethau wneud y pethau hyn. Y Llywodraeth sy'n berchen ar holl gyfranddaliadau Swyddfa'r Post. Petai allan o drefn, ni fyddai'r Llefarydd yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin wedi caniatáu i'r cynnig gael ei gyflwyno. Byddai wedi gallu cael ei atal yn y fan a'r lle petai pob un—neu hyd yn oed

support of the motion at Westminster. We would not now be facing these wholesale closures throughout Wales. I was surprised to hear you and Alun Davies talking about closures under us. However, Alun Davies was factually incorrect. Far more post offices have been closed under Labour than was ever the case under our government. It is a much higher proportion of the remaining network, because it has been declining in size.

3.20 p.m.

The most positive step that could have been taken would have been to halt the closure programme. It is a positive message for all the vulnerable people who use our post offices. I would never believe that post offices are just a business. The Post Office was not privatised under the Conservatives; it has not even been privatised under Labour. Labour holds all of the shares.

Leighton Andrews *rose—*

Nick Bourne: No, if you had wanted to speak in this debate, you had ample opportunity to reply as Deputy Minister.

Leighton Andrews: You are too scared to take the intervention.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Nick Bourne is not taking any more interventions.

Nick Bourne: You have delighted us enough already with your two interventions. If you had wanted to contribute, you could have done so from the front bench.

There are many positive things that could have been done. First, all the business that has been siphoned away from the Post Office under Labour could have been reinstated, namely that relating to passports, driving licences, road tax, and pensions. All that happened on Labour's watch, while Rhodri Morgan was First Minister and while Blair and Brown were in charge at Westminster. It has happened under Labour and not under the Conservatives; we have not been in power for 11 years. It could have been stopped by

hanner—yr ASau Llafur dros Gymru wedi pleidleisio o blaid y cynnig yn San Steffan. Ni fyddem yn awr yn wynebu cau cynifer o swyddfeydd post ledled Cymru. Yr oeddwn yn synnu eich clywed chi ac Alun Davies yn sôn am gau swyddfeydd post danom ni. Fodd bynnag, yr oedd ffeithiau Alun Davies yn anghywir. Mae llawer mwy o swyddfeydd post wedi cael eu cau dan Lafur nag sydd wedi cael eu cau erioed dan ein llywodraeth ni. Mae'n gyfran lawer uwch o'r rhwydwaith sydd ar ôl, gan fod y rhwydwaith yn llai.

Y cam mwyaf cadarnhaol a allai fod wedi'i gymryd fyddai atal y rhaglen gau. Mae'n neges gadarnhaol i'r holl bobl agored i niwed sy'n defnyddio'n swyddfeydd post. Ni fyddwn byth yn credu mai busnesau yn unig yw swyddfeydd post. Ni chafodd Swyddfa'r Post ei phreifateiddio dan y Ceidwadwyr; nid yw wedi cael ei phreifateiddio dan Lafur hyd yn oed. Gan Lafur y mae'r cyfranddaliadau i gyd.

Leighton Andrews *a gododd—*

Nick Bourne: Na, os oeddech eisiau siarad yn y ddadl hon, cawsoch ddigon o gyfle i ymateb fel Dirprwy Weinidog.

Leighton Andrews: Mae arnoch ormod o ofn i dderbyn yr ymyriad.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Nid yw Nick Bourne yn derbyn mwy o ymyriadau.

Nick Bourne: Yr ydych wedi'n difyrru ddigon yn barod gyda'ch dau ymyriad. Petaech eisiau cyfrannu, byddech wedi gallu gwneud hynny o'r fainc flaen.

Mae llawer o bethau cadarnhaol y gallech fod wedi'u gwneud. Yn gyntaf, gallai'r holl fusnes a gymerwyd oddi ar Swyddfa'r Post dan Lafur fod wedi'i roi yn ôl iddi, hynny yw, gwaith yn ymwneud â phasbortau, trwyddedau gyrru, treth ffordd a phensiynau. Digwyddodd hynny pan oedd Llafur wrth y llyw, tra oedd Rhodri Morgan yn Brif Weinidog Cymru a thra oedd Blair a Brown wrth y llyw yn San Steffan. Mae wedi digwydd dan Lafur, nid y Ceidwadwyr; nid ydym wedi bod mewn grym er 11 mlynedd.

supporting that motion in the House of Commons had Labour MPs had the courage to vote for what they knew to be right, and which they were campaigning for in their constituencies. To suggest that that is not the depth of hypocrisy is staggering. Presumably, that is why we have had no Minister getting up to reply on behalf of the Government—although we clearly have a budding one wanting to intervene now.

Alun Davies: Nick, you talked about the services provided by the Post Office, but it has stated time and again—and people have agreed with what has been said—that the key for it to create a sustainable future is the £1.7 billion-worth of public investment that has been provided by the Government between now and 2011. Speaking on 19 March in the House of Commons, Alan Duncan refused to give a guarantee that that would continue under a Tory Government.

Nick Bourne: The subsidy that you are giving amounts to far less than the value of the business that you have taken away. That is the clear point. We would restore that business that has been taken away. We voted against this closure programme. You cannot get away from that fact. Your people, with the one exception of Paul Flynn, did not vote against it. Had others followed his lead, we would not be faced with these closures in Wales. It is deeply damaging.

We should have local government services channelled over the counter, and we are putting that forward in our manifesto for the local government elections. I hope that you are doing the same, although I do not think that you are. The most constructive thing that could have been done, which is why this motion has been tabled, was to vote at Westminster to stop this closure programme.

Bethan Jenkins *rose*—

Nick Bourne: Sorry, but I do not have any time left.

As a Government, you should be stopping

Gallesid ei atal drwy gefnogi'r cynnig hwnnw yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin petai ASau Llafur wedi bod yn ddigon dewir i bleidleisio o blaid yr hyn y gwyddent ei fod yn iawn, ac yr oeddent yn ymgyrchu drosto yn eu hetholaethau. Mae awgrymu nad rhagrith llwyr yw hynny'n syfrdanol. Gellid tybio mai dyna pam nad ydym wedi gweld Gweinidog yn codi i ymateb ar ran y Llywodraeth—er bod gennym un sy'n awyddus iawn i ymyrryd yn awr.

Alun Davies: Nick, buoch yn siarad am y gwasanaethau a ddarperir gan Swyddfa'r Post, ond yr ydym wedi clywed dro ar ôl tro—ac mae pobl wedi cytuno â'r hyn sydd wedi cael ei ddweud—mai'r allwedd er mwyn creu dyfodol cynaliadwy yw'r buddsoddiad cyhoeddus gwerth £1.7 biliwn sydd wedi cael ei ddarparu gan y Llywodraeth rhwng nawr a 2011. Wrth siarad yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin ar 19 Mawrth, gwrthododd Alan Duncan sicrhau y byddai hynny'n parhau dan Lywodraeth Doriaidd.

Nick Bourne: Mae'r cymhorthdal yr ydych yn ei roi'n llawer llai na gwerth y busnes yr ydych wedi'i dynnu ymaith. Dyna'r pwynt amlwg. Byddem yn rhoi'r busnes hwnnw a gymerwyd oddi arnynt yn ôl iddynt. Pleidleisiodd y Ceidwadwyr yn erbyn y rhaglen gau hon. Ni allwch ddianc rhag y ffaith honno. Ar wahân i Paul Flynn, ni wnaeth eich pobl chi bleidleisio yn ei herbryn. Petai eraill wedi dilyn ei esiampl ef, ni fyddem yn wynebu cau'r swyddfeydd post hyn yng Nghymru. Mae'n niweidiol iawn.

Dylem gael gwasanaethau llywodraeth leol yn cael eu cyfeirio dros y cownter, ac yr ydym yn cynnig hynny yn ein maniffesto ar gyfer etholiadau llywodraeth leol. Yr wyf yn gobeithio eich bod chithau'n gwneud hynny, ond nid wyf yn tybio eich bod rywsut. Y peth mwyaf adeiladol y gallesid ei wneud, a'r rheswm pam y mae'r cynnig hwn wedi cael ei gyflwyno, oedd pleidleisio yn San Steffan er mwyn atal y rhaglen gau hon.

Bethan Jenkins *a gododd*—

Nick Bourne: Mae'n ddrwg gennyf, ond nid oes amser ar ôl.

Fel Llywodraeth, dylech fod yn atal hyn drwy

this by urging Labour at Westminster to vote against this closure programme. It is as clear and as simple as that.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is to agree amendment 1. Does any Member object? I see that there is an objection, so we will defer the voting to voting time.

*Gohiriwyd y pleidleisiau tan 5 p.m.
Votes deferred until 5 p.m.*

annog Llafur yn San Steffan i bleidleisio yn erbyn y rhaglen gau hon. Mae cyn gliried a chyn symled â hynny.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Y cynnig yw i gytuno ar welliant 1. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrthwynebu? Gwelaf fod gwrthwynebiad, ac felly gohiriwn y bleidlais tan yr amser pleidleisio.

Dadl Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru Welsh Liberal Democrats Debate

Cysylltiadau Band Eang Broadband Connections

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

Mick Bates: I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales:

1) recognises the importance of broadband to individuals and to the survival and prosperity of businesses in Wales;

2) recognises the number of houses in Wales who are still unable to access a broadband connection;

3) calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to support local experts who can identify and solve the challenges of delivering broadband across different terrain in communities across Wales;

4) calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to encourage and support local councils to develop tailored solutions for solving broadband blackspots in their area;

5) calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to invest in the development of a portfolio of innovative solutions, to provide the infrastructure necessary to deliver high bandwidth, affordable data to all homes and businesses in Wales. (NDM3903)

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

Mick Bates: Cynigiau fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1) yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd band eang i unigolion ac i oroesiad a ffyniant busnesau yng Nghymru;

2) yn cydnabod nifer y tai yng Nghymru na allant o hyd gael gafael ar gyswllt band eang;

3) yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i gefnogi arbenigwyr lleol sy'n gallu adnabod a datrys sialensiau darparu band eang ar draws gwahanol diroedd mewn cymunedau ledled Cymru;

4) yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i annog a chefnogi cynghorau lleol i ddatblygu atebion wedi'u teilwra ar gyfer datrys manau heb gysylltiad band eang yn eu hardal;

5) yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i fuddsoddi mewn datblygu portffolio o atebion arloesol, i ddarparu'r seilwaith sy'n angenrheidiol i ddarparu data fforddiadwy lled band uchel, i bob cartref a busnes yng Nghymru. (NDM3903)

The Welsh Liberal Democrats have tabled this motion because we know, from many Assembly Members, that this is an important issue that is holding back the development of businesses in Wales, as well as curtailing people's leisure activity. Other Members will deal with the effect on small businesses and social inclusion of not having future-proof connections for broadband in Wales. I know that many Assembly Members and the cross-party group ably led by Nerys Evans from Plaid Cymru are working towards that end.

Broadband is now just as important as telephone lines were in the past. Let us commend the Government and look at the situation. Some commendable steps have been taken: the regional innovative broadband support scheme aimed to create access to broadband at urban prices across Wales and fill in the not spots. That was done a few years back now, so I wonder why the Minister issued a contract in January worth £0.25 million to a London-based firm of accountants, PricewaterhouseCoopers, to find out where the not spots were in Wales. Some 150 people in Montgomeryshire, who have sent letters to me, would do that for you for nothing. You would have been much better off spending that £0.25 million in Powys, providing access to broadband to those people who have written to me.

When a Government spokesperson replies to the debate—and I hope that someone will in this debate—I hope that we will hear why it was necessary to ask a London-based company to find out where the not spots were in Wales. There was no need for that. Just ask some of your own Members, Minister; they will tell you. What a waste of money. How short sighted.

The Government introduced the first generation of broadband—there is no doubt about that. Most exchanges in Wales have been enabled with first-generation

Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru wedi cyflwyno'r cynnig hwn gan ein bod yn gwybod, o'r hyn sy'n cael ei ddweud gan lawer o Aelodau'r Cynulliad, bod hwn yn fater pwysig sy'n atal busnesau yng Nghymru rhag datblygu, yn ogystal â chyfyngu gweithgareddau hamdden pobl. Bydd Aelodau eraill yn ymdrin â'r effaith y mae diffyg cysylltiadau addas ar gyfer band eang yn ei gael ar fusnesau bach ac ar gynhwysiant cymdeithasol yng Nghymru. Gwn fod llawer o Aelodau Cynulliad, ynghyd â'r grŵp trawsbleidiol dan arweiniad medrus Nerys Evans o Blaid Cymru, yn gweithio er mwyn sicrhau hynny.

Mae band eang cyn bwysiced yn awr ag yr oedd llinellau ffôn yn y gorffennol. Gadewch inni ganmol y Llywodraeth ac edrych ar y sefyllfa. Mae rhai camau canmoladwy wedi cael eu cymryd: y cynllun cymorth band eang arloesol rhanbarthol er mwyn sicrhau mynediad at fand eang am bris trefol ym mhob cwr o Gymru a sicrhau mynediad at fand eang i'r ardaloedd digyswllt. Gwnaethpwyd hynny rai blynyddoedd yn ôl bellach, Tybed, felly, pam y cynigiodd y Gweinidog gontract gwerth £0.25 miliwn ym mis Ionawr i gwmni o gyfrifyddion o Lundain, PricewaterhouseCoopers, er mwyn canfod ym mhle yng Nghymru yr oedd yr ardaloedd digyswllt? Byddai tua 150 o bobl yn sir Drefaldwyn, sydd wedi ysgrifennu llythyrau ataf fi, yn gwneud hynny ichi am ddim. Byddai'n llawer gwell petaech wedi gwario'r swm hwnnw o £0.25 miliwn ym Mhowys, er mwyn darparu mynediad at fand eang i'r bobl hynny sydd wedi ysgrifennu ataf fi.

Pan fydd llefarydd ar ran y Llywodraeth yn ymateb i'r ddadl—ac yr wyf yn gobeithio y bydd rhywun yn ymateb yn y ddadl hon—yr wyf yn gobeithio y byddwn yn clywed pam yr oedd angen gofyn i gwmni o Lundain ganfod ym mhle yr oedd yr ardaloedd digyswllt yng Nghymru. Nid oedd angen hynny. Gofynnwch i rai o'ch Aelodau eich hun, Weinidog; byddant hwy'n dweud wrthyfych. Am wastraff arian. Am anystyriol.

Cyflwynodd y Llywodraeth y genhedlaeth gyntaf o fand eang—nid oes amheuaeth ynglŷn â hynny. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r cyfnewidfeidd yng Nghymru wedi'u galluogi

broadband. That will soon be outdated, meaning that the whole infrastructure will have to be improved again at some point. We are just storing up problems for the future.

‘Today’s access network, at some point in the future, will run out of steam...Consumers will demand faster and faster access. Very few people agree on exactly when this is going to happen but many people do agree it is only a matter of time.’

That is Ed Richards, chief executive of Ofcom.

We should be concentrating on the next generation of broadband and on future-proof technology, and one of the main sources of that is currently fibre optics. That technology is harder and more reliable, and is capable of sending and receiving more information than currently, which will help to ensure that Wales is at the cutting edge and that our businesses are on a level playing field with the rest of the UK, particularly with overseas competition. I also understand that fibre optics can now be installed over ground, as it was expensive to dig trenches to accommodate them throughout Wales.

I have previously heard from the Government that we are on a par with the rest of the UK in the ability of our services, but that is rubbish. Even the most basic access of 2 Mbps is far from widely available in Wales. We know that distribution is uneven. Broadband widths of up to 3 Mbps is available to around 25 per cent of sites only, and that is in south Wales where we have cable franchise and high-bandwidth services. That accounts for a mere 12 per cent of all the sites.

In short, not only is Wales behind in developing the next generation of broadband technology, we are already miles behind with the existing technology. When will the Minister start encouraging this high bandwidth and ensure that it is available across Wales? As it stands, we are developing an unequal society that is harming the general public and industry. This is not just international inequality; we are allowing

â'r genhedlaeth gyntaf o fand eang. Bydd y genhedlaeth honno wedi dyddio cyn bo hir, a rhywbryd neu'i gilydd bydd angen gwella'r seilwaith cyfan unwaith eto. Yr ydym yn crynhoi problemau ar gyfer y dyfodol.

Bydd rhwydwaith mynediad heddiw, rywbryd yn y dyfodol, yn colli stêm...Bydd defnyddwyr yn mynnu mynediad cynt a chynt. Ychydig iawn o bobl sy'n cytuno pa bryd yn union y bydd hyn yn digwydd, ond mae llawer o bobl yn cytuno ei fod yn siŵr o ddigwydd yn hwyr neu'n hwyrach.

Dyna eiriau Ed Richards, prif weithredwr Ofcom.

Dylem fod yn canolbwyntio ar y genhedlaeth nesaf o fand eang ac ar dechnoleg addas ar gyfer y dyfodol, ac un o'r prif ffynonellau ar gyfer hynny ar hyn o bryd yw opteg ffeibrau. Mae'r dechnoleg honno'n gryfach ac yn fwy dibynadwy, a gall anfon a derbyn mwy o wybodaeth nag sy'n bosibl ar hyn o bryd. Bydd hynny'n helpu i sicrhau bod Cymru ar flaen y gad, ac yn sicrhau bod ein busnesau'n gallu cystadlu â gweddill y DU, ac yn fwyaf arbennig â gwledydd tramor. Deallaf fod modd gosod opteg ffeibrau uwchben y ddaear yn awr hefyd, oherwydd mae'r gwaith o agor ffosydd ar eu cyfer ledled Cymru'n gostus.

Yr wyf wedi clywed gan y Llywodraeth yn y gorffennol ein bod yn cymharu â gweddill y DU o ran gallu ein gwasanaethau, ond nonsens yw hynny. Mae hyd yn oed y mynediad mwyaf elfennol o 2 Mbps yn bell o fod ar gael i bawb yng Nghymru. Gwyddom fod y ddarpariaeth yn anghyson. Dim ond tua 25 y cant o'n safleoedd sy'n gallu cael lled band eang o hyd at 3 Mbps, ac mae hynny yn y de lle mae gennym fasnachfaint ceblau a gwasanaethau lled band uchel. Dim ond 12 y cant o'r holl safleoedd yw hynny.

Yn fyr, mae Cymru ar ei hôl hi o ran datblygu'r genhedlaeth nesaf o dechnoleg band eang, ac yr ydym bellter ar ei hôl hi'n barod gyda'r dechnoleg bresennol. Pa bryd y bydd y Gweinidog yn dechrau annog y lled band uchel hwn ac yn sicrhau ei fod ar gael ledled Cymru? Fel y mae, yr ydym yn datblygu cymdeithas anghyfartal sy'n gwneud drwg i'r cyhoedd ac i ddiwydiant. Nid anghydraddoldeb rhyngwladol yn unig

regional inequalities to develop in Wales.

Broadband is even more essential to some parts of Wales and particularly to some industries, such as tourism. Nowadays, the internet is essential for booking hotel rooms and deciding where to visit. Businesses without websites are in danger of losing out. Parts of Wales are in danger of losing out to parts of England. In fact, there is clear evidence from New Zealand on that. The New Zealand tourist board has said that the lack of broadband has led to a loss of tourism business and has contributed to the decline in its tourist industry sector.

Broadband is also crucial for small and medium-sized businesses to increase their efficiency and ability to attract customers and communicate with them. You must remember that SMEs account for around 99 per cent of Welsh business stock and provide employment for well over half the private sector and the workforce. Figures will only increase as heavy industry declines.

The wider use of broadband will boost the information and communications technology sector—that is a no-brainer. If we install future-proof technology, we will attract better businesses. That, in turn, fits with adding value: we would get higher value jobs and, boy, do we need them in most parts of Wales. The Government has often said that it has a green jobs strategy, but this is one of the best tools to encourage green jobs in Wales.

I have already mentioned fibre optics as a solution, but we should also consider other solutions, such as wireless technology. Wi-Fi is often held up as being a solution to many of our geographic problems in Wales. The Government has said as much, but 95 per cent of all Wi-Fi projects are in England. The number of hot spots in Wales decreased between July and December 2006.

yw hyn; yr ydym yn caniatáu i anghydraddoldeb rhwng gwahanol ardaloedd ddatblygu yng Nghymru.

Mae band eang hyd yn oed yn fwy hanfodol i rai rhannau o Gymru, yn enwedig i rai diwydiannau, megis twristiaeth. Y dyddiau hyn, mae'r rhyngwrld yn hanfodol er mwyn neilltuo ystafell mewn gwesty a phenderfynu i ble i fynd. Mae perygl i fusnesau sydd heb wefan fod ar eu colled. Mae perygl y bydd rhai rhannau o Gymru ar eu colled tra bydd rhannau o Loegr ar eu hennill. Yn wir, ceir tystiolaeth amlwg o hynny yn Seland Newydd. Mae bwrdd croeso Seland Newydd wedi dweud bod diffyg band eang wedi arwain at golli busnes twristiaeth ac wedi cyfrannu at ddirywiad yn sector y diwydiant ymwelwyr yno.

Mae band eang yn hollbwysig hefyd i fusnesau bach a chanolig eu maint er mwyn cynyddu eu heffeithlonrwydd a'u gallu i ddenu cwsmeriaid a chyfathrebu â hwy. Rhaid ichi gofio bod tua 99 y cant o fusnesau Cymru'n fusnesau bach a chanolig a'u bod yn darparu cyflogaeth i dros hanner y sector preifat a'r gweithlu. Ni all y ffigurau ond cynyddu wrth i'r diwydiannau trwm grebachu.

Bydd y defnydd ehangach o fand eang yn hybu'r sector technoleg gwybodaeth a chyfathrebu—mae hynny'n amlwg. Os byddwn yn gosod technoleg addas ar gyfer y dyfodol, byddwn yn denu gwell busnesau. Mae hynny, yn ei dro, yn golygu ychwanegu gwerth: byddem yn cael gwell swyddi, a bois bach, mae arnom angen y rheini yn y rhan fwyaf o Gymru. Mae'r Llywodraeth wedi dweud yn aml bod ganddi strategaeth swyddi gwyrdd, ond dyma un o'r ffyrdd gorau o annog swyddi gwyrdd yng Nghymru.

Yr wyf wedi cyfeirio'n barod at opteg ffeibr fel ateb, ond dylem ystyried atebion eraill hefyd, megis technoleg ddiwifr. Mae Wi-Fi yn cael ei gynnig yn aml fel ateb i lawer o'n problemau daearyddol yng Nghymru. Mae'r Llywodraeth wedi dweud hynny, ond mae 95 y cant o'r holl brosiectau Wi-Fi yn Lloegr. Gwelwyd gostyngiad yn nifer yr ardaloedd lle mae problemau yng Nghymru rhwng Gorffennaf a Rhagfyr 2006.

3.30 p.m.

Wireless technology is severely underdeveloped in Wales, and yet, as my colleague Paul Davies will know, there is a company, Telecom Facilities Ltd, which can provide services at quite a reasonable price. I am talking about infrastructure here. I cannot understand why the Government has not been in touch with such companies. I believe that, with the company, Paul Davies has developed access in Pembrokeshire for hundreds of sites. It can be done in Wales, and I hope, following this debate, that the Minister will meet with companies such as this, which can deliver wireless solutions for these localities. Wireless broadband is great. As a farmer, I can sell my livestock at auction over a live stream. I can put the camera down in the *cwt* and sell the livestock at auction. This is being developed and it is the way to sell stock to a global market. We have high-quality stock in Wales and a great deal of pedigree stock that could be sold in that way. The applications of this new technology are endless, and it would put Wales in the lead, Minister, which is where we want to be.

Finally, on expenditure, the average monthly expenditure on fixed-line telecommunications in Wales is £21.67. That compares with a UK average of £17.75. That is another example of how we in Wales are disadvantaged. In Wales, average monthly internet expenditure is £14, compared with a UK average of £13.43. With wider access and greater usage, these prices will, I hope, fall. In conclusion, Deputy First Minister, I believe that you are an honest man, and a man of integrity. That will be put to the test when we see the result of your expensive not-spots investigation, and I hope that will result in your bringing to the Chamber flexible solutions that will overcome the problems that we need to surmount to move Wales into that green jobs strategy and into a new era, in which we are not disadvantaged.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Cynigïaf welliant 1 yn enw

Mae diffygion difrifol o ran datblygu technoleg ddiwifr yng Nghymru, ac eto, fel y gŵyr fy nghyd-Aelod Paul Davies, ceir cwmni, Telecom Facilities Ltd, sy'n gallu darparu gwasanaethau am bris eithaf rhesymol. Sôn yr wyf yma am seilwaith. Ni allaf ddeall pam nad yw'r Llywodraeth wedi cysylltu â chwmnïau o'r fath. Credaf fod Paul Davies, ar y cyd â'r cwmni, wedi datblygu cysylltiadau ar gyfer cannoedd o safleoedd yn sir Benfro. Gellir gwneud hyn yng Nghymru, a gobeithiaf, ar ôl y ddadl hon, y bydd y Gweinidog yn cyfarfod â chwmnïau fel hyn, a all ddarparu atebion diwifr ar gyfer yr ardaloedd hyn. Mae band eang diwifr yn wych. Fel ffarmwr, gallaf werthu fy na byw mewn arwerthiant dros lif byw. Gallaf roi'r camera i lawr yn y *cwt* a gwerthu'r da byw mewn arwerthiant. Mae hyn wrthi'n cael ei ddatblygu a dyma'r ffordd o werthu stoc i farchnad fyd-eang. Mae gennym stoc o safon uchel yng Nghymru a llawer iawn o stoc bedigri y gellid ei gwerthu yn y ffordd honno. Mae'r ffyrdd o ddefnyddio'r dechnoleg newydd hon yn ddi-ben-draw, a byddai'n rhoi Cymru ar y blaen, Weinidog, sef yn y fan y dymunwn fod.

Yn olaf, o ran gwariant, y gwariant misol ar gyfartaledd ar delathrebu lein-sefydlog yng Nghymru yw £21.67. Mae hynny'n cymharu â chyfartaledd o £17.75 yn y DU. Dyna enghraifft arall o sut yr ydym ni yng Nghymru dan anfantais. Yng Nghymru, y gwariant misol ar y rhynggrwyd ar gyfartaledd yw £14 o'i gymharu â chyfartaledd o £13.43 yn y DU. Wrth ehangu'r mynediad a chynyddu'r defnydd, gobeithio y bydd y prisiau hyn yn gostwng. I gloi, Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog, credaf eich bod yn ddyn gonest ac yn ddyn didwyll. Rhoddir hynny ar brawf pan welwn ganlyniad eich ymchwiliad drud i'r ardaloedd digyswllt, a gobeithiaf mai canlyniad hynny fydd eich bod yn dod ag atebion hyblyg i'r Siambr a fydd yn datrys y problemau y mae angen eu goresgyn er mwyn symud Cymru i mewn i'r strategaeth swyddi gwyrdd honno ac i oes newydd, lle nad ydym dan anfantais.

The Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport (Ieuan Wyn Jones): I propose amendment 1 in the

Carwyn Jones. Delete all after point 1 and replace with:

2) *recognises that there are households and businesses in Wales that are still unable to access a broadband connection;*

3) *calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to continue to support the industry in identifying and solving the challenges of delivering broadband across different terrains in Wales;*

4) *calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to encourage and work with the industry and local partners to develop tailored solutions for solving broadband not spots in their area;*

5) *calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to encourage the communications regulator, Ofcom, to ensure that the regulatory environment enables the industry to deliver high bandwidth, affordable broadband to homes and businesses in Wales.*

Eleanor Burnham: We can all swim in statistics, but I will use just a few. Fewer than 20 per cent of small and medium-sized businesses have internet contact via broadband, and only 10 per cent of rural businesses use broadband technology. On a personal note, my constituency office has huge problems because most of the time we cannot get the broadband speed that we should be getting. I read in *The Sunday Times* the other day that a super-fast internet is coming soon, Deputy First Minister. I wonder whether you and your officials have seen that article. The scientists who have pioneered this have said the speed of this super-fast internet will be 10,000 times greater than the typical broadband connection, so God help those of us in Wales in not spots and who have difficulties in connecting to the existing broadband. You need to up your game, Deputy First Minister, and take some serious action. Please refer to page 10 in the news section of *The Sunday Times*, and you might be pleasantly educated.

name of Carwyn Jones. Dileu popeth ar ôl pwynt 1 ac yn ei le rhoi:

2) *yn cydnabod bod cartrefi a busnesau yng Nghymru na allant o hyd gael gafael ar gyswllt band eang;*

3) *yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i barhau i gefnogi'r diwydiant i adnabod a datrys sialensiau darparu band eang ar draws gwahanol diroedd yng Nghymru;*

4) *yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i annog a chefnogi'r diwydiant a phartneriaid lleol i ddatblygu atebion wedi'u teilwra ar gyfer datrys manau heb gysylltiad band eang yn eu hardal;*

5) *yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i annog rheoleiddiwr y diwydiant cyfathrebu, Ofcom, i sicrhau bod yr amgylchedd rheoleiddiol yn galluogi'r diwydiant i ddarparu band eang fforddiadwy lled band uchel i gartrefi a busnesau yng Nghymru.*

Eleanor Burnham: Gallwn i gyd nofio mewn ystadegau, ond ni ddefnyddiaf ond ychydig ohonynt. Llai nag 20 y cant o fusnesau bychain a chanolig sydd â chysylltiad rhyngrwyd band eang, a dim ond 10 y cant o fusnesau cefn gwlad sy'n defnyddio technoleg band eang. A sôn am fy sefyllfa i'n bersonol, mae swyddfa fy etholaeth yn wynebau problemau enfawr oherwydd gan amlaf, ni allwn gael gwasanaeth band eang mor gyflym ag y dylem fod yn ei gael. Darllenis yn *The Sunday Times* y diwrnod o'r blaen fod rhyngrwyd cyflym iawn ar y ffordd cyn bo hir. Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog, tybed a ydych chi a'ch swyddogion wedi gweld yr erthygl honno. Mae'r gwyddonwyr sydd wedi arloesi yn y maes hwn wedi dweud y bydd y rhyngrwyd cyflym iawn hwn 10,000 gwaith yn gyflymach na'r cysylltiad band eang nodweddiadol, felly Duw â'n helpo ni yng Nghymru yn yr ardaloedd digyswllt ac sy'n cael anhawster cysylltu â band eang fel y mae. Mae angen ichi godi'ch safon, Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog a gwneud rhywbeth o ddifrif. Cyfeiriwch at dudalen 10 adran newyddion *The Sunday Times*, ac efallai y cewch y pleser o gael eich addysgu.

Lack of education is an issue. There is a lack of education for small businesses about the benefits of up-to-date communication and what is available to them. It is not just the physical infrastructure and the development of technology that is so lacking and poor in Wales. We need to help these small firms. After all, SMEs do not have the wherewithal that global companies have. They do not have the money or the expertise, and they certainly need your help. They are in danger of being left behind. As my colleague Mick has said, if you are not on top of your game, you might as well give up, because the competition out there is hot, whether in tourism or in other sectors. When you think about the speed that we do not have in Wales, it is laughable—or it would be if this were not an extremely serious issue. Seventy three per cent of small Welsh businesses state that they have only a basic internet connection and use it only occasionally. That occasional use includes sending basic e-mails and casual internet surfing. Imagine what that 73 per cent could do with training and more access to maximise their internet use. I am not very technically minded, but I know the difference between having a slow and a fast broadband connection.

Apparently 43 per cent of businesses in Wales have websites but say that they are only able to use them to provide a basic introduction to their business and services. They could create interactive websites without the help of an expensive third-party provider, and that would help them to engage with new buyers. I hope that you will take up Mick Bates's good advice about these wonderful people, who are around, because you jolly well need them.

With the increase in the availability of high-width broadband services, education would make an ever-increasing impact. Given that 20 per cent of Welsh businesses already use broadband, they would gain new customers, and it would turn around business in Wales, frankly. There is also a green aspect to this,

Mae diffyg addysg yn broblem. Mae diffyg addysg i fusnesau bychain ynglŷn â manteision y dulliau cyfathrebu diweddaraf a'r hyn sydd ar gael iddynt. Nid dim ond y seilwaith ffisegol a datblygu technoleg sydd mor ddiffygiol ac mor wael yng Nghymru. Mae angen inni helpu'r cwmnïau bychain hyn. Wedi'r cyfan, nid oes gan MBCh yr un modd ag sydd gan gwmnïau byd-eang. Nid oes ganddynt na'r arian na'r arbenigedd ac, yn sicr, mae angen eich help arnynt. Mae perygl iddynt gael ei gadael ar ôl. Fel y mae fy nghyd-Aelod Mick wedi'i ddweud, os nad ydych ar flaen y gad, ni waeth i chi roi'r gorau iddi, oherwydd mae'r gystadleuaeth yn y byd mawr yn llym, boed hynny ym maes twristiaeth neu mewn sectorau eraill. Pan feddylwch am y diffyg cyflymder yng Nghymru, mae'n chwerthinllyd—neu mi fyddai oni bai fod y mater hwn yn un hynod o ddifrifol. Dywed saith deg a thri y cant o fusnesau bychain Cymru mai dim ond cysylltiad rhyngrwyd sylfaenol sydd ganddynt ac mai dim ond o bryd i'w gilydd y byddant yn ei ddefnyddio. Mae'r defnyddio achlysurol hwnnw'n cynnwys anfon negeseuon e-bost sylfaenol a syrffio'r we'n ysbeidiol. Dychmygwch yr hyn y gallai'r 73 y cant hynny ei wneud petaent yn cael eu hyfforddi a phetai ganddynt well cysylltiad er mwyn iddynt fanteisio i'r eithaf ar ddefnyddio'r rhyngrwyd. Nid wyf yn un dechnegol iawn, ond yr wyf yn gwybod y gwahaniaeth rhwng cysylltiad band eang araf a chysylltiad band eang cyflym.

I bob golwg, mae gan 43 y cant o fusnesau Cymru wefannau ond maent yn dweud mai dim ond i roi cyflwyniad sylfaenol i'w busnesau a'u gwasanaethau y maent yn gallu eu defnyddio. Gallent greu gwefannau rhyngweithiol heb gymorth darparwr trydydd parti drud, a byddai hynny'n gymorth iddynt feithrin cysylltiad â phrynwyr newydd. Gobeithiaf y dilynwch gyngor da Mick Bates am y bobl wych hyn, sydd ar gael, oherwydd mae eu hangen arnoch, mae hynny'n sicr.

Petai mwy o wasanaethau band eang llydan iawn ar gael, byddai addysg yn cael mwy a mwy o effaith. A chofio bod 20 y cant o fusnesau Cymru eisoes yn defnyddio band eang, byddent yn ennill cwsmeriaid newydd, ac, a dweud y gwir, byddai'n chwyldroi busnes yng Nghymru. Mae agwedd werdd i

as Mick mentioned—with better business opportunities via the internet, he would not have to take all his clobber and his animals to market. He could be very green—I suspect he would be carbon neutral—if he could work from home with his broadband connection. Globally, I am sure that we are a laughing stock, frankly, and we will remain so until we get up to speed. Our pupils and our youngsters are already ahead of us—compared to them, I am obsolete when it comes to IT. Each generation improves. Deputy First Minister, do your best and improve the not spots. Think about places such as Gwytherin, which Darren Millar and others have worked so hard for. There is a wonderful little business there. It is a super little pub, and perhaps you should visit it and see what benefits could be derived if you could get them out of a not spot, and help other businesses likewise.

Alun Davies: Follow that. Some things are beyond satire. [*Laughter.*] Sorry, I have— [*Laughter.*] I have great sympathy with the motion this afternoon, and with what has been said— [*Laughter.*]

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I do not know what the Record will make of this—you are not on the BBC, Alun Davies. You are using up your time by laughing, and I am not sure how laughter is noted in the Record. Please try to control yourself and move on.

Alun Davies: I apologise, Deputy Presiding Officer. I have sympathy with the motion this afternoon, and I am not entirely sure that the Government's amendment would necessarily improve it. There continue to be serious problems for many people, particularly in mid and west Wales, in accessing broadband services. The impact in today's and tomorrow's world of a lack of access to broadband is creating an entirely new class of deprivation, from business that cannot communicate with customers, to children who cannot complete their homework.

I believe that the Government here in Cardiff has a responsibility to act in two broad areas. First, there is the issue of what the

hyn hefyd, fel y crybwyllodd Mick—gyda gwell cyfleoedd busnes dros y rhyngrywd, ni fyddai'n rhaid iddo lusgo'i gêr a'i anifeiliaid i gyd i'r farchnad. Gallai fod yn wyrdd iawn—yn garbon niwtral mae'n debyg—petai'n gallu gweithio gartref gyda'i gysylltiad band eang. Yn fyd-eang, yr wyf yn siŵr ein bod yn destun sbort, a dweud y gwir, ac felly y bydd pethau nes inni gael trefn ar bethau. Mae ein disgyblion a'n pobl ifanc eisoes ar y blaen inni—o'm cymharu â hwy, yr wyf eisoes ymhell ar ei hôl hi o ran TG. Mae pob cenhedlaeth yn gwella. Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog, gwnewch eich gorau a gwella'r ardaloedd digyswllt. Meddylwch am leoedd megis Gwytherin y mae Darren Millar a phobl eraill wedi gweithio mor ddygn drostynt. Mae busnes bach rhagorol yno. Mae'n dafarn fach hyfryd, ac efallai y dylech ymweld â hi a gweld sut y gallai fod ar ei hennill petai modd sicrhau cysylltiad iddi, a chynorthwyo busnesau eraill yn yr un modd.

Alun Davies: Dilynwch hynny. Mae rhai pethau y tu hwnt i ddychan [*Chwerthin.*] Mae'n ddrwg gennyf, mae gennyf [*Chwerthin.*] Mae gennyf gydymdeimlad mawr â'r cynnig y prynhawn yma, ac â'r hyn sydd wedi'i ddweud [*Chwerthin.*]

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Ni wn sut y Cofnodir hyn—nid ar y BBC yr ydych, Alun Davies. Yr ydych yn defnyddio'ch amser wrth chwerthin ac nid wyf yn siŵr sut y caiff chwerthin ei gofnodi yn y Cofnod. Ceisiwch gallio a bwrw ymlaen.

Alun Davies: Ymddiheuraf, Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog. Mae gennyf gydymdeimlad â'r cynnig y prynhawn yma, ac nid wyf yn gwbl siŵr y byddai gwelliant y Llywodraeth o anghenraid yn ei wella. Mae llawer o bobl, yn enwedig yn y canolbarth a'r gorllewin yn dal i wynebu problemau difrifol wrth geisio cael gafael ar wasanaethau band eang. Mae diffyg cysylltiad band eang yn y byd sydd ohoni heddiw a'r byd a fydd ohoni yfory yn creu dosbarth newydd sbon o amddifadedd, o fusnesau na allant gyfathrebu â'u cwsmeriaid, i blant na allant gwblhau eu gwaith cartref.

Credaf fod gan y Llywodraeth yma yng Nghaerdydd gyfrifoldeb i weithredu mewn dau faes cyffredinol. Yn gyntaf, mae'r hyn y

Government can do for itself. I appreciate the work that has been done by the previous Minister, Andrew Davies, in investing in a broadband infrastructure and network, and I appreciate the work that will be done by the new Minister, Ieuan Wyn Jones. Taken together, the policies of the current and the last Government have created conditions whereby we have been able to improve access to broadband throughout Wales. That has meant that there is more broadband access today than there would have been had we left it to the market.

However, it is not true, as some people state, that 99.4 or 99.6 per cent of people have access to broadband. I believe that the true figure is down in the mid-80s, and we should not accept what we are being told: that because people are connected to an exchange, they have access to broadband. The reality for most people, not just in rural Wales, but in suburban and urban areas, is that they do not have the claimed access to broadband. When we are discussing access to broadband—and when the Deputy First Minister responds to the debate I would appreciate hearing his views on this—we should define broadband as it will be defined in the future, not as it was defined five years ago.

3.40 p.m.

In Aberystwyth and Cardiff, I probably have access to 5 Mbps or 6 Mbps in broadband, but the reality for many people today is that 15, 20, 30, or 50 Mbps in broadband are becoming normal. Unless we invest in an infrastructure today that will sustain tomorrow's society, we are wasting our money and we will be wasting the opportunities and talents of the people of tomorrow. We have to act to ensure that a divide is not created in access to broadband and that we are not building in deprivation for tomorrow, but ensuring that we have an infrastructure that reaches the whole of Wales, without exception. It happens elsewhere in the world and it can happen here. The Government must invest in ensuring that. So that is the first point, concerning actions that the Government can take.

gall y Llywodraeth ei wneud drosti'i hun. Gwerthfawrogaf y gwaith y mae'r Gweinidog blaenorol, Andrew Davies, wedi'i wneud o ran buddsoddi mewn seilwaith a rhwydwaith band eang, a gwerthfawrogaf y gwaith y bydd y Gweinidog newydd, Ieuan Wyn Jones, yn ei wneud. O'u cyfuno, mae polisiau'r Llywodraeth bresennol a'r Llywodraeth flaenorol wedi creu amgylchiadau sydd wedi'n galluogi i wella cysylltiadau band eang ledled Cymru. Mae hynny wedi golygu bod y gwasanaeth band eang ar gael i fwy o bobl heddiw nag y buasai petaem wedi gadael hyn i'r farchnad.

Fodd bynnag, nid yw'n wir dweud, fel y bydd rhai, bod gan 99.4 neu 99.6 y cant o bobl gysylltiad band eang at eu defnydd. Credaf fod y gwir ffigur yng nghanol yr 80au, ac ni ddylem dderbyn yr hyn a ddywedir wrthym: sef bod band eang ar gael i bobl oherwydd eu bod wedi'u cysylltu â chyfnwidfa. Y realiti i'r rhan fwyaf o bobl, nid dim ond yn y Gymru wledig, ond mewn maestrefi a threfi hefyd, yw nad oes modd iddynt gysylltu â band eang, er gwaethaf yr honiadau—a phan fydd y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn ymateb i'r ddadl, byddwn yn gwerthfawrogi clywed ei farn am hyn—dylem ddiffinio band eang fel y caiff ei ddiffinio yn y dyfodol, nid fel y'i diffiniwyd bum mlynedd yn ôl.

Yn Aberystwyth ac yng Nghaerdydd, mae'n debyg y gallaf gysylltu â band eang 5Mbps neu 6Mbps ond y realiti i lawer o bobl heddiw yw bod band eang 15, 20, 30 neu 50 Mbps yn dod beth normal. Oni fuddsoddw mewn seilwaith heddiw i gynnal cymdeithas yfory, yr ydym yn gwastraffu'n harian a byddwn yn gwastraffu cyfleoedd a thalentau pobl yfory. Rhaid inni weithredu er mwyn sicrhau nad ydym yn creu mur rhwng y rhai sy'n gallu cysylltu â band eang a'r rhai na allant wneud hynny, ac nad ydym yn meithrin amddifadedd ar gyfer yfory, ond yn hytrach ein bod yn sicrhau bod gennym seilwaith sy'n cyrraedd pob cwr o Gymru, yn ddiwahân. Mae'n digwydd mewn mannau eraill yn y byd, a gall ddigwydd yma. Rhaid i'r Llywodraeth fuddsoddi er mwyn sicrhau hynny. Felly, dyna'r pwynt cyntaf, ynglŷn â'r camau y gall y Llywodraeth eu cymryd.

The second point is that I would like to see the Government acting as a catalyst to provide broadband in new and different ways. We spoke earlier in the debate on post offices about thinking creatively about how public services can be delivered. There are ways in which we can deliver broadband that are outside of the traditional norms, the big corporate companies and corporations, and Government. We can work with local government, community councils and community groups to provide broadband in some hard-to-reach areas. We should be looking at the wireless solutions that are being used elsewhere. The work that has been done in Pembrokeshire, which is enormously impressive, has already been referred to. It could succeed in linking up parts of the country that are not served at present and will never be served using traditional models of financing and investment. I hope that the Government will take forward this agenda and ensure that we will build an infrastructure that is capable of sustaining the sort of business and society that we want to see in Wales.

Jenny Randerson: I will make a specific contribution, to begin with, about urban areas in Wales. Many people assume that broadband availability is a rural issue. There are well over 100 people in my constituency who cannot receive broadband. In the heart of the capital city of Wales, we have a significant not spot. It is not that the service is second class—it does not exist at all. Several hundred people are affected, and the problem lies in the fact that although the exchange has been enabled, the way that the cable is routed means that the potential customers are more than five miles from the exchange, even though there is another exchange closer to them. I am told that the solution is simple and cheap, but despite two petitions to BT over several years, signed by several hundred people, and a host of letters, the petitioners have been unable to get even a response from BT on the issue. So much for spending £0.25 million of Government money on identifying not spots—it would have been much cheaper to ask the local AMs, and we could have passed on the issues that we are only too aware of already.

Yr ail bwynt yw yr hoffwn weld y Llywodraeth yn gweithredu fel catalydd i ddarparu band eang mewn ffyrdd newydd a gwahanol. Soniwyd yn gynharach, yn y ddadl am swyddfeydd post, ynglŷn â meddwl yn greadigol ynghylch sut y gellir darparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus. Gellir darparu band eang mewn ffyrdd sydd y tu allan i'r normau traddodiadol, y cwmnïau corfforaethol mawr a'r corfforaethau, a'r Llywodraeth. Gallwn weithio gyda llywodraeth leol, gyda chynghorau cymuned a gyda grwpiau cymunedol i ddarparu band eang mewn ardaloedd anodd eu cyrraedd. Dylem fod yn edrych ar yr atebion diwifr a ddefnyddir mewn mannau eraill. Cyfeiriwyd eisoes at y gwaith sydd wedi'i wneud yn sir Benfro, gwaith sy'n creu cryn argraff. Gallai llwyddo i gysylltu rhannau o'r wlad sydd heb wasanaeth ar hyn o bryd ac na chânt wasanaeth fyth drwy ddefnyddio'r patrymau ariannu a buddsoddi traddodiadol. Gobeithiaf y bydd y Llywodraeth yn bwrw ymlaen â'r agenda hon ac yn sicrhau ein bod yn adeiladu seilwaith a all gynnal y math o fusnes a'r math o gymdeithas y dymunwn eu gweld yng Nghymru.

Jenny Randerson: Cyfraniad penodol fydd gennyf yn gyntaf am ardaloedd trefol yng Nghymru. Bydd llawer o bobl yn tybio mai mater i gefn gwlad yw'r ddiffyg darpariaeth band eang. Mae ymhell dros 100 o bobl yn fy etholaeth na allant gael gwasanaeth band eang. Yng nghalon prifddinas Cymru, mae gennym ardal ddigyswllt sylweddol. Nid sôn am wasanaeth eilradd yr wyf—nid yw'r gwasanaeth yn bodoli o gwbl. Mae hyn yn effeithio ar gannoedd o bobl, a'r broblem yw, er bod y gyfnewidfa wedi'i galluogi, mae llwybr y cêbl yn golygu bod y darpar gwsmeriaid dros bum milltir i ffwrdd o'r gyfnewidfa, er bod cyfnewidfa arall yn nes at eu cartrefi. Caf ar ddeall fod yr ateb yn un syml a rhad, ond, er gwaethaf dwy ddeiseb i BT dros nifer o flynyddoedd, a channoedd yn eu llofnodi, a llythyrau di-ri, nid yw'r deisebwyr wedi llwyddo i gael ymateb hyd yn oed gan BT hyd ynglŷn â hyn. Felly, pa ddiben gwario £0.25 miliwn o arian y Llywodraeth er mwyn canfod yr ardaloedd digyswllt—buasai'n rhatach o lawer gofyn i'r ACau lleol. Gallem fod wedi trosglwyddo gwybodaeth am y problemau yr ydym,

ysywaith, eisoes mor ymwybodol ohonynt.

The other issue that is very much a live one in the capital is that of broadband speeds. A subscriber in one street in my constituency, in Cathays, was told by his provider that he lived in the most oversubscribed street in the UK in terms of broadband requirement. The reason for that is fairly obvious, because the street is in the heart of a very densely populated area where many students live. Despite the fact that the provider carries on providing broadband and advertises particular speeds, those speeds are not achievable—nothing like those speeds are achievable in that part of the city. That has an impact on domestic consumers and, of course, businesses and research work. Researchers at Cardiff University have told me that the spin-out businesses that are located next to the university cannot achieve anything like the speeds that they need for their research and to do their job properly at that particular location. We have made great play of Cardiff being one of the first fully broadband-enabled cities, but it is not true: we have a second-class service in many parts of the city.

Y mater arall sy'n bwnc llosg yn y brifddinas yw cyflymder y band eang. Dywedodd ei ddarparwr wrth danysgrifiwr mewn un stryd yn fy etholaeth, yn Cathays, mai yn y stryd yr oedd yn byw ynddi yr oedd y galw mwyaf am wasanaethau band eang yn y DU. Mae'r rheswm dros hynny'n weddol amlwg, oherwydd mae'r stryd yng nghanol ardal ddwys iawn ei phoblogaeth sy'n gartref i lawer o fyfyrwyr. Er bod y darparwr yn dal i ddarparu band eang ac yn hysbysebu cyflymder penodol, nid oes modd darparu'r cyflymder hwnnw—nid oes modd cyrraedd dim byd tebyg i'r cyflymder hwnnw yn y rhan honno o'r ddinas. Mae hynny wedi cael effaith ar ddefnyddwyr yn eu cartrefi ac, wrth gwrs, ar fusnesau ac ar waith ymchwil. Mae ymchwilwyr ym Mhrifysgol Caerdydd wedi dweud wrthyf na all y busnesau allgynhyrchu sydd drws nesaf i'r brifysgol gyflawni unrhyw beth yn debyg i'r cyflymder y mae ei angen arnynt ar gyfer eu hymchwil ac i wneud eu gwaith yn iawn yn y lleoliad arbennig hwnnw. Yr ydym wedi rhoi sylw mawr i'r ffaith mai Caerdydd oedd un o'r dinasoedd cyntaf lle oedd band eang ar gael i bawb, ond nid yw hynny'n wir: gwasanaeth eilradd sydd gennym mewn nifer o ardaloedd yn y ddinas.

Looking at the whole of Wales, we must consider the key issue of our increasing reliance on the availability of everything from banking to medical services on broadband facilities. The Government has encouraged us to rely more and more on this—post office closures have speeded this process along. It is really not on for the Government to close post offices on one hand, and say, 'You can get your services online now', but then fail to make that online service available. Without a top-notch broadband connection, which will allow for modern facilities such as quick file-sending, video and audio streaming, and the sort of things that we are encouraged by the BBC, for example, to consume, use and access on a daily basis, people in Wales will be getting a second-class service.

Wrth edrych ar Gymru yn ei chyfanrwydd, rhaid inni ystyried y mater hollbwysig o'n dibyniaeth gynyddol ar argaeledd popeth o wasanaethau bancio i wasanaethau meddygol ar gyfleusterau band eang. Mae'r Llywodraeth wedi'n hannog i ddiwynnu mwy a mwy ar hyn—mae cau swyddfeydd post wedi cyflymu'r broses hon. Nid yw'n deg o gwbl i'r Llywodraeth gau swyddfeydd post ar yr un llaw, a dweud, 'Mae eich gwasanaethau ar gael ar-lein yn awr', ac yna methu sicrhau bod y gwasanaeth ar-lein hwnnw ar gael. Heb gysylltiad band eang o'r radd flaenaf, a fydd yn caniatáu cyfleusterau modern megis anfon ffeiliau'n gyflym, ffrydio fideo a sain, a'r math o bethau y mae'r BBC, er enghraifft, yn ein hannog i'w defnyddio'n ddyddiol, bydd pobl yng Nghymru'n cael gwasanaeth eilradd.

Bear in mind that a recent report by Leonard Cheshire Disability showed that 90 per cent of disabled people relied on the internet for

Cofiwch hefyd fod adroddiad diweddar gan Anabledd Leonard Cheshire wedi dangos bod 90 y cant o bobl anabl yn dibynnu ar y

their shopping and for paying bills. Disabled people in our communities rely on those facilities more than the rest of us. We may use them because it is more convenient, but they use them because it is their only access to those services. The Scottish Government is leading the way, providing broadband facilities throughout Scotland, and Wales should be able to follow that example.

Mark Isherwood: We must recognise, as I am sure that we all do, the importance of broadband to individuals and businesses, and recognise that a number of homes, businesses and communities in Wales are still unable to access an effective broadband connection. My purpose in speaking today is to highlight some of the practical obstacles to remedying this, and to focus attention on the need to address the issue.

Last September, I attended a public meeting in the village of Gwytherin in Conwy to hear the concerns of the villagers about the lack of reliable telephone and broadband services, and the need for Assembly Government funding alongside investment by BT Openreach. I subsequently met BT Openreach to detail the concerns raised. Those concerns included an inability to get on the internet for up to six days, on one occasion, the frequently inability to make or receive telephone calls, the fact that, when they did get on the internet, it was well below speed, and that there was often buzzing and crossed lines on phone lines. Also present at the meeting was the chief officer of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, who expressed particular concern about the impact on emergency services, on internet access for school pupils and students, and on the two first responders who lived in the village.

Following a pre-Christmas meeting in Gwytherin with BT Openreach, local residents, Darren Millar, Eleanor Burnham and me, at which Openreach agreed to formalise its proposals for the village by the end of January, Darren Millar and I met the Minister, Ieuan Wyn Jones, in January, to outline the position. He explained that—I am

rhyngwyd i siopa a thalu eu biliau. Mae pobl anabl yn ein cymunedau'n dibynnu mwy ar y cyfleusterau hyn na'r gweddill ohonom. Gallwn ni eu defnyddio am eu bod yn fwy cyfleus, ond maent hwy'n eu defnyddio am mai dyna'r unig ffordd sydd ganddynt i gael mynediad at y gwasanaethau hynny. Mae Llywodraeth yr Alban yn arwain y ffordd, drwy ddarparu gwasanaethau band eang ledled yr Alban, a dylai Cymru allu dilyn yr esiampl honno.

Mark Isherwood: Rhaid inni gydnabod, fel yr wyf yn siŵr yr ydym i gyd yn ei wneud, bwysigrwydd band eang i unigolion a busnesau, a chydabod bod nifer o gartrefi, busnesau a chymunedau yng Nghymru sy'n dal heb gysylltiad band eang effeithiol. Fy nod wrth siarad heddiw yw tynnu sylw at rai o'r rhwystrau ymarferol rhag cywiro hyn, a chanolbwyntio sylw ar yr angen i fynd i'r afael â'r mater.

Fis Medi'r llynedd, yr oeddwn yn bresennol mewn cyfarfod cyhoeddus ym mhentref Gwytherin yng Nghonwy i glywed pryderon y pentrefwyr ynghylch diffyg gwasanaethau ffôn a band eang dibynadwy, a'r angen am arian gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad ochr yn ochr â buddsoddiad gan BT Openreach. Yn dilyn y cyfarfod, cyfarfûm â BT Openreach i drafod rhai o'r pryderon a leisiwyd. Yr oedd y pryderon hynny'n cynnwys anallu i ddefnyddio'r rhyngwyd am hyd at chwe diwrnod, ar un achlysur, anallu yn aml i wneud na derbyn galwadau ffôn, y ffaith, pan oedd y rhyngwyd ar gael, bod y cyflymder yn llawer arafach nag y dylai fod, a bod sŵn ar y lein yn aml yn ogystal â llinellau croes. Hefyd yn bresennol yn y cyfarfod oedd prif swyddog Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub Gogledd Cymru, a fynegodd ei bryderon ynghylch effaith hyn i gyd ar y gwasanaethau brys, ar fynediad at y rhyngwyd i ddisgyblion ysgol a myfyrwyr, ac ar y ddau ymatebwr cyntaf a oedd yn byw yn y pentref.

Yn dilyn cyfarfod yng Ngwytherin cyn y Nadolig gyda BT Openreach, trigolion lleol, Darren Millar, Eleanor Burnham a minnau, lle cytunodd Openreach i ffurfioli ei gynlluniau ar gyfer y pentref erbyn diwedd Ionawr, cyfarfu Darren Miller a minnau â'r Gweinidog, Ieuan Wyn Jones, ym mis Ionawr, i amlinellu'r sefyllfa. Esboniodd—yr

sure that he will shed light on this—in order to comply with European rules on state aid, where the European Commission has authorised Assembly Government support for broadband but not for telephony, the Government had been trying to get Openreach to separate financial requirements for telephony and broadband services. The Government needs Openreach to come up with something that is valid—broadband based—but that might give access to telephony services as well. If that did not happen, and the proposal for a broadband solution was based on telephony, even partially, the Assembly Government would have to go back to the market, re-tender—and BT would only be one of those tendering—prove to the European Commission that it is not distorting the market and that the level of state aid proposed is permissible. I appreciate that this is not quite as straightforward as we might sometimes like to believe.

3.50 p.m.

In February, we had a further meeting with BT Openreach, where representatives presented the proposals that they were then going to present to the Minister; he has promised to meet them when he has had time to consider the proposals. One proposal was broadband based, which the Assembly could support, if it so chose, and another was based on fibre optic cable, which was a better technical solution but which could fall foul of the European state aid rules and, therefore, lead to further delays before anything gets done. I would be grateful if the Minister could help to shed some light on this apparent clash, where the best technical and financial solution is not currently permitted within the agreement that the Assembly Government has with the European Commission.

To conclude, when we were speaking at the meeting in Gwytherin in December, a concern was raised not just about that village, but about the hundreds of small communities across Wales facing similar broadband exclusion at the moment. The question asked was how the Assembly Government

wyf yn siŵr y gall ymhelaethu ar hyn—er mwyn cydymffurfio â rheolau Ewrop ar gymorth gwladwriaethol, lle mae'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd wedi awdurdodi cefnogaeth Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar gyfer band eang ond nid ar gyfer teleffoni, mae'r Llywodraeth wedi bod yn ceisio cael Openreach i wahanu'r gofynion ariannol ar gyfer gwasanaethau teleffoni a band eang. Mae'r Llywodraeth am weld Openreach yn dyfeisio rhywbeth dilys—sy'n seiliedig ar fand eang—ond a allai ganiatáu mynediad at wasanaethau teleffoni hefyd. Os na fyddai hynny'n digwydd, a bod y cynnig ar gyfer ateb band eang yn seiliedig ar deffoni, yn rhannol hyd yn oed, byddai'n rhaid i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad fynd yn ôl at y farchnad, aildendro—ac un yn unig o'r rheini a fyddai'n tendro fyddai BT—byddai hynny'n profi i'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd nad yw'n ystumio'r farchnad a bod lefel y cymorth gwladwriaethol sy'n cael ei gynnig yn dderbyniol. Yr wyf yn sylweddoli nad yw pethau mor syml bob tro ag yr hoffem ei gredu.

Ym mis Chwefror, cawsom gyfarfod arall gyda BT Openreach, lle bu'r cynrychiolwyr yn cyflwyno'r cynigion yr oeddent wedyn yn mynd i'w cyflwyno i'r Gweinidog; mae wedi addo cwrdd â hwy pan fydd wedi cael cyfle i ystyried y cynigion. Yr oedd un cynnig yn seiliedig ar fand eang, ac yn un y gallai'r Cynulliad ei gefnogi, petai'n dewis gwneud hynny, ac yr oedd un arall yn seiliedig ar gebl opteg ffibr, a oedd yn well ateb yn dechnegol ond a allai fynd yn groes i reolau cymorth gwladwriaethol Ewrop ac, felly, a allai olygu mwy o oedi cyn bod unrhyw beth yn cael ei wneud. Byddwn yn ddiolchgar petai'r Gweinidog yn ymhelaethu rhywfaint ar y gwrthdaro ymddangosiadol hwn, lle nad yw'r ateb gorau o safbwynt technegol ac ariannol yn cael ei ganiatáu ar hyn o bryd fel rhan o'r cytundeb sydd gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad gyda'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd.

I gloi, pan oeddem yn annerch y cyfarfod yng Ngwytherin ym mis Rhagfyr, mynegwyd pryderon nid yn unig am y pentref, ond am y cannoedd o gymunedau bach ledled Cymru sy'n cael eu rhwystro rhag defnyddio gwasanaethau band eang ar hyn o bryd. Gofynnwyd sut y mae Llywodraeth y

proactively plans to deliver an all-Wales network, given the practical barriers that exist.

Lesley Griffiths: It is a real shame that the Liberal Democrats could not have hung on a few more weeks before tabling this debate, because I am sure that they are aware that we are about to see the publication of the next annual communications market report for Wales by the independent regulator Ofcom, which will show huge progress in broadband provision and access across the household and business sectors. In other words, any statistics produced in this debate are likely to be at least 12 months out of date and will, therefore, bear no relevance to the real broadband picture in Wales today.

However, with that health warning, and armed with the latest independent report from Ofcom, which was published over 11 months ago, we know certain truths about broadband in Wales. We know that the broadband gap between Wales and the rest of the UK is rapidly narrowing, and, had we had this debate in three weeks' time, we may have discovered that the gap had vanished altogether. We know for certain that, since 2005, 94 per cent of exchanges that could not support broadband have now been upgraded. At the end of 2005, 35 exchanges were not capable of supporting broadband services, but, following a tendering exercise initiated by the Welsh Assembly Government, BT upgraded those remaining telephone exchanges; 33 have now been converted. We also know for certain that residential penetration of internet and broadband in Wales is now in line with the UK average. Household internet penetration in Wales now stands at 59 per cent, which is similar to the UK average of 61 per cent. Similarly, the residential broadband take-up of 42 per cent in Wales was in line with the UK average and that of the other UK nations. I repeat that those figures reflect Ofcom's analysis of the broadband picture in 2006, published in 2007, so it does not reflect the current position.

Cynulliad yn bwriadu mynd ati'n rhagweithiol i ddarparu rhwydwaith Cymru gyfan, a chofio'r rhwystrau ymarferol sy'n bodoli.

Lesley Griffiths: Mae'n drueni mawr na allai'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol fod wedi aros am ychydig wythnosau eto cyn cyflwyno'r ddadl hon, oherwydd yr wyf yn siŵr eu bod yn gwybod bod yr adroddiad blynyddol nesaf ar y farchnad gyfathrebu ar gyfer Cymru gan y rheolyddion annibynnol Ofcom ar fin cael ei gyhoeddi, ac y bydd yr adroddiad hwnnw'n dangos cynnydd enfawr yn y ddarpariaeth band eang yn y sectorau cartref a busnes. Mewn geiriau eraill, mae unrhyw ystadegau a ddyfynnir yn y ddadl hon yn debygol o fod o leiaf 12 mis ar ei hôl hi ac felly, ni fyddant yn berthnasol o gwbl i sefyllfa'r ddarpariaeth fand eang fel y mae yng Nghymru heddiw.

Fodd bynnag, gan gadw'r rhybudd iechyd hwnnw mewn cof, a chan ddefnyddio adroddiad annibynnol diwethaf Ofcom, a gyhoeddwyd dros 11 mis yn ôl, gwyddom rai gwirioneddau am fand eang yng Nghymru. Gwyddom fod y gagendor band eang rhwng Cymru a gweddill y DU yn cau'n gyflym, a, phetaem wedi cael y ddadl hon ymhen tair wythnos, efallai y byddem yn gweld fod y gagendor wedi diflannu'n llwyr. Gwyddom i sicrwydd bod 94 y cant o'r cyfnewidfeydd na allai ddarparu band eang wedi cael eu huwchraddio er 2005. Ar ddiwedd 2005, yr oedd 35 o gyfnewidfeydd na allai ddarparu gwasanaethau band eang, ond, yn dilyn ymarferiad tendro a gyflwynwyd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, mae BT bellach wedi uwchraddio'r cyfnewidfeydd ffôn hynny a oedd yn weddill; mae 33 wedi cael eu haddasu. Gwyddom i sicrwydd hefyd fod treiddiad gwasanaethau rhyngwyd a band eang preswyl yng Nghymru bellach ar yr un lefel â chyfartaledd y DU. Mae treiddiad rhyngwyd preswyl yng Nghymru yn awr yn 59 y cant, sy'n agos at gyfartaledd y DU o 61 y cant. Yn yr un modd, mae canran y cartrefi yng Nghymru sy'n manteisio ar wasanaethau band eang yn 42 y cant, sy'n debyg i gyfartaledd y DU a chyfartaledd gwledydd eraill y DU. Dywedaf eto fod y ffigurau hyn yn adlewyrchu dadansoddiad Ofcom o sefyllfa'r ddarpariaeth fand eang yn 2006, a

gyhoeddwyd yn 2007, felly nid yw'n adlewyrchiad o'r sefyllfa bresennol.

It is fair to concede, however, that, in 2006, internet and broadband penetration among SMEs in Wales was the lowest in the UK. Ofcom stated in last year's report that the proportion of SMEs in Wales reporting internet access in 2006 stood at only 64 per cent. Similarly, broadband penetration among SMEs in Wales was the lowest among the UK nations. However, the situation has moved on considerably and, thanks to the Welsh Assembly Government and European structural funds, industrial estates and technology parks across north Wales will, in the near future, have fibre optic network connections that will deliver high-speed broadband services to companies in the region.

Mae'n deg cydnabod, fodd bynnag, mai treiddiad rhyngwyd a band eang ymhlith busnesau bach a chanolig yng Nghymru oedd yr isaf yn y DU yn 2006. Dywedodd Ofcom yn adroddiad y llynedd fod cyfran y busnesau bach a chanolig yng Nghymru a ddywedodd fod ganddynt gysylltiad rhyngwyd yn 2006 yn ddim ond 64 y cant. Yn yr un modd, treiddiad band eang ymhlith busnesau bach a chanolig yng Nghymru oedd yr isaf o blith gwledydd y DU. Fodd bynnag, mae'r sefyllfa wedi datblygu'n sylweddol a, diolch i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a chronfeydd strwythurol Ewrop, bydd gan barciau technoleg ar hyd a lled y gogledd gysylltiadau rhwydwaith opteg ffibr yn y dyfodol agos a fydd yn darparu gwasanaethau band cyflym i gwmnïau yn yr ardal.

The £30 million investment in phase 1 of the FibreSpeed project—

Mae'r buddsoddiad gwerth £30 miliwn yng nghanam 1 y prosiect FibreSpeed—

Eleanor Burnham: Can you explain to me why, when we meet with BT, its constant mantra is 'copper piping'? Has BT never heard of fibre optic technology?

Eleanor Burnham: A allwch ddweud wrthyf pam, pan fyddwn yn cwrdd â BT, ei fod yn mynd ymlaen ac ymlaen am 'bibellau copr'? Onid yw BT erioed wedi clywed am dechnoleg opteg ffibr?

Lesley Griffiths: It probably has. [*Laughter.*]

Lesley Griffiths: Mae'n debyg ei fod. [*Chwerthin.*]

The FibreSpeed project is managed by the Welsh European Funding Office, and will deliver a huge boost for companies in Anglesey, Llandudno Junction, Conwy, St Asaph business park, Deeside industrial park, Parc Menai, Wrexham industrial estate, and Wrexham technology park. This will provide a fast and advanced telecommunication network, which is absolutely essential for economic development in the region and demonstrates just how much progress is being made by this Government. Indeed, through FibreSpeed, the Government believes—with very good reason—that the price of high bandwidth internet services for business in north Wales could be reduced to levels currently charged in London and the south-east of England. That is good news for north Wales companies in terms of accessing cheaper broadband services and means that our local businesses in north Wales, in the

Mae'r prosiect FibreSpeed yn cael ei reoli gan Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru, a bydd yn rhoi hwb enfawr i gwmnïau yn Ynys Môn, Cyffordd Llandudno, Conwy, parc busnes Llanelwy, parc diwydiannol Glannau Dyfrdwy, Parc Menai, ystâd ddiwydiannol Wrecsam, a pharc technoleg Wrecsam. Bydd yn golygu rhwydwaith telathrebu cyflym a modern, sy'n gwbl hanfodol i ddatblygiad economaidd yn y rhanbarth ac mae'n dangos faint o gynnydd sy'n cael ei wneud gan y Llywodraeth hon. Yn wir, drwy FibreSpeed, mae'r Llywodraeth yn credu—ac mae rheswm da dros gredu—y gellir gostwng pris gwasanaethau rhyngwyd lled band uchel i fusnesau yn y gogledd i'r un lefelau â'r hyn a godir yn Llundain a de-ddwyrain Lloegr ar hyn o bryd. Mae hynny'n newyddion da i gwmnïau'r gogledd o ran cael mynediad at wasanaethau band eang rhatach ac mae'n golygu y bydd ein busnesau lleol yn y

future, will not only be as competitive as those in other areas of the UK, but those with access to FibreSpeed may have an important edge on their competitors elsewhere. This is a situation that I would greatly welcome.

Paul Davies: I am grateful to be able to take part in this debate. The lack of broadband services in some parts of Wales is making life extremely difficult for individuals, families and businesses. In some parts of my constituency, it is nigh on impossible to receive broadband, and many constituents have approached me highlighting this very important issue. It is essential that broadband services are available to businesses in all parts of Wales, as the survival and prosperity of businesses depend upon such services. Running a business from a constituency such as mine is difficult enough, but not being able to receive a service such as this makes it nearly impossible. I have received correspondence from small businesses—farmers, individuals and families—regarding this issue, and it is now imperative that money is invested in these services for the benefit of all of our communities.

I would be the first to admit that the installation of facilities to accommodate broadband services in not spots such as remote rural areas can be costly. In recent months, I have met with Alan England, who runs a business in my constituency called TFL Group; Mick and Alun have referred to this. As we have heard, his company specialises in delivering wireless broadband solutions. Mr England who, after all, is a specialist in this field, tells me that considerable further investment is required to resolve Pembrokeshire's—and, indeed, Wales's—broadband problems.

The First Minister responded to a question that I asked back in November by saying that more than 99 per cent of Welsh people can receive broadband internet services. However, the figures from the Office for National Statistics show that 42 per cent of households in Wales have no access to broadband. The Welsh Consumer Council highlighted the fact that people in mid and

gogledd, yn y dyfodol, nid yn unig yr un mor gystadleuol â'r rheini mewn rhannau eraill o'r DU, ond bydd gan y sawl sydd â mynediad at FibreSpeed fantais bwysig dros eu cystadleuwyr mewn ardaloedd eraill. Mae hon yn sefyllfa yr wyf yn ei chroesawu.

Paul Davies: Yr wyf yn falch o'r cyfle i gymryd rhan yn y ddadl hon. Mae diffyg gwasanaethau band eang mewn rhai rhannau o Gymru'n gwneud bywyd yn anodd dros ben i unigolion, teuluoedd a busnesau. Mewn rhai rhannau o fy etholaeth, mae bron yn amhosibl cael gwasanaethau band eang, ac mae llawer o etholwyr wedi cysylltu â mi i dynnu sylw at y mater pwysig iawn hwn. Mae'n hanfodol bod gwasanaethau band eang ar gael i fusnesau ym mhob rhan o Gymru, gan fod goroesiad a ffyniant busnesau'n dibynnu ar wasanaethau o'r fath. Mae rhedeg busnes mewn etholaeth fel fy un i yn ddigon anodd fel y mae, ond mae diffyg gwasanaeth fel hwn yn golygu ei bod bron yn amhosibl. Yr wyf wedi cael llythyrau gan fusnesau bach—ffermwyr, unigolion a theuluoedd—ynghylch y mater hwn, ac mae yn awr yn hanfodol bod arian yn cael ei fuddsoddi yn y gwasanaethau hyn er lles ein holl gymunedau.

Byddwn gyda'r cyntaf i gyfaddef bod gosod cyfleusterau i ganiatáu gwasanaethau band eang mewn ardaloedd digyswllt megis ardaloedd gwledig anghysbell yn gallu bod yn gostus. Yn ystod y misoedd diwethaf, yr wyf wedi cyfarfod ag Alan England, sy'n rhedeg busnes o'r enw TFL Group yn fy etholaeth; mae Mick ac Alun wedi cyfeirio at hyn. Fel y clywsom, mae ei gwmni'n cynnig atebion band eang di-wifr. Dywed Mr England sydd, wedi'r cyfan, yn arbenigwr yn y maes, wrthyf fod angen buddsoddiad sylweddol pellach i ddatrys problemau band eang sir Benfro—ac, yn wir problemau Cymru.

Ymatebodd y Prif Weinidog i gwestiwn a ofynnais ym mis Tachwedd drwy ddweud bod dros 99 y cant o bobl Cymru'n gallu cael gwasanaethau rhyngwyd band eang. Fodd bynnag, mae ffigurau'r Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol yn dangos nad oes gan 42 y cant o aelwydydd Cymru fynediad at fand eang. Mae Cyngor Defnyddwyr Cymru wedi tynnu sylw at y ffaith mai pobl yng nghanolbarth a

west Wales are the least likely to have a broadband connection. Unfortunately, there are people who travel just to use a connection, which threatens small businesses in rural Wales. Surely, this is not only economically unviable, but also adds to our carbon footprint, when technology should be available to fight climate change and help to protect the environment. I appreciate that the cross-party group in the Assembly is looking at this very important issue, and I hope that it will come up with practical solutions to some of these problems very soon.

I am sure that many Members will agree that investment is part of that solution. I accept that the Government's regional innovative broadband support scheme has helped parts of Wales. Unfortunately, this does not help the people and businesses currently unable to access these very important services. As Mick and Jenny have said, the Assembly Government has recently spent £250,000 on a contract to discover how to solve the broadband not spot problem. As much as I commend the Government on its intentions, surely this money would be better spent on installing direct solutions to the problem rather than on yet more advice on solving the problem. Rather than waste £250,000 on learning something that we already know, would it not have been better to invest in some companies that specialise in delivering broadband services? I am told by Mr England of TFL Group that he could solve the problems of Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion with this money. I understand that companies such as this can provide wireless broadband solutions for as little as £299 per household, depending on the location. We need to ensure that taxpayers' money is spent on improving the situation and delivering the services at the sharp end.

4.00 p.m.

We already know of the problems that exist and, to a large extent, how to solve them. It is now time to spend money on solving this situation rather than talking around the

gorllewin Cymru yw'r lleiaf tebygol o fod â chysylltiad band eang. Yn anffodus, mae rhai pobl yn gorfod teithio'n unswydd er mwyn gallu manteisio ar gysylltiad o'r fath, sy'n bygwth busnesau bach yn y Gymru wledig. Wrth reswm, nid yn unig y mae hyn yn anymarferol yn economaidd, ond mae hefyd yn ychwanegu at ein hól troed carbon, pan ddylai technoleg fod ar gael i fynd i'r afael â newid yn yr hinsawdd a helpu i amddiffyn yr amgylchedd. Yr wyf yn sylweddoli bod y grŵp trawsbleidiol yn y Cynulliad yn edrych ar y mater pwysig hwn, a gobeithiaf y bydd yn cynnig atebion ymarferol i rai o'r problemau hyn yn fuan iawn.

Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd llawer o Aelodau'n cytuno bod buddsoddi'n rhan o'r ateb hwnnw. Yr wyf yn cydnabod bod cynllun cymorth band eang rhanbarthol arloesol y Llywodraeth wedi cynorthwyo rhannau o Gymru. Yn anffodus, nid yw'n helpu'r bobl a'r busnesau sydd heb fynediad at y gwasanaethau pwysig hyn ar hyn o bryd. Fel y dywedodd Mick a Jenny, gwariodd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad £250,000 yn ddiweddar ar gontract i ganfod sut mae datrys problem ardaloedd digyswllt. Er fy mod yn canmol y Llywodraeth am ei bwriadau, yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai'r arian wedi cael ei wario'n ddoethach drwy osod atebion uniongyrchol i'r broblem yn hytrach na gofyn am fwy fyth o gyngor ar geisio datrys y broblem. Yn hytrach na gwastraffu £250,000 ar ddysgu rhywbeth yr ydym yn ei wybod eisoes, oni fyddai wedi bod yn well buddsoddi mewn rhai cwmnïau sy'n arbenigo mewn darparu gwasanaethau band eang? Dywedwyd wrthyf gan Mr England o'r TFL Group y gallai ddatrys problemau sir Benfro, sir Gaerfyrddin a Cheredigion gyda'r arian hwn. Deallaf fod cwmnïau fel hyn yn gallu darparu atebion band eang di-wifr am gyn lleied â £299 i bob aelwyd, yn ddibynnol ar eu lleoliad, Mae angen inni sicrhau bod arian y trethdalwr yn cael ei wario ar wella pethau a darparu gwasanaethau lle mae angen amdanynt.

Gwyddom eisoes am y problemau sy'n bod ac, i raddau helaeth, am y modd i'w datrys. Daeth yn bryd bellach wario arian i ddatrys y sefyllfa hon yn hytrach na siarad am y pwnc.

subject. I would encourage the Assembly Government to work with local authorities to find solutions that best suit the needs of their areas. I also urge the Minister to put forward a proper package, so that the individuals, families and businesses that are not receiving this vital service can receive it in the near future.

Nerys Evans: The debate on post offices focused largely on social and economic inclusion, and the same principles apply to this debate on access to broadband—the lack of access to it in some of our communities and the problems and inequalities that arise from that.

I am sure that all of our offices have been inundated with correspondence about the lack of broadband services, and it has increased even further following *Wales Today*'s recent campaign on the issue. It is a massively important issue mostly for rural Wales, but not exclusively so, as Jenny Randerson has mentioned, and the issue is complicated by the fact that if people do not complain that they cannot access broadband, we simply do not know about it and cannot assess the extent of the problem. That is why the *Wales Today* coverage was so vital in ensuring that people speak out about their broadband problems. It is also important that the Welsh Assembly Government has undertaken work to look at the extent of the problem and to gauge the extent of not-spots. I also share Alun Davies's concerns about the figure of 99.4 per cent that has been alluded to. I do not agree with that figure and agree that it is more likely to be in the 80s.

I am chair of the Assembly cross-party group on broadband in rural Wales. We have spent the past six months gathering evidence from people across mid and west Wales regarding the lack of broadband. I have used three villages as case studies to gather evidence on the impact that the lack of broadband has on businesses and people generally. I distributed questionnaires, and many of those have been returned to me from the three villages of Llanpumsaint and Bronwydd in

Byddwn yn annog Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i gydweithio ag awdurdodau lleol i ddod o hyd i'r atebion sy'n fwyaf addas i ddiwallu anghenion eu hardaloedd. Yr wyf hefyd yn annog y Gweinidog i roi pecyn priodol gerbron, fel y bydd yr unigolion, y teuluoedd a'r busnesau nad ydynt yn cael y gwasanaeth hanfodol hwn yn gallu ei gael yn y dyfodol agos.

Nerys Evans: Yr oedd y ddadl am swyddfeydd post yn ymwneud yn bennaf â chynhwysiant cymdeithasol ac economaidd, ac mae'r un egwyddorion yn gymwys i'r ddadl hon am fynediad at y band eang—y diffyg mynediad ato yn rhai o'n cymunedau a'r problemau a'r anghydraddoldebau sy'n deillio o hynny.

Yr wyf yn siŵr bod swyddfeydd pob un ohonom wedi'u boddi gan ohebiaeth am ddiffyg gwasanaethau band eang, a chafwyd mwy byth ar ôl yr ymgyrch gan *Wales Today* ar y mater yn ddiweddar. Mae'n fater aruthrol o bwysig i Gymru wledig yn bennaf, ond nid i'r fan honno'n unig, fel y mae Jenny Randerson wedi crybwyll, ac mae'r mater wedi'i gymhlethu gan y ffaith na fyddwn yn gwybod nad yw pobl yn gallu cael mynediad at y band eang os na chwynant am hynny, ac na allwn asesu maint y broblem. Dyna pam yr oedd y sylw gan *Wales Today* mor bwysig o ran sicrhau bod pobl yn codi eu llais ynghylch eu problemau mewn cysylltiad â'r band eang. Mae hefyd yn bwysig bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi ymgymryd â gwaith i ystyried maint y broblem a chyfrif nifer yr ardaloedd digyswllt. Fel Alun Davies, yr wyf finnau'n pryderu ynghylch y ffigur o 99.4 y cant y cyfeiriwyd ato. Nid wyf yn derbyn y ffigur hwnnw ac yr wyf yn cytuno ei fod yn fwy tebyg o fod yn y 80au.

Yr wyf yn gadeirydd ar grŵp trawsbleidiol y Cynulliad ar y band eang yng Nghymru wledig. Yr ydym wedi treulio'r chwe mis diwethaf yn casglu tystiolaeth gan bobl o bob rhan o'r canolbarth a'r gorllewin ynghylch diffyg gwasanaethau band eang. Yr wyf wedi gwneud astudiaeth achos o dri phentref i gasglu tystiolaeth am yr effaith ar fusnesau a phobl yn gyffredinol oherwydd diffyg gwasanaethau band eang. Dosbarthais holiaduron, a dychwelwyd llawer o'r rheini i

Carmarthenshire, and Mynachlog-ddu in Pembrokeshire. Some of the examples that I have received are staggering.

Before I talk specifically about broadband, I will raise another issue that came to my attention in the responses from my constituents. Not only do people have problems with broadband, many residents also experience severe problems with the telephone service. Some of the problems that came to light include having a constant engaged tone on the line, lines being disconnected in the middle of calls, lines being unavailable for long periods, lines being shared, telephones ringing constantly with no-one trying to make a call, and having to wait 30 minutes for the line to clear. Those problems are the result of a large number of residents sharing telephone lines. This is unacceptable, and a surely breach of the universal service obligation.

The lack of broadband availability has a huge effect on people's lives and on businesses—a point made by most speakers on this matter. It is impossible for local companies to purchase goods or communicate effectively online. The owner of a business making quality furniture told me that he often needs to download plans and drawings that are too large for the ISDN line to cope with. Each project can cost between £25,000 and £60,000. The loss of even one job is a significant loss to the local economy. Many farmers have also told me that the lack of broadband hindered the reporting of livestock movements and their ability to access current information about livestock restrictions. Again, that is not acceptable.

Therefore, the current situation has serious economic implications, and they, along with other factors, are affecting the sustainability of rural villages. That is confirmed by the fact that the following villages that I looked into in some detail featured in the Welsh index of multiple deprivation: Llanpumsaint ranked twenty-second and Mynachlog-ddu ranked eleventh, making that, geographically, the most deprived ward in Pembrokeshire.

mi o'r tri phentref, sef Llanpumsaint a Bronwydd yn sir Gaerfyrddin, a Mynachlog-ddu yn sir Benfro. Mae rhai o'r enghreifftiau yr wyf wedi'u cael yn syfrdanol.

Cyn imi sôn yn benodol am y band eang, codaf fater arall a ddaeth i'm sylw drwy'r ymatebion gan fy etholwyr. Nid yn unig y mae pobl yn cael trafferthion â'r band eang, mae llawer o breswylwyr yn cael trafferthion difrifol hefyd â'r gwasanaeth ffôn. Ymysg y problemau a ddaeth i'r amlwg y mae rhai lle y mae tŷn brysur ar y llinell drwy'r amser, llinellau'n cael eu datgysylltu ar ganol galwadau, llinellau sydd heb fod ar gael am gyfnodau hir, rhannu llinellau, ffonau'n canu'n barhaus a neb yn ceisio gwneud galwad, a gorfod aros 30 munud i'r llinell glirio. Mae'r problemau hynny'n ganlyniad i'r ffaith bod nifer mawr o breswylwyr yn rhannu llinellau ffôn. Mae hyn yn annerbyniol, ac yn sicr o fod yn groes i'r rhwymedigaeth i ddarparu gwasanaeth i bawb.

Mae diffyg gwasanaethau band eang yn cael effaith aruthrol ar fywydau pobl ac ar fusnesau—pwynt a wnaeth y rhan fwyaf o'r siaradwyr ar y mater hwn. Mae'n amhosibl i gwmnïau lleol brynu nwyddau neu gyfathrebu'n effeithiol ar lein. Dywedodd perchennog busnes gwneud dodrefn o safon wrthyf fod arno angen lawrlwytho cynlluniau a darluniau'n aml a bod y rheini'n rhy fawr i'r llinell ISDN. Gall pob prosiect gostio rhwng £25,000 a £60,000. Mae colli hyd yn oed un archeb yn golled sylweddol i'r economi leol. Mae llawer o ffermwyr wedi dweud wrthyf hefyd fod diffyg gwasanaethau band eang wedi llesteirio'r adrodd am symudiadau da byw a'u gallu i gael gwybodaeth gyfredol am gyfyngiadau ar dda byw. Unwaith eto, nid yw hynny'n dderbyniol.

Felly, mae goblygiadau economaidd difrifol i'r sefyllfa bresennol, ac mae'r rhain, ynghyd â ffactorau eraill, yn effeithio ar gynaliadwyedd pentrefi gwledig. Mae hynny wedi'i gadarnhau gan y ffaith bod y pentrefi canlynol yr ymchwiliats iddynt yn eithaf manwl wedi'u cynnwys ym mynegai amddifadedd lluosog Cymru: yr oedd Llanpumsaint yn ail ar hugain a Mynachlog-ddu'n unfed ar ddeg, a hi yw'r ward fwyaf

difreintiedig yn sir Benfro.

I have had positive meetings with the Minister about the issue, and we in the cross-party group have had many fruitful meetings on the issue with various Ministers, BT and Ofcom, and we are looking at examples and situations in other countries. We should all welcome the news that the Minister is moving to a system of tendering to address the failings of the first regional innovative broadband support contract and to enable our not-spots to access broadband.

Yr wyf wedi cael cyfarfodydd buddiol gyda'r Gweinidog ar y mater, ac yr ydym ni yn y grŵp trawsbleidiol wedi cael llawer o gyfarfodydd llwyddiannus ar y mater gyda gwahanol Weinidogion, BT ac Ofcom, ac yr ydym yn edrych ar enghreifftiau a sefyllfaoedd mewn gwledydd eraill. Dylem oll groesawu'r newydd bod y Gweinidog yn troi at system tendro i ddelio â diffygion y contract cyntaf dan y rhaglen cymorth band eang arloesol rhanbarthol ac i alluogi ein hardaloedd digyswllt i gael mynediad at y band eang.

As has been mentioned, it is imperative that the tendering process has the capacity to allow smaller, localised companies to compete. There are good examples in different areas, for example, Paul Davies alluded to a company in Pembrokeshire. It is important that the tendering process enables there to be local solutions to local problems. We have seen that already in some areas where villages have clubbed together to fund access to broadband through such mechanisms as wireless broadband. It is also important that the Welsh Assembly Government's tendering process is open so that broadband can be rolled out through different technologies: through satellite and wireless technology and through the upgrading of present lines. I am pleased that the Welsh Assembly Government is moving quickly on this issue to enable equality in accessing services and to ensure social and economic inclusion for all parts of Wales.

Fel y dywedwyd, mae'n hollbwysig bod y broses tendro'n gallu caniatáu i gwmnïau lleol llai gystadlu. Mae enghreifftiau da mewn gwahanol ardaloedd: er enghraifft, cyfeiriodd Paul Davies at gwmni yn sir Benfro. Mae'n bwysig bod y broses tendro'n cynnig modd i gael atebion lleol i broblemau lleol. Yr ydym wedi gweld hynny eisoes mewn rhai ardaloedd lle y mae pentrefi wedi dod at ei gilydd i dalu am fynediad at y band eang drwy ddulliau fel band eang di-wifr. Mae hefyd yn bwysig bod proses tendro Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n un agored fel y gellir cynnig gwasanaethau band eang drwy wahanol dechnolegau: drwy dechnoleg lloeren a thechnoleg ddi-wifr a thrwy wella'r llinellau presennol. Yr wyf yn falch bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n cymryd camau buan ar y mater hwn fel y ceir mynediad cyfartal at wasanaethau a chynhwysiant cymdeithasol ac economaidd ym mhob rhan o Gymru.

Andrew R.T. Davies: I thank the Liberal Democrats for proposing this debate, and I am grateful to be able to contribute to it.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Diolchaf i'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol am gynnig y ddadl hon, ac yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am gael cyfrannu iddi.

Broadband and computer connection are vital ingredients for an economically vibrant society. In my business background of agriculture, more and more is now related to computer technology and the ability to access computers in terms of passing information on to Government to receive subsidy. You have to have the correct information going up the line and there are heavy penalties for not being able to access the ministry offices. In many parts of rural Wales, and in my

Mae'r band eang a chysylltiadau drwy gyfrifiadur yn elfennau hanfodol mewn cymdeithas sydd ag economi ffyniannus. Yn y maes y mae fy musnes i'n rhan ohono, sef amaethyddiaeth, ymwneir yn fwyfwy bellach â thechnoleg gyfrifiadurol a'r gallu i gael mynediad at gyfrifiaduron ar gyfer trosglwyddo gwybodaeth i Lywodraeth er mwyn cael cymhorthdal. Rhaid ichi anfon yr wybodaeth gywir ac mae cosbau trwm am fethu â chael mynediad at swyddfeydd y

constituency of South Wales Central, that access is denied to people.

The Minister for Rural Affairs yesterday announced a strategy for TB reduction. On our visit to Northern Ireland, one of the critical components in the Northern Ireland Executive's strategy for controlling TB was the ability to get onto computers and trace cattle movements, and people could then follow those movements. If people do have access to broadband and, in particular, computer connections, they will suffer.

We heard earlier from Lesley Griffiths, the Assembly Member for Wrexham, that the figures are not as dire as some people portray. However, on a recent *Wales Today* programme, which, I believe, was run some six to eight weeks ago, the most topical issue across Wales was the inability to access viable and effective broadband. That was *Wales Today*, not Wales yesterday. For people to feel so emotive about a subject that they ring in and give hard-and-fast examples emphasises what is going on in Wales today.

What is happening with computer connections is important to modern lifestyles. Let us consider people who are following Open University courses. Many of us, particularly the older Members in this Chamber, probably recall the old BBC 2 service, through which many of the Open University programmes were delivered on grainy television pictures at 2 a.m. or 3 a.m.. I have a constituent who is doing a psychology degree. Everything is reliant on her ability to access a computer and the programmes that the Open University sends to her, via a broadband connection. If people do not have that accessibility, then people's ability to further their skills and get a better lifestyle will be denied them.

I recently went on holiday during the Easter recess to Australia—I think that that is why my voice is going. It was interesting to see how the federal Government in Australia is

weinyddiaeth. Mewn llawer rhan o Gymru wledig, ac yn fy etholaeth i, sef Canol De Cymru, gwrthodir y mynediad hwnnw i bobl.

Ddoe cyhoeddodd y Gweinidog dros Faterion Gwledig strategaeth i ostwng nifer yr achosion o TB. Fel y gwelsom ar ein hymweliad â Gogledd Iwerddon, un o'r elfennau hanfodol yn strategaeth Gweithrediaeth Gogledd Iwerddon ar gyfer rheoli TB oedd y gallu i ddefnyddio cyfrifiaduron ac olrhain symudiadau gwartheg, ac wedyn gellid dilyn y symudiadau hynny. Os na chaiff pobl fynediad at y band eang ac, yn benodol, at gysylltiadau drwy gyfrifiadur, byddant ar eu colled.

Clywsom yn gynharach gan Lesley Griffiths, yr Aelod Cynulliad dros Wrecsam, nad yw'r ffigurau mor enbyd ag y mae rhai'n dweud. Fodd bynnag, yn ddiweddar, ar un o raglenni *Wales Today* a ddarlledwyd, yr wyf yn credu, tua chwech i wyth wythnos yn ôl, y mater yr oedd y mwyaf o sôn amdano ledled Cymru oedd yr anallu i gael gwasanaethau band eang dichonadwy ac effeithiol. Cymru heddiw oedd hynny, nid Cymru ddoe. Mae'r ffaith bod pobl yn teimlo mor gryf am fater fel eu bod yn codi'r ffôn ac yn cynnig enghreifftiau pendant yn dangos yn glir beth sy'n mynd ymlaen yng Nghymru heddiw.

Mae'r hyn sy'n digwydd o ran cysylltiadau cyfrifiadurol yn bwysig yng nghyd-destun ffyrdd modern o fyw. Gadewch inni ystyried rhai sy'n dilyn cyrsiau'r Brifysgol Agored. Mae'n debyg bod llawer ohonom, yn enwedig yr Aelodau hyn yn y Siambr hon, yn cofio hen wasanaeth BBC 2, lle y darlledid llawer o raglenni'r Brifysgol Agored drwy luniau teledu gronynnaidd am 2 a.m. neu 3 a.m.. Mae gennyf etholwr sy'n gwneud gradd mewn seicoleg. Mae popeth yn dibynnu ar ei gallu i gael mynediad at gyfrifiadur ac at y rhaglenni y mae'r Brifysgol Agored yn eu hanfon ati, drwy gyswllt band eang. Os nad yw pobl yn gallu cael mynediad o'r fath, naceir iddynt y gallu i ddatblygu eu sgiliau a chael ffordd well o fyw.

Euthum ar wyliau'n ddiweddar yn ystod toriad y Pasg i Awstralia—credaf mai dyna pam y mae fy llais yn pallu. Yr oedd yn ddiddorol gweld sut y mae'r Llywodraeth

engaged in making comprehensive broadband available across Australia. It has committed \$958 million to that project—in a country that has a difficult topography—to ensure that everyone on the Australian continent can access broadband connection. If a country such as Australia can do it, then surely a country such as Wales should aspire to do it. I suggest that the Minister and his officials look at how the Australian Government is delivering that ambitious programme. I have heard from my colleague, Mark Isherwood, about the state aid rules. I believe that the Australian Government is looking to deliver its programme via a wireless connection, and there could be complications because of that. I would be interested to hear what the Minister has to say on that.

We must never forget the vast areas of this country that do not have any connection at all. In 2005, I had the pleasure of standing for the Conservatives in Brecon and Radnorshire at the general election. The kind and welcoming messages that the Assembly Member for Brecon and Radnorshire sent the constituents, because of poor broadband connection, were circulated via letters—ones that I carry in my heart today, Kirsty. Time and again in mid and west Wales, people are denied the ability to do things that others in Wales take for granted. We hear time and again in the Chamber that we are a twenty-first century country, and that we want economic prosperity. If businesses are looking to those rural parts of Wales, the first thing that they will look at is the ability to access the internet and broadband connections. If you say, ‘No, we do not have that’, how will you bring employment to those areas?

The other aspect that is of great concern to me, in Cardiff in particular, is service providers’ promises that they will provide equality of broadband. However, once you have signed the contract, you find that it proves to be woefully inadequate. Where is the regulator regulating this market and protecting the consumer? That is a role for Government: to work with the regulator to

ffederal yn Awstralia’n mynd ati i sicrhau bod gwasanaeth band eang cynhwysfawr ar gael ledled Awstralia. Mae wedi neilltuo \$958 miliwn ar gyfer y prosiect hwnnw—mewn gwlad sydd â thirwedd anodd—i sicrhau bod pawb ar gyfandir Awstralia’n gallu cael cysylltiad band eang. Os yw gwlad fel Awstralia’n gallu gwneud hynny, mae’n sicr y dylai gwlad fel Cymru anelu at hynny. Awgrymaf y dylai’r Gweinidog a’i swyddogion edrych ar y modd y mae Llywodraeth Awstralia’n cyflenwi’r rhaglen uchelgeisiol honno. Yr wyf wedi clywed gan fy nghyd-Aelod, Mark Isherwood, am y rheolau ar gymorth gwladwriaethol. Credaf fod Llywodraeth Awstralia’n bwriadu cyflenwi ei rhaglen drwy gyswllt di-wifr, a gallai anawsterau godi oherwydd hynny. Byddai o ddiddordeb imi glywed beth sydd gan y Gweinidog i’w ddweud am hynny.

Ni ddylem byth anghofio am y rhannau helaeth o’r wlad hon sydd heb unrhyw gysylltiadau o gwbl. Yn 2005, cefais y pleser o sefyll dros y Ceidwadwyr ym Mrycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed yn yr etholiad cyffredinol. Yr oedd y negeseuon caredig a chroesawus a anfonodd yr Aelod Cynulliad dros Frycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed at yr etholwyr, oherwydd y cysylltiadau band eang gwael, wedi’u dosbarthu drwy lythyrau—rhai yr wyf yn eu cofio’n annwyl hyd heddiw, Kirsty. Dro ar ôl tro yn y canolbarth a’r gorllewin, naceir i bobl y gallu i wneud pethau y mae eraill yng Nghymru’n eu cymryd yn ganiataol. Clywn dro ar ôl tro yn y Siambr ein bod yn un o wledydd yr unfed ganrif ar hugain, a’n bod am gael ffyniant economaidd. Os yw busnesau’n edrych tua’r rhannau gwledig hynny o Gymru, y peth cyntaf a ystyriant yw’r gallu i gael mynediad i’r rhyngwyd a chysylltiadau band eang. Os dywedwch, ‘Nid yw hynny gennym’, sut y byddwch yn dod â gwaith i’r ardaloedd hynny?

Yr agwedd arall sy’n peri pryder mawr i mi, yng Nghaerdydd yn benodol, yw addewidion gan ddarparwyr gwasanaethau y byddant yn darparu gwasanaethau band eang o’r un safon. Fodd bynnag, wedi ichi lofnodi’r contract, cewch eu bod yn druenus o annigonol. Ym mhle y mae’r corff rheoleiddio sy’n rheoleiddio’r farchnad hon ac yn amddiffyn y defnyddiwr? Mae honno’n

ensure that the consumer is protected. I would welcome the Minister's response to that to see what action he can take to work with the regulator to ensure that the service providers' promises are met, and that consumers are not let down.

4.10 p.m.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Yr wyf yn falch ein bod yn cael cyfle i drafod band eang. Yr ydym wedi clywed gan bob Aelod ar y mater pwysig hwn ac am ba mor bwysig ydyw i unigolion a busnesau. Byddaf yn siarad i'r gwelliant sydd yn cydnabod rhai o'r materion a godwyd gan bob plaid yn y Siambr.

Mae'n drueni bod rhai o gyfraniadau'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol wedi bod yn gamarweiniol ac nid oeddynt yn cydnabod y gwaith a wnaethpwyd hyd yma. Yr ydym yn sylweddoli bod mwy o waith i'w wneud, ond dylai'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol o leiaf gydnabod bod buddsoddiad sylweddol wedi ei wneud i sicrhau bod band eang ar gael mewn rhannau helaeth o Gymru. Yr wyf, felly, yn falch bod cyfraniadau gan Lesley Griffiths ac eraill wedi dangos bod angen cydbwysedd yn y drafodaeth.

O ran pwynt cyntaf y cynnig, mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn cytuno bod band eang yn bwysig i fusnesau a bywyd cymunedol ac, felly, yr ydym yn ei gefnogi. Fel y gwyddoch, mae band eang yn darparu cysylltiad parhaol â'r rhyngwrld sy'n caniatáu defnyddwyr i anfon a derbyn gwybodaeth yn gyflym. Mae'n cael ei gydnabod felly fel un o brif alluogwyr yr economi wybodaeth fyd-eang sy'n ei gwneud yn haws i fusnesau ac unigolion ryngweithio, cydweithio ac arloesi. Yn ôl yr ymchwiliad a wnaethpwyd gan Sefydliad Technoleg Massachusetts yn 2006, mae cymunedau sydd â band eang marchnadoedd torfol yn dangos mwy o dwf cyflym o ran cyflogaeth a gweithgaredd busnes, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y byddem oll yn cytuno â hynny. Dangoswyd hefyd fod band eang yn cael effaith glir ar gynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth, ac mae

rôl i Lywodraeth: gweithio gyda'r corff rheoleiddio i sicrhau bod y defnyddiwr wedi'i amddiffyn. Byddwn yn falch o glywed ymateb y Gweinidog i hynny er mwyn gweld pa gamau y gall eu cymryd i weithio gyda'r corff rheoleiddio i sicrhau y cyflawnir addewidion y darparwyr gwasanaethau, ac nad yw defnyddwyr yn cael cam.

The Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport (Ieuan Wyn Jones): I am glad that we have had the opportunity to discuss broadband. We have heard from every Member on this important matter and about how important it is to individuals and businesses. I will speak to the amendment that recognises some of the issues that have been raised by all parties in the Chamber.

It is a shame that some of the Liberal Democrats' contributions were misleading and did not recognise the work done so far. We realise that there is more work to do but the Liberal Democrats should at least recognise that significant investment has been made to ensure that broadband is available in many parts of Wales. I am, therefore, pleased that contributions from Lesley Griffiths and others have shown that balance is needed in the discussion.

On the motion's first point, the Assembly Government agrees that broadband is important to businesses and community life and, therefore, we support it. As you know, broadband provides a continual connection to the internet that allows users to send and receive information quickly. It is therefore recognised as one of the main enablers of the world-wide knowledge economy that makes it easier for businesses and individuals to network, work together and to be innovative. According to research done by Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2006, communities that have mass market broadband show more of a speedy growth in terms of employment and business activity, and I am sure that we would all agree with that. It was also shown that broadband has a clear impact on gross domestic product, and research by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and

ymchwil gan y Sefydliad ar gyfer Cydweithrediad a Datblygiad Economaidd wedi amcangyfrif y gallai'r arbedion i fusnesau a'r Llywodraeth yn yr Unol Daleithiau, yn sgîl defnyddio band eang, fod cymaint â \$150 biliwn erbyn 2010.

Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn amcangyfrif y gallai'r fantais net i economi Cymru yn sgîl mynediad i fand eang fod o leiaf £1.3 biliwn, a chymaint â £28 biliwn rhwng 2000 a 2015. Mae mynediad i fand eang yn hwyluso gweithio hyblyg—mae'n galluogi pobl i weithio gartref ac felly'n lleihau yr angen iddynt deithio i'r gwaith. Mae manteision amlwg i hynny o ran yr amgylchedd ac o ran arbed amser. Gall band eang hefyd alluogi i wasanaethau gofal iechyd, gwasanaethau addysgu a gwasanaethau cyhoeddus gael eu darparu mewn ffordd fwy hyblyg, arloesol a chynhwysol.

O ran pwynt 2 y cynnig, mae'r Llywodraeth yn derbyn bod aelwydydd nad ydynt yn gallu cael mynediad i fand eang yn bodoli. Bu i nifer o Aelodau gyfeirio at y ffaith nad ydynt yn derbyn yr hyn y mae rhywun yn rhywle wedi dweud, sef bod band eang ar gael yn 99.4 y cant o aelwydydd yng Nghymru. Nid yw'r Llywodraeth yn derbyn y ffigur hwnnw ychwaith. Nid wyf yn siŵr a oes unrhyw un wedi awgrymu mai dyna yw'r sefyllfa heddiw, ond efallai y dylwn gofnodi nad ydym fel Llywodraeth yn derbyn y ffigur ychwaith.

Mae ein gwelliant yn ychwanegu at bwynt gwreiddiol y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, gan gydnabod bod y sefyllfa yn effeithio ar fusnesau hefyd. Yn ogystal, mae'n cydnabod nad oes modd gwybod union nifer a lleoliad yr aelwydydd a'r busnesau hyn. Fel y clywsom gan Nerys, mae'n rhaid cael gwybodaeth ynglŷn â nifer y bobl sy'n methu cael y gwasanaeth cyn gallu dechrau darparu'r gwasanaeth iddynt. Yr ydym wedi sylweddoli bod eisiau symud ymlaen o ran y broses hon.

Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, drwy broses gaffael gystadleuol, wedi dyfarnu cytundeb i BT ddarparu band eang drwy 35 o gyfnewidfydd ffôn nad oedd y diwydiant telathrebu yn ystyried eu bod yn hyfyw yn

Development has estimated that the savings to businesses and the Government in the United States from using broadband could be as much as \$150 billion by 2010.

The Assembly Government estimates that the net advantage to Wales's economy of access to broadband could be at least £1.3 billion, and as much as £28 billion between 2000 and 2015. Access to broadband facilitates flexible working—it enables people to work from home and therefore reduces the need for them to travel to work. There are clear advantages to that in terms of the environment and saving time. Broadband can also enable healthcare services, education services and public services to be provided more flexibly, more innovatively and more inclusively.

On point 2 of the motion, the Government accepts there are homes that cannot gain access to broadband. Several Members referred to the fact that they do not accept what someone somewhere has said about broadband being available in 99.4 per cent of homes in Wales. The Government does not accept that figure either. I am not sure whether anyone has suggested that that is the case today, but perhaps I should place it on record that we as the Government do not accept the figure either.

Our amendment adds to the Liberal Democrats' original point, recognising that the situation affects the position of businesses too. In addition, it recognises that it is not possible to know the exact number and location of these homes and businesses. As we heard from Nerys, we have to have the information regarding the number of people who do not have access to the service before we can look to provide them with it. We realise that we need to move forward in this process.

The Assembly Government, through a competitive procurement process, has drawn up a contract for BT to provide broadband through 35 telephone exchanges that the telecommunications industry did not

economiaidd cyn hynny.

previously consider to be economically viable.

Yn sgîl y buddsoddiad hwn, mae bron 7,500 o aelwydydd a busnesau yng Nghymru bellach yn gallu cael mynediad i fand eang drwy'r cyfnewidfeidd hyn. Yn anffodus, nid mater syml yw cael cysylltiad band eang bob amser. Er bod ymdrechion y farchnad a'r Llywodraeth wedi sicrhau peth llwyddiant gwirioneddol, mae nifer o aelwydydd a busnesau mewn rhai ardaloedd o Gymru, fel yr ydym wedi'i glywed heddiw, yn parhau i'w chael hi'n anodd cael mynediad i wasanaeth band eang sylfaenol. Fel y clywyd yn y ddadl, gelwir y manau hynny yn 'not spots'. Mae'n amhosibl bron rhoi union nifer a lleoliad y not spots, gan nad yw'r problemau'n dod i'r amlwg hyd nes i rywun wneud cais am wasanaethau band eang.

Through this investment, nearly 7,500 homes and businesses in Wales now have access to broadband through these telephone exchanges. Unfortunately, it is not always that easy to get connected to broadband. Although the efforts of the market and the Government have ensured some genuine success, there are many households and businesses in some areas of Wales, as we have heard today, that continue to find it difficult to access basic broadband services. As you heard in the debate, we call these areas 'not spots'. It is almost impossible to pinpoint exactly where and how many not spots there are, because the problems do not manifest themselves until people make a request for broadband services.

O ystyried hynny, yr ydym wedi cymryd camau i nodi'r rhain drwy sefydlu gwefan Broceriaeth Band Eang ar gyfer cofrestru ardaloedd di fand eang. Mae mwy na 1,200 o bobl wedi cofrestru eu manylion hyd yma. Yn ôl data'r diwydiant, gallai hyd at 40,000 o safleoedd ledled Cymru fod yn fannau gwan. Ar hyn o bryd, dyna'r wybodaeth orau sydd ar gael.

Considering that, we have taken steps to note these by establishing a Broadband Brokerage website to register areas that do not broadband. More than 1,200 people have registered their details to date. Through industry data, we know that up to 40,000 areas in Wales could be not spots. That is the best information that we have available at the moment.

Moving to point 3 of our amendment, the Government accepts that our country's challenging topography presents specific challenges to the telecommunications industry's delivery of broadband in certain areas. Therefore, there is a cost attached. Our amendment to point 3 reflects the Government's continued support for the industry in meeting these challenges across Wales. For example, we know that prices for some businesses for broadband services in north Wales are currently up to 6.5 times higher than in London, partly because of the challenges posed by Wales's geography.

Gan symud i bwynt 3 ein gwelliant, mae'r Llywodraeth yn derbyn bod topograffi heriol ein gwlad yn creu heriau penodol i'r diwydiant telathrebu o ran darparu band eang mewn rhai ardaloedd. Felly, mae cost yn gysylltiedig â hynny. Mae ein gwelliant i bwynt 3 yn adlewyrchu cefnogaeth barhaus y Llywodraeth i'r diwydiant o ran goresgyn yr heriau hyn ledled Cymru. Er enghraifft, gwyddom fod y prisiau am wasanaethau band eang i rai busnesau yn y gogledd ar hyn o bryd hyd at 6.5 gwaith yn uwch nag yn Llundain, yn rhannol oherwydd yr heriau sy'n deillio o ddaearyddiaeth Cymru.

The Welsh Assembly Government's FibreSpeed project, as we heard from Lesley, is addressing this problem by making alternative, affordable network infrastructure available to all service providers on an open and equal basis. That will enable them to offer a wide range of highly competitive

Mae prosiect FibreSpeed Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, fel y clywsom gan Lesley, yn mynd i'r afael â'r broblem hon drwy sicrhau bod seilwaith rhwydwaith amgen a fforddiadwy ar gael i bob darparwr gwasanaeth mewn modd agored a chyfartal. Bydd hynny'n eu galluogi i gynnig ystod

broadband services to businesses and other users in targeted locations in north Wales. However, I am pleased to announce today that the Welsh Assembly Government is due shortly—and I think that Mick Bates knows this but did not acknowledge it—to commence a Wales-wide procurement exercise to seek a telecommunications provider or consortium to address the remaining broadband not spots. This will provide a co-ordinated approach to identifying, prioritising and dealing with these difficulties, where it is feasible to do so.

This development will provide a focal point for people who currently feel marginalised because of broadband service difficulties. I take this opportunity to urge everyone who cannot currently access broadband to register on the Assembly Government's Broadband Brokerage website immediately, if possible. In considering solutions, it is important to remember that broadband can be delivered, as we have heard today, through a range of technologies, each with its own merits and limitations. The Welsh Assembly Government has favoured a technology-neutral approach to broadband, believing that that will stimulate innovative solutions from the industry, ensuring that the best solution is identified for each not spot.

I wish to make a further point that, with BT, we will be discussing the introduction of its help in addressing some of the not spot issues. Therefore, in addition to the new procurement contract, we will be working with BT in areas where it has acknowledged it can help. Bringing those two aspects together, we can address this problem.

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

The Deputy First Minister: I had wanted to make a point about new generation broadband, but obviously time has beaten me today.

Kirsty Williams: I thank everyone who contributed to this debate. Today has been a

eang o wasanaethau band eang cystadleuol iawn i fusnesau a defnyddwyr eraill mewn mannau penodol yn y gogledd. Fodd bynnag, mae'n bleser gennyf gyhoeddi heddiw bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru—a chredaf fod Mick Bates yn gwybod am hyn ond ni chydabu hynny—ar fin dechrau ymarfer caffael ledled Cymru i ddod o hyd i ddarparwr neu gonsortium telathrebu i fynd i'r afael â'r ardaloedd digyswllt band eang sy'n weddill. Bydd hyn yn sicrhau ymagwedd gydgyssylltiedig at nodi, blaenoriaethu ac ymdrin â'r anawsterau hyn, lle mae'n ymarferol gwneud hynny.

Bydd y datblygiad hwn yn ganolbwynt i bobl sydd ar hyn o bryd yn teimlo eu bod ar y cyrion oherwydd anawsterau gyda gwasanaeth band eang. Hoffwn gymryd y cyfle hwn i bwysu ar bawb nad oes ganddynt fynediad at fand eang ar hyn o bryd i gofrestru ar wefan Broceriaeth Band Eang Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar unwaith, os yw'n bosibl. Wrth ystyried yr atebion, mae'n bwysig cofio y gellir darparu gwasanaeth band eang, fel y clywsom heddiw, drwy ystod o dechnolegau, pob un â'i rinweddau a'i gyfyngiadau ei hun. Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi ffafrio ymagwedd technoleg niwtral at fand eang, gan ei bod yn credu y bydd yn ysgogi atebion arloesol gan y diwydiant, a sicrhau y canfyddir yr ateb gorau ar gyfer pob ardal ddigyswllt.

Hoffwn wneud pwynt arall sef y byddwn yn trafod, gyda BT, gynllun i gyflwyno ei gymorth o ran mynd i'r afael â rhai o'r problemau gyda'r ardaloedd disgyswllt. Felly, yn ogystal â'r contract caffael newydd, byddwn yn gweithio gyda BT mewn ardaloedd lle y mae wedi cydnabod y gall helpu. Drwy ddod â'r ddwy agwedd honno ynghyd, gallwn fynd i'r afael â'r broblem hon.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: A allwch ddirwyn i ben yn awr, os gwelwch yn dda?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Yr oeddwn am wneud pwynt ynghylch band eang y genhedlaeth newydd, ond mae'n amlwg bod amser wedi fy nhrechu heddiw.

Kirsty Williams: Diolchaf i bawb sydd wedi cyfrannu at y ddadl hon. Mae heddiw wedi

day of firsts: our first LCO was passed; I think it is the first time I have heard an Assembly Member describe themselves as 'obsolete'; and it is the first time that I have seen anyone corpse so badly in the Chamber as Alun Davies did. However, for once, I agree with what Alun Davies said, particularly with regard to future-proofing the system, the accuracy of figures that are currently available and the fact that a broadband exchange simply being enabled does not go far enough towards solving problems for customers who want to access the service.

My colleague, Jenny Randerson, does well to remind us that this problem does not affect only rural areas. Much of the focus of the debate has been on problems in rural areas, but even here, in the capital city of Wales, people have extreme difficulties in accessing the services that they want. I am sure that that is true of other, more urban areas in Wales.

4.20 p.m.

Nerys and Mark made relevant points regarding more general problems with telecommunications. That raises the question of the universal service obligation and the role of the regulator. What is the regulator doing to work with governments to push the industry to solve these problems? All too often, I believe, the regulator is stepping back from its responsibilities rather than driving home the need for private companies to take seriously the problems that their customers are experiencing.

Andrew, please do not tell people that you carry my letters around in your jacket pocket close to your heart; I do not think that it does either of us any good. However, you do well to make the international comparisons. It is not just Australia that is investing heavily in this area; France, Germany, Japan and South Korea are already investing in infrastructure that will see their countries well into the future in this regard. Wales cannot afford to take a step back and concentrate on the

bod yn ddiwrnod o bethau'n digwydd am y tro cyntaf: pasiwyd ein Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol cyntaf; credaf mai dyma'r tro cyntaf imi glywed Aelod o'r Cynulliad yn disgrifio ei hun fel rhywbeth 'darfodedig'; a dyma'r tro cyntaf imi weld unrhyw un yn baglu dros ei eiriau cynddrwg yn y Siambr ag y gwnaeth Alun Davies. Am unwaith, fodd bynnag, cytunaf â'r hyn a ddywedodd Alun Davies, yn arbennig o ran diogelu'r system ar gyfer y dyfodol, cywirdeb y ffigurau sydd ar gael ar hyn o bryd a'r ffaith nad yw sefydlu cyfnewidfa band eang yn mynd yn ddigon pell tuag at ddatrys y problemau i'r cwsmeriaid sydd am gael mynediad i'r gwasanaeth.

Mae fy nghyd-Aelod, Jenny Randerson, yn gwneud yn dda i'n hatgoffa nad dim ond ardaloedd gwledig yr effeithir arnynt gan y broblem hon. Mae'r ddadl wedi canolbwyntio llawer ar y problemau mewn ardaloedd gwledig, ond hyd yn oed yma, ym mhrifddinas Cymru, caiff pobl anawsterau dybryd cael y gwasanaethau y mae eu hangen arnynt. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod hynny'n wir am ardaloedd mwy trefol eraill yng Nghymru.

Gwnaeth Nerys a Mark bwyntiau perthnasol ynghylch problemau mwy cyffredinol gyda thelathrebu. Mae hynny'n codi cwestiwn ynghylch rhwymedigaeth i ddarparu gwasanaeth i bawb a rôl y rheoleiddiwr. Beth mae'r rheoleiddiwr yn ei wneud i weithio gyda llywodraethau i roi pwysau ar y diwydiant i ddatrys y problemau hyn? Yn rhy aml o'r hanner, credaf fod y rheoleiddiwr yn camu'n ôl oddi wrth ei gyfrifoldebau yn hytrach na phwysleisio'r angen i gwmnïau preifat gymryd problemau eu cwsmeriaid o ddifrif.

Andrew, peidiwch â dweud wrth bobl eich bod yn cario fy llythyrau ym mhoced eich siaced yn agos at eich calon; ni chredaf fod hynny'n gwneud lles i'r un ohonom. Fodd bynnag, gwnewch gymariaethau rhyngwladol da. Nid dim ond Awstralia sy'n buddsoddi'n sylweddol yn y maes hwn; mae Ffrainc, yr Almaen, Siapan a De Korea eisoes yn buddsoddi mewn seilwaith a fydd yn paratoi eu gwledydd ar gyfer y dyfodol yn hyn o beth. Ni all Cymru fforddio cymryd cam yn

technology of yesterday, rather than look at the technology of the future so that we can keep pace with these countries.

And Lesley, I am so sorry that we did not wait another three weeks for your report, though I am sure that it will make very interesting reading. You may want just to read about these issues, but I am happier talking to people on the streets about the problems that they are experiencing.

The Welsh Liberal Democrats do not want to wait for a myriad reports; we want to work with your Government to ensure that action is taken. Not a great deal separates us, Ieuan, on this debate. It is curious that your amendment to the motion seeks to remove the reference to local experts and councils, although I welcome your announcement today about the procurement process. I acknowledge that we have gone some way in recent years towards addressing some of the more serious problems that we faced a few years ago. As you acknowledged in your contribution today, you also understand that more can be done. You want to do more, and we want to work with you on achieving that aim for people across Wales. The Welsh economy cannot afford not to move this agenda forward.

It is not only people in rural areas who are experiencing difficulty in accessing services that can help them to expand their business, to develop and sell their products and services in Wales and across the globe; as we have also heard, there is also a social justice agenda to this. The Welsh Consumer Council has acknowledged that those who have access to broadband and information technology are more likely to get their voices heard by Government and by those who make decisions about local services and the various aspects of their lives. As Andrew said, for those people who cannot physically attend a place of education, for whatever reason, a computer offers them an opportunity to learn online, alongside all their other responsibilities.

ôl a chanolbwyntio ar dechnoleg y gorffennol, yn hytrach nag edrych ar dechnoleg y dyfodol er mwyn inni allu datblygu ar yr un cyflymder â'r gwledydd hyn.

A Lesley, mae'n ddrwg gennyf na wnaethom aros dair wythnos arall am eich adroddiad, ond yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd yn ddi-ddorol iawn i'w ddarllen. Efallai mai dim ond darllen am y materion hyn yr ydych am ei wneud, ond yr wyf fi'n hapusach yn siarad â phobl ar y strydoedd ynghylch y problemau a wynebant.

Nid yw Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru am aros am lu o adroddiadau; yr ydym am weithio gyda'ch Llywodraeth i sicrhau y cymerir camau. Nid oes llawer yn ein gwahanu ni, Ieuan, ar y ddadl hon. Mae'n rhyfedd bod eich gwelliant i'r cynnig yn ceisio dileu'r cyfeiriad at arbenigwyr a chynghorau lleol, ond croesawaf eich cyhoeddiad heddiw am y broses gaffael serch hynny. Cydnabyddaf ein bod wedi mynd gam o'r ffordd yn ystod y blynyddoedd diweddar tuag at fynd i'r afael â'r problemau mwy difrifol yr oeddem yn eu hwynebu ychydig flynyddoedd yn ôl. Fel y cydnabuoch yn eich cyfraniad heddiw, yr ydych hefyd yn deall y gellir gwneud rhagor. Yr ydych chi am wneud rhagor, ac yr ydym ni am weithio gyda chi i gyrraedd y nod honno ar gyfer pobl ym mhob cwr o Gymru. Ni all economi Cymru fforddio peidio â symud yr agenda hon yn ei blaen.

Nid dim ond pobl mewn ardaloedd gwledig sy'n cael problemau cael mynediad at wasanaethau sy'n gallu eu helpu i ehangu eu busnes, i ddatblygu a gwerthu eu cynnyrch a'u gwasanaethau yng Nghymru ac ar draws y byd; fel y clywsom, mae agenda cyfiawnder cymdeithasol yn gysylltiedig â hyn hefyd. Mae Cyngor Defnyddwyr Cymru wedi cydnabod bod lleisiau'r rhai a chanddynt fynediad at fand eang a thechnoleg gwybodaeth yn fwy tebygol o gael eu clywed gan y Llywodraeth a chan y rhai sy'n gwneud penderfyniadau am wasanaethau lleol a'r amrywiol agweddau ar eu bywydau. Fel y dywedodd Andrew, i'r bobl hynny na allant fynd i ganolfan addysg, am ba bynnag reswm, mae cyfrifiadur yn rhoi cyfle iddynt ddysgu ar-lein, ochr yn ochr â'u holl gyfrifoldebau eraill.

In respect of consumer deals, I know that some Assembly Members are keen on Amazon, for example, and other internet-based services that offer cheaper products. Those people who have access to those technologies have access to cheaper products. Those who are deprived of that technology are deprived of special deals. Train tickets are one example. If you can access the internet, you are much more likely to obtain a cheap deal on your train ticket. Therefore, the social justice aspect of this is huge.

We want to see investment in the technology of the future right now, and an acknowledgement of the difficulties that we have in Wales in reaching some of those not spots, to ensure that we have a variety of methods in which we can address those problems.

We want to give people the opportunity to improve their skills in these areas, whether they are businesspeople, so that they can learn how the internet can enhance their business, or whether they are individuals, who want to be able to access this technology so that they can make their way in the workplace. We need to invest in people's skills. We cannot afford to fall behind.

On Monday afternoon, I visited a constituent whose husband had bought her a laptop computer for their thirty-ninth wedding anniversary. Her ill health means that it is increasingly difficult for her to travel to see members of her family. That laptop was going to be her window to the world, and her way of communicating with her family spread across Wales and the world. However, because of the infrastructure in that part of mid Wales, and because of BT's intransigence to upgrade the telephone line to her house, the laptop sits unused on the counter. We owe it—

Alun Davies: Will you give way?

Kirsty Williams: Yes.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. You do not have time.

O ran cynigion i gwsmeriaid, gwn fod rhai Aelodau'r Cynulliad yn hoff o Amazon, er enghraifft, a gwasanaethau eraill dros y rhyngwrwyd sy'n cynnig cynnyrch rhatach. Caiff y bobl a chanddynt fynediad at y technolegau hynny fynediad at gynnyrch rhatach. Caiff y bobl sy'n cael eu hamddifadu o'r dechnoleg honno eu hamddifadu o gynigion arbennig. Mae tocynnau trên yn un enghraifft. Os oes gennych fynediad i'r rhyngwrwyd, yr ydych yn llawer mwy tebygol o gael tocyn trên rhad. Felly, mae'r agwedd cyfiawnder cymdeithasol yn enfawr.

Yr ydym am weld buddsoddiad yn nhechnoleg y dyfodol yn cael ei wneud yn awr, a chydabyddiaeth o'r anawsterau sydd gennym yng Nghymru o ran cyrraedd rhai o'r ardaloedd digyswllt hynny, i sicrhau bod gennym amrywiaeth o ddulliau er mwyn mynd i'r afael â'r problemau hynny.

Yr ydym am roi cyfle i bobl wella eu sgiliau yn y meysydd hyn, p'un a ydynt yn bobl fusnes, er mwyn iddynt allu dysgu sut y gall y rhyngwrwyd wella eu busnes, neu p'un a ydynt yn unigolion, sydd am gael mynediad at y dechnoleg hon er mwyn iddynt allu ymdopi yn y gweithle. Mae angen inni fuddsoddi mewn sgiliau pobl. Ni allwn fforddio bod ar ei hôl hi.

Brynhawn dydd Llun, ymwelais ag un o'm hetholwyr. Yr oedd ei gŵr wedi prynu gliniadur iddi yn anrheg i ddathlu 39 mlynedd o fywyd priodasol. Mae ei hiechyd gwael yn golygu ei bod yn mynd yn anos iddi deithio i weld aelodau o'i theulu. Bwriad y gliniadur hwnnw oedd bod yn ffenestr iddi i'r byd, ac yn ffordd iddi gyfathrebu â'i theulu sy'n byw ar hyd a lled Cymru a'r byd. Fodd bynnag, oherwydd y seilwaith yn y rhan honno o'r canolbarth, ac oherwydd bod BT yn gyndyn o ddiweddarau'r llinell ffôn i'w chartref, mae'r gliniadur yn segur ar y bwrdd. Mae'n ddyletswydd arnom—

Alun Davies: A ildiwch?

Kirsty Williams: Gwnaf.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Nid oes amser gennych.

Kirsty Williams: In that case, I will conclude with that.

Kirsty Williams: Os felly, deuaif i ben gyda hynny.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I will defer voting on this item until voting time and, with the agreement of the business managers, I have decided to bring forward the short debate.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Gohiriaf y bleidlais ar yr eitem hon tan yr amser pleidleisio a, chyda chytundeb y rheolwyr busnes, yr wyf wedi penderfynu dod â'r ddatl fer ymlaen.

*Gohiriwyd y pleidleisio tan 5 p.m.
Voting deferred until 5 p.m.*

Datl Fer Short Debate

Rhandiroedd i Bawb Allotments for All

Leanne Wood: I have agreed to allow Eleanor Burnham to contribute to this debate, being the only Member who actually asked.

Leanne Wood: Yr wyf wedi cytuno i ganiatáu i Eleanor Burnham gyfrannu at y ddatl hon, gan mai hi yw'r unig Aelod sydd wedi gofyn am wneud hynny.

At last, people are waking up to the reality of the climate crisis that we face. At the same time, politicians of all parties in the Assembly seem ready to capitalise on this new high level of public awareness to make a real effort to tackle climate change and to protect Wales's environment.

O'r diwedd, mae pobl yn dechrau deffro i realiti'r argyfwng hinsawdd a wynebwn. Ar yr un pryd, ymddengys fod gwleidyddion o bob plaid yn y Cynulliad yn barod i fanteisio ar y lefel uchel newydd hon o ymwybyddiaeth y cyhoedd i wneud ymdrech wirioneddol i fynd i'r afael â newid yn yr hinsawdd a diogelu amgylchedd Cymru.

The new Commission on Climate Change that has been set up has a vital role to play, and we can all look forward to hearing how the commission's proposals will transform Wales. Without these ideas, we run the risk of sleepwalking into an ecological disaster. Today, I want to focus attention on how we can act locally to play our part in fighting this global crisis. When people talk about tackling climate change in the Assembly, in the workplace or on the street, their first thoughts usually turn to carbon emissions and how they can be reduced. However, one aspect of the climate agenda is consideration of how we get our food. We should think much more about how we grow the food that we consume locally.

Mae gan y Comisiwn newydd ar y Newid yn yr Hinsawdd rôl hollbwysig i'w chwarae, a gallwn oll edrych ymlaen at glywed sut y bydd cynigion y comisiwn yn trawsnewid Cymru. Heb y syniadau hyn, yr ydym mewn perygl o gerdded yn ein cwsg i drychineb ecolegol. Heddiw, hoffwn ganolbwytio ar sut y gallwn gymryd camau yn lleol i chwarae ein rhan i ymladd yn y frwydr yn erbyn yr argyfwng byd-eang hwn. Pan fydd pobl yn sôn am fynd i'r afael â newid yn yr hinsawdd yn y Cynulliad, yn y gweithle neu ar y stryd, yr hyn sy'n dod i'w meddwl gyntaf fel arfer yw allyriadau carbon a sut y gellir eu lleihau. Fodd bynnag, un agwedd ar yr agenda newid yn yr hinsawdd yw ystyried sut y cawn ein bwyd. Dylem feddwl llawer mwy am y ffordd y tyfwn y bwyd a fwytawn yn lleol.

If we continue to depend on imported food,

Os parhawn i ddibynnu ar fwyd wedi'i

there are huge implications for its availability, particularly to those people on lowest incomes. Imported food requires oil for its harvesting, production and transportation, yet oil is becoming crippling expensive and difficult to source. If we pay attention to some of the scientists' views, we see that the effects of the threats to peak oil are just around the corner. Against that backdrop of uncertainty, it is essential that we move towards a more sustainable future by maximising the land that we have available in Wales for growing our own food. The economic benefits are obvious: a local food production scheme could empower communities, creating a refreshingly vibrant alternative to the current dominance of our food industry by supermarket giants that, more often than not, put the profit motive before their duty of care for the land, the natural environment and, of course, people.

When I talk of 'growing your own', I am, therefore, suggesting a theme that, if taken up across Wales, could offer local-led regeneration opportunities to communities throughout our nation. I have a vision of local volunteers taking control of plots of land and, with the right support and leadership from local government and the Assembly Government, developing food co-operatives and supply schemes. Growing your own food is already popular. Many local allotments in Wales are oversubscribed, and so a clear national direction is needed if this potential is to be realised.

I also draw Members' attention to the award-winning Riverside market in Cardiff as an example of how popular sustainable food can be. Riverside market has rightly received support from prominent figures in Welsh politics, and a real difference could be made to many more communities if we championed it as a model throughout Wales.

'Permaculture' is the word used to describe the principle of producing food as locally and as sustainably as possible. It is about reusing water, composting waste and using natural resources as opposed to machinery, which takes up energy. Permaculture crops can be

fewnforio, mae goblygiadau enfawr o ran ei argaeledd, yn arbennig i'r bobl hynny ar incwm isel. Mae angen olew ar fwyd wedi'i fewnforio er mwyn ei gynaeafu, ei gynhyrchu a'i gludo, ond mae olew'n ddrud tu hwnt ac yn anodd iawn cael cyflenwad ohono. Os rhoddwn sylw i farn y gwyddonwyr, gwelwn fod effeithiau'r bygythiadau i olew brig ar fin cael eu gwireddu. Yn erbyn cefndir o ansicrwydd, mae'n hanfodol inni symud at ddyfodol mwy cynaliadwy drwy gynyddu i'r eithaf y tir sydd ar gael yng Nghymru ar gyfer tyfu ein bwyd ein hunain. Mae'r manteision economaidd yn amlwg: gallai cynllun cynhyrchu bwyd lleol rymuso cymunedau, a chreu dewis bywiog, amgen i'r archfarchnadoedd enfawr sy'n tra arglwyddiaethu ar ein diwydiant bwyd sydd, yn amlach na pheidio, yn rhoi blaenoriaeth i'w nod o wneud elw yn hytrach na'u dyletswydd gofal at y tir, yr amgylchedd naturiol ac, wrth gwrs, y bobl.

Pan soniaf am 'dyfu eich bwyd eich hun', yr wyf, felly, yn awgrymu thema a allai gynnig cyfleoedd adfywio wedi'u harwain yn lleol i gymunedau ledled ein gwlad, pe câi ei chyflwyno ledled Cymru. Mae gennyf weledigaeth o wirfoddolwyr lleol yn cymryd rheolaeth dros leiniau o dir a, chyd a'r cymorth a'r arweinyddiaeth gywir gan lywodraeth leol a Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, yn datblygu cydweithfeydd a chynlluniau cyflenwi bwyd. Mae tyfu eich bwyd eich hun eisoes yn boblogaidd. Mae llawer o randiroedd yng Nghymru yn orlawn, ac felly mae angen cyfeiriad cenedlaethol clir os am wireddu'r potensial hwn.

Tynnaf sylw'r Aelodau hefyd at farchnad lwyddiannus Glan yr afon yng Nghaerdydd fel enghraifft o ba mor boblogaidd y gall bwyd cynaliadwy fod. Mae marchnad Glan yr afon wedi cael cefnogaeth gan ffigurau amlwg yng ngwleidyddiaeth Cymru, a gellid gwneud gwahaniaeth gwirioneddol i lawer mwy o gymunedau petaem yn ei hyrwyddo fel model ledled Cymru.

'Permafeithrin' yw'r gair a ddefnyddir i ddisgrifio'r egwyddor o gynhyrchu bwyd mor lleol ac mor gynaliadwy â phosibl. Mae'n ymwneud ag aildefnyddio dŵr a defnyddio adnoddau naturiol yn hytrach na pheirianeg, sy'n defnyddio ynni. Gall

profitable, but the motivation for growing our food locally is mainly to put people back in touch with the land, and to enable people to focus on where and how their food is produced.

In the twenty-first century, people are becoming more and more distant from their sources of food due to the forces of globalisation, but turning back to local sources would help to reverse that trend. There would be huge social advantages to promoting localised food production. It is easy to see how food co-operatives can bring local people together, and provide an enterprising and character-building community activity for people to be involved in, particularly if local growing schemes are encouraged and supported in our more deprived areas.

4.30 p.m.

One marginalised group that could reap benefits from local food growing is our young people. They could be granted plots of land where they could learn new skills as they were taught to manage their own land and grow their own food, and they could then share any profits made from the land. At the same time, a proliferation of land set aside for allotments across Wales would allow schools to adopt plots of land and give schoolchildren the opportunity to plant, grow and harvest their own food and then cook them, completing an exciting learning process. Kids love getting their hands in the earth, and growing food from seed is like magic to children. Children in all parts of Wales need to be put back in touch with nature and their local environment.

Our environment is precious to us in Wales. We are a nation that has been shaped by the dramatic landscape that surrounds us. In the past, Wales was sustained by the exploitation of our landscape through the digging up of coal, but, with that era over, we need to look again to our natural environment as the key to Wales's future: this time, in cultivating and nurturing the land on a local and decentralised basis. We face global problems, but, acting locally, we can show that we are playing our part and fighting our little corner. Other places are already showing the way.

cnydau permafeithrin wneud elw, ond cymhelliant pennaf tyfu ein bwyd yn lleol yw rhoi pobl yn ôl mewn cysylltiad â'r tir, a galluogi pobl i ganolbwyntio ar ble y caiff eu bwyd ei gynhyrchu a sut.

Yn yr unfed ganrif ar hugain, mae pobl yn ymbellhau fwyfwy oddi wrth eu ffynonellau bwyd oherwydd grymoedd globaleiddio, ond byddai troi'n ôl at ffynonellau lleol yn helpu i myndroi'r duedd honno. Byddai manteision cymdeithasol enfawr i hybu cynhyrchu bwyd yn lleol. Mae'n hawdd gweld sut y gall cydweithfeydd bwyd ddod â phobl leol ynghyd, a darparu gweithgaredd mentrus i bobl ymwneud ag ef, un sy'n adeiladu cymeriad, yn enwedig os caiff cynlluniau tyfu lleol eu hannog a'u cefnogi yn ein hardaloedd mwy difreintiedig.

Un grŵp ymylol a allai gael budd o dyfu bwyd yn lleol yw ein pobl ifanc. Gellid rhoi lleiniau o dir iddynt lle gallent ddysgu sgiliau newydd wrth gael eu haddysgu i reoli eu tir eu hunain a thyfu eu bwyd eu hunain, ac wedyn gallent rannu unrhyw elw a wneid o'r tir. Ar yr un pryd, byddai'r holl dir sydd wedi'i neilltuo ar gyfer rhandiroedd ledled Cymru yn caniatáu i ysgolion fabwysiadu lleiniau o dir gan roi'r cyfle i blant ysgol blannu, tyfu a chynaeafu eu bwyd eu hunain ac wedyn ei fwyta, gan gwblhau proses ddysgu gyffrous. Mae plant wrth eu bodd yn cael pridd ar eu dwylo, ac mae tyfu bwyd o hedyn fel hud a lledrith i blant. Mae angen i blant ym mhob rhan o Gymru gael eu rhoi'n ôl mewn cysylltiad â natur a'u hamgylchedd lleol.

Mae ein hamgylchedd yn werthfawr i ni yng Nghymru. Yr ydym yn genedl sydd wedi'i ffurfio gan y dirwedd ddramatig sydd o'n cwmpas. Yn y gorffennol, câi Cymru gynhaliath drwy ecsbloetio ein tir i gloddio glo, ond, a'r oes honno ar ben, mae angen inni edrych eto ar ein hamgylchedd naturiol fel yr allwedd i ddyfodol Cymru: y tro yma, wrth drin a meithrin y tir ar sail leol a datganoledig. Yr ydym yn wynebu problemau byd-eang, ond, drwy weithredu'n lleol, gallwn ddangos ein bod yn chwarae ein rhan ac yn ymladd ein cornel fechan ein

According to the WWF, Cuba is the only country in the world that it is currently being developed on a sustainable basis. No other country met the WWF's criteria for sustainability in 2006. Food plays a huge role in Cuba's achievements in this regard. Havana is a city where all land that is too small to house building projects has been designated for use as communal gardens, and it has been called the city that can save the world. It took an economic disaster for Cuba to undergo a food revolution in the 1990s and, from our more privileged position, we in Wales should move towards the Cuban model, slowly at first, but more confidently as we gain experience, so that we can withstand an economic disaster should it come our way. Everyone in Wales who pays electricity bills understands that a fuel crisis is a real possibility. We could try to pre-empt the threat to our food supply by moving food production away from centralised big business sources back to the local level.

Across the water from Cuba, communities in the United States are also taking the lead in promoting local food growing. The GreenThumb community gardens initiative in New York promotes collective responsibility for food production and has been very successful in involving New Yorkers who had never before given their food and its origins a second thought. The health, recreational and financial benefits to these New Yorkers are self-evident. The scheme now has 20,000 members and continues to grow. These might seem like big ideas for Wales, but we have always been a nation that has dared to innovate and have ideas above our station. That is our strength. We already have the expertise, and if local growing is anything, it is cheap. We already have allotments across Wales, but many are under threat rather than being expanded. I have recently been working with a campaign to save the Haigside allotments in Treherbert, in the Rhondda, and we have learned from that campaign that we need political intervention, as well as local leadership, to protect our allotments, particularly those on private land.

hunain. Mae lleoedd eraill eisoes yn dangos y ffordd. Yn ôl yr WWF, Ciwba yw'r unig wlad yn y byd sy'n cael ei datblygu ar sail gynaliadwy ar hyn o bryd. Ni lwyddodd unrhyw wlad arall i gyflawni meini prawf yr WWF ar gyfer cynaliadwyedd yn 2006. Mae bwyd yn chwarae rhan enfawr yn yr hyn a gyflawnwyd gan Ciwba yn hynny o beth. Dinas yw Havana lle mae pob tir sy'n rhy fach i gynnal prosiectau adeiladu wedi'i glustnodi i'w ddefnyddio fel gerddi cymunedol, a dywedwyd mai hon yw'r ddinas a all achub y byd. Trychineb economaidd oedd yr ysgogiad i Giwba gychwyn chwyldro bwyd yn y 1990au ac, o'n sefyllfa fwy breintiedig ni, dylem ni yng Nghymru symud tuag at fodel Ciwba, yn araf deg i ddechrau, ond yn fwy hyderus wrth inni ennill profiad, fel y gallwn wrthsefyll trychineb economaidd pe deuai un i'n rhan. Mae pawb yng Nghymru sy'n talu biliau trydan yn deall bod argyfwng tanwydd yn bosibilrwydd go iawn. Gallem geisio achub y blaen ar y bygythiad i'n cyflenwad bwyd drwy symud y broses gynhyrchu bwyd i ffwrdd oddi wrth fusnesau mawr canoledig yn ôl i'r lefel leol.

Dros y dŵr o Giwba, mae cymunedau yn yr Unol Daleithiau'n arwain y ffordd hefyd gyda hyrwyddo tyfu bwyd yn lleol. Mae menter gerddi cymunedol GreenThumb yn Efrog Newydd yn hyrwyddo cyd-gyfrifoldeb dros gynhyrchu bwyd a bu'n llwyddiannus iawn yn sicrhau cyfranogiad dinasyddion Efrog Newydd nad oeddent erioed wedi meddwl eilwaith am eu bwyd a'i darddiad o'r blaen. Mae'r buddiannau iechyd, hamdden ac ariannol i'r bobl hyn yn hunan-amlwg. Erbyn hyn mae gan y cynllun 20,000 o aelodau ac mae'n dal i dyfu. Efallai yr ymddengys fod y rhain yn syniadau mawr i Gymru, ond yr ydym yn genedl sydd wedi meiddio mentro a chael syniadau uwch na'n safle erioed. Dyna'n cryfder ni. Mae'r arbenigedd gennym yn barod, ac mae tyfu'n lleol yn rhad os nad dim byd arall. Eisoes mae gennym randiroedd ar hyd a lled Cymru, ond mae llawer dan fygythiad yn hytrach na chael eu hehangu. Bùm yn gweithio'n ddiweddar gydag ymgyrch i achub rhandiroedd Haigside yn Nhreherbert, yn y Rhondda, ac yr ydym wedi dysgu o'r ymgyrch hwnnw fod angen ymyriad gwleidyddol, yn ogystal ag arweinyddiaeth leol, i warchod ein

rhandiroedd, yn enwedig y rhai sydd ar dir preifat.

If we can forge a national consensus in Wales in favour of preserving land for local growing schemes, we can rebuild some of the most deprived parts of Wales and place local people in the driving seat, so that they can decide how their food is produced. If we take hold of this opportunity, one day people might refer to a town or a village in Wales as the place that saved the world.

Eleanor Burnham: Thank you very much, Leanne. I commend you on your interesting and radical thoughts. I was brought up on a farm, where we had an orchard and were lucky enough to have fresh fruit and vegetables. In every house that I have owned, I have always produced my own vegetables. My vegetables are in the ground as we speak, ready for harvesting in the summer. Hopefully, we will not have as many slugs as last year—I have given up on brassicas because it was just too much.

I commend you, Leanne, because we all need to look to growing vegetables, fruits and whatever we can in our back gardens—that is the way to go. We should also remember our farmers, because I do not think that Tesco, Sainsbury's and the other supermarkets have had enough pressure put on them to ensure that local Welsh produce, whether from farmers or wherever else, is available.

I certainly agree with you about playing fields, and I also agree that the curriculum in schools should include proper courses on food and cooking. I chair a little charity called Making Tracks, and we work on horticultural therapy for kids who have lost their way in life. There are all sorts of benefits to be had from working with plants, and not just in terms of food. Plants have a therapeutic effect, and there is a lot of evidence for that. I commend you. Thank you for allowing me to speak briefly.

The Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing (Jane Davidson): Thank you, Leanne, for bringing

Os gallwn ffurfio consensws cenedlaethol yng Nghymru o blaid cadw tir ar gyfer cynlluniau tyfu lleol, gallwn ailadeiladu rhai o rannau mwyaf difreintiedig Cymru a rhoi pobl leol wrth y llyw, fel y gallant hwy benderfynu sut y cynhyrchir eu bwyd. Os cydiwn yn y cyfle hwn, un diwrnod gallai pobl gyfeirio at dref neu bentref yng Nghymru fel y lle a achubodd y byd.

Eleanor Burnham: Diolch yn fawr, Leanne. Yr wyf yn eich cymeradwyo am eich syniadau diddorol a radical. Cefais i fy magu ar fferm, lle'r oedd gennym berllan a lle'r oeddem yn ddigon ffodus i gael ffrwythau a llysiau ffres. Ym mhob tŷ yr wyf wedi bod yn berchen arno, yr wyf bob amser wedi cynhyrchu fy llysiau fy hun. Mae fy llysiau yn y pridd rwan hyn, yn barod i'w cynaeafu yn yr haf. Gobeithio na chawn gymaint o falwod ag a gawsom y llynedd—yr wyf wedi rhoi'r gorau i geisio tyfu bresych oherwydd yr oedd yn ormod.

Yr wyf yn eich cymeradwyo, Leanne, oherwydd mae angen inni i gyd ystyried tyfu llysiau, ffrwythau a beth bynnag a allwn yn ein gerddi cefn—dyna'r ffordd i fynd. Dylem gofio ein ffermwyr hefyd, oherwydd nid wyf yn meddwl bod digon o bwysau wedi'u rhoi ar Tesco, Sainsbury's a'r archfarchnadoedd eraill i sicrhau bod cynnyrch lleol Cymru ar gael, boed hynny wedi'i gael oddi wrth ffermwyr neu o ble bynnag arall.

Yr wyf yn cytuno â chi'n bendant ynglŷn â chaeau chwarae, a chytunaf hefyd y dylai'r cwricwlwm yn yr ysgolion gynnwys cyrsiau iawn ar fwyd a choginio. Yr wyf yn gadeirydd ar elusen fach o'r enw Making Tracks, ac yr ydym yn gweithio ar therapi garddio i blant sydd wedi colli'u ffordd mewn bywyd. Mae pob math o fanteision i'w cael o weithio â phlanhigion, ac nid dim ond yn nhermau bwyd. Caiff planhigion effaith therapiwtig, ac mae llawer o dystiolaeth dros hynny. Yr wyf yn eich cymeradwyo. Diolch am ganiatáu imi siarad am ennyd.

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai (Jane Davidson): Diolch, Leanne, am ddod â'r ddadl hon i'r

this debate to the Chamber. I am sure that we all agree that allotments are a good thing. The benefits of community allotments, as you said, include the local production of fresh, often organic, fruit and vegetables. Increasing the amount of food grown and purchased locally, including that grown on allotments, will contribute to a reduction in our ecological footprint by reducing the air and road miles that are associated with food bought in supermarkets. As food and drink make up around 20 per cent of Wales's ecological footprint—one of the Welsh Assembly Government's headline indicators of sustainable development—all contributions to reducing our footprint are welcome.

As part of the programme to make it possible for everyone in Wales to be able to eat food that is healthy, affordable and produced in a sustainable way while supporting a Welsh food industry, we held the Welsh Food Fair last autumn. The feedback is being used to develop an action plan for quality food for all in Wales, which will focus on health, sustainable development, social justice and education. Allotments have a real part to play in delivering this agenda.

You also referred to physical activity, and it is doubly beneficial: it is of benefit to the individuals undertaking it, and it will, hopefully, assist us in meeting the Assembly Government's Health Challenge Wales physical activity targets of 5x30 minutes for adults, and 5x60 minutes for children. In terms of health, being in the outdoors is not just about physical activity. There is good evidence to suggest that being outdoors in the open air has a beneficial effect on mental health and wellbeing. Green exercise can be a great prescription for health.

We have previously provided funding for the development of gardening projects with schools through the voluntary sector grant scheme. There are many examples where this is working effectively. The Appetite for Life initiative, which looks to improve food in schools through a whole-school approach, recommends that schools should be encouraged to take food education seriously,

Siambr. Yr wyf yn siŵr ein bod i gyd yn cytuno bod rhandiroedd yn beth da. Mae buddiannau rhandiroedd cymunedol, fel y dywedasoeh, yn cynnwys cynhyrchu ffrwythau a llysiau ffres, organig yn aml, yn lleol. Bydd cynyddu faint o fwyd a dyfir ac a brynir yn lleol, gan gynnwys bwyd a dyfir ar rhandiroedd, yn cyfrannu at leihau ein hól troed ecolegol drwy leihau'r milltiroedd o deithio awyr a ffordd sy'n gysylltiedig â bwyd a brynir mewn archfarchnadoedd. Gan fod bwyd a diod yn gyfrifol am ryw 20 y cant o ôl troed ecolegol Cymru—un o brif ddangosyddion datblygu cynaliadwy Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru—croesewir pob cyfraniad at leihau ein hól troed.

Fel rhan o'r rhaglen i'w gwneud yn bosibl i bawb yng Nghymru allu bwyta bwyd sydd yn iach, yn fforddiadwy ac wedi'i gynhyrchu mewn modd cynaliadwy tra'n cefnogi diwydiant bwyd Cymreig, cynhaliwyd Ffair Fwyd Cymreig yr hydref diwethaf. Defnyddir yr adborth i ddatblygu cynllun gweithredu ar sicrhau bwyd o ansawdd da i bawb yng Nghymru, a fydd yn canolbwyntio ar iechyd, datblygu cynaliadwy, cyfiawnder cymdeithasol ac addysg. Mae gan rhandiroedd ran wirioneddol i'w chwarae i gyflawni'r agenda hwn.

Cyfeiriasoch at weithgaredd corfforol hefyd, ac mae'n fuddiol mewn dwy ffordd: mae o fudd i'r unigolion sy'n ei wneud, a bydd, gobeithio, yn ein helpu i gyrraedd targedau gweithgarwch corfforol Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn Her Iechyd Cymru, sef 5x30 munud i oedolion a 5x60 munud i blant. Yn nhermau iechyd, nid gweithgarwch corfforol yw unig ddiben bod yn yr awyr agored. Mae tystiolaeth dda i awgrymu bod bod y tu allan yn yr awyr iach yn llesol i iechyd a lles meddyliol. Gall ymarfer gwyrdd fod yn bresgripsiwn gwyh i'r iechyd.

Yn y gorffennol yr ydym wedi darparu cyllid ar gyfer datblygu prosiectau garddio gydag ysgolion drwy gynllun grant y sector gwirfoddol. Ceir sawl enghraifft lle mae hyn yn gweithio'n effeithiol. Mae'r fenter Blas am Oes, sy'n ceisio gwella bwyd mewn ysgolion drwy edrych ar yr ysgol gyfan, yn argymhell y dylid annog ysgolion i gymryd addysg bwyd o ddifrif, gan gynnwys

including food safety. It suggests that this could include growing food in the school grounds, which could complement provision in the curriculum. I have certainly seen, particularly in those schools preparing for the foundation phase pilot, very active school gardens, which we would all strongly encourage. It also provides an opportunity for children to learn about the transformation of vegetable waste into valuable compost—recycling in the raw—and we are very much focused upon food waste issues. Many children are growing fruit and vegetables as part of the eco-schools agenda, and we want all schools in Wales to become eco-schools.

I was interested in your mention of the Riverside farmers' market and community allotments, and I am supportive of that. We have just released a DVD to encourage community activity on climate change, which features both the Riverside farmers' market and community allotments. They are valuable assets for people in the local community, and as the DVD shows, there is a health as well as a social and food benefit. We know that, for many people, allotments are not just a hobby—they are a passion, and an energetic pastime that provides opportunities for socialising and interaction between all age groups, with associated community benefits. They provide green spaces in urban areas and are often more biodiverse than urban parks.

4.40 p.m.

Many of these benefits were recognised as long ago as 1908, when Parliament introduced the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908, which gave allotment authorities—in Wales, these are now county and county borough councils and community councils—a range of powers to provide and maintain allotments for their residents. A series of Acts between 1922 and 1950 provided further powers to local authorities in respect of the provision and protection of allotments in their areas. You referred to the Cuban response in terms of the economic issues and the allotments provision was, in many ways, a response to both world wars. Many people, particularly elderly people who have allotments, still refer to times when they

diogelwch bwyd. Awgryma y gallai hyn gynnwys tyfu bwyd ar dir yr ysgol, a allai ategu darpariaeth y cwricwlwm. Yn sicr yr wyf wedi gweld, yn enwedig yn yr ysgolion hynny sy'n paratoi ar gyfer peilot y cyfnod sylfaen, gerddi ysgol gweithredol iawn, rhywbeth y byddem i gyd yn ei annog yn gryf. Mae'n cynnig cyfle hefyd i blant ddysgu am drawsffurfio gwastraff llysieuol yn gompost gwerthfawr—ailgylchu sylfaenol—a chanolbwyntiwn yn gryf iawn ar faterion gwastraff bwyd. Mae llawer o blant yn tyfu ffrwythau a llysiau fel rhan o'r agenda eco-ysgolion, ac mae arnom eisiau i bob ysgol yng Nghymru fod yn eco-ysgol.

Diddorol oedd eich cyfeiriad at farchnad ffermwyr a rhandiroedd cymunedol Glan yr Afon, ac yr wyf yn gefnogol i hynny. Yr ydym newydd ryddhau DVD i annog gweithgaredd cymunedol ar y newid yn yr hinsawdd, sy'n dangos marchnad ffermwyr Glan yr Afon a'i rhandiroedd cymunedol. Maent yn asedau gwerthfawr i bobl yn y gymuned leol, ac fel y dengys y DVD, mae budd i iechyd yn ogystal â budd cymdeithasol ac o ran bwyd. Gwyddom fod rhandiroedd yn fwy na hobi i lawer o bobl—maent yn ddiddordeb ysol, ac yn weithgaredd egnïol sy'n rhoi cyfleon i gymdeithasu a ffurfio perthynas rhwng pobl o bob oed, gyda buddiannau cysylltiedig i'r gymuned. Darparant fannau gwyrdd mewn ardaloedd trefol ac yn aml maent yn fwy bioamrywiol na pharciau trefol.

Cydnabuwyd llawer o'r buddiannau hyn cyn belled yn ôl â 1908, pan gyflwynodd y Senedd Ddeddf Mân-ddaliadau a Rhandiroedd 1908, a roddodd i awdurdodau rhandiroedd—yng Nghymru, cynghorau sir a bwrdeistref sirol a chynghorau cymuned yw'r rhain bellach—amrediad o bwerau i ddarparu a chynnal rhandiroedd i'w trigolion. Cafwyd cyfres o Ddeddfau rhwng 1922 a 1950 a roddodd bwerau pellach i awdurdodau lleol ynglŷn â darparu a gwarchod rhandiroedd yn eu hardaloedd. Cyfeiriasoch at ymateb Ciwba yn nhermau'r materion economaidd ac yr oedd darparu rhandiroedd yma, mewn nifer o ffyrdd, yn ymateb i'r ddau ryfel byd. Mae llawer o bobl, yn enwedig pobl oedranus sydd â rhandiroedd, yn dal i sôn am adegau y

dug for victory.

It is important to say that all this legislation and the various forms of protection provided apply only to allotments acquired or appropriated by local authorities—usually referred to as statutory allotments—and do not apply to allotments that are provided on privately owned land. Such allotments are occupied in accordance with agreements reached between the landowner and the allotment holders. Those agreements are subject to the usual landowner-and-tenant regime. Disputes between allotment holders and the landowner relating to private allotments are civil matters and Welsh Ministers cannot intervene.

In a situation where a landowner has indicated that they intend bringing to the end the use of their land for allotment purposes, the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908, the Allotments Act 1922 and the Allotments Act 1950 can provide a solution for the displaced allotment holders. Section 23 of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 provides that where a community council or meeting, or the county or county borough council, believes that there is a demand for allotments, they are under an obligation to provide sufficient plots for residents. Written representations demonstrating that there is a demand can be made by any six registered parliamentary electors or council tax payers and such representations must be taken into account by the appropriate council.

Section 25 of the same Act enables county and county borough councils to purchase or lease land, or to acquire land compulsorily, for allotment use. Any compulsory acquisition of land would be subject to the confirmation of that acquisition by Welsh Ministers and to the payment of compensation, by the council, to the landowner. Whether that action would be appropriate in any particular situation would be a matter entirely for the appropriate council to consider and because of the role of Welsh Ministers should compulsory acquisition be sought, it is not something on which I could comment.

There is no provision in the legislation that

buont yn palu dros fuddugoliaeth.

Mae'n bwysig dweud mai dim ond rhandiroedd sydd wedi'u prynu neu eu meddiannu gan awdurdodau lleol—a elwir fel arfer yn rhandiroedd statudol—sy'n gynwysedig gan yr holl ddeddfau hyn a'r amryfal ffurfiau ar warchodaeth a ddarperir, ac nad ydynt yn berthnasol i rhandiroedd a ddarperir ar dir preifat. Defnyddir y rhandiroedd hynny yn unol â chytundebau a wneir rhwng perchennog y tir a deiliaid y rhandiroedd. Mae'r cytundebau hynny'n perthyn i'r drefn arferol rhwng tiffeddiannwr a thenant. Materion sifil yw anghydfodau rhwng deiliaid rhandiroedd a'r tiffeddiannwr ar rhandiroedd preifat, ac ni all Gweinidogion Cymru ymyrryd.

Mewn sefyllfa lle mae perchennog tir wedi mynegi bwriad i roi terfyn ar ddefnydd eu tir at ddibenion rhandiroedd, gall Deddf Mân-ddaliadau a Rhandiroedd 1908, Deddf Rhandiroedd 1922 a Deddf Rhandiroedd 1950 ddarparu ateb i'r deiliaid rhandiroedd a gaiff eu dadleoli. Dan ddarpariaeth adran 23 o Ddeddf Mân-ddaliadau a Rhandiroedd 1908, lle cred cyfarfod neu gyngor cymuned, neu'r cyngor sir neu fwrdeistref sirol, fod galw am rhandiroedd, maent dan rwymedigaeth i ddarparu lleiniau digonol i'r trigolion. Gellir gwneud ceisiadau ysgrifenedig yn dangos bod galw'n bodoli gan unrhyw chwe etholwr seneddol cofrestredig neu dalwr treth gyngor a rhaid i'r cyngor priodol roi ystyriaeth i'r cyfryw geisiadau.

Mae adran 25 o'r un Ddeddf yn galluogi cyngorau sir a bwrdeistref sirol i brynu neu brydlesu tir, neu i brynu tir drwy orfodaeth, at ddefnydd rhandiroedd. Byddai unrhyw brynant tir gorfodol yn amodol ar gadarnhad gan Weinidogion Cymru o'r pryniant hwnnw, ac ar dalu iawndal, gan y cyngor, i berchennog y tir. Mater yn llwyr i'r cyngor priodol ei ystyried fyddai penderfynu a fyddai'r cam hwnnw'n briodol mewn unrhyw sefyllfa benodol, ac oherwydd rôl Gweinidogion Cymru pe ceisid pryniant gorfodol, nid yw'n rhywbeth y gallwn i roi sylw arno.

Nid oes dim darpariaeth yn y ddeddfwriaeth a

would enable Welsh Ministers to direct councils to acquire land compulsorily for use as allotments or for Welsh Ministers to compulsorily acquire land for use as allotments. However, should a council acquire or appropriate land for use as allotments, its use would be subject to the protections afforded by section 8 of the Allotments Act 1925. That section provides that land so acquired by a local authority cannot be disposed of for any other purpose without the consent of the Welsh Ministers. In considering applications from local authorities for such consent, Welsh Ministers cannot have any regard to the merits or demerits of the proposed alternative use of the land when compared to its use as allotments. Rather, Welsh Ministers must have regard to what provision would be made for displaced plot holders, the availability of allotments in the locality, the demand for allotments in the locality and what steps were taken by the local authority to promote the use of allotments and to identify their availability. I can tell you now that the consent of Welsh Ministers to the disposal of land for use other than as allotments is unlikely to be given, if there remains a demand for allotments in the locality.

The provision of allotments is almost entirely a matter for local authorities, with the role of Welsh Ministers limited to considering applications made under section 8 of the 1925 Act. Allotments raise local issues that local authorities are best placed to consider. They have the discretion to tailor provision and lettings to local needs, instead of having to follow a set of national rules that might not suit local requirements. From a town and country planning perspective, the use of land as allotments falls within the definition of agriculture, which planning legislation states does not involve development of land; consequently, it does not require planning permission. However, the erection of any sheds on the land, for instance, may need planning permission, depending on their size.

Our planning policy in relation to the development of land being used as allotments is stated in 'Planning Policy Wales', the

fyddai'n galluogi Gweinidogion Cymru i gyfarwyddo cynghorau i brynu tir yn orfodol i'w ddefnyddio fel rhandiroedd nac i Weiniogion Cymru brynu tir yn orfodol i'w ddefnyddio fel rhandiroedd. Fodd bynnag, petai cyngor yn prynu neu'n meddiannu tir i'w ddefnyddio fel rhandiroedd, byddai ei ddefnydd yn amodol ar y mesurau gwarchod a ddarperir gan adran 8 Deddf Rhandiroedd 1925. O dan yr adran honno, ni all tir a brynir felly gan awdurdod lleol gael ei waredu ar gyfer unrhyw ddiben arall heb gydsyniad Gweinidogion Cymru. Wrth ystyried ceisiadau gan awdurdodau lleol am gydsyniad o'r fath, ni all Gweinidogion Cymru roi unrhyw ystyriaeth i rinweddau neu anrhinweddau'r defnydd amgen a gynigir i'r tir mewn cymhariaeth a'i ddefnydd fel rhandiroedd. Yn hytrach, rhaid i Weiniogion Cymru ystyried pa ddarpariaeth a wneid i ddeiliaid lleiniau a ddadleolid, pa rhandiroedd a fyddai ar gael yn yr ardal, y galw am rhandiroedd yn yr ardal a pha gamau a gymerwyd gan yr awdurdod lleol i hyrwyddo defnydd rhandiroedd ac i hysbysu eu bod ar gael. Gallaf ddweud wrthyhych yn awr fod cydsyniad Gweinidogion Cymru i waredu tir ar gyfer defnydd arall yn lle rhandiroedd yn annhebygol o gael ei roi, os erys galw am rhandiroedd yn yr ardal.

Mater i awdurdodau lleol bron yn gyfan gwbl yw darparu rhandiroedd, ac mae rôl Gweinidogion Cymru'n gyfyngedig i ystyried ceisiadau a wneir dan adran 8 Deddf 1925. Mae rhandiroedd yn codi cwestiynau lleol y mae awdurdodau lleol yn y safle gorau i'w hystyried. Mae ganddynt hwy'r disgrisiwn i deilwra'r ddarpariaeth a'r gosod i anghenion lleol, yn lle gorfod dilyn set o reolau cenedlaethol na fyddai o reidrwydd yn gweddu i'r gofynion lleol. O safbwynt cynllunio gwlad a thref, mae defnyddio tir fel rhandiroedd yn dod o fewn y diffiniad o amaethyddiaeth, a dywed deddfwriaeth cynllunio nad yw hynny'n golygu datblygu tir; felly, nid oes rhaid cael caniatâd cynllunio arno. Fodd bynnag, gallai fod angen caniatâd cynllunio, er enghraifft, i godi unrhyw siediau ar y tir, yn dibynnu ar eu maint.

Mae ein polisi cynllunio yng nghyswllt datblygu tir i gael ei ddefnyddio fel rhandiroedd wedi cael ei ddatgan yn 'Polisi

policy being:

‘Allotments should be retained, particularly where they have an important open space function and contribute to sustainable development. A proposal to appropriate or dispose of statutory allotments for a different use would usually require the local authority to apply for the consent of the Assembly under Section 8 of the Allotments Act 1925’.

It is a short, but clear, policy, and local planning authorities are expected to have regard to it.

To conclude, where allotments are on land owned by county, community or county borough councils, substantial safeguarding provisions are in place. Where the allotments are on land owned privately, similar provisions are not in place, and the landowner may cease this use after following the appropriate procedures. While the local community may object to this, other mechanisms under the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908, sections 23 and 25, can assist those seeking to secure alternative allotment provision. I suggest and hope that communities interested in securing either alternative or additional allotments investigate and utilise existing legislation, the result of which would be more allotments in Wales, as there are now substantial waiting lists for many of them.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. As voting time is at 5 p.m., I will adjourn the meeting and ring the bell at 4.55 p.m., so that the vote can take place immediately at 5 p.m..

Cynllunio Cymru’, a’r polisi yw:

Dylid cadw rhandiroedd, yn enwedig lle mae ganddynt swyddogaeth bwysig fel mannau agored a lle maent yn cyfrannu at ddatblygu cynaliadwy. Fel rheol, yn achos cynnig i feddiannu neu gael gwared â rhandiroedd statudol at ddibenion gwahanol, byddai gofyn i’r awdurdod lleol wneud cais am ganiatâd y Cynulliad o dan Adran 8 o Ddeddf Rhandiroedd 1925.

Mae’n bolisi byr, ond clir, ac mae disgwyl i awdurdodau cynllunio lleol roi sylw iddo.

I gloi, lle mae rhandiroedd ar dir sy’n eiddo i gynghorau sir, cymuned neu fwrdeistref sirol, mae darpariaethau diogelu sylweddol yn bod. Lle mae rhandiroedd ar dir sydd mewn meddiant preifat, nid oes darpariaethau tebyg yn bod, a gallai’r tiffeddiannwr ddod â’r defnydd hwn i ben ar ôl dilyn y gweithdrefnau priodol Er bod modd i’r gymuned leol wrthwynebu hyn, gall mecanweithiau eraill o dan Ddeddf Tyddynnod a Rhandiroedd 1908, adrannau 23 a 25, helpu’r rhai sy’n ceisio sicrhau darpariaeth rhandiroedd amgen. Awgrymaf fod cymunedau sydd â diddordeb mewn sicrhau un ai rhandiroedd amgen neu rhandiroedd ychwanegol yn ymchwilio ac yn defnyddio’r ddeddfwriaeth bresennol, a gobeithiaf y gwnânt hynny, a’r canlyniad fyddai mwy o rhandiroedd yng Nghymru, gan fod rhestrau aros sylweddol am lawer ohonynt erbyn hyn.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Gan mai 5 p.m. yw’r cyfnod pleidleisio, yr wyf am ohirio’r cyfarfod a chanu’r gloch am 4.55 p.m., fel y gallwn gynnal y bleidlais yn brydlon am 5 p.m.

*Gohiriwyd y Cyfarfod Llawn rhwng 4.47 p.m. a 5 p.m.
Plenary was adjourned between 4.47 p.m. and 5 p.m.*

*Gwelliant 1 i NDM3902: O blaid 25, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 29.
Amendment 1 to NDM3902: For 25, Abstain 0, Against 29.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Chapman, Christine

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

Asghar, Mohammad
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter

Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Alun
 Davies, Andrew
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Griffiths, Lesley
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 James, Irene
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Law, Trish
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Gwenda

Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Burns, Angela
 Davies, Andrew R.T.
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Davies, Paul
 Evans, Nerys
 Franks, Chris
 German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Lloyd, David
 Melding, David
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Ramsay, Nick
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty
 Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 2 i NDM3902: O blaid 37, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 17.
 Amendment 2 to NDM3902: For 37, Abstain 0, Against 17.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
 Asghar, Mohammad
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Alun
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Evans, Nerys
 Franks, Chris
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Griffiths, Lesley
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 James, Irene
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri

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

Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Burns, Angela
 Davies, Andrew R.T.
 Davies, Paul
 German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Law, Trish
 Melding, David
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Ramsay, Nick
 Randerson, Jenny
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

Neagle, Lynne
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment carried.*

Motion NDM3902 as amended: that

Cynnig NDM3902 fel y'i diwygiwyd: bod

the National Assembly for Wales agrees that the UK Government should halt the closure of any post office in Wales that has a viable future.

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru'n cytuno y dylai Llywodraeth y DU roi diwedd 'gau unrhyw swyddfa bost yng Nghymru sydd â dyfodol hyfyw.

*Cynnig NDM3902 fel y'i diwygiwyd: O blaid 51, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion NDM3902 as amended: For 51, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammad
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Paul
Evans, Nerys
Franks, Chris
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Isherwood, Mark
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David

Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Ramsay, Nick
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Kirsty
 Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd cynnig NDM3902 fel y'i diwygiwyd.
 Motion NDM3902 as amended carried.*

*Gwelliant 1 i NDM3903: O blaid 38, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 16.
 Amendment 1 to NDM3903: For 38, Abstain 0, Against 16.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
 Asghar, Mohammad
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Alun
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Evans, Nerys
 Franks, Chris
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Griffiths, Lesley
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 James, Irene
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Law, Trish
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Wood, Leanne

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

Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Burns, Angela
 Davies, Andrew R.T.
 Davies, Paul
 German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Melding, David
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Ramsay, Nick
 Randerson, Jenny
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment carried.*

Motion NDM3903 as amended: that

the National Assembly for Wales:

1) recognises the importance of broadband to individuals and to the survival and prosperity of businesses in Wales;

2) recognises that there are households and businesses in Wales that are still unable to access a broadband connection;

3) calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to continue to support the industry in identifying and solving the challenges of delivering broadband across different terrains in Wales;

4) calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to encourage and work with the industry and local partners to develop tailored solutions for solving broadband not spots in their area;

5) calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to encourage the communications regulator, Ofcom, to ensure that the regulatory environment enables the industry to deliver high bandwidth, affordable broadband to homes and businesses in Wales.

Cynnig NDM3903 fel y'i diwygiwyd: bod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1) yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd band eang i unigolion ac i oroesiad a ffyniant busnesau yng Nghymru;

2) yn cydnabod bod cartrefi a busnesau yng Nghymru na allant o hyd gael gafael ar gyswllt band eang;

3) yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i barhau i gefnogi'r diwydiant i adnabod a datrys sialensiau darparu band eang ar draws gwahanol diroedd yng Nghymru;

4) yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i annog a chefnogi'r diwydiant a phartneriaid lleol i ddatblygu atebion wedi'u teilwra ar gyfer datrys manau heb gysylltiad band eang yn eu hardal;

5) yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i annog rheoleiddiwr y diwydiant cyfathrebu, Ofcom, i sicrhau bod yr amgylchedd rheoleiddiol yn galluogi'r diwydiant i ddarparu band eang fforddiadwy lled band uchel i gartrefi a busnesau yng Nghymru.

Cynnig NDM3903 fel y'i diwygiwyd: O blaid 44, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 10.

Motion NDM3903 as amended: For 44, Abstain 0, Against 10.

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

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammad
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Jocelyn
Evans, Nerys
Franks, Chris
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane

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

Bourne, Nick
Burns, Angela
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Paul
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Ramsay, Nick
Williams, Brynle

James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd cynnig NDM3903 fel y'i diwygiwyd.
Motion NDM3903 as amended carried.*

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

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5.02 p.m.
The meeting ended at 5.02 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)