



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

**Cofnod y Trafodion
The Record of Proceedings**

**Dydd Mercher, 25 Mehefin 2008
Wednesday, 25 June 2008**

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

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

*Cyfarfu'r Cynulliad am 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 Cwnsler Cyffredinol ac Arweinydd y Tŷ
Questions to the Counsel General and Leader of the House

Framework Powers for Wales

Pwerau Fframwaith i Gymru

Q1 The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrat Group (Michael German): Has the Counsel General made any assessment of the potential for framework powers for Wales in the draft Queen's Speech made by Gordon Brown last month? OAQ(3)0105(CGE)

C1 Arweinydd Grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Michael German): A yw'r Cwnsler Cyffredinol wedi gwneud asesiad o'r posibilrwydd o gael pwerau fframwaith i Gymru yn sgil y drafft o Araith y Frenhines a wnaed gan Gordon Brown fis diwethaf? OAQ(3)0105(CGE)

The Counsel General and Leader of the House (Carwyn Jones): It is a matter for individual portfolio Ministers to assess which areas might lead to future framework legislation.

Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol ac Arweinydd y Tŷ (Carwyn Jones): Mater i Weinidogion sydd â phortffolio unigol yw asesu pa feysydd a all arwain at ddeddfwriaeth fframwaith yn y dyfodol.

Michael German: Do you not think that it would be appropriate that the Welsh Assembly Government should have available to it a comprehensive list of the powers that could be drawn down from the Bills that will come before Parliament, both in terms of what you might, in loose terms, be able to hang on a Bill—in other words, where something might be associated to the Bill—and in terms of those matters that relate directly to powers that Parliament is seeking to acquire through the Bill? Should the Welsh Assembly Government not have available to it a mass of opportunities from which it can select? In other words, is this not a role for the Counsel General to play?

Michael German: Onid ydych yn meddwl y byddai'n briodol y dylai bod gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru restr gynhwysfawr o'r pwerau y gellid eu cymryd o'r Mesurau a ddaw gerbron Senedd Lloegr, o ran beth y gallasech, a dweud yn syml, ei ychwanegu at Fesur—mewn geiriau eraill, lle gellid cysylltu rhywbeth â'r Mesur—ac o ran y materion hynny sy'n ymwneud yn uniongyrchol â'r pwerau y mae Senedd Lloegr yn ceisio'u cael drwy gyfrwng y Mesur? Oni ddylai fod gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru gyfleoedd lu i ddewis ohonynt? Mewn geiriau eraill, onid swyddogaeth i'r Cwnsler Cyffredinol yw hon?

Carwyn Jones: When any Bill is presented to Parliament we investigate whether there are any framework powers that we would wish to acquire. There are many ways in which matters can be inserted into fields in schedule 5 to the Government of Wales Act 2006. The most familiar way to us in the Assembly would be via a legislative competence Order, but it is also open to us to seek framework powers via Bills that are presented to Parliament. That is something that is investigated closely.

Carwyn Jones: Pan gyflwynir unrhyw Fesur i Senedd Lloegr, byddwn yn ymchwilio a oes unrhyw bwerau fframwaith y byddem yn dymuno'u cael. Mae nifer o ffyrdd o gynnwys materion mewn meysydd yn atodlen 5 Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006. Y ffordd fwyaf cyfarwydd i ni yn y Cynulliad fyddai drwy gyfrwng Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol, ond gallwn hefyd geisio pwerau fframwaith drwy gyfrwng Mesurau a gyflwynir i Senedd Lloegr. Mae hwnnw'n rhywbeth yr ymchwilir yn fanwl iddo.

Alun Ffred Jones: Sawl gwaith mae'r Llywodraeth wedi ceisio pwerau fframwaith ers i Ddeddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006 gael ei phasio?

Alun Ffred Jones: How many times has the Government sought framework powers since the Government of Wales Act 2006 was passed?

Carwyn Jones: Yr ydym yn ystyried sawl maes ar hyn o bryd, gan gynnwys maes yr amgylchedd. Nid yw'n bosibl i mi roi ffigur ar hyn o bryd ynglŷn â faint o bwerau fframwaith a allai ddod i'r Cynulliad, ond, wrth gwrs, bob tro y bydd Mesur yn dod gerbron San Steffan, yr ydym yn edrych i weld pa rannau ohono y gellid eu defnyddio er mwyn i ni gael pwerau fframwaith.

Carwyn Jones: We are looking at a number of fields at present, including the field of the environment. It is not possible to give a figure at present on how many framework powers could come to the Assembly, but, of course, every time a Bill comes before Westminster, we look to see which parts of it would be possible to use to acquire framework powers.

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Faterion Gwledig
Questions to the Minister for Rural Affairs

Diversification of the Farming Industry

Arallgyfeirio yn y Diwydiant Ffermio

Q1 Chris Franks: Will the Minister make a statement on the diversification of the farming industry? OAQ(3)0398(RAF)

C1 Chris Franks: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am arallgyfeirio yn y diwydiant ffermio? OAQ(3)0398(RAF)

The Minister for Rural Affairs (Elin Jones): Diversification can contribute to the profitability of a farm enterprise but is not an option that is readily available to all. The latest data available indicate that 20 per cent of farms had diversified activity in 2006-07. The rural development plan can guide and support farm diversification actions.

Y Gweinidog dros Faterion Gwledig (Elin Jones): Gall arallgyfeirio gyfrannu at broffidioldeb menter fferm ond nid yw'n opsiwn sydd ar gael yn rhwydd i bawb. Dengys y data diweddaraf bod 20 y cant o ffermydd wedi arallgyfeirio mewn rhyw ffordd yn 2006-07. Gall y cynllun datblygu gwledig roi arweiniad a chefnogaeth i ffermydd wrth iddynt fynd ati i arallgyfeirio.

Chris Franks: Minister, you launched a farming strategy at the Really Welsh Trading Company Ltd at Llantwit Major recently. How does this company show the way forward for the farming industry? In what ways can the Government encourage diversification to ensure a vibrant rural economy?

Chris Franks: Weinidog, gwnaethoch lansio strategaeth ffermio yng nghwmni'r Really Welsh Trading Company Cyf yn Llanilltud Fawr yn ddiweddar. Sut mae'r cwmni hwn yn dangos y ffordd ymlaen ar gyfer y diwydiant ffermio? Ym mha ffyrdd y gall y Llywodraeth annog arallgyfeirio er mwyn sicrhau economi wledig lewyrchus?

Elin Jones: I visited the Really Welsh Trading Company Ltd in Llantwit Major, to launch the consultation on my farming and food strategy. I was particularly impressed by the company, its development of fruit and vegetable growing in particular and its direct sales to large retailers. In response to your question, I would highlight something that I have mentioned on several occasions, namely the need to ensure that Wales, as a food-producing nation, produces a variety of

Elin Jones: Ymwelais â'r Really Welsh Trading Company Cyf yn Llanilltud Fawr i lansio'r ymgynghoriad ar fy strategaeth ffermio a bwyd. Cafodd y cwmni gryn argraff arnaf, yn enwedig o ran y ffordd y mae wedi datblygu i dyfu ffrwythau a llysiau a'r ffordd y mae'n gwerthu'n uniongyrchol i adwerthwyr mawr. I ateb eich cwestiwn, byddwn yn tynnu sylw at rywbeth yr wyf wedi'i grybwyll droeon, sef mae angen sicrhau bod Cymru, fel gwlad sy'n cynhyrchu

foods. In the past, agricultural support systems have consolidated our food product to the red meat and dairy sectors, and we must ensure that, in many places in Wales where there is an ability to produce a variety of food forms, farmers take up that opportunity.

Darren Millar: Minister, do you agree that there is a great deal of scope for diversification for Welsh farmers under common agricultural policy reforms, so that they can actively manage, for example, water run-off from their land, and, in doing so, help to reduce the risk of flooding across Wales? If you agree, what action are you taking to ensure that the role of farmers in helping to reduce flood risk to homes, businesses and critical infrastructure is adequately rewarded through funding available through your department?

Elin Jones: The role and use of agricultural land for water management purposes has now been recognised in the EU CAP health check proposals, and I am interested in using Welsh land for the purposes of mitigating floods downstream. I recently visited the Pontbren group of farmers in north Powys, who are being funded by the Assembly Government to undertake pilot work on the use of their land for water runoff mitigation purposes. Their work is being evaluated and is posing some interesting questions and challenges to Government in the future designing of land-use policies. The review of the rural development plan will be an opportunity to look creatively at this potential.

Blaenoriaethau ar gyfer Datblygu Gwledig

C2 Paul Davies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad sy'n amlinellu blaenoriaethau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer datblygu gwledig dros y 12 mis nesaf? OAQ(3)0354(RAF)

Elin Jones: Mae 'Cymru'n Un' yn amlinellu polisiau a blaenoriaethau'r Llywodraeth ar gyfer Cymru gynaliadwy a llewyrchus. O fewn fy mhortffolio, mae'r rhain yn cynnwys gweithredu o dan y cynllun datblygu

bwyd, yn cynhyrchu amrywiaeth o fwydydd. Yn y gorffennol, mae systemau cefnogi amaethyddol wedi cyfnerthu ein cynnyrch bwyd yn y sector cig coch a'r sector llaeth, a rhaid inni sicrhau bod ffermwyr, mewn llawer ardal yng Nghymru sy'n gallu cynhyrchu amrywiol fathau o fwydydd, yn manteisio ar y cyfle hwnnw.

Darren Millar: Weinidog, a ydych yn cytuno bod diwygiadau yn y polisi amaethyddol cyffredin wedi rhoi cryn gyfle i ffermwyr Cymru arallgyfeirio, er mwyn iddynt, er enghraifft, allu rheoli'r dŵr sy'n llifo oddi ar eu tir ac, wrth wneud hynny, helpu i leihau perygl llifogydd ledled Cymru? Os ydych yn cytuno, pa gamau yr ydych yn eu cymryd i sicrhau bod rôl ffermwyr yng ngwaith helpu i leihau perygl llifogydd i gartrefi, i fusnesau ac i seilwaith hanfodol, yn cael ei gwobrwyo'n briodol drwy gyllid sydd ar gael drwy'ch adran?

Elin Jones: Mae rôl tir amaethyddol ar gyfer dibenion rheoli dŵr, a'r modd y'i defnyddir ar gyfer hynny, bellach wedi cael eu cydnabod yng nghynigion archwiliad iechyd PAC yr Undeb Ewropeaidd, ac mae gennyf ddi-ddordeb mewn defnyddio tir Cymru at ddibenion lliniaru llifogydd i lawr yr afonydd. Yn ddiweddar, ymwelais â grŵp o ffermwyr ym Mhontbren yng ngogledd Powys sy'n cael arian gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad i ymgymryd â gwaith peilot ar ddefnyddio'u tir er mwyn lleihau faint o ddŵr sy'n llifo oddi arno. Mae eu gwaith yn cael ei werthuso ac yn codi rhai cwestiynau a heriau diddorol i'r Llywodraeth o ran llunio polisiau defnyddio tir yn y dyfodol. Bydd adolygiad y cynllun datblygu gwledig yn gyfle i edrych yn greadigol ar y posibilrwydd hwn.

Priorities for Rural Development

Q2 Paul Davies: Will the Minister make a statement outlining the Welsh Assembly Government's priorities for rural development for the next 12 months? OAQ(3)354(RAF)

Elin Jones: 'One Wales' sets out the Government's policies and priorities for a sustainable and prosperous Wales. Within my portfolio, those include actions under the rural development plan. Last week, £48

gwledig. Yr wythnos diwethaf, dyfarnwyd £48 miliwn ar gyfer prosiectau lleol o dan y cynllun datblygu gwledig.

Paul Davies: Mae amaethyddiaeth yn chwarae rôl allweddol wrth gefnogi ein cymunedau gwledig. Fel y gwyr y Gweinidog, mae cwmnïau fel First Milk yn cefnogi'r sector amaethyddol drwy brynu llaeth oddi wrth ffermwyr lleol a'i brosesu'n lleol. Mewn cyfarfod a gefnogais yn y Cynulliad rai wythnosau yn ôl, lansiodd y cwmni gaws o sir Benfro, sy'n cael ei gynhyrchu yn Hwlfordd drwy ddefnyddio llaeth lleol. Mae hon yn enghraifft dda o orffen cynnyrch yn nes at giât y fferm gan roi ystyriaeth, felly, i filltiroedd bwyd. Mae'r ffatri yn bendant yn cefnogi ein cymunedau gwledig. Pa gynlluniau sydd gan y Llywodraeth i sicrhau ein bod yn manteisio ar gyfleodd fel hyn i orffen cynnyrch yn nes at giât y fferm?

Elin Jones: Cefais y cyfle i ymweld â ffatri brosesu First Milk yn Hwlfordd yn eich etholaeth ar ddau achlysur; y tro diwethaf oedd i lansio buddsoddiad y cwmni i ddatblygu ei safle ac i wella ei effeithlonrwydd ynni. Croesawaf y ffaith bod cwmnïau fel First Milk a Dairy Farmers of Britain—cwmni arall yr wyf wedi ymweld ag ef, ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr—yn edrych ar fuddsoddi mewn prosesu llaeth a phrosesu caws yn agos at y man cynhyrchu. Mae ffyrdd o dan y cynllun datblygu gwledig, er enghraifft y grant prosesu a marchnata, o roi cefnogaeth benodol i gwmnïau sy'n edrych i ddatblygu cynnyrch ac i ychwanegu gwerth at gynnyrch lleol yn ein heconomi yng nghefn gwlad. Yr wyf yn awyddus i weld y mentrau hynny yn datblygu ac yn cryfhau.

Alun Ffred Jones: Cyfeiriodd Paul Davies at y sector amaethyddiaeth ac un peth sy'n peri gofid i ffermwyr yw clefyd y tafod glas. Beth yw'r sefyllfa ddiweddaraf ynglŷn â'r rhaglen frechu rhag y clefyd hwnnw?

Elin Jones: Yr wyf yn falch o gael y cyfle i ddweud fy mod, ychydig dros awr yn ôl, wedi clywed bod y gyfarwyddiaeth

million was awarded for local projects under the rural development plan.

Paul Davies: Agriculture plays a key role in supporting our rural communities. As the Minister knows, companies such as First Milk support the agricultural sector by purchasing milk from local farmers and processing it locally. In a meeting that I sponsored at the Assembly a few weeks ago, the company launched its cheese from Pembrokeshire, which is produced in Haverfordwest using local milk. This is a good example of creating the final products closer to the farm gate, thereby giving consideration to food miles. The factory certainly supports our rural communities. What plans does the Government have to ensure that we take advantage of such opportunities to create the final products closer to the farm gate?

Elin Jones: I have had an opportunity to visit First Milk's processing factory in Haverfordwest in your constituency on two occasions; the last time was to launch the company's investment to develop its site and to improve its energy efficiency. I welcome the fact that companies such as First Milk and Dairy Farmers of Britain—another company that I have visited, in Bridgend—are looking at investing in milk and cheese production close to the original production point. There are schemes under the rural development plan, such as the processing and marketing grant, to provide specific support to companies that are looking to develop products and add value to local products in our rural economy. I am keen to see these initiatives developing and strengthening.

Alun Ffred Jones: Paul Davies referred to the agricultural sector, and one issue that causes concern to farmers is the bluetongue disease. What is the latest situation regarding the vaccination programme for that disease?

Elin Jones: I am pleased to have the opportunity to state that, just over an hour ago, I heard that the veterinary medicines

meddyginiaethau milfeddygol wedi rhoi caniatâd i'r 1 filiwn dos o frechlyn clwyf y dafod las gael eu rhyddhau i filfeddygon yng Nghymru i'w dosbarthu o ddydd Gwener. Byddant yn cael eu defnyddio yng Nghymru am y tro cyntaf. Felly, bydd ffermwyr yn yr ardal amddiffyn yn neddwyrain Cymru yn gallu cychwyn ar y gwaith brechu ddydd Gwener.

12.40 p.m.

Michael German: I suspect that one of your principal priorities during the next 12 months will be to respond to the CAP health check, proposed by the European Commission. Will you outline what you consider to be the top issues for which Wales will have to defend its position or fight its corner during the next 12 months?

Elin Jones: I attended the summit of the council of agriculture and fisheries Ministers in Luxembourg yesterday and Monday. The CAP health check, and particular issues within it, were the subject of discussion on Monday. There are many issues that I think that Wales and the Assembly Government can welcome in the CAP health check, not least the fact that the health check is looking to identify new challenges for the CAP. Those challenges are in line with our thinking in Wales on tackling climate change, flood mitigation and water management—as was mentioned earlier—and renewable energy on farms. Compulsory modulation will be the means of funding these new challenges and we need to consider how we can protect the voluntary modulation that we have in place within our rural development plan, to ensure that what we have gained in building up our access to resources is not lost in the detail of the discussions and the legislation within the CAP health check on compulsory modulation.

Michael German: I assume that compulsory modulation versus voluntary modulation is the key issue for Wales. Do you expect to win that battle? The European Commission's proposals are robust in favouring a complete withdrawal of all voluntary modulation and replacing them with compulsory modulation at a rate that is greater than what we already

directorates has granted permission for 1 million doses of the bluetongue disease vaccine to be released to veterinarians in Wales, to distribute from Friday onwards. They will be used in Wales for the first time. Therefore, farmers in the protection zone in south-east Wales will be able to make a start on the vaccination process on Friday.

Michael German: Yr wyf yn amau mai un o'ch prif flaenoriaethau yn ystod y 12 mis nesaf fydd ymateb i archwiliad iechyd y PAC, a gynigiwyd gan y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd. A amlinellwch pa faterion, yn eich barn chi, yw'r prif rai y bydd yn rhaid i Gymru ddal ei thir neu amddiffyn ei safle yn eu cylch yn ystod y 12 mis nesaf?

Elin Jones: Ddoe a dydd Llun, bûm yn yr uwch gyngor amaeth a physgodfeydd yn Lwcsembwrg. Ddydd Llun, trafodwyd archwiliad iechyd y PAC, a materion penodol oddi mewn iddo. Credaf y gall Cymru a Llywodraeth y Cynulliad groesawu nifer o'r materion sy'n rhan o archwiliad iechyd y PAC, nid leiaf y ffaith bod yr archwiliad iechyd yn bwriadu dynodi heriau newydd ar gyfer y PAC. Mae'r heriau hynny'n cyd-fynd â'n barn yng Nghymru o ran mynd i'r afael â newid yn yr hinsawdd, lliniaru llifogydd a rheoli dŵr—fel y crybwyllwyd yn gynharach—ac ynni adnewyddadwy ar ffermydd. Bydd yr heriau hyn yn cael eu hariannu gan system modiwlleiddio gorfodol ac mae angen inni ystyried sut y gallwn ddiogelu'r system modiwlleiddio gwirfoddol sydd gennym ar waith yn ein cynllun datblygu gwledig, er mwyn sicrhau na chaiff yr hyn yr ydym wedi'i ennill drwy gynyddu ein mynediad at adnoddau ei gollu ym manylion y trafodaethau a'r ddeddfwriaeth o fewn archwiliad iechyd y PAC ar fodiwlleiddio gorfodol.

Michael German: Tybiaf mai'r mater allweddol i Gymru yw modiwlleiddio gorfodol yn erbyn modiwlleiddio gwirfoddol. A ydych yn disgwyl ennill y frwydr honno? Mae cynigion y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd yn gadarn o blaid ymwrthod â phob enghraifft o fodiwlleiddio gwirfoddol a chael modiwlleiddio gorfodol yn eu lle, a hynny ar

have, and is proposed, in Wales. Could you also outline whether or not you consider the issue of match funding for that compulsory modulation to be an issue that Wales also has to face up to?

Elin Jones: As we have a voluntary modulation system in Wales that will allow for additional funding into axis 2, and rural development plan measures in particular, we are not faced with some of the challenges that other European Union countries are facing. As I have said, and you alluded to this in your second question, the challenge for us will be to ensure that we have adequate flexibility at a UK level and within the UK to ensure that we retain the levels of funding anticipated in our rural development plan, and that the switch from the voluntary modulation allowed previously to compulsory modulation, which is the commission's current thinking, does not disadvantage our schemes, particularly those under axis 2.

Economic Condition of Rural Communities

Q3 Alun Davies: Will the Minister make a statement on the economic condition of rural communities? OAQ(3)0383(RAF)

Elin Jones: Yr wyf yn ymwybodol o'r pwysau sy'n wynebu cymunedau gwledig, a'r anawsterau sy'n wynebu'r diwydiant ffermio, ac yr wyf yn parhau i gydweithio'n agos â'm cyd-Weinidogion yn y Cabinet i sicrhau bod ymrwymadau 'Cymru'n Un' yn sicrhau'r manteision gorau i gymunedau ledled Cymru gyfan.

Alun Davies: That follows on from the previous question. You will be aware that one of the key economic issues facing communities in rural Wales is that of employment and the nature of employment. While the headline levels of employment in rural Wales are probably higher than in urban Wales, the nature of that employment tends to be seasonal and low paid. The impact on the quality of life for people in rural Wales is quite substantial. I am sure that you will be working closely with the Minister for the Economy and Transport in the development

raddfa sy'n fwy na'r hyn sydd gennym yn barod, a'r hyn sy'n cael ei gynnig, yng Nghymru. A allech hefyd amlinellu a yw arian cyfatebol ar gyfer y modiwlleiddio gorfodol hwnnw yn fater y mae'n rhaid i Gymru ei wynebu yn eich barn chi?

Elin Jones: Gan fod gennym system fodiwlleiddio wirfoddol yng Nghymru a fydd yn caniatáu rhoi arian ychwanegol yn echel 2, ac i fesurau'r cynllun datblygu gwledig yn benodol, nid ydym yn wynebu rhai o'r heriau y mae gwledydd eraill yn yr Undeb Ewropeaidd yn eu hwynebu. Fel yr wyf wedi'i ddweud, a chyfeiriasoch at hyn yn eich ail gwestiwn, ein her ni fydd sicrhau bod gennym ddigon o hyblygrwydd ar lefel y DU ac o fewn y DU i sicrhau ein bod yn cadw'r lefelau cyllido a ragwelwyd yn ein cynllun datblygu gwledig, ac na fydd trosglwyddo o'r system modiwlleiddio gwirfoddol a ganiatawyd yn flaenorol, i system modiwlleiddio gorfodol, sef barn y comisiwn ar hyn o bryd, yn rhoi ein cynlluniau dan anfantais, yn enwedig y rheini dan echel 2.

Cyflwr Economaidd Cymunedau Gwledig

C3 Alun Davies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gyflwr economaidd cymunedau gwledig? OAQ(3)0383(RAF)

Elin Jones: I am aware of the pressures facing rural communities and of the difficulties facing the farming industry, and I continue to work closely with Cabinet colleagues to ensure that the commitments in 'One Wales' deliver maximum benefits for communities across all of Wales.

Alun Davies: Mae hynny'n dilyn o'r cwestiwn blaenorol. Byddwch yn ymwybodol mai un mater economaidd o bwys sy'n wynebu cymunedau yng Nghymru wledig yw cyflogaeth a natur y gyflogaeth. Er bod y prif lefelau cyflogaeth yng Nghymru wledig fwy na thebyg yn uwch na'r rheini yn nhrefi Cymru, mae natur y gyflogaeth honno'n tueddu i fod yn dymhorol, gyda chyflog isel. Mae'r effaith ar safon bywyd pobl yng Nghymru wledig yn sylweddol iawn. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwch yn gweithio'n agos gyda'r Gweinidog dros yr

of the rural development plan, but can you ensure that there is a clear focus, in the work that goes through all three axes of the rural development plan over the next three years, on the economic indicators of low pay and seasonal employment?

Elin Jones: You have referred to one of the biggest challenges in a rural economy, particularly in Wales, which is the low wage levels that affect many of our rural areas. The seasonality of employment contributes to that. We need to ensure that we use the rural development plan and any other funding, including convergence funding, to add value to our produce, as I indicated in my answer to Paul Davies.

The development of work in adding value locally to primary produce—whether that is forestry or food production—means that we are, hopefully, able to add to the wages of people working in those circumstances. The fact that we have strong co-operative movements in Wales, especially in the dairy processing sector, allows us to feel reasonably hopeful that the value of that product will be passed on to the members of the co-operative, for example.

Mark Isherwood: As you will probably be aware, Minister, the Legal Services Commission has warned that Britain's credit crunch will hit hardest in rural Wales, which it says is ill-placed to weather the coming economic storm—its words, not mine. Its director in Wales has said that the relatively low average earnings in rural Wales mean that many will get into debt and housing problems, and it is warning that women are particularly at risk, as few have exclusive rights to a farm. What action are you taking to support and protect the outreach services delivered by Citizens Advice Cymru and those services, given the potential threat to them should Citizens Advice Cymru lose out in relation to the Legal Services Commission's tendering for advice networks in eight regions across Wales?

Economi a Thrafnidiaeth i ddatblygu'r cynllun datblygu gwledig, ond a allwch sicrhau y canolbwyntir yn glir ar y dangosyddion economaidd cyflogau isel a chyflogaeth dymhorol yn y gwaith sy'n cwmpasu tair echel y cynllun datblygu gwledig dros y tair blynedd nesaf?

Elin Jones: Yr ydych wedi cyfeirio at un o brif heriau economi wledig, yn arbennig yng Nghymru, sef y lefelau cyflog isel sy'n effeithio ar gynifer o'n hardaloedd gwledig. Mae natur dymhorol cyflogaeth yn cyfrannu at hynny. Mae angen inni sicrhau ein bod yn defnyddio'r cynllun datblygu gwledig ac unrhyw gyllid arall, gan gynnwys cyllid cydgyfeirio, i ychwanegu gwerth at ein cynnyrch, fel y dywedais yn fy ateb i Paul Davies.

Mae datblygu'r gwaith i ychwanegu gwerth yn lleol at gynnyrch crai—boed hynny'n gynhyrchu bwyd neu goedwigoedd—yn golygu y gallwn, gobeithio, ychwanegu at gyflogau pobl sy'n gweithio yn yr amgylchiadau hynny. Mae'r ffaith bod gennym fudiadau cydweithredol cadarn yng Nghymru, yn enwedig yn y sector prosesu llaeth, yn ein galluogi i deimlo'n gymharol obeithiol y caiff gwerth y cynnyrch hwnnw ei drosglwyddo i aelodau'r mudiad cydweithredol, er enghraifft.

Mark Isherwood: Fel y gwyddoch mae'n siŵr Weinidog, mae'r Comisiwn Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol wedi rhybuddio mai Cymru wledig gaiff ei tharo galetaf gan y wasgfa gredyd, ac nad yw mewn sefyllfa dda i ymdopi â'r storm economaidd sydd ar y gorwel—geiriau'r Comisiwn, nid fy rhai i. Mae cyfarwyddwr y Comisiwn yng Nghymru wedi dweud bod yr enillion cyfartalog cymharol isel yng Nghymru wledig yn golygu y bydd llawer yn mynd i ddyled ac yn wynebu problemau o ran tai, ac mae'n rhybuddio bod menywod yn arbennig yn agored i niwed, gan nad oes gan lawer ohonynt hawliau neilltuol i fferm. Pa gamau yr ydych yn eu cymryd i gefnogi ac i ddiogelu'r gwasanaethau allgymorth a ddarperir gan Cyngor ar Bopeth Cymru a'r gwasanaethau hynny, ac ystyried y bygythiad posibl iddynt petai Cyngor ar Bopeth yn aflwyddiannus ym mhroses dendro y Comisiwn Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol ar gyfer

rhwydweithiau cynghori mewn wyth rhanbarth ledled Cymru?

Elin Jones: Thank you for your question. I was in a meeting this morning with voluntary sector organisations representing rural Wales. A representative of Citizens Advice was at that meeting and raised with me the very real concerns that agencies working in rural areas have about access to services and the cost of access to services, especially in relation to the proportion of income that it can take up and the possible differences in the ability to pay for services in rural Wales compared with elsewhere in Wales. You asked a specific question about the role of citizens' advice bureaux in Wales in delivering services. I am not in a position to answer that particular point, but I accept that the bureaux have an important role to play in providing support for people in rural Wales and in urban Wales.

Eleanor Burnham: Mae ansawdd bywyd yng nghefn gwlad yn peri pryder i amryw o bobl, a honnodd y Ffederasiwn Busnesau Bach yn ddiweddar fod naw allan o 10 busnes yn cwyno mai polisiâu'r Llywodraeth yn gyffredinol sy'n gwneud eu bywydau mor anodd. Pa drafodaethau ar hyn a gawsoch ar draws y Cabinet a hefyd yn San Steffan, gan fod y cynnydd yng nghost tanwydd yn peri pryder cynyddol yng nghefn gwlad?

Elin Jones: Yr wyf wedi cael trafodaethau gyda Gweinidogion yn San Steffan, yr Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon am effaith pris tanwydd ar un sector yn benodol, sef y sector pysgota. Mae'n sector sy'n dioddef yn sylweddol ar hyn o bryd oherwydd pris tanwydd, ac yr wyf wedi bod mewn dau gyfarfod i drafod ymateb ar lefel Brydeinig i anghenion penodol y diwydiant pysgota. Yr oedd hyn hefyd yn fater a drafodwyd yn y Cyngor Amaethyddiaeth a Physgodfeydd ddoe ar lefel Ewrop, yn Lwcsembwrg.

Y Llywydd: Trosglwyddwyd cwestiwn 4, OAQ(3)0376(RAF), i'w ateb yn ysgrifenedig.

Agricultural Land Holdings

Elin Jones: Diolch ichi am eich cwestiwn. Yr oeddwn mewn cyfarfod y bore yma gyda mudiadau'r sector gwirfoddol sy'n cynrychioli Cymru wledig. Yr oedd cynrychiolydd o Cyngor ar Bopeth yn y cyfarfod hwnnw a soniodd wrthyf am bryderon gwirioneddol asiantaethau sy'n gweithio mewn ardaloedd gwledig ynghylch mynediad at wasanaethau, a chost mynediad at wasanaethau. Mae hyn yn arbennig o wir yng nghyswllt cyfran yr incwm y gall ei derbyn a'r gwahaniaethau posibl yn y gallu i dalu am wasanaethau yng Nghymru wledig o'i gymharu â mannau eraill yng Nghymru. Gofynasoch gwestiwn penodol ynghylch swyddogaeth canolfannau cyngor ar bopeth yng Nghymru yng nghyswllt darparu gwasanaethau. Nid wyf mewn sefyllfa i ateb y pwynt penodol hwnnw, ond derbyniaf fod gan y ganolfan ran bwysig i'w chwarae i gynorthwyo pobl yng Nghymru wledig ac yng Nghymru drefol.

Eleanor Burnham: Quality of life in rural areas causes concern to many people, and the Federation of Small Businesses recently claimed that nine out of 10 businesses complain that it is the Government's policies that generally make their lives so difficult. What discussions on this have you had with the Cabinet and at Westminster, as a result of the increase in fuel costs that is causing increasing concern in rural areas?

Elin Jones: I have had discussions with Ministers in Westminster, Scotland and Northern Ireland involving the impact of fuel prices on one specific sector, namely the fisheries sector. It is a sector that is suffering significantly at present because of fuel prices, and I have attended two meetings to discuss the response on a British level to the fishing industry's specific needs. This was also an issue that was discussed at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on a European level, in Luxembourg yesterday.

Y Llywydd: Question 4, OAQ(3)0376(RAF), has been transferred for written answer.

Daliadau Tir Amaethyddol

Q5 Brynle Williams: Since 1999, what representations have been made to the Welsh Assembly Government with respect to digital records of agricultural land holdings? OAQ(3)0365(RAF)

Elin Jones: Mae cofnodion digidol daliadau tir amaethyddol wedi gwella ers 2002, ac mae prosesau mapio wedi'u digideiddio wedi cael eu sefydlu. Mae'r sylwadau a wnaethpwyd yn gysylltiedig ag ymholiadau am wybodaeth mewn ffurflenni cais sengl, ffiniau parseli amaethyddol a datblygiadau gwledig wedi'i digideiddio, yn ogystal â thaliadau cynllun polisi amaethyddol cyffredinol.

Brynle Williams: Diolch yn fawr am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog.

12.50 p.m.

Given that the bird's eye view of aerial photography produces an image in just two dimensions, what allowances have been made by the Minister's officials for variables in three dimensions? Mountains viewed from above will obviously appear a lot smaller than when viewed in three dimensions. Will the Minister be able to provide details on what techniques are used to digitally measure the land area of farm holdings in Wales?

Elin Jones: I can provide you with those details and I will write to you with them.

Priorities for Food Security

Q6 Brynle Williams: What are the Welsh Assembly Government's priorities for food security in Wales? OAQ(3)0366(RAF)

Q10 Chris Franks: What is the Welsh Assembly Government doing to ensure food security in Wales? OAQ(3)0381(RAF)

Elin Jones: Mae cynnal y broses o gynhyrchu bwyd yn elfen allweddol yn y strategaeth ddrafft ar gyfer ffermio, bwyd a chefn gwlad. Mae gan y polisi amaethyddol cyffredin ran i'w chwarae hefyd, ac yr oeddwn yn bresennol yng Nghyngor

C5 Brynle Williams: Er 1999, pa sylwadau a wnaethpwyd i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yng nghyswllt cofnodion digidol daliadau tir amaethyddol? OAQ(3)0365(RAF)

Elin Jones: Digital records of agricultural land holdings have been enhanced from 2002, and digitised mapping processes are in place. Comments made in relation to queries about information in single application forms, boundaries of agricultural parcels and rural developments have been digitised, as have common agricultural policy scheme payments.

Brynle Williams: Thank you for that answer, Minister.

Ac ystyried bod ffotograffiaeth awyr yn cynhyrchu delweddau mewn dau ddimensiwn yn unig, i ba raddau y mae swyddogion y Gweinidog wedi ystyried amrywion mewn tri dimensiwn? Mae'n amlwg y bydd mynyddoedd yn edrych yn llai o lawer pan dynnir lluniau ohonynt oddi fry na phan edrychir arnynt mewn tri dimensiwn. A all y Gweinidog ddarparu manylion ynghylch pa dechnegau a ddefnyddir i fesur tir ffermydd yng Nghymru yn ddigidol?

Elin Jones: Gallaf ddarparu'r manylion hynny ichi, ac ysgrifennaf atoch gyda hwy.

Blaenoriaethau ar gyfer Diogelwch Bwyd

C6 Brynle Williams: Beth yw blaenoriaethau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer diogelwch bwyd yng Nghymru? OAQ(3)0366(RAF)

C10 Chris Franks: Beth mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n ei wneud i sicrhau diogelwch bwyd yng Nghymru? OAQ(3)0381(RAF)

Elin Jones: Sustaining food production is a key element in the draft strategy for farming, food and the countryside. The common agricultural policy also has a role to play, and during the last two days I have attended the EU Agriculture and Fisheries Council that

Amaethyddiaeth a Physgodfeydd yr UE ddoe ac echdoe, a oedd yn trafod y broses gyfredol o archwiliad iechyd y PAC.

Brynle Williams: The Prime Minister, Mr Gordon Brown, has recently called for the EU to relax its restrictions on importing genetically modified animal feed as a way to reduce food price inflation. Does the Minister share this enthusiasm for GM animal feed? If not, is her opposition based on practical, scientific and technical objections that may well be overcome in the near future or on ideology?

Elin Jones: Byddwch yn gwybod, Brynle Williams, fod ymrwymiad yn rhaglen 'Cymru'n Un' i sicrhau ein bod yn mabwysiadu polisi sydd mor rhagofalus â phosibl yng nghyd-destun datblygiadau GM. Mae wedi bod yn fater o gonsensws ar draws y pleidiau yn y Cynulliad y dylid mabwysiadu'r agwedd honno, wrth ystyried y pwerau sydd gennym yng Nghymru ac wrth ymateb i bwerau a ddelir ar y lefel Brydeinig ac, yn bennaf oll, ar lefel Ewrop. Nid wyf yn siŵr a wyf yn synhwyro o'ch cwestiwn fod natur cefnogaeth y blaid Dori'aidd i'r mater hwn yn edwino rhywfaint. Os yw hynny'n wir, efallai y cawn sgwrs ymhellach ynglŷn â hynny.

Chris Franks: Minister, do you believe that the One Wales Government farming strategy takes into account global issues such as food shortages and food prices? Would it be beneficial to both producers and consumers if Welsh Ministers were able to attend meetings of the European Council of Ministers as full members?

Elin Jones: My view would be that as an Assembly Government we should ensure that we discuss the issues with our fellow UK Ministers to agree, if possible, a united line for the representations made at the table of the Council of Ministers. Of course, the line is delivered by the UK Minister. If there are tensions during the development of a UK line, that matter is discussed in advance. I would always want to see Welsh views having the greatest possible influence within a European context. My personal view, of

covered the ongoing CAP health check process.

Brynle Williams: Mae'r Prif Weinidog, Mr Gordon Brown, wedi galw ar yr UE yn ddiweddar i lacio ei chyfyngiadau o ran mewnfario bwyd anifeiliaid a addaswyd yn enetig er mwyn lleihau'r chwyddiant mewn prisiau bwyd. A yw'r Gweinidog yr un mor frwdfrydig ynghylch bwyd anifeiliaid a addaswyd yn enetig? Os nad ydyw, a yw ei gwrthwynebiad yn seiliedig ar wrthwynebiad ymarferol, gwyddonol a thechnegol a gaiff, yn ddigon posibl, ei oresgyn yn y dyfodol agos, ynteu ar ideoleg?

Elin Jones: You will be aware, Brynle Williams, that there is a commitment in the 'One Wales' programme to ensure that we adopt a policy that is as precautionary as possible in the context of GM developments. There has been a cross-party consensus in the Assembly that such an approach should be adopted when considering our powers in Wales and when responding to powers held on a British level and, most importantly, on a European level. I am not certain whether I detect from your question that the nature of the Tory party's support on this issue is slightly on the wane. If that is the case, perhaps we could have a further conversation on the issue.

Chris Franks: Weinidog, a gredwch fod strategaeth ffermio Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un yn ystyried materion byd-eang megis prinder bwyd a phrisiau bwyd? A fyddai'n fuddiol i gynhyrchwyr ac i ddefnyddwyr pe gallai Gweinidogion Cymru fynd i gyfarfodydd Cyngor Gweinidogion Ewrop fel aelodau cyflawn?

Elin Jones: Fy marn i yw y dylem, fel Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, sicrhau ein bod yn trafod y materion gyda'n cyd-Weinidogion yn y DU er mwyn cytuno, os yw'n bosibl, ar safbwynt unedig ar gyfer y sylwadau a wneir wrth fwrdd Cyngor y Gweinidogion. Wrth gwrs, caiff y safbwynt ei chyflwyno gan Weinidog y DU. Os ceir tensiynau wrth ddatblygu safbwynt y DU, caiff y mater hwnnw ei drafod ymlaen llaw. Byddwn bob amser am weld barn Cymru'n cael y dylanwad mwyaf posibl yng nghyd-destun

course, is that Wales should be represented at the table as a member state of the European Union. However, I stress—I am sure that this will not come as a shock to anyone—that that is a personal view and it is not the view of the Assembly Government.

Chris Franks: One day—

The Presiding Officer: Order. ‘Never in Europe’.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Minister, there seems to be different views on the way forward for the common agricultural policy and food security in Europe, which was graphically illustrated last week by the difference between President Sarkozy’s position and that of the Westminster Government, which obviously takes the lead for the United Kingdom. If you survive for the full tenure to 2011, many of the elements in the current support package, which comes to an end in 2013, will be up for discussion. What will be your line in trying to shape the best agenda for Wales? Is it closely aligned to President Sarkozy’s view of how the common agricultural policy will develop, or is it more attuned to Westminster’s dream and ambitions post 2013?

Elin Jones: There are two particular periods when the discussion on the future of the CAP will be particularly relevant. One is in next year’s discussions of the EU budget, on which the UK Government will lead, of course, and the other is in the discussion of the future of the CAP post 2013. The UK Treasury has already made known its view on the future of the CAP budget and the need to get rid of direct subsidy and direct payments to farmers. That is not the view held by the Assembly Government, but we need to ensure that in funding farming policies at an EU level, public good is delivered by farmers, landowners and land users from the receipt of public funds. I am therefore keen to see how we can increase the level of public good that is delivered by farmers in Wales. I do not think that farmers in Wales need to fear anything from this development, because they are familiar with delivering public good on their farms in the production of food,

Ewrop. Fy marn bersonol, wrth gwrs, yw y dylai Cymru gael ei chynrychioli wrth y bwrdd fel aelod wladwriaeth o'r Undeb Ewropeaidd. Fodd bynnag, pwysleisiaf—ac yr wyf yn siŵr na fydd hyn yn sioc i neb—mai fy marn bersonol yw honno, ac nid barn Llywodraeth y Cynulliad.

Chris Franks: Rhyw ddydd—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. ‘Byth bythoedd yn Ewrop’.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Weinidog, ymddengys bod safbwyntiau gwahanol ynghylch y ffordd ymlaen i'r polisi amaethyddol cyffredin a diogelwch bwyd yn Ewrop, a chafwyd tystiolaeth weledol o hynny'r wythnos diwethaf gyda'r gwahaniaeth barn rhwng Arlywydd Sarkozy a Llywodraeth San Steffan, sy'n amlwg yn arwain ar ran y Deyrnas Unedig. Os llwyddwch i oroesi'r cyfnod cyfan hyd at 2011, bydd amryw o elfennau'r pecyn cymorth cyfredol, a ddaw i ben yn 2013, yn destun trafodaeth. Beth fydd eich safbwynt wrth geisio llunio'r agenda orau ar gyfer Cymru? A yw'n cyd-fynd yn agos â barn yr Arlywydd Sarkozy ynghylch sut bydd y polisi amaethyddol cyffredinol yn datblygu, ynteu a yw'n cydweddu'n well â breuddwyd ac uchelgais San Steffan ar gyfer y blynyddoedd y tu hwnt i 2013?

Elin Jones: Bydd y drafodaeth ynghylch dyfodol y PAC yn hynod berthnasol mewn dau gyfnod penodol. Bydd un cyfnod adeg trafodaethau'r flwyddyn nesaf ynghylch cyllideb yr UE, lle bydd Llywodraeth y DU yn arwain wrth gwrs, a'r cyfnod arall yw adeg y drafodaeth ynghylch dyfodol y PAC ar ôl 2013. Mae Trysorlys y DU eisoes wedi datgan ei farn am ddyfodol cyllideb y PAC, a'r angen i ddiddymu cymhorthdal uniongyrchol a thaliadau uniongyrchol i ffermwyr. Nid dyna farn Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, ond mae angen inni sicrhau, yng nghyswllt ariannu polisiau ffermio ar lefel yr UE, bod arian cyhoeddus yn galluogi ffermwyr, tirfeddianwyr a defnyddwyr tir i ddarparu er lles y cyhoedd. Yr wyf felly'n awyddus i weld sut y gallwn gael ffermwyr yng Nghymru i wneud fwy o les i'r cyhoedd. Ni chredaf fod angen i ffermwyr Cymru ofni dim yn y datblygiad hwn, oherwydd maent yn gyfarwydd â darparu er lles y cyhoedd ar

which in itself is becoming a public good, and through agri-environment schemes. We also know of the contribution that land managers and farmers can make to tackling climate change, most especially, possibly, through the 40 million tonnes of carbon stored in our uplands. We need to ensure that our agricultural and land management policies do not deplete that store and thus contribute to climate change instead of assisting the use of our land to mitigate and tackle climate change.

Helen Mary Jones: A gytunwch fod cynhyrchu bwyd yn lleol yn gallu bod yn elfen bwysig o bolisi sicrwydd bwyd? A ydych hefyd yn cytuno nad ydym efallai'n talu digon o sylw i'r bobl sy'n tyfu ffrwythau a llysiau? Yr ydym yn tueddu i ganolbwyntio ar y sector da byw, ond mae gan bobl sy'n tyfu ffrwythau a llysiau hefyd gyfraniad i'w wneud. A fydddech yn fodlon dod gyda mi i gwrdd â rhai o'r bobl sy'n tyfu bwyd yn Llanelli a'i werthu'n lleol ym marchnad y dref?

Elin Jones: Byddwn. Yr wyf yn hapus i ymweld â'ch etholaeth a'r sawl sy'n cynhyrchu bwyd. Yr wyf yn cytuno'n llwyr bod angen i ystod y bwydydd yr ydym yn ei gynhyrchu yma yng Nghymru fod yn eang. Efallai ein bod wedi mynd i or-gynhyrchu mewn rhai meysydd gan anghofio ein bod, 30 i 50 mlynedd yn ôl, yn tyfu tatws, bresych a phob math o lysiau yma yng Nghymru, a bod angen inni edrych eto ar gynhyrchu'r bwydydd hynny. Mae'r Llywodraeth eisiau gweld cynnydd yn y bwydydd lleol y mae'r sector cyhoeddus yn eu prynu. Mae ein sector cyhoeddus angen prynu tatws a bresych yn ogystal â chig oen a chig eidion.

Animal Welfare

Q7 Andrew R.T. Davies: Will the Minister make a statement on proposals to improve animal welfare in South Wales Central? OAQ(3)0363(RAF)

Elin Jones: I have allocated an additional £150,000 to local authorities in South Wales Central as part of the companion animal welfare enhancement scheme. This will help

eu ffermydd wrth gynhyrchu bwyd, sydd, ynddo'i hun, yn dod yn fater sydd er lles y cyhoedd, a drwy gynlluniau amaeth-amgylchedd. Gwyddom hefyd am y cyfraniad y gall rheolwyr tir a ffermwyr ei wneud at fynd i'r afael â newid yn yr hinsawdd, yn enwedig, o bosibl, drwy'r 40 miliwn tonnell o garbon a storir yn ein hucheldiroedd. Mae angen inni sicrhau nad yw ein polisïau amaethyddol a rheoli tir yn disbyddu'r stôr hwnnw, ac felly'n cyfrannu at newid yn yr hinsawdd yn hytrach na chynorthwyo'r modd y defnyddir ein tir i liniaru newid yn yr hinsawdd ac i fynd i'r afael ag ef.

Helen Mary Jones: Do you agree that producing food locally can be an important element of food assurance policy? Do you also agree that perhaps we are not paying enough attention to fruit and vegetable growers? We tend to concentrate on the livestock sector, but fruit and vegetable growers also have a contribution to make. Would you be willing to come with me to meet some of the people who grow food in Llanelli and who sell it locally in the town market?

Elin Jones: I would. I would be happy to visit your constituency and to meet food producers. I totally agree that we should be producing a wide range of foods in Wales. Perhaps we have been overproducing in some areas, forgetting that just 30 to 50 years ago we were growing potatoes, cabbage and all sorts of vegetables in Wales, and so perhaps we should be looking again at producing those sorts of foods. As a Government, we wish to see an increase in the amount of local food bought by the public sector. The public sector needs to buy Welsh potatoes and cabbage as well as Welsh lamb and beef.

Lles Anifeiliaid

C7 Andrew R.T. Davies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gynigion i wella lles anifeiliaid yng Nghanol De Cymru? OAQ(3)0363(RAF)

Elin Jones: Yr wyf wedi dyrannu £150,000 ychwanegol i awdurdodau lleol yng Nghanol De Cymru fel rhan o'r cynllun gwella lles anifeiliaid anwes. Bydd hyn yn gymorth i

to facilitate working with the third sector, developing educational issues, obtaining information on a number of issues and, not least, enforcement.

Andrew R.T. Davies: The supplementary question that I was going to ask has already been answered in part in previous responses, and it is good news that vaccinations are starting on Friday in South Wales Central. However, as you will be aware, the bluetongue vaccination programme was to have started at the beginning of June. I appreciate that many of the circumstances around that were outside of the Minister's responsibility, and were to do with the quality of the batch of vaccine that was sent over from Holland, but could you give some insight into what led to the problems with the batch? What confidence can we have, going forward, that there will not be a similar breakdown in supply, given the lengthy nature of the vaccine process, with 120 days between the two doses being administered to cattle?

1.00 p.m.

Elin Jones: The batch of vaccine that we had hoped to use from 2 June onwards was not ratified or passed by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate, and it subsequently had to be returned and tested further by Intervet, the supplier. I can only tell you that this batch is able to be used because the Veterinary Medicines Directorate has passed it—I am at its mercy, as we all are. The directorate is the appropriate authority to decide on the nature of this batch of vaccine. We should welcome the fact that we have progressed on this, but I reiterate that this is an unusual year and that we are in an unusual set of circumstances, whereby the disease is at our doorstep but the vaccine has only just been produced and developed. Therefore, the supply of vaccine needs to catch up with the demand for vaccine. In future years, that will hopefully not be the case. We are in circumstances this year that are slightly beyond our control as a Government, and indeed the control of any Government.

hwyluso gweithio gyda'r trydydd sector, i ddatblygu materion addysgol, i gael gafael ar wybodaeth am nifer o faterion ac, nid leiaf, i orfodi.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Mae'r cwestiwn atodol yr oeddwn am ei ofyn eisoes wedi ei ateb yn rhannol yn yr atebion blaenorol, ac mae'r ffaith y dechreuir brechu yng Nghanol De Cymru ddydd Gwener yn newyddion da. Fodd bynnag, fel y gwyddoch, yr oedd rhaglen brechu'r tafod glas i fod i gychwyn ddechrau mis Mehefin. Sylweddolaf fod nifer o'r amgylchiadau a oedd yn gysylltiedig â hynny y tu hwnt i gyfrifoldeb y Gweinidog, ac yr oeddent yn ymwneud ag ansawdd y llwyth brechlyn a anfonwyd yma o'r Iseldiroedd. Fodd bynnag, a allech roi rhyw fath o syniad inni beth arweiniodd at broblemau gyda'r llwyth? Sut y gallwn fod yn hyderus wrth symud ymlaen na cheir prinder cyflenwad tebyg, ac ystyried natur hir proses y frechlyn, gyda bwlech o 120 diwrnod rhwng rhoi'r ddau ddos i wartheg?

Elin Jones: Ni chafodd y llwyth brechlyn yr oeddem wedi gobeithio ei ddefnyddio o 2 Mehefin ymlaen ei ddilysu na'i gymeradwyo gan y Gyfarwyddiaeth Meddyginiaethau Milfeddygol, ac yn dilyn hynny bu'n rhaid ei anfon yn ôl i Intervet, y cyflenwr, i gynnal profion eraill arno. Yr oll y gallaf ei ddweud wrthyhych yw y gellir defnyddio'r llwyth hwn gan fod y Gyfarwyddiaeth Meddyginiaethau Milfeddygol wedi ei gymeradwyo—yr wyf ar drugaredd y Gyfarwyddiaeth, fel pawb arall. Y gyfarwyddiaeth yw'r awdurdod priodol i benderfynu ar natur y llwyth hwn o frechlynnau. Dylem groesawu'r ffaith ein bod wedi gwneud cynnydd gyda hyn, ond ailadroddaf fod hon yn flwyddyn anghyffredin a'n bod mewn amgylchiadau anarferol, lle mae'r clefyd ar garreg ein drws ond mai newydd gael ei gynhyrchu a'i ddatblygu y mae'r brechlyn. Felly, mae angen i'r cyflenwad o frechlynnau ddal i fyny â'r galw am y brechlyn. Yn y dyfodol, nid dyma fydd yn digwydd gobeithio. Yr ydym mewn amgylchiadau eleni sydd y tu hwnt i'n rheolaeth fel Llywodraeth braidd, ac yn wir y tu hwnt i reolaeth unrhyw Lywodraeth.

Irene James: We have seen a lot of coverage in recent months regarding the treatment of poultry in farming. As someone who still keeps a seven-year-old chicken called Maisie, which still gives us an egg on most days, I would like to ask what the Assembly Government is doing to encourage consumers to take account of how the poultry that they buy is reared, taking into account the crucial factor of cost.

Elin Jones: I do not know how much your egg costs a day, but the general point that you make is that consumers have concerns regarding poultry farming, and they seek reassurance through different forms of labelling in terms of animal welfare and free-range egg production, which is well-developed in Wales and outside Wales. We also need to ensure that the regulations that we have put in place in Wales, which are primarily EU-led regulations, give us confidence that animal welfare considerations are paramount in the poultry sector. In general, consumers will make decisions based on the labelling, or the non-labelling, which may be more appropriate here, of the poultry and eggs that they buy in supermarkets or other shops.

Leanne Wood: This year more than one in five UK bee colonies have been killed off due to a mixture of bad weather, stress and disease, according to the British Beekeepers' Association. I know that bees are not animals, but if they disappear—*[Interruption.]* Perhaps that is a matter for another debate—

The Presiding Officer: Order. Bees are definitely animals.

Leanne Wood: Thank you for your ruling, Presiding Officer. *[Laughter.]*

If bees disappear, Minister, the reduction in pollination will cause severe problems, particularly in terms of food production. Will you therefore put pressure on the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to research this problem? Can you also tell us what measures can be introduced to help the situation and whether the One Wales

Irene James: Yr ydym wedi gweld llawer o sylw'n cael ei roi dros y misoedd diweddar i'r driniaeth a roddir i dofednod yn y diwydiant amaeth. Fel rhywun sy'n parhau i gadw iâr saith oed o'r enw Maisie, sy'n parhau i ddodwy ŵy bron bob dydd, hoffwn ofyn beth mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ei wneud i annog defnyddwyr i ystyried sut mae'r dofednod y maent yn eu prynu yn cael eu magu, gan ystyried y ffactor allweddol sef cost.

Elin Jones: Nid wyf yn siŵr faint mae eich ŵy yn ei gostio y dydd, ond y pwynt cyffredinol yr ydych yn ei wneud yw bod gan ddefnyddwyr bryderon o ran ffermio dofednod, a'u bod yn ceisio sicrwydd drwy wahanol ffurfiau o labelu o ran lles yr anifail a chynhyrchu wyau maes, sydd wedi datblygu'n dda yng Nghymru a thu hwnt i Gymru. Mae angen inni hefyd sicrhau bod y rheoliadau yr ydym wedi'u rhoi ar waith yng Nghymru, sy'n rheoliadau a gaiff eu harwain gan yr UE yn bennaf, yn rhoi hyder inni fod ystyriaethau i les anifeiliaid yn hollbwysig yn y sector dofednod. Yn gyffredinol, bydd defnyddwyr yn gwneud penderfyniadau ar sail y labelu, neu'r diffyg labelu, sy'n fwy addas yma o bosibl, ar y dofednod a'r wyau y maent yn eu prynu mewn archfarchnadoedd neu mewn siopau eraill.

Leanne Wood: Eleni mae mwy nag un o bob pump o nythfeydd gwenyn wedi'u lladd o ganlyniad i gymysgedd o dywydd gwael, straen a chlefyd, yn ôl Sefydliad Ceidwaid Gwenyn Prydain. Gwn nad yw gwenyn yn anifeiliaid, ond petaent yn diflannu—*[Ymyriad]* Efallai fod hynny'n destun trafodaeth arall—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae gwenyn yn bendant yn anifeiliaid.

Leanne Wood: Diolch am eich dyfarniad, Lywydd. *[Chwerthin.]*

Os yw gwenyn yn diflannu, Weinidog, bydd y gostyngiad mewn peilliadau'n achosi problemau difrifol, yn enwedig o ran cynhyrchu bwyd. A wnewch felly roi pwysau ar Adran yr Amgylchedd, Bwyd a Materion Gwledig i ymchwilio i'r broblem hon? A allwch ddweud wrthym hefyd pa fesurau y gellir eu cyflwyno er mwyn helpu'r sefyllfa a

Government would be prepared to encourage consumers to buy and even to produce honey to help and support the beekeeping industry?

Elin Jones: I believe that I am the Minister for bees in Wales, and I can confirm that the Assembly Government is working with DEFRA on the very issues and concerns that you have raised regarding the future of bees and their vital importance in ensuring that biodiversity and our means of producing food and flowers continue in Wales and throughout the world. Wales is contributing to the research by DEFRA that you mentioned, and we are looking with some eagerness to see how we as an Assembly Government can develop and ensure that climate change does not adversely affect our bee population. Honey can be developed as a food source, and we can use mechanisms in the rural development plan to support its production.

Priorities

Q8 Nick Ramsay: Will the Minister outline her priorities over the next 12 months? OAQ(3)0386(RAF)

Elin Jones: I remain committed to delivering the objectives set out in the 'One Wales' agreement and to working to deliver sustainable farming, forestry, food and fisheries for the benefit of Wales and rural communities.

Nick Ramsay: As well as being the Minister for bees, you are the Minister for fish, and fish are definitely animals. I am sure that you will join me in welcoming the recent agreement between the Black Rock lave net fishermen in my constituency and the Environment Agency. You have done a lot of work on that with the Environment Agency and me over the last year to ensure that that fishing industry can continue over the next year and beyond. Would you share my concerns that there is still a restriction on the number of fish that can be caught by these fishermen? That will cause problems for the future. Can you give an assurance that you will do what you can to allow such fishing to continue well into the future? It is an

p'un ai a fyddai Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un yn barod i annog defnyddwyr i brynu a hyd yn oed cynhyrchu mêl er mwyn helpu a chefnogi'r diwydiant cadw gwenyn?

Elin Jones: Credaf mai fi yw'r Gweinidog dros weny yn Nghymru, a gallaf gadarnhau bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn gweithio gyda DEFRA ar yr union faterion a'r pryderon yr ydych wedi'u codi yng nghyswllt dyfodol gwenyn a'u pwysigrwydd hanfodol i'r broses o sicrhau bod bioamrywiaeth a'n ffyrdd o gynhyrchu bwyd a blodau'n parhau yng Nghymru a ledled y byd. Mae Cymru yn cyfrannu at waith ymchwil DEFRA y soniasoch amdano, ac yr ydym yn awyddus i weld sut y gallwn fel Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ddatblygu a sicrhau nad yw newid yn yr hinsawdd yn cael effaith andwyol ar boblogaeth ein gwenyn. Gellir datblygu mêl fel ffynhonnell fwyd, a gallwn ddefnyddio dulliau yn y cynllun datblygu gwledig i gefnogi'r gwaith o'i gynhyrchu.

Blaenoriaethau

C8 Nick Ramsay: A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu ei blaenoriaethau dros y 12 mis nesaf? OAQ(3)0386(RAF)

Elin Jones: Yr wyf yn parhau wedi fy ymrwymo i gyflwyno'r amcanion a osodwyd allan yng nghytundeb 'Cymru'n Un' ac i weithio ar gyfer cyflawni ffermio, coedwigaeth, bwyd a physgodfeydd cynaliadwy er budd Cymru a'r cymunedau gwledig.

Nick Ramsay: Yn ogystal â bod yn Weinidog dros weny, yr ydych yn Weinidog dros bysgod hefyd, ac mae pysgod yn bendant yn anifeiliaid. Yr wyf yn siŵr y gwnewch ymuno â mi i groesawu'r cytundeb diweddar rhwng pysgotwyr rhwydi gaff Black Rock yn fy etholaeth ac Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd. Yr ydych wedi gwneud llawer o waith ar hwnnw gydag Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd a mi dros y flwyddyn diwethaf er mwyn sicrhau y gall y diwydiant pysgota barhau dros y flwyddyn nesaf a thu hwnt. A wnewch rannu fy mhryderon bod cyfyngiad o hyd ar nifer y pysgod y caiff y pysgotwyr hyn eu dal? Bydd hynny'n achosi problemau yn y dyfodol. A allwch sicrhau y byddwch yn gwneud popeth o fewn eich gallu i ganiatáu i

important part of the fishing industry and it would be sad if Wales were to lose it.

Elin Jones: I met with the Black Rock lave net fishermen six months or so ago, and several Assembly Members, including you, have raised with me the importance of this fishery, both in terms of heritage and its fishing in the Severn. I am sure that the fishermen were pleased that they have finally agreed terms with the Environment Agency, but no-one was more relieved than I that this matter had finally been resolved.

You raise the issue of the restriction on fish numbers. I think that it is appropriate that there is a restriction on fish numbers, because there is a dwindling fish stock in the river, as you know. We need to ensure that everyone who fishes in rivers adheres to the restrictions on catches and, therefore, it is appropriate that the Black Rock fishermen work within those limits. I am hopeful that the agreement enables the fishermen to feel confident that there is a future for their fishery, and for their contribution to this heritage fishery.

Joyce Watson: One of the priorities that you announced last week in the food and farming consultation was to achieve a more profitable future for the food processing industry. Contracts with major retailers are important, but there are dangers associated with relying too heavily on single contracts. Last week, I met with trade union representatives who outlined the dangers of depending on single contracts, giving the example of the Northern Foods factory, which recently closed in Grantham with the loss of 800 jobs.

How can we ensure that our food suppliers diversify their big contracts and safeguard jobs in the food processing industry, and are given Assembly Government advice and support to do so?

Elin Jones: Any business that has a single contract is more at risk than a business with a wider range of contracts. These are commercial decisions for individual businesses and not appropriate for

bysgota o'r fath barhau ymhell i'r dyfodol? Mae'n rhan bwysig o'r diwydiant pysgota a byddai'n drist pe byddai Cymru'n ei cholli.

Elin Jones: Cyfarfûm â physgotwyr rhwydi gafl Black Rock tua chwe mis yn ôl, ac mae llawer o Aelodau'r Cynulliad, chi yn eu plith, wedi codi pwysigrwydd y bysgodfa hon gyda mi, o ran treftadaeth a physgota ar Afon Hafren. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod y pysgotwyr yn falch eu bod wedi cytuno ar amodau gydag Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd o'r diwedd, ond nid oedd neb yn fwy balch na mi bod y mater hwn wedi'i ddatrys o'r diwedd.

Soniasoch am gyfyngu niferoedd y pysgod. Credaf ei bod yn briodol bod cyfyngiad ar niferoedd y pysgod, oherwydd mae lefelau stoc y pysgod yn yr afon yn lleihau, fel y gwyddoch. Mae angen inni sicrhau bod pawb sy'n pysgota mewn afonydd yn glynu wrth y cyfyngiadau ar ddalfeydd ac, felly, mae'n briodol bod pysgotwyr Black Rock yn gweithio o fewn y cyfyngiadau hynny. Gobeithiaf fod y cytundeb yn galluogi'r pysgotwyr i deimlo'n hyderus bod dyfodol i'w pysgodfa, ac i'w cyfraniad at y bysgodfa dreftadol hon.

Joyce Watson: Un o'r blaenoriaethau y gwnaethoch eu cyhoeddi'r wythnos diwethaf yn yr ymgynghoriad ar fwyd a ffermio oedd cyflawni dyfodol mwy proffidiol ar gyfer y diwydiant prosesu bwyd. Mae contractau gyda manwerthwyr mawr yn bwysig, ond mae peryglon ynghlwm wrth ddibynnu gormod ar gontractau unigol. Yr wythnos diwethaf, cyfarfûm â chynrychiolwyr undebau llafur a amlinellodd y peryglon o ddibynnu ar gontractau unigol, drwy roi enghraifft o'r ffatri Northern Foods, a gaeodd yn Grantham yn ddiweddar gan arwain at golli 800 o swyddi.

Sut y gallwn sicrhau bod ein cyflenwyr bwyd yn cael amrywiaeth o gontractau mawr ac yn diogelu swyddi yn y diwydiant prosesu bwyd, ac yn cael cyngor a chefnogaeth gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad i wneud hynny?

Elin Jones: Mae unrhyw fusnes a chanddo un contract mewn mwy o berygl na busnes a chanddo amrywiaeth ehangach o gontractau. Mae'r rhain yn benderfyniadau masnachol i fusnesau unigol ac nid ydynt yn briodol ar

Government intervention but, having said that, if businesses in the food processing sector or the food production sector want to discuss with Government how they can strengthen their business, or strengthen their supply chains, then we could look at that—both through the suite of business support measures that this Government has supports, and also through the rural development plan, particularly the processing and marketing grant.

Kirsty Williams: I understand that one of your priorities over the next 12 months will be the protection of services to rural communities and, as such, you will be aware that British Telecom has a universal obligation to provide adequate coverage of public payphones. However, BT has identified 190 payphones that it wants to close in Powys, 94 of which are in my constituency. It claims that it can do that because we all, supposedly, have mobile phones nowadays. You will be aware that in large sections of my community, there is still no mobile telephone signal, or a very weak signal, and those phone boxes are usually used in an emergency situation, often to contact Childline or a domestic abuse hotline. Therefore, will you use your office to write to British Telecom and to Ofcom on this matter to ensure that Ofcom ensures that British Telecom keeps to its universal service obligation?

1.10 p.m.

Elin Jones: I understand the point that you make as a representative of a rural constituency similar to yours. I will undertake to discuss with BT the implications of its new proposal on phone coverage and the safety of that phone coverage in rural areas.

Gareth Jones: Mae'r cynnydd mewn prisiau bwyd a phrinder bwyd dros y byd yn tanlinellu mor bwysig yw ein hadnoddau gwledig ac amaethyddol i bawb ohonom, a sut y dylem barchu ac, yn wir, ddiolch i'n hamaethwyr am eu cynnyrch a'u gwarchodaeth o'r tiroedd, yn aml o dan amgylchiadau anodd iawn. Os ydym, yn ôl cytundeb 'Cymru'n Un', am greu ysgolion yr

gyfer ymyrraeth gan y Llywodraeth ond, wedi dweud hynny, os yw busnesau yn y sector prosesu bwyd neu'r sector cynhyrchu bwyd am drafod gyda'r Llywodraeth sut y gallant gryfhau eu busnes, neu gryfhau eu cadwyni cyflenwi, yna gallem edrych ar hynny—drwy gyfres o fesurau cefnogi busnes y mae'r Llywodraeth hon yn eu cefnogi, a hefyd drwy'r cynllun datblygu gwledig, yn enwedig y grant prosesu a marchnata.

Kirsty Williams: Deallaf mai un o'ch blaenoriaethau dros y 12 mis nesaf fydd amddiffyn gwasanaethau mewn cymunedau gwledig ac felly, byddwch yn ymwybodol bod gan British Telecom ddyletswydd gwasanaeth i bawb i ddarparu digon o ffonau talu cyhoeddus. Fodd bynnag, mae BT wedi nodi 190 o ffonau talu y mae am eu cau ym Mhowys, ac mae 94 ohonynt yn fy etholaeth. Mae'n honni y gall wneud hynny gan fod gennym oll, yn ôl y sôn, ffonau symudol y dyddiau hyn. Byddwch yn ymwybodol mewn rhannau mawr o'm cymuned, nad oes signal ffonau symudol o hyd, neu mae'r signal yn wan iawn, ac fel arfer defnyddir y ffonau hynny mewn argyfwng, yn aml i gysylltu â Childline neu linell gymorth cam-drin domestig. Felly, a wnewch ddefnyddio eich swydd er mwyn ysgrifennu at British Telecom ac Ofcom am y mater hwn er mwyn sicrhau bod Ofcom yn sicrhau bod British Telecom yn cadw at ei ddyletswydd gwasanaeth i bawb?

Elin Jones: Fel cynrychiolydd etholaeth wledig debyg i'ch un chi, deallaf y pwynt a wnewch. Byddaf yn ymgymryd â thrafodaeth gyda BT i drafod goblygiadau ei gynnig newydd ar ddosbarthiad ffonau a gwarchod y dosbarthiad ffonau hwnnw mewn ardaloedd gwledig.

Gareth Jones: The increase in food prices and global food shortages underline the importance of rural and agricultural resources to us all, as well as the fact that we should respect and, indeed, thank our farmers for their produce and for conserving the lands, often under difficult circumstances. If we are, under the 'One Wales' agreement, to create the schools of the twenty-first century, do

unfed ganrif ar hugain, oni ddylem sicrhau bod dealltwriaeth o'r tir, ei botensial a'i bwysigrwydd cynhaliol yn rhan allweddol o gwricwlwm bob disgybl, a hynny yn flaenoriaeth?

Elin Jones: Cytunaf â'r pwynt am realiti'r sefyllfa prinder bwyd mewn cyd-destun byd eang a'r ffaith bod marchnadoedd newydd a mwy yn bodoli yn awr sy'n mynnu'r un cyflenwad o fwyd. Mae hwnnw'n cael effaith ar brisiau a chyflenwad bwyd, mae'n newid y deinamig o ran cynhyrchu bwyd, ac mae'n newid pwysigrwydd defnyddio tir Cymru ar gyfer cynhyrchu ystod eang o fwydydd. Mae gwaith yn mynd rhagddo ar hyn o bryd. Er enghraifft, bu i mi lansio DVD ar gyfer plant ysgol yn ddiweddar am gynhyrchu bwyd yn lleol. O bosibl, mae angen ystyried sut y gallwn integreiddio hyn i'r cwricwlwm yn fwy. Byddaf yn dwyn eich sylwadau at sylw'r Gweinidog addysg.

Locally Sourced Food

Q9 Jeff Cuthbert: What is the Minister doing to promote locally sourced food across the Caerphilly borough? OAQ(3)0382(RAF)

Elin Jones: In October 2007, I visited a school in Rhymney as part of national beef day celebrations and saw for myself the success of local sourcing in Caerphilly county borough. My officials are working closely with partners in the borough to try to increase the take-up of local food and drink.

Jeff Cuthbert: Do you agree that in the case of schools, while it is important to find food that is sourced as locally as possible, it is also fundamental to have in place adequate checks to ensure the quality and standard of food provided?

Elin Jones: Yes I agree absolutely with that. Food safety and quality are essential in any purchase of food, but nowhere more so than in the purchase of food for our schoolchildren.

Mohammad Asghar: I would like to draw your attention to the farmers' co-operative,

you not think that we should be placing a priority on ensuring that understanding the land, its potential and its importance in sustaining us is a key part of the curriculum for each pupil?

Elin Jones: I agree with the point about the reality of the situation as regards food shortages in the global context and the fact that new and larger markets now exist that demand the same food supply. That is having an impact on food prices and supplies, it alters the dynamic in relation to food production, and it modifies the importance of using Welsh land to produce a wide variety of foods. Work is currently under way. For instance, I recently launched a DVD for schoolchildren on producing food locally. We may possibly need to consider how we can further integrate that into the curriculum. I will draw your comments to the attention of the Minister for education.

Bwyd Lleol

C9 Jeff Cuthbert: Beth mae'r Gweinidog yn ei wneud i hyrwyddo bwyd lleol ar draws bwrdeistref Caerffili? OAQ(3)0382(RAF)

Elin Jones: Ym mis Hydref 2007, bûm yn ymweld ag ysgol yn Rhymni fel rhan o ddatliadau'r diwrnod cig eidion cenedlaethol a gwelais drosof fy hun lwyddiant cyflenwi bwyd yn lleol ym mwrdeistref sirol Caerffili. Mae fy swyddogion yn gweithio'n agos gyda phartneriaid yn y fwrdeistref i geisio cynyddu'r nifer sy'n prynu bwyd a diod yn lleol.

Jeff Cuthbert: A ydych yn cytuno o ran ysgolion, tra'i bod yn bwysig dod o hyd i fwyd sy'n cael ei gyflenwi mor lleol â phosibl, ei bod hefyd yn hanfodol cynnal archwiliadau digonol er mwyn sicrhau ansawdd a safon y bwyd a ddarperir?

Elin Jones: Yr wyf yn cytuno'n llwyr â hynny. Mae diogelwch ac ansawdd bwyd yn hanfodol i unrhyw un sy'n prynu bwyd, ond yn sicr o ran prynu bwyd i'n plant ysgol.

Mohammad Asghar: Hoffwn dynnu eich sylw at fenter gydweithredol ffermwyr Welsh

hunain, gan dynnu ar gynnwys o gasgliadau digidol sydd eisoes yn ein hamgueddfeydd, ein harchifau a'n llyfrgelloedd. Bydd yn darparu cyfleoedd i gymunedau lleol, ysgolion a chymdeithasau i ddatblygu eu cymunedau hanesyddol eu hunain, gan gyfrannu at yr adnodd digidol cenedlaethol.

Yn dilyn trafodaethau gyda Llafur: Cymdeithas Hanes Pobl Cymreig, yr ydym wedi dewis casgliadau thematig, dwyieithog ar gyfer rhan o'r cynnwys cychwynnol. Bydd adnoddau yn cael eu paratoi erbyn 2009 gan Amgueddfa Cymru, Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru a Chomisiwn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru i ddehongli hanes teulu a chymunedau, hanes cymdeithasol ieithoedd Cymru, cyfraniad dynion a merched i fywyd Cymru, hanes chwaraeon, ynghyd â stori bwysig ymfudo a mewnfudo yn hanes Cymru. Bydd cyfleoedd i ddatblygu adnoddau ychwanegol pan fydd y system ar-lein newydd ar gael, ddiwedd y flwyddyn nesaf.

Bydd y modd unigryw hwn o chwilota yn caniatáu mynediad i wybodaeth ar-lein am dreftadaeth a diwylliant Cymru o safbwynt lle, amser a phwnc. Bydd mapiau ar-lein yn paratoi mynediad cyflym i wybodaeth am leoliadau, digwyddiadau hanesyddol a'n safleoedd treftadaeth. Bydd llinyn amser yn galluogi defnyddwyr i weld sut mae lleoedd wedi newid dros y blynyddoedd. Ar gyfer ymwelwyr, ceir cysylltiadau a darperir gwybodaeth ar gyfer llety a gwasanaethau lleol. Bydd y rheiny'n cefnogi pobl i ymweld â'n safleoedd hanesyddol a'n cyfleusterau dros eu hunain ac i'w profi.

Yr ydym yn gweithio law yn llaw â'n prifysgolion i archwilio ffyrdd newydd o ddehongli ein treftadaeth a'n diwylliant. Bydd cyflwyniadau tri-dimensiynol, er enghraifft, yn ein galluogi i hedfan dros Gymru, gan aros ger safleoedd diddorol. Bydd arddangosfeydd rhithwir yn ein galluogi i ganolbwyntio ar ddigwyddiadau a chylchwylliau gan ein hannog i wneud sylwadau ac i drafod. Bydd ein safle dysgu yn cynnwys adnoddau dysgu a deunydd ar gyfer ysgolion a dysgwyr gydol oes.

Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am gymorth a

drawing on content from existing digital collections in our museums, archives and libraries. It will provide tools for local communities, schools and societies to develop their own historical websites, which will contribute to the national digital resource.

Following discussions with Llafur: The Welsh People's History Society, we have identified thematic bilingual collections that will form part of the initial content. Resources will be prepared by 2009 by National Museum Wales, the National Library of Wales and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales to interpret family and community history, the social history of Wales's languages, the contribution of men and women to Welsh life, the history of sport, and the important story of immigration and emigration in Welsh history. There will be opportunities to develop additional resources when the new online system becomes available at the end of next year.

This unique search facility will provide access to online information about Welsh heritage and culture according to place, time and subject. Online maps will provide quick access to information about places, historical events and heritage sites. A timeline approach will enable users to see how places have changed over the years. For visitors, links will be provided to local accommodation and services, which will encourage people to visit and experience our historic sites and facilities for themselves.

We are working with our universities to explore new ways of interpreting our heritage and culture. For example, three-dimensional presentations will enable us to fly over Wales and to stop at interesting sites. Virtual exhibitions will enable us to focus on events and anniversaries by encouraging us to comment and to take part in debates. Our learning zone will include learning resources and materials for use by schools and lifelong learners.

I am grateful for the support and enthusiasm

brwdfrydedd y sector treftadaeth a diwylliant wrth lunio'r syniadau cychwynnol hyn. Wrth adeiladu ar waith Casglu'r Tlysau, Rhagor, Coflein a phrosiectau digidol eraill, mae gan ein casgliadau cenedlaethol, a reolir gan Amgueddfa Cymru, Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru a Chomisiwn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru botensial eithriadol i gyfrannu at ddatblygiad Casgliad y Bobl. Yn ogystal, mae casgliadau lleol gwych ar gael mewn amgueddfeydd, archifdai a llyfrgelloedd drwy Gymru, ynghyd â chasgliadau digidol sy'n cael eu datblygu gan wirfoddolwyr brwdfrydig mewn cymunedau, drwy raglenni arloesol Archifau Cymunedol Cymru, er enghraifft. Mae gan yr holl adnoddau pwysig hyn ran i'w chwarae yn natblygiad Casgliad y Bobl i'w wneud yn wir adnodd o bwys cenedlaethol.

shown by the heritage and cultural sector in shaping these initial ideas. Building on the work of Gathering the Jewels, Rhagor, Coflein and other digital projects, our national collections, which are managed by National Museum Wales, the National Library of Wales and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales have tremendous potential to contribute to the development of the People's Collection. We also have superb local collections in museums, archives and libraries across Wales, together with digital collections that are being developed by dedicated volunteers in communities, through the pioneering programmes of Community Archives Wales, for example. All of these important activities have a role to play in making the People's Collection a resource of true national importance.

Yr wyf hefyd yn hynod o falch i ddatgan bod ein darlledwyr a'n cyrff treftadaeth a thwristiaeth hyd yn oed ar ddechrau'r broses wedi dangos cryn ddiddordeb mewn cyfrannu, er mwyn sicrhau y bydd Casgliad y Bobl yn adnodd ar-lein a fydd yn golygu y bydd gan Gymru le blaenllaw o ran gwasanaethau treftadaeth rhyngweithiol ar-lein. Bydd y gwaith paratoadol yn datblygu strategaethau ar gyfer rheoli materion hawlfraint a sut y byddwn yn safoni a rheoli'r cynnwys a gyfrennir gan ddefnyddwyr.

I am also delighted to announce that, even at this early stage of the process, our broadcasters and heritage and tourism bodies have already demonstrated a high level of interest in making the People's Collection an online resource that will place Wales at the forefront of interactive online heritage services. Initial preparatory work will develop strategies to address copyright issues and how we will manage user-generated content.

Yr wyf yn awyddus i sicrhau y bydd y rhaglen yn rhoi cyfleoedd addysgol cyffrous i bobl o bob oedran. Mae gan bawb ohonom atgofion personol o sut mae aelodau o'n teuluoedd a'n cymunedau wedi cyfrannu at hanes bywyd a diwylliant Cymreig. Faint o'r hanesion hyn sydd eisoes ar goll i genedlaethau'r dyfodol?

I am keen to ensure that the programme provides exciting learning opportunities for people of all ages. I am sure that we all have personal memories of how members of our families and our communities have contributed to the story of Welsh life and culture. How many of these stories are already lost to future generations?

1.20 p.m.

Bydd Casgliad y Bobl yn fodd i ysgogi diddordeb ym mywyd a hanes Cymru i bobl Cymru. Mae gofyn ein bod yn cynyddu ac yn cyfoethogi ein hadnoddau digidol gyda chyfraniad unigolion, cymdeithasau lleol ac ysgolion. Mae cyfleoedd arbennig i gefnogi addysg rhyng-genedlaethol drwy giplunio a dehongli hanesion personol. Bydd Casgliad y Bobl yn gyfle ar-lein unigryw i bobl gyfrannu, trafod a dysgu am dreftadaeth,

The People's Collection will be a means of stimulating interest in Welsh life and history. We need to augment and enrich our existing digital resources with the contribution of individuals, local societies and schools. There are tremendous opportunities to support intergenerational learning through capturing and interpreting personal histories. The People's Collection will be a unique online opportunity for people to contribute, discuss,

hanes a diwylliant ein gwlad.

Oni fydd hi'n ddiddorol i ymwelwyr a darpar ymwelwyr i Gymru allu cael mynediad i ystod eang o wybodaeth am ein treftadaeth a'n diwylliant mewn un man? Bydd yn bosibl cynnal arddangosfeydd rhithwir a fydd yn adlewyrchu ein treftadaeth i gynulleidfa fyd-eang. Mae cyfleoedd gwych i gefnogi digwyddiadau yn y dyfodol hefyd, megis Cwpan Ryder a digwyddiadau chwaraeon mawr eraill drwy arddangosfeydd rhithwir a fydd yn tynnu at ei gilydd gynnwys proffesiynol ynghyd â phrofiad chwaraewyr o bob math. Yr wyf yn falch hefyd fod ymddiriedolwyr y Welsh Sports Hall of Fame wedi cytuno i ddatblygu eu casgliad sylweddol, yn gyfraniad cychwynnol i Gasgliad y Bobl.

Yr ydym ar ddechrau siwrnai gyffrous a fydd yn dwyn at ei gilydd bartneriaeth o gyrff yn y sectorau perthnasol er mwyn datblygu Casgliad y Bobl ar-lein dros y tair blynedd nesaf. Bydd grŵp ymgynghorol y rhaglen yn dod at ei gilydd yn fuan i ddatblygu'r bartneriaeth a thrafod y cynllun gwaith. Edrychaf ymlaen at weithio gyda'r sector er mwyn gwredu'r rhaglen uchelgeisiol a phellgyrhaeddol hon. Bydd Casgliad y Bobl yn rhoi'r gallu i bawb ohonom fod yn guradur digidol ac, wrth wneud hynny, gyfoethogi dealltwriaeth pawb arall o dreftadaeth a diwylliant Cymreig, yn awr ac ar gyfer y dyfodol.

Paul Davies: Diolchaf i'r Gweinidog am ei ddatganiad y prynhawn yma. Yr ydym ninnau, y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig, hefyd yn ymrwymo i ehangu cyfranogiad ein cyndeidiau i bob cymuned yng Nghymru. Mae gennym hanes cyfoethog yng Nghymru, nid yn unig o ran atyniadau, fel ein cestyll a'n cofgolofnau, ond hefyd o ran y bobl sydd wedi bodoli drwy'r oesoedd. Yn y pen draw, y bobl yn ein hanes sydd wedi creu'r atyniadau hyn yn y lle cyntaf.

Mae'n bwysig felly inni ddathlu ein pobl, sydd wedi cyfrannu'n enfawr at ein hanes, a dyna pam yr wyf yn croesawu datganiad y Gweinidog. Gobeithiaf y bydd y casgliad hwn yn adlewyrchu pob agwedd ar hanes pobl Cymru. Bydd hyn yn sicr o alluogi'r

and learn about our nation's heritage, culture and history.

How much more interesting it will be for visitors and potential visitors to Wales to be able to access a wide range of information on our heritage and culture from one access point. We will be able to host stimulating virtual exhibitions reflecting our heritage, available to a worldwide audience. There are tremendous opportunities to support future events such as the Ryder Cup and other major sporting events through virtual displays, drawing together professional content as well as the experiences of sportsmen and women. I am delighted that the Trustees of the Welsh Sports Hall of Fame have agreed for their important collection to be digitised as an initial contribution to the People's Collection.

We are now at the start of an exciting journey that will bring together a partnership of bodies to develop the online People's Collection over the next three years. The programme advisory group will be convened shortly to develop the partnership and to discuss the work programme. I look forward to working with the sector to realise the aims of this ambitious and far-reaching programme. The People's Collection will give all of us the ability to become digital curators and, in so doing, to enrich everyone else's understanding of Welsh heritage and culture, both now and for the future.

Paul Davies: I thank the Minister for his statement this afternoon. We in the Welsh Conservatives are also committed to expanding the participation of our ancestors to all communities in Wales. We have a rich history in Wales, not only in our attractions, such as our castles and monuments, but also among the people who have lived here throughout the ages. At the end of the day, it was the people in our history who created those attractions in the first place.

It is therefore important that we celebrate our people, who have contributed enormously to our history, and that is why I welcome the Minister's statement. I hope that this collection will reflect all aspects of the history of the people of Wales. This will

cyhoedd i ddysgu mwy am hanes ein pobl, ac i wella'r ddealltwriaeth o'n hanes yn gyffredinol. Gobeithiaf hefyd y bydd y casgliad hwn yn denu mwy o ymwelwyr i fwynhau mwy o'n hanes cyfoethog.

Mae'r Gweinidog yn sôn y bydd cyfleoedd i ddatblygu adnoddau ychwanegol pan fydd y system ar-lein, ddiwedd y flwyddyn nesaf. Pryd yn union y mae'r Gweinidog yn disgwyl i'r fath gasgliad fod ar gael—a oes ganddo ddyddiad penodol? Gall y fath gasgliad gyfrannu'n addysgiadol i oedolion a phlant ac i grwpiau cymdeithasol hefyd. Fel y mae'r Gweinidog wedi ei ddweud, mae gennym gasgliadau lleol arbennig hefyd.

O dan yr amgylchiadau, a fydd modd i awdurdodau lleol gyfrannu at y fath gasgliad, er mwyn hybu hanes ein cymunedau, er enghraifft, a sicrhau y bydd casgliadau lleol yn cael eu cynnwys yn y casgliad hwn? Mae diwylliant a hanes yn chwarae rhan allweddol wrth adfywio cymunedau, oherwydd yr ymwelwyr y maent yn eu denu, sydd yn cynhyrchu gweithgarwch. Bydd y casgliad hwn yn cyd-gysylltu'n agos â thwristiaeth ddiwylliannol—rhywbeth yr ydym fel Cynulliad wedi ei drafod yn ddiweddar. Mae'n bwysig, felly, ein bod yn hybu'r fath gasgliad gymaint â phosibl.

Sut gaiff y casgliad ei hyrwyddo, fel bod pobl yn gwybod amdano? Mae'n hanfodol hybu ein hanes, nid yn unig i rai, ond i bawb yn ein cymdeithas, ac mae cydnabod a dathlu'r nifer fawr o'n pobl hanesyddol a'u celf luniau gwahanol yn fodd o gryfhau ac uno cymunedau.

Croesawaf y cyhoeddiad hwn heddiw, a gobeithiaf y bydd y casgliad yn cyfrannu'n helaeth at ymwybyddiaeth ein hanes ledled Cymru.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Diolch am y geiriau hynny, Paul, ac am y croeso i'r prosiect cyffrous hwn i ddwyn ynghyd yr holl wybodaeth sydd eisoes ar gael yn Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru ac yn Amgueddfa Cymru, ac sy'n rhoi'r cyfle i fudiadau ac unigolion gyfrannu at y casgliad hwn.

Bydd y casgliad yn cael ei ddwyn ynghyd

certainly enable the public to learn more about the history of our people, and improve the general understanding of our history. I also hope that this collection will attract more visitors to enjoy more of our rich history.

The Minister mentions that there will be opportunities to develop additional resources when the system is launched online, at the end of next year. When exactly does the Minister expect such a collection to be available—does he have a specific date in mind? Such a collection could contribute to the education of adults and children as well as social groups. As the Minister has said, we have exceptional local collections, too.

Under the circumstances, will local authorities be able to contribute to such a collection, to promote the history of our communities, for instance, and to ensure that local collections are included? Culture and history play a key role in regenerating communities, because of the visitors that they attract, which, in turn, produces activity. This collection will have a close link with cultural tourism—something that we have been discussing at the Assembly recently. Therefore, it is important that we promote such a collection as much as possible.

How will the collection be promoted, so that people are made aware of it? It is essential that we promote our history, not only to the few but to the many in our society, and recognising and celebrating our historic figures and their works of art is a way of strengthening and uniting communities.

I welcome this announcement today, and I hope that the collection will make a substantial contribution to the awareness of our history throughout Wales.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Thank you, Paul, for your words and for welcoming this exciting project, which will bring together all the information that is already available at the National Library for Wales and National Museum Wales, and which gives organisations and individuals the opportunity to contribute to this collection.

The collection will be brought together this

eleni, a chaiff ei ddatblygu dros y ddwy flynedd nesaf, felly bydd ar gael yn fuan iawn ond, wrth reswm, bydd yn cymryd peth amser i ddatblygu'n llawn. Yn sicr, byddwn yn annog awdurdodau lleol i gymryd rhan weithgar yn y prosiect. Mae ganddynt adnoddau yn eu llyfrgelloedd a'u hamgueddfeydd a fyddai'n ddefnyddiol. Byddwn yn gwneud pob ymdrech i hyrwyddo'r casgliad a sicrhau bod pawb yn ymwybodol ohono, oherwydd, yn ddelfrydol, yr hyn y dymunwn ei weld yn y pen draw yw bod pob unigolyn yng Nghymru yn gallu cael mynediad i'r casgliad ac yn gallu cyfrannu ato. Os nad yw pobl yn bwydo i mewn i'r casgliad, gallai hanesion gael eu colli.

Mae gan yr ardal sy'n amgylchynu'r Senedd hon, sef bae Caerdydd, hanes diddorol iawn, ac mae pobl yn byw yma sy'n dal i gofio peth o'r hanes hwnnw. Maent yn gallu adrodd hanes eu rhieni neu eu tad-cu a'u mam-gu yn dod i Gaerdydd am y tro cyntaf ac yn creu'r gymdeithas eithriadol o bwysig ac amrywiol sydd i'w chael ym mae Caerdydd.

Alun Davies: Like others here today, I also welcome your statement, Minister. I particularly welcome the imaginative and innovative way in which this collection has been put together and is being made available to people not only here in Wales but all over the world. This was a commitment of the Labour manifesto at the last election and has been an aspiration of many people, within the Labour Party and elsewhere, for many years.

The way in which we interpret and understand our history is fundamental to the way in which we understand ourselves. In that sense, I particularly welcome the link between a personal or family history and the history of a community and of a country. That is fundamental to our understanding of ourselves and of where we come from. It was our families who were involved in the struggle for the vote, the struggle for women's suffrage, and the struggles against fascism in the 1930s. Making those links gives us a far greater sense of place and connection with this place than any individual lesson could. I welcome the opportunity that you outline to bring together collections from different places.

year, and will be developed over the ensuing two years. Therefore, it will be available very soon, although it will naturally take time to develop it fully. I would certainly encourage local authorities to participate actively in the project. They have resources in their libraries and museums that would be useful to this collection. We will make every effort to promote the collection and to ensure that everyone is aware of it, because, ideally, what we want to see is every individual in Wales being able to access the collection and able to contribute towards it. If people do not feed into the collection, histories could be lost.

The area surrounding the Senedd building in Cardiff bay has an extremely interesting history, and there are people living here who still remember some of that history. They can tell the tale of their parents or grandparents moving to Cardiff for the first time and creating the extremely important and diverse community that can be found in Cardiff bay.

Alun Davies: Yr wyf finnau, fel eraill yma heddiw, hefyd yn croesawu'ch datganiad, Weinidog. Croesawaf yn arbennig y ffordd greadigol ac arloesol y rhoddwyd y casgliad hwn at ei gilydd a'r modd y caiff ei ddarparu i bobl nid yng Nghymru yn unig, ond ym mhedwar ban byd. Yr oedd hwn yn un o ymrwymadau maniffesto'r blaid Lafur yn yr etholiad diwethaf ac mae'n un o ddyheadau llawer o bobl, yn y Blaid Lafur ac mewn pleidiau eraill, ers blynyddoedd lawer.

Mae'r modd y byddwn yn dehongli ac yn deall ein hanes yn hollbwysig i'r ffordd yr ydym yn deall ein hunain. Yn yr ystyr hwnnw, croesawaf yn arbennig y cyswllt rhwng hanes personol neu hanes teulu a hanes cymuned a gwlad. Mae hynny'n allweddol i'n dealltwriaeth o'n hunain ac o le'r ydym yn dod. Ein teuluoedd ni oedd yn rhan o'r frwydr dros y bleidlais, y frwydr dros bleidlais menywod a'r brwydrau yn erbyn ffasgaeth yn yr 1930au. Mae gwneud y cysylltiadau hynny'n rhoi inni lawer mwy o ymdeimlad o le ac o gysylltiad â'r lle hwn nag y gallai unrhyw wers unigol. Croesawaf y cyfle a amlinellwch i ddwyn ynghyd gasgliadau o wahanol leoedd.

I have mentioned some of the issues that I hope the collection will include and address. Minister, can you confirm that the People's Collection will include the history of trade unionism in Wales, that it will draw on the archives of the trade union movement, and will cover the establishment of the Wales TUC as well as the establishment of trade unions over the past two centuries? Will it also include the social, political and cultural issues and histories of individual communities? Will it mention the way in which an entire new culture was created in the south Wales Valleys in the nineteenth century, the elements that sustained that culture, and the social structures that sustained it, from working men's halls to the Medical Aid Society, which led to the establishment of the national health service? At this time of the sixtieth anniversary of the NHS, that is a particularly important part of our history that we should ensure is available for future generations. I hope that it will also include reference to trade union banners, and the way in which working people organised themselves and created and celebrated a different history from that which is usually celebrated by our friends on the other side of the Chamber.

1.30 p.m.

I very much welcome the statement. In terms of understanding our history—and you have referred to it in a previous answer, Minister—it is about the commitment and contribution of all communities to this society, and here in Cardiff bay, as you have already said, there is a very different and vibrant community that will form a part of this collection. I very much welcome what you have said, Minister, and I hope that this collection is expansive and creates those connections between us and our communities.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Yes, it was a commitment in the Labour Party manifesto during the last election, and I am very glad to implement a Labour Party manifesto commitment. It is a very important project, but it is also innovative—it will be the first of its kind anywhere in the world, as far as we know. You have managed to grasp the vision behind this collection. It is very much about

Yr wyf wedi sôn am rai o'r materion y gobeithiaf y byddant wedi'u cynnwys yn y casgliad, ac y rhoddir sylw iddynt yn y casgliad. Weinidog, a allwch gadarnhau y bydd Casgliad y Bobl yn cynnwys hanes undebaeth lafur yng Nghymru, y bydd yn defnyddio archifau'r mudiad undeb llafur ac y rhydd sylw i sefydlu TUC Cymru yn ogystal â sefydlu undebau llafur dros y ddwy ganrif diwethaf? A fydd hefyd yn cynnwys y materion cymdeithasol, gwleidyddol a diwylliannol a hanes cymunedau unigol? A fydd yn crybwyll y modd y crëwyd diwylliant cwbl newydd yn y Cymoedd yn y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg, yr elfennau a gynhaliodd y diwylliant hwnnw a'r strwythurau cymdeithasol a'i gynhaliodd, o neuaddau'r gweithwyr i'r Gymdeithas Cymorth Meddygol, a arweiniodd at sefydlu'r gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol? A hithau'n benblwydd y GIG yn drigain oed, mae hynny'n rhan arbennig o bwysig o'n hanes y dylem sicrhau y bydd ar gael i genedlaethau'r dyfodol. Gobeithiaf y bydd hefyd yn cyfeirio at faneri undebau llafur, a'r modd yr oedd y dosbarth gweithiol yn trefnu eu hunain ac yn creu ac yn dathlu hanes gwahanol i'r hanes a ddethlir fel rheol gan ein cyfeillion ar ochr arall y Siambr.

Yr wyf yn croesawu'r datganiad yn fawr. O ran deall ein hanes—yr ydych wedi cyfeirio ato mewn ateb blaenorol, Weinidog—mae'n ymwneud ag ymrwymiad a chyfraniad pob cymuned at y gymdeithas hon, ac yma ym Mae Caerdydd, fel yr ydych wedi dweud eisoes, mae yno gymuned wahanol a bywiog iawn a fydd yn ffurfio rhan o'r casgliad hwn. Croesawaf eich sylwadau'n wresog, Weinidog, a gobeithiaf y bydd y casgliad hwn yn un eang ac y bydd yn creu'r cysylltiadau hynny rhyngom a'n cymunedau.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Yn wir, yr oedd yn ymrwymiad ym maniffesto'r Blaid Lafur yn ystod yr etholiad diwethaf, ac yr wyf yn falch iawn o gael rhoi ymrwymiad maniffesto'r Blaid Lafur ar waith. Mae'n brosiect pwysig iawn, ond mae hefyd yn arloesol—hwn fydd y cyntaf o'i fath yn y byd, cyn belled ag y gwyddom. Yr ydych wedi llwyddo i amgyffred y weledigaeth y tu ôl i'r casgliad

interpreting our history, and not in a cold, academic way, but through people's recollections of that history and by telling the story of a whole range of social movements in Wales and their contribution.

It is also about recalling the history of the trade union movement and trade union banners; David Melding seemed to be warming very much to the idea that there could now be a means of looking at the history of trade unions, their banners and the symbolism of those banners. That is very much the idea: people contributing towards the collection and feeling ownership of it. People should feel that the collection tells a story about our past as a people. As Paul emphasised earlier, it is also very important in terms of tourism and visitors to Wales; people should understand that they are coming to a country that has a very rich tradition of history to share.

Peter Black: I welcome this announcement and the commitment of £2 million for developing this site. I am sure that it will be a very valuable resource, which will be used widely throughout Wales. I have a few questions, Minister. It was not clear from the statement who will be managing and developing this resource; I may have missed it among the dazzling list of contributors and partners involved in it. Will you clarify that for us?

Secondly, Paul Davies asked about local councils and you responded to that. Local councils and universities manage quite significant archive services. I wonder to what extent you will be incorporating into this site the rich material that is available in those archives, so that people are able to tap into it. I may well be getting ahead of your ambitions here, but it would be useful if you could give us some indication as to whether or not you would be looking to bring private collections and existing local history sites into this umbrella site.

Finally, this will be a very useful freestanding resource and will be helpful for school pupils in developing their own research skills and

hwn. Mae'n fater o ddehongli ein hanes, nid mewn dull oer nac academiaidd, ond yn hytrach drwy gyfleu atgofion pobl o'r hanes hwnnw a drwy adrodd y stori am ystod eang o fudiadau cymdeithasol yng Nghymru a'u cyfraniad.

Mae'n fater hefyd o gofio hanes y mudiad undeb llafur a baneri'r undeb llafur; yr oedd David Melding fel petai'n hoffi'r syniad y gellid bod modd yn awr i daro golwg dros hanes undebau llafur, eu baneri a symbolaeth y baneri hynny. Dyna yw hanfod y syniad i raddau helaeth; pobl yn cyfrannu at y casgliad ac yn arddel perchnogaeth drosto. Dylai pobl deimlo bod y casgliad yn adrodd stori am ein gorffennol fel pobl. Fel y pwysleisiodd Paul yn gynharach, mae hefyd yn bwysig iawn o ran twristiaeth ac ymwelwyr i Gymru; dylai pobl ddeall eu bod yn dod i wlad gyda thraddodiad cyfoethog o hanes i'w rannu.

Peter Black: Croesawaf y cyhoeddiad hwn a'r ymrwymiad o £2 miliwn i ddatblygu'r wefan hon. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd yn adnodd gwerthfawr iawn, a gaiff ei ddefnyddio'n helaeth ledled Cymru. Mae gennyf ambell gwestiwn, Weinidog. Nid oedd yn glir o'r datganiad pwy fydd yn rheoli ac yn datblygu'r adnodd hwn; mae'n ddigon posibl fy mod wedi colli hynny ymhlith y rhestr wfreiddiol o gyfranwyr a phartneriaid sydd ynghlwm ag ef. A wnewch egluro'r pwynt hwnnw?

Yn ail, holodd Paul Davies am gynghorau lleol ac atebasoch y cwestiwn hwnnw. Mae cynghorau lleol a phrifysgolion yn rheoli gwasanaethau archif sylweddol iawn. I ba raddau, tybed, y byddwch yn ymgorffori yn y wefan hon y deunyddiau cyfoethog sydd ar gael yn yr archifau hynny, fel y gall pobl gael gafael arnynt. Mae'n ddigon posibl fy mod yn rhoi'r drol o flaen y ceffyl yn y fan hon, ond byddai'n ddefnyddiol petaech yn rhoi rhyw syniad inni p'un ai a fyddwch yn ceisio dwyn ynghyd casgliadau preifat a gwefannau hanes lleol sydd eisoes yn bodoli i'r wefan ymbarél hon ai peidio.

Yn olaf, bydd hwn yn adnodd annibynnol defnyddiol iawn a bydd yn helpu disgyblion ysgol i ddatblygu eu sgiliau ymchwil eu

looking at original source material as part of their history lessons. Are you designing this site to take account of curriculum requirements, so that teachers are able to use it in that way, rather than just having a fairly loose collection of materials that might be more difficult for them to direct pupils to use in a structured manner?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Thank you, Peter, for welcoming this project. The collection will initially be managed by the National Museum Wales, in co-operation with the National Library of Wales, as they already have substantial collections that will feed into this site. Also, as you have said, there is an important source of potential contributions from archives throughout Wales and they are, at the moment, also beginning to digitise their collections. Therefore, this process will be ongoing. However, it very much depends on the participation, not only of institutions throughout Wales, but also of individuals, because that is where the interpretation of this collection will be different from any other interpretation of history that we currently have. We both look forward to seeing it develop and flourish in the future.

David Lloyd: Hoffwn groesawu ddatganiad y Gweinidog ar gasgliad y bobl. Mae cof cenedl yn ei hanes, ei dehongliad o'r hanes hwnnw ac, yn benodol, yn y cyd-destun hwn, yn hanes y bobl gyffredin. Yn rhy aml, efallai, mae hanes yn seiliedig ar bobl enwog yn unig. Bydd y Gweinidog yn cofio, rhyw bythefnos yn ôl, lansiad yr archifau cymunedol yn y Senedd, lle bu iddo annerch y cyhoedd a holl archifdai siroedd Cymru ynghyd, felly yr wyf yn falch o glywed bod y cynllun hwn yn clymu hynny ynghyd. Yn y pen draw, mae cofnod pobl gyffredin o'u hanes yn allweddol bwysig.

Mae hanes cyfoethog yn Abertawe, gyda'r diwydiant tun gynt yn Felindre, a'r diwydiant copr a fu'n gyfrifol am roi Abertawe ar fap y byd. Ni ellir anghofio hanes chwaraeon yr ardal ychwaith, gyda'r tîm pêl-droed bendigedig a'r timau rygbi. Mae angen addysgu ein pobl ynglŷn â'r hanes cyffredin a chyfoethog hwn, gan gofnodi o ble'r ydym wedi dod fel cenedl, a sut yr ydym wedi

hunain gan edrych ar ddeunyddiau o ffynonellau gwreiddiol fel rhan o'u gwersi hanes. A ydych yn llunio'r wefan hon gan ystyried gofynion y cwricwlwm, fel y gall athrawon ei defnyddio at y diben hwnnw, yn hytrach na chael casgliad weddol rydd o ddeunyddiau a allai fod yn anos iddynt gyfarwyddo disgyblion i'w defnyddio mewn dull strwythuredig?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Diolch yn fawr, Peter, am groesawu'r prosiect hwn. Caiff y casgliad ei reoli yn y lle cyntaf gan Amgueddfa Genedlaethol Cymru, ar y cyd â Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru, gan fod ganddynt eisoes gasgliadau sylweddol a fydd yn bwydo i mewn i'r wefan hon. Hefyd, fel yr ydych wedi'i ddweud, ceir ffynhonnell bwysig o gyfraniadau posibl gan archifau ledled Cymru, ac ar hyn o bryd, maent hwythau hefyd yn dechrau digido eu casgliadau. Felly, bydd y broses hon yn un barhaus. Fodd bynnag, mae'n dibynnu llawer ar gyfranogaeth, nid yn unig gan sefydliadau ledled Cymru, ond hefyd gan unigolion, oherwydd dyna sut bydd dehongliad y casgliad hwn yn wahanol i unrhyw ddehongliad arall o hanes sydd gennym eisoes. Yr ydym yn edrych ymlaen at ei weld yn datblygu ac yn ffynnu yn y dyfodol.

David Lloyd: I would like to welcome the Minister's statement on the people's collection. A nation's memory is in its history, its interpretation of that history and, specifically, in this context, in the history of ordinary people. Too often, perhaps, history is based only on famous people. The Minister will remember the launch, about a fortnight ago, in the Senedd of community archives, where he addressed the public and all of Wales's county archives, so I am pleased to hear that this scheme is bringing all that together. Ultimately, ordinary people's record of their history is of key importance.

Swansea has a rich history, with the tin industry in Felindre, and the copper industry that was responsible for putting Swansea on the world map. We cannot forget about the area's sporting history either, with its wonderful football team and its rugby teams. We must teach our people about this ordinary and rich history, keeping a record of where we have come from as a nation, and how we

cyrraedd lle yr ydym heddiw. Mae'n bwysig cadw'r hanes hwnnw mewn cof.

Yr ydych yn nodi yn eich datganiad y bydd yn ddiddorol i ymwelwyr, a darpar ymwelwyr, â Chymru allu cael mynediad i'r ystod eang hwn o wybodaeth, a chroesawaf y weledigaeth honno. Fodd bynnag, sut y byddwch yn cadw ymwybyddiaeth o'r cynllun bendigedig hwn yn fyw yng nghof pobl, yma a thramor, ac yn parhau i'w gwneud yn hawdd i gael gafael ar y gwefannau priodol yn y tymor hir?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Diolch, Dai, am y cyfraniad hwnnw ac am groesawu'r prosiect. Mae'n brosiect hynod o gyffrous a rhaid inni sicrhau, gan ein bod yn dechrau drwy ddefnyddio'r dechnoleg ddiweddaraf, bod modd i bobl gael mynediad yn rhwydd. Efallai fod rhai yn teimlo bod llawer o bobl o hyd yng Nghymru heb fynediad i dechnoleg gwybodaeth, ond, wrth gwrs, bydd hynny'n newid dros y blynyddoedd. Ar yr un pryd, wrth ddatblygu'r casgliad hwn, yr ydym wedi buddsoddi'n helaeth—dros £10 miliwn dros y dair blynedd nesaf—yn llyfrgelloedd Cymru er mwyn sicrhau mynediad rhad ac am ddim i dechnoleg gwybodaeth. Felly, bydd pobl sydd heb gyfrifiaduron eu hunain, a heb systemau i gael mynediad i'r casgliad hwn, yn gallu mynd i'w llyfrgell leol—mae dros 300 ohonynt dros Gymru—a chael mynediad yn y fan honno. Mae hyn yn gyfuniad o hyrwyddo a phoblogeiddio'r casgliad a sicrhau mynediad i bawb. Bydd ein llyfrgelloedd, wrth gwrs, yn ddefnyddiol iawn i ymwelwyr sydd ar ymweliad â Chymru i gael yr hanes i gyd am yr ardal, cael gwybod am gefndir yr hanes hwnnw a chael dehongliad ohono.

Mae gan ddinasoedd fel Abertawe gyfraniad eithriadol o bwysig i'w wneud. Mae traddodiad pwysig yno o ran y diwydiannau tun a chopr, sydd, efallai, heb ei gofnodi a'i ddehongli i'r un graddau â hanes y diwydiannau glo a haearn yng Nghymru. Mae gan Abertawe hanes gwych o ran chwaraeon o bob math—pêl-droed a rygbi yn arbennig—ac yr oeddwn yn falch o fod yn stadiwm Liberty brynhawn Sul diwethaf i weld gêm derfynol Cwpan Rygbi'r Byd dan 20 oed, gyda Seland Newydd yn llwyddiannus, yn anffodus; Cymru oedd yn y

got to where we are today. It is important to keep that history alive.

You mention in your statement that it will be interesting for those visiting Wales, and preparing to visit Wales, to access this broad spectrum of information, and I welcome that vision. However, how will you ensure that people, at home and abroad, are aware of this wonderful scheme, and continue to make it easy to access the relevant websites in the long term?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Thank you, Dai, for that contribution and for welcoming the project. It is a very exciting project and we must ensure, as we are beginning by making use of the latest technology, that it is easily accessible. Some might feel that many people in Wales do not have access to information technology, but that will, of course, change over the coming years. At the same time, in developing this collection, we have invested heavily—over £10 million over the next three years—in Welsh libraries in order to provide free access to information technology. Therefore, those people who do not have their own computers, and do not have the means to access this collection, will be able to secure that access through their local library—there are over 300 of them in Wales. This is a combination of promoting the collection, making it popular and ensuring access for all. Our libraries, of course, will be very useful for people visiting Wales to be able to learn about the area, to learn about the background of that history and to access an interpretation of that history.

Cities such as Swansea have an extremely important contribution to make. It has an important tradition in its tin and copper industries, which may not have been recorded and interpreted to the same degree as Wales's coal and steel industries. Swansea has a wonderful history in all types of sports—football and rugby especially—and I was pleased to be at the Liberty stadium last Sunday afternoon for the under 20 Rugby World Cup final, which New Zealand won, unfortunately; Wales achieved fourth position, losing fairly heavily to South

pedwerydd safle, gan gollu'n weddol drwm i Dde Affrica. Serch hynny, yr oedd yn ddigwyddiad eithriadol o bwysig. Cytunaf, Dai, mai pobl gyffredin ddylai adrodd yr hanes hwn ynglŷn â'u hatgofion, ac mae pobl sy'n dal i gofio adeg y diwydiant tun yn Abertawe, yn arbennig, ac yn gallu adrodd yr hanesion hynny—os nad yn uniongyrchol, yn anuniongyrchol o'r atgofion y maent wedi eu clywed gan y cenedlaethau o'u blaenau.

1.40 p.m.

David Melding: This sounds like a splendid initiative and I look forward to being able to access the information on the internet. This reminds me slightly of Huw Lewis's call a few years ago for a people's history museum. We seem to have a virtual concept now of this. I am sure that that is fitting for the modern world. I remember that, after hearing Huw waxing so lyrically about the museum in Manchester, I actually went there. Alun Davies will be pleased to hear that it was full of trade union banners, but there was also a large section on association football—I know that people laugh at me when I use that term—to show the great growth in spectator sport and how that transformed the leisure experiences of so many people.

After touring this museum—and I recommend that people go there—I went to the café. There were not many people there, as it was a Tuesday, I think, but when I sat down, a group of curators came along who were planning an exhibition on universal suffrage. I overheard their discussion, for which I apologise, and heard one saying to the another, 'Of course, we will need a special section in this exhibition on universal suffrage to explain the paradox of why so many working men went to vote Conservative as soon as they had the vote'. [Laughter.] Therefore, I hope that you envisage tackling fundamental challenges about how varied our social experience is.

On a serious note, it is one thing to have a large amount of information and historical resource on a system, but it needs to be

Africa. Nonetheless, it was a very important occasion. I agree, Dai, that it is ordinary people who should tell this story about their memories, and there are still people who remember the tin industry in Swansea, in particular, who are able to tell that story—if not directly, then indirectly from what they have heard from previous generations.

David Melding: Mae hwn yn swnio'n gynllun rhagorol ac edrychaf ymlaen at allu cael gafael ar y wybodaeth ar y rhyngwyd. Mae hyn yn fy atgoffa i raddau o gais Huw Lewis rai blynyddoedd yn ôl am amgueddfa hanes y bobl. Mae'n ymddangos bellach bod gennym gysyniad rhithiol o hyn. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod hynny'n gweddu i'r byd modern. Cofiaf, ar ôl clywed Huw yn canu clodydd yr amgueddfa ym Manceinion, fy mod wedi mynd yno fy hun. Bydd Alun Davies yn falch o glywed ei bod yn llawn o faneri undebau llafur, ond yr oedd adran go fawr ar bêl droed y gymdeithas—gwn fod pobl yn chwerrhin am fy mhen pan ddefnyddiaf y term hwnnw—i ddangos y twf sylweddol mewn chwaraeon i wylwyr a sut y gwnaeth hynny drawsnewid profiadau hamdden cymaint o bobl.

Ar ôl mynd o amgylch yr amgueddfa—ac yr wyf yn eich argymhell i fynd yno—es i mewn i'r caffî. Nid oedd llawer o bobl yno, oherwydd credaf mai dydd Mawrth ydoedd, ond ar ôl eistedd i lawr, daeth grŵp o guraduron heibio a oedd yn cynllunio arddangosfa ar y bleidlais gyffredinol. Clustfeiniais ar eu trafodaeth, ac yr wyf yn ymddiheuro am wneud hynny, a chlywais un ohonynt yn dweud, 'Wrth gwrs, bydd angen adran arbennig arnom yn yr arddangosfa hon ar bleidlais gyffredinol i egluro'r paradocs pam mae cynifer o weithwyr gwrywaidd wedi pleidleisio dros y Toriaid cyn gynted ag y cawsant bleidleisio'. [Chwerrhin.] Felly, gobeithiaf y byddwch yn rhagweld sut i fynd i'r afael â heriau sylfaenol sy'n dangos pa mor amrywiol yw ein profiadau cymdeithasol.

Ar nodyn difrifol, un peth yw cael llawer iawn o wybodaeth ac adnoddau hanesyddol ar system, ond rhaid cael trefn arno. Mae

organised. A sort of virtual exhibition space is needed so that people can access material that has already been organised by experts who can see the interconnectedness of what is there. The sheer amount of material that can suddenly come online can be overwhelming.

It is an excellent idea. If you look at the second world war, one of the best sources of information for the experience of everyday people in terms of what they went through, is the result of the mass observation work that took place in the 1930s and 1940s. It is an outstanding piece of work. I wonder whether this initiative can also look forward, to use modern methods of recording to get people's experiences of political and social phenomenon as they affect us today. We do not want our descendants to end up being able to watch what is happening here and have no other access to what really sparked political and social life.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Thank you, David, for welcoming this initiative. I think that the word 'splendid' is a wonderful way of describing the people's collection. You have shown that this collection will be a collection for everyone and that there will be different interpretations of history. We could see David Melding and Alun Davies interpreting the development of Wales as a democracy and coming to a different view of how Wales developed into a modern democracy. That will be the strength of the collection; it will not be a collection of facts, figures and statistics, but an interpretation of how the nation grew and developed.

The collection must develop as technology develops and it must offer more opportunities for people to input it. I should go back to a question that Peter Black raised with me about ensuring that this also feeds into the curriculum, and that children and schools have an opportunity to use this collection in terms of their studies, which is essential. I will discuss how we can do that with Jane Hutt, and I will discuss with other ministerial colleagues how we can use this collection to offer the most comprehensive possible collection of the history of Wales and its interpretation.

angen rhyw fath o le arddangos rhithiol fel y gall pobl gael gafael ar ddeunyddiau a drefnwyd eisoes gan arbenigwyr sy'n gallu dirnad y cysylltiadau rhwng beth sydd yno. Gall y doreth anferth o ddeunyddiau sy'n gallu ymddangos yn sydyn ar-lein fod yn llethol.

Mae'n syniad gwych. Os edrychwch ar yr ail ryfel byd, un o'r ffynonellau gorau o wybodaeth am brofiadau beunyddiol pobl a'r hyn yr aethant drwyddi, yw ffrwyth llafur gwaith arsylwi a wnaethpwyd ymhlith trwch y boblogaeth yn yr 1930au a'r 1940au. Mae'n ddarn hynod o waith. Ys gwn i a all y cynllun hwn edrych i'r dyfodol hefyd, gan ddefnyddio dulliau recordio modern i gasglu profiadau pobl o'r ffenomenau gwleidyddol a chymdeithasol sy'n effeithio arnom heddiw. Nid ydym am weld ein disgynyddion yn gallu gwyllo'r hyn sy'n digwydd yma ond heb unrhyw fynediad arall at yr hyn a wnaeth wir ysgogi bywyd gwleidyddol a chymdeithasol.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Diolch yn fawr, David, am groesawu'r fenter hon. Credaf fod y gair 'rhagorol' yn ffordd wych o ddisgrifio casgliad y bobl. Yr ydych wedi dangos y bydd y casgliad hwn yn gasgliad i bawb a bydd yno wahanol ddehongliadau o hanes. Gallem weld David Melding ac Alun Davies yn dehongli datblygiad Cymru fel gwlad ddemocrataidd gan ddod i safbwynt gwahanol o sut y datblygodd Cymru yn wlad ddemocrataidd fodern. Dyna fydd cryfder y casgliad; nid casgliad o ffeithiau, ffigurau ac ystadegau mohono, ond dehongliad o sut gwnaeth y wlad dyfu a datblygu.

Rhaid i'r casgliad ddatblygu wrth i dechnoleg ddatblygu a rhaid iddo gynnig mwy o gyfleoedd i bobl gael mewnbwn. Dylwn fynd yn ôl at gwestiwn a gododd Peter Black ynghylch sicrhau bod hyn hefyd yn bwydo i mewn i'r cwricwlwm, a bod plant ac ysgolion yn cael cyfle i ddefnyddio'r casgliad hwn yn eu hastudiaethau, sy'n hanfodol. Byddaf yn trafod sut y gallwn wneud hynny gyda Jane Hutt, a byddaf yn trafod gyda'm cyd-Weinidogion eraill sut y gallwn ddefnyddio'r casgliad hwn i gynnig y casgliad mwyaf cynhwysfawr â phosibl o hanes Cymru a'r dehongliad ohono.

Lorraine Barrett: Thank you for your statement, Minister. Welsh heritage means many different things to different people—my history and heritage is steeped in the mining Valleys of the Rhondda, and my children's is in the more modern cultural heritage of Penarth. There are only 25 miles between the two places, but, in some ways, they are light years away from each other. Between those two areas, there is the heart of this area, Butetown, and I was pleased that you mentioned Butetown and Cardiff docks. Will you ensure that the likes of Butetown History and Arts Centre can contribute to the people's collection, because it has a huge archive of material from wartime Butetown? Fifty-three languages are used just across the way from the Chamber in Butetown, and that is part of Welsh heritage. Will you ensure that that is included in this collection? I am pleased that you have said in your response to others that it should be a living collection. What is happening here and now will be the heritage of the future. I look forward to seeing this progress, and ask for your assurance that Butetown History and Arts Centre will be included.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Butetown History and Arts Centre has an important part to play in this collection, and other organisations throughout Wales have a similar contribution to make. There will be no restrictions whatsoever on this collection; everyone will have access. There are issues that we will have to cope with in terms of the possible dangers of that, and there will be a system by which we will carefully monitor the contributions to the collection. However, thinking of Butetown History and Arts Centre, this will be a wonderful opportunity to open out its collection to every part of Wales. David raised the issue of Huw Lewis's advocacy of a museum—in Merthyr, I think—for the history of industrial Wales. The importance of this collection is that it is not just restricted to one geographical location—everyone can have access to it. The danger when you have a collection in a building is that people have to travel to access it, and some people will not be able to access it because they are unable to travel. Everyone will be able to access this

Lorraine Barrett: Diolch ichi am eich datganiad, Weinidog. Mae treftadaeth Cymru'n golygu gwahanol bethau i wahanol bobl—mae fy hanes a'm treftadaeth i wedi'u trwytho yng Nghymoedd y Rhondda, ac mae rhai fy mhlant wedi'u trwytho yn nhreftadaeth fwy modern Penarth. Dim ond 25 milltir sydd rhwng y ddau le, ond, mewn rhai ffyrdd, mae pellter blynyddoedd goleuni rhyngddynt. Rhwng y ddwy ardal hyn, mae calon yr ardal hon, Butetown, ac yr oeddwn yn falch ichi grybwyll Butetown a dociau Caerdydd. A wnewch chi sicrhau bod Canolfan Hanes a Chelf Butetown a'i thebyg yn gallu cyfrannu at gasgliad y bobl, oherwydd mae ganddi archif anferth o ddeunyddiau o Butetown adeg y rhyfel? Caiff pum deg tri o ieithoedd eu defnyddio dros y ffordd i'r Siambr yn Butetown, ac mae hynny'n rhan o dreftadaeth Cymru. A wnewch sicrhau bod hynny'n cael ei gynnwys yn y casgliad hwn? Yr wyf yn falch eich bod wedi dweud yn eich ymateb i eraill y dylai fod yn gasgliad byw. Yr hyn sy'n digwydd yma yn awr fydd treftadaeth y dyfodol. Edrychaf ymlaen at weld hyn yn mynd rhagddo, a gofynnaf am eich sicrwydd y bydd Canolfan Hanes a Chelf Butetown yn cael ei chynnwys.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Mae gan Ganolfan Hanes a Chelf Butetown ran bwysig i'w chwarae yn y casgliad hwn, ac mae gan fudiadau eraill ym mhob cwr o Gymru gyfraniad tebyg i'w wneud. Ni fydd unrhyw gyfyngiadau ar y casgliad hwn; bydd pawb yn cael mynediad. Mae materion y bydd rhaid inni ymdopi â hwy yn nhermau peryglon posibl hynny, a bydd system y byddwn yn ei defnyddio i fonitro'n ofalus y cyfraniadau i'r casgliad. Fodd bynnag, gan feddwl am Ganolfan Hanes a Chelf Butetown, bydd hwn yn gyfle gwych i agor ei chasgliad i bob rhan o Gymru. Cododd David fater eiriolaeth Huw Lewis o blaid amgueddfa—ym Merthyr, fe gredaf—ar gyfer hanes Cymru ddiwydiannol. Pwysigrwydd y casgliad hwn yw nad yw'n gyfyngedig i un lleoliad daearyddol—gall pawb gael mynediad ato. Pan fydd gennych gasgliad mewn adeilad, y perygl yw bod pobl yn gorfod teithio i gael mynediad ato, a bydd rhai pobl na fyddant yn gallu cael mynediad ato oherwydd na allant deithio. Bydd pawb yn gallu cael mynediad at y casgliad hwn, a

collection, and we will ensure that it is a collection that reflects Wales in its diversity and that it is accessible to people throughout Wales.

Mark Isherwood: The past informs the future. To paraphrase what the great man said, the further back we look, the further forward we can see.

I think that this is a splendid initiative, and I commend Labour on including it in its manifesto, which is not something that I often say. To what extent can this also be a crucible for the history of the tribes of Britain who shared many aspects of language, culture and heritage and once occupied much of the island of Britain and who were collectively referred to as 'Welsh' by the incoming Anglo-Saxons? To what extent can the collection reflect the influence of the people of Wales beyond their borders in British history? For example, there is the influence of Welsh priests on the Norman court, the role of the Welsh archers at Agincourt, the role of Wales in the Wars of the Roses, the impact of Wales during the Tudor periods and the major role played by the people of Wales during the so-called English Civil War, which is grossly misnamed given that so much of it was fought within the land area that we now proudly refer to as Wales.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: We have obviously reached new heights in consensual politics when Mark Isherwood welcomes a Labour Party commitment delivered by Plaid Cymru. [*Laughter.*] I am sure that we could also find a role for the Liberal Democrats in this, but it is nice that everyone feels that it is a project that they can not only welcome but contribute to. You raised a number of issues, Mark, in talking about the influence of the Welsh nation and individuals from Wales on the world outside of Wales. That will to be a very important part of the collection itself. We had an interpretation from you of that influence and contribution. There will be other interpretations and I think that that will show the strength of this collection and its importance.

1.50 p.m.

byddwn yn sicrhau ei fod yn gasgliad sy'n adlewyrchu Cymru yn ei hamrywiaeth a'i fod yn hygyrch i bobl ym mhob cwr o Gymru.

Mark Isherwood: Mae'r gorffennol yn dylanwadu ar y dyfodol. Gan aralleirio'r hyn a ddywedodd y dyn mawr, y pellaf yn ôl yr edrychwn, y pellaf ymlaen y gallwn weld.

Credaf fod hon yn fenter ragorol, ac yr wyf yn cymeradwyo Llafur am ei chynnwys yn ei manifesto, ac nid yw hynny'n rhywbeth a ddywedaf yn aml. I ba raddau y gall hyn hefyd fod yn darddle i hanes llwythau Prydain oedd yn rhannu nifer o agweddau ar iaith, diwylliant a threftadaeth ac a oedd un tro yn trigo mewn rhan helaeth o ynys Prydain ac y cyfeirid atynt gyda'i gilydd fel 'Welsh' gan yr Eingl-Sacsoniaid oedd yn dyfod i mewn? I ba raddau y gall y casgliad adlewyrchu dylanwad pobl Cymru y tu hwnt i'w gororau yn hanes Prydain? Er enghraifft, dyna ddylanwad offeiriaid Cymru ar y llys Normanaidd, rôl saethyddion Cymru yn Agincourt, rôl Cymru yn Rhyfeloedd y Rhosynnu, effaith Cymru yn ystod cyfnodau'r Tuduriaid a'r rôl sylweddol a chwaraeodd pobl Cymru yn Rhyfel Cartref Lloegr honedig, rhyfel a gamenwir yn ddirfawr ac ystyried bod cymaint ohono wedi'i ymladd o fewn yr arwynebedd tir y cyfeiriwn ato'n falch yn awr fel Cymru.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Yn amlwg yr ydym wedi cyrraedd uchelfannau newydd mewn gwleidyddiaeth gydsyniol pan fydd Mark Isherwood yn croesawu ymrwymiad gan y Blaid Lafur wedi'i gyflwyno gan Blaid Cymru. [*Chwerthin.*] Yr wyf yn sicr y gallem hefyd ddod o hyd i rôl i'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn hyn, ond mae'n braf bod pawb yn teimlo ei fod yn brosiect y gallant nid yn unig ei groesawu ond cyfrannu iddo. Codasoch nifer o faterion, Mark, wrth siarad am ddylanwad y genedl Gymreig ar y byd y tu allan i Gymru. Bydd hynny'n rhan bwysig iawn o'r casgliad ei hun. Cawsom ddehongliad gennych o'r dylanwad a'r cyfraniad hwnnw. Bydd dehongliadau eraill, a chredaf y bydd hynny'n dangos cryfder y casgliad hwn a'i bwysigrwydd.

Datganiad am Goleri Sioc Drydanol
Statement on Electric-shock Collars

The Minister for Rural Affairs (Elin Jones): In my response to oral questions on 21 May on animal welfare, I said that I would make a statement on electric-shock collars before the summer recess. We have consulted on the principle of banning electric-shock dog collars in Wales. We received 173 responses to that consultation and have now reviewed the content of the consultation.

This has not been an easy subject to examine, as there is much emotion involved. There is a large degree of concern about these devices being improperly used, which is in contrast to responses from people who have used them and found that they have worked in stopping an animal from misbehaving. The industry that manufactures these devices obviously supports their continued use, while the veterinary profession has mixed views. In addition to all of this, there are scientific publications that provide evidence against and for the acceptability of electric-shock collars.

It is recognised that there will be situations where the professionally supervised use of such devices may be justified—an example given to me was that of a deaf dog needing some non-auditory form of stimulus. Legislation may therefore need to include a provision for their use in exceptional circumstances. Similarly, electric boundary fences are commonly used in farming, mainly for the purpose of regulating animal grazing on a temporary basis. They are fully visible and have warnings. If electric fencing is to be used for the training and control of pets, similar rules should apply. Fencing associated with electric-shock collars should be used in conjunction with physical barriers and on a temporary basis only, to train an animal to its boundaries.

I am aware of the research that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is undertaking on the short and long-term behavioural, physiological and psychological effects of using training

Y Gweinidog dros Faterion Gwledig (Elin Jones): Yn fy ymateb i gwestiynau llafar ar 21 Mai ar les anifeiliaid, dywedais y byddwn yn gwneud datganiad ar goleri sioc drydanol cyn toriad yr haf. Yr ydym wedi ymgynghori ar yr egwyddor o wahardd coleri sioc drydanol ar gyfer cŵn yng Nghymru. Cawsom 173 o ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad hwnnw, ac erbyn hyn yr ydym wedi adolygu cynnwys yr ymgynghoriad.

Nid yw hwn wedi bod yn bwnc hawdd i'w archwilio, ac mae llawer o emosiwn ynglŷn ag ef. Mae graddau sylweddol o bryder bod y dyfeisiau hyn yn cael eu defnyddio'n amhriodol, ac mae hynny'n gwrthgyferbynnu ag ymatebion pobl sydd wedi'u defnyddio a chael eu bod wedi gweithio wrth atal anifail rhag camymddwyn. Yn amlwg, mae'r diwydiant sy'n cynhyrchu'r dyfeisiau hyn yn cefnogi'r syniad o barhau i'w defnyddio, a safbwyntiau cymysg sydd gan broffesiwn y milfeddygon. Yn ychwanegol at hyn i gyd, mae cyhoeddiadau gwyddonol sy'n rhoi tystiolaeth yn erbyn a thros dderbynioldeb coleri sioc drydanol.

Cydnabyddir y bydd sefyllfaoedd lle y gellid efallai gyfiawnhau defnyddio dyfeisiau o'r fath dan oruchwyliaeth—enghraifft a roddwyd imi oedd ci byddar oedd angen symbyliad anghlywedol. Felly, bydd angen efallai i'r ddeddfwriaeth gynnwys darpariaeth ar gyfer eu defnyddio mewn amgylchiadau eithriadol. Yn yr un modd, defnyddir ffensys trydanol ar gyfer terfynau mewn ffermio, yn bennaf er mwyn rheoleiddio pori yr anifeiliaid dros dro. Maent yn gwbl weladwy ac mae rhybuddion arnynt. Os bydd ffensys trydanol yn cael eu defnyddio i hyfforddi a rheoli anifeiliaid anwes, dylai rheolau tebyg fod yn gymwys. Dylai ffensys a gysylltir â choleri sioc drydanol gael eu defnyddio ar y cyd â rhwystrau ffisegol a thros dro yn unig, i hyfforddi anifail i gadw at ei derfynau.

Yr wyf yn ymwybodol o'r ymchwil a wneir gan Adran yr Amgylchedd, Bwyd a Materion Gwledig ar effeithiau ymddygiadol, ffisiolegol a seicolegol defnyddio dyfeisiau hyfforddi ar y ci domestig yn y tymor byr a'r

devices on the domestic dog, but that research will not finish until 2010, with decisions on what will happen to be taken after that. We will keep that research in view.

After giving due consideration to the arguments, I propose to draft detailed regulations to introduce a ban on the use of electric-shock dog collars in Wales. Consideration will be given to whether their sale and possession should be included in the legislation. Appropriate provisions will be made to ensure that consideration is given to situations where the exceptional use of these devices could occur. We will also give appropriate consideration to banning fence systems that work in conjunction with electric-shock collars.

Wales is leading the way on introducing this legislation in the UK and my policy officials will work closely with legal colleagues and the Office of the Counsel General to draft the necessary legislation, which will be the subject of a further consultation exercise.

Brynle Williams: First, I would like to welcome the Minister's announcement. The Welsh Conservatives fully support the banning of electric-shock collars. These devices have significant shortcomings. They have been marketed as a cheap and simple alternative to the proper training of a dog. However, even in professional hands, there is evidence that their use poses an unacceptable risk to the dog's welfare. This risk is compounded when they are so freely available to purchase on the internet and by mail order. They are available at flea markets on a Sunday as well. That is not acceptable.

There is no substitute for proper training and I believe that public safety should be our first priority. I believe that some people are using these collars because they believe that they can control dangerous dogs. I do not think that we should take the risk that an electric device can control a dangerous dog in a public place.

The one concern that I have relates to electric fencing, which you have alluded to. I hope that electric fencing will be safeguarded for

tymor hir, ond ni fydd yr ymchwil honno'n gorffen tan 2010, gyda phenderfyniadau ar yr hyn fydd yn digwydd yn cael eu gwneud ar ôl hynny. Byddwn yn cadw llygad ar yr ymchwil honno.

Ar ôl rhoi ystyriaeth ddyladwy i'r dadleuon, bwriadaf ddrafftio rheoliadau manwl i gyflwyno gwaharddiad ar ddefnyddio coleri sioc drydanol ar gyfer cŵn yng Nghymru. Ystyrir a ddylai eu gwerthu a'u meddu fod yn gynwysedig yn y ddeddfwriaeth. Bydd darpariaethau priodol yn cael eu gwneud i sicrhau bod ystyriaeth yn cael ei rhoi i sefyllfaoedd lle y gallai defnydd eithriadol o'r dyfeisiau hyn ddigwydd. Byddwn hefyd yn rhoi ystyriaeth briodol i wahardd systemau ffensio sy'n gweithio ar y cyd â choleri sioc drydanol.

Mae Cymru'n arwain y ffordd ar gyflwyno'r ddeddfwriaeth hon yn y DU, a bydd fy swyddogion polisi yn gweithio'n agos gyda chydweithwyr cyfreithiol a Swyddfa'r Cwnsler Cyffredinol i ddrafftio'r ddeddfwriaeth angenrheidiol, a fydd yn ddarostyngedig i ymgynghoriad pellach.

Brynle Williams: Hoffwn groesawu datganiad y Gweinidog. Mae Ceidwadwyr Cymru yn rhoi cefnogaeth lawn i wahardd coleri sioc drydanol. Mae gan y dyfeisiau hyn ddiffygion sylweddol. Maent wedi'u marchnata fel dewis arall i roi hyfforddiant iawn i gi. Fodd bynnag, hyd yn oed mewn dwylo proffesiynol, mae tystiolaeth bod y defnydd ohonynt yn risg annerbyniol i les y ci. Caiff y risg hon ei dwysáu pan fônt ar gael mor rhwydd i'w prynu ar y rhyngwyd a thrwy archeb drwy'r post. Maent ar gael mewn marchnadoedd rhad ar y Sul yn ogystal. Nid yw hynny'n dderbyniol.

Ni all dim gymryd lle hyfforddiant cywir, a chredaf mai diogelwch y cyhoedd ddylai fod y cyntaf o'n blaenoriaethau. Credaf fod rhai pobl yn defnyddio'r coleri hyn oherwydd eu bod yn credu y gallant reoli cŵn peryglus. Ni chredaf y dylem gymryd y risg o ragdybio y gall dyfais drydanol reoli ci peryglus mewn lle cyhoeddus.

Mae'r unig pryder sydd gennyf yn gysylltiedig â'r ffensio trydanol y cyfeiriasoch ato. Gobeithiaf y bydd ffensio

use around the boundaries of gardens and lawns, where dogs have a path away from the electric fencing. That is essential for the dogs to learn. I do not want this to go through to the broader agricultural industry.

What discussions have you had with representatives of the police about how enforcement will work in practice once this legislation is passed? As a footnote to that, the police will not even consider using electric-shock collars, so I do not see why anybody else should either.

Elin Jones: I thank the Welsh Conservatives for their support for our intention to legislate to ban the use of electric-shock dog collars. You refer to the use of electric-shock collars in conjunction with a physical boundary. It is our intention to look at how we can legislate to possibly allow the continued use of electric-shock collars in conjunction with a physical boundary on a temporary basis, but, as I indicated in my statement, those are issues of detail that need to be developed further as we look at the legislation.

There have been discussions between my officials, the police and local authorities on the enforcement of this proposed legislation and enforcement is an issue in giving further consideration to legislation against the sale and possession of electric-shock dog collars. These are issues that require greater discussion with those involved in enforcement and with professional interests. It is, however, the clear intention of this Government to ban the use of electric-shock dog collars in Wales.

Lorraine Barrett: Thank you for this statement, Minister. As chair of the all-party animal welfare group, I know that the associate members and Assembly Members will be behind me in passing on our thanks and gratitude for this decision. You are the third Minister that I have had dealings with on this issue. The two previous Ministers were also concerned about these electronic devices, and I am sure that they would also have reached the same conclusion as you

trydanol yn cael ei ddiogelu ar gyfer ei ddefnyddio o gwmpas ffiniau gerddi a lawntiau, lle mae gan gŵn lwybr yn ddigon pell oddi wrth y ffens drydanol. Mae hynny'n angenrheidiol er mwyn i'r cŵn ddysgu. Nid wyf am i hyn fynd rhagddo i'r gymuned amaethyddol ehangach.

Pa drafodaethau a gawsoch gyda chynrychiolwyr yr heddlu ynghylch sut y bydd gorfodaeth yn gweithio yn ymarferol unwaith y bydd y ddeddfwriaeth hon wedi'i phasio? Yn droednodyn i hynny, ni fydd yr heddlu yn rhoi ystyriaeth, hyd yn oed, i ddefnyddio coleri sioc-drydan, felly ni welaf pam y dylai unrhyw un arall chwaith.

Elin Jones: Diolchaf i Geidwadwyr Cymru am eu cefnogaeth i'n bwriad i ddeddfu i wahardd defnyddio coleri cŵn sy'n rhoi sioc drydanol. Cyfeiriwch at ddefnyddio coleri sioc drydanol ar y cyd â ffin ffisegol. Ein bwriad yw ystyried sut y gallwn ddeddfu, o bosibl, i ganiatáu i goleri sioc drydanol ar y cyd â ffin ffisegol gael eu defnyddio dros dro o hyd, ond fel y dywedais yn fy natganiad, materion manwl yw'r rheini y mae angen eu datblygu ymhellach wrth inni ystyried y ddeddfwriaeth.

Mae trafodaethau wedi'u cynnal rhwng fy swyddogion, yr heddlu ac awdurdodau lleol ar orfodi'r ddeddfwriaeth arfaethedig hon, ac mae gorfodaeth yn fater perthnasol wrth inni ystyried ymhellach y ddeddfwriaeth yn erbyn gwerthu a meddu ar goleri cŵn sy'n rhoi sioc drydanol. Mae'r rhain yn faterion y mae angen eu trafod ymhellach gyda'r rhai sydd â rhan mewn gorfodi ac sydd â buddiant proffesiynol. Bwriad eglur y Llywodraeth hon, fodd bynnag, yw gwahardd yng Nghymru ddefnyddio coleri cŵn sy'n rhoi sioc drydanol.

Lorraine Barrett: Diolch ichi am y datganiad hwn, Weinidog. Fel cadeirydd y grŵp hollbleidiol ar les anifeiliaid, gwn y bydd yr aelodau cyswllt ac Aelodau'r Cynulliad yn fy nghefnogi wrth imi fynegi ein diolch a'n gwerthfawrogiad ynglŷn â'r penderfyniad hwn. Chi yw'r trydydd o'r Gweinidogion y cefais ymwneud â hwy ar y mater hwn. Yr oedd y ddau Weinidog blaenorol hefyd yn pryderu am y dyfeisiau trydanol hyn, ac yr wyf yn sicr y byddent

have following the consultation that you undertook.

I make a plea on behalf of deaf dogs. If it is cruel to use these devices on hearing dogs, then it is cruel to use them on deaf dogs, and I am sure that there must be other ways of training them.

Brynle Williams covered one of the issues that I wanted to ask you about. It is early days yet; you have just made the announcement and you have to look at how you take the legislation through, but can you give us an idea of how might you deal with the sale of these devices? Obviously, the internet opens up a whole new world and you do not necessarily have to see these devices in shop windows to buy them. How will the use of these devices be monitored and policed? Will it be a police matter or will it be for local authorities?

You mentioned further consultation, which is welcome, but I seek assurance that animal welfare organisations, the likes of the all-party animal welfare group, individual Members and others all will have an opportunity to work with you to develop the legislation as it progress. Thank you very much; this is very welcome.

Elin Jones: Thank you for your comments, Lorraine. Although we are yet to hear the views of the Welsh Liberal Democrats, it is clear, I hope, that this matter has cross-party support in the Assembly. Certainly, representations have been made to me from Members of all political parties, and they have shown their support during the consultation for the Government introducing such a ban.

I note your point about deaf dogs. I have received representations that there may need to be exceptions made for deaf dogs, but it may be that other devices could be used on deaf dogs—vibrating collars might be just as effective for the purpose of signalling to a deaf dog. I will consider what you have said.

2.00 p.m.

hwythau wedi dod i'r un casgliad â chi wedi'r ymgynghori yr ymgymerasoch ag ef.

Plediaf ar ran cŵn byddar. Os creulon yw defnyddio'r dyfeisiau hyn ar gŵn sy'n clywed, yna creulon yw eu defnyddio ar gŵn byddar, ac yr wyf yn sicr bod ffyrdd eraill, mae'n rhaid, o'u hyfforddi.

Ymdriniodd Brynle Williams ag un o'r materion yr oeddwn am eich holi yn ei gylch. Mae hi'n gynnar yn awr; newydd wneud y datganiad yr ydych ac mae'n rhaid ichi ystyried sut y byddwch yn gweithredu'r ddeddfwriaeth, ond a allwch roi syniad inni ynghylch sut, efallai, y byddwch yn ymdrin â mater gwerthu'r dyfeisiau hyn? Yn amlwg, mae'r rhyngrwyd yn agor byd newydd cyfan ac nid oes rhaid ichi o reidrwydd weld y dyfeisiau hyn mewn ffenestr siop i'w prynu. Sut y bydd modd monitro a phlismaona'r ffordd y defnyddir y dyfeisiau hyn? Ai mater i'r heddlu fydd hynny ynteu i'r awdurdodau lleol?

Cyfeiriasoch at ymgynghori pellach, sy'n dra derbyniol, ond ceisiaf sicrwydd y bydd sefydliadau lles anifeiliaid, rhai megis y grŵp hollbleidiol ar les anifeiliaid, Aelodau unigol ac eraill, i gyd yn cael cyfle i weithio gyda chi i ddatblygu'r ddeddfwriaeth wrth iddi fynd rhagddi. Diolch yn fawr iawn ichi; mae hyn yn dra derbyniol.

Elin Jones: Diolch ichi am eich sylwadau, Lorraine. Er nad ydym eto wedi clywed beth yw barn Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru, mae'n eglur, gobeithio, bod cefnogaeth drawsbleidiol i'r mater hwn yn y Cynulliad. Yn sicr, cefais sylwadau gan Aelodau pob plaid wleidyddol, a dangosasant yn ystod yr ymgynghoriad eu bod yn rhoi eu cefnogaeth i'r Llywodraeth wrth iddi gyflwyno gwaharddiad o'r fath.

Sylwaf ar eich pwynt ynghylch cŵn byddar. Cefais sylwadau y bydd angen gwneud eithriadau, efallai, ar gyfer cŵn byddar, ond mae'n bosibl y gellid defnyddio dyfeisiau eraill ar gŵn byddar—mae'n bosibl y byddai coleri sy'n dirgrynu yr un mor effeithiol i'r diben o roi arwyddion i gi byddar. Byddaf yn ystyried yr hyn a ddywedwyd gennyh.

Your cross-party group is welcome at any point to have discussions with my officials on the drafting of the detail of the legislation. The detail of the legislation will need to consider, as I said, the banning of the sale of electric-shock dog collars in Wales, and the use of the internet is challenging for legislation of this sort, so I will be looking at legal advice on how and if that can be done practically in this day and age. However, ensuring that their use is banned is of primary importance. It will be a criminal offence if anyone then uses an electric-shock dog collar in Wales.

Kirsty Williams: Minister, I understand the difficult balancing act that you have had to do with regard to the responses to the consultation. The Welsh Liberal Democrats very much welcome the commitment that you have made today to ban electric-shock collars. They are cruel and unnecessary, because a plethora of alternative training devices can be used to train and moderate the behaviour of dogs. Primary among them is good dog ownership, and I hope that we will take the opportunity to promote sensible and committed dog ownership as part of the regime to stop the use of these devices. Many people claim that they are necessary, but, as Brynle Williams has said, I would not like to try to moderate the behaviour of a dangerous dog with one of these collars. Many people have said to me that they are necessary to protect livestock from dogs, but I am sure that you would agree that if a dog is a threat to livestock, it should simply be kept on a lead and then there would not be the danger of it harming other animals.

Can you give us some indication of the timescale to which you will now be working as you develop your plans? You have mentioned deaf dogs; do you feel that there are other exceptions that will have to be made, and what might those be? Does the ban include all the paraphernalia that is associated with a collar? You have talked about the fencing system, but there are also wireless crate systems and lead systems, and I assume that those two will be part of the ban. I

Mae croeso ar unrhyw bwynt i'ch grŵp trawsbleidiol gael trafodaethau gyda'm swyddogion ynghylch drafftio manylion y ddeddfwriaeth. Bydd angen i fanylion y ddeddfwriaeth ystyried, fel y dywedais, wahardd gwerthu coleri cŵn sy'n rhoi sioc drydanol yng Nghymru, ac mae bodolaeth y rhyngwyd yn her i'r math yma o ddeddfwriaeth, felly byddaf yn edrych ar gyngor cyfreithiol ynghylch sut y gellir gwneud hynny'n ymarferol yn yr oes sydd ohoni, ac yn wir a ellir ei wneud. Fodd bynnag, mae'n hollbwysig sicrhau gwaharddiad ar eu defnyddio. Bydd yn drosedd wedyn os bydd unrhyw un yn defnyddio coler ci sy'n rhoi sioc drydanol yng Nghymru.

Kirsty Williams: Weinidog, deallaf y gwaith pwyso a mesur anodd yr ydych wedi gorfod ei wneud yng nghyswllt yr ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad. Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn croesawu'n fawr yr ymrwymiad yr ydych wedi'i wneud heddiw i wahardd coleri sioc drydanol. Maent yn greulon ac yn ddiangen, oherwydd gellir defnyddio lluo o ddyfeisiau hyfforddi amgen i hyfforddi a chymedroli ymddygiad cŵn. Yn bennaf yn eu plith mae perchnogaeth dda ar gŵn, a gobeithio y cymerwn y cyfle i hyrwyddo perchnogaeth gall ac ymroddgar ar gŵn fel rhan o'r drefn i roi terfyn ar ddefnyddio'r dyfeisiau hyn. Honna llawer o bobl eu bod yn angenrheidiol, ond, fel y dywedodd Brynle Williams, ni hoffwn geisio cymedroli ymddygiad ci peryglus gydag un o'r coleri hyn. Mae llawer o bobl wedi dweud wrthyf eu bod yn angenrheidiol i warchod da byw rhag cŵn, ond yr wyf yn siŵr y cytunech os yw ci'n fygythiad i dda byw, y dylid yn syml ei gadw ar dennyn ac wedyn ni fyddai perygl iddo niweidio anifeiliaid eraill.

A allwch roi rhyw amcan inni o'r amserlen y byddwch yn gweithio iddi'n awr wrth ichi ddatblygu'ch cynlluniau? Yr ydych wedi sôn am gŵn byddar; a ydych yn teimlo y bydd yn rhaid gwneud eithriadau eraill, a beth fyddai'r rheini? A ydyw'r gwaharddiad yn cynnwys yr holl betheuach sy'n gysylltiedig â choler? Yr ydych wedi sôn am y system ffensio, ond ceir systemau cratiau di-wifr a systemau tennyn, ac yr wyf yn cymryd y bydd y ddau hynny'n rhan o'r gwaharddiad.

understand that fencing is a slightly different case, because in those circumstances, the animal has the power to remove itself physically from the shock, which is different from a human being controlling the administration of the shock. I have been to see an example of this demonstrated at the home of a constituent of mine, and it seems to me that there is a slight difference. Can you clarify, because I was not sure about this from your statement, whether you are waiting for the research to be published before you make a decision or whether you will proceed with the ban of this particular aspect of these control methods? However, in general, we very much welcome your announcement today and support you in your endeavours to take this forward.

Elin Jones: I thank the Liberal Democrats for their support, and I am pleased to see that we have cross-party support for the introduction of this ban in Wales. It is not the Welsh Government's intention to wait for the DEFRA-funded research, which is unlikely to report until 2011. We are of the opinion that, in your words, electric-shock dog collars are cruel and unnecessary, and they are cruel and unnecessary today, therefore, we need to move quickly to legislate to ban their use in Wales. They are unnecessary because there are other means of training dogs. I visited a dog training club in my constituency in Aberystwyth only recently. I do not own a dog, as it happens, but I was pleased to see the professional approach that was taken towards the training of dogs and the commitment of dog owners to getting their dogs adequately trained. We are developing welfare codes for the ownership of dogs, and that is something that the Assembly Government is progressing. The general principle is to do with the difference between electrical fencing for the purpose of managing the grazing of dairy cattle, for example, and an electric-shock dog collar that is worn around the dog's neck, which means that the dog cannot escape from that pain. That is the general principle in banning collars of this sort and, as you have suggested, we will give consideration to the range of products that fall within that general principle.

Deallaf fod ffensio ychydig yn wahanol, oherwydd yn yr amgylchiadau hynny, gall yr anifail ei symud ei hun yn gorfforol oddi wrth y sioc, sy'n wahanol i sefyllfa lle mae bod dynol yn rheoli'r sioc a roddir. Yr wyf wedi bod i weld enghraifft o hyn yn cael ei arddangos yng nghartref un o'm hetholwyr, ac mae'n ymddangos i mi fod yna fymryn o wahaniaeth. A allwch egluro, oherwydd nid oeddwn yn siŵr am hyn yn ôl eich datganiad, a ydych yn aros i'r ymchwil gael ei gyhoeddi cyn gwneud penderfyniad ynteu a ydych am fwrw ymlaen i wahardd yr agwedd arbennig hon o'r dulliau rheoli hyn? Fodd bynnag, yn gyffredinol, yr ydym yn croesawu'n fawr iawn eich cyhoeddiad heddiw ac yn eich cefnogi yn eich ymdrechion i fynd â hyn ymlaen.

Elin Jones: Diolch i'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol am eu cefnogaeth, ac yr wyf yn falch o weld bod gennym gefnogaeth drawsbleidiol i gyflwyno'r gwaharddiad hwn yng Nghymru. Nid yw'n fwriad gan Lywodraeth Cymru i aros am yr ymchwil a noddir gan DEFRA, sy'n annhebygol o gynhyrchu adroddiad tan 2011. Yr ydym o'r farn fod coleri sioc drydanol i gŵn, yn eich geiriau chi, yn greulon a diangen, ac maent yn greulon a diangen heddiw, felly mae angen inni symud yn gyflym i ddeddfu i wahardd eu defnyddio yng Nghymru. Maent yn ddiangen am fod ffyrdd eraill o hyfforddi cŵn. Ymwelais â chlwb hyfforddi cŵn yn fy etholaeth yn Aberystwyth yn ddiweddar. Nid wyf yn berchen ci, fel y mae'n digwydd, ond yr oeddwn yn falch o weld yr agwedd broffesiynol a gymerid tuag at hyfforddi cŵn ac ymroddiad perchnogion y cŵn i sicrhau bod eu cŵn yn cael eu hyfforddi'n ddigonol. Yr ydym yn datblygu codau lles ar gyfer perchnogaeth cŵn, ac mae hynny'n rhywbeth y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn symud ymlaen ag ef. Mae a wnelo'r egwyddor gyffredinol â'r gwahaniaeth rhwng ffensys trydan at ddiben rheoli gwartheg yn pori, er enghraifft, a choleri sioc drydanol a roddir am wddf ci, sy'n golygu na all y ci ddianc oddi wrth y boen honno. Dyna'r egwyddor gyffredinol wrth wahardd coleri o'r math yma ac, fel yr ydych wedi awgrymu, rhoddwn ystyriaeth i'r amrediad o gynhyrchion sy'n disgyn o fewn yr egwyddor gyffredinol honno.

2.05 p.m.

Joyce Watson: I also welcome your statement today. I met representatives from the Kennel Club to discuss these issues some time ago, and I am sure that lots of other Members have done the same. I cannot think of a single circumstance where it would be necessary to use such a device that causes such pain and distress to a defenceless animal. I share the concerns of my colleague Lorraine Barrett that cruelty is cruelty, and it cannot be right in any circumstance.

I have two questions. First, do you foresee any cross-border issues in relation to this ban? Secondly, as this is not the only electrical device available for use on dogs—and Kirsty has already alluded to that—will you also be looking at banning electric shock leads and mats?

Elin Jones: Thank you for your support. You referred to the Kennel Club, and that organisation, along with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, has been keen to stress the unnecessary cruelty of electric-shock dog collars. I do not foresee that there are cross-border issues or complexities in introducing this legislation, because banning the use of these shock collars in Wales means that, if a dog is shocked by a collar in Wales, that will be an offence and it will be enforced as such within the borders of Wales.

As I said in my answer to Kirsty Williams, the general principle here is that, if a dog cannot escape a shock, the device administering the shock is cruel and unnecessary. There is a range of products—and, no doubt, new products will come onto the market—that we will need to consider in our further discussions on the scope of the legislation.

Andrew R.T. Davies: One of the first organisations that I received evidence from as a Member was the Kennel Club, and I vividly remember meeting its representatives because they gave me one of these dog collars to put on my hand, and I received the shock. I pay

Joyce Watson: Yr wyf finnau hefyd yn croesawu eich datganiad heddiw. Cyfarfûm â chynrychiolwyr o'r Kennel Club i drafod y materion hyn dro yn ôl, ac yr wyf yn siŵr bod llawer o Aelodau eraill wedi gwneud yr un peth. Ni allaf feddwl am un amgylchiad lle byddai'n angenrheidiol defnyddio'r fath ddyfais sy'n achosi cymaint o boen a blinder i anifail diamddiffyn. Rhannaf bryderon fy nghyd-Aelod Lorraine Barrett mai creulondeb yw creulondeb yw creulondeb, ac na all fod yn iawn dan unrhyw amgylchiad.

Mae gennyf ddau gwestiwn. Yn gyntaf, a ydych yn rhagweld unrhyw broblemau trawsffiniol ynglŷn â'r gwaharddiad hwn? Yn ail, gan nad dyma'r unig ddyfais drydanol sydd ar gael i'w defnyddio ar gŵn—ac mae Kirsty eisoes wedi cyfeirio at hynny—a fyddwch hefyd yn edrych ar wahardd tenynnau a matiau sy'n rhoi sioc drydanol?

Elin Jones: Diolch am eich cefnogaeth. Cyfeiriasoch at y Kennel Club, ac mae'r mudiad hwnnw, ynghyd â'r Gymdeithas Frenhinol er Atal Creulondeb i Anifeiliaid, wedi bod yn awyddus i bwysleisio creulondeb diangen coleri cŵn sy'n rhoi sioc drydanol. Nid wyf yn rhagweld y ceir problemau na chymhlethodau trawsffiniol wrth gyflwyno'r ddeddfwriaeth hon, oherwydd mae gwahardd defnyddio'r coleri sioc hyn yng Nghymru'n golygu os caiff ci sioc gan goler yng Nghymru, y bydd hynny'n drosedd ac y'i cosbir felly o fewn ffiniau Cymru.

Fel y dywedais yn fy ateb i Kirsty Williams, yr egwyddor gyffredinol yma yw, os na all ci ddianc rhag sioc, mae'r ddyfais sy'n rhoi'r sioc yn greulon a diangen. Mae amrediad o gynhyrchion—a daw cynhyrchion newydd ar y farchnad, mae'n siŵr—y bydd angen inni eu hystyried yn ein trafodaethau pellach ar gwmpas y ddeddfwriaeth.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Un o'r cyrff cyntaf y derbyniais dystiolaeth oddi wrtho fel Aelod oedd y Kennel Club, a chofiaf yn glir iawn gyfarfod â'i gynrychiolwyr oherwydd rhoesant un o'r coleri cŵn hyn imi ei osod ar fy llaw, a chefais y sioc. Rhoddaf deyrnged i

tribute to the tenacity with which the Kennel Club has pursued this issue. Its representatives visited the Assembly again this year and gave further evidence to Members, as Joyce Watson has highlighted. This time around, they were highlighting the expansion of types of apparatus that can be used to give electric shocks to dogs. I particularly noticed the lick bandages that can be put around dogs' feet, so that if the dog tries to lick itself, it receives an electric shock.

I notice from your statement that it will be an offence to use the electric-shock dog collar, which is appropriate given the expansion of the internet, and the difficulty that any local administration would face in trying to stop people buying them. I welcome that, but I would be reassured if there was a timetable for looking at other electrical apparatus for the control of dogs, as highlighted by the Kennel Club. We should not pat ourselves on the back for outlawing these dog collars when so many other kinds of equipment can still be used by irresponsible owners.

2.10 p.m.

Elin Jones: I know that a few Members have been shocked by the Kennel Club during the various visits that they have made to this place—and I mean electrically shocked by the Kennel Club.

The point that you make on the need to future-proof the legislation against the introduction of possibly unforeseen electric shock products is something that I will need to consider, as I said in response to Joyce Watson, because new products are being developed. We will need to look at the principle that I have referred to, namely an animal not being able to escape the electric shock, and ensure that that underpins the legislation. We need to keep an eye on new products, and you have mentioned one this afternoon that I was not aware of and which would fit the same principle as the electric collar. We need to ensure that the detail of the legislation allows flexibility for us to consider the wide variety of possible products that would contravene our basic principle of ensuring that a domestic animal or pet is not unable to escape an electric shock.

ddycnwch y Kennel Club wrth fynd ar ôl y mater hwn. Daeth ei gynrychiolwyr i'r Cynulliad eto eleni a rhoi tystiolaeth bellach i Aelodau, fel y nododd Joyce Watson. Y tro hwn, yr oeddent yn tynnu sylw at yr ehangu yn y mathau o gyfarpar y gellir eu defnyddio i roi siociau trydanol i gŵn. Nodais yn arbennig y rhwymynnau llyfu y gellir eu gosod am draed cŵn, fel y bydd y ci'n cael sioc drydanol os ceisia lyfu ei hun.

Sylwaf o'ch datganiad y bydd yn drosedd defnyddio'r coler sioc drydanol i gŵn, sydd yn briodol a chofio twf y rhyngryd, a'r anhawster a gâi unrhyw weinyddiaeth leol o geisio atal pobl rhag eu prynu. Croesawaf hynny, ond cawn dawelwch meddwl petai amserlen ar gyfer edrych ar offer trydanol eraill ar gyfer rheoli cŵn, fel y'u hamlygwyd gan y Kennel Club. Ni ddylem guro'n cefnau ein hunain am wahardd y coleri cŵn hyn tra bo cymaint o fathau eraill o offer yn dal ar gael i'w defnyddio gan berchnogion anghyfrifol.

Elin Jones: Gwn fod y Kennel Club wedi rhoi sioc i ychydig o Aelodau yn ystod yr amryfal ymweliadau y maent wedi'u gwneud â'r lle hwn—ac yr wyf yn golygu sioc drydanol gan y Kennel Club.

Mae'r pwynt a wnewch am yr angen i deilwra'r ddeddfwriaeth i'r dyfodol yn erbyn dyfodiad cynhyrchion rhoi sioc drydanol sydd efallai heb eu rhagweld, yn rhywbeth y bydd angen imi ei ystyried, fel y dywedais mewn ymateb i Joyce Watson, oherwydd y mae cynhyrchion newydd yn cael eu datblygu. Bydd angen inni edrych ar yr egwyddor yr wyf wedi cyfeirio ati, sef bod anifail yn methu dianc rhag y sioc drydanol, a sicrhau mai hynny sydd wrth wraidd y ddeddfwriaeth. Mae angen cadw llygad ar gynhyrchion newydd, ac yr ydych wedi crybwyll un y prynhawn yma nad oeddwn i'n ymwybodol ohono ac a fyddai'n ffitio'r un egwyddor â'r goler drydan. Mae angen inni sicrhau bod manylion y ddeddfwriaeth yn caniatáu hyblygrwydd inni ystyried yr amrywiaeth eang o gynhyrchion posibl a fyddai'n mynd yn groes i'n hegwyddor

sylyfaenol o sicrhau nad yw anifail domestig neu anifail anwes yn methu dianc rhag sioc drydanol.

Trish Law: I too welcome your statement, Minister, and congratulate you on taking such a bold stance on this hugely controversial issue. I have, from day one, had no hesitation in supporting moves to ban these hideous devices, and I am delighted that the evidence that I, and many others, contributed to the consultation helped bring about the prohibition in Wales of these horrific and unnecessary electric-shock collars. I am not going to go over arguments in support of the case for banning these barbaric collars, as they are well documented. Suffice it to say that Wales can today be held up as a model and example to the rest of the UK, and I sincerely hope that the UK Government and other devolved Governments will follow Wales's lead.

Trish Law: Yr wyf finnau hefyd yn croesawu eich datganiad, Weinidog, ac yn eich llongyfarch ar gymryd safiad mor eofn ar y pwnc hynod o ddadleuol hwn. O'r cychwyn cyntaf, nid wyf wedi petruso rhag cefnogi symudiadau i wahardd y dyfeisiau erchyll hyn, ac yr wyf wrth fy modd fod y dystiolaeth a gyfrannais i, a llawer o bobl eraill, i'r ymgynghoriad wedi helpu sicrhau gwahardd y coleri sioc drydanol arswydus a diangen hyn yng Nghymru. Nid wyf am fynd dros y dadleuon o blaid yr achos dros wahardd y coleri barbaraid hyn, gan eu bod wedi'u gwyntyllu'n llawn. Digon yw dweud y gall Cymru heddiw sefyll fel patrwm ac esiampl i weddill y Deyrnas Unedig, a gobeithiaf yn ddiffuant y bydd Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig a Llywodraethau datganoledig eraill yn dilyn arweiniad Cymru.

I must pay tribute to those individuals and groups who have successfully lobbied for a ban, in particular the Kennel Club, which has diligently and tirelessly relayed with clarity to AMs its inarguable case for a ban.

Rhaid imi roi teyrnged i'r unigolion a'r grwpiau hynny a lobiodd yn llwyddiannus dros waharddiad, yn enwedig y Kennel Club, sydd wedi cyfleu'n ddiwyd a diflino gydag eglurder i ACau ei achos di-ddadl dros waharddiad.

Elin Jones: You have made your views known to me in terms of your opposition to the use of electric-shock dog collars in the Chamber and in written form. I thank you and many other AMs for sharing your views with me during the course of our recent consultation. The Animal Welfare Act 2006 gave Wales powers to consider introducing such a ban and it is, therefore, appropriate that the Assembly Government and the Assembly look to use those powers for the purposes for which they were put in place, namely to prevent unnecessary and cruel harm to our pets. Therefore, this is hopefully an example of the Assembly Government using the powers at its disposal to develop policies that are in keeping with the political consensus here in Wales to ensure good care of our domestic animals.

Elin Jones: Yr ydych wedi cyfleu eich barn i mi o ran eich gwrthwynebiad i ddefnyddio coleri cŵn sy'n rhoi sioc drydanol, yn y Siambr ac mewn ysgrifen. Diolchaf i chi a sawl AC arall am rannu eich sylwadau â mi yn ystod ein hymgynghoriad diweddar. Rhoddodd Deddf Lles Anifeiliaid 2006 bwerau i Gymru ystyried cyflwyno gwaharddiad o'r fath ac, felly, mae'n briodol bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad a'r Cynulliad yn edrych i ddefnyddio'r pwerau hynny i'r dibenion y'u sefydlwyd, sef i atal niwed diangen a chreulon i'n hanifeiliaid anwes. Fell, mae hyn, gobeithio, yn enghraifft o Lywodraeth y Cynulliad yn defnyddio'r pwerau sydd ar gael iddi i ddatblygu polisiau sydd yn gydnaws â'r consensws gwleidyddol yma yng Nghymru i sicrhau gofal da i'n hanifeiliaid domestig.

Gareth Jones: Ar ran Plaid Cymru, yr wyf innau hefyd yn croesawu'r datganiad hwn yn fawr iawn gan y bydd y gwaharddiad yn

Gareth Jones: On behalf of Plaid Cymru, I too welcome this statement, as the ban will ensure that dogs will not suffer from this

sicrhau na fydd cŵn yn dioddef o'r driniaeth ddieflig ac anwaraidd hon. Profwyd eisoes fod defnydd o goleri sy'n rhoi sioc drydanol yn creu pob math o niwed emosiynol a ffisiolegol mewn cŵn. Mae'n creu poen diangen, ac mae'n anodd deall pam y byddai unrhyw berchennog ci yn hyd yn oed ystyried defnyddio'r fath declyn.

Ychwanegaf fy nheyrnged i aelodau'r Kennel Club. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar iddynt am gysylltu â mi ac Aelodau eraill i ddatgan hyn oll a'u pryder. Fe'u llongyfarchaf am eu gwaith da.

Yr ydych eisoes wedi ateb fy nghwestiynau, Weinidog. Deallaf y byddwch yn ystyried gwahardd taclau eraill hefyd, megis y matiau trydan sydd ar gael, er enghraifft y Stay! Mat a'r ScatMat. Mae pob un o'r rheiny yn achosi poen i'r ci.

Deallaf, wrth gyfeirio at y ffens drydanol, fod cryn wahaniaeth rhwng y ffens a ddefnyddir gan ffermwyr yn y caeau a'r ffens sydd o dan ystyriaeth, sydd i'w defnyddio yn y tŷ. Hoffwn i chi ystyried hynny hefyd. Fodd bynnag, yn gyffredinol, yr wyf yn sicr yn croesawu'r datganiad a'r gwaharddiad hwn.

Elin Jones: Diolch, Gareth. Yr wyf yn falch o glywed am gefnogaeth Plaid Cymru i'r gwaharddiad hwn ac i'r bwriad i ddeddfu yn y maes hwn. Wrth gwrs, nid yw'n fwrriad i wahardd y defnydd o ffensys at bwrpasau rheoli stoc amaethyddol. Yr wyf wedi ei gwneud yn glir mai'r hyn sydd dan ystyriaeth heddiw yw gwahardd coleri sioc ac unrhyw gynnyrch sy'n creu sioc lle na all yr anifail ddianc rhag y sioc honno. Dyna fydd sail y gwaith manwl sydd angen ei wneud yn awr, wrth i ni ddatblygu'r ddeddfwriaeth sydd ei hangen arnom i ddod â hyn yn gyfraith gwlad yng Nghymru, maes o law.

awful, uncivilised treatment. It has already been proven that using electric-shock collars creates all sorts of emotional and physiological damage in dogs. It creates unnecessary pain, and it is hard to understand why any dog owner would even consider using such a device.

I add my tribute to members of the Kennel Club. I am grateful to them for getting in touch with me and other Members to tell us of their concerns about this. I congratulate them on their good work.

You have already answered my questions, Minister. I understand that you will be considering banning other devices, such as the electric mats that are available, for example the Stay! Mat and the ScatMat. Every one of those inflicts pain on the dog.

I understand that, in referring to the electric fence, that there is quite a difference between the fence used by farmers out in the fields and the fence under consideration, which is for use in the home. I would like you to consider that, too. However, generally, I certainly welcome this statement and ban.

Elin Jones: Thank you, Gareth. I am pleased to hear about Plaid Cymru's support for this ban and for the intention to legislate in this area. Naturally, it is not an intention to prohibit the use of electric fences for the purposes of agricultural stock control. I have made it clear that what is under consideration today is the prohibition of electric-shock collars and any other products that give a shock that an animal cannot escape from. That will be the basis for the detailed work that we need to do now, as we develop the legislation that we need to make this law in Wales, in due course.

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd (Rosemary Butler) i'r Gadair am 2.16 p.m.
The Deputy Presiding Officer (Rosemary Butler) took the Chair at 2.16 p.m.*

Dadl y
Welsh Conservatives Debate

Ceidwadwyr

Cymreig

Triniaeth Llygaid Eyesight Treatment

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have **Y Dirprwy Lywydd:** Yr wyf wedi dethol

selected amendment 1 in the name of Kirsty Williams.

Jonathan Morgan: I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales:

1) agrees that people in Wales suffering from wet age-related macular degeneration must be seen and treated in time to save their sight and that access to Lucentis in Wales should not be a postcode lottery;

2) recognises that across Wales, health professionals are trying their best to deliver sight-saving treatment;

3) calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to ensure that appropriate and immediate funding is made available to implement equitable access across Wales. (NDM3791)

On behalf of the Welsh Conservative Party, I propose this motion, which relates to the provision of the drug Lucentis and treatment for those suffering from wet age-related macular degeneration. Until yesterday afternoon, this debate was intended to shine a spotlight on the scandal of the Assembly Government's refusal to fund the effective treatment of wet age-related macular degeneration across Wales. Imagine my surprise—and my delight—when, at 2.58 p.m. yesterday, the Minister for Health and Social Services miraculously released a statement assuring us all that the drug Lucentis would be funded to the tune of £5 million for wet age-related macular degeneration sufferers in Wales.

I am delighted that this statement has been made. However, it would not have been made had it not been for this debate this afternoon and the powerful and active lobby by all those people supporting the Royal National Institute of Blind People campaign. I pay tribute to those who are in the public gallery today, watching this debate, and to those outside the gallery who supported that campaign; it is clear that such a powerful lobby has persuaded the Minister to act. As

gwelliant 1 yn enw Kirsty Williams.

Jonathan Morgan: Cynigiaf fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1) yn cytuno bod yn rhaid gweld a thrin pobl yng Nghymru sy'n dioddef o ddirywiad macwlaidd gwlyb sy'n gysylltiedig ag oedran mewn da bryd er mwyn achub eu golwg ac na ddylai mynediad at Lucentis yng Nghymru fod yn loteri cod post;

2) yn cydnabod bod gweithwyr iechyd proffesiynol ledled Cymru yn gwneud eu gorau glas i ddarparu triniaethau sy'n achub golwg pobl;

3) yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i sicrhau bod cyllid priodol ar gael ar unwaith i weithredu mynediad cyfartal ledled Cymru. (NDM3791)

Ar ran Plaid Geidwadol Cymru, cynigiaf y cynnig hwn, sy'n ymwneud â darparu'r cyffur Lucentis a thriniaeth i'r rheini sy'n dioddef gan ddirywiad macwlaidd gwlyb sy'n gysylltiedig â henaint. Hyd brynhawn ddoe, bwriad y ddadl hon oedd tynnu sylw at sgandal y gwrthodiad gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad i ariannu triniaeth effeithiol ar gyfer dirywiad macwlaidd gwlyb sy'n gysylltiedig â henaint. Meddyliwch gymaint oedd fy syndod—a'm llawenydd—pan gyhoeddodd y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ddatganiad am 2.58 p.m. ddoe, yn fwyaf rhyfedd, gan sicrhau pob un ohonom y byddai cyllid o £5 miliwn ar gael ar gyfer y cyffur Lucentis i rai sy'n dioddef gan ddirywiad macwlaidd gwlyb sy'n gysylltiedig â henaint yng Nghymru.

Yr wyf wrth fy modd bod y datganiad hwn wedi'i wneud. Fodd bynnag, ni fyddai wedi'i wneud oni bai am y ddadl hon y prynhawn yma a'r lobïo grymus ac egniol gan yr holl bobl hynny sy'n cefnogi ymgyrch Sefydliad Cenedlaethol Brenhinol Pobl Ddall. Rhoddaf deyrnged i'r rheini sydd yn yr oriel gyhoeddus heddiw, yn gwyllo'r ddadl hon, ac i'r rheini y tu allan i'r oriel a gefnogodd yr ymgyrch honno; mae'n amlwg bod lobïo mor rymus wedi perswadio'r Gweinidog i

the wording of our debate, which was tabled last week, would suggest, we as a party join RNIB Cymru in wholeheartedly welcoming the Minister's announcement. I am pleased that at least we have reached this stage in Wales of money being made available. I hope that the reality will mean that more than 1,300 people in Wales could have the chance of their sight being saved.

Despite the word 'age-related' in its name, many of the people affected by AMD are still of working age, they still contribute to society, and they have active lives in a variety of ways. They are people, for example, like two of my constituents, Thea Phillips and Patricia Summers, who are here with us today. Mrs Phillips is a post-16 teacher for the Workers' Educational Association, who drives to work, across south Wales, from her home in the village of Rhiwbina. Her work involves tutoring adults in post-16 education, and she deals with a range of abilities, and must constantly adapt to the needs of those whom she teaches. Patricia Summers, another constituent of mine from Cardiff North, and who lives closer to the centre of Cardiff, is a foster carer. She has received several accolades for her work, and has helped countless youngsters to lead a normal life by giving them a stable home and a bright future.

Like the rest of us in the Chamber, these women depend totally on their sight. Their work serves to highlight only the tip of the iceberg of what society could lose should people like Thea and Patricia not be given the proper treatment for wet AMD. However, as welcome as yesterday's announcement was that the Welsh retinal group had advised the Minister for Health and Social Services finally to sit up and take notice, as ever with the Labour Party's forced decisions, the devil is in the detail.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has been examining this since August 2004, and has long been expected to issue guidance on the use of Lucentis this

weithredu. Fel yr awgrymai geiriad ein dadl, a gyflwynwyd yr wythnos diwethaf, yr ydym ni fel plaid yn ymuno ag RNIB Cymru wrth groesawu cyhoeddiad y Gweinidog yn frwdfrydig. Yr wyf yn falch ein bod wedi cyrraedd y fan hon yng Nghymru o leiaf, lle y mae arian yn cael ei ddarparu. Yr wyf yn gobeithio y gallai mwy nag 1,300 o bobl yng Nghymru gael cyfle i achub eu golwg o ganlyniad i hyn.

Er gwaethaf y geiriau 'cysylltiedig â henaint' sydd yn ei enw, mae llawer o'r bobl y mae dirywiad macwlaidd yn effeithio arnynt o oedran gweithio o hyd, maent yn dal i gyfrannu i gymdeithas, ac mae ganddynt fywydau prysur mewn amryw o ffyrdd. Maent yn bobl, er enghraifft, fel dwy o'm hetholwyr, Thea Phillips a Patricia Summers, sydd yma gyda ni heddiw. Mae Mrs Phillips yn athrawes ôl-16 i Gymdeithas Addysg y Gweithwyr, sy'n gyrru i'w gwaith, ar draws de Cymru, o'i chartref ym mhentref Rhiwbeina. Mae ei gwaith yn cynnwys hyfforddi oedolion mewn addysg ôl-16, ac mae'n delio ag amryw o alluoedd, a rhaid iddi ymaddasu'n gyson i anghenion y rheini y mae'n eu haddysgu. Mae Patricia Summers, un arall o'm hetholwyr o Ogledd Caerdydd, ac sy'n byw'n nes at ganol Caerdydd, yn ofalwr maeth. Mae wedi'i chanmol nifer o weithiau am ei gwaith, ac mae wedi helpu pobl ifanc ddi-rif i fyw bywyd normal drwy roi iddynt gartref sefydlog a dyfodol disglair.

Fel y gweddill ohonom yn y Siambr, mae'r menywod hyn yn dibynnu'n llwyr ar eu golwg. Ac ystyried maint eu gwaith, mae hyn yn dangos cymaint y gallai cymdeithas ei gollu pe na fyddai rhai fel Thea a Patricia yn cael y driniaeth briodol ar gyfer dirywiad macwlaidd gwlyb sy'n gysylltiedig â henaint. Fodd bynnag, er mor dderbyniol oedd y cyhoeddiad ddoe fod grŵp retinol Cymru wedi cynghori'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol o'r diwedd i ddeffro a chymryd sylw, fel y mae bob amser yn achos penderfyniadau sydd wedi'u gorfodi ar y Blaid Lafur, yn y manylion y mae gwraidd y drwg.

Mae'r Sefydliad Cenedlaethol dros Iechyd a Rhagoriaeth Glinigol wedi bod yn ystyried hyn ers mis Awst 2004, a bu disgwyl ers tro y byddai'n cyhoeddi arweiniad ar ddefnyddio

summer. However, the Welsh Assembly Government rather hoped that no-one would make an issue of the NICE decision before now. In a letter to me, dated 21 May, the Minister for health made no mention at all of this Welsh retinal group or of any anticipated decision from any advisory body.

2.20 p.m.

However, she did point to the NICE timescale which is due to report next week, with a decision being implemented in the autumn. Despite the remarkably low profile of this Welsh retinal group, less than a month after I wrote to the Minister with concerns surrounding the provision of Lucentis, it was somehow in a position to advise her to fund the treatment.

The announcement raises many more questions. I know, from talking to patients and clinicians, that NICE was likely to recommend the approval of the drug, with only a technical appeal now standing in the way. I know that the Minister has accepted that. If NICE recommends the drug, local health boards, or whatever replaces them, will be under a statutory requirement to fund Lucentis anyway. Therefore, what exactly did the Minister announce yesterday? She announced funding for a drug that the NHS would have been mandated to provide anyway some time in the next three months. She announced it with a timescale that would, in all probability, have been the natural course of events in the wake of the NICE decision. However, if a patient develops wet AMD today or tomorrow, they could easily be blind by the time this decision is put into action. We have to accept—[*Applause.*]

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. It is very nice to see so many people in the public gallery. However, you are here only to listen to the debate. We can hear everything that goes on up there, so I ask you please to be quiet and not to applaud.

Jonathan Morgan: We have to accept that capacity needs to be built into the system now. We need the Government to take early

Lucentis yr haf hwn. Fodd bynnag, lled obeithiai Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru na fyddai neb yn codi dadl ynghylch penderfyniad NICE cyn hyn. Mewn llythyr ataf, dyddiedig 21 Mai, ni soniodd y Gweinidog dros iechyd yr un gair am grŵp retinol Cymru nac am unrhyw benderfyniad a ddisgwyliid gan unrhyw gorff cynghori.

Er hynny, cyfeiriodd at amserlen NICE sydd i fod i adrodd yr wythnos nesaf, gan roi penderfyniad ar waith yn yr hydref. Er mor rhyfeddol o ddi-sôn-amdano y mae grŵp retinol Cymru, lai na mis wedi imi ysgrifennu at y Gweinidog gan fynegi pryderon ynghylch darparu Lucentis, yr oedd rywsut mewn sefyllfa i'w chynghori i ariannu'r driniaeth.

Mae'r cyhoeddiad yn codi llawer mwy o gwestiynau. Gwn, o siarad â chleifion a chlinigwyr, fod NICE yn debygol o argymhell cymeradwyo'r cyffur, a dim ond apêl dechnegol sy'n sefyll yn y ffordd bellach. Gwn fod y Gweinidog wedi derbyn hynny. Os bydd NICE yn argymhell y cyffur, bydd byrddau iechyd lleol, neu beth bynnag a ddaw yn eu lle, yn wynebu gofyniad statudol i ariannu Lucentis beth bynnag. Felly, beth yn union a gyhoeddodd y Gweinidog ddoe? Cyhoeddodd gyllid ar gyfer cyffur y byddai'r GIG wedi'i orfodi i'w ddarparu beth bynnag rywdro yn y tri mis nesaf. Fe'i cyhoeddodd gydag amserlen a fyddai wedi codi beth bynnag, yn ôl pob tebyg, yn sgil y penderfyniad gan NICE. Fodd bynnag, os bydd claf yn cael dirywiad macwlaidd gwlyb sy'n gysylltiedig â henaint heddiw neu yfory, mae'n ddigon posibl y gallai fod yn ddall erbyn rhoi'r penderfyniad hwn ar waith. Rhaid inni dderbyn—[*Cymeradwyaeth.*]

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mae'n braf iawn gweld cynifer o bobl yn yr oriel gyhoeddus. Er hynny, yr ydych yma i wrando ar y ddadl yn unig. Yr ydym yn gallu clywed popeth sy'n mynd ymlaen i fyny yn y fan honno, felly gofynnaf ichi fod yn ddistaw a pheidio â chymeradwyo, os gwelwch yn dda.

Jonathan Morgan: Rhaid inni dderbyn bod angen meithrin gallu o fewn y system yn awr. Mae arnom angen i'r Llywodraeth gymryd

steps to ensure that those who are suffering from wet AMD can get that treatment now and do not have to wait until the autumn, which may well be too late for many people in Wales today.

Yesterday's announcement is seen by many people here today and by many people watching the news as a cynical ploy. I do not believe that it was a cynical ploy; I think that this debate is right because it gives the Government an opportunity to tell us how this programme will be rolled out. I was not going to cancel this debate, because so many people had decided to come here to listen to what the Minister had to say. However, the Government has had to recognise the powerful lobby of people in Wales who accept that Lucentis is a treatment that can work for those who suffer from wet AMD and that it can ensure that they retain their sight.

What will the Assembly Government tell Thea Phillips, Patricia Summers and the 405 other people living in my constituency who wrote to me about this issue? How will we explain where the funding is coming from and how it will be rolled out in future years? We have to give people assurances—and it is an assurance that we want this afternoon—that this announcement is not just to plug a gap between the autumn of this year and the end of the financial year but it is part of a long-term strategic approach to delivering care and treatment to those who may lose their sight. We need those assurances on funding.

No mention has been made in the Minister's statement of those people who are already out of pocket having had to pay privately for Lucentis. There is no mention either of those people who have started to pay privately but whose treatment is ongoing and therefore will still require treatment after the action noted in her statement is put into effect.

Consider, for example, the case of Eileen Younghusband, who has paid £12,000 out of her own pocket to fund Lucentis. Her treatment is ongoing and will continue

camau buan i sicrhau bod y rheini sy'n dioddef gan ddirywiad macwlaidd gwlyb sy'n gysylltiedig â henaint yn gallu cael y driniaeth honno'n awr ac nad ydynt yn gorfod aros tan yr hydref, a allai fod yn rhy hwyr i lawer o bobl yng Nghymru heddiw.

Mae'r cyhoeddiad ddoe'n cael ei weld yn ystryw sinigaidd gan lawer o bobl sydd yma heddiw a chan lawer sy'n gwyllo'r newyddion. Nid wyf yn credu ei fod yn ystryw sinigaidd; credaf ei bod yn briodol cael y ddadl hon gan ei bod yn rhoi cyfle i'r Llywodraeth ddweud wrthym sut y rhoddir y rhaglen hon ar waith. Nid oeddwn am ddiddymu'r ddadl hon, gan fod cynifer o bobl wedi penderfynu dod yma i wrando ar yr hyn a oedd gan y Gweinidog i'w ddweud. Fodd bynnag, mae'r Llywodraeth wedi gorfod cydnabod y lobïo grymus gan bobl yng Nghymru sy'n derbyn bod Lucentis yn driniaeth sy'n gallu gweithio i'r rheini sy'n dioddef gan ddirywiad macwlaidd gwlyb sy'n gysylltiedig â henaint ac y gall sicrhau eu bod yn cadw eu golwg.

Beth a ddywed Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wrth Thea Phillips, Patricia Summers a'r 405 o bobl eraill sy'n byw yn fy etholaeth a ysgrifennodd ataf ynghylch y mater hwn? Sut yr eglurwn o ble y daw'r arian a sut y caiff ei ddefnyddio yn y blynyddoedd i ddod? Rhaid inni sicrhau pobl—ac mae'n sicrwydd yr ydym am ei gael y prynhawn yma—nad unig bwrpas y cyhoeddiad hwn yw llenwi bwloch rhwng hydref eleni a diwedd y flwyddyn ariannol ond ei fod yn rhan o strategaeth hirdymor i ddarparu gofal a thriniaeth i'r rheini a allai golli eu golwg. Mae arnom angen y geiriau hynny o sicrwydd am ariannu.

Ni soniwyd yn adroddiad y Gweinidog am y bobl hynny sydd eisoes ar eu colled ar ôl gorfod talu'n breifat am Lucentis. Nid oes sôn ychwaith am y bobl hynny sydd wedi dechrau talu'n breifat ond bod eu triniaeth yn parhau ac a fydd felly'n dal angen triniaeth ar ôl cymryd y camau a nodwyd yn ei datganiad.

Ystyriwch, er enghraifft, achos Eileen Younghusband, sydd wedi talu £12,000 o'i harian ei hun i gael Lucentis. Mae ei thriniaeth yn mynd ymlaen a bydd yn parhau

beyond the start of your programme in the autumn. Will she be able to access this treatment on the national health service? These are the sorts of questions that people are rightly asking. In one year's time, unless we have that assurance about the strategic direction of this money, of the capacity building required, and of how the Government will ensure that local health boards—or whatever replaces them—have the ability to deliver the service, we could be back to square one with a postcode lottery operating across Wales. We do not want to see that, and that is why I felt that it was important that this debate continue today, regardless of the fact that the Minister made her statement yesterday.

There are unanswered questions, Minister, and I hope that you will be able to respond to them in this debate. I hope that you will recognise the validity of the arguments of those who have been lobbying you for many months and years to ensure that this treatment is available. If we do not have those answers today, yesterday's statement might not be worth the paper it was written on, and people listening to this debate today could easily leave the building feeling uncertain as to what the future holds. There are unanswered questions and I believe strongly that the Minister has a duty to provide answers this afternoon.

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

calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to ensure that patients will be treated in time to save their sight, whether it is the first or second eye requiring treatment, providing that it is judged clinically appropriate.

I thank the Conservatives for tabling this motion, and I congratulate the Royal National Institute of Blind People on moving this issue right up the political agenda, starting with our parties' spring conferences. Its lobbying has brought the issue back to the Senedd and onto today's agenda. It is obvious from the number of people in the gallery today how important this issue is for those who are affected and their families.

ar ôl dechrau'ch rhaglen yn yr hydref. A fydd yn gallu cael y driniaeth hon dan y gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol? Dyma'r mathau o gwestiynau y mae pobl yn eu gofyn, a hynny'n briodol. Ymhen blwyddyn, oni chawn y sicrhad hwnnw am gyfeiriad strategol yr arian hwn, am y gallu y mae angen ei feithrin, ac am y modd y bydd y Llywodraeth yn sicrhau y bydd byrddau iechyd lleol—neu beth bynnag a ddaw yn eu lle—yn gallu cyflenwi'r gwasanaeth, gallem fynd yn ôl i'r fan lle'r oeddem gyda loteri cod post ledled Cymru. Nid ydym am weld hynny, a dyna pam y teimlais ei bod yn bwysig i'r ddadl hon fynd ymlaen heddiw, er bod y Gweinidog wedi gwneud ei datganiad ddoe.

Mae cwestiynau sydd heb eu hateb, Weinidog, ac yr wyf yn gobeithio y byddwch yn gallu ymateb iddynt yn y ddadl hon. Yr wyf yn gobeithio y byddwch yn cydnabod dilysrwydd y dadleuon gan y rheini a fu'n eich lobïo am fisoedd a blynnyddoedd lawer i sicrhau bod y driniaeth hon ar gael. Os na chawn yr atebion hynny heddiw, gallai'r datganiad a gafwyd ddoe fod yn ddiwerth, a byddai'n ddigon hawdd i'r rhai sy'n gwrandao ar y ddadl hon heddiw fynd o'r adeilad gan deimlo'n ansicr ynghylch yr hyn sydd i'w ddisgwyl. Mae cwestiynau sydd heb eu hateb a chredaf yn gryf fod y Gweinidog dan ddyletswydd i roi atebion y prynhawn yma.

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

yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i sicrhau y caiff cleifion eu trin mewn da bryd i achub eu golwg, boed angen triniaeth ar y llygad gyntaf neu'r ail lygad, ar yr amod y bernir ei fod yn briodol yn glinigol.

Diolchaf i'r Ceidwadwyr am gyflwyno'r cynnig hwn, a llongyfarchaf Sefydliad Cenedlaethol Brenhinol Pobl Ddall ar sicrhau lle amlwg i'r mater hwn ar yr agenda wleidyddol, gan ddechrau yng nghynadleddau ein pleidiau yn y gwanwyn. Mae ei lobïo wedi dod â'r mater yn ôl i'r Senedd a'i roi ar yr agenda heddiw. Mae'n amlwg o nifer y bobl yn yr oriel heddiw pa mor bwysig yw'r mater hwn i'r rheini yr effeithir arnynt a'u teuluoedd.

I would have liked this debate to be more of a celebration of the wonders of science and medical development. After all, we had not heard of the drugs Macugen and Lucentis until a few years ago. However, today, wet AMD is a condition that is easily treatable and it no longer needs to lead to the loss of the most precious of human senses, namely sight.

While a year is a relatively short period in the wider timeline of scientific development, the last year has led to a most frustrating and unfair situation for wet AMD treatment. It has focused our minds on the delays in, and the frustratingly slow process of, drug treatment approval and licensing. While we are waiting for the final NICE guidance, as many as three people a day in Wales are losing their sight. The announcement that the NICE guidance, which was due in June, will now be delayed until August has intensified the situation. This has also focused our minds on the bizarre situation and confusing state of affairs caused by the old NICE guidance, under which patients in many parts of Wales are given treatment only once their second eye is affected, while others are given treatment as soon as the first eye is affected. Doctors in some areas must therefore stand by and wait until a patient has gone blind in one eye before they can treat the other eye. That beggars belief. If you had a disease in your legs, could you imagine any doctor ever saying, 'I am sorry, but I cannot treat your first leg, and I must wait until you have had your first leg amputated before you can have the second leg treated'? It is a completely immoral state of affairs.

I wrote to the Minister on 6 February asking her to consider writing urgently to local health boards to tell them that she expected them to make the treatment available for both eyes as soon as possible. The Minister replied on 19 March by saying,

Buasai'n well gennyf pe buasai'r ddadl hon yn debycach i ddatliad o ryfeddodau gwyddoniaeth a datblygiadau meddygol. Wedi'r cyfan, nid oeddem wedi clywed am y cyffuriau Macugen a Lucentis tan ychydig flynyddoedd yn ôl. Fodd bynnag, heddiw, mae dirywiad macwlaidd gwlyb sy'n gysylltiedig â henaint yn gyflwr hawdd ei drin a bellach nid oes rhaid iddo arwain at golli'r synnwyr sy'n fwyaf gwerthfawr gan bobl, sef y golwg.

Er bod blwyddyn yn gyfnod cymharol fyr yn hanes datblygiadau gwyddonol yn gyffredinol, cododd sefyllfa annheg a rhwystredigaethus iawn y llynedd o ran triniaeth ar gyfer dirywiad macwlaidd gwlyb sy'n gysylltiedig â henaint. Mae wedi tynnu ein sylw at yr oedi a'r broses rwystredigaethus o araf o ran cymeradwyo a thrwyddedu triniaethau cyffuriau. Wrth inni aros am yr arweiniad terfynol gan NICE, mae cynifer â thri o bobl bob dydd yng Nghymru'n colli eu golwg. Mae'r cyhoeddiad y bydd arweiniad NICE, a oedd i fod i gael ei gyhoeddi ym mis Mehefin, yn cael ei ohirio bellach tan fis Awst wedi dwysáu'r sefyllfa. Mae hyn wedi tynnu ein sylw hefyd at y sefyllfa ryfedd a dryslyd a achoswyd gan hen arweiniad NICE, sy'n peri na fydd cleifion mewn llawer rhan o Gymru ond yn cael triniaeth ar ôl cael effaith ar eu hail lygad, tra bydd eraill yn cael triniaeth cyn gynted ag yr effeithir ar y llygad cyntaf. Felly rhaid i feddygon mewn rhai ardaloedd sefyll o'r neilltu ac aros nes bydd y claf wedi colli ei olwg mewn un llygad cyn y gallant drin y llygad arall. Mae hynny'n anghredadwy. Pe byddai gennych glefyd ar eich coesau, a allech byth ddychmygu unrhyw feddyg yn dweud, 'Mae'n ddrwg gennyf, ond ni allaf drin eich coes gyntaf, a rhaid imi aros nes torri'ch coes gyntaf i ffwrdd cyn y gallwch gael trin yr ail goes'? Mae'n sefyllfa gwbl anfoesol.

Ysgrifennais at y Gweinidog ar 6 Chwefror gan ofyn iddi ystyried anfon llythyr ar frys i fyrddau iechyd lleol i ddweud wrthynt ei bod yn disgwyl iddynt ddarparu triniaeth ar gyfer y ddau lygad cyn gynted ag y bo modd. Atebodd y Gweinidog ar 19 Mawrth gan ddweud,

'As you say, the final NICE guidance is expected in June this year and it would not be appropriate for me to prejudge the outcome of that guidance by writing to local health boards at this stage'.

The Minister has done a complete somersault on this issue, which I welcome. However, is it not a pity that she did not change her mind or succumb to the views of the public or those who were trying to persuade her, back in February and March? There are people in Wales who are now blind because they were not able to get that treatment in the intervening months.

When I wrote to you, Minister, I also wrote to NHS trusts, and they responded by referring to the overstretching of their busy ophthalmology departments if first-eye treatment were to be introduced. That is not universally the case across Wales, but it is undoubtedly the case in some trust areas. In your statement, you refer to the gradual phasing in of treatment centres across Wales to provide appropriate delivery. I want you to be absolutely clear about what that means.

2.30 p.m.

A constituent of mine who came to see me on Friday has dry AMD in one eye, which is untreatable, and wet AMD in the second eye, has been refused treatment under the NHS and has spent £14,000. She is an elderly person, and can ill-afford this money. She needs an answer from you this afternoon, Minister, as to how soon she can get urgent treatment on the NHS, which she needs to complete the course of treatment for her eye.

William Graham: One of the privileges of being an elected Member is the research facilities that we have available to us. In the nine years that I have been a Member, I have only been contacted by three constituents with this particular degenerative disease, and I pay tribute to Dr Gibbons, and his predecessor Jane Hutt, in acceding to

Fel yr ydych yn dweud, disgwylir cael arweiniad terfynol gan NICE ym mis Mehefin eleni ac ni fyddai'n briodol imi ragfarnu canlyniad yr arweiniad hwnnw drwy anfon llythyr i fyrddau iechyd lleol ar hyn o bryd.

Mae'r Gweinidog wedi gwneud tro pedol ar y mater hwn, a chroesawaf hynny. Er hynny, onid yw'n drueni na wnaeth newid ei meddwl neu dderbyn barn y cyhoedd neu'r rheini a oedd yn ceisio ei pherswadio, yn ôl ym mis Chwefror a mis Mawrth? Mae pobl yng Nghymru sy'n ddall yn awr am nad oeddent yn gallu cael y driniaeth honno yn y cyfamser.

Pan ysgrifennais atoch chi, Weinidog, ysgrifennais hefyd at ymddiriedolaethau GIG, ac ymatebasant gan gyfeirio at y gorymestyn ar eu hadrannau offthalmeg prysur pe cyflwynid triniaeth ar gyfer y llygad cyntaf. Nid felly y mae ym mhob man yng Nghymru, ond felly y mae yn achos ardaloedd rhai ymddiriedolaethau, yn sicr. Yn eich datganiad, yr ydych yn cyfeirio at gyflwyno canolfannau triniaeth yn raddol ledled Cymru i gynnig darpariaeth briodol. Yr wyf am ichi fod yn gwbl glir ynghylch beth y mae hynny'n ei olygu.

Mae un o'm hetholwyr a ddaeth i'm gweld ddydd Gwener a chanddo ddirywiad macwlaidd sych sy'n gysylltiedig â henaint ar un llygad nad oes modd ei drin, a dirywiad macwlaidd gwlyb yn yr ail lygad, ond gwrthodwyd triniaeth iddi o dan y GIG ac mae wedi gwario £14,000. Mae'n berson oedrannus, a phrin y gall fforddio'r arian hwn. Mae angen ateb arni oddi wrthych y prynhawn yma, Weinidog, ynglŷn â pha mor fuan y gall hi gael triniaeth frys ar y GIG, y mae ei hangen arni i gwblhau'r cwrs triniaeth i'w llygad.

William Graham: Un o freintiau bod yn Aelod etholedig yw'r cyfleusterau ymchwil sydd ar gael inni. Yn y naw mlynedd y bŵm i'n Aelod, dim ond tri etholwr sydd â'r clefyd dirywiol neilltuo hwn sydd wedi cysylltu â mi, a rhoddaf deyrnged i Dr Gibbons, ac i'w ragflaenydd Jane Hutt, am gytuno i driniaeth cyn gynted â phosibl yn yr achosion hynny.

treatment as soon as possible in those cases. However, I was not aware of this disease, but now that I have made myself aware, I am astounded by some of the facts that I have discovered.

I concur with what the previous speaker said about this extraordinary business of allowing you to go blind in one eye before the second eye is treated. As Jenny said, that is pretty extraordinary. In my lifetime—I do not pretend to be all that old—I have seen many diseases that were completely life-threatening, for which there was no possible cure and people were simply sent home to die. In this particular case, there is a treatment, albeit not a cure, that can reduce many of the most debilitating aspects of wet AMD.

What is it wet AMD? At the beginning, it is an abnormal blood vessel invading the retina, which bleeds and leaks and causes the destruction of the retina, hence visual loss. So, what is the prescribed current treatment? Lucentis is a drug that can be injected directly into the eye using a very fine needle. It is a relatively painless procedure and takes about five minutes to perform, but the cost of each injection is broadly about £800. How effective is it? It is the first drug that can improve patients' vision. About a third of treated patients have significant visual improvement, while over 75 per cent have some improvement. Stabilisation is achieved in 95 per cent of patients treated over a two-year period. I am informed by practising opticians that the acuity of vision is never fully restored, but, with an age-related condition, that is hardly surprising.

Once a person has developed wet AMD in one eye, their chances of developing it in the other eye increase year on year. The likelihood of this happening varies depending on the specific kind of damage that develops in the affected eye. A two-year course of Lucentis costs between £10,000 and £19,000 per patient. Let us put this in context. The Royal National Institute for the Blind has calculated that the cost of blindness due to wet AMD costs around £122 million to the Welsh economy each year, in statutory sector

Fodd bynnag, nid oeddwn yn ymwybodol o'r clefyd hwn, ond a minnau bellach wedi gwneud fy hun yn ymwybodol, yr wyf wedi fy syfrdanu gan rai o'r ffeithiau yr wyf wedi'u darganfod.

Cytunaf â'r hyn a ddywedodd y siaradwr blaenorol am y busnes anhygoel hwn o adael ichi fynd yn ddall mewn un lygad cyn i'r ail lygad gael ei thrin. Fel y dywedodd Jenny, mae hynny'n bur anhygoel. Yn fy oes i—nid wyf yn esgus bod mor hen â hynny—yr wyf wedi gweld llawer o glefydau a oedd yn wir yn bygwth bywyd, nad oedd gwella ohonynt yn bosibl ac yr oedd pobl yn cael eu hanfon adref i farw. Yn yr achos neilltuol hwn, mae triniaeth, er nad yw'n cael gwared â'r cyflwr, sy'n gallu lleihau llawer o agweddau mwyaf difrodus dirywiad macwlaidd.

Beth yw dirywiad macwlaidd gwlyb? Ar y dechrau, pibell waed annormal yn mynd i'r retina ydyw, ac mae'n gwaedu ac yn gollwng gan ddifetha'r retina, a dyna pam y collir y golwg. Felly, beth yw'r driniaeth a ragnodir ar hyn o bryd? Cyffur yw Lucentis y mae modd ei chwistrellu'n uniongyrchol i'r llygad gan ddefnyddio nodwydd fain iawn. Mae'n driniaeth gymharol ddi-boen ac mae'n cymryd rhyw bum munud i'w chyflawni, ond mae cost pob pigiad oddeutu £800. Pa mor effeithiol ydyw? Dyma'r cyffur cyntaf sy'n gallu gwella golwg cleifion. Mae tua thraean y cleifion sy'n cael eu trin yn cael gwelliant gweledol sylweddol, ac mae dros 75 y cant yn cael rhyw welliant. Caiff y cyflwr ei sefydlogi mewn 95 y cant o'r cleifion a gaiff eu trin dros gyfnod o ddwy flynedd. Fe'm hysbysir gan optegwyr wrth eu gwaith nad yw craffter y golwg byth yn cael ei adfer yn llawn, ond, gyda chyflwr sy'n gysylltiedig ag oedran, prin fod hynny'n syndod.

Unwaith y mae person wedi datblygu dirywiad macwlaidd gwlyb mewn un lygad, mae'r tebygolrwydd y bydd yn ei ddatblygu yn y lygad arall yn cynyddu o flwyddyn i flwyddyn. Mae'r tebygolrwydd y gwnaiff hyn ddigwydd yn amrywio yn dibynnu ar y math penodol o ddifrod sy'n datblygu yn y llygad yr effeithir arni. Mae cwrs dwy flynedd o Lucentis yn costio rhwng £10,000 a £19,000 y claf. Gadewch inni roi hyn yn ei gyd-destun. Mae'r Sefydliad Cenedlaethol Brenhinol Pobl Ddall wedi cyfrifo fod

care, informal care and lost productivity. Saving sight, therefore, saves money, not the reverse. Wet AMD is the cause of half of all registered blindness in the United Kingdom, and the long-term costs of being condemned to blindness far outweigh the cost of treatment.

It is a fact that sight conditions, if left untreated, deteriorate rapidly within weeks, so patients with wet AMD cannot afford to languish on waiting lists. This treatment is time-limited and early intervention is critical. The RNIB Cymru believes that, if patients are not treated within 12 weeks, they will go blind. The quality of life of people who have this condition is severely impaired because the system is not prepared. There is an emotive and human cost that can easily be avoided if we plan now and initiate that planning quickly.

I welcome the statement that the Minister made yesterday, and it is hopeful that those conditions and treatments can be put in hand as soon as possible, although I worry that the Minister's commitment to funding Lucentis is not open-ended. The Minister will, no doubt, comment on that at the end of this debate. The Welsh Conservatives believe that wet AMD cannot be treated at the expense of other sight-threatening conditions, and that there needs to be a real investment in eye clinics to enable them to implement National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance. New treatments have the potential to halve the number of people who are registered as blind, but if this is at the cost of other treatments, there will be a crisis in other eye-care provision in Wales. Also, we are appalled that Wales is the worst provider of eye treatment in the United Kingdom.

We pay tribute to the campaign by the RNIB and the Macular Disease Society, and I will end my contribution by reminding folk that there is hope for prevention—for example, not smoking contributes to a slight reduction

dallineb oherwydd dirywiad macwlaidd gwlyb yn costio oddeutu £122 miliwn i economi Cymru bob blwyddyn, mewn gofal sector statudol, gofal anffurfiol a chynhyrchiant a gollir. Mae arbed golwg, felly, yn arbed arian, nid y gwrthwyneb. Dirywiad macwlaidd gwlyb yw achos hanner yr holl ddallineb a gofrestrir yn y Deyrnas Unedig, ac mae costau tymor hir cael eich condemnio i ddallineb yn llawer mwy na chost y driniaeth.

Mae'n ffaith bod cyflyrau'r golwg, os cânt eu gadael heb eu trin, yn dirywio'n gyflym o fewn wythnosau, felly ni all cleifion sydd â dirywiad macwlaidd gwlyb fforddio nychu ar restru aros. Mae cyfyngiadau ar yr amser ar gyfer y driniaeth hon ac mae ymyrryd yn gynnar yn dyngedfennol. Cred RNIB Cymru, os na chaiff cleifion eu trin o fewn 12 wythnos, y byddant yn mynd yn ddall. Amharir yn ddifrifol ar ansawdd bywyd pobl sydd â'r cyflwr hwn gan nad yw'r system yn barod. Mae cost emosiynol a dynol y gellir ei hosgoi'n hawdd os cynlluniwn ni yn awr a dechrau'r cynllunio hwnnw'n gyflym.

Croesawaf y datganiad a wnaeth y Gweinidog ddoe, ac mae'n obeithiol y gall y cyflyrau a'r triniaethau hynny gael sylw cyn gynted â phosibl, er fy mod yn poeni nad yw ymrwymiad y Gweinidog i gyllido Lucentis yn un penagored. Mae'n siŵr y gwnaiff y Gweinidog ymdrin â hynny ar ddiwedd y ddadl hon. Cred Ceidwadwyr Cymru na ellir trin dirywiad macwlaidd gwlyb ar draul cyflyrau eraill sy'n bygwth golwg, a bod angen buddsoddiad gwirioneddol mewn clinigau llygaid i'w galluogi i weithredu canllawiau'r Sefydliad Cenedlaethol dros Iechyd a Rhagoriaeth Glinigol. Mae i driniaethau newydd y potensial i haneru nifer y bobl sy'n cael eu cofrestru'n ddall, ond os gwneir hynny ar draul triniaethau eraill, bydd argyfwng yn y ddarpariaeth gofal llygaid yng Nghymru. Hefyd, yr ydym wedi ein brawychu mai Cymru yw'r gwaethaf am ddarparu triniaethau llygaid yn y Deyrnas Unedig.

Rhodddwn deyrnged i'r ymgyrch gan yr RNIB a'r Gymdeithas Clefyd Macwlaidd, a gorffennaf fy nghyfraniad drwy atgoffa pobl fod gobaith i waith atal—er enghraifft, mae peidio ag ysmegu yn arwain at ostyngiad

in the prominence of this disease, as does, possibly, the taking of lutein plus antioxidants. Much research on that has yet to be completed—I see Dr Gibbons already disagreeing—but it is at an embryonic stage.

Sandy Mewies: Today is a cause for celebration, and I also pay tribute to the work that was done by the organisations represented here—some members of those organisations have come from my constituency. However, I did think, at one stage, that I was suffering from some sort of amnesia, because I recall, unlike Jonathan Morgan's claim, that I have spoken and written to the Minister many times over the last few months as a result of representations made to me by my constituents; I know that that is also true of other Members. I do not know whether Jonathan Morgan is deliberately choosing to ignore that fact—that he does not want to know about it, does not know about it or whatever—or whether he just wants to make some sort of unfortunate political point under the circumstances. I have received responses from the Minister in the past telling me exactly what was going on—I do not know whether you received them, but I certainly did—and I was pleased to see the way in which that work was going, because this has been a dreadful problem throughout Wales.

I particularly welcome the news that, in future, we will hopefully have consistent treatments in Wales, and that was part of the Minister's statement. William's well-measured contribution made the point that we must be careful that we do not sacrifice one treatment for another. I am extremely pleased that Avastin is currently being trialled, with encouraging early results, and that it will be looked at, alongside other treatments.

I do not want to go into detail today, but this is a tribute to people power. I have been lobbied, like all other Members—not this week, last week or the week before last, but months ago, which is when I first took the matter up with the Minister; I know that that is also what happened with other people. I am delighted that she made the statement yesterday and I hope that, in future, we can

bach yn nifer yr achosion o'r clefyd hwn, fel y mae, o bosibl, cymryd lwtein ynghyd â gwrthocsidyddion. Mae llawer o ymchwil i hynny i gael ei gwblhau eto—gwelaf Dr Gibbons yn anghytuno'n barod—ond mae yn y cyfnod embryonig.

Sandy Mewies: Mae heddiw yn achos i ddatlu, a rhoddaf innau hefyd deyrnged i'r gwaith a wnaethpwyd gan y cyrff a gynrychiolir yma—mae rhai aelodau o'r cyrff hynny wedi dod o'm hetholaeth i. Fodd bynnag, yr oeddwn yn credu, ar un adeg, fy mod yn dioddef rhyw fath o amnesia, oherwydd yr wyf yn cofio, yn wahanol i haerriad Jonathan Morgan, fy mod wedi siarad ac wedi ysgrifennu at y Gweinidog droeon dros y misoedd diwethaf o ganlyniad i sylwadau a wnaethpwyd imi gan fy etholwyr; gwn fod hynny'n wir hefyd am Aelodau eraill. Ni wn a yw Jonathan Morgan yn dewis anwybyddu'r ffaith honno'n fwriadol—nad yw am wybod amdani, nad yw'n gwybod amdani neu beth bynnag—ynteu am wneud rhyw faith o bwynt gwleidyddol anffodus y mae o dan yr amgylchiadau. Yr wyf wedi cael ymatebion gan y Gweinidog yn y gorffennol yn dweud wrthyf beth yn union a oedd yn digwydd—ni wn a gawsoch chi nhw, ond fe wneuthum i, yn sicr—ac yr oeddwn yn falch o weld y ffordd yr oedd y gwaith hwnnw'n mynd, oherwydd mae hon wedi bod yn broblem ofnadwy ledled Cymru.

Croesawaf yn arbennig y newyddion y byddwn, yn y dyfodol, gobeithio yn cael triniaethau cyson yng Nghymru, ac yr oedd hynny'n rhan o ddatganiad y Gweinidog. Gwnaeth cyfraniad pwylllog William y pwynt ei bod rhaid inni fod yn ofalus i beidio ag aberthu un driniaeth am un arall. Yr wyf yn hynod o falch fod Avastin yn cael ei dreialu ar hyn o bryd, gyda chanlyniadau cynnar calonogol, ac y bydd yn cael ei ystyried, ynghyd â thriniaethau eraill.

Nid wyf am fynd i fanylion heddiw, ond mae hyn yn deyrnged i rym pobl. Yr wyf fi, fel yr holl Aelodau eraill, wedi cael fy lobïo—nid yr wythnos hon, yr wythnos diwethaf na'r wythnos cyn hynny, ond fisoedd yn ôl, a dyna pryd y codais y mater gyda'r Gweinidog gyntaf. Gwn mai dyna a ddigwyddodd hefyd gyda phobl eraill. Yr wyf wrth fy modd ei bod wedi gwneud y

make more contributions to ensuring that the sight of the people of Wales is preserved.

Darren Millar: I also welcome the announcement that was made yesterday, as do all Members. However, we need to put people in the picture: this is nothing more than a pre-emptive strike by the Minister, as a result of today's debate. You have clearly been taking lessons from the outgoing president of the United States of America, Minister. Yesterday's announcement was great news for wet AMD sufferers throughout Wales, and will ensure that those who need Lucentis treatment will not now be at the mercy of the grossly unfair postcode lottery that is currently the case in Wales—it will be the case until later in the year.

My office, like the offices of other Members, has received a good number of letters from concerned wet AMD sufferers over the past months, and I am pleased for them that this lobbying has finally paid off. Perhaps now, as a result of the pressure applied by my party, in particular by Jonathan Morgan, who has spoken eloquently on this subject, and by organisations such as the RNIB and countless individuals the length and breadth of Wales, we might be able to move out of the category of being the worse provider of eye treatment in the United Kingdom—an accolade that the Labour-Plaid Government should be ashamed of—and into a situation where there is at least some equality of access to this treatment. I find it incredibly disappointing that, despite the celebration at yesterday's announcement, there are people who, unfortunately, will not benefit from this, because they are already in a situation where this treatment will come too late.

2.40 p.m.

There seems to be a distinct lack of forward planning as a result of yesterday's decision and I am concerned at the Government's short-sightedness—perhaps we can say that today. This decision is long overdue. It

datganiad ddoe, ac yr wyf yn gobeithio, yn y dyfodol, y gallwn wneud rhagor o gyfraniadau tuag at sicrhau bod golwg pobl Cymru yn cael ei gadw.

Darren Millar: Yr wyf finnau hefyd yn croesawu'r cyhoeddiad a wnaethpwyd ddoe, fel y mae'r Aelodau i gyd. Fodd bynnag, mae angen inni egluro i bobl beth sy'n digwydd: nid yw hyn yn ddim mwy na rhagymosodiad gan y Gweinidog, o ganlyniad i'r ddadl heddiw. Yr ydych yn amlwg wedi bod yn cymryd gwersi gan arlywydd Unol Daleithiau America sy'n dod i ddiwedd ei gyfnod yn ei swydd, Weinidog. Yr oedd y cyhoeddiad ddoe yn newyddion gwych i ddiodefwyr dirywiad macwlaidd gwlyb ledled Cymru, a bydd yn sicrhau na fydd y rhai y mae angen triniaeth Lucentis arnynt mwyach ar drugaredd y loteri cod post affwysol o annheg sy'n gweithredu yng Nghymru ar hyn o bryd—ac felly y bydd hi tan yn ddiweddarach yn y flwyddyn.

Mae fy swyddfa i, fel swyddfeydd Aelodau eraill, wedi cael nifer dda o llythyrau oddi wrth ddiodefwyr dirywiad macwlaidd gwlyb pryderus dros y misoedd diwethaf, ac yr wyf yn falch drostynt hwy fod y lobiö hwn wedi dwyn ffrwyth o'r diwedd. Efallai yn awr, o ganlyniad i'r pwysau a roddwyd ar waith gan fy mhlaid i, ac yn arbennig gan Jonathan Morgan, sydd wedi siarad yn huawdl ar y mater hwn, a chan fudiadau fel yr RNIB a llu o unigolion ar hyd a lled Cymru, y gallwn symud o'r categori o fod y gwaethaf yn y Deyrnas Unedig am ddarparu triniaethau llygaid—anrhydedd y dylai Llywodraeth Llafur-Plaid fod â chywilydd ohoni—ac i sefyllfa lle mae rhywfaint o leiaf o gydraddoldeb o ran mynediad at y driniaeth hon. Mae'n destun siom eithriadol i mi, er gwaethaf y dathlu ynglŷn â'r cyhoeddiad ddoe, fod yna bobl na fyddant, yn affodus, yn elwa o hyn, oherwydd maent eisoes mewn sefyllfa lle bydd y driniaeth hon yn dod yn rhy hwyr.

Mae'n ymddangos bod diffyg blaengynllunio amlwg o ganlyniad i benderfyniad ddoe ac yr wyf yn pryderu bod y Llywodraeth mor gibddall—efallai y cawn ni ddweud hynny heddiw. Dylai'r penderfyniad hwn fod wedi

should not have happened the day before today's debate in the Chamber; it should have happened many months ago.

I would be grateful to know exactly how this will be implemented across Wales, particularly in my own constituency. I want an assurance that this process has been thought through correctly, that the capacity will exist to treat the individuals who need this treatment, and that this decision is not lost over the summer recess, as is the case with so many Government decisions. What assurances can the Minister give us today that this process will not be lost over the summer? Also, can we determine whether that capacity will exist?

Many speakers have already commented on this, and have asked many questions, but what about the rest of the drugs that are included in the Welsh postcode lottery? There are other drugs, in addition to Lucentis, that are only available in some parts of Wales. It was only last week that I heard from a gentleman in my constituency who suffers from acute asthma; he had been prescribed a drug when he lived over the border in England but, on moving to Wales, he could no longer gain access to that drug, which alleviates his problems. That is unacceptable and we need to ensure that these sorts of issues are addressed in the future. Another important drug, Sutent, which is a cancer-busting drug that is not available in certain parts of Wales—

Jeff Cuthbert *rose*—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. We are talking about eye treatment. I have a long list of speakers, so could you please make this point on another occasion, Darren?

Jeff Cuthbert: Will you take an intervention?

Darren Millar: I will not take an intervention, because time is short, as has been pointed out. However, Minister, what are you doing to ensure that those other drugs will also be available across Wales without

cael ei wneud amser maith yn ôl. Ni ddylai fod wedi digwydd y diwrnod cyn y ddadl yn y Siambr heddiw; dylai fod wedi digwydd fisoedd lawer yn ôl.

Byddwn yn falch o wybod sut yn union y caiff hyn ei weithredu ar draws Cymru, yn enwedig yn f'etholaeth i. Yr wyf am gael sicrwydd bod ystyriaeth fanwl wedi cael ei rhoi i'r broses hyn, y bydd y capasiti'n bodoli i drin yr unigolion y mae angen y driniaeth hon arnynt, ac na chaiff y penderfyniad hwn ei gollu dros doriad yr haf, fel sy'n digwydd gyda chynifer o benderfyniadau'r Llywodraeth. Pa sicrwydd y gall y Gweinidog ei roi inni heddiw na chaiff y broses hon ei cholli dros yr haf? Hefyd, a allwn ganfod a fydd y capasiti hwnnw'n bodoli?

Mae llawer o siaradwyr eisoes wedi sôn am hyn, ac wedi gofyn llawer o gwestiynau, ond beth am weddill y cyffuriau sydd wedi cael eu cynnwys yn loteri cod post Cymru? Mae cyffuriau eraill, yn ogystal â Lucentis, nad ydynt ond ar gael mewn rhai rhannau o Gymru. Yr wythnos diwethaf yn unig clywais gan ŵr bonheddig yn f'etholaeth i sy'n dioddef asthma drwg; pan oedd yn byw dros y ffin yn Lloegr, yr oedd cyffur wedi cael ei ragnodi iddo ond, ar ôl symud i Gymru, ni allai mwyach gael y cyffur hwnnw, sy'n lleddfu ei broblemau. Mae hynny'n annerbyniol ac mae angen inni sicrhau bod y mathau hyn o faterion yn cael sylw yn y dyfodol. Mae cyffur pwysig arall, Sutent, sy'n gyffur trin canser nad yw ar gael mewn rhai rhannau o Gymru—

Jeff Cuthbert *a gododd*—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Yr ydym yn siarad am driniaethau llygaid. Mae gennyf restr hir o siaradwyr, felly a wnewch chi'r pwynt hwn ar achlysur arall, os gwelwch yn dda, Darren?

Jeff Cuthbert: A gymerwch chi ymyriad?

Darren Millar: Ni chymeraf ymyriad, oherwydd mae'r amser yn fyr, fel y nodwyd. Fodd bynnag, Weinidog, beth ydych chi'n ei wneud i sicrhau y bydd y cyffuriau eraill hynny hefyd ar gael ar draws Cymru heb y

the current postcode lottery?

Helen Mary Jones: Like other contributors to this debate I want to pay tribute to what has been an effective campaign, not just by the RNIB but also by many individuals affected by this situation. I pay particular tribute to constituents of mine for whom it is now too late but who have continued to campaign. All of those with us today are to be congratulated in that regard.

I welcomed the Minister's statement yesterday. However, I am slightly disappointed by the tone of some of this debate. Whatever is said about this Minister, it is completely inaccurate to describe anything that she does as cynical. I am at a loss as to how Jonathan Morgan and Darren Millar can possibly believe that a Government statement could have its timing changed by an opposition motion that can have no effect. [*Interruption.*] If anyone would like to make an intervention, I would be happy to accept, but I find it rather difficult to proceed.

The Leader of the Opposition (Nick Bourne): The member has been around the block enough—[*Interruption.*] I say that in terms of her service here as an Assembly Member. The timing of Ministers' statements is purely a matter for Ministers. They can bring out a statement whenever they want, as she must know.

Helen Mary Jones: I accept what Nick Bourne says, but the point that I was trying to make was that getting to the point when a statement can be made is a process that takes many months. Through my bilateral meetings with the Minister I have been aware of that process, and she has also kept me informed in writing. I also recall that, on a number of occasions, in response to questions in the Chamber, as Sandy Mewies has said, the Minister has said that this was her intent, but that processes needed to be adhered to in getting the infrastructure ready, and in terms of the important point that William Graham made about ensuring that other treatments would not be affected and put on the back burner when this treatment was brought in.

loteri cod post cyfredol?

Helen Mary Jones: Megis cyfranwyr eraill at y ddadl hon, yr wyf am roi teyrnged i'r hyn a fu'n ymgyrch effeithiol, nid dim ond gan yr RNIB ond hefyd gan lawer o unigolion y mae'r sefyllfa hon yn effeithio arnynt. Rhoddaf deyrnged arbennig i rai o'm hetholwyr y mae bellach yn rhy hwyr iddynt hwy ond sydd wedi dal i ymgyrchu. Mae pawb sydd gyda ni heddiw i gael eu llongyfarch yn y cyswllt hwnnw.

Yr oeddwn yn croesawu datganiad y Gweinidog ddoe. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf fymryn yn siomedig ynglŷn â thôn peth o'r ddadl hon. Beth bynnag a ddywedir am y Gweinidog hwn, mae'n gwbl anghywir i ddisgrifio unrhyw beth a wna fel gweithredu sinigaidd. Ni allaf ddirnad sut y gall Jonathan Morgan a Darren Millar gredu y gallai amseriad datganiad gan y Llywodraeth gael ei newid gan gynnig gwrthblaid na all gael unrhyw effaith. [*Torri ar draws.*] Os hoffai rhywun wneud ymyriad, byddwn yn barod i dderbyn, ond yr wyf yn ei chael hi braidd yn anodd cario ymlaen.

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Nick Bourne): Mae'r aelod wedi bod o gwmpas ddigon—[*Torri ar draws.*] Dywedaf hynny mewn perthynas â'i gwasanaeth yma fel Aelod Cynulliad. Mater i'r Gweinidogion yw amseriad datganiadau Gweinidogion onide? Gallant gyhoeddi datganiad pryd bynnag y mynnant, a rhaid ei bod hi'n gwybod hynny.

Helen Mary Jones: Yr wyf yn derbyn yr hyn a ddywed Nick Bourne, ond y pwynt yr oeddwn yn ceisio ei wneud oedd bod cyrraedd y pwynt pan ellir gwneud datganiad yn broses sy'n cymryd misoedd lawer. Drwy fy nghyfarfodydd dwyochrol â'r Gweinidog, yr wyf wedi bod yn ymwybodol o'r broses honno, ac mae hi hefyd wedi darparu gwybodaeth imi'n ysgrifenedig. Cofiaf hefyd fod y Gweinidog wedi dweud droeon, mewn ymateb i gwestiynau yn y Siambr, fel y dywedodd Sandy Mewies, mai dyma oedd ei bwriad, ond fod angen cadw at brosesau i gael y seilwaith yn barod, ac o ran y pwynt pwysig a wnaeth William Graham ynglŷn â sicrhau na fyddid yn effeithio ar driniaethau eraill nac yn eu gwrthio i'r cefndir pan gâi'r driniaeth hon ei chyflwyno.

If I may, Deputy Presiding Officer, I will take Jenny Randerson's intervention.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. They are your five minutes.

Jenny Randerson: Thank you for taking an intervention, Helen Mary. If, as you say, you were fully aware of this, and we should all have been expecting it, how can you explain why the Minister made no reference to it in her letter to me? During briefings with her, no reference has been made to this and there was no chink of light or any sign that the Minister was even thinking about it.

Helen Mary Jones: My answer is that I do not know. I am sure that the Minister will respond to you. However, I repeat the point that, in making such an important and far-reaching announcement, the Minister can decide—*[Interruption.]*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. If you want to make an intervention, David, please stand up.

Helen Mary Jones: On the point about timing, of course Ministers can change when they make their statements, but for the Conservatives to suggest that the Minister only brought forward her statement in response to their debate only goes to show they little they understand the process of Government, and long may it remain that way in Wales.

Sandy Mewies: Helen Mary, you will often have heard, as I have, the Conservatives claim that announcements have been made outside the Chamber and complain greatly about it—they cannot have it both ways.

Helen Mary Jones: Indeed. The Conservatives often try to both have their cake and eat it. We are debating a serious issue here. I did not intend to refer to the legacy of underfunding of our health services in Wales, for which the Conservatives are responsible, but given the tone of the

Of caf fi, Ddirprwy Lywydd, cymeraf ymyriad Jenny Randerson.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Eich pum munud chi ydynt.

Jenny Randerson: Diolch ichi am gymryd ymyriad, Helen Mary. Os oeddech, fel y dywedwch, yn gwbl ymwybodol o hyn, ac y dylem i gyd fod wedi bod yn ei ddisgwyl, sut gallwch chi egluro'r ffaith na chyfeiriodd y Gweinidog ato o gwbl yn ei llythyr ataf fi? Yn ystod cyfarfodydd briffio gyda hi, ni chyfeiriwyd o gwbl at hyn ac nid oedd unrhyw arlliw o oleuni nac unrhyw arwydd fod y Gweinidog hyd yn oed yn ystyried hyn.

Helen Mary Jones: Fy ateb i yw nad wyf yn gwybod. Yr wyf yn siŵr y gwnaiff y Gweinidog ymateb ichi. Fodd bynnag, ailadroddaf y pwynt y gall y Gweinidog, wrth wneud cyhoeddiad mor bwysig a phellgyrhaeddol, benderfynu—*[Torri ar draws.]*

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Os ydych am wneud ymyriad, David, safwch os gwelwch yn dda.

Helen Mary Jones: O ran y pwynt ynglŷn ag amseriad, wrth gwrs gall Gweinidogion newid yr adeg y byddant yn gwneud eu datganiadau, ond mae clywed y Ceidwadwyr yn awgrymu mai dim ond mewn ymateb i'w dadl hwy y cyflwynodd y Gweinidog ei datganiad yn dangos cyn lleied o ddealltwriaeth sydd ganddynt o'r broses Lywodraethu, a hir y parhaed hynny yng Nghymru.

Sandy Mewies: Helen Mary, byddwch chi, fel fi, wedi clywed y Ceidwadwyr yn honni'n aml bod cyhoeddiadau wedi cael eu gwneud y tu allan i'r Siambr ac yn cwyno'n fawr ynglŷn â hynny—ni allant ei chael hi bob ffordd.

Helen Mary Jones: Digon gwir. Mae'r Ceidwadwyr yn aml yn ceisio cadw torth a'i bwyta hi. Yr ydym yn trafod mater difrifol yma. Nid oeddwn yn bwriadu cyfeirio at yr etifeddiaeth o roi rhy ychydig o arian i'n gwasanaethau iechyd yng Nghymru, y mae'r Ceidwadwyr yn gyfrifol amdani, ond ac

contributions from Darren Millar and Jonathan Morgan, I feel that I must.

That said, this situation needed to be addressed because it was unacceptable. It also raises wider issues and I think that the Minister will agree with me that Darren Millar is right in that regard. It is typical of the problems that have arisen in the past around the funding and provision of new treatments. The delay between licensing and the decisions by NICE create huge difficulties for patients and clinicians, and the whole point of having a national health service in Wales is that we can move away from a situation in which people can receive a service in one part of this small nation, but not in others.

In bringing my remarks to a close, I ask the Minister to look at how we can ensure that similar situations do not arise in future, in so far as we can possibly can, in terms of delays in putting infrastructure in place and delays in the process. I urge the Minister to look with her officials at how the role of the all-Wales medicines strategy group, perhaps also working with colleagues in Scotland, might be enhanced in order to try to ensure that similar situations are avoided in future.

Nick Bourne: As other speakers have done, I pay tribute to the RNIB and the Cardiff Institute for the Blind. As Helen Mary Jones rightly said, many individuals have strongly campaigned on the provision of Lucentis, and I pay to tribute to them also. I agree that this is a day for celebration and that we have made some movement, which I am pleased about. However, it would take some work, even by someone as persuasive as Helen Mary Jones, to convince me that it was pure coincidence that the statement was made yesterday, the day before our debate. The statement was made when it was because of the debate, but let us put that to one side. I have immense respect for the Minister, but there should be some candour on this, because it has to be more than a coincidence that the statement was made on the eve of the debate.

ystyried naws y cyfraniadau gan Darren Millar a Jonathan Morgan, teimlaf fod yn rhaid imi wneud.

Wedi dweud hynny, yr oedd angen rhoi sylw i'r sefyllfa hon gan ei bod yn annerbiniol. Mae hefyd yn codi materion ehangach a chredaf y bydd y Gweinidog yn cytuno â mi bod Darren Millar yn iawn yn hynny o beth. Mae'n nodweddiadol o'r problemau sydd wedi codi yn y gorffennol yng nghyswllt cyllido a darparu triniaethau newydd. Mae'r oedi rhwng trwyddedu a'r penderfyniadau gan NICE yn achosi anawsterau mawr i gleifion a chlinigwyr, a holl bwynt cael gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol yng Nghymru yw ein bod yn gallu symud oddi wrth sefyllfa lle mae pobl yn gallu cael gwasanaeth mewn un rhan o'r wlad fechan hon, ond nid mewn rhannau eraill ohoni.

Wrth gloi, gofynnaf i'r Gweinidog ystyried sut y gallwn sicrhau, i'r graddau y mae hynny'n bosibl, nad yw sefyllfaoedd tebyg yn codi yn y dyfodol, yng nghyswllt oedi cyn sefydlu seilwaith ac oedi gyda'r broses. Yr wyf yn annog y Gweinidog i ystyried gyda'i swyddogion sut y gellid gwella rôl grŵp strategaeth feddyginiaethau Cymru gyfan, gan weithio gyda chymheiriaid yn yr Alban hefyd o bosibl, er mwyn ceisio sicrhau nad yw sefyllfaoedd tebyg yn codi yn y dyfodol.

Nick Bourne: Fel y siaradwyr eraill, hoffwn roi teyrnged i'r RNIB a Sefydliad y Deillion Caerdydd. Fel y dywedodd Helen Mary Jones, yn gwbl briodol, mae llawer o unigolion wedi ymgyrchu'n ddiwyd er mwyn sicrhau bod Lucentis ar gael, a hoffwn roi teyrnged iddynt hwythau hefyd. Yr wyf yn cytuno bod hwn yn ddiwrnod i ddathlu a'n bod wedi symud rhywfaint yn ein blaenau, ac yr wyf yn falch o hynny. Fodd bynnag, byddai'n anodd iawn, hyd yn oed i rywun fel Helen Mary Jones, sy'n gallu dwyn cymaint o berswâd, fy argyhoeddi mai cyddigwyddiad llwyr oedd y ffaith bod y datganiad hwn wedi cael ei gyhoeddi ddoe, y diwrnod cyn ein dadl. Cafodd y datganiad ei wneud bryd hynny oherwydd y ddadl, ond gadewch inni roi hynny o'r neilltu. Mae gennyf barch mawr i'r Gweinidog, ond dylid cael rhywfaint o onestrwydd ynglŷn â hyn, oherwydd mae'n rhaid bod y ffaith bod y datganiad wedi cael ei wneud y diwrnod cyn

I think that succeeding generations will be amazed that this treatment was not made available earlier. The fact that people are losing sight in one eye is an obscenity, and the fact that some people are losing sight in both eyes is beyond belief, when that is preventable. The statement says that the treatment will be available, but it is not available yet—some people will still go blind for want of Lucentis. I regard that as totally unacceptable, wrong and horrific, and I would hope that we would all do so. If anything can be done to make this treatment available straight away, I think that we would all welcome that. In this day and age, it is unacceptable, if a treatment is available through the NHS, that people should go blind for want of that treatment. Regardless of our party-political differences, let us try to achieve that on behalf of those who have lobbied hard on this issue. As Helen Mary rightly said, some of those people have already lost their sight and have continued to lobby on the issue because they feel so strongly about it. I hope that we can make some progress on that matter, which was not addressed in the statement yesterday.

The issue of tabling this debate first arose on 4 June when Jonathan Morgan and I met Sarah Rochira of the RNIB, which had come to lobby us on this specific issue. Within minutes of the meeting having started I turned to Jonathan and said, 'We need to put this down for debate', and we did. That is absolutely clear in my mind, and my notes in my diary reflect that that is when the decision was taken to table a debate. We had been lobbied about the issue before, as Jenny Randerson rightly said—it came up in the party conference season, which was when I first became aware of the postcode lottery—or Russian roulette—nature of this issue. We have made some headway, but we are not there yet—three people per day are going blind for want of Lucentis. There is a cost associated with it—there always is—but if the NHS means anything—and it should do—it should be made available right now to the people who need it, people who are going

y ddadl yn fwy na chyd-ddigwyddiad.

Credaf y bydd y cenedlaethau a ddaw ar ein holau ni'n synnu nad oedd y driniaeth hon ar gael yn gynharach. Mae'r ffaith bod pobl yn colli eu golwg mewn un llygad yn warthus, ac mae'r ffaith bod rhai pobl yn colli eu golwg yn y ddau lygad yn anghredadwy, pan fydd modd atal hynny. Mae'r datganiad yn dweud y bydd y driniaeth ar gael, ond nid yw ar gael eto—bydd rhai pobl yn dal i fynd yn ddall gan nad ydynt yn cael Lucentis. I mi, mae hynny'n gwbl annerbyniol, yn amhriodol ac yn ddychrynlyd, a byddwn yn gobeithio bod pawb yn gweld hynny. Os oes modd gwneud rhywbeth i sicrhau bod y driniaeth hon ar gael ar unwaith, credaf y byddem i gyd yn croesawu hynny. Yn yr oes sydd ohoni, mae'n annerbyniol, os oes triniaeth ar gael drwy'r GIG, bod pobl yn colli eu golwg gan nad ydynt yn cael y driniaeth honno. Beth bynnag ein gwahaniaethau gwleidyddol, gadewch inni geisio sicrhau, ar ran y rhai hynny sydd wedi bod yn lobïo'n ddiflino, bod y driniaeth hon ar gael. Fel y dywedodd Helen Mary, yn gwbl briodol, mae rhai o'r bobl hynny wedi colli eu golwg yn barod ac wedi dal i lobïo gan fod ganddynt deimladau mor gryf am y pwnc. Yr wyf yn gobeithio y gallwn wneud rhywfaint o gynnydd gyda'r mater hwnnw, na roddwyd sylw iddo yn y datganiad ddoe.

Cododd mater cyflwyno'r ddadl hon am y tro cyntaf ar 4 Mehefin pan gyfarfu Jonathan Morgan a minnau â Sarah Rochira o'r RNIB, a oedd wedi dod i lobïo ar y mater penodol hwn. Ychydig funudau ar ôl i'r cyfarfod ddechrau troais at Jonathan a dweud, 'Mae angen inni geisio cael dadl ar y mater hwn', a dyna beth a wnaethom. Yr wyf yn cofio hynny'n iawn, ac mae'r nodiadau yn fy nyddiadur yn dangos mai dyna pryd y penderfynwyd cyflwyno dadl. Yr oeddem wedi cael ein lobïo ynglŷn â'r mater cyn hynny, fel y dywedodd Jenny Randerson yn gwbl briodol—cododd y mater yn ystod tymor cynadleddau'r pleidiau, a dyna pryd y dechreuais ddod yn ymwybodol o natur loteri cod post—neu rwlét Rwsiaidd—y mater hwn. Yr ydym wedi symud yn ein blaenau i ryw raddau, ond nid ydym wedi cyrraedd pen y daith eto—mae tri pherson yn colli eu golwg bob diwrnod gan nad ydynt yn cael Lucentis. Mae elfen o gost—mae hynny'n wir bob

blind for want of this drug. I hope that the Minister will have something to say on that because, even after yesterday's welcome statement, many people will go blind if we do not take immediate action. I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the debate.

2.50 p.m.

Michael German: I will start by echoing the words of my colleague, Jenny Randerson, in welcoming the Minister's decision to deal with this issue. I will enter into the debate in a subtle way—I will not be as brutal as Helen Mary perhaps was about the timing of this announcement.

In March, the Minister wrote that she was not prepared to deal with this matter until she had received advice from NICE. I understand that that advice is coming out in August; it has certainly not come out yet. In other words, the Minister has pre-empted the advice that she said in March that she would wait for. So we have to have had a bearing on this issue. Clearly, the Minister decided that she was going to move quickly on this matter because other factors had taken precedence. I will leave Assembly Members and the public to determine what the other factors were. Certainly it was not her intention to do this in March, but she has now moved forward on this matter. It must come as a great relief to many people that that has happened. I, like others here, pay tribute to those who have campaigned—both as individuals and in organisations—to bring about this change.

I suppose that not many people in the Chamber have macular damage, but I am speaking as someone who has macular damage in one eye. It was not caused by age-related macular degeneration, but was

amser—ond os yw'r GIG yn golygu rhywbeth—a dylai wneud—dylai Lucentis fod ar gael ar unwaith i'r bobl sydd ei angen, pobl sy'n colli eu golwg gan nad ydynt yn cael y cyffur hwn. Yr wyf yn gobeithio y bydd gan y Gweinidog rywbeth i'w ddweud ynglŷn â hynny oherwydd, hyd yn oed ar ôl y datganiad yr oeddem yn falch o'i glywed ddoe, bydd llawer o bobl yn colli eu golwg os nad ydym yn gweithredu ar unwaith. Yr wyf yn falch iawn o gael cyfle i gyfrannu at y ddadl.

Michael German: Hoffwn ddechrau drwy ategu geiriau fy nghyd-Aelod, Jenny Randerson, a chroesawu penderfyniad y Gweinidog i ymdrin â'r mater hwn. Yr wyf am ymuno yn y ddadl mewn ffordd dawl—nid wyf am fod mor ymosodol ag yr oedd Helen Mary o bosibl ynglŷn ag amseriad y cyhoeddiad hwn.

Ym mis Mawrth, dywedodd y Gweinidog mewn datganiad ysgrifenedig nad oedd yn barod i ymdrin â'r mater hwn nes byddai wedi cael cyngor gan NICE. Deallaf y bydd y cyngor hwnnw'n cael ei gyhoeddi ym mis Awst; yn sicr, nid yw wedi cael ei gyhoeddi eto. Mewn geiriau eraill, mae'r Gweinidog wedi gweithredu cyn y cyngor y dywedodd ym mis Mawrth y byddai'n aros amdano. Felly mae'n rhaid ein bod wedi cael rhywfaint o ddylanwad ar y mater hwn. Mae'n amlwg bod y Gweinidog wedi penderfynu ei bod yn mynd i symud yn gyflym gyda'r mater hwn gan fod ffactorau eraill wedi cael blaenoriaeth. Yr wyf am adael i Aelodau'r Cynulliad a'r cyhoedd benderfynu beth oedd y ffactorau eraill. Yn sicr, nid oedd yn bwriadu gwneud hyn ym mis Mawrth, ond mae wedi symud ymlaen gyda'r mater hwn erbyn hyn. Rhaid ei fod yn rhyddhad mawr i lawer o bobl bod hynny wedi digwydd. Yr wyf fi, fel eraill yma, yn rhoi teyrnged i'r rhai hynny sydd wedi ymgyrchu—fel unigolion ac mewn sefydliadau—er mwyn sicrhau'r newid hwn.

Tybiaf nad oes llawer o bobl yn y Siambr sydd â difrod macwlaidd, ond yr wyf fi'n siarad fel rhywun sydd â difrod macwlaidd mewn un llygad. Nid rhywbeth sydd wedi cael ei achosi gan ddirywiad macwlaidd sy'n

inherited through my family. I have had the unfortunate experience of knowing what it is like to have macular damage and to suddenly find that the middle of your visual field is impaired in one eye and that you cannot see what you could see before. I had to have surgery. The speed of that surgery ensured that the damage was halted and I pay tribute to those who treated me. The damage has not been put right—it cannot be put right because macular damage cannot be put right—but it has been halted. That has enabled me to carry on with a normal life and to be able to read. Of course, the consultant is very keen to watch what happens with my other eye, but, thankfully, the condition that I have inherited means that it is only likely to reoccur in the one eye. It is terribly debilitating. The fright and the fear of losing your sight is immense.

I urge all of you, and particularly the Minister, to consider how this policy will play out in years to come. We need to know that this policy is secure, that it will be there for the future and that it will not be disturbed by the vagaries of funding pressures. That is why the key remaining questions are as follows. What is going to be the policy on new drugs for the future? Will that policy affect the funding of other treatments? Can the Minister tell us today whether this policy will be implemented rapidly so that people will not lose their eyesight in the immediate future for the lack of Lucentis? I know that there are many people who are concerned about the fundamental issues raised by the Minister's change of heart—welcome though it is. We must have the accurate policy decisions behind it so that we know, for the future, how these decisions will be made. There are big questions still to be answered by the Minister and I hope that she will answer them in her response.

Nick Ramsay: In her contribution, Jenny Randerson mentioned that Lucentis is a drug that only a few short years ago no-one, or very few people, in Wales had heard of. That

gysylltiedig ag oedran ydyw, ond rhywbeth yr wyf wedi ei etifeddu gan fy rheulu. Yr wyf wedi cael y profiad anffodus o wybod sut beth yw cael difrod macwlaidd a chanfod yn sydyn bod nam ar ganol eich maes gwelediad mewn un llygad ac na allwch weld yr hyn y gallech ei weld cynt. Bu'n rhaid imi gael llawdriniaeth. Gan fy mod wedi cael y llawdriniaeth honno mewn pryd cafodd y difrod ei atal ac yr wyf yn rhoi teyrnged i'r rhai hynny a roddodd y driniaeth imi. Nid yw'r difrod wedi cael ei gywiro—ni ellir ei gywiro oherwydd nid yw'n bosibl cywiro difrod macwlaidd—ond mae wedi cael ei atal. Mae hynny wedi fy ngalluogi i fyw fy mywyd fel arfer ac i allu darllen. Wrth gwrs, mae'r ymgynghorydd yn awyddus i gadw llygad barcud ar yr hyn sy'n digwydd i'r llygad arall, ond, yn ffodus iawn, mae'r cyflwr yr wyf wedi'i etifeddu'n golygu mai dim ond yn yr un llygad y mae'n debygol o ddod yn ôl. Mae'n brofiad gwanychol iawn. Mae'r ofn y byddwch yn colli'ch golwg yn ddychrynlyd.

Yr wyf yn annog pob un ohonoch, yn enwedig y Gweinidog, i ystyried sut y bydd y polisi hwn yn datblygu yn y dyfodol. Mae angen inni wybod bod y polisi hwn yn ddiogel, y bydd yno yn y dyfodol ac na fydd mympwyon pwysau ariannol yn amharu arno. Dyna pam y mae'r cwestiynau pwysig sydd ar ôl fel a ganlyn. Beth fydd y polisi ar gyffuriau newydd yn y dyfodol? A fydd y polisi hwnnw'n effeithio ar y cyllid ar gyfer triniaethau eraill? A all y Gweinidog ddweud wrthym heddiw a fydd y polisi hwn yn cael ei weithredu'n fuan fel na fydd pobl yn colli eu golwg yn y dyfodol agos gan nad ydynt yn gallu cael Lucentis? Gwn fod llawer o bobl sy'n poeni am y materion sylfaenol a godwyd o ganlyniad i'r ffaith bod y Gweinidog wedi newid ei meddwl—er ein bod yn falch ei bod wedi gwneud hynny. Rhaid inni gael y penderfyniadau polisi cywir y tu ôl i hyn fel ein bod yn gwybod, ar gyfer y dyfodol, sut y bydd y penderfyniadau hyn yn cael eu gwneud. Mae gan y Gweinidog gwestiynau mawr i'w hateb o hyd ac yr wyf yn gobeithio y bydd yn gwneud hynny yn ei hymateb.

Nick Ramsay: Yn ei chyfraniad, dywedodd Jenny Randerson nad oedd llawer o bobl wedi clywed am Lucentis yng Nghymru tan yn ddiweddar iawn. Mae hynny'n dangos pa

goes to show just how quickly things move on in healthcare and in the NHS. It is not easy for any Government to make full use of those developments immediately and, of course, new types of treatment will always have funding implications. That said, government is a question of priorities and I believe that the benefits of Lucentis are so overwhelming that there is no doubt that the provision of this drug should have been made a priority before the Minister's written statement was issued. However, whatever the reasons for the timing of her statement—there are different thoughts on that in this Chamber—we certainly welcome the fact that the decision has been taken and these necessary and much-needed steps to combat wet age-related macular degeneration are being taken.

The number of people present in the public gallery—I think that we can forgive a bit of noise given the number of people there and the concern about this issue—demonstrates the huge strength of feeling about this issue. I am sure that every AM has received representations about the need to fully fund Lucentis and to bring about the necessary policy change. I am sure that every Member has passed on representations and added to the clamour for change.

I will say a few words about the RNIB, because it has worked tirelessly to raise the profile of people suffering from this condition and in campaigning for a change in the funding of treatment. I am delighted that it has done that; I have been happy to support it and this just goes to show what people power can do.

Minister, there is an issue with regard to those sufferers who will lose their sight before full roll-out in the autumn, and I think that we all accept that that is a problem. The matter has been raised with you, so I, too, will listen with interest to hear whether you have any proposals to help these people. It would be a great injustice if people were to lose their sight because of the timeframe for this. I appreciate that funding is difficult and

mor gyflym y mae pethau'n datblygu ym maes gofal iechyd ac yn y GIG. Nid yw'n hawdd i unrhyw Lywodraeth ddefnyddio'r datblygiadau hynny'n llawn ar unwaith ac, wrth gwrs, bydd goblygiadau ariannol yn gysylltiedig â mathau newydd o driniaethau bob amser. Wedi dweud hynny, mae llywodraethu'n fater o flaenoriaethau a chredaf fod manteision Lucentis mor fawr fel nad oes unrhyw amheuaeth y dylai darparu'r cyffur hwn fod wedi cael ei wneud yn flaenoriaeth cyn i ddatganiad ysgrifenedig y Gweinidog gael ei gyhoeddi. Fodd bynnag, beth bynnag oedd y rhesymau dros amseriad ei datganiad—mae gwahanol farn ynglŷn â hynny yn y Siambr hon—yr ydym yn sicr yn croesawu'r ffaith bod y penderfyniad wedi cael ei wneud a bod y camau angenrheidiol a mawr eu hangen hyn i fynd i'r afael â dirywiad macwlaidd gwlyb sy'n gysylltiedig ag oedran yn cael eu cymryd.

Mae nifer y bobl sydd yn yr oriel gyhoeddus—credaf y gallwn faddau os oes ychydig o sŵn ac ystyried cynifer o bobl sydd yno a chymaint o bryder sydd ynglŷn â'r mater hwn—yn dangos pa mor gryf yw'r teimladau ynglŷn â'r mater hwn. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod pob AC wedi cael sylwadau ynglŷn â'r angen i gyllido Lucentis yn llawn ac i sicrhau'r newid polisi angenrheidiol. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod pob Aelod wedi anfon sylwadau yn eu blaenau ac wedi ategu'r galw am newid.

Hoffwn ddweud gair neu ddau ynglŷn â'r RNIB, oherwydd mae wedi gweithio'n ddiflino er mwyn rhoi mwy o sylw i bobl sy'n dioddef o'r cyflwr hwn ac ymgyrchu dros newid yn y ffordd y cyllidir y driniaeth. Yr wyf yn falch iawn ei fod wedi gwneud hynny; yr wyf wedi bod yn barod i'w gefnogi ac mae hyn yn dangos beth y gall grym pobl ei gyflawni.

Weinidog, mae problem yng nghyswllt y dioddefwyr hynny a fydd yn colli eu golwg cyn i'r newidiadau gael eu cyflwyno'n llawn yn yr hydref, a chredaf ein bod i gyd yn derbyn bod hynny'n broblem. Mae'r mater wedi cael ei ddwyn i'ch sylw, felly byddaf finnau, hefyd, yn edrych ymlaen i glywed a oes gennych unrhyw gynigion er mwyn helpu'r bobl hyn. Byddai'n gam mawr â'r bobl hyn petaent yn colli eu golwg oherwydd

that these decisions take time, but I would appreciate some guidance on that.

I listened with wide-eyed interest to Helen Mary Jones's contribution. I thought her comments ironic given that her party often laments this institution's perceived lack of power, yet these events show the impact that debates here and a ministerial statement can have. As a result of the debate and the statement, I am pleased that people in Wales will retain their sight. Mike German spoke eloquently from personal experience about the fear that blindness holds for so many people. Let us be pleased that the decision that has been taken and that many will benefit from a much-needed change in policy.

Lorraine Barrett: I welcome the Minister's announcement to fund the drugs necessary to treat this devastating condition. I will just take a few minutes to pay tribute to a constituent of mine, Eileen Younghusband, who has been in contact with me for almost a year now. Eileen has been inspirational—she has featured in huge article in the *Western Mail* about her and her life. I feel that she has been a great ambassador for those who are suffering from wet age-related macular degeneration.

I have never understood why the first eye to suffer from this condition could not be treated. I think that such treatment is cost-effective. As Eileen told me, if she loses her sight totally, she will have to pay for almost around the clock care. I therefore very much welcome the funding that will be put in place for treatment.

To talk about Eileen again—she will horribly embarrassed—I congratulate her on completing her BA degree recently. She is halfway through her Open University course, and I hope that the future for her will be bright and that she will be able to continue and complete her studies.

yr amserlen ar gyfer hyn. Yr wyf yn sylweddoli bod cyllido'n fater anodd a bod y penderfyniadau hyn yn cymryd amser, ond byddwn yn gwerthfawrogi rhyw gyfarwyddyd ynglŷn â hynny.

Yr oeddwn yn gwranddo'n llawn diddordeb ar gyfraniad Helen Mary Jones. Credwn fod ei sylwadau'n eironig ac ystyried bod ei phlaid yn galarnadu'n aml dros ddiffyg grym ymddangosiadol y sefydliad hwn, ac eto, mae'r digwyddiadau hyn yn dangos yr effaith y gall dadleuon yma a datganiad gan Weinidog ei chael. Yr wyf yn falch y bydd pobl yng Nghymru'n cadw'u golwg o ganlyniad i'r ddadl a'r datganiad. Siaradodd Mike German yn huawdl, o'i brofiad personol, am yr ofn sydd gan gynifer o bobl y byddant yn colli eu golwg. Gadewch inni fod yn falch bod y penderfyniad wedi cael ei wneud ac y bydd llawer o bobl ar eu hennill o ganlyniad i newid mawr ei angen mewn polisi.

Lorraine Barrett: Yr wyf yn croesawu cyhoeddiad y Gweinidog y bydd yn neilltuo arian ar gyfer y cyffuriau sydd eu hangen er mwyn trin y cyflwr dychrynlyd hwn. Hoffwn neilltuo munud neu ddau i roi teyrnged i un o'm hetholwyr, Eileen Younghusband, sydd wedi bod yn cysylltu â mi ers bron i flwyddyn erbyn hyn. Mae Eileen wedi bod yn ysbrydoliaeth i mi—yr oedd erthygl sylweddol amdani hi a'i bywyd yn y *Western Mail*. Teimlaf ei bod wedi bod yn llysgennad gwych i'r rhai hynny sy'n dioddef o ddirywiad macwlaidd gwlyb sy'n gysylltiedig ag oedran.

Nid wyf byth wedi deall pam na ellid trin y llygad cyntaf i ddiodydd o'r cyflwr hwn. Credaf fod triniaeth o'r fath yn gosteffeithiol. Fel y dywedodd Eileen wrthyf, os bydd yn colli ei golwg yn gyfan gwbl, bydd yn rhaid iddi dalu am ofal ddydd a nos fwy neu lai. O ganlyniad, yr wyf yn falch iawn y bydd cyllid yn cael ei neilltuo ar gyfer y driniaeth.

Os caf sôn at Eileen unwaith eto—bydd yn teimlo'n swil iawn ar ôl hyn—hoffwn ei llongyfarch ar gwblhau ei gradd BA yn ddiweddar. Mae hanner ffordd drwy ei chwrs Prifysgol Agored, ac yr wyf yn gobeithio y caiff ddyfodol disglair ac y gall barhau â'i hastudiaethau a'u cwblhau.

I particularly welcome the point that the Minister made in the statement yesterday about inconsistencies across local health boards. Eileen Younghusband raised that issue with me, as someone that she knew in another local health board area was able to get treatment, but she was not.

With regard to the timescale for phasing in the treatment centres, a more difficult question is whether people such as Eileen, who have been paying privately for treatment because they have not been allowed it on the NHS, qualify? I feel that it is only fair that I should ask that on her behalf and on behalf of others in the same position. Thank you, Minister; this statement is welcome.

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart): I will start by responding to some of Lorraine Barrett's comments. She praised her constituent, and I think that we could all individually praise constituents who have been to see us at our surgeries for the effective way in which they have lobbied us on the issue, not only arguing for themselves but for a group. The way that they have used politicians to get changes in policy development in this area is tremendous.

3.00 p.m.

I wish to refer Members to my statement of 24 June, in which I made it clear that I have taken a very strong line in advocating treatment for both eyes in the treatment of wet age-related macular degeneration, not least in my department's replies to NICE in July 2007 and on 14 January 2008. In my statement, I applauded the efforts of NHS clinicians in advancing the new treatment for AMD and announced the finances to help with the treatment of both eyes throughout Wales.

Turning to the first point of the motion before us, the Welsh Assembly Government commissioned NICE guidance on new drugs for AMD so that the latest and most effective drugs could be prescribed at the earliest opportunity through the NHS in Wales.

Yr wyf yn arbennig o falch o weld y pwynt a wnaethpwyd gan y Gweinidog yn y datganiad ddoe ynglŷn ag anghysonderau rhwng byrddau iechyd lleol. Tynnodd Eileen Younghusband fy sylw at y mater hwnnw, gan fod rhywun yr oedd yn ei adnabod mewn ardal bwrdd iechyd lleol arall yn gallu cael triniaeth, a hithau'n methu.

O ran yr amserlen ar gyfer cyflwyno'r canolfannau triniaeth, cwestiwn anos i'w ateb yw a fydd pobl fel Eileen, sydd wedi bod yn talu'n breifat am driniaeth gan na allant ei chael ar y GIG, yn gymwys? Teimlaf nad yw ond yn deg fy mod yn gofyn hynny ar ei rhan hi ac ar ran eraill sydd yn yr un sefyllfa. Diolch ichi, Weinidog; mae'r datganiad hwn yn un i'w groesawu.

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Edwina Hart): Hoffwn ddechrau drwy ymateb i rai o sylwadau Lorraine Barrett. Canmolodd ei hetholwraig, a chredaf y gallai pob un ohonom ganmol etholwyr sydd wedi dod i'n gweld yn ein cymorthfeydd am y modd y maent wedi ein llobio yn effeithiol ar y mater hwn, gan ddadlau nid yn unig fel unigolion ond fel grŵp. Mae'r modd y maent wedi defnyddio gwleidyddion i sicrhau newidiadau yn natblygiad y polisi yn y maes hwn yn wych.

Hoffwn gyfeirio'r Aelodau at y datganiad a gyhoeddais ar 24 Mehefin, sy'n egluro fy modd wedi cymryd safbwynt hynod o gadarn wrth ddadlau o blaid trin y ddwy lygad mewn achosion o ddirywiad macwlaidd gwlyb sy'n gysylltiedig ag oedran, fel y gwelir yn amlwg yn atebion fy adran i NICE ym mis Gorffennaf 2007 ac ar 14 Ionawr 2008. Yn fy natganiad, canmolais ymdrechion clinigwyr y GIG wrth ddatblygu'r driniaeth newydd ar gyfer dirywiad macwlaidd a chyhoeddais y cyllid i helpu trin y ddwy lygad ledled Cymru.

Gan droi at bwynt cyntaf y cynnig sydd ger ein bron, comisiynodd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ganllawiau gan NICE ar gyffuriau newydd ar gyfer dirywiad macwlaidd fel y gellid rhoi presgripsiwn am y cyffuriau diweddaraf a'r rhai mwyaf

When NICE issued draft guidance in June 2007, it effectively excluded treatment of first eyes. Like you, I was completely surprised. I instigated a very robust reply in July from my department strongly advocating the treatment of both eyes. A copy of the July letter was sent to all party spokespeople, with a covering explanation of why I was so dissatisfied with what I regarded as an inadequate NICE draft proposal.

It seems that patients in Wales and England are to benefit from the position that we adopted as a Government in relation to NICE and its final guidance. I have always been in favour in supporting the full treatment of wet AMD uniformly throughout Wales with the application of the best licensed drug available. Although we are at the stage of awaiting the final NICE guidance, I recognise—from the correspondence I have received and the lobbying—that a period of adjustment will be required to implement the likely new arrangements. I asked officials and clinicians to plan for the full use of Lucentis on either eye. Those of you who have met with the trusts or discussed this with clinicians will be aware of capacity issues and how those must be discussed too; we must make arrangements to deal with those. I now expect the trusts to make decisions on the urgency of cases presented to them and to give priority to sight-saving procedures. I think that that answers the point.

Unfortunately, there will be some cases where uniformity cannot be achieved—and this is an area that I will have to look at again—and where a first-eye policy cannot be immediately committed to, but I am striving for the best treatment for everyone in the shortest possible time. Officials will be reporting back to me regularly on this issue.

William Graham made a very valid point about the treatment issues, because, as we move forward with the treatment of wet

effeithiol mor gynnar â phosibl drwy'r GIG yng Nghymru. Pan gyhoeddodd NICE ganllawiau drafft ym mis Mehefin 2007, yr oeddent i bob pwrpas yn gwahardd trin y llygad gyntaf. Fel chi, cefais fy synnu'n llwyr. Anfonais ateb cadarn iawn o'm hadran ym mis Gorffennaf yn dadlau'n gryf o blaid trin y ddwy lygad. Anfonwyd copi o lythyr mis Gorffennaf at lefarwyr yr holl bleidiau, ynghyd â nodyn yn egluro pam yr oeddwn mor anfodlon ynglŷn â'r hyn yr oeddwn i'n ei ystyried yn gynnig drafft annigonol gan NICE.

Ymddengys y bydd cleifion yng Nghymru a Lloegr yn elwa yn sgil y safiad yr ydym fel Llywodraeth wedi'i gymryd yng nghyswllt NICE a'i ganllawiau terfynol. Yr wyf wastad wedi bod o blaid cefnogi triniaeth lawn i ddirywiad macwlaidd gwlyb yn unffurf ledled Cymru drwy ddefnyddio'r cyffur trwyddedig gorau sydd ar gael. Er ein bod yn aros am ganllawiau terfynol NICE ar hyn o bryd, yr wyf yn cydnabod—o'r ohebiaeth a dderbyniais a'r lobiö a fu—y bydd angen cyfnod o addasu i gyflwyno'r trefniadau newydd sy'n debyg o gael eu cyhoeddi. Gofynnais i swyddogion a chlinigwyr gynllunio ar gyfer defnyddio Lucentis yn llawn ar y naill lygad neu'r llall. Bydd y rhai ohonoch sydd wedi cwrdd â'r ymddiriedolaethau neu wedi trafod hyn gyda chlinigwyr yn ymwybodol o'r materion ynglŷn â chapasiti a bod yn rhaid trafod y rheini hefyd; mae'n rhaid inni wneud trefniadau i ymdrin â'r materion hynny. Byddaf yn disgwyl yn awr i'r ymddiriedolaethau wneud penderfyniadau ar faint o frys sydd ar yr achosion a gyflwynir iddynt a rhoi blaenoriaeth i weithdrefnau a fydd yn achub golwg pobl. Credaf fod hynny'n ateb y pwynt hwnnw.

Yn anffodus, bydd rhai achosion lle na ellir sicrhau unffurfiaeth—ac mae hwn yn faes y bydd yn rhaid imi edrych arno eto—a lle na ellir ymrwymo i bolisi llygad gyntaf yn ddi-oed, ond yr wyf yn anelu at sicrhau'r driniaeth orau i bawb yn yr amser byrraf posibl. Bydd swyddogion yn rhoi adroddiadau rheolaidd imi am y mater hwn.

Gwnaeth William Graham bwynt hynod o ddilys ynglŷn â'r materion sy'n ymwneud â thriniaeth, oherwydd, wrth inni fwrw ymlaen

AMD, we must ensure that we maintain our treatment of cataracts and so on and that we get the balance right across the piece. That is important as we look at capacity issues within the service.

On the second point of the motion, I have met with members of the Welsh specialist retinal group, and a series of meetings has been arranged to plan for the full implementation of the AMD policy. The group is led by my adviser on these issues and the chair of the retinal group. Three meetings have taken place so far and a great deal of progress has been achieved from talking to the clinicians about how this will be arranged. I would like to acknowledge the work that these health professionals have put into achieving this and the considerable commitment that they have made towards the visually impaired people of Wales. We have some excellent clinicians, and their commitment to the NHS and their patients cannot be doubted in any way.

On the third point of the motion, I have made the funding available for Lucentis in this year but, as I indicated yesterday, I must look to see what other drugs are about to come onto the market and what is happening in other trials. There is a commitment in funding streams to carry on the funding, but it might not be for Lucentis; it might be for something better. We will always have to look at that space, but the money to carry on these arrangements for whichever drug is most appropriate is in the budget.

Turning to Kirsty Williams's amendment, I have said that the Government is committed to this. My letter to NICE in July 2007 is evidence of that, which is why I am so surprised about this amendment. The Government's position on how it regarded the NICE guidance was quite clear in 2007.

It may help if I were to say something about NICE. We are tied to NICE on an England and Wales basis, while the Scots have other arrangements. I must take the advice that I receive on drugs. We all know that it is

o ran trin dirywiad macwlaidd gwlyb, rhaid inni sicrhau ein bod yn parhau i drin cataractau ac yn y blaen a'n bod yn sicrhau'r cydbwysedd cywir ledled y ddarpariaeth. Mae hynny'n bwysig wrth inni ystyried materion sy'n ymwneud â chapasiti o fewn y gwasanaeth.

O ran ail bwynt y cynnig, yr wyf wedi cwrdd ag aelodau grŵp retinol arbenigol Cymru, ac mae cyfres o gyfarfodydd wedi'u cynllunio i drefnu cyflwyno'r polisi dirywiad macwlaidd yn llawn. Mae'r grŵp yn cael ei arwain gan yr unigolyn sy'n fy nghynghori ar y materion hyn a chadeirydd y grŵp retinol. Cynhaliwyd tri chyfarfod hyd yn hyn, a gwnaed cynnydd sylweddol yn sgil siarad â chlinigwyr ynglŷn â sut y bydd hyn yn cael ei drefnu. Hoffwn gydnabod y gwaith y mae'r gweithwyr iechyd proffesiynol hyn wedi'i wneud er mwyn gwireddu hyn a'r ymrwymiad sylweddol y maent wedi'i wneud i bobl yng Nghymru sydd â nam ar eu golwg. Mae gennym rai clinigwyr rhagorol, ac ni ellir amau o gwbl eu hymrwymiad i'r GIG nac i'w cleifion.

O ran trydydd pwynt y cynnig, yr wyf wedi sicrhau bod arian ar gael ar gyfer Lucentis eleni ond, fel y nodais ddoe, mae'n rhaid imi edrych i weld pa gyffuriau eraill sydd ar fin cyrraedd y farchnad a beth sy'n digwydd mewn profion eraill. Ceir ymrwymiad mewn ffrydiau ariannu i barhau â'r ariannu, ond efallai nad ar gyfer Lucentis y bydd hynny; efallai y byddwn yn ariannu rhywbeth gwell. Bydd yn rhaid inni gadw llygad ar y datblygiadau yn y maes o hyd, ond ceir arian yn y gyllideb i barhau â'r trefniadau hyn ar gyfer pa gyffur bynnag sydd fwyaf addas.

Gan droi at welliant 1 yn enw Kirsty Williams, yr wyf wedi dweud bod y Llywodraeth wedi ymrwymo i hyn. Mae fy llythyr i NICE ym mis Gorffennaf 2007 yn brawf o hynny, a dyna pam y mae'r gwelliant hwn yn peri cymaint o syndod imi. Yr oedd safiad y Llywodraeth ynglŷn â'i barn am ganllawiau NICE yn gwbl eglur yn 2007.

Efallai y byddai'n ddefnyddiol imi sôn gair neu ddau am NICE. Yr ydym yn gaeth i NICE ar sail Cymru a Lloegr, ac mae gan yr Albanwyr drefniadau eraill. Mae'n rhaid imi dderbyn y cyngor a gaf ar gyffuriau.

important that these drugs are tried and tested and that guidance is in place. At the end of the day, we know what happens when things are not done properly; we need only think back a couple of generations to what happened with Thalidomide. It is important that these matters are dealt with properly on a clinical basis.

Sometimes, when I see NICE guidance and how long it takes, I feel as frustrated as anyone else. In my meetings with NICE I have asked whether things can be done more quickly—whether we can reach conclusions more quickly and deal with matters. At the end of the day, this has been ongoing since 21 June 2004, and here we are in 2008, hopefully getting a resolution in terms of what the National Institute of Clinical Excellence is going to issue.

In my contribution today, I would also like to take the opportunity to make a statement on my commitment to eye care in this country. In some areas, we are doing exceptionally well on eye care issues. I recently signed up to the UK vision strategy, which is a response to Vision 2020: The Right to Sight, a resolution of the World Health Assembly. The main thrust of this is for each country to take steps to eliminate avoidable blindness. I also support fully the Eye Care Wales initiative, which is a scheme to detect eye disease early, in order to preserve sight and to help those whose sight will not improve. I have agreed in principle to hold a review to transform the way that we manage eye care policy in Wales. That will hopefully lead to continuing improvements in the quality of service that we can expect in Wales.

In addition, I meet representatives of the Royal National Institute of the Blind, normally on an annual basis, and, in fact, it was Ruth Marks who raised with me very early on the issues to do with Lucentis and what was going on in the organisation in terms of lobbying and the amount of work that it was doing. I recently met with the

Gwyddom oll ei bod yn bwysig bod y cyffuriau hyn yn cael eu profi a bod canllawiau ar gael. Yn y pen draw, gwyddom beth sy'n digwydd pan na fydd pethau'n cael eu gwneud yn iawn; does dim ond angen inni gofio'r hyn ddigwyddodd gyda Thalidomide genhedlaeth neu ddwy yn ôl. Mae'n bwysig bod y materion hyn yn cael eu trin yn briodol ar sail glinigol.

Weithiau, pan welaf ganllawiau NICE a pha mor hir a gymer y broses, yr wyf yn teimlo yr un mor rhwystredig â phawb arall. Yn fy nghyfarfodydd gyda NICE yr wyf wedi gofyn a oes modd gwneud pethau'n gynt—a allem ddod i gasgliadau'n gynt er mwyn ymdrin â materion. Yn y pen draw, mae hyn wedi bod ar y gweill er 21 Mehefin 2004, a dyma ni yn 2008, yn cael penderfyniad, gobeithio, ynglŷn â'r hyn y mae'r Sefydliad Cenedlaethol dros Ragoriaeth Glinigol yn mynd i'w gyhoeddi.

Yn fy nghyfraniad heddiw, hoffwn hefyd fanteisio ar y cyfle i wneud datganiad ynglŷn â'm hymrwymiad i ofal llygaid yn y wlad hon. Yr ydym yn gwneud yn arbennig o dda ar faterion gofal llygaid mewn rhai meysydd. Rhoddais fy nghefnogaeth yn ddiweddar i strategaeth golwg y DU, sy'n ymateb i Vision 2020: The Right to Sight, sef menter y penderfynwyd arni gan Gynulliad Iechyd y Byd. Prif fyrddwn y cynllun hwn yw'r angen i bob gwlad gymryd camau i gael gwared ar ddallineb y gellid ei osgoi. Yr wyf hefyd yn rhoi fy nghefnogaeth lawn i Fenter Gofal Llygaid Cymru, sy'n gynllun i ganfod clefyd llygaid yn gynnar, er mwyn diogelu golwg a helpu'r bobl hynny na fydd eu golwg yn gwella. Yr wyf wedi cytuno mewn egwyddor i gynnal adolygiad i drawsnewid y modd yr ydym yn rheoli polisi gofal llygaid yng Nghymru. Yr wyf yn gobeithio y bydd hynny'n arwain at ragor o welliannau yn ansawdd y gwasanaeth y gallwn ei ddisgwyl yng Nghymru.

At hynny, yr wyf hefyd yn cwrdd cynrychiolwyr Sefydliad Cenedlaethol Brenhinol y Deillion, bob blwyddyn fel arfer, ac, yn wir, Ruth Marks a soniodd wrthyf am y materion ynglŷn â Lucentis a'r hyn oedd yn digwydd yn y sefydliad o ran llobio a faint o waith yr oedd yn ei wneud, a hynny'n gynnar iawn. Cyfarfûm yn ddiweddar â'r eiriolydd

children's low vision advocate, employed by the RNIB and funded via the Assembly, and I meet representatives of Optometry Wales. We will also have an annual eye conference, and we are getting on with the work in these areas.

I greatly appreciate the measured contribution of the two leaders of the opposition parties today with regard to the statement and this debate, and Mike has first-hand experience of what the issues are. You can sometimes say that the politics of this are murky or difficult, and you can see, in the light of the discussions that we have had in the Chamber today, that there might not be consensus about why my statement was made and why this motion was laid. However, the important thing is to rise above that and to make it clear that yesterday's policy announcement was the correct one to make. I am absolutely resolute that I have been working towards this policy announcement. My officials have been working on it for months, and there have been discussions in which I have been involved. There is no point in our squabbling about who takes the credit for this, because, at the end of the day, it is patients who are important.

Many questions have been raised with me in this debate, and I think that it will be useful for me to reflect on them. I will be more than happy, in the course of the next few weeks, to provide a further written statement to the Assembly indicating the way forward on some of the issues that have been raised with me.

Jonathan Morgan: I thank all Members who have spoken this afternoon. I will first deal with the contribution from the Minister. We on this side of the Chamber welcome the commitment and clarification that have been provided regarding the treatment of urgent cases, because the Minister has assured us that local health boards and trusts will have to prioritise urgent cases. That will reassure people who are worried about their sight and who were concerned that they might have to wait until the autumn for the guidelines.

I also welcome the fact that planning is ongoing, because the Minister needs to think

plant prin eu golwg, a gyflogir gan yr RNIB a'i ariannu gan y Cynulliad, ac yr wyf yn cwrdd cynrychiolwyr Optometreg Cymru. Byddwn hefyd yn cael cynhadledd llygaid flynyddol, ac yr ydym yn bwrw ymlaen â'r gwaith yn y meysydd hyn.

Gwerthfawrogaf yn fawr gyfraniadau pwylllog dau arweinydd y gwrthbleidiau heddiw o ran y datganiad a'r ddadl hon, ac mae gan Mike brofiad uniongyrchol o'r materion dan sylw. Gallwch ddweud weithiau bod gwleidyddiaeth y materion hyn yn aneglur neu'n ddyrys, a gallwch weld, yn sgil y trafodaethau a gawsom yn y Siambr heddiw, nad oes consensws o bosibl ynglŷn â pham y gwnaed fy natganiad a pham y cyflwynwyd y cynnig hwn. Fodd bynnag, yr hyn sy'n bwysig yw esgyn uwchlaw hynny a datgan yn eglur mai'r polisi a gyhoeddwyd ddoe yw'r un cywir. Yr wyf yn gwbl bendant fy mod wedi bod yn gweithio at gyhoeddi'r polisi hwn. Mae fy swyddogion wedi bod yn gweithio arno ers misoedd, a chynhaliwyd trafodaethau y bŵm i'n rhan ohonynt. Nid oes diben inni ddadlau ynglŷn â phwy sy'n hawlio'r clod am hyn oherwydd, yn y pen draw, y cleifion sy'n bwysig.

Gofynnwyd llawer o gwestiynau imi yn y ddadl hon, a chredaf y byddai'n ddefnyddiol imi fyfyrion arnynt. Byddaf yn fwy na pharod, yn ystod yr ychydig wythnosau nesaf, i roi datganiad ysgrifenedig arall i'r Cynulliad yn nodi sut y byddwn yn bwrw ymlaen â rhai o'r materion a godwyd gyda mi.

Jonathan Morgan: Hoffwn ddiolch i'r holl Aelodau sydd wedi siarad y prynhawn yma. Ymdriniaf yn gyntaf â chyfraniad y Gweinidog. Yr ydym ni ar ochr hon y Siambr yn croesawu'r ymrwymiad a'r eglurhad a gafwyd o ran trin achosion brys, oherwydd mae'r Gweinidog wedi ein sicrhau y bydd yn rhaid i fyrddau iechyd lleol ac ymddiriedolaethau roi blaenoriaeth i achosion brys. Bydd hynny'n tawelu meddyliau pobl sy'n pryderu am eu golwg ac a oedd yn poeni y byddai raid iddynt, o bosibl, aros nes cyhoeddi'r canllawiau yn yr hydref.

Croesawaf hefyd y ffaith bod y gwaith cynllunio'n parhau, oherwydd mae angen i'r

longer term about how capacity will be built into eye clinics to provide this treatment. I am pleased with what she said this afternoon about that, and I am pleased that there will be money in the budget for future treatment, whatever the nature of that treatment may be. We will be looking at the budget to ensure that money is available to help the NHS to deliver on this agenda.

We have had a discussion about the timing of the statement, and I know that some Members have been rather defensive about the fact that you took the decision this week, Minister. I know that your policy for the past 12 months or so for which you have been Minister has been to wait for NICE to issue guidance. It is not an incorrect policy; as you rightly pointed out, we are tied into NICE. However, in this case, Lucentis was already being used, so its clinical trials had already been dealt with. That is an issue, and I am sure that we will return to that at some future point, but the fact is that you have now made the announcement and we will see people being treated, which we welcome. However, I urge you to consider what we do about the people who have already paid for their treatment, such as Eileen Youngusband, who has paid £12,000 so far, as Lorraine Barrett mentioned. Her treatment is continuing and will continue beyond the autumn, and we need to know whether or not she would qualify for NHS treatment, so that she does not have to pay. Those issues must be addressed, because the people in the gallery today will still be wondering whether or not they are expected to pay towards this treatment.

3.10 p.m.

The campaign brought forward by the RNIB and supported by the Cardiff Institute for the Blind and the North Wales Society for the Blind has been first class. It has been an active lobby, and it has generated interest not just among those people who are suffering from visual impairment, but among families who are supporting loved ones to get through a difficult time. They behaved in an

Gweinidog feddwl yn y tymor hwy ynglŷn â sut y caiff capasiti ei greu mewn clinigau llygaid er mwyn cynnig y driniaeth hon. Yr wyf yn falch o glywed yr hyn a ddywedodd y prynhawn yma ynglŷn â hynny, ac yr wyf yn falch y bydd arian yn y gyllideb ar gyfer triniaeth yn y dyfodol, pa fath bynnag o driniaeth fydd honno. Byddwn yn edrych ar y gyllideb i sicrhau bod arian ar gael i helpu'r GIG i gyflawni'r agenda hon.

Yr ydym wedi cael trafodaeth ynglŷn ag amseriad y datganiad, a gwn fod rhai Aelodau wedi bod braidd yn amddiffynnod ynglŷn â'r ffaith eich bod wedi gwneud y penderfyniad yr wythnos hon, Weinidog. Gwn mai eich polisi am y 12 mis diwethaf, ers ichi ddod yn Weinidog, fu aros i NICE gyhoeddi canllawiau. Nid yw'n bolisi anghywir; yr ydych wedi nodi, yn berffaith gywir, ein bod yn gaeth i NICE. Fodd bynnag, yn yr achos hwn, yr oedd Lucentis eisoes yn cael ei ddefnyddio, felly yr oedd ei broffion clinigol eisoes wedi'u hystyried. Mae hwnnw'n fater i'w ystyried, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y dychwelwn at hynny rywbryd yn y dyfodol, ond y gwir amdani yw eich bod wedi gwneud y cyhoeddiad bellach ac y byddwn yn gweld pobl yn cael eu trin, ac yr ydym yn croesawu hynny. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn eich annog i ystyried beth a wnawn ni ynglŷn â'r bobl sydd eisoes wedi talu am eu triniaeth, megis Eileen Youngusband, sydd wedi talu £12,000 hyd yn hyn, fel y soniodd Lorraine Barrett. Mae ei thriniaeth hi'n parhau, a bydd yn parhau y tu hwnt i'r hydref, ac mae angen inni wybod a fyddai hi'n gymwys i gael ei thrin ar y GIG ai peidio, fel nad oes raid iddi dalu. Mae'n rhaid ymdrin â'r materion hynny, oherwydd bydd y bobl sydd yn yr oriel heddiw yn dal i bendroni a fydd disgwyl iddynt dalu am y driniaeth hon ai peidio.

Mae'r ymgyrch a gyflwynwyd gan yr RNIB ac a gefnogwyd gan Sefydliad y Deillion Caerdydd a Chymdeithas y Deillion Gogledd Cymru wedi bod yn un ragorol. Buont yn lobbïo'n brysur, ac maent wedi creu diddordeb nid yn unig ymhlith y bobl hynny sy'n dioddef yn sgil nam ar eu golwg, ond hefyd ymhlith teuluoedd sy'n cefnogi perthnasau ar adeg anodd. Bu iddynt ymddwyn yn ddi-fai

impeccable way in trying to get this on the agenda, and I am pleased that there is movement in the right direction.

My colleague, Darren Millar, raised the most important part of this debate, namely equity of access to treatment. Others have mentioned the local health boards and the inconsistencies in getting local health boards to provide treatment in all parts of Wales. We know that the postcode lottery has greatly damaged people's confidence, and we know that that has to be tackled. Equity and equality of access are important, and that is why we decided to table this motion. This is also about the capacity of local health boards—

Edwina Hart: Given how you are responding to what I have said, would you consider withdrawing your motion in the light of my statement yesterday and my commitment to make a further statement on the outstanding issue?

Jonathan Morgan: I think that the motion should stand for one simple reason: the people of Wales need to see in black and white whether or not there is support in the Assembly for this motion. I hope that the Government will accept it. I know that it contains some criticism and I am sorry, but part of being in Government, as you have found out over the last nine years, is that you will be criticised. However, people expect the Assembly to say what its view is in this debate and to vote on this motion. Therefore, provided that my colleagues are happy, I am content for the motion to stay on the agenda this afternoon.

Ultimately, we need to resolve the situation with regard to new drugs and new therapies coming on-stream in the long term, because we know that the NHS has struggled to provide them. Lucentis is merely one example in a whole raft of examples that show that the NHS has struggled to pay for new drugs and treatment, meaning that people have been forced to pay privately where they can afford it. Many people cannot afford it but find ways of paying for these drugs and treatments. We need to be more innovative with regard to the way in which

wrth geisio rhoi hyn ar yr agenda, ac yr wyf yn falch ein bod yn symud yn y cyfeiriad cywir.

Fy nghyd-Aelod, Darren Millar, a gododd ran bwysicaf y ddadl hon, sef mynediad teg i driniaeth. Mae eraill wedi crybwyll y byrddau iechyd lleol a'r anghysonderau o ran cael byrddau iechyd lleol i roi triniaeth ym mhob rhan o Gymru. Gwyddom fod y loteri cod post wedi gwneud drwg garw i hyder pobl, a gwyddom fod yn rhaid mynd i'r afael â hynny. Mae tegwch a mynediad cyfartal yn bwysig, a dyna pam y penderfynasom gyflwyno'r cynnig hwn. Efen arall bwysig yw capasiti'r byrddau iechyd lleol—

Edwina Hart: Ac ystyried eich ymateb i'r hyn yr wyf wedi'i ddweud, a fydddech yn ystyried tynnu eich cynnig yn ôl yn sgil fy natganiad ddoe a'm hymrwymiad i wneud datganiad arall ar y mater sy'n dal angen sylw?

Jonathan Morgan: Credaf y dylai'r cynnig sefyll am un rheswm syml: mae ar bobl Cymru angen gweld ar ddu a gwyn a oes cefnogaeth yn y Cynulliad i'r cynnig hwn ai peidio. Gobeithiaf y bydd y Llywodraeth yn ei dderbyn. Gwn ei fod yn cynnwys rhywfaint o feirniadaeth, ac mae'n ddrwg gennyf am hynny, ond, fel yr ydych wedi canfod dros y naw mlynedd diwethaf, mae cael eich beirniadu yn rhan o fod mewn llywodraeth. Fodd bynnag, mae pobl yn disgwyl i'r Cynulliad ddatgan ei farn yn y ddadl hon a phleidleisio ar y cynnig. Felly, os yw fy nghyd-Aelodau'n hapus, yr wyf yn fodlon i'r cynnig aros ar yr agenda y prynhawn yma.

Yn y pen draw, mae angen inni ddatrys y sefyllfa o ran cyffuriau newydd a therapiau newydd a fydd yn cael eu cyflwyno yn y tymor hir, oherwydd gwyddom fod y GIG wedi cael trafferth i'w darparu. Dim ond un enghraifft o blith llawer yw Lucentis sy'n dangos bod y GIG wedi cael trafferth talu am gyffuriau a thriniaethau newydd, gan olygu bod y bobl oedd yn gallu fforddio talu'n breifat wedi gorfod gwneud hynny. Mae llawer o bobl nad ydynt yn gallu fforddio gwneud hynny, ond maent yn canfod ffyrdd o dalu am y cyffuriau a'r triniaethau hyn. Mae

new drugs and therapies can be used in Wales. Although this debate has been about one specific issue—about the eyesight and condition of individuals’ eyesight—there are a raft of diseases and conditions in Wales for which drugs treatment is not being delivered today. Whatever you do with the restructuring of the NHS, the delivery of excellent patient care and access to drugs and therapies must be at the core of it.

We welcome what the Minister said in her statement; we still have concerns about where that funding will come from, where it will be invested long term, where it will be built into the budget and how patients currently paying for their treatment will benefit, but today’s debate—apart from the contributions of those Members who were somewhat defensive—has been constructive and shows the Assembly working at its best.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is to agree the amendment. Is there any objection? I see that there is, so I will defer voting on this item until voting time.

*Gohiriwyd y pleidleisio tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.
Votes deferred until voting time.*

Dadl y
Welsh Conservatives Debate

angen inni fod yn fwy arloesol o ran y modd y gellir defnyddio cyffuriau a thriniaethau newydd yng Nghymru. Er mai dadl am un pwnc penodol fu hon—sef golwg a chyflwr golwg unigolion—ceir llond gwlad o afiechydon a chyflyrau yng Nghymru nad yw triniaeth drwy gyffuriau yn cael ei darparu ar eu cyfer heddiw. Beth bynnag a wnewch chi o ran ailstrwythuro’r GIG, rhaid sicrhau bod darparu gofal rhagorol i gleifion a mynediad at gyffuriau a therapïau wrth ei wraidd.

Croesawn yr hyn a ddywedodd y Gweinidog yn ei datganiad; mae gennym bryderon o hyd ynglŷn ag o ble y daw’r arian hwnnw, ym mhle y bydd yn cael ei fuddsoddi yn y tymor hir, ym mha ran o’r gyllideb y bydd yn cael ei gynnwys a sut y bydd cleifion sy’n talu am eu triniaeth ar hyn o bryd yn elwa, ond mae dadl heddiw—ac eithrio cyfraniadau’r Aelodau hynny oedd braidd yn amddiffynol—wedi bod yn un adeiladol, ac wedi dangos y Cynulliad yn gweithio ar ei orau.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Y cynnig yw bod y gwelliant yn cael ei gytuno. A oes gwrthwynebiad? Gwelaf fod, felly gohiriaf y bleidlais ar yr eitem hon tan yr amser pleidleisio.

Ceidwadwyr Cymreig

Gofal GIG NHS Care

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendment 1 in the name of Kirsty Williams.

Jonathan Morgan: I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales:

1. condemns the policy of denying Welsh patients their right to continued NHS care on the basis that they have previously chosen to seek an element of their treatment in the private sector;

2. notes that the current policy of banning co-

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliant 1 yn enw Kirsty Williams.

Jonathan Morgan: Cynigiaf fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. yn condemnio’r polisi o wrthod rhoi eu hawl i gleifion yng Nghymru gael gofal GIG parhaus ar y sail eu bod yn y gorffennol wedi dewis ceisio elfen o’u triniaeth yn y sector preifat;

2. yn nodi bod y polisi cyfredol o wahardd

payments goes against the core values of the NHS, namely universal and free at the point of use;

3. calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to follow the lead set by the UK Government by reviewing this policy with a view to abolishing it forthwith. (NDM3972)

I am certainly earning my salary this afternoon. In moving this motion, I am pleased that we have the opportunity to debate what is a complex matter—I think that we would all accept that—but one that deserves our fullest attention. Last Tuesday, the Secretary of State for Health announced a review of the policy relating to co-payments. I welcome that because in our view, the banning of co-payments goes against the core values of the NHS—in fact, one of its most cherished principles, namely that treatment should be free at the point of use. The Assembly Government has said that it will monitor the review by the Department of Health, so the purpose of this debate is to find out what the view of the Assembly Government and this Assembly Minister on co-payments is and where we think the direction of travel needs to be on this difficult issue. I strongly believe that the people of Wales will want to know the view of their health Minister on this, and I look forward to hearing from her in this debate.

Many people in and outside the Chamber will recognise the problem: there is a grave injustice and inconsistency in how the NHS handles patients who make some use of private care. In some cases where the NHS cannot or will not provide new and relatively expensive drugs, patients have been willing to fund them privately. Lucentis, as we heard in the earlier debate is an example of that. However, this issue has also related to key areas, such as cancer and heart disease.

The issue has come to a head in recent months as a number of cancer patients have been banned from receiving national health service care after topping up their treatment.

taliadau ar y cyd yn mynd yn erbyn gwerthoedd craidd y GIG, sef cyffredinol ac am ddim adeg defnyddio;

3. yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i ddilyn yr arweiniad a roddwyd gan Lywodraeth y DU drwy adolygu'r polisi hwn gyda golwg ar ei ddiddymu yn ddi-oed. (NDM3972)

Yr wyf fi'n sicr yn ennill fy nghyflog y prynhawn yma. Wrth gynnig y cynnig hwn, yr wyf yn falch ein bod yn cael cyfle i drafod mater cymhleth—credaf y byddem oll yn derbyn hynny—ond un sy'n haeddu sylw manwl gennym. Ddydd Mawrth diwethaf, cyhoeddodd yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Iechyd adolygiad o'r polisi ynglŷn â thaliadau ar y cyd. Yr wyf yn croesawu hynny oherwydd, yn ein barn ni, mae gwahardd taliadau ar y cyd yn mynd yn groes i werthoedd craidd y GIG—un o'i hegwyddorion pwysicaf, yn wir, sef y dylai triniaeth fod am ddim adeg ei defnyddio. Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi dweud y bydd yn monitro adolygiad yr Adran Iechyd, felly diben y ddadl hon yw canfod beth yw barn Llywodraeth y Cynulliad a'r Gweinidog Cynulliad hwn ynglŷn â thaliadau ar y cyd ac ym mha gyfeiriad y credwn y dylid bwrw ymlaen â'r mater dyrys hwn. Credaf yn gryf y bydd ar bobl Cymru eisiau gwybod beth yw barn eu Gweinidog iechyd ar hyn, ac edrychaf ymlaen at glywed ganddi yn ystod y ddadl hon.

Bydd llawer o bobl yn y Siambr ac oddi allan iddi yn ymwybodol o'r broblem: ceir anghyfiawnder ac anghysondeb difrifol yn y modd y mae'r GIG yn trin cleifion sy'n defnyddio rhywfaint o ofal preifat. Mewn rhai achosion pan na all y GIG ddarparu cyffuriau newydd a chymharol ddrud, neu pan nad yw'n fodlon gwneud hynny, mae cleifion wedi bod yn fodlon eu hariannu'n breifat. Mae Lucentis, fel y clywsom yn y ddadl gynharach, yn enghraifft o hynny. Fodd bynnag, mae'r mater hwn wedi codi hefyd mewn meysydd allweddol, megis canser a chlefyd y galon.

Mae'r mater wedi cyrraedd penllanw yn y misoedd diwethaf wrth i nifer o gleifion canser gael eu gwahardd rhag cael gofal dan y gwasanaeth iechyd ar ôl iddynt dalu am

One of the most high-profile cases was that of Linda O'Boyle, a 64-year-old from Essex who was diagnosed with bowel cancer in 2006. She received NHS treatment including chemotherapy but, after discussions with her clinician, decided that she needed an eight-week course of a drug called cetuximab. She paid £11,000 for that course of treatment, which is not available on the NHS but which had been recommended by her clinician to prolong her life. She was subsequently denied the basic package of NHS care that she had previously been receiving. Sadly, she died in March this year.

That is a high-profile case and has been cited by Members of Parliament in the House of Commons as the reason why this issue needs to be addressed. There have been, and continue to be, a whole raft of cases similar to that of Linda O'Boyle. If a patient opts for some private treatment, that should not mean that the NHS cannot treat patients equally in respect of the state-funded care that they receive. If the Government refuses to acknowledge that, it will walk away from those people in Wales who are dying, and whose only offence is to use their own money to try to extend their own life. Patients seeking co-payments are not asking for special favours, preferential treatment, or even a handout from the national health service; they are simply asking for their package of care to be continued, alongside the top-up treatment that they have decided to pay for.

Co-payments are already happening throughout the NHS and other public services. If I were to go to an optician tomorrow as an NHS patient, I could receive a free pair of glasses but there is nothing preventing me from using my own money to buy contact lenses. NHS care is not withdrawn at that point. Likewise, if I were to go to a dentist and have a filling on the NHS and then pay privately for teeth-cleaning or whitening, the NHS care would not be withdrawn. Meanwhile, we have private beds in NHS hospitals, using NHS equipment and staff, and again, patients do not have other

driniaeth ychwanegol. Un o'r achosion a gafodd y sylw mwyaf oedd achos Linda O'Boyle, menyw 64 oed o Essex. Cafodd wybod bod ganddi ganser ar y coluddyn yn 2006. Cafodd driniaeth dan y GIG gan gynnwys cemotherapi ond, ar ôl trafod gyda'i chlinigydd, penderfynodd fod angen cwrs wyth wythnos arni o gyffur a elwir yn cetuximab. Talodd £11,000 am y cwrs triniaeth hwnnw. Nid yw'r cyffur ar gael dan y GIG ond yr oedd ei chlinigydd wedi'i argymhell iddi er mwyn ymestyn ei hoes. Wedi hynny, gwrthodwyd rhoi'r pecyn gofal sylfaenol iddi yr oedd wedi bod yn ei gael dan y GIG cyn hynny. Yn anffodus, bu farw ym mis Mawrth eleni.

Mae'r achos hwnnw'n un sydd wedi cael cryn sylw ac mae Aelodau Seneddol wedi sôn amdano yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin gan ddweud mai dyna pam mae angen mynd i'r afael â'r mater hwn. Mae lluo o achosion tebyg i achos Linda O'Boyle wedi bod, ac maent yn dal i ddigwydd. Os bydd claf yn dewis cael rhywfaint o driniaeth breifat, ni ddylai hynny olygu na all y GIG drin cleifion yn gyfartal o ran y gofal y bydd y wladwriaeth yn talu amdano. Os bydd y Llywodraeth yn gwrthod cydnabod hynny, bydd yn cerdded i ffwrdd oddi wrth y bobl hynny yng Nghymru sy'n marw, a'u hunig drosedd yw defnyddio'u harian eu hunain i geisio ymestyn eu hoes eu hunain. Nid yw cleifion sy'n ceisio taliadau ar y cyd yn gofyn am ffafrau arbennig, triniaeth sy'n eu ffafrio, na hyd yn oed gyfraniad gan y gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol; y cyfan y maent yn gofyn amdano yw bod eu pecyn gofal yn parhau, ochr yn ochr â'r driniaeth ychwanegol y maent wedi penderfynu talu amdano.

Mae taliadau ar y cyd yn digwydd eisoes ym mhob cwr o'r GIG ac mewn gwasanaethau cyhoeddus eraill. Petawn yn mynd at optegydd yfory fel un o gleifion y GIG, gallwn gael sbectol am ddim, ond nid oes dim i'm rhwystro rhag defnyddio fy arian fy hun i brynu lensys cyffwrdd. Ni wrthodir gofal y GIG imi bryd hynny. Yn yr un modd, petawn yn mynd at ddeintydd a chael llenwi dant dan y GIG ac yna'n talu'n breifat am lanhau neu wynnu fy nannedd, ni fyddai gofal y GIG yn cael ei wrthod imi. Yn y cyfamser, mae gennym welyau preifat yn ysbytai'r GIG, yn defnyddio offer a staff y

aspects of NHS care withdrawn. We could also look outside the NHS at other public services: state education is not withdrawn simply because a child has access to private tuition. The state education system is there for everyone, regardless of whether private tuition is accessed.

The policy in respect of co-payments right across public services is inconsistent. The current NHS guidelines say that an individual cannot simultaneously be an NHS and a privately funded patient of the same NHS hospital within the same episode of care. The problem, and hence the complexity, is around what constitutes an 'episode of care'. Many patients require treatment that could be classed as several episodes of care.

Those who believe in maintaining the ban on co-payments say that removing it will create a two-tier health system. I am afraid that, after looking at the NHS in Wales today, indeed, across the United Kingdom, one could argue that a two-tier system already exists. If you compare those who have to rely on drugs that the NHS can afford with those who are able to fund a drug recommended by their clinician that is not provided by the NHS, you see the nature of the two-tier system in healthcare demonstrated. It is the inability of the NHS to sanction and properly resource drugs and therapies that creates that two-tier system in the first place.

My concern now is that the Welsh Assembly Government might sit still and watch what happens across the border in England. I accept that reinventing the terms of the review may not be necessary, but the Minister has to look at the Welsh NHS to tease out what is peculiar to Wales that might have to be addressed if a review in England recommends lifting the ban on co-payments. We may have to do things differently in Wales. If this unjust policy is reversed in England, I believe that the Assembly Government will have to do the same. It would be inconceivable for the ban on co-payments to be reversed in England but for us to maintain it in Wales.

GIG, ac unwaith eto, ni wrthodir agweddau eraill ar ofal y GIG i gleifion. Gallem hefyd edrych y tu allan i'r GIG ar wasanaethau cyhoeddus eraill: ni wrthodir addysg y wladwriaeth i blentyn am ei fod yn gallu manteisio ar wersi preifat. Mae system addysg y wladwriaeth yno i bawb, ni waeth a ydynt yn manteisio ar wersi preifat ai peidio.

Mae'r polisi sy'n ymwneud â thaliadau ar y cyd ar draws y gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yn anghyson. Dywed canllawiau presennol y GIG na all unigolyn fod yn glaf i'r GIG ac yn glaf sy'n talu'n breifat ar yr un pryd yn yr un ysbyty GIG o fewn yr un cyfnod gofal. Y broblem yma, a dyma lle mae'r cymhlethdod yn codi, yw beth yw 'cyfnod gofal'. Mae angen triniaeth ar lawer o gleifion y gellid ei hystyried yn sawl cyfnod gofal.

Mae'r rheini sy'n credu y dylid dal i wahardd taliadau ar y cyd yn dweud y bydd dileu'r gwaharddiad yn creu system iechyd ddwy haen. Mae arnaf ofn, ar ôl edrych ar y GIG yng Nghymru heddiw, yn wir, ledled y Deyrnas Unedig, y gallai rhywun ddadlau bod gennym system ddwy haen eisoes. Os cymharwch y rheini sy'n gorfod dibynnu ar y cyffuriau y gall y GIG eu fforddio â'r rheini sy'n gallu talu am gyffur a argymhellir gan eu clinigydd—cyffur nad yw'n cael ei ddarparu gan y GIG, gwelwch natur y system ddwy haen ar waith ym maes gofal iechyd. Anallu'r GIG i awdurdodi a darparu'r adnoddau priodol ar gyfer cyffuriau a therapïau sy'n creu'r system ddwy haen honno yn y lle cyntaf.

Fy mhryder yn awr yw y bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru o bosibl yn eistedd yn llonydd ac yn gwyllo'r hyn sy'n digwydd dros y ffin yn Lloegr. Derbyniaf nad oes o reidrwydd angen ailddyfeisio telerau'r adolygiad, ond rhaid i'r Gweinidog edrych ar y GIG yng Nghymru i geisio dirnad pa bethau sy'n arbennig yng Nghymru y gall fod gofyn rhoi sylw iddynt os bydd adolygiad yn Lloegr yn argymhell codi'r gwaharddiad ar daliadau ar y cyd. Efallai y bydd yn rhaid inni wneud pethau'n wahanol yng Nghymru. Os caiff y polisi anghyfiawn hwn ei wrthdroi yn Lloegr, credaf y bydd yn rhaid i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad wneud yr un peth. Ni fyddai modd cael sefyllfa lle byddai'r gwaharddiad ar daliadau ar y cyd yn cael ei wrthdroi yn

Lloegr a ninnau'n cadw ato yng Nghymru.

We are a proud nation that has supported the NHS since its inception 60 years ago. All those living in Wales, of whatever background and political creed, believe strongly in the principles of the national health service. As we approach the sixtieth anniversary of the creation of that wonderful institution, we should take this opportunity to right one of the wrongs in today's healthcare system.

3.20 p.m.

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

recognises that a change in approach is desirable but that it will have considerable resource implications for the NHS.

The issue of top-up payments is immensely complex. That is evidenced by the strong debate under way among academics, stakeholder organisations, and the public at large. I welcome that debate, as it is important that we have a wide debate on this complex issue, not just among politicians. I hope that our debate this afternoon will be as intelligent and thoughtful as that being held in the wider world.

My instinct is that the NHS should not be in the business of refusing people treatment. Many of the patients concerned are using their own money to purchase drugs that are simply not currently available on the NHS to treat cancer or degenerative illnesses. Furthermore, people are having operations of a better quality than the NHS is able to afford—the next generation of hip replacements, for example.

This issue has been brought into sharp relief by the development of so many new and highly advanced treatments. That debate will not cease; in fact, the pace of it will become more frantic and more furious, as more and more effective but expensive drugs come on-stream. In an ideal world, all these operations and treatments would be available on the NHS. However, none of us is naive enough to

Yr ydym yn genedl falch sydd wedi cefnogi'r GIG ers ei eni 60 mlynedd yn ôl. Mae pawb sy'n byw yng Nghymru, beth bynnag y bo'i gefndir a'i gred wleidyddol, yn credu'n gryf yn egwyddorion y gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol. A'r sefydliad rhyfeddol hwnnw ar drothwy ei drigain oed, dylem achub ar y cyfle hwn i unioni un o'r camweddau yn y system gofal iechyd heddiw.

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

yn cydnabod bod newid dull gweithredu yn ddymunol ond y bydd gan hynny oblygiadau sylweddol i'r GIG o ran adnoddau.

Mae talu am driniaeth ychwanegol yn gymhleth ofnadwy. Mae'r ddadl gref sydd ar waith ymhlith academyddion, sefydliadau rhanddeiliaid a'r cyhoedd yn gyffredinol yn brawf o hynny. Yr wyf yn croesawu'r ddadl honno, gan ei bod yn bwysig inni gael dadl eang ynglŷn â'r mater cymhleth hwn, nid dim ond ymhlith gwleidyddion. Gobeithiaf y bydd ein dadl y prynhawn yma yr un mor ddeallus a meddylgar â honno a gynhelir yn y byd mawr.

Fy ngreddf yw na ddylai'r GIG fod yn gwrthod triniaeth i bobl. Mae llawer o'r cleifion dan sylw'n defnyddio'u harian eu hunain i brynu cyffuriau nad ydynt ar gael ar hyn o bryd dan y GIG i drin canser neu afiechydon dirywiol. Yn ogystal â hyn, mae pobl yn cael llawdriniaethau o well safon na'r hyn y mae'r GIG yn gallu ei fforddio—cenhedlaeth nesaf y cluniau newydd, er enghraifft.

Mae'r mater hwn wedi dod yn amlwg iawn yn sgil datblygu cynifer o driniaethau newydd a hynod flaengar. Ni fydd taw ar y ddadl honno; a dweud y gwir, daw'n fwyfwy poeth a ffyrnig, wrth i fwy a mwy o gyffuriau effeithiol ond drud ddod i'r fei. Mewn byd delfrydol, byddai'r llawdriniaethau a'r triniaethau hyn i gyd ar gael dan y GIG. Fodd bynnag, nid oes neb ohonom yn ddigon

believe that that will happen in the immediate future, and we could not possibly allow for that without a massive public debate on the tax implications.

There is a range of reasons why we need to look at ways of removing the ban on topping up in the health service. The first reason is the sacred principle that the NHS is free at the point of need. I believe that the NHS was founded on the idea that, when people are ill, they receive treatment. That should not be predicated on whether they have decided to spend their own money on additional treatment, because they have, after all, already paid in to the funding for the NHS. It is not as though they have opted out of those payments.

The second reason is the inconsistency of the current system. Evidence that the current policy is geographically unequal abounds; as such, we can identify many patients who have won the legal battle with NHS providers and have been allowed to mix NHS treatment with privately available top-ups. Every year, hundreds of people are getting treatment in circumstances labelled 'exceptional cases'. Whether you get that depends on your own persistence, the persistence of your clinician, your own time, and your personal circumstances, namely whether you have the ability, the time and the knowledge to argue your case.

As a Welsh Liberal Democrat, I believe that we should guarantee a minimum standard of service across the NHS, and that, beyond that minimum, if the NHS cannot provide it, we should not, in effect, be denying it to others. However, I welcome Alan Johnson's review. I want the Minister to commit to looking at the matter here in Wales. Alan Johnson's review is the key for us in this case, because we are bound by the Barnett consequential of decisions at Westminster. Alan Johnson could decide to put up the taxes to pay for more treatment, but we do not have that choice, and our Minister does not have that choice, because we have an absolute pot of money. Therefore, we should not be waiting for that; we should look at the implications for Wales now.

diniwed i gredu y bydd hynny'n digwydd yn y dyfodol agos, ac ni allem ganiatáu hynny o gwbl heb gael dadl gyhoeddus enfawr ynglŷn â'r goblygiadau o ran treth.

Mae sawl rheswm pam mae angen inni ystyried ffyrdd o ddileu'r gwaharddiad ar dalu am driniaeth ychwanegol yn y gwasanaeth iechyd. Y rheswm cyntaf yw'r egwyddor sanctaidd bod y GIG ar gael am ddim yn y fan lle mae'i angen. Credaf i'r GIG gael ei seilio ar y syniad bod pobl yn cael triniaeth pan fyddant yn sâl. Ni ddylai'r ffaith eu bod wedi penderfynu gwario'u harian eu hunain ar driniaeth ychwanegol effeithio ar hynny, oherwydd, wedi'r cyfan, maent eisoes wedi cyfrannu at y gronfa ar gyfer y GIG. Nid yw fel petaent wedi dewis peidio â thalu'r cyfraniadau hynny.

Yr ail reswm yw anghysondeb y system bresennol. Mae'r dystiolaeth yn frith bod y polisi ar hyn o bryd yn annheg o safbwynt daearyddol; ac felly, gallwn enwi llawer o gleifion sydd wedi ennill y frwydr gyfreithiol â darparwyr y GIG ac wedi cael caniatâd i gymysgu triniaeth y GIG â thaliadau am driniaeth ychwanegol sydd ar gael yn breifat. Bob blwyddyn, bydd cannoedd o bobl yn cael triniaeth dan amgylchiadau a elwir yn 'achosion eithriadol'. Mae llwyddo i wneud hynny'n dibynnu ar eich dyfalbarhad eich hun, dyfalbarhad eich clinigydd, eich amser eich hun a'ch amgylchiadau personol, sef a yw'r gallu, yr amser a'r wybodaeth gennych i ddadlau'ch achos.

Fel un o Ddemocratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru, credaf y dylem warantu safon gwasanaeth sylfaenol ar draws y GIG, ac, y tu hwnt i'r safon sylfaenol hwnnw, oni all y GIG ei ddarparu, na ddylem, mewn gwirionedd, fod yn ei wrthod i bobl eraill. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn croesawu adolygiad Alan Johnson. Yr wyf am i'r Gweinidog ymrwymo i edrych ar y mater yma yng Nghymru. Adolygiad Alan Johnson yw'r allwedd inni yn yr achos hwn, oherwydd ein bod wedi'n clymu gan ganlyniadau Barnett yn sgil penderfyniadau San Steffan. Gallai Alan Johnson benderfynu codi'r trethi i dalu am ragor o driniaeth, ond nid yw'r dewis hwnnw ar gael i ni, ac nid yw'r dewis hwnnw ar gael i'n Gweinidog, oherwydd swm penodol sydd yn ein pwrs ni. Felly, ni ddylem fod yn disgwyl nes i hynny

ddigwydd; dylem edrych ar y goblygiadau ar gyfer Cymru'n awr.

I am not convinced by the argument about creating a two-tier NHS. I can understand the public concerns about creating an NHS that is only a safety net, but the line being drawn between top-ups under a two-tier NHS is not so causal. I have no intention of standing by and seeing the NHS downgraded. Many people who believe that the current top-up system is inequitable and unfair are as totally committed to the principle of a free NHS as the Welsh Liberal Democrats are, and as I am.

Nid wyf wedi fy argyhoeddi gan y ddadl ynglŷn â chreu GIG dwy haen. Gallaf ddeall bod y cyhoedd yn poeni ynglŷn â chreu GIG nad yw'n fawr fwy na rhwyd ddiogelwch, ond nid yw'r llinell a dynnir rhwng taliadau am driniaeth ychwanegol dan GIG dwy haen mor achosol. Nid oes gennyf fwriad o gwbl sefyll o'r neilltu a gweld y GIG yn cael ei israddio. Mae llawer o'r bobl sy'n credu bod y system taliadau ychwanegol bresennol yn anghyfartal ac yn annheg yr un mor ymrwymedig i egwyddor GIG am ddim ag yw Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru, a'r un mor ymrwymedig ag yr wyf fi.

We will therefore be supporting the motion calling for a review of this policy, and I hope that Members will be supporting the amendment.

Felly byddwn yn cefnogi'r cynnig sy'n galw am adolygu'r polisi hwn, a gobeithiaf y bydd yr Aelodau'n cefnogi'r gwelliant.

David Melding: I commend Jonathan Morgan and Jenny Randerson for their thoughtful and sensitive speeches. It is the sixtieth anniversary of the NHS and it is our task now to lay the foundations for the next 60 years. We need to ensure that this great advance—a national health service in which the vast bulk of the people of Britain receive medical care—is preserved. It is one of the things that unite us as citizens. We know that we will be educated to a good standard and that we will receive good healthcare.

David Melding: Cymeradwyaf Jonathan Morgan a Jenny Randerson am eu hareithiau meddylgar a sensitif. Mae'r GIG yn drigain oed a'n tasg yn awr yw gosod y sylfeini ar gyfer y 60 mlynedd nesaf. Mae angen inni sicrhau bod y datblygiad gwych hwn—gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol lle mae mwyafrif helaeth pobl Prydain yn cael gofal meddygol—yn cael ei gadw. Mae'n un o'r pethau sy'n ein huno fel dinasyddion. Gwyddom y cawn addysg o safon dda ac y cawn ofal iechyd da.

To preserve that principle, we need a certain degree of flexibility. One of the greatest dangers that the NHS could face over the next generation is that of many of the middle classes choosing to exit the NHS for whatever reasons—often to access certain treatments and to receive care that is more designed for their individual circumstances—and there will then be pressure to introduce tax breaks and to have a minimal service of NHS cover, which will lead to a disturbing and unwelcome breakdown in solidarity among citizens. The Welsh Conservatives are of the view that we need to preserve the NHS, but we also recognise that this is not the 1940s or 1950s, and people have different aspirations and demands now.

Er mwyn cadw'r egwyddor honno, mae angen rhywfaint o hyblygrwydd arnom. Un o'r peryglon mwyaf y gallai'r GIG ei wynebu dros y genhedlaeth nesaf yw bod llawer o'r dosbarthiadau canol yn dewis gadael y GIG am ba resymau bynnag—yn aml er mwyn cael gafael ar driniaethau arbennig ac er mwyn cael gofal sydd yn fwy addas ar gyfer eu hamgylchiadau fel unigolion—ac yna, daw pwysau i gyflwyno manteision treth a chael darpariaeth sylfaenol iawn gan y GIG. Bydd hynny'n yn arwain at sefyllfa annifyr na fyddem am ei gweld lle chwelir yr undod ymhlith dinasyddion. Barn y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig yw bod angen inni gadw'r GIG, ond yr ydym hefyd yn cydnabod nad yn yr 1940au na'r 1950au yr ydym, a bod dyheadau a gofynion pobl yn wahanol yn awr.

We often forget that we are facing a challenge born of great hope for the future. Scientific discovery is now bringing forward more treatments that can prolong life, cut down side-effects, or be more targeted to certain individuals. The old systems and the old drugs that were not very well targeted are now being replaced. It is sometimes the case that NHS consultants want to prescribe drugs that are not yet available on the NHS, although they might be available soon afterwards if they are given to a number of patients and that causes the market to drive down the price. There are many ways of looking at this. It is not a clear ideological picture. We need to move away from some of our ideological redoubts if we are to see the NHS develop to meet this challenge. Most of the cases that are discussed are not about queue-jumping. This is not about people paying for a quicker hip replacement. It is often about getting access to something that is currently not available at all, and if you get access to it in that episode of care, should you then be denied your whole right to NHS treatment? If that happens, we will be driving some people out of the NHS system who do not want to be driven out, and that would undermine the long-term durability of the NHS model, which we all cherish. Therefore, Minister, move away from the simple ideology that may have been understood 20 years ago, certainly in the 1940s and 1950s, but which is now not very well designed to meet our needs.

The review that is under way in England and Scotland is to be welcomed, and there is a debate now. The NHS Confederation has issued a thoughtful paper on some of the broader challenges facing us. Those of us who want a more liberal approach, based perhaps on individual rights, have to face up to some questions as well. A two-tier service would be immensely damaging. What we are looking at generally is speeding up the process of bringing medicines into the NHS and getting their cost-effectiveness evaluated quickly so that patients are not left in the invidious position of being offered treatment that is not available on the NHS.

3.30 p.m.

Byddwn yn anghofio'n aml bod yr her sy'n ein hwynebu'n deillio o obaith mawr ar gyfer y dyfodol. Mae darganfyddiadau gwyddonol yn awr yn cynnig mwy o driniaethau sy'n gallu ymestyn oes pobl, lliniaru sgil-ffeithiau, neu dargedu unigolion penodol yn well. Mae'r hen systemau a'r hen gyffuriau nad oeddent wedi'u targedu'n dda iawn yn cael eu disodli bellach. Weithiau, bydd ymgynghorwyr y GIG yn awyddus i roi presgripsiwn ar gyfer cyffuriau nad ydynt ar gael dan y GIG eto, er y gallent fod ar gael yn fuan wedyn o'u rhoi i nifer o gleifion a bod hynny'n golygu bod y farchnad yn gwasgu ar y pris. Nid yw'n ddarlun ideolegol clir. Mae angen inni symud oddi wrth rai o'n ceiri ideolegol er mwyn gweld y GIG yn datblygu i ymateb i'r her hon. Nid pobl yn neidio'r ciw sydd dan sylw ym mwyafrif yr achosion a drafodir, ac nid pobl yn talu am gael clun newydd yn gyflymach. Yn aml, yr hyn sydd dan sylw yw cael gafael ar rywbeth nad yw ar gael o gwbl ar hyn o bryd, ac os llwyddwch i gael gafael arno yn ystod y cyfnod gofal hwnnw, a ddylid wedyn wrthod pob hawl ichi gael triniaeth dan y GIG? Os digwydd hynny, byddwn yn gorfodi rhai pobl i adael system y GIG yn groes i'w hewyllys, a byddai hynny'n taseilio model y GIG, model yr ydym i gyd yn ei drysori, gan olygu na allai oroesi yn y tymor hir. Felly, Weinidog, symudwch oddi wrth yr ideoleg syml a oedd efallai'n ddealladwy i bobl 20 mlynedd yn ôl, yn sicr yn yr 1940au a'r 1950au ond nad yw bellach yn addas iawn i ddiwallu'n hanghenion.

Mae'r adolygiad sydd ar y gweill yn Lloegr ac yn yr Alban i'w groesawu, ac mae dadl yn mynd rhagddi yn awr. Mae Conffederasiwn y GIG wedi cyhoeddi papur meddylgar am rai o'r heriau ehangach sy'n ein hwynebu. Rhaid i'r rheini ohonom sydd am weld ymagwedd fwy rhyddfrydol, ar sail hawliau'r unigolyn efallai, wynebu ambell gwestiwn hefyd. Byddai gwasanaeth dwy haen yn eithriadol o niweidiol. Yr hyn yr ydym yn edrych arno'n gyffredinol yw prysuro proses cyflwyno meddyginiaethau i'r GIG a gwerthuso'u cost-ffeithiolrwydd yn gyflym er mwyn i gleifion beidio â chael eu gadael yn y sefyllfa annymunol o gael cynnig triniaeth nad yw ar gael dan y GIG.

There are ways of improving the general mechanisms of the NHS that will mitigate this problem somewhat. However, we will be faced with some patients who may be able to prolong their lives at a great cost, which is beyond the NHS, but in which families will want to invest, for various reasons. Sometimes, it will not be terribly appropriate; you could be having very intensive care in hospital rather than having more time at home with your loved ones before you die. These are real issues. False hope can sometimes come into play, where it is said that a particular medicine offers a certain treatment but will not, in effect, alter the ultimate outcome. We need great sensitivity. However, I believe that there are cases where people have the right to pay for a top-up, but that must not undermine the fact that the quality of the basic service must be exceptionally high. What we are talking about is marginal, and does not affect ultimate outcomes, but patients have a right to make that choice.

Helen Mary Jones: It is not very often that I stand in the Chamber with very mixed feelings about an issue—some of my colleagues would say that I tend to be too decisive, one way or the other. However, there can be no doubt that the issue of co-payments, as other speakers have said, is extremely complex and difficult.

On a personal level, we can all imagine situations where we would pay anything, if we could somehow find the money, to get treatment that would give a loved one a few more months of life, to give us a few more months to spend with them, or to improve the quality of that life. There can be no doubt that the sympathy of everyone in the Chamber, and elsewhere, must go to people who find themselves in that position. Our hearts must go out to them. Conversely, unlike some other speakers, perhaps, I believe that there are real dangers in allowing some of us—all of us in this room are in a situation where we could afford to pay—to top-up treatments when we can afford to do it, leaving those who cannot afford it without treatment that they might seek if they could afford to pay.

Ceir ffyrdd o wella mecanweithiau cyffredinol y GIG a fydd yn lliniaru rhyw gymaint ar y broblem hon. Fodd bynnag, cawn ein hwynebu gan rai cleifion a fydd o bosibl yn gallu ymestyn eu bywydau am gost uchel, sydd y tu hwnt i'r GIG, ond y bydd teuluoedd eisiau buddsoddi ynddo, am amrywiol resymau. Weithiau, ni fydd yn briodol iawn; gallech fod yn cael gofal dwys iawn yn yr ysbyty yn hytrach nag yn cael amser gartref gyda'ch anwyliaid cyn ichi farw. Mae'r rhain yn faterion go-iawn. Gall arwain at godi gobeithio yn ofer, pan ddywedir bod meddygaeth benodol yn cynnig triniaeth benodol ond ni fydd, mewn gwirionedd, yn newid y canlyniad terfynol. Mae arnom angen bod yn sensitif iawn. Fodd bynnag, credaf fod achosion pan mae gan bobl yr hawl i dalu am driniaeth ychwanegol, ond rhaid i hynny beidio â thanseilio'r ffaith bod yn rhaid i ansawdd y gwasanaeth sylfaenol fod yn uchel eithriadol. Mae'r hyn y siaradwn amdano'n ymylol, ac nid yw'n effeithio ar ganlyniadau terfynol, ond mae gan gleifion hawl i wneud y dewis hwnnw.

Helen Mary Jones: Nid yn aml iawn y safaf yn y Siambr gyda theimladau cymysglyd iawn am fater—byddai rhai o'm cyd-Aelodau'n dweud fy mod yn tueddu i fod yn rhy benderfynol, un ffordd neu'r llall. Fodd bynnag, nid oes dim amheuaeth nad yw'r taliadau ar y cyd, fel y dywedodd siaradwyr eraill, yn anodd ac yn gymhleth eithriadol.

Ar lefel bersonol, gallem oll ddychmygu sefyllfaoedd lle byddem yn talu unrhyw beth, pe gallem rywfodd ganfod yr arian, i gael triniaeth a fyddai'n rhoi i anwylyd ychydig o fisoedd yn rhagor i fyw, er mwyn rhoi inni ychydig yn rhagor o fisoedd i'w treulio gyda hwy, neu i wella ansawdd y bywyd hwnnw. Nid oes amheuaeth nad yw cydymdeimlad pawb yn y Siambr, a thu hwnt, yn cael ei estyn at bobl sydd yn y sefyllfa honno. Ni allwn ond cydymdeimlo o waelod calon â hwy. I'r gwrthwyneb, yn wahanol i rai siaradwyr eraill, efallai, credaf y ceir gwir beryglon mewn caniatáu i rai ohonom—yr ydym oll yn yr ystafell hon mewn sefyllfa lle gallem fforddio talu—gael triniaethau ychwanegol pan allwn fforddio gwneud hynny, gan adael y rheini na allant ei fforddio heb driniaeth y byddent o bosibl yn ei cheisio pe gallent fforddio talu.

Jonathan Morgan and others are right when they say that the situation is not simple at the moment anyway, and that there are situations where topping up does take place. However, there are real dangers in further developing a two-tier system, and I am not as sanguine as Jenny Randerson that we could not see a situation, if this trend was allowed to continue, where the core NHS shrinks and is basically only there as a safety net for those of us who can afford to pay. Across the Chamber, there is a consensus that we do not want to see that happen, and I think that that is much less of a risk here than on the other side of the border. However, I do not think that those are issues that we should dismiss.

I very much welcome today's debate, although we will not be supporting the motion as it stands. You cannot call for a review, as the motion does in clause 3, and then anticipate the outcome of that review by saying that it should be undertaken with a view to abolishing the current policy forthwith. That is a case of putting the cart before the horse. However, it is important that we are having this debate.

The argument that people should be allowed to top-up their care if they are able to do so—people have made that argument passionately and convincingly today—without having other services withdrawn, looks persuasive on the surface, but it is not as simple as that, not even clinically. What about, for example, a case where treatment that a patient paid for led to major side effects that then had to be dealt with by the NHS, using funding that could not then be spent on others who cannot afford to pay? Jenny Randerson's points here about the finite pot are very important; perhaps we need to be more honest about how finite that pot is.

Although I am listening to this debate today—and, as others have said, there is a very well-informed debate going on outside the Chamber; I have also appreciated the input from the NHS confederation—my view at the moment is that we should focus on seeing how we can make some of these

Mae Jonathan Morgan ac eraill yn iawn pan ddywedant nad yw'r sefyllfa'n un syml ar y foment p'run bynnag, a bod sefyllfaoedd lle mae triniaethau ychwanegol yn cael eu gwneud. Fodd bynnag, ceir peryglon gwirioneddol mewn datblygu system ddwy haen ymhellach, ac nid wyf mor hyderus â Jenny Randerson na allem weld sefyllfa, pe caniateid i'r tuedd hwn barhau, lle mae'r GIG craidd yn crebachu ac yn bodoli fel rhwyd ddiogelwch i'r rheini ohonom a all fforddio talu. Ar draws y Siambr, ceir consensws nad ydym am weld hynny'n digwydd, a chredaf fod hynny'n llawer llai o risg yma na thros y ffin. Fodd bynnag, ni chredaf fod y rheini'n faterion y dylem eu diystyru.

Croesawaf ddadl heddiw'n fawr iawn, er na fyddwn yn cefnogi'r cynnig fel y mae. Ni allwch alw am adolygiad, fel y gwna'r cynnig yng nghymal 3, ac yna rhagweld canlyniad yr adolygiad hwnnw drwy ddweud y dylid ei gynnal gyda'r bwriad o ddiddymu'r polisi presennol yn ddi-oed. Rhoi'r drol o flaen y ceffyl yw hynny. Fodd bynnag, mae'n bwysig ein bod yn cael y dadl hon.

Mae'r dadl y dylid caniatáu i bobl ychwanegu at eu gofal os oes ganddynt y modd i wneud hynny—mae pobl wedi cyflwyno'r dadl honno'n angerddol ac yn argyhoeddiadol heddiw—heb i wasanaethau eraill gael eu tynnu'n ôl, yn ymddangos yn ddarbwyllol ar y wyneb, ond nid yw mor syml â hynny, nid hyd yn oed yn glinigol. Beth am, er enghraifft, achos lle mae triniaeth y talodd claf amdani wedi arwain at sgil-ffeithiau difrifol y bu'n rhaid i'r GIG ddelio gyda hwy wedyn, gan ddefnyddio cyllid na ellid ei wario wedyn ar eraill na allant fforddio talu? Mae pwyntiau Jenny Randerson yma am y crochan diwaelod yn bwysig iawn; efallai fod angen inni fod yn fwy gonest am ba mor ddiwaelod yw'r crochan hwnnw.

Er fy mod yn gwranddo ar y dadl hon heddiw—ac, fel y dywedodd eraill, mae dadl wybodus iawn yn mynd rhagddi y tu allan i'r Siambr; yr wyf hefyd wedi gwerthfawrogi'r mewnbwn gan gydffederasiwn y GIG—fy marn ar hyn o bryd yw y dylem ganolbwyntio ar weld sut y gallwn sicrhau bod rhai o'r

innovative treatments available to all. The issues that we talked about in the last debate relating to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence are very valid in this context, and we need an honest debate about affordability.

One point on which I would disagree with some other contributors is that I believe that this is about ideology and belief. We fool ourselves if we think that the NHS would have come into being were it not for a set of beliefs that I think that many of us share in all political parties, about people having the right to access a decent health service and healthcare, as David Melding so eloquently put it. It is a political decision that prevents this from happening in one of the richest countries in the world, namely the United States, where I know through family experience of a woman in her 40s who had to give birth to a baby unattended, because her insurance did not cover it. That is about ideology and belief and saying that we believe that a person's wellbeing should not depend on his or her ability to pay. However, I also agree with David Melding that it is about how we interpret that set of beliefs and how we make those principles work today.

There will certainly be no easy choices on this issue. I start from the principle that the NHS needs to deliver the greatest good to the greatest number of people. However, as we take the NHS into the twenty-first century and beyond, this is an issue that we must debate with great seriousness and care.

Nick Ramsay: As Jonathan Morgan mentioned in opening this very important and timely debate, this is a complex issue. As a member of the Assembly's Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee, I know only too well how complex many of the funding issues within the health service are. This is not straightforward, as is highlighted by the Liberal Democrats' amendment. There is a funding implication to removing the ban on co-payment, but then there was a financial implication to providing free prescriptions and free parking in hospital car parks. Whatever decisions we make, there is a financial implication. As I said in the

triniaethau arloesol hyn ar gael i bawb. Mae'r materion a drafodwyd gennym yn y ddadl ddiwethaf am y Sefydliad Cenedlaethol dros Iechyd a Rhagoriaeth Glinigol yn ddilys iawn yn y cyd-destun hwn, ac mae arnom angen dadl onest am fforddiadwyedd.

Un pwynt y byddwn yn anghytuno gyda rhai cyfranwyr eraill yn ei gylch yw fy mod yn credu bod hyn yn ymwneud ag ideoleg a chred. Yr ydym yn twyllo'n hunain os credwn y byddai'r GIG wedi dod i fodolaeth heb set o gredoau y credaf fod llawer ohonom yn ei rhannu ym mhob plaid wleidyddol, sef pobl yn meddu ar yr hawl i fynediad at ofal iechyd a gwasanaeth iechyd boddhaol, fel y mynegwyd mor huawdl gan David Melding. Penderfyniad gwleidyddol sy'n rhwystro hyn rhag digwydd yn un o wledydd cyfoethocaf y byd, sef yr Unol Daleithiau, lle gwn drwy brofiad teuluol am fenyw yn ei 40au y bu'n rhaid iddi roi genedigaeth i faban heb gymorth, gan nad oedd ei hyswiriant yn cynnwys hynny. Mae hynny'n ymwneud ag ideoleg a chred a dweud y credwn na ddylai lles rhywun ddibynnu ar ei allu ef neu hi i dalu. Fodd bynnag, cytunaf hefyd gyda David Melding ei fod yn ymwneud â sut y dehonglwn y set honno o gredoau a sut y gwnawn i'r egwyddorion hynny weithio heddiw.

Yn sicr nid oes dewisiadau hawdd ynghylch y mater hwn. Dechreuaf o'r egwyddor bod angen i'r GIG gyflawni'r lles mwyaf i'r nifer fwyaf o bobl. Fodd bynnag, wrth inni fynd â'r GIG i'r unfed ganrif ar hugain a thu hwnt, mae hwn yn fater y mae'n rhaid inni ei drafod gyda gofal a difrifoldeb mawr.

Nick Ramsay: Fel y crybwyllodd Jonathan Morgan wrth agor y ddadl amserol a phwysig iawn hon, mae hwn yn fater dyrys. Fel aelod o Bwyllgor y Cynulliad ar Iechyd, Lles a Llywodraeth Leol, gwn yn rhy dda pa mor ddyrys yw cynifer o'r materion cyllido yn y gwasanaeth iechyd. Nid yw hyn yn syml, fel yr amlygir gan welliant y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol. Ceir goblygiad o ran cyllid i godi'r gwaharddiad ar daliadau ar y cyd, ond eto yr oedd goblygiad ariannol i ddarparu presgripsiynau am ddim a pharcio am ddim ym meysydd parcio ysbytai. Pa bynnag benderfyniadau a wnawn, ceir goblygiad ariannol. Fel y dywedais yn y ddadl flaenorol

previous debate on wet AMD, it is a matter of priorities.

At the heart of this debate is the second point of the motion, which states that a core value of the NHS is that treatment should be free universally at the point of use. This is not anathema to the Labour Party, as the NHS was its idea—it was a good idea. It has stood the test of time in many respects since the war and has been supported without reservation, with good reason, by all mainstream parties since then. However, I wonder what the founding fathers of the NHS would have made of our NHS today, in its sixtieth year. I suspect that they would be overawed by, and very pleased with, many of the huge advances that have been made in medical science over the last 60 years, and the changes that would have seemed to be in the realms of science fiction in the years following the second world war. However, I think that they would also have been deeply concerned about the implications of some of the changes in philosophy that have, in many respects, crept up on us.

I certainly believe that it is not socially just to prevent patients from accessing the care that they need through the NHS because they have, for whatever reason—it is different in every situation—sought the treatment that they need privately. We should be ensuring that people receive the treatment that they need, although the Minister may say that that is an oversimplistic view. In his contribution, David Melding spoke of the need to be incredibly sensitive to the needs of certain patients—I am thinking in particular of patients who need palliative care. Many of us will have visited hospices and we know that, tragically, in certain situations, many treatments will not make a difference to patients' ultimate prognosis. However, I would argue that those patients need those treatments as much as those who might recover. It is a question of priorities and it is about how society cares for its sick and what it believes is the appropriate way to treat its citizens at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

ar ddirywiad macwlaidd gwlyb sy'n gysylltiedig â henaint, mae'n ymwneud â blaenoriaethau.

Wrth galon y ddadl hon y mae ail bwynt y cynnig, sy'n dweud mai un o werthoedd craidd y GIG yw y dylai triniaethau fod am ddim yn gyffredinol pan y'i defnyddir. Nid anathema i'r Blaid Lafur yw hyn, gan mai ei syniad hi oedd y GIG—yr oedd yn syniad da. Mae wedi gwrthsefyll prawf amser mewn sawl ffordd ers y rhyfel ac fe'i cefnogwyd yn ddi-gwestiwn, gyda rheswm da, gan yr holl bleidiau prif ffrwd ers hynny. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn meddwl tybed beth y byddai sefydlwyr y GIG yn ei feddwl o'r GIG heddiw, yn ei drigeinfed flwyddyn. Yr wyf yn amau y byddent mewn parchedig ofn, ond yn falch iawn, o safbwynt llawer o'r datblygiadau aruthrol a wnaed mewn gwyddor feddygol dros y 60 mlynedd diwethaf, a'r newidiadau a fyddai'n ymddangos eu bod ym myd ffuglen wyddonol yn y blynyddoedd wedi'r ail ryfel byd. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn credu y byddent hefyd wedi bod yn bryderus iawn am oblygiadau rhai o'r newidiadau mewn athroniaeth sydd, mewn sawl ystyr, wedi sleifio tuag atom.

Yr wyf yn credu'n bendant nad yw'n gymdeithasol gyfiawn i rwystro cleifion rhag cael gafael ar y gofal y mae arnynt ei angen drwy'r GIG oherwydd eu bod, am ba bynnag reswm—mae'n wahanol ym mhob sefyllfa—wedi ceisio'r driniaeth y mae arnynt ei hangen yn breifat. Dylem fod yn sicrhau bod pobl yn cael y driniaeth y mae arnynt ei hangen, er y bydd y Gweinidog o bosibl yn dweud bod honno'n farn or-syml. Yn ei gyfraniad, siaradodd David Melding am yr angen i fod yn aruthrol o sensitif i anghenion cleifion penodol—yr wyf yn meddwl yn benodol am gleifion y mae arnynt angen gofal lliniarol. Bydd llawer ohonom wedi ymweld â hosbisau a gwyddom, yn drasig, mewn sefyllfaoedd penodol, na fydd llawer o driniaethau'n gwneud gwahaniaeth i brognosis terfynol y cleifion. Fodd bynnag, byddwn yn dadlau bod ar y cleifion hynny angen y triniaethau hynny cymaint â'r rheini a allai ddod drwyddi. Mae'n ymwneud â blaenoriaethau ac â sut y mae cymdeithas yn gofalu am bobl wael ac â'r hyn y cred yw'r ffordd briodol o drin ei dinasyddion ar

ddechrau'r unfed ganrif ar hugain.

I believe that our motion is a very good one. It is subtly different to the motion discussed during the previous debate in that it is based more on philosophy than practicalities. However, we seek to reiterate the fundamental principles that govern healthcare provision in this country. I will be supporting the motion, and I urge all other Members to do the same.

Kirsty Williams: Like the other speakers, I in no way underestimate the complex nature of this issue, but it can no longer be avoided. The development of new drugs and the number of patients who are affected by current rules and regulations will increase and not diminish.

3.40 p.m.

One person who finds himself in this situation now is a constituent of mine, patient E. He was prescribed Sutent for advanced kidney cancer, but was turned down for funding, although there are Welsh patients who are currently prescribed this drug on the NHS. Sutent has been found to be effective, in up to 60 per cent of cases, in prolonging the life of the patient, but it has been deemed not to be cost-effective by the all Wales medicines strategy group. Therefore, I can understand the decision by the local health board to take that advice on board and deny my constituent that drug and the opportunity of extending his life—that extra time that Helen Mary referred to that he wants with his family. In that desperate situation, patient E has resorted to paying privately for Sutent, but, in doing so, he has found that the rest of his package of care, previously funded by the NHS, has been removed. He is now charged for everything, from the simplest of blood tests through to Sutent. The system to which he has contributed throughout his working life has failed him twice: first, in refusing to fund the drug that his doctor believes he should have and, secondly, by removing his package of care. I would defy anyone in the Chamber to find an explanation for him and his family to justify why this state of affairs has been allowed to develop.

Credaf fod ein cynnig yn un da iawn. Mae ychydig yn wahanol i'r cynnig a drafodwyd yn ystod y ddadl flaenorol o ran ei fod yn seiliedig fwy ar athroniaeth nag ar bethau ymarferol. Fodd bynnag, ceisiwn ailadrodd yr egwyddor sylfaenol sy'n llywodraethu darpariaeth gofal iechyd yn y wlad hon. Byddaf yn cefnogi'r cynnig, ac anogaf yr holl Aelodau eraill i wneud yr un fath.

Kirsty Williams: Fel y siaradwyr eraill, nid wyf mewn unrhyw ffordd yn tanbrisio natur ddyrys y mater hwn, ond ni ellir ei osgoi mwyach. Cynyddu ac nid lleihau fydd datblygiad cyffuriau newydd a nifer y cleifion y mae'r rheolau a'r rheoliadau presennol yn effeithio arnynt.

Mae un o'm hetholwyr, claf E, yn un person sydd yn awr yn y sefyllfa hon. Rhoddwyd presgripsiwn iddo ar gyfer Sutent i drin canser datblygedig yr arenau, ond gwrthodwyd cyllid iddo, er bod cleifion yng Nghymru yn cael y cyffur hwn ar bresgripsiwn ar y GIG ar hyn o bryd. Gwelwyd bod Sutent, mewn hyd at 60 y cant o achosion, yn effeithiol wrth ymestyn bywyd y claf, ond mae grŵp strategaeth feddyginiaethau Cymru gyfan wedi barnu nad yw'n gost-effeithiol. Felly, gallaf ddeall penderfyniad y bwrdd iechyd lleol i dderbyn y cyngor hwnnw a gwrthod y cyffur hwnnw i'm hetholwr a'r cyfle i ymestyn ei fywyd—yr amser ychwanegol hwnnw, y cyfeiriwyd ato gan Helen Mary, y mae arno'i eisiau gyda'i deulu. Yn y sefyllfa enbyd honno, mae claf E wedi troi at dalu'n breifat am Sutent, ond, wrth wneud hynny, mae wedi canfod bod gweddill ei becyn gofal, a ariannwyd gan y GIG yn flaenorol, wedi cael ei dynnu'n ôl. Mae'n awr yn gorfod talu am bopeth, o'r profion gwaed symlaf i Sutent. Mae'r system y mae wedi cyfrannu ati gydol ei oes waith wedi'i siomi ddwywaith: yn gyntaf, drwy wrthod ariannu'r cyffur y cred ei feddyg y dylai ei gael ac, yn ail, drwy dynnu ei becyn gofal yn ôl. Byddwn yn herio unrhyw un yn y Siambr i ganfod esboniad iddo a'i deulu er mwyn cyfiawnhau pam y caniatwyd i'r sefyllfa hon ddatblygu.

However, we must be mindful of all the points that have already been raised. The current system is flawed and the hares that we may set running in trying to tackle it are very real. There is the issue of creating false hope for patients who cannot be helped, the trend of medicalising the end-of-life experience, encouraging drug-related campaigns—that is highly ironic, given what we have already debated this afternoon—and ensuring that patients have adequate information to make these choices when faced with them. However, those issues are already to be seen, and by maintaining the status quo we are not preventing the setting loose of those hares—they have already been set loose by the situation in which we find ourselves.

We must have a review. I do not believe that it is appropriate to look at this on an England-only basis, because we have devolved health issues in the National Assembly for Wales and we have prided ourselves over the past nine years on doing things differently, where appropriate. It is appropriate to look at this issue and to come to a more satisfactory situation. It will be too late, I suspect, for patient E, but there will be many others who follow, and I believe that our Assembly needs to be in a position to adequately address the questions that they may have.

Angela Burns: The greatest good to the greatest number—Helen Mary summed up the ethos of the NHS very well, and I would agree with that. However, how can that ethos and being able to get the best treatment be mutually exclusive, Minister? How can that tie in with the policy of denying Welsh patients their right to continued NHS care because they have previously chosen to seek an element of their treatment in the private sector? I simply do not understand the issue of the so-called two-tier health system and its danger to the NHS and unfairness to patients.

We already have a mix of state-funded and privately funded treatments. Thanks to an errant lorry many years ago, my back is shot, for which my general practitioner treats me. I pay for my chiropractor and I have also paid

Fodd bynnag, rhaid inni gofio'r holl bwyntiau a godwyd eisoes. Mae'r system bresennol yn ddiffygiol ac y mae'r ysgyfarnogod y byddwn yn eu rhyddhau o bosibl drwy geisio mynd i'r afael â hi'n real iawn. Mae codi gobeithion ofer cleifion na ellir eu helpu, y duedd o wneud profiad diwedd oes yn un meddygol, annog ymgyrchoedd yn ymwneud â chyffuriau—sy'n eironig iawn, a chofio'r hyn yr ydym eisoes wedi'i drafod y prynhawn yma—a sicrhau bod gan gleifion wybodaeth ddigonol i wneud y dewisiadau hyn pan fyddant yn eu hwynebu, yn faterion i'w hystyried. Fodd bynnag, mae'r materion hyn eisoes i'w gweld, a drwy gynnal y sefyllfa sydd ohoni, nid ydym yn rhwystro'r ysgyfarnogod hynny rhag cael eu rhyddhau—maent eisoes wedi cael eu rhyddhau gan y sefyllfa'r ydym ynddi.

Rhaid inni gael adolygiad. Ni chredaf ei bod yn briodol edrych ar hyn ar sail Lloegr-yn-unig, oherwydd bod gennym faterion iechyd datganoledig yng Nghynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru ac yr ydym wedi ymfalchïo dros y naw mlynedd diwethaf mewn gwneud pethau'n wahanol, pryd bynnag y bo hynny'n briodol. Mae'n briodol edrych ar y mater hwn a dod i sefyllfa fwy boddhaol. Bydd yn rhy hwyr, yr wyf yn amau, i glaf E, ond bydd llawer yn rhagor yn dilyn, a chredaf fod ar ein Cynulliad angen bod mewn sefyllfa i roi sylw digonol i'r cwestiynau a all fod ganddynt.

Angela Burns: Gwneud y lles mwyaf i'r nifer fwyaf—crynhodd Helen Mary ethos y GIG yn dda iawn, a byddwn yn cytuno gyda hynny. Fodd bynnag, sut y gall yr ethos hwnnw a chael y driniaeth orau fod yn ddewis rhwng y naill neu'r llall, Weinidog? Sut y gall hynny gyd-fynd â pholisi sy'n gwrthod hawl i gleifion Cymru gael gofal parhaus gan y GIG oherwydd eu bod yn flaenorol wedi dewis ceisio elfen o'u triniaeth yn y sector preifat? Yn syml, ni allaf ddeall y system iechyd ddwy haen honedig a'i pherygl i'r GIG a'i hannhegwch i gleifion.

Mae gennym eisoes gymysgedd o driniaethau a gyllidir yn breifat a gan y wladwriaeth. Diolch i lori a aeth ar gyfeiliorn flynyddoedd lawer yn ôl, yr wyf wedi cael problemau gyda'm cefn, ac mae fy meddyg teulu yn rhoi

for an MRI scan—I have also had two or three on the NHS—and the NHS gives me painkillers when I need them. People often see a specialist privately and then join an NHS queue, or they pay for a hip operation and then have their physiotherapy through the NHS. We can get basic glasses on the NHS or pay for designer glasses, and, for many, the only way to get their teeth fixed is to pay for it.

Minister, is this a financial issue? I cannot believe that getting a person to pay for all their treatment because they want some drugs privately would save the NHS significant sums of money; it beggars belief. That leaves only one thing—it is political doctrine that is putting socialist beliefs above the needs of seriously ill people, who are so ill that they are likely to die. Why does having a two-tier system mean that we will offer a worse NHS service? We will not; it gives people and the NHS service a chance to be better.

A friend of mine died 18 months ago from bowel cancer. He and his wife were prepared to risk all to get the drug, Erbitux, but he was told that if he got it privately he would have to pay for all of his treatment, which broke them. After a stressful four months, which cost him his chances, he received dispensation too late. He leaves behind a broken wife and a gap that cannot be filled. I am not making this point because I want a sympathy vote or to make people think, ‘Oh my gosh, what a terrible story’, joining some of the other awful stories that we have heard, but because the Government simply must remember that its decisions affect people—husbands, wives, children and parents. I hope that we all remember that when we measure these costs.

We also need to consider the fact that there are drugs such as Sutent, which I believe that Kirsty mentioned earlier, which has proven beyond doubt to work much better than interferon. However, it costs more and people cannot afford to pay the difference. If I was

triniaeth imi ar ei gyfer. Yr wyf yn talu am fy ngheiropractydd ac yr wyf hefyd wedi talu am sgan MRI—ac yr wyf hefyd wedi cael dau neu dri sgan ar y GIG—ac mae’r GIG yn rhoi poenladdwyr imi pan fydd arnaf eu hangen. Mae pobl yn aml yn gweld arbenigwr yn breifat ac yna’n ymuno â chiw’r GIG, neu maent yn talu am lawdriniaeth ar eu clun ac yna’n cael eu ffisiotherapi drwy’r GIG. Gallwn gael sbectol sylfaenol ar y GIG neu dalu am sbectol gan gynllunydd, ac, i lawer, yr unig ffordd i gael trwsio’u dannedd yw talu am hynny.

Weinidog, ai mater ariannol yw hwn? Ni allaf gredu y byddai gorfodi rhywun i dalu am ei holl driniaeth oherwydd ei fod eisiau rhai cyffuriau’n breifat yn arbed symiau sylweddol o arian i’r GIG; mae’n anghredadwy. Mae hynny’n gadael un peth yn unig—athrawiaeth wleidyddol sy’n rhoi credoau sosialaidd uwchlaw anghenion pobl ddifrifol wael, pobl sydd mor wael fel eu bod yn debygol o farw. Pam bod cael system ddwy haen yn golygu y byddwn yn cynnig gwasanaeth GIG gwaeth? Ni fyddwn; mae’n rhoi cyfle i bobl ac i wasanaeth y GIG i wella.

Bu farw cyfaill imi 18 mis yn ôl o ganser y coluddyn. Yr oedd ef a’i wraig yn barod i fentro popeth i gael y cyffur, Erbitux, ond dywedwyd wrtho petai’n ei gael yn breifat y byddai’n rhaid iddo dalu am ei driniaeth i gyd, ac yr oedd hynny’n ormod iddynt. Ar ôl pedwar mis anodd, a gostiodd ei gyfle iddo, cafodd ganiatâd yn rhy hwyr. Mae’n gadael ar ei ôl wraig sydd wedi torri a bwlch na ellir ei lenwi. Nid wyf yn gwneud y pwynt hwn am fy mod eisiau pleidlais o gydymdeimlad nac i wneud i bobl feddwl, ‘O, diar, dyna stori ofnadwy’, i gyd-fynd â rhai o’r storïau ofnadwy eraill yr ydym wedi’u clywed, ond oherwydd ei bod yn rhaid i’r Llywodraeth gofio bod ei phenderfyniadau’n effeithio ar bobl—gwŷr, gwragedd, plant a rhieni. Gobeithiaf y byddwn i gyd yn cofio hynny pan fyddwn yn mesur y costau hyn.

Mae angen hefyd inni ystyried y ffaith bod cyffuriau fel Sutent, y credaf i Kirsty ei grybwyll yn gynharach, y profwyd y tu hwnt i amheuaeth eu bod yn gweithio’n llawer gwell nag interferon. Fodd bynnag, mae’n costio mwy ac ni all pobl fforddio talu’r

seriously ill and my chances would be improved by paying for something, I would do so; I would only have to look at my children to know that I would.

My final point is about the drowning man who knows how to swim and is still fairly okay and can just about reach the lifebelt, which is just away from his fingertips. How awful it would be to be that man, knowing that you can never get quite there. That is what we are doing to these patients. Some of them will sell their houses and anything that they have, and their friends will lend them money, just to give them those extra few months. For many people, that is all that they will ever have.

Andrew R.T. Davies: I will make a brief contribution to this debate. Contributors from around the Chamber have made various points. Some 25 years ago, I, sadly, lost my mother to cancer. At the time, the treatment options available to her were very limited. That is what I have heard from other speakers around the Chamber today: when the NHS was established 60 years ago, it was more about convalescence, and you were looked after in the hope that you would get better. Science has moved on in the intervening years, and we are now able to treat many more illnesses. When, at the age of 15, I lost my mother, I realised the limitations of the NHS and almost accepted the rather rudimentary treatment that she could receive at that time.

As I have gone on in life, I have, sadly, had to visit relatives and friends in hospital, and now, as an elected Assembly Member, I have also have had constituents make representations to me about this. I have seen the massive progress that has been made in technology and medicine. Surely, we must try to safeguard the NHS for the next 60 years so that when people turn to the NHS for treatment, it is not put in the impossible position of refusing treatment. Surely, the role of the NHS is not to say 'no' to treatment when you need it. Thankfully, many of us will not need to call on the services of the NHS and overburden it, because we lead

gwahaniaeth. Petawn i'n ddifrifol sâl ac y byddai fy ngobeithion yn gwella drwy imi dalu am rywbeth, byddwn yn gwneud hynny; ni fyddai ond rhaid imi edrych ar fy mhiant i wybod y byddwn.

Mae a wnelo fy mhwynt olaf â'r dyn sy'n boddi, sy'n gallu nofio ac sy'n dal i deimlo'n weddol dda ac sydd bron iawn yn gallu cyrraedd y gwregys achub, nad yw ond mymryn oddi wrth flaenau ei fysedd. Meddylwch mor ofnadwy fyddai bod yn sefyllfa'r dyn hwnnw, yn gwybod na allwch byth gyrraedd, o'r mymryn lleiaf. Dyna'r ydym ni'n ei wneud i'r cleifion hyn. Bydd rhai ohonynt yn gwerthu eu tai ac unrhyw beth sydd ganddynt, a bydd eu ffrindiau'n rhoi benthyg arian iddynt, er mwyn iddynt gael yr ychydig fisoedd ychwanegol hynny. I lawer o bobl, dyna'r cyfan a gânt byth.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Cyfrannaf yn fyr at y ddadl hon. Mae cyfranwyr o bob rhan o'r Siambr wedi gwneud gwahanol bwyntiau. Rhyw 25 mlynedd yn ôl, yn anffodus, collais fy mam i ganser. Ar y pryd, yr oedd yr opsiynau trin a oedd ar gael iddi'n brin iawn. Dyna yr wyf wedi ei glywed gan siaradwyr eraill o amgylch y Siambr heddiw: pan sefydlwyd y GIG 60 mlynedd yn ôl, yr oedd a wnelo mwy ag ymadfer, a byddech yn cael gofal yn y gobaith y byddech yn gwella. Mae gwyddoniaeth wedi symud ymlaen ers hynny, ac erbyn hyn yr ydym yn gallu trin llawer mwy o afiechydon. Pan gollais i, yn 15 oed, fy mam, sylweddolais gyfyngiadau'r GIG ac yr oeddwn cystal â derbyn y driniaeth elfennol braidd y gallai hi ei chael bryd hynny.

Wrth imi fynd yn hŷn, yr wyf, yn anffodus, wedi gorfod ymweld â pherthnasau a ffrindiau yn yr ysbyty, ac yn awr, fel Aelod Cynulliad etholedig, yr wyf hefyd wedi cael sylwadau gan etholwyr ynglŷn â hyn. Yr wyf wedi gweld y cynnydd enfawr a wnaethpwyd mewn technoleg a meddygaeth. Heb os nac oni bai, rhaid inni geisio diogelu'r GIG am y 60 mlynedd nesaf fel na fydd, pan fydd pobl yn troi at y GIG am driniaeth, yn cael ei roi yn y sefyllfa amhosibl o wrthod triniaeth. Heb os nac oni bai, nid dweud 'na' i driniaeth pan fydd ei hangen arnoch yw rôl y GIG. Diolch byth, ni fydd angen i lawer ohonom alw ar wasanaethau'r GIG a'i orlethu,

healthy lives.

The *Sunday Times* has run a campaign over the last few years, highlighting numerous hard and fast cases of people who, when they have turned to the NHS and looked for that support, have found, sadly, that it is not been there for them. It is not a case of looking for treatment that is not supported by evidence; in each case, there is hard and fast evidence that the drugs would make a fundamental difference to the life expectancy of those seeking the treatment, or, above all, would, hopefully, cure their illness, particularly cancer. When people are faced with a diagnosis of cancer, they want the best treatment. However, they then face a quandary in that they are hit with massive bills for that treatment. This motion today is about people having confidence in the ability of the NHS to provide the treatment that they require when they become ill. If we do not address this, we will be on a slippery slope in trying to safeguard the NHS for the next 60 years.

3.50 p.m.

I think that it was David Melding that highlighted the fact that if the middle classes leave the NHS and we lose the consensus to fund the national health service, we will struggle to keep the safety net of the NHS to which we all subscribe to in this Chamber, and which we all believe is a vital part of our national make-up. It is important to debate this issue and, hopefully, achieve consensus on it. We have always heard that devolution is about being able to deliver Welsh solutions, and we should not allow England to lead on this—we should be trying to create our own Welsh solutions. Jenny Randerson rightly pointed out the financial aspect, and we must be aware of that, but, sadly, an increasing number of people are turning towards the NHS and finding that a course of treatment is not open to them. It is calling into question their faith in the service provision in the NHS that they look for and have paid into. I look forward to your comments in response, Minister, because they will be crucial as we go forward and in engaging with our constituents.

oherwydd yr ydym yn byw bywydau iach.

Mae'r *Sunday Times* wedi cynnal ymgyrch dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf, yn tynnu sylw at amryw o achosion pendant o bobl sydd wedi canfod, yn anffodus, pan droesant at y GIG gan chwilio am y cymorth hwnnw, nad yw wedi bod yno iddynt hwy. Nid mater o geisio triniaethau heb dystiolaeth yn gefn iddynt mo hyn; ym mhob achos, mae dystiolaeth bendant y byddai'r cyffuriau'n gwneud gwahaniaeth sylfaenol i ddisgwyliad oes y rhai sy'n ceisio'r driniaeth, neu, uwchlaw popeth, y byddent, gobeithio, yn gwella eu salwch, yn enwedig canser. Pan fydd pobl yn wynebu diagnosis o ganser, maent am gael y driniaeth orau. Fodd bynnag, maent wedyn yn wynebu cyfyng-gyngor pan gânt eu taro a biliau enfawr am y driniaeth honno. Hanfod y cynnig hwn heddiw yw rhoi hyder i bobl yng ngallu'r GIG i ddarparu'r driniaeth y mae ei hangen arnynt pan fyddant yn mynd yn sâl. Onid awn ni i'r afael â hyn, byddwn ar dir llithrig yn ceisio diogelu'r GIG am y 60 mlynedd nesaf.

Credaf mai David Melding a dynnodd sylw at y ffaith, petai'r dosbarth canol yn gadael y GIG a'n bod yn colli'r consensws i gyllido'r gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol, y byddwn yn ei chael hi'n anodd cadw rhwyd ddiogelwch y GIG y mae pawb yn y Siambr hon yn ymrwymo iddi, ac sydd fel y cred pawb ohonom yn rhan hollbwysig o'n cyfansoddiad cenedlaethol. Mae'n bwysig trafod y mater hwn a, gobeithio, cael consensws arno. Yr ydym wedi clywed erioed fod a wnelo datganoli â gallu darparu atebion Cymreig, ac ni ddylem adael i Loegr arwain ar hyn—dylem fod yn ceisio creu ein hatebion Cymreig ein hunain. Tynnodd Jenny Randerson sylw'n briodol at yr agwedd ariannol, a rhaid inni fod yn ymwybodol o hynny, ond, yn anffodus, mae nifer gynyddol o bobl yn troi at y GIG ac yn canfod nad yw cwrs o driniaeth ar gael iddynt. Mae'n taflu amheuaeth ar eu ffydd yn narpariaeth gwasanaethau'r GIG, y maent yn dibynnu arno ac y maent wedi cyfrannu ato. Edrychaf ymlaen at eich sylwadau wrth ymateb, Weinidog, oherwydd byddant yn dyngedfennol wrth inni fynd ymlaen ac wrth ymgysylltu â'n hetholwyr.

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart): I do not think that these will be my final comments on this matter, because we have started a discussion today about issues that we need to look at within Wales and in the NHS in general. We need to have cool and careful consideration and take a measured look at the issues, because it is easy to get drawn into using inflated and dramatic language. When you start to talk about examples, it can be difficult to take out the emotional and human element, as expressed by Angela and Kirsty in particular. We must recognise that this is about how we deal with the service as a whole, and not just about the individuals that come to us or who are fighting certain issues.

Angela said that she would do anything to get treatment and that she would pay. That brings me to my first point. She would perhaps be able to find the money, but I worry about those who would not be able to do so. I note Andrew's comments, in relation to his mother's cancer treatment 25 years ago, on how the service has moved on enormously in how illness is dealt with. One million people use the health service in Wales every year. Thousands are referred to hospital for consultations, and, in a typical month, more than 20,000 people will need an operation. Today, hundreds of people will be going in for operations. It is very rarely, in the fantastic service that the NHS provides, that a patient will face the issue highlighted in the motion today.

For those individuals, the position is serious and deserves to be taken seriously. Kirsty outlined the particular case of her constituent. The well-established and fundamental policy of the NHS is that it provides treatment free at the point of delivery. When patients commit themselves to the NHS, that is what it provides. For the past 60 years, there has been a further basic rule that a patient cannot be an NHS patient and a private patient within the same episode of care. The rule has stood the test of time because if a treatment is effective in meeting a patient's properly assessed needs, the NHS must provide it for all. That is why we have always signed up so

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Edwina Hart): Ni chredaf mai'r rhain fydd fy sylwadau olaf ar y mater hwn, oherwydd yr ydym wedi dechrau trafodaeth heddiw am faterion y mae angen inni edrych arnynt yng Nghymru ac yn y GIG yn gyffredinol. Mae angen inni roi ystyriaeth glir a gofalus i'r materion ac edrych arnynt yn bwyllog, oherwydd mae'n hawdd cael ein hudo i ddefnyddio iaith rodresgar a dramatig. Wrth ddechrau siarad am enghreifftiau, mae'n gallu bod yn anodd hepgor yr elfen emosiynol a dynol, fel y'i mynegwyd gan Angela a Kirsty yn arbennig. Rhaid inni gydnabod mai'r hyn sydd dan sylw yma yw sut yr ydym yn delio â'r gwasanaeth yn ei gyfanrwydd, nid dim ond yr unigolion sy'n dod atom neu sy'n ymladd materion neilltuol.

Dywedodd Angela y byddai'n gwneud unrhyw beth i gael triniaeth ac y byddai'n talu. Daw hynny â mi at fy mhwynt cyntaf. Efallai y byddai hi'n gallu canfod yr arian, ond yr wyf yn poeni am y rhai na fyddent yn gallu gwneud hynny. Sylwaf ar sylwadau Andrew, mewn perthynas â thriniaeth ganser ei fam 25 mlynedd yn ôl, o ran y ffordd y mae'r gwasanaeth wedi symud ymlaen yn aruthrol a'r ffordd yr ymdrinnir â salwch. Mae miliwn o bobl yn defnyddio'r gwasanaeth iechyd yng Nghymru bob blwyddyn. Caiff miloedd eu cyfeirio i'r ysbyty am ymgynghoriad, ac, mewn mis nodweddiadol, bydd angen llawdriniaeth ar fwy nag 20,000 o bobl. Anaml iawn, yn y gwasanaeth gwych y mae'r GIG yn ei ddarparu, y bydd claf yn wynebu'r mater a amlygwyd yn y cynnig heddiw

I'r unigolion hynny, mae'r sefyllfa'n ddifrifol ac mae'n haeddu cael ei chymryd o ddifrif. Amlinellodd Kirsty achos neilltuol ei hetholwr. Polisi sylfaenol y GIG, sydd wedi hen ennill ei blwyf, yw ei fod yn darparu triniaeth am ddim ar y pwynt darparu. Pan fydd cleifion yn ymrwymo i'r GIG, dyna y mae'n ei ddarparu. Am y 60 mlynedd diwethaf, bu rheol sylfaenol bellach na all claf fod yn glaf GIG ac yn glaf preifat o fewn yr un cyfnod gofal. Mae'r rheol wedi sefyll prawf amser oherwydd os yw triniaeth yn effeithiol i ddiwallu anghenion asesedig claf yn gywir, rhaid i'r GIG ei ddarparu i bawb. Dyna pam yr ydym wedi cytuno mor hawdd

readily to the implementation of NICE decisions in Wales. That is why I have had the all-Wales medicines strategy group help to speed up decisions about new treatments in the Welsh NHS. Where clinicians agree that treatment should be provided, that is what the NHS must provide.

Yesterday, I announced the Assembly Government's decisions in relation to wet aged-related macular degeneration—and we have had the debate on that—and that demonstrates the point that I am making. Once a new treatment is approved or approval is on the way, as I have described, it becomes free and available to all. When individuals decide to pursue a course of treatment outside the NHS—as they are entitled to do—that decision will have to be made because the individual believes that it brings a set of advantages. That is where we start to have the philosophical discussion—as David alluded to—about where we stand on some issues. However, it cannot be right for such a decision to create a set of disadvantages for others, and that is the area that worries me.

Members will be well aware of the danger that would follow should those who have the ability to pay use that ability to leapfrog over others in the NHS. The health service already picks up the pieces when treatment in the private sector leads to complications that that sector cannot and will never be able to deal with. That is the reality of that relationship. That is why it has been the policy that when an individual decides to pursue a course of treatment that the NHS does not provide, the cost of that treatment must be met by that individual. When that course of treatment is complete, there is nothing to prevent the patient from returning to NHS care when a different episode of care is required. The chief executive of the NHS wrote to trusts earlier this year to remind them of that.

This balances the rights of the individual against the responsibility that we have to ensure that we preserve the interests of the great mass of NHS users, for whom the

erioed i weithredu penderfyniadau NICE yng Nghymru. Dyna pam yr wyf wedi cael grŵp strategaeth feddyginiaethau Cymru gyfan i gyflymu penderfyniadau ynglŷn â thriniaethau newydd yn GIG Cymru. Lle mae clinigwyr yn cytuno y dylai triniaeth gael ei darparu, dyna y mae'n rhaid i'r GIG ei ddarparu.

Ddoe, cyhoeddais benderfyniadau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ynglŷn â dirywiad macwlaidd gwlyb sy'n gysylltiedig ag oedran—ac yr ydym wedi cael y ddadl ar hynny—ac mae hynny'n esbonio'r pwynt yr wyf yn ei wneud. Cyn gynted ag y caiff triniaeth newydd ei chymeradwyo neu y mae'r gymeradwyaeth yn yr arfaeth, fel yr wyf wedi'i ddisgrifio, mae ar gael i bawb a hynny am ddim. Pan fydd unigolion yn penderfynu ymgymryd â chwrs o driniaeth y tu allan i'r GIG—fel y mae ganddynt hawl i'w wneud—bydd yn rhaid i'r penderfyniad hwnnw gael ei wneud am fod yr unigolyn yn credu ei fod yn dod â set o fanteision gydag ef. Dyna lle'r ydym yn dechrau ar y drafodaeth athronyddol—y cyfeiriodd David ati—ynglŷn â ble yr ydym yn sefyll ar rai materion. Fodd bynnag, ni all fod yn iawn i benderfyniad o'r fath greu set o anffanteision i eraill, a dyna'r maes sy'n fy mhoeni i.

Bydd yr Aelodau'n ymwybodol iawn o'r perygl a fyddai'n dilyn petai'r rhai sydd â'r gallu i dalu yn defnyddio'r gallu hwnnw i drosneidio eraill yn y GIG. Mae'r gwasanaeth iechyd eisoes yn codi'r darnau pan fydd triniaeth yn y sector preifat yn arwain at gymhlethdodau na all y sector hwnnw ac na fydd byth yn gallu delio â hwy. Dyna realiti'r berthynas honno. Dyna pam y bu'n bolisi, pan fydd unigolyn yn penderfynu dilyn cwrs o driniaeth nad yw'r GIG yn ei ddarparu, ei bod yn rhaid i gost y driniaeth honno gael ei thalu gan yr unigolyn. Pan fydd y cwrs hwnnw o driniaeth wedi cael ei gwblhau, nid oes dim i rwystro'r claf rhag dychwelyd i ofal y GIG pan fydd angen cyfnod gofal gwahanol. Ysgrifennodd prif weithredwr y GIG at yr ymddiriedolaethau yn gynharach eleni i'w hatgoffa o hynny.

Mae hyn yn dal y ddysgl yn wastad rhwng hawliau'r unigolyn a'r cyfrifoldeb sydd gennym ni i sicrhau ein bod yn gwarchod buddiannau holl ddefnyddwyr lluosog y GIG,

choice of paying for services does not exist. When I heard David Melding's very measured contribution, I wondered whether I should make this point, but I think that I have to. I could not countenance co-payments as a Trojan horse that would lead to more and more services becoming fee-paying rather than free services. Although I understand the contributions that have been made here today, the party opposite has a history of promoting such issues and I have to allude to that fact. I also cannot countenance co-payments becoming a means of creating a two-tier NHS. That is another issue that worries me: that those who can pay will use that ability to get a better deal.

There is, however, one important change that has happened in the recent past that gives the debate relevance. I recently agreed with David Melding, in answering a question, when he made a very measured point in the Chamber about the speed with which new generation drugs are being developed and the impact that that has on treatment. I indicated then that I intended to organise a structured discussion, particularly with clinicians and patients, about this whole issue, beginning with our existing cancer networks, because it is the high-cost, new cancer drugs that are coming onto the market that we usually see on the news. I remain on track to come back to the Assembly with more information on the way forward on this in the autumn.

In the meantime, Members have alluded to and are aware of the fact that, in England, a review of co-payment policy was announced earlier this month by Alan Johnson. The review is to be led by the very distinguished Professor Mike Richards, the National Clinical Director for Cancer in England, and is due to report back in October. I have already written to Alan to ensure that the work in Wales and in England remains informed by the views that are emerging about the possibilities in both places about how work can be developed. I have already taken that action.

nad yw'r dewis o dalu am wasanaethau yn bodoli iddynt. Pan glywais gyfraniad hynod bwylllog David Melding, meddyliais tybed a ddylwn i wneud y pwynt hwn, ond credaf ei bod yn rhaid imi. Ni allwn ystyried taliadau ar y cyd fel rhyw geffyl pren Troea a fyddai'n arwain at fwy o mwy o wasanaethau'n troi'n rhai y byddai gofyn talu ffi amdanynt yn hytrach na'u bod yn wasanaethau rhad ac am ddim. Er fy mod yn deall y cyfraniadau a wnaethpwyd yma heddiw, mae gan y blaid gyferbyn hanes o hyrwyddo materion o'r fath a rhaid imi gyfeirio at y ffaith honno. Hefyd, ni allaf gefnogi gweld taliadau ar y cyd yn dod yn ffordd o greu GIG dwy haen. Mae hwnnw'n fater arall sy'n fy mhoeni: bydd y rhai sy'n gallu talu yn defnyddio'r gallu hwnnw i gael gwell bargaen.

Fodd bynnag, mae un newid pwysig wedi digwydd yn y gorffennol agos sy'n gwneud y ddadl yn berthnasol. Yn ddiweddar, cytunais â David Melding, wrth ateb cwestiwn, pan wnaeth bwynt doeth iawn yn y Siambr ynglŷn â mor gyflym y mae cyffuriau o genhedlaeth newydd yn cael eu datblygu a'r effaith a gaiff hynny ar driniaethau. Dywedais ar y pryd fy mod yn bwriadu trefnu trafodaeth strwythuredig, yn arbennig gyda chlinigwyr a chleifion, ynglŷn â'r holl fater hwn, gan ddechrau gyda'n rhwydweithiau cancer presennol, oherwydd y cyffuriau cancer newydd, hynod o gostus, sy'n ymddangos ar y farchnad yr ydym yn eu gweld fel arfer ar y newyddion. Yr wyf yn dal i weithio ar hynny a byddaf yn dod yn ôl i'r Cynulliad â rhagor o wybodaeth am y ffordd ymlaen yn yr hydref.

Yn y cyfamser, mae'r Aelodau wedi cyfeirio at ac maent yn ymwybodol o'r ffaith bod adolygiad o'r polisi ar daliadau ar y cyd wedi cael ei gyhoeddi'n gynharach y mis hwn gan Alan Johnson, yn Lloegr. Mae'r adolygiad yn cael ei arwain gan ŵr uchel iawn ei barch, yr Athro Mike Richards, y Cyfarwyddwr Clinigol Cenedlaethol dros Ganser yn Lloegr, ac mae i fod i adrodd yn ôl ym mis Hydref. Yr wyf eisoes wedi ysgrifennu at Alan i sicrhau bod y gwaith yng Nghymru a Lloegr yn dal i gael ei seilio ar y farn sy'n datblygu ynglŷn â'r posibiladau yn y naill le a'r llall o ran sut y gellir datblygu'r gwaith. Yr wyf eisoes wedi gwneud hynny.

There is no question of following the lead provided elsewhere, as the motion puts it, because we have thought about the issues here and we know where we are going. The direction of travel is probably the same in terms of the discussions, however, our future policy direction is best considered in terms of how we deal with matters within Wales and what additional guidance might be required by the NHS. Whatever that guidance may turn out to be, I assure Members that it will be consistent with, and not in violation of, our determination to provide an NHS true to its founding principles, and that need, not the ability to pay, will remain the fundamental basis of the publicly provided national health service in Wales.

In terms of the debate, we will oppose the motion and the amendment. However, I would not want anyone to think that I do not want to have a debate on this issue. I will return to the Chamber in the autumn with further thoughts on this matter and we will be looking closely at the developments in England. I have found this to be an extremely difficult debate, as I think that all Members have. At the end of the day, you think about the individuals who you see and know, and about the issues that are on our television screens, in the media, and that come to us. I am grateful that we have had an opportunity to talk about these issues today and, in that spirit, I conclude my contribution to this debate.

Jonathan Morgan: I will start with the contribution from the Minister. It is not just the individual patient who takes a decision about a particular drug or treatment; the decision is very often taken on the advice of a clinician, when that clinician feels that a patient would, indeed, benefit. We know that the issue is incredibly sensitive and that individuals see these new drugs and treatments as a way of furthering and enhancing their lives. I think that we need to look at this in the round. It is very often the clinicians who are in the driving seat in offering a considerable amount of advice. There is no evidence that others are disadvantaged when an individual decides to pay privately for a particular drug or

Nid oes unrhyw gwestiwn o ddilyn yr arweiniad sy'n cael ei roi yn rhywle arall, fel y dywed y cynnig, oherwydd yr ydym wedi ystyried yr atebion yma a gwyddom i ble yr ydym yn mynd. Mwy na thebyg fod y cyfeiriad teithio yr un fath o ran y trafodaethau, fodd bynnag, mae'n well ystyried ein cyfeiriad polisi i'r dyfodol yn nhermau sut yr ydym yn delio â materion yng Nghymru a pha ganllawiau ychwanegol y gallai fod eu hangen ar y GIG. Beth bynnag fydd y canllawiau hynny, gallaf sicrhau'r Aelodau y byddant yn gyson â'n penderfyniad i ddarparu GIG sy'n driw i'w egwyddorion sylfaenu, nid yn groes iddynt, ac mai angen, nid y gallu i dalu, fydd sylfaen waelodol y gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol a ddarperir yn gyhoeddus yng Nghymru o hyd.

O ran y ddadl, byddwn yn gwrthwynebu'r cynnig a'r gwelliant. Fodd bynnag, ni fyddwn am i unrhyw un feddwl nad wyf am gael dadl ar y mater hwn. Dychwelaf i'r Siambr yn yr hydref gyda syniadau pellach ar y mater hwn a byddwn yn edrych yn ofalus ar y datblygiadau yn Lloegr. Mae hon wedi bod yn ddadl eithriadol o anodd i mi, fel y bu i'r Aelodau i gyd tybiaf. Yn y pen draw, yr ydych yn meddwl am yr unigolion yr ydych yn eu gweld ac yn eu hadnabod, ac am y materion sydd ar ein sgriniau teledu, yn y cyfryngau, ac sy'n dod atom ni. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar ein bod wedi cael cyfle i siarad am y materion hyn heddiw ac, yn yr ysbryd hwnnw, dof â'm cyfraniad i'r ddadl hon i ben.

Jonathan Morgan: Dechreuaf gyda chyfraniad y Gweinidog. Nid dim ond y claf unigol sy'n penderfynu ynglŷn â chyffur neu driniaeth neilltuol; yn aml iawn gwneir y penderfyniad ar gyngor clinigwr, pan fydd y clinigwr hwnnw'n teimlo y byddai'r claf, yn wir, yn elwa. Gwyddom fod y mater yn eithriadol o sensitif a bod unigolion yn gweld y cyffuriau a'r triniaethau newydd hyn fel ffordd o ymestyn a gwella eu bywydau. Credaf fod angen inni edrych ar hyn yn ei gyfanrwydd. Yn aml iawn, y clinigwyr sy'n gyrru'r broses wrth gynnig cryn lawer o gyngor. Nid oes tystiolaeth fod eraill yn cael eu rhoi o dan anfantais pan fydd unigolyn yn penderfynu talu'n breifat am gyffur neu driniaeth neilltuol a chredaf fod angen inni

treatment and I think that we need to be clear about that. I know that some people believe that co-payments increase inequality. Co-payments are not about taking care away from poorer patients in order to help subsidise the middle classes. A drug is paid for privately—it is not subsidised by the state—and the arrangement represents a benefit to one patient without another patient being harmed in the process. We have to look at this in a practical sense, in the way that the NHS operates. I do not believe that there is any evidence to suggest that other patients are somehow disadvantaged because one patient decides to use his or her own resources to pay for a drug that is not available on the NHS.

From looking at the criteria, we know that a single episode of care is not exactly the cleverest way of describing how people access the NHS. I think that there is a problem with that criterion, which is why I referred to it in my opening remarks.

4.00 p.m.

We know that a patient cannot be both a private and an NHS patient for the treatment of one condition during a single visit to an NHS organisation. The problem here is what constitutes a single visit. Some drugs are available free on the NHS while others are not. How can two treatments be part of the same episode of care if one is free and the other is not? The issue is therefore complicated, and the criteria that are rather strictly applied do not take into account how the modern healthcare system in Wales and across the United Kingdom is being delivered.

I am pleased that Wales will be taking account of the review in England. I strongly believe that it is not just a matter of looking at what happens across the border; we need to start thinking—and this is why a review is needed—about those issues that are peculiar to Wales and which could pose more of a challenge if this policy were to be reversed. That is where you, as Minister, need to start thinking proactively. It is about asking Alan Johnson to take account of the needs of Wales, but there may be issues that are more acute here in Wales than across the border.

fod yn glir ynglŷn â hynny. Gwn fod rhai pobl yn credu bod taliadau ar y cyd yn achosi anghydraddoldeb. Nid tynnu oddi ar gleifion tlotach er mwyn rhoi cymhorthdal i'r dosbarth canol yw hanfod taliadau ar y cyd. Telir am gyffur yn breifat—nid yw'r wladwriaeth yn rhoi cymhorthdal—ac mae'r trefniant yn cynrychioli budd i un claf heb i glaf arall gael ei niweidio yn y broses. Rhaid inni edrych ar hyn mewn ystyr ymarferol, o ran y ffordd y mae'r GIG yn gweithredu. Ni chredaf fod unrhyw dystiolaeth i awgrymu bod cleifion eraill yn wynebu anfantais ryw ffordd oherwydd bod un claf yn penderfynu defnyddio ei adnoddau ei hun i dalu am gyffur nad yw ar gael ar y GIG.

O edrych ar y meini prawf, gwyddom nad un cynnod gofal yw'r ffordd graffaf mewn gwirionedd o ddisgrifio sut mae pobl yn defnyddio'r GIG. Credaf fod problem gyda'r maen prawf hwnnw, a dyna pam y cyfeiriais ato yn fy sylwadau agoriadol.

Gwyddom na all claf fod yn glaf preifat a hefyd yn glaf GIG ar gyfer trin un cyflwr yn ystod un ymweliad â sefydliad y GIG. Y broblem yn y fan hon yw beth sy'n cael ei gyfrif fel un ymweliad. Mae rhai cyffuriau ar gael am ddim gan y GIG ond nid yw hynny'n wir am rai eraill. Sut all dwy driniaeth fod yn rhan o'r un bennod o driniaeth os yw un am ddim ond nad yw'r llall? Mae'r mater yn un cymhleth felly, ac nid yw'r meini prawf sy'n cael eu gweithredu'n gaeth braidd yn ystyried sut y mae'r system gofal iechyd fodern yn cael ei darparu yng Nghymru a ledled y Deyrnas Unedig.

Yr wyf yn falch y bydd Cymru'n cymryd sylw o'r adolygiad yn Lloegr. Credaf yn gryf ei fod yn fwy na mater o edrych ar yr hyn sy'n digwydd dros y ffin; mae angen inni ddechrau meddwl—a dyna pam mae angen adolygiad—am yr ystyriaethau hynny sy'n neilltuo i Gymru ac a allai olygu mwy o her petai'r polisi hwn yn cael ei wyrdroi. Dyna lle mae angen i chi, fel Gweinidog, ddechrau meddwl mewn ffordd ragweithiol. Mae'n golygu gofyn i Alan Johnson ystyried anghenion Cymru, ond gall fod rhai materion yn fwy difrifol yma yng Nghymru nag ar

On that basis, we still think that a considerable amount of work—call it a review—needs to be done here pretty quickly so that we are ready to deal with the matter if this policy is to be changed.

In our motion, we say that we believe that the ban on co-payments should be scrapped, and we are concerned that we have not heard a statement of principle this afternoon from the Assembly Government as to whether it believes in principle that the ban on co-payments ought to be retained. People need to know your view, Minister. I accept that there are challenges that you will want to address, and I listened carefully to what you said this afternoon, but people want to know the view of the Minister for Health and Social Services in principle and whether or not she supports this policy being reversed. That is fundamental, and if you do vote, as you have indicated, against the motion, it will merely confirm to the people of Wales that you believe in the current system being retained.

I am grateful to all the colleagues who have spoken this afternoon, and to Jenny Randerson in particular who proposed the amendment. She is right to say that unless we resolve this matter, the number of people topping up their care will continue to increase, and the problem will become more difficult for us in Wales and elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

David Melding was right to say that we need to address this issue urgently to preserve the integrity of the national health service and its core principles, and that is why people need to know what the Government's view is. We need to see the process by which medicines come in to the NHS being speeded up, and that has to be a long-term goal, because I do not believe that the procedures that we see now are applicable in a modern healthcare system. Also, we have to accept that some patients want the right to make a choice. I know that choice is not something that people on the Labour side of the Chamber feel is a fundamental principle in healthcare, but many people do want to have a choice, feel better informed about their healthcare needs and have the right information to make

draws y ffin. Ar sail hynny, yr ydym yn dal i gredu bod angen gwneud llawer o waith yma—cewch ei alw'n adolygiad—a hynny'n bur sydyn fel ein bod yn barod i ddelio â'r mater os bydd y polisi hwn yn cael ei newid.

Yn ein cynnig, yr ydym yn dweud y dylid dileu'r gwaharddiad ar daliadau ar y cyd, ac yr ydym yn bryderus am nad ydym wedi clywed datganiad o egwyddor gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad y prynhawn yma i ddweud a yw'n credu mewn egwyddor y dylid cadw'r gwaharddiad ar daliadau ar y cyd. Mae angen i bobl gael gwybod beth yw eich barn, Weinidog. Derbyniaf fod heriau y byddwch am roi sylw iddynt, a gwrandewais yn astud ar yr hyn a ddywedasoeh y prynhawn yma, ond mae pobl am gael gwybod beth yw barn y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol mewn egwyddor ac a yw hi'n cefnogi gwyrddroi'r polisi hwn. Mae hynny'n rhywbeth sylfaenol, ac os byddwch yn pleidleisio yn erbyn y cynnig, fel yr awgrymasoeh, bydd hynny'n cadarnhau i bobl Cymru eich bod o blaid cadw'r system bresennol.

Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r holl gyd-Aelodau sydd wedi siarad y prynhawn yma, ac i Jenny Randerson yn fwyaf arbennig a gynigiodd y gwelliant. Mae'n llygad ei lle drwy ddweud os na fyddwn yn datrys y mater hwn, bydd nifer y bobl sy'n talu'n ychwanegol am eu gofal yn parhau i gynyddu, a bydd y broblem yn dwysau inni yma yng Nghymru ac yng ngweddill y Deyrnas Unedig.

Yr oedd David Melding yn gywir i ddweud bod angen inni roi sylw i'r mater hwn yn ddiymdroi er mwyn diogelu didwylledd y gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol a'i egwyddorion craidd, a dyna pam mae angen i bobl gael gwybod beth yw barn y Llywodraeth. Mae angen cyflymu'r broses a ddefnyddir i ddod â meddyginiaethau i'r GIG, a rhaid i hynny fod yn nod tymor hir, oherwydd ni chredaf fod y gweithdrefnau yr ydym yn eu gweld yn awr yn berthnasol mewn system gofal iechyd fodern. Hefyd, rhaid inni dderbyn bod rhai cleifion am gael yr hawl i ddewis. Gwn nad yw pobl ar ochr Lafur y Siambr yn teimlo bod dewis yn egwyddor sylfaenol o ofal iechyd, ond mae llawer o bobl am gael dewis, am deimlo eu bod yn cael mwy o wybodaeth am eu hanghenion gofal iechyd ac am

informed decisions. We do not treat people like idiots; we treat them as informed, educated individuals who are capable of assimilating information and making decisions about their healthcare.

Helen Mary Jones was absolutely right to say that the issue is complicated, but we cannot run away from it. We need to deal with this subject sooner rather than later now that this review is starting in England. I believe strongly, however, that if this were to be reversed in Wales, it would improve a whole range of healthcare and allow people to access healthcare, even if they had decided to pay for part of it themselves. It would demonstrate that we believe that, as taxpayers, they should be able to access the healthcare that they have already paid for through the general taxation system.

Nick Ramsay was absolutely right when he said that we want excellent care for everybody, but that we have to understand the limitations of the NHS. Jenny Randerson pointed this out too. There are limitations in the national health service that force people to pay privately. I do not think that we will see a system in the United Kingdom in which the public sector and the health service pays for absolutely everything. It has not been like that for a long time, and it certainly will not be like that in the future.

Finally, Members such as Kirsty Williams, Andrew R.T. Davies and Angela Burns highlighted the human examples. You cannot avoid looking at this issue without considering the whole range of human cases in which families and individuals have been affected because they have had to pay privately for a particular drug or therapy and have then been denied access to NHS care. If anything, it is the human cost, the human stories and the stories of families and individuals that must force us to look at this issue very quickly. Although the Government is happy to throw the motion out this afternoon, I believe that we must be looking not only at the challenges that we face, but at whether the Government believes in principle that the ban on co-payments is the wrong policy for it to pursue. I think that the people of Wales deserve to know what the view of

dderbyn y wybodaeth angenrheidiol i wneud penderfyniadau ar sail y wybodaeth. Ni ddylem drin pobl fel ffyliaid; dylem eu trin fel unigolion gwybodus, addysgedig sy'n gallu deall gwybodaeth a gwneud penderfyniadau ynghylch eu gofal iechyd.

Yr oedd Helen Mary Jones yn gwbl gywir i ddweud bod y mater yn un cymhleth, ond ni allwn ddianc rhagddo. Gorau po gyntaf y byddwn yn delio â'r mater hwn gan fod yr adolygiad hwn yn dechrau yn Lloegr. Credaf yn gryf, fodd bynnag, petai hwn yn cael ei wrydroi yng Nghymru, y byddai'n gwella amrediad cyfan o ofal iechyd ac yn caniatáu i bobl gael gafael ar ofal iechyd, hyd yn oed petaent yn penderfynu talu am ran ohono eu hunain. Byddai'n dangos ein bod yn credu y dylent, fel trethdalwyr, allu cael mynediad at y gofal iechyd maent wedi talu amdano eisoes trwy'r system drethu gyffredinol.

Yr oedd Nick Ramsey yn gwbl gywir pan ddywedodd ein bod am gael gofal rhagorol i bawb, ond ei bod yn rhaid inni ddeall cyfyngiadau'r GIG. Cyfeiriodd Jenny Randerson at hyn hefyd. Mae cyfyngiadau yn y gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol sy'n gorfodi pobl i dalu'n breifat. Ni chredaf y gwelwn system yn y Deyrnas Unedig lle mae'r sector cyhoeddus a'r gwasanaeth iechyd yn talu am bopeth. Nid yw wedi bod felly ers amser maith, ac yn sicr ni fydd felly yn y dyfodol.

Yn olaf, mae Aelodau fel Kirsty Williams, Andrew R.T. Davies ac Angela Burns wedi tynnu sylw at enghreifftiau dynol. Ni allwch beidio ag edrych ar y mater hwn heb ystyried yr holl achosion go-iawn lle mae teuluoedd ac unigolion wedi cael eu heffeithio oherwydd eu bod wedi gorfod talu'n breifat am gyffur neu therapi arbennig ac sydd wedyn wedi cael eu gwrthod rhag manteisio ar ofal y GIG. Os rhywbeth, y gost ddynol, y storïau dynol a'r storïau am deuluoedd ac unigolion yw'r hyn a ddylai ein gorfodi i edrych ar hyn ar fyrder. Er bod y Llywodraeth yn hapus i wrthod y cynnig y prynhawn yma, credaf fod angen inni edrych nid yn unig ar yr heriau sy'n ein hwynebu, ond hefyd a yw'r Llywodraeth yn credu mewn egwyddor bod y gwaharddiad ar daliadau ar y cyd yn bolisi anghywir i'w arddel. Credaf fod pobl Cymru'n haeddu cael

the Government is and what action will be taken to remedy this great injustice.

gwybod beth yw barn y Llywodraeth a pha gamau a gymerir i unioni'r anghyfiawnder mawr hwn.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is to agree the amendment. Are there any objections? I see that there are. I will therefore defer the vote until voting time.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Y cynnig yw bod y gwelliant yn cael ei gytuno. A oes gwrthwynebiad? Gwelaf fod gwrthwynebiad, felly gohiriaf y bleidlais tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.

*Gohiriwyd y pleidleisiau tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.
Votes deferred until voting time.*

Dadl
Welsh Liberal Democrats Debate

Democratiaid

Rhyddfrydol

Cymru

Rhwydwaith Trafnidiaeth Integredig a Chynaliadwy An Integrated and Sustainable Transport Network

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendment 1 in the name of William Graham.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliant 1 yn enw William Graham.

Kirsty Williams: I propose that

Kirsty Williams: Cynigiaf fod (NDM3962)

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

believes that the Welsh Assembly Government is failing to realise the potential of buses in developing an integrated and sustainable transport network. (NDM3973)

yn credu bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n methu sylweddoli potensial bysiau wrth ddatblygu rhwydwaith trafndiaeth integredig a chynaliadwy. (NDM3973)

In choosing this subject for debate, my party wanted to highlight the importance of buses in developing a sustainable and integrated transport system and what I believe is the failure of the One Wales Government to realise this potential.

Wrth ddewis y pwnc hwn ar gyfer y ddadl, yr oedd fy mhlaid am dynnu sylw at bwysigrwydd bysiau i ddatblygu system drafndiaeth gynaliadwy ac integredig a'r hyn yr wyf yn ei gredu yw methiant Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un i gyflawni'r potensial hwn.

*Daeth William Graham i'r Gadair am 4.06 p.m.
William Graham took the Chair at 4.06 p.m.*

Over the years, we have seen some progressive policy developments in this area, and I do not wish to undermine in any way what has undoubtedly been achieved in the past. The introduction of free bus passes for pensioners has been universally welcomed, and it has been incredibly liberating for those who have access to a bus service and, undoubtedly, there have been improvements to the services available. In my constituency, many villages that did not previously have a regular bus service now have one, and I welcome that very much.

Dros y blynyddoedd, gwelsom rai datblygiadau polisi blaengar yn y maes hwn, ac nid wyf am danseilio mewn unrhyw ffordd yr hyn sydd yn ddi-os wedi'i gyflawni yn y gorffennol. Mae cyflwyno tocynnau bws am ddim i bensiynwyr wedi derbyn croeso cyffredinol, ac mae wedi golygu rhyddid mawr i'r rhai sydd o fewn cyrraedd gwasanaeth bws ac, heb amheuaeth, bu gwelliannau i'r gwasanaethau sydd ar gael. Yn fy etholaeth, mae gan lawer o bentrefi wasanaeth bws rheolaidd lle nad oedd ganddynt un yn y gorffennol, ac yr wyf yn

croesawu hynny'n fawr.

However, we still have more people travelling to work by car than is the case in England and Scotland. Looking at growth in bus passenger journeys between 2002 and 2006, in Wales, they rose by only 4 per cent. A rise is good, and it is good to see more people on the buses, but when you compare that with a rise of 10 per cent in England, you will see that we are perhaps not doing as well as we could. The reality is that, although considerable numbers of people use our bus services, there are many communities, both urban and rural, that do not have access to a comprehensive bus service. This is particularly true for the evening and night time and at the weekend. Thanks to our Conservative colleagues, our system also means that some communities are likely to be left out because they are not seen as profitable enough to warrant a bus service. Therefore, we cannot let the Conservatives off the hook, but we must realise that the Government has had a considerable amount of time in which to make the system better.

Some routes are serviced by vehicles that are past their best, to be kind, and that presents real challenges for passengers with mobility issues, those with a disability or those who struggle to get on and off with a pram. Community transport schemes, such as dial-a-ride schemes and community minibuses, which can provide cost-effective alternatives to larger vehicles in some communities or which act as a connecting service to primary routes are barely surviving financially and are struggling with a regulatory regime that creates real barriers to developing services.

Buses must be an integral element of economic development, social inclusion and cutting transport emissions, but you would not think it, given the Government's actions to date. I would like to highlight three areas that I believe have had a negative effect on transport providers, local authorities and, most importantly, passengers. The first is the issue of the bus service operators' grant. Without warning, and for the first time ever, the Minister refused to increase the grant to

Fodd bynnag, mae gennym fwy o bobl sy'n teithio i'w gwaith â char nag yn Lloegr a'r Alban. Wrth edrych ar y twf mewn siwrneiau teithwyr bws rhwng 2002 a 2006, yng Nghymru, gwelir eu bod wedi codi 4 y cant yn unig. Mae cynnydd yn beth da, ac mae'n braf gweld mwy o bobl ar y bysiau, ond pan fyddwch yn cymharu hyn gyda chynnydd o 10 y cant yn Lloegr, gwelwch nad ydym o bosibl yn gwneud gystal ag y gallem. Y gwir yw, er bod niferoedd sylweddol yn defnyddio'n gwasanaethau bws, nid oes gan lawer o gymunedau, trefol a gwledig, wasanaeth bws cynhwysfawr. Mae hyn yn arbennig o wir fin nos ac yn y nos ac yn ystod y penwythnos. Diolch i'n cyd-aelodau Ceidwadol, mae ein system hefyd yn golygu bod rhai cymunedau'n debygol o gael eu hepgor am nad ydynt yn cael eu hystyried yn ddigon proffidiol i haeddu gwasanaeth bws. Felly, nid ydym am achub cam y Ceidwadwyr, ond rhaid inni sylweddoli bod y Llywodraeth wedi cael llawer o amser i wella'r system.

Mae rhai llwybrau'n cael eu gwasanaethu gan gerbydau sydd wedi gweld dyddiau gwell, ac mae hynny'n golygu her sylweddol i deithwyr gyda phroblemau symudedd, rhai ag anableddau neu rai sy'n ceisio esgyn a disgyn oddi ar y bws gyda phram. Mae cynlluniau trafndiaeth gymunedol, megis cynlluniau ffonio am yrrwr a bysiau mini cymunedol, sy'n gallu bod yn opsiynau mwy cost effeithiol na cherbydau mawr mewn rhai cymunedau neu sy'n gweithredu fel gwasanaeth sy'n cysylltu i'r prif lwybrau, yn cael trafferth goroesi'n ariannol ac maent yn brwydro yn erbyn cyfundrefn reoleiddio sy'n achosi rhwystrau gwirioneddol rhag datblygu gwasanaethau.

Rhaid i fysiau fod yn rhan anhepgor o ddatblygu economaidd, cynhwysiant cymdeithasol ac wrth leihau allyriadau trafndiaeth, ond mae'n anodd credu hynny, o edrych ar yr hyn a gyflawnwyd gan y Llywodraeth hyd yma. Hoffwn dynnu sylw at dri maes y credaf sydd wedi cael effaith negyddol ar ddarparwyr trafndiaeth, ar awdurdodau lleol ac, yn bwysicaf oll, ar deithwyr. Y cyntaf yw'r grant gweithredwyr bysiau. Heb rybudd, ac am y tro cyntaf

match the Chancellor's decision to increase fuel duty. In essence, that has been tax on Welsh operators and passengers to the tune of some £700,000. I know that the Minister has done this because he wishes to review the terms of the grant, which is legitimate. It is absolutely legitimate for the Minister to wish to carry out a review to examine whether the taxpayer is getting the best value for money. In a squeezed Assembly budget, it is to be applauded that we are looking carefully at how we can get the best value for money that we can. However, making the decision to cut the money without having the findings of that review is indefensible. I would have had some sympathy with the Government if it had said, 'Here is the increase this year, because we want to honour what we have done in previous years, but this is due warning that the current regime may change'. That would have been a fair, upfront and straightforward way of dealing with bus operators, as opposed to cutting the money and saying that we will have a review. That is not a fair way to treat people. The effects could be seen immediately, as less profitable routes were taken out of the timetable. For my constituents, that meant saying goodbye to services running in the upper Swansea valley, up to the villages of Abercrave and Ynyswen.

4.10 p.m.

In addition, there is the issue of the local transport services grant. I know that, in questions over previous weeks, Ministers have mixed up their grants, but I assure you that these are two separate grants. Carwyn Jones and Rhodri Morgan may not always know the difference between them, but I trust that Leighton Andrews is better briefed this afternoon. The local transport services grant was announced in February last year, and it was a great deal of money—£10.4 million, which means about £1 million for Carmarthenshire, about £600,000 for the Newport area, and in Powys, it makes up about 40 per cent of the resources that the council has to spend on buses. Therefore, I am not accusing the Government of penny-pinching; this considerable amount of money was announced in February. However, this

erioed, gwrthododd y Gweinidog gynyddu'r grant i gyfateb i benderfyniad y Canghellor i godi treth tanwydd. Yn ei hanfod, mae hynny'n gyfystyr â threth o tua £700,000 ar weithredwyr a theithwyr yng Nghymru. Gwn fod y Gweinidog wedi gwneud hyn am ei fod am adolygu telerau'r grant, sy'n ddigon dilys. Mae'n gwbl ddilys i'r Gweinidog benderfynu cynnal adolygiad i ganfod a yw'r trethdalwr yn cael y gwerth gorau am arian. Mewn cyllideb Cynulliad tynn, mae'n gymeradwy i edrych yr ofalus sut y gallwn gael y gwerth gorau posibl am ein harian. Fodd bynnag, mae gwneud y penderfyniad i gwtogi ar yr arian cyn derbyn canfyddiadau'r adolygiad hwnnw'n anfaddeuol. Byddai gennyf rywfaint o gydymdeimlad tuag at y Llywodraeth petai wedi dweud, 'Dyma'r cynnydd am eleni, oherwydd ein bod am anrhydeddu'r hyn yr ydym wedi'i wneud dros y blynyddoedd, ond yr ydym yn eich rhybuddio y gall y drefn bresennol newid'. Byddai hynny wedi bod yn ffordd deg, agored a gonest o ddelio gyda gweithredwyr bysiau, yn hytrach na thorri'r arian a dweud ein bod am gael adolygiad. Nid yw hynny'n ffordd deg o drin pobl. Gellid gweld yr effeithiau ar unwaith, wrth i lwybrau llai proffidiol gael eu dileu o'r amserlen. Yn achos fy etholwyr, yr oedd hynny'n golygu ffarfelio â'r gwasanaethau a oedd yn rhedeg yng nghwm Tawe uchaf, i fyny i bentrefi Aber-craf ac Ynyswen.

Hefyd, mae mater y grant gwasanaethau trafniadaeth lleol. Gwn fod Gweinidogion, mewn cwestiynau yn ystod yr wythnosau diwethaf, wedi drysu rhwng y grantiau, ond gallaf eich sicrhau bod y rhain yn ddau grant ar wahân. Efallai nad yw Carwyn Jones a Rhodri Morgan yn gwybod y gwahaniaeth rhyngddynt bob tro, ond tybiaf fod Leighton Andrews wedi ei friffio'n well y prynhawn yma. Cyhoeddwyd y grant gwasanaethau trafniadaeth lleol fis Chwefror y llynedd, ac yr oedd yn swm sylweddol o arian—£10.4 miliwn, sy'n golygu tua £1 miliwn i sir Gaerfyrddin, tua £600,000 i ardal Casnewydd, ac ym Mhowys, mae'n cyfrif am oddeutu 40 y cant o'r adnoddau sydd gan y cyngor i'w wario ar fysiau. Felly, nid wyf yn cyhuddo'r Llywodraeth o fod yn gybyddlyd; mae hwn yn swm sylweddol o arian a

year, we have managed to get almost to the end of June—many months into the financial year—without there being an announcement on when that money will be forthcoming and how much money it will be.

That is making it incredibly difficult for local authorities and is putting them in an insidious position. They are running services on the basis that the money may come at some point during this year. My local authority tells me that, technically, that is illegal and that it should not do it, but it is doing it because the alternative is to take buses off the road. My local authority cannot move forward on any suggestions to improve services, so the town service for Llanfaes cannot be decided upon, because it does not have the money. No decision can be made on moving the bus route from the A40 and taking it to Nevill Hall Hospital because it does not know about the money. It cannot extend services to the village of Llangattock, because Powys is still waiting on the money. In recent weeks, we have been told that the announcement will be soon, or that it will be very soon, or that it is imminent. I do not know which of those it is, and perhaps Leighton will have good news for the councils of Wales in his reply to this debate, but the fact is that it will have taken until now for that announcement to be made, and we still do not have the money.

Two weeks ago, in his best patronising manner, the Deputy First Minister told me that I did not understand why the Government had not been able to announce that money and that it was because there had been an unprecedented demand on the budget and—it had been inundated. He told me that I could not possibly understand that and that the Government could not possibly get the money out. I thought, 'Perhaps he is right; perhaps I do not understand'. Therefore, I got in touch with the Members' research service and asked for the evidence of this unprecedented demand that meant that the Deputy First Minister could not make a statement, and what had the Members' research service been told by Government officials? It had been told that it could not

gyhoeddwyd fis Chwefror. Fodd bynnag, eleni, yr ydym bron â chyrraedd diwedd Mehefin—sawl mis i mewn i'r flwyddyn ariannol—heb glywed cyhoeddiad ar ba bryd y bydd yr arian hwnnw ar gael a faint o arian fydd ar gael.

Mae hyn yn gwneud pethau'n eithriadol o anodd i awdurdodau lleol ac mae'n eu rhoi mewn sefyllfa anodd. Maent yn rhedeg gwasanaethau ar yr amod y bydd arian ar gael rywbryd yn ystod eleni. Dywed fy awdurdod lleol wrthyf fod hynny, yn dechnegol, yn anghyfreithlon ac na ddylai wneud hynny, ond mae'n digwydd oherwydd yr unig ddewis arall fyddai tynnu'r bysiau oddi ar y ffordd. Ni all fy awdurdod lleol weithredu unrhyw awgrymiadau i wella gwasanaethau, felly ni ellir gwneud penderfyniad ar y gwasanaeth tref ar gyfer Llanfaes, oherwydd nad oes ganddo'r arian. Ni ellir gwneud penderfyniad ar symud y llwybr bws oddi ar yr A40 a mynd ag ef i Ysbyty Nevill Hall oherwydd nad yw'n gwybod a fydd arian ar gael. Ni all ehangu gwasanaethau i bentref Llangatwg, oherwydd bod Powys yn dal i aros am yr arian. Yn ystod yr wythnosau diwethaf, dywedwyd wrthym y gwneir cyhoeddiad yn fuan, neu yn fuan iawn, neu ei fod ar fin cael ei wneud. Wn i ddim pa un o'r rhain sy'n wir, ac efallai y bydd gan Leighton newyddion da i gynghorau Cymru yn ei ateb i'r ddadl hon, ond y gwir yw ei bod wedi cymryd tan hyn i wneud y cyhoeddiad hwnnw, ac nid ydym wedi cael yr arian o hyd.

Bythefnos yn ôl, yn ei ffordd fwyaf nawddoglyd, dywedodd y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog wrthyf nad oeddwn yn deall pam nad oedd y Llywodraeth wedi gallu gwneud cyhoeddiad ar yr arian ac mai'r rheswm oedd bod galw mwy nag erioed o'r blaen wedi bod ar y gyllideb—yr oedd wedi'i llethu gan geisiadau am arian. Dywedodd wrthyf na allwn fyth ddeall hynny a'i bod yn amhosibl i'r Llywodraeth ddarparu'r arian. Meddyliais, 'Efallai ei fod yn iawn; efallai nad wyf yn deall'. Felly, cysylltais â gwasanaeth ymchwil yr Aelodau a gofynnais am dystiolaeth o'r galw digyffelyb hwn a olygai na allai'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog wneud datganiad, a beth oedd swyddogion y Llywodraeth wedi'i ddweud wrth wasanaeth ymchwil yr Aelodau? Dywedwyd wrtho na

give us the figures or show us that demand, because they themselves had not disaggregated the figures. Those figures are simply not available. Perhaps it is not I who does not understand; perhaps it is someone else who does not understand the system. According to my local authority, far from there being an unprecedented demand, its claim is £50,000 less this year than it was last year. If one council is claiming for less, I daresay that more of the 22 will claim less.

Finally, I want to talk about the issue of cross-border, reciprocal arrangements for free bus passes. The situation in border areas such as my own is nonsensical. A pensioner who has a free bus pass and can travel all the way to Cardiff or Anglesey on that free bus pass cannot use it to access shopping opportunities a couple of miles over the border, and vice versa with people from Shropshire wanting to come to Powys. I was approached by a couple of very bemused tourists in Pembrokeshire who could not quite understand why, when they got on the bus, they were told, 'Oh, no, we do not do English bus passes in Pembrokeshire; you will have to pay for your fare'. It is a nonsensical situation.

Bethan Jenkins: It is a different country.

Kirsty Williams: Bethan says that, and I know what her aspirations and goals are, but, for me, it just does not make sense. It does not make sense that we cannot get two Governments to talk to each other, to come up with a situation that allows pensioners to use their free bus passes whether they are on this side of Offa's Dyke or the other. Buses offer this Government a solution to many of the policy aspirations and goals that it says it wants to achieve, but, on the evidence to date, it seems unengaged with the issue of developing an integrated, sustainable bus service for Wales.

David Melding: I propose amendment 1 in the name of William Graham: Add as a new point at the end of the motion:

believes that local authorities should be encouraged to introduce integrated public transport passes to allow people to utilise

allai roi ffigurau inni na dangos y galw hwnnw, oherwydd nad oeddent hwy eu hunain wedi dadgyfuno'r ffigurau. Y gwir yw nad yw'r ffigurau hynny ar gael. Efallai nad myfi sy'n methu â deall; efallai mai rhywun arall sy'n methu â deall y system. Yn ôl fy awdurdod lleol, yn hytrach na galw digyffelyb, mae ei hawliad £50,000 yn llai eleni nag ydoedd y llynedd. Os yw un cyngor yn hawlio llai, mae'n debygol iawn y bydd mwy o'r 22 yn hawlio llai.

Yn olaf, yr wyf am sôn am fater trefniadau trawsffiniol, cyfatebol ar gyfer tocynnau bws am ddim. Mae'r sefyllfa mewn ardaloedd ar y ffin, fel fy ardal i, yn gwbl ddisynnwyr. Ni all pensynwr gyda thocyn bws am ddim, ac sy'n gallu teithio pob cam i Gaerdydd neu Ynys Môn gyda'r tocyn hwnnw, ei ddefnyddio i fanteisio ar gyfleoedd siopa milltir neu ddwy dros y ffin, ac i'r gwrthwyneb yn achos pobl o swydd Amwythig sydd am ddod i Bowys. Daeth cwpl o dwristiaid a oedd wedi drysu'n lân ataf yn sir Benfro; nid oeddent yn gallu deall pam, pan aethant ar y bws, y dywedwyd wrthynt, 'O, na, nid ydym yn derbyn pasys bws Lloegr yn Sir Benfro; bydd raid ichi dalu'ch ffordd'. Mae'n sefyllfa hurt.

Bethan Jenkins: Mae'n wlad wahanol.

Kirsty Williams: Dywed Bethan hynny, a gwn beth yw ei dyheadau a'i nod hi, ond i mi, nid yw'n gwneud synnwyr. Nid yw'n gwneud synnwyr na allwn gael dwy Lywodraeth i siarad â'i gilydd, i ganfod sefyllfa a fydd yn caniatáu i bensiynwyr ddefnyddio'u tocynnau bws di-dâl ar y naill ochr a'r llall i Glawdd Offa. Mae bysus yn cynnig i'r Llywodraeth hon ateb i lawer o'r dyheadau a'r amcanion polisi y mae'n dweud ei bod yn awyddus i'w cyflawni, ond, ar y dystiolaeth hyd yma, mae'n ymddangos nad oes ganddi fawr i'w ddweud wrth gwestiwn datblygu gwasanaeth bws integredig, cynaliadwy i Gymru.

David Melding: Cynigiau welliant 1 yn enw William Graham. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn credu y dylid annog awdurdodau lleol i gyflwyno tocynnau trafndiaeth gyhoeddus integredig i ganiatáu i bobl ddefnyddio

buses, trains, and community transport.

I thank the Liberal Democrats for bringing this subject to the attention of the Assembly this afternoon. It is a useful time to debate this important topic. I thought that Kirsty was going to launch into a full-scale attack on the Conservative Party at one stage, but she just about resisted the temptation.

I wish to put on record our enthusiastic commitment to public transport, of which buses are a very important part. It is fair to say that, when talking about public transport, we tend to concentrate on rail at the expense of buses when, for many people in Wales, buses are the only viable form of public transport. Therefore, I welcome the debate for that reason—even before we get to the environmental reasons for trying to shift people onto public transport—because, for many, it is the only way to get around any distance, so it is important that we have effective bus services.

We need to encourage a modal shift and I think that all parties accept that there is now an overreliance on the car. In recent months, many of us have seen our own behaviour change as petrol prices have gone up and up. Perhaps we are discovering that public transport is viable for us and that we can mix the modes of transport that we use. I welcome that, because it will encourage many people to use public transport when they have not done so often in the past. Like many people, as an adolescent—if Members will permit me to reflect on that experience, which is many years ago now—I was very enthusiastic about buses. There was a wonderful magazine, which is probably still going, called *Bus Monthly*. [*Laughter.*] Eleanor is the champion of trains, so perhaps, in a bid to return to my youth, I can be the champion of buses. There was a group of us, rather sad individuals, who would talk enthusiastically about Bristol chassis, and so on. It was all very wholesome, I can assure you. [*Laughter.*] I am sorry that I have now reduced people to such mirth.

We need to face some hard facts if we are to

bysiau, trenau a chluddiant cymunedol.

Diolch i'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol am ddod â'r pwnc hwn i sylw'r Cynulliad y prynhawn yma. Mae'n adeg fuddiol i drafod y pwnc pwysig hwn. Meddyliais fod Kirsty'n mynd i lansio ymosodiad digyfaddawd ar y Blaid Geidwadol ar un pwynt, ond llwyddodd i wrthsefyll y demtasiwn.

Mae arnaf eisiau cofnodi ein hymrwymiad brwd i gludiant cyhoeddus, y mae bysus yn rhan bwysig iawn ohono. Mae'n deg dweud y tueddwn, pan siaradwn am gludiant cyhoeddus, i ganolbwyntio ar reilffyrdd ar draul bysus, tra mai bysus yw'r unig ffurf ymarferol o gludiant cyhoeddus i lawer o bobl yng Nghymru. Felly, croesawaf y ddadl am y rheswm hwnnw—hyd yn oed cyn inni ddod at y rhesymau amgylcheddol dros geisio symud pobl i drafnidiaeth gyhoeddus—oherwydd, i lawer, dyna'r unig ffordd i deithio unrhyw bellter, felly mae'n bwysig bod gennym wasanaethau bysus effeithiol.

Mae angen inni annog symudiad moddol ac yr wyf yn meddwl bod pob plaid yn derbyn bod gorddibyniaeth bellach ar y car. Yn y misoedd diweddar, mae llawer ohonom wedi gweld newid yn ein hymddygiad ein hunain wrth i brisiau petrol godi a chodi. Efallai ein bod yn darganfod bod cludiant cyhoeddus yn ymarferol i ni ac y gallwn gymysgu'r moddau trafndiaeth a ddefnyddiwn. Croesawaf hynny, oherwydd bydd yn annog llawer o bobl i ddefnyddio cludiant cyhoeddus lle nad ydynt wedi gwneud hynny'n aml yn y gorffennol. Fel llawer o bobl, pan oeddwn yn llanc ifanc—os caniatâ'r Aelodau imi fyfyrto ar y profiad hwnnw, sydd flynyddoedd lawer yn ôl erbyn hyn—yr oeddwn yn sgut am fsysus. Yr oedd yna gylchgrawn bendigedig, sydd, mae'n debyg, yn dal i fynd, o'r enw *Bus Monthly*. [*Chwerthin.*] Eleanor yw pleidwraig y trenau, felly efallai, mewn ymgais i ddychwelyd i'm hieuentid, y gallaf fi fod yn bleidiwr y bysus. Yr oedd criw ohonom, a fyddai'n siarad yn frwd am Bristol chassis, ac ati. Yr oedd popeth yn iachus dros ben, gallaf eich sicrhau. [*Chwerthin.*] Yr wyf yn edifar fy mod yn awr wedi peri i bobl ymostwng i'r fath firi.

Mae angen inni wynebu ffeithiau caled os

get people to engage in this—to use the dull, technical term—‘modal shift’. Public transport has to be reliable and timely, or people will not take the train or bus. This morning, I missed one train and had to wait 10 minutes for the next one. That is a good service. You do not mind waiting in a bit of rain for 10 minutes, but if you have to wait 30 or 45 minutes, it is a different story, and that service would just not be effective at moving people, particularly commuters, around.

4.20 p.m.

Services have to be safe and comfortable. How many people have been put off taking the bus because they do not feel safe, because of rowdy behaviour, because they feel intimidated, and because it is not a pleasant experience? That aspect of anti-social behaviour needs to be dealt with, and there should be security, perhaps closed-circuit television, on certain bus routes as appropriate, because it is important to ensure effective services.

Routes should also be more convenient, as Kirsty said, and it is particularly important at peak times and rush hours, when the effective services and routes may not be the traditional ones that go into the city centre and stop off on the way. We need to move people around conveniently and effectively to those areas where they work.

Services could be more innovative, too, because many people, despite the best attempts of recent improvements, still cannot use public transport. There has been a shift towards making buses more accessible for disabled people, to construct bus stops more effectively so that they are raised, and to allow people of limited mobility to get onto buses, but it is still a bit of an afterthought and is not always as integrated as it should be. Bus lanes are also important, especially for rush-hour traffic. We have to provide these things if we are serious about encouraging people to use the buses more.

ydym am gael pobl i gymryd rhan yn y ‘symudiad moddol’ hwn, a defnyddio’r term technegol di-fflach. Rhaid i gludiant cyhoeddus fod yn ddibynadwy ac amserol, neu ni wnaiff pobl gymryd y trê neu’r bws. Y bore yma, collais un trê a bu raid imi aros 10 munud am y nesaf. Nid oes ots gennyh aros mewn tipyn o law am 10 munud, ond os oes raid ichi aros am hanner awr neu dri chwarter, mae’n stori wahanol, ac ni fyddai’r gwasanaeth hwnnw mor effeithiol o ran symud pobl, cymudwyr yn arbennig, o gwmpas.

Rhaid i wasanaethau fod yn ddiogel ac yn gyfforddus. Faint o bobl sydd wedi dewis peidio â chymryd y bws am nad ydynt yn teimlo’n ddiogel, oherwydd bod rhai’n cadw stŵr, oherwydd eu bod yn teimlo dan fygythiad, ac oherwydd nad yw’n brofiad braf? Mae angen delio â’r agwedd honno o ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, a dylid cael diogelwch, camerâu teledu cylch cyfyng efallai, ar rai bysus fel y bo’n briodol, oherwydd mae’n bwysig er mwyn sicrhau gwasanaethau effeithiol.

Dylai llwybrau bysus fod yn fwy cyfleus hefyd, fel y dywedodd Kirsty, ac mae’n arbennig o bwysig ar oriau brig ac amserau brys, pan nad y gwasanaethau traddodiadol sy’n mynd i mewn i ganol y ddinas gan aros mewn mannau ar y ffordd yw’r rhai effeithiol o reidrwydd. Mae angen symud pobl o gwmpas yn hwylus ac effeithiol i’r mannau lle maent yn gweithio.

Gallai gwasanaethau arloesi mwy, hefyd, oherwydd mae llawer o bobl, er gwaethaf ymdrechion gorau gwelliannau diweddar, yn dal i fethu defnyddio cludiant cyhoeddus. Bu symudiad tuag at wneud bysus yn fwy hygyrch i bobl anabl, i adeiladu arosfannau bysus yn fwy effeithiol fel eu bod ar godiad tir, ac i ganiatáu i bobl ag anawsterau symud fynd ar fysis, ond tipyn o ôl-ystyriaeth ydyw o hyd ac nid yw mor integredig ag y dylai fod bob amser. Mae lonydd bysus yn bwysig hefyd, yn enwedig i draffig yr awr frys. Rhaid inni ddarparu’r pethau hyn os ydym o ddifrif ynghylch annog pobl i ddefnyddio mwy ar y bysus.

Finally, integrated passes that allow people to use different modes of public transport are a must, and local authorities and the private sector could take the lead on that.

Eleanor Burnham: I am pleased to welcome the Tory metamorphosis on public transport, and, David, I was delighted to hear of your wonderful nerdy history in that eulogy for buses. [*Laughter.*] I am sure that you will take that comment in the good spirit in which it is intended.

Seriously, we need to look carefully at this matter. The One Wales Government claims to be prioritising transport by cutting transport emissions, joining up local transport as part of a genuinely integrated system, improving access to key sites and settlements, enhancing our country's international connectivity—although I do not know how it can do the latter unless it provides better connections with England, because I cannot think of a border that we share with anyone else—and, lastly, by promoting safety and security.

Before I go any further, I must break from my usual tradition and eulogise about Arriva—Arriva buses, that is. We are extremely fortunate in Rossett, where we have a brilliant service every 10 minutes between Wrexham and Chester, using low-floor buses. In many respects, it is far better than the service offered by its sister company, Arriva Trains. However, to go back to some of my concerns, I thoroughly agree with my colleague, Kirsty, who is our spokesperson on this matter: we need clarification and a simplification of the shambles and confusion surrounding bus passes. In theory, they can be useful, but we need to do better in practice.

I was in Lisbon recently, and I took a 40-minute train journey for £8, which compares extremely favourably with the public transport costs in this country. When you visit other countries, you see that, because their Governments have put their money where their mouth is and invested properly, there is a good public transport service. In Wales, we have a long way to go to get people out of their cars and onto reliable bus services. There is a reliable bus service where

Yn olaf, mae pasys integredig sy'n caniatáu i bobl ddefnyddio gwahanol foddau o gludiant cyhoeddus yn hanfodol, a gallai awdurdodau lleol a'r sector preifat arwain ar hynny.

Eleanor Burnham: Yr wyf yn falch o groesawu metamorffosis y Toriaid ynghylch cludiant cyhoeddus, a, David, yr oeddwn wrth fy modd yn clywed am eich hanes nerdaidd hyfryd yn y molawd hwnnw i fysis. [*Chwerthin.*] Yr wyf yn siŵr y cymerwch y sylw hwnnw yn yr ysbryd da y'i bwriedir.

O ddifrif, mae angen inni edrych yn ofalus ar y mater hwn. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un yn honni ei bod yn rhoi blaenoriaeth i drafnidiaeth drwy dorri allyriadau trafnidiaeth, cydlynu trafnidiaeth leol fel rhan o system wirioneddol integredig, gwella mynediad i safleoedd ac aneddiadau allweddol, gwella gallu ein gwlad i gysylltu'n rhyngwladol—er na wn sut y gall wneud yr olaf oni ddarpara well cysylltiadau â Lloegr, oherwydd ni allaf feddwl am ffin a ranwn gyda neb arall—ac, yn olaf, drwy hyrwyddo diogelwch eiddo a diogelwch personol.

Cyn mynd gam ymhellach, rhaid imi dorri oddi wrth fy nhraddodiad arferol a chlodfori Arriva—bysus Arriva, hynny yw. Yr ydym yn eithriadol o ffodus yn yr Orsedd, lle mae gennym wasanaeth gwych bob 10 munud rhwng Wrecsam a Chaer, yn defnyddio bysus lloriau isel. Ar lawer ystyr, mae'n llawer gwell na'r gwasanaeth a gynigir gan ei chwaer gwmni, Trenau Arriva. Fodd bynnag, a dychwelyd at rai o'm pryderon, cytunaf yn llwyr â'm cyd-Aelod, Kirsty, sef ein llefarydd ar hyn: mae angen egluro a symleiddio'r traed moch a'r dryswch ynghylch pasys bws. Mewn egwyddor, gallant fod yn ddefnyddiol, ond mae angen inni wneud yn well yn ymarferol.

Bûm yn Lisbon yn ddiweddar, a chymerais siwrnai 40 munud ar y trêen am £8, sy'n cymharu'n eithriadol o ffafriol â chostau cludiant cyhoeddus yn y wlad hon. Pan ymwelwch â gwledydd eraill, cewch weld hynny, oherwydd mae eu Llywodraethau wedi cefnogi eu geiriau ag arian ac wedi buddsoddi'n iawn, a cheir gwasanaeth cludiant cyhoeddus da. Yng Nghymru, mae gennym ffordd bell i fynd i gael pobl allan o'u ceir ac i wasanaethau bysus dibynadwy.

I live, but in many other parts of Wales the bus network requires a lot of work.

That is particularly the case regarding the integration of public transport, as Kirsty said. Only 4 per cent of the Welsh Assembly Government budget goes on transport, but it is essential. If a good service can be provided out of Chester station along our route, right through Wrexham and on to Barmouth, I am sure that it can be done elsewhere. Perhaps we are more fortunate than others, but the Government needs to do far more for those parts of Wales that are less fortunate and that need much better transport services. Generally, we need to ensure that we entice people out of their cars. That is the big issue: we have to make it easier for people to take the bus. I hope that the Deputy Minister will appreciate the sincerity of the Liberal Democrats in raising this important issue for debate.

Alun Davies: I welcome the opportunity to have this debate, even if I do not welcome the motion itself. I briefly want to discuss the role of the bus in our communities and the responsibility of government.

The Rural Development Sub-Committee has recently taken evidence on the nature of poverty and deprivation in rural Wales. I was struck by the evidence that we received on the transport issue, particularly buses and the role of the bus in rural areas. What we heard time and again was that free bus passes for older people are fine, but they are of no use if there are no buses or if you cannot get on one. That is a reality for too many people today. Many witnesses stressed the considerable need for integrated, accessible and affordable transport, particularly for those people who find it difficult to access.

The experiences of two age groups crystallise many of the difficulties that people face. For older people, access to a bus service is the key to their remaining independent, socialising and accessing hospital and other appointments. All too often in rural areas,

Mae gwasanaeth bws dibynadwy lle'r wyf fi'n byw, ond mewn llawer o rannau eraill o Gymru mae angen cryn waith ar y rhwydwaith bysus.

Mae hynny'n arbennig o wir ynglŷn ag integreiddio cludiant cyhoeddus, fel y dywedodd Kirsty. Dim ond 4 y cant o gyllideb Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru sy'n mynd ar drafndiaeth, ond mae'n hanfodol. Os gellir darparu gwasanaeth da allan o orsaf Caer ar hyd ein ffordd ni, yr holl ffordd drwy Wrecsam ac ymlaen i'r Bermo, yr wyf yn siŵr y gellir ei wneud mewn mannau eraill. Efallai ein bod ni'n fwy ffodus nag eraill, ond mae angen i'r Llywodraeth wneud llawer mwy dros y rhannau hynny o Gymru sydd yn llai ffodus ac sydd angen gwasanaethau trafndiaeth llawer gwell. Yn gyffredinol, mae angen inni sicrhau ein bod yn denu pobl allan o'u ceir. Dyna'r peth mawr: mae'n rhaid inni ei gwneud yn haws i bobl gymryd y bws. Gobeithio y gwnaiff y Dirprwy Weinidog werthfawrogi didwylledd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn codi'r mater pwysig hwn i'w drafod.

Alun Davies: Croesawaf y cyfle i gael y ddadl hon, hyd yn oed os na chroesawaf y cynnig ei hun. Mae arnaf eisiau sôn yn fyr am rôl y bws yn ein cymunedau a chyfrifoldeb y llywodraeth.

Mae'r Is-Bwyllgor Datblygu Gwledig wedi cymryd tystiolaeth yn ddiweddar am natur tloedi ac amddifadedd yn y Gymru wledig. Fe'm trawyd gan y dystiolaeth a gawsom ynglŷn â chwestiwn trafndiaeth, yn enwedig bysus a rôl y bws mewn ardaloedd gwledig. Yr hyn a glywsom dro ar ôl tro oedd bod pasys bws am ddim i bobl hŷn yn iawn, ond nad ydynt yn dda i ddim os nad oes bysus neu os na allwch gamu i mewn i un. Mae hynny'n realiti i ormod o bobl heddiw. Pwysleisiodd llawer o dystion yr angen sylweddol am drafndiaeth integredig, hygyrch a fforddiadwy, yn enwedig i'r bobl hynny sy'n cael anhawster ei chyrraedd.

Mae profiadau dau grŵp oedran yn crisialu llawer o'r anawsterau y mae pobl yn eu hwynebu. I bobl hŷn, mynediad at wasanaeth bws yw'r allwedd iddynt gadw'u hannibyniaeth, cymdeithasu a mynd i'r ysbyty ac i apwyntiadau eraill. Yn llawer rhy

older people own a car because they believe that it is the only way for them to participate in any level of social activity. When they are unable to own a car, all too often, their difficulties with public transport mean that they have trouble keeping hospital appointments or visiting their partners in hospital. We heard of one person who had to spend six hours travelling just to pay an hour's visit to their partner in hospital, and it was not a long distance. We need transport to be better integrated and bus services to have improved availability.

The second age group is younger people. We heard evidence that, because of their difficulty accessing bus services, they too were unable to benefit from many of the services and opportunities that are available to others. I am thinking about anything from after-school clubs to the cinema. Any sort of after-school activity becomes problematic if you are unable to reach where it is taking place.

There is a genuine place for the bus in promoting community cohesion and in bringing communities together, which might well be the reason why the Tories were so happy to decimate bus services in the 1980s. If you do not believe in a sense of community, keeping communities together is yet another irrelevance. The deregulation of bus services was another thing that Thatcher did that devastated the lives of many people in different communities.

I agreed with one point in Kirsty's rather operatic opening speech this afternoon, which was that on cross-border bus passes. Travelling across the border is an essential part of life if you live in a border area, and, like others, I represent such an area. Let us face it, it is a border, but it should not be a barrier to accessing public services and social activities. We need to look at how we ensure that people can cross that border more easily. The current deregulated system does not protect the interests of people, and local government does not yet have the sufficient tools to ensure that bus companies are providing the safe, clean, modern and regular services required.

aml mewn ardaloedd gwledig, mae pobl hŷn yn berchen ar gar oherwydd credant mai dyna'r unig ffordd iddynt gyfranogi mewn unrhyw lefel o weithgaredd cymdeithasol. Pan na allant feddu ar gar, yn llawer rhy aml, mae eu hanawsterau gyda chluant cyhoeddus yn golygu y cânt drafferth cadw apwyntiadau ysbyty neu ymweld â'u cymar yn yr ysbyty. Clywsom am un person a oedd wedi gorfod treulio chwe awr yn teithio dim ond i ymweld â'u cymar yn yr ysbyty am awr, ac nid oedd yn bellter mawr. Mae angen i drafnidiaeth fod wedi'i integreiddio'n well ac i wasanaethau bws fod ar gael yn well.

Pobl iau yw'r ail grŵp oedran. Clywsom dystiolaeth eu bod hwythau, oherwydd yr anhawster a gaent i gyrraedd gwasanaethau bws, yn methu manteisio ar lawer o'r gwasanaethau a'r cyfleon sydd ar gael i eraill. Yr wyf yn meddwl am unrhyw beth o glybiau ar ôl ysgol i'r sinema. Mae unrhyw fath o weithgaredd ar ôl ysgol yn mynd i godi problemau os na allwch gyrraedd y fan lle mae'n digwydd.

Mae lle gwirioneddol i'r bws er mwyn hybu cydlynad cymunedol a dod â chymunedau at ei gilydd, ac efallai'n wir mai dyna'r rheswm pam yr oedd y Torïaid mor hapus i anrheithio gwasanaethau bysus yn y 1980au. Os nad ydych yn credu mewn ymdeimlad o gymuned, amherthnasedd arall eto fyth yw cadw cymunedau ynghyd. Yr oedd dadreoleiddio gwasanaethau bws yn un peth arall a wnaeth Thatcher a chwalodd fywydau llawer o bobl mewn gwahanol gymunedau.

Cytunais ag un pwynt yn araith agoriadol operatig braidd Kirsty y prynhawn yma, sef hwnnw ynglŷn â phasys bws trawsffiniol. Mae croesi'r ffin yn rhan hanfodol o fywyd os ydych yn byw mewn ardal ar y gororau, ac, fel eraill, yr wyf fi'n cynrychioli ardal o'r fath. Gadewch inni wynebu'r ffaith, mae'n ffin, ond ni ddylai fod yn rhwystr i gael gwasanaethau cyhoeddus a gweithgareddau cymdeithasol. Mae angen inni edrych ar sut y sicrhawn y gall pobl groesi'r ffin honno'n haws. Nid yw'r system ddadreoleddig gyfredol yn gwarchod buddiannau pobl, ac nid oes gan lywodraeth leol arfau digonol eto i sicrhau bod cwmnïau bysus yn darparu'r gwasanaethau diogel, glân, modern a rheolaidd sy'n ofynnol.

I very much welcome the LCO proposed by Huw Lewis, which will help to give us the tools required to ensure that a bus service is available to people throughout Wales. Unless we have the full powers to regulate bus services and to ensure that they are available in communities across Wales, we will not be able to achieve the 'One Wales' agreements, commitments and ambitions for an integrated transport system that will change people's lives. The one thing that bus services do, certainly across the Mid and West Wales region that I represent, is bring communities and people together. It is a key responsibility of government to ensure that we are able to deliver these services. That would mean that people can access the other services that government provides. I know that the Government has already put in step a number of different policy options that will enable us to achieve these objectives. I look forward to hearing the Minister speaking this afternoon and to our putting in place a policy that will help us achieve our objectives.

4.30 p.m.

Peter Black: I wish to thank Alun Davies, particularly, for his support on the cross-border issues. It is important that we start to tackle those; it seems to be something of an anachronism where you have free bus passes in England, and free bus passes in Wales, but cannot travel between the two countries using a common bus pass. That needs to be on the agenda for discussions between the two Governments, and should be resolved as soon as possible.

Ann Jones: I wish to put on the record that Arriva buses allows passengers in north Wales to travel to Chester to do their shopping; I believe that, at the last count, Chester was in England. Therefore, we have some cross-border arrangements.

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd i'r Gadair am 4.32 p.m.
The Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair at 4.32 p.m.*

Peter Black: Thank you, Ann. I believe that

Croesawaf yn fawr iawn y Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol a gynigiwyd gan Huw Lewis, a fydd yn helpu i roi inni'r arfau angenrheidiol i sicrhau bod gwasanaeth bws ar gael i bobl drwy Gymru benbaladr. Oni chawn y pwerau llawn i reoleiddio gwasanaethau bws ac i sicrhau eu bod ar gael mewn cymunedau ledled Cymru, ni fyddwn yn gallu cyflawni cytundebau, ymrwymadau ac uchelgeisiau 'Cymru'n Un' ar gyfer system drafnidiaeth integredig a fydd yn newid bywydau pobl. Yr un peth y mae gwasanaethau bws yn ei wneud, yn sicr ar draws rhanbarth Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru, a gynrychiolir gennyf fi, yw dod â chymunedau a phobl at ei gilydd. Un o gyfrifoldebau allweddol llywodraeth yw sicrhau y gallwn gyflenwi'r gwasanaethau hyn. Byddai hynny'n golygu y gall pobl gyrraedd y gwasanaethau eraill y mae'r llywodraeth yn eu darparu. Gwn fod y Llywodraeth eisoes wedi rhoi nifer o wahanol opsiynau polisi ar droed a fydd yn ein galluogi i gyflawni'r amcanion hyn. Edrychaf ymlaen at glywed y Gweinidog yn siarad y prynhawn yma ac inni roi polisi yn ei le a fydd yn ein helpu i gyflawni ein hamcanion.

Peter Black: Hoffwn ddiolch i Alun Davies yn arbennig, am ei gymorth gyda'r materion trawsffiniol. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn dechrau mynd i'r afael â'r rheini; ymddengys ei fod yn dipyn o anacroniaeth lle y ceir tocynnau bws am ddim yn Lloegr, a thocynnau bws am ddim yng Nghymru, ond na allwch deithio rhwng y ddwy wlad gan ddefnyddio tocyn bws cyffredin. Mae angen i hynny fod ar yr agenda i'w drafod rhwng y ddwy Lywodraeth, a dylid ei ddatrys cyn gynted â phosibl.

Ann Jones: Hoffwn gofnodi fod bysiau Arriva yn caniatáu i deithwyr yn y gogledd deithio i Gaer i siopa; credaf, pan edrychais ddiwethaf, mai yn Lloegr yr oedd Caer. Felly, mae gennym rai trefniadau trawsffiniol.

Peter Black: Diolch ichi, Ann. Credaf ei bod

it is also possible to travel to Shrewsbury from parts of Powys, but the issue is that, if you are travelling to England as a Welsh man or woman, and you have a free bus pass, you cannot get on a bus anywhere in England and travel; that applies to anyone living in Wales. People from Swansea are not able to take advantage of your service to Chester, or even the service to Shrewsbury, but they may want to go on holiday to England, and they may want to make use of their free bus pass.

Many people have seen massive improvements to their lives as a result of these free bus passes. They have been able to get out and about in a way that they have not been able to before, and they have been able to travel to places that they have not been able to go to previously. Many of them would appreciate it if they were able to use that free bus pass in England in the same way as it is used in Wales, and vice versa. Many people come to Wales on holiday, including many pensioners. If they were able to use their English bus pass here, we might find that a lot of money would go to the different attractions that they would be able to travel to visit.

Kirsty Williams referred to the local transport services grant. I support what she said about the need to make a decision and an announcement on this as soon as possible. In my region, last year that was worth £0.5 million to Swansea, £0.5 million to Neath Port Talbot, and just over £400,000 to Bridgend—that is £1.4 million being spent in my region on bus services, money that local councils at currently covering until that grant is announced. It may well be that there is not a problem and that the grant will be announced and everything will be hunk-dory, but I believe that everyone would appreciate it if we knew exactly how much money the councils were going to get, so that they were able to spend that money on those bus services, and consider whether or not they were able to build any growth into the situation, or even just revamp the way that they are spending that money, so as to improve the service level in a particular area. That needs to be sorted out as soon as possible, and, like Kirsty, I hope that the Deputy Minister will have an announcement

hefyd yn bosibl teithio i'r Amwythig o rannau o Bowys, ond y broblem yw, os ydych yn teithio i Loegr fel Cymro neu Gymraes, a bod gennych docyn bws am ddim, ni allwch deithio ar fws yn unrhyw le yn Lloegr; mae hynny'n berthnasol i bawb sy'n byw yng Nghymru. Ni all pobl o Abertawe fanteisio ar eich gwasanaeth i Gaer, na'r gwasanaeth i'r Amwythig hyd yn oed, ond efallai y byddant am fynd ar eu gwyliau i Loegr, ac efallai y byddant am ddefnyddio eu tocyn bws am ddim.

Mae'r tocynnau bws am ddim hyn wedi arwain at welliannau i fywydau llawer o bobl. Maent wedi gallu teithio o le i le mewn ffordd nad oedd yn bosibl o'r blaen, ac maent wedi gallu teithio i leoedd nad oedd modd iddynt deithio iddynt o'r blaen. Byddai llawer ohonynt yn gwerthfawrogi pe gallent ddefnyddio'r tocyn bws am ddim hwnnw yn Lloegr yn yr un modd ac y caiff ei ddefnyddio yng Nghymru, ac i'r gwrthwyneb. Daw llawer o bobl i Gymru ar eu gwyliau, yn cynnwys llawer o bensynwyr. Pe gallent ddefnyddio eu tocyn bws o Loegr yma, efallai y gwelwn llawer o arian yn cael ei wario yn y gwahanol atyniadau y byddent yn gallu teithio i ymweld â hwy.

Cyfeiriodd Kirsty Williams at y grant gwasanaethau trafndiaeth lleol. Cefnogaf yr hyn a ddywedodd am yr angen i wneud penderfyniad a chyhoeddiad ar hyn cyn gynted â phosibl. Yn fy rhanbarth i, y llynedd yr oedd hynny'n werth £0.5 miliwn i Abertawe, £0.5 miliwn i Gastell-nedd Port Talbot, ac ychydig dros £400,000 i Ben-y-bont ar Ogwr—mae hynny'n wariant o £1.4 miliwn yn fy rhanbarth i ar wasanaethau bysiau, arian y mae cynghorau lleol yn ei dalu ar hyn o bryd nes i'r grant hwnnw gael ei gyhoeddi. Mae'n bosibl iawn nad oes problem ac y cyhoeddir y grant ac y bydd popeth yn iawn, ond credaf y byddai pawb yn gwerthfawrogi pe byddem yn gwybod yn union faint o arian y bydd y cynghorau'n ei gael, er mwyn iddynt allu gwario'r arian hwnnw ar y gwasanaethau bysiau hynny, ac ystyried a ydynt yn gallu ehangu'r gwasanaethau ai peidio, neu hyd yn oed ailwampio'r ffordd y maent yn gwario'r arian hwnnw, er mwyn gwella lefel y gwasanaeth mewn ardal benodol. Mae angen datrys hynny cyn gynted â phosibl, ac, fel Kirsty,

on that today.

Previous speakers have thanked Kirsty for not having a go at the Tories, although Alun Davies did have a go at them. However, I wish to refer to the Transport Act 1985, which undermined bus services in this country. When that Act came in, a flurry of different operators came on board to compete for routes; in some areas, there was an improvement in service. However, that has settled down to create several monopoly private sector providers, which are using their economic power to exclude any competition on lucrative routes, and then using the grant that is available from local councils to deliver the socially desirable services. I believe that the Transport Act 1985 is no longer fit for purpose, and I am happy to support the legislation that Huw Lewis is currently putting through the Assembly. However, despite Alun Davies's rhetoric, and despite the fact that we have had over 10 years of Labour Government, they have not even attempted to reverse that Act. It is a credit to Huw Lewis that he has come forward to do that, even though he is doing it as a private Member, and not from the Welsh Assembly Government; that is noteworthy.

Labour sometimes has a schizophrenic view of bus services. In Swansea, for example, the Welsh Assembly Government funded the bus lanes for the metro buses, which I believe will be introduced later this year, or early next year, on the suggestion of a Labour Minister, and have then spent the last few years attacking the decision to do it. It may have been because it was a Liberal-Democrat-led council that was implementing a Labour Government grant, but I still believe that that sort of investment and the investment that Swansea council has put into its bus lanes, again supported by an Assembly Government transport grant, has led to a viable asset and is something that is worth doing. In conclusion, I hope that we support this motion and get a more holistic view of bus services, which are better funded and better supported.

gobeithiaf y gwnaiff y Dirprwy Weinidog gyhoeddiad ar hynny heddiw.

Mae siaradwyr blaenorol wedi diolch i Kirsty am beidio â beio'r Toriaid, ond gwnaeth Alun Davies hynny. Fodd bynnag, hoffwn gyfeirio at Ddeddf Trafnidiaeth 1985, a danseiliodd wasanaethau bysiau yn y wlad hon. Pan ddaeth y Ddeddf i rym, yr oedd lluo o wahanol weithredwyr yn cystadlu am lwybrau; mewn rhai ardaloedd, gwelwyd gwelliannau yn y gwasanaeth. Fodd bynnag, mae hynny wedi sefydlogi i greu sawl monopoli o ddarparwyr sector preifat, sy'n defnyddio eu grym economaidd i wahardd cystadleuaeth ar lwybrau proffidiol, ac yna'n defnyddio'r grant sydd ar gael gan gynghorau lleol i ddarparu gwasanaethau sy'n ddymunol yn gymdeithasol. Credaf nad yw Deddf Trafnidiaeth 1985 yn addas at y pwrpas bellach, ac yr wyf yn fodlon cefnogi'r ddeddfwriaeth y mae Huw Lewis yn ei thywys drwy'r Cynulliad ar hyn o bryd. Fodd bynnag, er gwaethaf rhethreg Alun Davies, ac er gwaethaf y ffaith ein bod wedi cael dros 10 mlynedd o Lywodraeth Lafur, nid ydynt wedi rhoi cynnig ar wyrdroi'r Ddeddf honno hyd yn oed. Mae'n glod i Huw Lewis ei fod wedi gwneud hynny, er mai fel Aelod preifat y gwnaiff hynny, ac nid fel aelod o Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru; mae hynny'n nodedig.

Weithiau mae gan Lafur agwedd sgitsoffrenaid tuag at wasanaethau bysiau. Yn Abertawe, er enghraifft, ariannodd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru lonydd bysiau ar gyfer y bysiau metro, a gyflwynir yn ddiweddarach eleni, neu ddechrau'r flwyddyn nesaf mi gredaf, yn dilyn awgrym un o Weinidogion Llafur, ac yna treuliodd yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf yn ymosod ar y penderfyniad i wneud hynny. Efallai fod hynny oherwydd mai cyngor dan arweiniad y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol a oedd yn rhoi grant Llywodraeth Lafur ar waith, ond yr wyf yn dal i gredu bod y math hwnnw o fuddsoddiad a buddsoddiad cyngor Abertawe yn ei lonydd bysiau, a gefnogwyd unwaith eto gan grant trafndiaeth Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, wedi arwain at ased ymarferol ac mae'n rhywbeth sy'n werth ei wneud. I gloi, gobeithiaf y cefnogwn y cynnig hwn i edrych yn fwy cyfannol ar wasanaethau bysiau, sy'n cael eu hariannu'n well ac sy'n cael gwell cymorth.

Paul Davies: I am pleased to have the opportunity to take part in this debate, as I also share the view that the Welsh Assembly Government is not doing as much as it could do to realise the potential of buses in developing an integrated and sustainable transport network. This missed opportunity has a particularly profound effect on those people living in rural areas, such as my constituency, as they are constrained by limited public transport services. Last week, during First Minister's questions, I, like Kirsty Williams, raised the issue of a potential threat to certain bus services because of the delay in awarding Welsh Assembly Government grants to local authorities. That is a worrying issue for many of my constituents, who already feel isolated by the rurality of the county.

It is nearly always the most vulnerable members of our communities who suffer in situations such as this. Bus services are essential to people who do not have access to other means of public transport, such as rail links, or do not have the means to fund private transport. A lack of mobility also tends to limit individuals' opportunities for employment, consumption and social activity. Indeed, improving our public transport infrastructure will enable Wales to become a more effective, efficient and productive country. Our transport network is holding Wales back and, by failing to capitalise on the potential of buses, the development of an integrated and sustainable transport network will be significantly impaired. We are all aware of the growing dependence on public transport services; with the price of fuel continuing to rise, people are turning ever more to buses. Let us not forget that public services, such as buses, are also a valuable tool in enabling us to lower carbon emissions in the long term. However, we cannot expect people to use buses if the services are infrequent and inefficient. We should be aiming to improve and expand such services, wherever possible.

I have also been contacted by numerous constituents who are worried about bus

Paul Davies: Yr wyf yn falch o gael y cyfle i gymryd rhan yn y ddatl hon, oherwydd rhannaf innau hefyd y farn nad yw Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn gwneud cymaint ag y gallai i wireddu potensial bysiau o ran datblygu rhwydwaith trafndiaeth integredig a chynaliadwy. Caiff colli'r cyfle hwn effaith fawr ar y bobl hynny sy'n byw mewn ardaloedd gwledig, fel fy etholaeth i, oherwydd cânt eu cyfyngu gan brinder gwasanaethau trafndiaeth gyhoeddus. Yr wythnos diwethaf, yn ystod cwestiynau i'r Prif Weinidog, codais i, fel Kirsty, y bygythiad posibl i rai gwasanaethau bysiau oherwydd oedi cyn dyfarnu grantiau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i awdurdodau lleol. Mae hynny'n byrder i lawer o'm hetholwyr, sydd eisoes yn teimlo'n ynysig oherwydd natur wledig y sir.

Y rhai sydd fwyaf agored i niwed yn ein cymunedau sy'n dioddef mewn sefyllfaoedd fel hyn bron bob tro. Mae gwasanaethau bysiau yn hanfodol i bobl nad oes ganddynt fynediad i fathau eraill o drafndiaeth gyhoeddus, fel cysylltiadau rheilffordd, neu nad oes ganddynt fodd o ariannu trafndiaeth breifat. Mae anallu i symud o gwmpas hefyd yn tueddu i gyfyngu cyfleoedd unigolion o ran cyflogaeth, defnyddio adnoddau a gweithgaredd cymdeithasol. Yn wir, bydd gwella ein seilwaith trafndiaeth yn galluogi Cymru i ddod yn wlad fwy effeithiol, effeithlon a chynhyrchiol. Mae ein rhwydwaith trafndiaeth yn llesteirio Cymru a, drwy fethu â manteisio ar botensial bysiau, amherir yn sylweddol ar ddatblygiad rhwydwaith trafndiaeth integredig a chynaliadwy. Yr ydym oll yn ymwybodol o'r ddibyniaeth gynyddol ar wasanaethau trafndiaeth gyhoeddus; gyda phris tanwydd yn parhau i godi, mae pobl yn defnyddio mwy ar fysiau. Peidied ag anghofio bod gwasanaethau cyhoeddus, fel bysiau, hefyd yn offeryn gwerthfawr i'n galluogi i leihau allyriadau carbon yn yr hirdymor. Fodd bynnag, ni allwn ddisgwyl i bobl ddefnyddio bysiau os yw'r gwasanaethau'n afreolaidd ac yn aneffeithlon. Dylem anelu at wella ac ehangu gwasanaethau o'r fath, lle bynnag y bo'n bosibl.

Mae nifer o etholwyr sy'n pryderu am wasanaethau bysiau yn sgil y cyhoeddiadau

services in the wake of recent post office closure announcements. Many people will now find themselves unable to walk to their local post office and will have no option but to travel to other post offices. There is a growing concern in many parts of Pembrokeshire that current bus services do not encompass the revised post office locations and opening hours. For many people, this means that they will either have to arrange private transport to get to the post office or go without vital services—that is simply not a viable option.

I am sure that other Assembly Members have encountered similar concerns, particularly those with rural constituencies. Urgent action needs to be taken so that people are not left isolated by a substandard transport network. I urge the Welsh Assembly Government to recognise the shortcomings of the development of bus services in Wales and commit to improving and expanding the provisions. It is essential that Wales has a fully integrated and sustainable transport network if we want to build a prosperous economy and combat social exclusion.

Gareth Jones: Yr wyf yn gwerthfawrogi'r cyfle i gyfrannu at y ddadl y prynhawn yma, er fy mod yn teimlo nad yw'r cynnig na'r gwelliant yn gwneud cyfiawnder ag ymdrechion cyfredol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i sicrhau bod gwasanaethau bysys yn ganolog i rwydwaith integredig a chynaliadwy. Yn wir, hoffwn atgoffa'r Ceidwadwyr bod awdurdod Conwy, er enghraifft, eisoes yn cymryd rhan mewn cynllun peilot sy'n caniatáu i ddeiliaid tocynnau bws ddefnyddio gwasanaeth rheilffordd dyffryn Conwy, yn unol â'r gwasanaeth trafniadaeth gyhoeddus integredig y cyfeirir ato yn eu gwelliant. Mae pethau felly eisoes ar y gweill.

Mae cynllun o'r fath hefyd ar waith mewn rhannau eraill o Gymru, ac mae'r cynllun wedi'i ymestyn am flwyddyn arall, diolch i weledigaeth y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog. Felly, ni welaf bwynt inni gefnogi gwelliant y Ceidwadwyr, gan y dylem ddisgwyl am ganlyniadau'r cynllun peilot ymhen

diweddar ynghylch cau swyddfeydd post wedi cysylltu â mi hefyd. Bydd llawer o bobl bellach yn canfod na allant gerdded i'w swyddfa bost leol ac na fydd dewis ganddynt ond teithio i swyddfeydd post eraill. Mae pryder cynyddol mewn sawl rhan o sir Benfro nad yw'r gwasanaethau bysiau presennol yn cwmpasu lleoliadau ac oriau agor newydd swyddfeydd post. I rai pobl, golyga hyn y bydd yn rhaid iddynt drefnu trafniadaeth breifat i fynd i'r swyddfa bost neu fynd heb wasanaethau hanfodol—nid yw hynny'n opsiwn ymarferol.

Yr wyf yn siŵr bod Aelodau eraill y Cynulliad wedi clywed pryderon tebyg, yn arbennig y rhai a chanddynt etholaethau gwledig. Mae angen cymryd camau ar fyrder er mwyn sicrhau nad yw pobl yn cael eu hynysu oherwydd rhwydwaith trafniadaeth sy'n is na'r safon. Pwysaf ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i gydnabod diffygion y broses o ddatblygu gwasanaethau bysiau yng Nghymru ac ymrwymo i wella ac ehangu'r ddarpariaeth. Mae'n hanfodol bod gan Gymru rwydwaith trafniadaeth cwbl integredig a chynaliadwy os ydym am greu economi ffyniannus a mynd i'r afael ag allgáu cymdeithasol.

Gareth Jones: I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the debate this afternoon, although I do not feel that the motion or the amendment do any justice to the current efforts of the Welsh Assembly Government to make sure that bus services are central to an integrated and sustainable network. In fact, I would like to remind the Conservatives that the Conwy authority, for example, is already participating in a pilot scheme, which allows the holders of bus passes to use the Conwy valley railway service, in accordance with the integrated public transport system that is mentioned in their amendment. Therefore, such things are already in place.

We also have a similar scheme in place in other parts of Wales, and the scheme has been extended for an additional year, thanks to the vision of the Deputy First Minister. Therefore, I do not see any point in us supporting the Conservatives' amendment, because we should wait for the results of the

blwyddyn, pan fydd gennym fwy o wybodaeth am ymarferoldeb cynllun trafnidiaeth integredig o'r fath.

pilot scheme in a year's time, when we will have more information on the practicality of such an integrated transport scheme.

4.40 p.m.

Er fy mod yn cytuno â Kirsty Williams am botensial bysys wrth ddatblygu'r rhwydwaith trafnidiaeth integredig a chynaliadwy, credaf fod y Llywodraeth eisoes yn cydnabod potensial bysys yn y modd y maent yn gweithredu ar hyn o bryd. Er enghraifft, yn unol â'r addewid yn 'Cymru'n Un', mae'r gwaith paratoi wedi cychwyn ar greu rhwydwaith trafnidiaeth Traws Cambria newydd ar gyfer Cymru gyfan, a fydd yn integreiddio, fel y cawn ar ddeall, siwrneiau hir ar y trê'n ac ar fws gyda thraws-docynnau electronig erbyn 2011. Bydd y rhwydwaith newydd yn weithredol y flwyddyn nesaf ac yn ehangu hyd at 2011.

While I agree with Kirsty Williams about the potential of buses in developing the integrated and sustainable transport network, I believe that the Government already acknowledges the potential of buses in the way in which they operate at present. For example, in accordance with the pledge in 'One Wales', the preparatory work has begun on creating the new Traws Cambria transport network for the whole of Wales, which will integrate, as we understand it, the lengthy train and bus journeys with electronic transferable tickets by 2011. The new network will be in operation next year and will be expanded by 2011.

Ochr yn ochr â hyn, ac fel rhan o'r rhwydwaith trafnidiaeth integredig, bydd rhaglen o wella gorsafoedd a rhyng-gyfnawidfydd. Mae'r gweithgarwch hwn, felly, yn tansilio ac yn gwanychu cynnig y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol. Mae'n gwbl amlwg bod y Llywodraeth yn cydnabod ac yn deall potensial bysys. Ymhellach, mae'r Llywodraeth yn bwriadu defnyddio pwerau newydd i awdurdodau lleol gynllunio a chefnogi teithiau bysys newydd i wella cysylltiadau rhwng cymunedau.

In parallel, and as part of the integrated transport system, there will be an improvement programme for stations and interchanges. This activity, therefore, undermines and weakens the Liberal Democrats' motion. It is quite obvious that the Government acknowledges and understands the potential of buses. Furthermore, the Government intends to use new powers for local authorities to plan and support new bus routes to improve links between communities.

Oherwydd y gweithgarwch amlwg sy'n bodoli ac yn yr arfaeth ar gyfer defnydd effeithiol o'n bysys, ni allaf gefnogi'r cynnig fel ag y mae. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un yn cydnabod potensial bysys ac yn gweithredu ar hynny. Caf ar ddeall y bydd y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn gwneud datganiad yn fuan ar y gwasanaeth bysys. Mae'n siŵr gennyf y bydd rhai o'r pwyntiau y cyfeiriwyd atynt fel gwendidau yn y system, yn ymwneud â'r grant ac â theithio yng Nghymru a Lloegr, dan ystyriaeth yn fuan. Edrychwn ymlaen at glywed yr hyn a fydd gan y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog i'w ddweud ar y mater pwysig hwn a sut y bydd yn profi i'r gwrthbleidiau bod y Llywodraeth yn wirioneddol sylweddoli gwir botensial bysys i rwydwaith trafnidiaeth integredig a chynaliadwy.

Because of this obvious existing and proposed activity for effective use of our buses, I cannot support the motion as it currently stands. The One Wales Government acknowledges the potential of buses and takes the appropriate action. I understand that the Deputy First Minister will soon be making a statement on bus services. I am sure that some of the points that you have referred to as weaknesses in the system, involving the grant and transport in England and Wales, will be considered soon. We look forward to hearing what the Deputy First Minister will have to say on this important issue and how he will prove to the opposition parties that the Government truly realises the real potential of buses for an integrated and sustainable transport network.

The Deputy Minister for Regeneration (Leighton Andrews): While listening to the Liberal Democrats' speeches today, I did rather think that they had somewhat half-hearted support for their own motion. Kirsty spoke eloquently about the investments that we had made as an Assembly Government over the last nine years in bus services, including the free bus travel scheme for elderly and disabled people, Eleanor Burnham eulogized, in her own words, Arriva buses in her own area, and Peter Black also referred to the beneficial effects of the bus passes. Therefore, I am afraid that something has to be going right. The Liberal Democrats' own speeches rather undermine their claim that we are failing to realise the potential of bus services.

We then had a rather frightening insight into David Melding's school days. I will not pursue him in revisiting the past. We have just heard from Gareth Jones of a number of examples where integrated bus and rail travel is already happening, of which there are plenty. I start by saying that buses are, and continue to be central to our approach to transport.

In 2006-07, we had an estimated 119 million passenger journeys on local buses in Wales, compared with just 108 million in 2001-02, which is 10 per cent growth over that period. That compares favourably with most areas of England outside London and metropolitan areas, where the number of passenger journeys grew by just 0.5 per cent. Against our 10 per cent, the equivalent figure in Scotland was less than 3.5 per cent. Our support for buses takes a number of different forms. The Assembly's flagship scheme for many people is probably the free travel scheme for elderly and disabled people on buses, and we have over 589,000 bus passes in circulation. We are making more than £117 million available to local authorities in 2008-09 in transport grant funding, which, as Kirsty pointed out, is additional to the funding provided through the local transport services grant scheme, through which we provided £10.4 million to local authorities last year, with 10 per cent of that funding targeted on community transport services.

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Adfywio (Leighton Andrews): Wrth wrando ar areithiau'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol heddiw, credais mai cefnogaeth braidd yn dila a ddangoswyd ganddynt tuag at eu cynnig eu hunain. Siaradodd Kirsty yn huawdl am fuddsoddiadau a wnaethom fel Llywodraeth y Cynulliad dros y naw mlynedd diwethaf mewn gwasanaethau bysiau, yn cynnwys y cynllun teithiau bws am ddim i'r henoed a phobl anabl, canmolodd Eleanor Burnham, yn ei geiriau ei hun, fysiau Arriva yn ei hardal hi, a chyfeiriodd Peter Black hefyd at fuddiannau tocynnau bws. Felly, mae arnaf ofn fod rhywbeth yn mynd yn iawn. Mae areithiau'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn tanseilio eu honiad ei bod yn methu â gwireddu potensial gwasanaethau bysiau.

Yna cawsom gipolwg brawychus ar ddyddiau ysgol David Melding. Nis holaf ymhellach am ei orffennol. Yr ydym newydd glywed gan Gareth Jones am sawl enghraifft lle mae teithio integredig ar fysiau a threnau eisoes yn digwydd, ac mae digonedd o enghreifftiau. Dechreuaf drwy ddweud mai bysiau yw ein hymagwedd ganolog tuag at drafnidiaeth, a byddant yn parhau felly.

Yn 2006-07, amcangyfrifir i 119 miliwn o deithwyr deithio ar fysiau lleol yng Nghymru, o'i gymharu â dim ond 108 miliwn yn 2001-02, sef cynnydd o 10 y cant yn ystod y cyfnod hwnnw. Mae hynny'n cymharu'n ffafriol â'r rhan fwyaf o ardaloedd yn Lloegr y tu allan i Lundain ac ardaloedd metropolitan, lle y gwelwyd cynnydd o ddim ond 0.5 y cant yn nifer y teithwyr. O'i gymharu â'n 10 y cant ni, yr oedd y ffigur cyfatebol yn yr Alban yn llai na 3.5 y cant. Yr ydym yn rhoi sawl math gwahanol o gymorth i fysiau. I lawer, mae'n debyg mai prif gynllun y Cynulliad yw'r cynllun teithio am ddim ar fysiau i'r henoed a phobl anabl, ac yr ydym wedi dosbarth mwy na 589,000 o docynnau bws. Yr ydym yn rhoi mwy na £117 miliwn i awdurdodau lleol yn 2008-09 ar ffurf grant trafnidiaeth, sydd, fel y dywedodd Kirsty, yn ychwanegol at yr arian a ddarparwyd drwy'r cynllun grant gwasanaethau trafnidiaeth lleol, a ddarparodd £10.4 miliwn i awdurdodau lleol y llynedd, gyda 10 y cant o'r cyllid hwnnw'n cael ei dargedu tuag at wasanaethau trafnidiaeth

gymunedol.

Last year also, £18 million was provided in bus service operators' grant to help offset the fuel duty, and bus grant revenue grant funding of £1.4 million was provided, and supported a range of innovative bus services throughout Wales. For example, there is the Bay Express in Cardiff and the Deeside Shuttle in north Wales, which is not a description of my good friend Carl Sargeant's distinctive dance routine—that would, of course, be the Deeside shuffle.

A further £1.4 million has funded our pilot schemes for half-fare bus travel for 16 to 18-year-olds in Bridgend, Wrexham, Denbighshire and Flintshire, and the pilot scheme providing free travel to severely disabled people on community transport.

Kirsty recognised that there had been significant improvements in her constituency. We allocated £340,000 through our transport grant scheme to provide a new bus station, with a regional bus interchange that opened recently.

Kirsty Williams: That will teach me to try to be fair-minded in my contributions in the National Assembly. What is so distinctive about what you have just said and about what I said is that all of these things have happened in the past. In the last 12 months, we have not seen any new innovations. In the previous eight years, we have seen innovative arrangements put in place, but you have said nothing about what you have done in the past 12 months. What has changed in your attitude to buses in the past 12 months? I know what else has changed, but what about buses?

Leighton Andrews: I have heard of punching above your weight, but I have never heard of whingeing above your weight before. The reality is that we have seen a 10 per cent increase in the number of bus journeys over the last six years. We have seen investments, including the new bus

Y llynedd hefyd, darparwyd £18 miliwn ar ffurf grant gweithredwyr gwasanaethau bysiau i helpu i wneud iawn am y dreth ar danwydd, a darparwyd £1.4 miliwn ar ffurf grant cymorth refeniw bysiau, sydd wedi cefnogi nifer o wahanol wasanaethau bysiau arloesol ledled Cymru. Er enghraifft, ceir y Bay Express yng Nghaerdydd a Gwennol Glannau Dyfrdwy, neu'r 'Deeside Shuttle', yn y gogledd, ond gochelwch rhag drysu hwn ag arddull dawnsio unigryw fy nghyfaill Carl Sargeant—y 'Deeside shuffle' fyddai hynny, wrth gwrs.

Mae swm arall o £1.4 miliwn wedi cyllido'n cynlluniau peilot ar gyfer teithiau bws hanner pris i bobl ifanc 16 i 18 oed ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr, Wrecsam, sir Ddinbych a sir y Fflint, a'r cynllun peilot sy'n galluogi pobl sydd ag anabledd difrifol i ddefnyddio cludiant cymunedol yn ddi-dâl.

Mae Kirsty wedi cydnabod bod gwelliannau sylweddol wedi'u gwneud yn ei hetholaeth hi. Dyranasom £340,000 drwy'n cynllun grant trafniadaeth i ddarparu gorsaf fysiau newydd, ynghyd â chyfnewidfa fysiau ranbarthol a agorodd yn ddiweddar.

Kirsty Williams: Bydd hynny'n wers imi geisio bod yn deg yn fy nghyfraniadau yn y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Yr hyn sydd mor nodweddiadol ynglŷn â'r hyn yr ydych newydd ei ddweud ac ynglŷn â'r hyn a ddywedais i yw bod y pethau hyn i gyd wedi digwydd yn y gorffennol. Nid ydym wedi gweld unrhyw ddatblygiadau newydd yn ystod y 12 mis diwethaf. Yr ydym wedi gweld trefniadau arloesol yn cael eu sefydlu yn ystod yr wyth mlynedd diwethaf, ond nid ydych wedi dweud dim ynglŷn â'r hyn yr ydych wedi'i wneud yn y 12 mis diwethaf. Beth sydd wedi newid yn eich agwedd at fysiau yn ystod y 12 mis diwethaf? Gwn beth arall sydd wedi newid, ond beth am fysiau?

Leighton Andrews: Yr wyf wedi clywed am bobl yn cystadlu ar lefel uwch na'r disgwyl, ond dyma'r tro cyntaf imi glywed am rywun yn swnian yn fwy na'r disgwyl. Y gwir amdani yw ein bod wedi gweld cynnydd o 10 y cant yn nifer y siwrneiau bysiau yn ystod y chwe blynedd diwethaf. Yr ydym wedi gweld

station in your constituency, in the last 12 months. So, there has been a series of new initiatives. We supported the introduction of the PlusBus initiative, and we have also introduced integrated tickets through the Traws Cambria service. So, there have been a number of developments.

People have talked about the powers that are available to the Assembly Government and local authorities. Local authorities have powers to provide funding in support of socially necessary routes and to fill in any gaps in the commercial network. The Transport (Wales) Act 2006 allowed local authorities to plan and deliver bus services on a joint basis to ensure that wider regional transport needs are met. That is especially important in relation to the Traws Cambria network of longer-distance bus services.

More recently, the regulatory framework for buses has been enhanced by the availability of quality partnerships and quality contracts, which are formal partnership arrangements between local authorities and bus operators. Under a quality contract scheme, a local authority has already been able to let an exclusive contract to an operator to run the services specified by the scheme. Effectively, that is bus franchising, which my colleague Huw Lewis sees as an important way of securing an improved standard of services within an area.

The Local Transport Bill currently going through the UK Parliament will extend the scope of quality partnerships, so for the first time they can cover frequencies, timings and maximum fares. It will also lower the bar for introducing franchising. Instead of having to demonstrate that a quality contract is the only practicable way to implement this bus strategy, a local authority will have to meet a set of broader public interest criteria.

Alun Davies and others mentioned Huw Lewis's prospective legislative competence

buddsoddiadau, gan gynnwys yr orsaf fysiau newydd yn eich etholaeth chi, yn ystod y 12 mis diwethaf. Felly, yr ydym wedi gweld nifer o gynlluniau newydd. Yr ydym wedi cefnogi cyflwyno'r cynllun PlusBus, ac yr ydym hefyd wedi cyflwyno tocynnau integredig drwy'r gwasanaeth Traws Cambria. Felly, yr ydym wedi gweld nifer o ddatblygiadau.

Clywsom sôn am y pwerau sydd ar gael i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad ac i awdurdodau lleol. Mae gan awdurdodau lleol bwerau i ddarparu cyllid i gefnogi llwybrau sy'n angenrheidiol yn gymdeithasol ac i lenwi unrhyw fylchau yn y rhwydwaith masnachol. Caniataodd Deddf Trafnidiaeth (Cymru) 2006 i awdurdodau lleol gynllunio a darparu gwasanaethau bysiau ar y cyd er mwyn sicrhau bod anghenion trafndiaeth ranbarthol ehangach yn cael eu diwallu. Mae hynny'n arbennig o bwysig yng nghyswllt rhwydwaith Traws Cambria sydd â gwasanaethau bysiau sy'n teithio'n bellach.

Yn fwy diweddar, mae'r fframwaith rheoleiddio ar gyfer bysiau wedi cael ei wella o ganlyniad i bartneriaethau ansawdd a chontractau ansawdd, sy'n gytundebau partneriaeth ffurfiol rhwng awdurdodau lleol a gweithredwyr bysiau. Dan gynllun contract ansawdd, mae awdurdod lleol eisoes wedi gallu rhoi contract cyfyngol i weithredwr er mwyn rhedeg y gwasanaethau sy'n cael eu nodi yn y cynllun. Yn y bôn, masnachfreintiau ar gyfer bysiau yw hynny, ac mae fy nghyd-Aelod, Huw Lewis, yn credu bod hynny'n ffordd bwysig o godi safon gwasanaethau mewn ardal.

Bydd y Mesur Trafnidiaeth Leol sy'n mynd drwy Senedd y DU ar hyn o bryd yn ehangu cwmpas partneriaethau ansawdd, felly am y tro cyntaf gallant ymwneud ag amllder, amseriad a ffioedd uchaf. Bydd hefyd yn gostwng y trothwy ar gyfer cyflwyno masnachfreintiau. Yn hytrach na gorfod dangos mai contract ansawdd yw'r unig ffordd ymarferol o weithredu'r strategaeth bysiau hon, bydd yn rhaid i awdurdod lleol fodloni cyfres o feini prawf ehangach sydd o ddiddordeb i'r cyhoedd.

Cyfeiriodd Alun Davies ac eraill at ddarpar Orchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol Huw

Order, and we fully share Huw's ambition to drive up the standard and safety of bus services. We hope that, in co-operation with Huw, we can work to develop and refine the Order and identify those areas where the Assembly could benefit from additional powers.

Kirsty raised the issue of the announcement on the local transport services grant, the bus revenue grant and the bus service operators' grant. We regret that no announcement has been made yet, and it is being carefully considered at the current time. To put it bluntly, it is more important to get the right decision than a quick decision, and the Deputy First Minister will announce the outcome at the earliest opportunity.

A number of colleagues have raised the issue of cross-border services, and Ann Jones gave examples of cross-border services that are currently running. Wales pioneered the free bus travel scheme for pensioners and disabled people. As far as we are concerned, there are issues about consistency and reciprocity between Wales and England. The Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007 contains provisions for the introduction of a UK-wide concessionary travel scheme, and we support the availability of such an option. However, there are issues still to be resolved.

As Kirsty mentioned in her opening remarks, we are committed to reviewing the funding that supports bus services and bus passengers in Wales in 2008. To avoid any doubt, that review does not extend to the concessionary travel scheme. We will be reviewing the other grants that are available. The reason for that is that the bus service operators' grant, for example, neither rewards nor penalises the performance of bus operators, nor does it provide sufficient encouragement to operators to use greener technologies or fuels.

4.50 p.m.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Minister, I can fully appreciate your wanting to review the level

Lewis, ac yr ydym yn cytuno'n llwyr ag uchelgais Huw i wella safon a diogelwch gwasanaethau bysiau. Gobeithio y gallwn weithio, ar y cyd â Huw, er mwyn datblygu a mireinio'r Gorchymyn a nodi'r meysydd hynny lle gallai pwerau ychwanegol fod o fudd i'r Cynulliad.

Cyfeiriodd Kirsty at fater y cyhoeddiad ar y grant gwasanaethau trafndiaeth lleol, y grant refeniw bysiau a'r grant gweithredwyr gwasanaethau bysiau. Mae'n ddrwg gennym nad oes cyhoeddiad wedi'i wneud eto, ond mae'n cael ei ystyried yn ofalus ar hyn o bryd. I fod yn hollol ddi-flewyn-ar-dafod, mae'n bwysicach cael y penderfyniad iawn na chael penderfyniad buan, a bydd y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn cyhoeddi'r canlyniad cyn gynted ag y bo modd.

Mae llawer o'm cyd-Aelodau wedi cyfeirio at fater gwasanaethau trawsffiniol, a rhoddodd Ann Jones enghreifftiau o wasanaethau trawsffiniol sy'n cael eu gweithredu ar hyn o bryd. Torrodd Cymru dir newydd gyda'r cynllun teithiau bws am ddim i bensynwyr a phobl anabl. O'n rhan ni, mae problemau yn ymwneud â chysondeb a chydgyfnewid rhwng Cymru a Lloegr. Mae Deddf Teithiau Bws Rhatach 2007 yn cynnwys darpariaethau ar gyfer cyflwyno cynllun teithio rhatach ym mhob rhan o'r DU, ac yr ydym yn falch o weld dewis o'r fath yn cael ei gynnig. Fodd bynnag, mae problemau i'w datrys o hyd.

Fel y dywedodd Kirsty yn ei sylwadau agoriadol, yr ydym wedi ymrwymo i adolygu'r cyllid sy'n cefnogi gwasanaethau bysiau a theithwyr bysiau yng Nghymru yn 2008. Rhag bod unrhyw amheuaeth, nid yw'r adolygiad hwnnw'n cynnwys y cynllun teithio rhatach. Byddwn yn adolygu'r grantiau eraill sydd ar gael. Y rheswm dros hynny yw nad yw'r grant gweithredwyr gwasanaethau bysiau, er enghraifft, yn gwobrwyo nac yn cosbi perfformiad gweithredwyr bysiau, nac ychwaith yn rhoi digon o anogaeth er mwyn cael gweithredwyr i ddefnyddio technolegau neu danwydd gwyrddach.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Weinidog, yr wyf yn deall yn iawn eich bod yn awyddus i adolygu

of support that you are prepared to offer bus operators, but do you not think that it would have been prudent to have continued the previous level of support until the consultation process had concluded, rather than pre-empting the consultation by taking the money away and leaving the bus service operators in a void?

Leighton Andrews: The reason why the Deputy First Minister decided not to implement the 2p per litre increase in the bus service operators' grant was precisely because it does not have a facility for rewarding or penalising performance.

A decision on the future availability and arrangements for that grant will be taken following the wider review. The recent surge in oil prices and in prices at the pumps, coupled with the renewed focus that we have on climate change, means that the time is right to review our funding of buses to see whether we can achieve better and more environmentally friendly outcomes than are possible under the current scheme. Representatives of the bus industry, bus users and the Welsh Local Government Association are represented on the review, which we hope will complete its work by the end of September.

We are already funding the roll-out of smart cards in 2008 to the over 0.5 million eligible holders of passes in our free bus travel scheme for elderly and disabled people. These smart cards have the potential for a facility whereby a stored travel value could be placed on the card, enabling multimodal journeys on buses, trains and other forms of transport. Therefore, we will not be supporting the Conservative amendment today as we are already embarking on that work.

In conclusion, we are not complacent about bus services. We see them as having a very important role—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Please wind up now, because you are way over time.

faint o gefnogaeth yr ydych yn barod i'w chynnig i weithredwyr bysiau, ond onid ydych yn credu y byddai wedi bod yn ddoeth ichi barhau â'r gefnogaeth flaenorol nes bod y broses ymgynghori wedi dod i ben, yn hytrach na gweithredu cyn diwedd yr ymgynghoriad, cymryd yr arian oddi ar weithredwyr gwasanaethau bysiau a'u gadael mewn twll?

Leighton Andrews: Penderfynodd y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog beidio â gweithredu'r cynnydd o 2c y litr yn grant y gweithredwyr gwasanaethau bysiau am y rheswm syml nad yw'r grant yn gallu gwobrwyo neu gosbi perfformiad.

Byddwn yn penderfynu a fydd y grant hwnnw ar gael yn y dyfodol, a beth fydd y trefniadau ar ei gyfer, yn dilyn yr adolygiad ehangach. Mae'r cynnydd a welwyd yn ddiweddar ym mhrisiau olew ac yn y prisiau wrth y pypiau, ynghyd â'r ffocws newydd sydd gennym ar newid yn yr hinsawdd, yn golygu mai dyma'r amser i adolygu'n cyllid ar gyfer bysiau er mwyn gweld a allwn sicrhau canlyniadau gwell a mwy ecogyfeillgar nag sy'n bosibl dan y cynllun presennol. Mae cynrychiolwyr y diwydiant bysiau, defnyddwyr bysiau a Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru'n cael eu cynrychioli yn yr adolygiad, a fydd wedi cwblhau ei waith, gobeithio, cyn diwedd mis Medi.

Yr ydym eisoes yn cyllido'r broses o gyflwyno cardiau call yn 2008 i'r 0.5 miliwn a rhagor o ddeiliaid cardiau cymwys sydd yn ein cynllun teithiau bws am ddim i bensiynwyr a phobl anabl. Mae modd i'r cardiau call hyn gael eu datblygu fel eu bod yn cynnwys gwerth teithio wedi'i storio, ac yn galluogi pobl i wneud siwrneiau aml-foddol gan ddefnyddio bysiau, trenau a dulliau eraill o deithio. Felly, ni fyddwn yn cefnogi gwelliant y Ceidwadwyr heddiw gan ein bod yn gwneud y gwaith hwnnw'n barod.

I gloi, nid ydym yn ddifater wrth ystyried gwasanaethau bysiau. Credwn fod ganddynt ran bwysig iawn i'w chwarae—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. A wnewch chi dynnu at y terfyn os gwelwch yn dda? Yr ydych wedi cymryd llawer gormod o amser.

Leighton Andrews: We have a range of support in place and, for that reason, I urge Members to reject the motion and the amendment and to support the Government's current policies.

Michael German: I was waiting very patiently to see whether Leighton Andrews would take a leaf out of Edwina Hart's book and whether, in waiting and pressing for an announcement this afternoon, we would get one. I suppose that I am bound to be disappointed because his boss, Ieuan Wyn Jones, is not here and he has not given him the right to say anything. The impression that I get, from all that has been said by the Deputy Minister this afternoon, is that, yes, there were some good things done in the past, but we will now have to wait for any good things in the future—we all have to wait for the money for the buses to arrive. That is the big problem that the Deputy Minister could not address.

On free bus travel, I know that the Deputy Minister is a relative newcomer here and so he may not remember that, as part of the partnership Government that we had at the time, I signed the agreement that brought free bus travel into play. I just wanted to remind him of that, in case he had forgotten. That is why we think that it is a good scheme. It was absolutely the right thing to do, but what we are looking for now is how we take this forward and where we are going at present.

I think that Andrew R.T. Davies was exactly right: if you are going to review the funding and possibly cut the amount of money that is to be made available to certain bus operators or provide more money for others, you should not have said, 'We are having a moratorium; we are not going to pay anything at all until we have had the review'. The right approach would have been to carry on at the current rate and warn people that you were doing a review and that, the following year, the money would be provided based on a different mechanism. Instead of that, the local authorities are now having to stand back and fund these changes on the

Leighton Andrews: Mae gennym lawer o wahanol ffynonellau cefnogaeth ac, oherwydd hynny, yr wyf yn annog yr Aelodau i wrthod y cynnig a'r gwelliant a chefnogi polisiau presennol y Llywodraeth.

Michael German: Yr oeddwn yn disgwyl yn amyneddgar iawn i weld a fyddai Leighton Andrews yn dilyn esiampl Edwina Hart, ac a fyddem yn cael cyhoeddiad y prynhawn yma petaem yn aros amdano ac yn pwysu amdano. Mae'n debyg fy mod yn siŵr o gael fy siomi oherwydd nid yw ei feistr ef, Ieuan Wyn Jones, yma ac nid yw wedi rhoi'r hawl iddo ddweud dim. Yr argraff a gaf fi, o'r cyfan sydd wedi cael ei ddweud gan y Dirprwy Weinidog y prynhawn yma, yw bod rhai pethau da wedi cael eu gwneud yn y gorffennol, ond y bydd yn rhaid inni aros cyn y gwelwn rywbeth da yn y dyfodol—rhaid i bawb aros nes bydd yr arian wedi cyrraedd, ac yna'r bysiau. Dyna'r broblem fawr na allai'r Dirprwy Weinidog roi sylw iddi.

O ran teithiau bws am ddim, gwn fod y Dirprwy Weinidog yn gymharol newydd yma ac mae'n bosibl felly nad yw'n cofio fy mod, fel rhan o'r Llywodraeth bartneriaeth a oedd gennym ar y pryd, wedi arwyddo'r cytundeb a ddaeth â theithiau bws am ddim i fodolaeth. Yr oeddwn yn awyddus i'w atgoffa ynglŷn â hynny, rhag ofn ei fod wedi anghofio. Dyna pam yr ydym yn credu ei fod yn gynllun da. Heb os nac oni bai, dyna'r peth iawn i'w wneud, ond yr hyn yr ydym am ei wybod yn awr yw sut yr ydym am symud ymlaen yn y cyswllt hwn ac i ble yr ydym yn mynd ar hyn o bryd.

Credaf fod Andrew R.T. Davies yn llygad ei le: os ydych yn mynd i adolygu'r cyllid a chynnig llai o arian, o bosibl, i rai gweithredwyr bysiau, neu gynnig mwy o arian i eraill, ni ddylech fod wedi dweud, 'Yr ydym yn gohirio'r taliadau; ni fyddwn yn gwneud unrhyw daliadau o gwbl nes byddwn wedi cael yr adolygiad'. Y peth priodol i'w wneud fyddai parhau â'r gyfradd gyfredol a rhybuddio pobl eich bod yn cynnal adolygiad ac y byddai'r arian yn cael ei ddarparu ar sail trefniant gwahanol y flwyddyn ganlynol. Yn lle hynny, mae'r awdurdodau lleol yn gorfod sefyll yn ôl yn awr a chyllido'r newidiadau hyn ar sail addewid. Y cyfan sydd ganddynt

basis of a promise. All that they have at the moment is a promise that there will be money, although we do not know how it is going to be divided up. At the moment, they have to carry on spending according to whatever it is that they think that the Government might come up with in the future. That is no way to have a strategic approach, is it?

We have been waiting for the local transport grant and, as you know, the First Minister said that he does not have a specific date for the announcement, and that you are reviewing bus services and so on. In June, Carwyn Jones said that the announcement would be made in the very near future. Earlier, we had another announcement to say that it would be made some time towards the end of the year, so we are going to have to keep waiting. We did not hear a date for when this money will be made available. The bus service operators' grant is crucial money at a time when the fuel escalator is going up, when the price for diesel fuel is accelerating at a pace beyond other forms of fuel, and that cost is being held by the bus operators.

The Deputy Minister was saying that England has got it all wrong and in Wales we do not think that it should be done in that way. Of course you may review the way in which you do things, and pay out the money in a different way, but you should not do it by keeping people waiting. For the first time since this Assembly was created, bus operators are not getting the uplift of the bus services operators' grant, which has been paid in England. This is the first time that the Assembly, since its inception, has not paid it in full. That is an incrimination. Do not tell me that this Government has buses at the heart of its thinking: it does not at all.

The big issue that everyone is failing to face up to is this: if we are to face the problems of global warming, carbon reduction and everything that goes with it, we have to encourage more people to use public transport, and buses are a crucial part of that. We heard figures from the Deputy First Minister. If you take the figures for 2002 to

ar hyn o bryd yw addewid y bydd arian ar gael, er na wyddom sut y bydd yn cael ei rannu. Ar hyn o bryd, maent yn gorfod dal i wario ar sail beth bynnag y maent hwy'n meddwl y gallai'r Llywodraeth benderfynu ei wneud yn y dyfodol. Go brin bod hynny'n mynd i arwain at ffordd strategol o weithredu?

Yr ydym wedi bod yn disgwyl am y grant trafniadaeth leol ac, fel y gwyddoch, dywedodd y Prif Weinidog nad oes ganddo ddyddiad penodol ar gyfer y cyhoeddiad, a'ch bod yn adolygu gwasanaethau bysiau ac yn y blaen. Ym Mehefin, dywedodd Carwyn Jones y byddai'r cyhoeddiad yn cael ei wneud yn fuan iawn. Yn gynharach, cawsom gyhoeddiad arall yn dweud y byddai'n cael ei wneud rywbryd tua diwedd y flwyddyn, felly bydd yn rhaid inni ddal i aros. Ni chlywsom neb yn cyhoeddi'r dyddiad y byddai'r arian hwn ar gael. Mae'r grant gweithredwyr gwasanaethau bysiau'n arian hollbwysig ar adeg pan mae pris tanwydd yn codi, pan mae pris tanwydd diesel yn codi'n gynt na phris unrhyw fath arall o danwydd, a gweithredwyr bysiau'n gorfod wynebu'r costau hynny.

Yr oedd y Dirprwy Weinidog yn dweud bod Lloegr wedi gwneud camgymeriad ac nad ydym ni yng Nghymru yn credu mai dyna beth y dylid ei wneud. Wrth gwrs, gallwch adolygu'r ffordd yr ydych yn gwneud pethau, a thalu'r arian mewn ffordd wahanol, ond ni ddylech wneud hynny drwy wneud i bobl aros. Am y tro cyntaf ers sefydlu'r Cynulliad hwn, nid yw gweithredwyr bysiau'n gallu manteisio ar y grant gweithredwyr gwasanaethau bysiau, sydd wedi cael ei dalu yn Lloegr. Dyma'r tro cyntaf iddo beidio â chael ei dalu'n llawn ers sefydlu'r Cynulliad. Mae hynny'n warthus. Peidiwch â dweud wrthyf fod bysiau'n agos iawn at galon y Llywodraeth hon: nid yw hynny'n wir o gwbl.

Y broblem fawr nad oes neb yn fodlon mynd i'r afael â hi yw hyn: os ydym am wynebu problemau cynhesu byd-eang, lleihau carbon a phopeth sy'n gysylltiedig â hynny, rhaid inni annog mwy o bobl i ddefnyddio cludiant cyhoeddus, ac mae bysiau'n rhan hanfodol o hynny. Clywsom ffigurau gan y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog. Os cymerwch y ffigurau ar gyfer

2006, which are the last published figures, during those four years, bus passenger journeys increased by 4 per cent in Wales, compared to 10 per cent in England. Those are the figures provided by the Members' research service. If you look at the grant made available for transport, 49 per cent of it goes on roads, 13 per cent on buses, and 4 per cent on integrating local transport, walking and cycling. You can get a sense of the direction in which we are travelling from that.

Looking at the way in which the Government is spending its money, you have a problem every time a change occurs. You have a budget, which you are planning to spend, and then suddenly a change occurs. What then happens is that you either cannot find the money from within the budget—as happened with the foundation phase—and so you do a bit of shuffling around, or, if you still cannot find the money, those things just fall off the agenda for a while. What the Government has been doing, of course, is saving the money that it should be spending on buses in the interim and then it will squeeze it in towards the end of the financial year. That is what I expect to happen, and that is what I expect to be the downfall of this Government's policy on buses.

We do not want to live in the past, but in the future. We want to see what is happening in the future, and all I can say is that I have just seen a group of young people waiting at a bus stop just outside of this building, singing 'Why are we waiting?'. They are waiting for the buses to come because bus providers are waiting for the money to come so that they can invest in bus services and we can do our bit for carbon reduction in Wales.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is to agree amendment 1. Is there any objection? I see that there is, so I will defer all voting on this item until voting time. It is past 4.30 p.m.. I understand that business party managers are happy for the bell not to be rung and so we will proceed directly to voting time.

2002 i 2006, sef y ffigurau diweddaraf sydd wedi cael eu cyhoeddi, yn ystod y pedair blynedd hynny, gwelwyd cynnydd o 4 y cant yn nifer y siwrneiau teithwyr bysiau yng Nghymru, o'i gymharu â 10 y cant yn Lloegr. Dyna'r ffigurau a ddarparwyd gan wasanaeth ymchwil yr Aelodau. Os edrychwch ar y grant sy'n cael ei neilltuo ar gyfer trafnidiaeth, mae 49 y cant ohono'n mynd tuag at ffyrdd, 13 y cant at fysiau, a 4 y cant at integreiddio trafnidiaeth leol, cerdded a beicio. Mae hynny'n rhoi rhyw syniad ichi i ba gyfeiriad yr ydym yn mynd.

Ac ystyried sut y mae'r Llywodraeth yn gwario'i harian, mae gennych broblem bob tro mae pethau'n newid. Mae gennych gyllideb, yr ydych yn bwriadu'i gwario, ac yna'n sydyn mae pethau'n newid. Yr hyn sy'n digwydd wedyn yw naill ai bod prinder arian yn y gyllideb—fel y gwelsom gyda'r cyfnod sylfaen—ac felly yr ydych yn gorfod symud pethau o gwmpas, neu, os ydych yn dal yn brin o arian, mae'r pethau hynny'n diflannu oddi ar yr agenda am ychydig. Yr hyn y mae'r Llywodraeth wedi bod yn ei wneud, wrth gwrs, yw cynilo'r arian y dylai fod yn ei wario ar fysiau yn y cyfamser ac yna bydd yn ei wasgu i mewn tua diwedd y flwyddyn ariannol. Dyna beth yr wyf fi'n ei ragweld, a dyna beth fydd yn arwain, yn fy marn i, at gwmpas polisi'r Llywodraeth hon ar fysiau.

Mae arnom eisiau byw yn y dyfodol, nid yn y gorffennol. Mae arnom eisiau gweld beth fydd yn digwydd yn y dyfodol, a'r cyfan y gallaf ei ddweud yw fy mod newydd weld criw o bobl ifanc yn aros mewn safle bws y tu allan i'r adeilad hwn, yn canu '*Why are we waiting?*'. Maent yn aros am y bysiau oherwydd bod y darparwyr bysiau'n aros am yr arian a fydd yn eu galluogi hwy i fuddsoddi mewn gwasanaethau bysiau ac yn ein galluogi ninnau i wneud rhywbeth er mwyn lleihau carbon yng Nghymru.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Y cynnig yw derbyn gwelliant 1. A oes gwrthwynebiad? Gwelaf fod gwrthwynebiad, felly byddaf yn gohirio pob pleidlais ar yr eitem hon tan y cyfnod pleidleisio. Mae wedi troi 4.30 p.m.. Deallaf fod rheolwyr busnes y pleidiau yn fodlon inni beidio â chanu'r gloch, felly awn yn ein blaenau ar unwaith i'r cyfnod pleidleisio.

Cyfnod
Voting Time

Pleidleisio

*Gwelliant 1 i NDM3971: O blaid 15, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 31.
Amendment 1 to NDM3971: For 15, Abstain 0, Against 31.*

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

Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Davies, Andrew R.T.
German, Michael
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Law, Trish
Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan
Ramsay, Nick
Randerson, Jenny
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

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

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammad
Barrett, Lorraine
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, 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, Gareth
Jones, Helen Mary
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Mewies, Sandy
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Watson, Joyce
Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Cynnig NDM3971: O blaid 15, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 31.
Motion NDM3971: For 15, Abstain 0, Against 31.*

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

Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Davies, Andrew R.T.
German, Michael
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Law, Trish
Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan
Ramsay, Nick
Randerson, Jenny

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

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammad
Barrett, Lorraine
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, Jocelyn
Evans, Nerys
Franks, Chris
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John

Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Helen Mary
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Mewies, Sandy
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Watson, Joyce
Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y cynnig.
Motion defeated.*

*Gwelliant 1 i NDM3972: O blaid 14, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 29.
Amendment 1 to NDM3972: For 14, Abstain 0, Against 29.*

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

Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Davies, Andrew R.T.
German, Michael
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan
Ramsay, Nick
Randerson, Jenny
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

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

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammad
Barrett, Lorraine
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, 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
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Mewies, Sandy
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Watson, Joyce
Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Cynnig NDM3972: O blaid 14, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 31.
Motion NDM3972: For 14, Abstain 0, Against 31.*

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

Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Davies, Andrew R.T.
German, Michael
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan
Ramsay, Nick
Randerson, Jenny
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

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

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammad
Barrett, Lorraine
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, 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, Gareth
Jones, Helen Mary
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Mewies, Sandy
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Watson, Joyce
Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y cynnig.
Motion defeated.*

*Gwelliant 1 i NDM3973: O blaid 15, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 31.
Amendment 1 to NDM3973: For 15, Abstain 0, Against 31.*

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

Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Davies, Andrew R.T.
German, Michael
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Law, Trish
Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan
Ramsay, Nick
Randerson, Jenny
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

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

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammad
Barrett, Lorraine
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, 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, Gareth

Jones, Helen Mary
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Mewies, Sandy
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Watson, Joyce
Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Cynnig NDM3973: O blaid 15, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 31.
Motion NDM3973: For 15, Abstain 0, Against 31.*

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

Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Davies, Andrew R.T.
German, Michael
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Law, Trish
Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan
Ramsay, Nick
Randerson, Jenny
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

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

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammad
Barrett, Lorraine
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, 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, Gareth
Jones, Helen Mary
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Mewies, Sandy
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Watson, Joyce
Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y cynnig.
Motion defeated.*

5.00 p.m.

Dadl
Short Debate

Fer

**Ffydd—yn Gwneud Cymru Well
Faith—Making a Better Wales**

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Members **Y Dirprwy Lywydd:** Dylai'r Aelodau sy'n

leaving the Chamber should do so quickly and quietly please, including you, Eleanor Burnham.

Darren Millar: When I was told that I had been drawn for the short debate today, it did not take me long to decide the topic on which I would speak. My faith is important to me personally, but more than that, faith is important to the people of Wales.

From the outset, let me clarify that, when talking about faith or faith communities, I am talking about the majority of faiths that are represented by the people of Wales, and primarily those represented on the Wales Faith Communities Forum. The forum includes representatives from all the main Christian denominations, as well as representatives of the Bahai, Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh faith communities, and it is of course chaired by my good friend or, given that we are talking about faith, my fellow Assembly Member, the First Minister.

Some will argue that it is inappropriate to discuss faith matters in the Chamber and that faith is something that should be confined to our personal lives. I must say that I have some sympathy with that view—after all, we have come to the Assembly and not to a church, a chapel or a mosque. However, every one of us in the Chamber lives in accordance with a belief system of some sort—religious or otherwise—and it is impossible to divorce that from the way in which we operate as Assembly Members. Add to that the need to represent the views of our constituents, many of whom are members of faith communities, and you can see that it is impracticable to suggest that we should never discuss faith matters.

The purpose of this debate, as the title suggests, is to draw attention to the benefits that faith communities bring to Wales and to demonstrate that our country would be worse off without their efforts. Across Wales, the outworking of faith, particularly within communities by local congregations, makes a huge contribution to Welsh society. It is for that reason that a greater understanding of faith communities and the role that they play

gadael y Siambr wneud hynny'n gyflym ac yn ddistaw os gwelwch yn dda, gan eich cynnwys chi, Eleanor Burnham.

Darren Millar: Pan ddywedwyd wrthyf imi gael fy newis ar gyfer y ddadl fer heddiw, nid oeddwn fawr o dro'n penderfynu ar y pwnc y byddwn yn siarad amdano. Mae fy ffydd yn bwysig i mi'n bersonol, ond yn fwy na hynny, mae ffydd yn bwysig i bobl Cymru.

O'r dechrau'n deg, gadewch imi egluro, pan fyddaf yn sôn am ffydd neu gymunedau ffydd, mai sôn yr wyf am fwyafrif y crefyddau a gynrychiolir gan bobl Cymru, ac, yn bennaf, y rheini a gynrychiolir ar Fforwm Cymunedau Ffydd Cymru. Mae'r fforwm yn cynnwys cynrychiolwyr o bob un o'r prif enwadau Cristnogol, yn ogystal â chynrychiolwyr cymunedau ffydd y Bahá'i, y Bwdhydd, yr Hindŵ, yr Iddew, y Mwslim a'r Sikh, ac wrth gwrs, fe'i cadeirir gan fy nghyfaill da, neu, a chofio mai sôn am ffydd yr ydym, fy nghyd-Aelod o'r Cynulliad, y Prif Weinidog.

Bydd rhai'n dadlau nad yw'n briodol trafod materion sy'n ymwneud â ffydd yn y Siambr a bod ffydd yn rhywbeth y dylid ei chyfyngu i'n bywyd personol. Rhaid imi ddweud bod gennyf rywffaint o gydymdeimlad â'r farn honno—wedi'r cyfan, wedi dod i'r Cynulliad yr ydym ac nid i eglwys, i gapel nac i fosc. Fodd bynnag, mae pob un ohonom yn y Siambr yn byw'n unol â system gred o ryw fath—boed honno'n grefyddol neu beidio—ac mae'n amhosibl ysgaru hynny oddi wrth y ffordd y byddwn yn gweithredu fel Aelodau'r Cynulliad. O gofio hefyd bod angen inni gynrychioli safbwyntiau'n hetholwyr, a bod llawer o'r rheini'n aelodau cymunedau ffydd, gallwch weld ei bod yn anymarferol awgrymu na ddylem fyth drafod materion sy'n ymwneud â ffydd.

Pwrpas y ddadl hon, fel yr awgryma'r teitl, yw tynnu sylw at y manteision y mae cymunedau ffydd yn eu cynnig i Gymru a dangos y byddai'n gwlad yn waeth ei byd heb eu hymdrechion. Ledled Cymru, mae ffrwyth ffydd yn y gymdeithas, yn enwedig y gwaith a wneir gan gynulleidfaoedd lleol yn eu cymunedau, yn gwneud cyfraniad anferth i gymdeithas Cymru. Dyna'r rheswm pam mae dirfawr angen deall mwy am gymunedau

in making Wales a better place is desperately needed.

Earlier this year, a report was published that provided clear evidence that faith communities are much more important to Wales than many in the Chamber would have thought possible. The 'Faith in Wales' report was published by Gweini and the Wales Council for Voluntary Action. It provided a snapshot of the many benefits enjoyed by Wales as a direct result of faith groups across the country. Understandably, the majority of evidence used to prepare the report was gleaned from Christian groups, but other faiths also contributed to the report. I can highly recommend the report, and I will be drawing on its findings considerably this afternoon.

It must be said that Wales has a great heritage when it comes to faith. In one sense, it could be argued that much of life in Wales as we know it has its roots in the way that faith shaped our culture, particularly at the beginning of the last century. The famous Welsh revivals of the late 1800s and the early twentieth century played a significant part not only in people's personal spirituality, but in giving birth to the great chapel tradition and nonconformist way of life that has left its legacy throughout the country. Chapels are still to be found in nearly every town and village, and the land of song found its voice in the hymn-singing societies of chapel life as well as at rugby matches.

However, the engagement of the people of Wales in their faith is not just a thing of the past. Although attendance at religious services has undoubtedly declined in Wales, it is still worth noting that there are more than 4,400 worshipping congregations in our country, which is one for every 670 people—twice as many as other parts of the United Kingdom have. According to conservative estimates—and you would expect me to use conservative estimates—every week, 7.2 per cent of the Welsh population attend a religious service and around 15 per cent attend less frequently over the year.

ffydd a'u cyfraniad at wneud Cymru'n lle gwell.

Yn gynharach eleni, cyhoeddwyd adroddiad a oedd yn cynnig tystiolaeth glir bod cymunedau ffydd yn fwy pwysig o lawer yng Nghymru nag y byddai llawer yn y Siambr wedi'i feddwl yn bosibl. Cyhoeddwyd adroddiad 'Ffydd yng Nghymru' gan Gweini a Chyngor Gweithredu Gwirfoddol Cymru. Yr oedd yn cynnig ciplun o'r manteision lu a ddaw i Gymru o ganlyniad uniongyrchol i grwpiau ffydd ar hyd ac ar led y wlad. Mae'n ddealladwy bod rhan fwyaf y dystiolaeth a ddefnyddiwyd i baratoi'r adroddiad wedi'i chasglu gan grwpiau Cristnogol, ond cyfrannodd crefyddau eraill at yr adroddiad hefyd. Gallaf gymeradwyo'r adroddiad yn frwd, a byddaf yn defnyddio'i ganfyddiadau i raddau helaeth y prynhawn yma.

Rhaid dweud bod gan Gymru dreftadaeth wych o ran ffydd. Mewn un ystyr, gellid dadlau bod gwreiddiau llawer o fywyd Cymru, fel yr ydym yn ei adnabod, yn y ffordd y lluniwyd ein diwylliant gan ffydd, yn enwedig ddechrau'r ganrif ddiwethaf. Cafodd diwygiadau enwog Cymru ddiwedd yr 1800au a dechrau'r ugeinfed ganrif ddylanwad pwysig, nid dim ond ar fywyd ysbrydol personol pobl, ond am iddynt esgor ar draddodiad gwych y capeli a'r ffordd o fyw anghydfurfiol sydd wedi gadael ei gwaddol ym mhob cwr o'r wlad. Mae capeli yn dal i'w gweld ym mhob tref a phentref bron, a chanfu gwlad y gân ei llais yng nghymdeithas canu emynau bywyd y capel yn ogystal ag mewn gemau rygbi.

Fodd bynnag, nid yw ymwneud pobl Cymru â'u ffydd yn rhywbeth sy'n perthyn i'r gorffennol yn unig. Er bod mynychu gwasanaethau crefyddol yn sicr wedi edwino yng Nghymru, mae'n dal yn werth sylwi bod dros 4,400 o gynulleidfaoedd yn addoli yn ein gwlad, sef un ar gyfer pob 670 o bobl—ddwywaith gynifer ag sydd mewn rhannau eraill o'r Deyrnas Unedig. Yn ôl amcangyfrifon ceidwadol—a byddech yn disgwyl imi ddefnyddio amcangyfrifon ceidwadol—bob wythnos, bydd 7.2 y cant o boblogaeth Cymru'n mynd i oedfa grefyddol ac oddeutu 15 y cant yn mynychu'n llai aml yn ystod y flwyddyn.

Regardless of religious observance, interest in spiritual matters appears to be at an all-time high, and continuing conflicts around the world mean that we need to get to grips with the commonality between religions and discover how to work together. Before you start worrying, the purpose of this debate is not to analyse the spiritual condition of the nation—we will leave that to our religious leaders. Rather, it is the outworking of this faith that I want to draw attention to this afternoon. Faith communities provide a large range of services to their local communities, many of which Government, in all its guises, would find difficult to organise and deliver. Those range from more traditional activities, such as playgroups and youth work for the young, marriage preparation and social activities, such as lunch clubs or hospital visiting for the old, to less traditional services such as alcohol and drug advice, employment training, and, as those who attended the cross-party group on faith found out last night, welfare and debt counselling. The demand for many of these non-traditional activities is growing, and churches and other organisations are keen to meet the needs that they see in their communities. All of these activities bring a benefit to those who are engaged in them and, without faith communities, many would not be sustainable or would have ever been established in the first place.

A large proportion of these activities rely heavily on volunteers; in fact, faith communities are experts in motivating voluntary action. According to the 'Faith in Wales' report, it is estimated that around 42,000 volunteers are organised by faith communities in Wales, contributing an estimated 79,000 hours' worth of work per week to local activities. Let me clarify that these figures only include specific wider community activities and do not include hours and voluntary time given to so-called self-serving activities. Therefore, activities such as organising a community playgroup are included but organising a prayer meeting is not. Therefore, 79,000 hours per week are contributed for the benefit of local communities, which is the equivalent of just under 2,000 full-time members of staff. Add

Heb sôn am gadw'r ffydd, i bob golwg mae mwy o ddi-ddordeb mewn materion ysbrydol nag a fu erioed, ac mae'r gwrthdaro parhaus o gwmpas y byd yn golygu bod angen inni fynd i'r afael â'r hyn sy'n gyffredin i grefyddau a chanfod sut mae cydweithio. Cyn ichi ddechrau poeni, nid pwrpas y ddadl hon yw dadansoddi cyflwr ysbrydol y genedl—gadawn hynny i'n harweinwyr crefyddol. Yn hytrach, ffrwyth y ffydd hon yw'r hyn yr wyf am dynnu sylw ato y prynhawn yma. Mae cymunedau ffydd yn darparu amrywiaeth o wasanaethau ar gyfer eu cymunedau lleol, a llawer o'r rheini'n rhai y byddai'r Llywodraeth, ar ba wedd bynnag, yn ei chael yn anodd eu trefnu a'u darparu. Mae'r rheini'n amrywio o'r gweithgareddau mwy traddodiadol, megis cylchoedd chwarae a gwaith ieuenctid i'r ifanc, paratoi ar gyfer priodas a gweithgareddau cymdeithasol, megis clybiau cinio neu ymweld â'r henoed yn yr ysbyty, i wasanaethau llai traddodiadol megis cyngor am alcohol a chyffuriau, hyfforddiant ar gyfer gwaith, ac, fel y canfu'r rheini a ddaeth i'r grŵp trawsbleidiol ar ffydd neithiwr, cyngor ynglŷn â gwasanaethau lles a dyledion. Mae'r galw am lawer o'r gweithgareddau anhraddodiadol hyn yn tyfu, ac eglwysi a mudiadau eraill yn awyddus i ddiwallu'r anghenion y maent yn eu gweld yn eu cymunedau. Mae'r gweithgareddau hyn i gyd yn dod â budd i'r sawl sy'n ymwneud â hwy ac, heb gymunedau ffydd, ni fyddai modd cynnal llawer ohonynt, neu ni fyddent wedi'u sefydlu yn y lle cyntaf.

Mae cyfran fawr o'r gweithgareddau hyn yn dibynnu'n drwm ar wirfoddolwyr; a dweud y gwir, mae cymunedau ffydd yn arbenigwyr o ran cymell gweithredu gwirfoddol. Yn ôl adroddiad 'Ffydd yng Nghymru' amcangyfrifir bod oddeutu 42,000 o wirfoddolwyr yn cael eu trefnu gan gymunedau ffydd yng Nghymru, gan gyfrannu gwerth 79,000 awr o waith yr wythnos, yn ôl yr amcangyfrif, at weithgareddau lleol. Gadewch imi egluro mai dim ond gweithgareddau penodol ehangach yn y gymuned y mae'r ffigurau hyn yn eu cynnwys. Nid ydynt yn cynnwys oriau ac amser gwirfoddol a roddir i'r gweithgareddau hynny sydd, fel y'u gelwir, er budd y ffydd ei hun. Felly, mae gweithgareddau megis trefnu cylch chwarae yn y gymuned yn cael eu cynnwys ond nid

to that the proportion of paid employees' time that is spent on such activities, and the total number of full-time equivalent staff increases to over 2,500.

Let me give you some examples from my constituency. In the church that I attend, North Coast Church in Towyn, as is typical of many churches these days, there are activities taking place every day of the week that reach out to the local community. Whether it is the playgroup or the lunch club, which are operated by volunteers, or the debt advice centre, which has a paid member of staff, the benefit to the locality is important. Interestingly, faith groups are considered to be the largest provider of youth services across Wales, and there is some fantastic work being done with young people throughout the Vale of Clwyd by Richard Kendrick of the Ruthin Christian Fellowship. Yet, unfortunately, funds are rarely available from Government agencies or local authorities to contribute to this important work. Think of how much further investment into these largely voluntary activities could go in helping to tackle anti-social behaviour or overcoming social exclusion.

Faith groups are also a major provider of premises for community use; they operate over 600 purpose-built community centres in Wales, and that is in addition to the rooms that many faith communities let to outside groups. A great example of that, again in my constituency, is the Interchange in Colwyn Bay, which is a community building that is home to Sure Hope Church. Not only is it used for worship on a Sunday, but it is host to a police post for the local bobby, a nursery, a coffee shop and it is a conference facility and venue that has been used by groups ranging from residents' associations to the local authority. Colwyn Bay is a better place for having this building and the church that has delivered it. Faith groups are often the only providers of such premises in areas, particularly in rural villages that may be off

yw trefnu cyfarfod gweddi. Felly, cyfrennir 79,000 o oriau yr wythnos er budd cymunedau lleol. Mae hynny'n cyfateb i fymryn yn llai na 2,000 aelod staff amser llawn. Ychwanegwch at hynny gyfran amser gweithwyr cyflog a dreulir ar weithgareddau o'r fath ac mae cyfanswm y staff sy'n cyfateb i staff amser llawn yn cynyddu i dros 2,500.

Gadewch imi roi ychydig o enghreifftiau ichi yn fy etholaeth. Yn yr eglwys yr wyf yn ei mynychu, Eglwys North Coast yn Nhowyn, fel sy'n nodweddiadol o lawer o eglwysi'r dyddiau hyn, cynhelir gweithgareddau bob diwrnod o'r wythnos, a'r rheini'n estyn allan i'r gymuned leol. Ni waeth ai sôn yr ydym am y cylch chwarae neu'r clwb cinio, sy'n cael eu cynnal gan wirfoddolwyr, ynteu'r ganolfan cyngor am ddyled, sydd ag aelod staff cyflogedig, mae'r budd i'r gymdogaeth yn bwysig. Mae'n diddorol yr ystyrir mai grwpiau ffydd yw'r darparwr gwasanaethau ieuencid mwyaf yng Nghymru, ac mae gwaith anhygoel yn cael ei wneud gyda phobl ifanc ar hyd ac ar led Dyffryn Clwyd gan Richard Kendrick o Gymdeithas Gristnogol Rhuthun. Eto i gyd, anaml y bydd arian ar gael gan asiantaethau'r Llywodraeth neu awdurdodau lleol i gyfrannu at y gwaith pwysig hwn. Meddyliwch gymaint y gallai buddsoddi mwy yn y gweithgareddau hyn, gweithgareddau gwirfoddol gan mwyaf, gynorthwyo i fynd i'r afael ag ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol neu ddatrys allgau gymdeithasol.

Mae grwpiau ffydd hefyd yn gwneud cyfraniad mawr drwy ddarparu eiddo at ddefnydd y gymuned; maent yn darparu dros 600 o ganolfannau cymuned sydd wedi'u hadeiladu at y diben yng Nghymru, ac mae hynny ar ben yr ystafelloedd y bydd llawer o gymunedau ffydd yn eu gosod i grwpiau allanol. Enghraifft wych arall o hynny, yn fy etholaeth i unwaith eto, yw'r Gyfnwidfa ym Mae Colwyn. Adeilad cymunedol yw hwn sy'n gartref i Eglwys Sure Hope. Nid yn unig y mae'r adeilad yn cael ei ddefnyddio ar gyfer addoli ar y Sul, ond mae hefyd yn ganolfan i'r heddwes lleol, yn feithrinfa, yn siop goffi ac yn gyfleuster ac yn ganolfan gynadledda sydd wedi'i defnyddio gan grwpiau'n amrywio o gymdeithasau trigolion i'r awdurdod lleol. Mae Bae Colwyn yn well lle o gael yr adeilad hwn a'r eglwys sydd

the beaten track. Many Assembly Members will be the beneficiaries of these premises, as we rent rooms in churches and chapels for surgeries around our constituencies. As politicians, we rightly complain and protest when facilities such as post offices and telephone boxes are to be closed in our constituencies and yet, despite their importance, many of us remain silent when it comes to the closure of church halls.

Linking into the premises issue is the benefit that many of these buildings bring to our tourism industry. A significant proportion of faith groups are, in a sense, guardians of some very important architectural heritage. Around 1,600 listed buildings in Wales are maintained by faith communities; the Church in Wales alone is responsible for over 900. It is important to see that while the buildings are of great value, they also speak of a greater connection to the localities that they represent and demonstrate that the heritage that they represent goes back centuries. I think that I am correct in saying that over half of the Christian denominations in Wales were established before the middle of the 1800s—some stretching far back as 350 AD. I am sure that David Melding will put me right on that if I am incorrect. The buildings that represent these denominations serve as valuable reminders of the past and help to root us in our rich heritage.

5.10 p.m.

Every year over 2.5 million tourists from other parts of the UK and overseas flock to Wales primarily to visit religious buildings in every corner of the nation. They bring with them massive economic benefits that cannot be ignored, and yet many groups struggle to finance the maintenance of these buildings, and resources to support them in this activity are difficult to obtain. As an aside, I am not aware of a single faith community in Wales that charges for entry to its buildings. I should mention at this point that

wedi'i ddarparu. Yn aml, dim ond grwpiau ffydd sy'n darparu adeiladau o'r fath mewn ardal, yn enwedig mewn pentrefi gwledig sydd o bosibl yn ddiarffordd. Bydd llawer o Aelodau'r Cynulliad yn elwa o'r adeiladau hyn, gan ein bod yn rhentu ystafelloedd mewn eglwysi a chapeli i gynnal cymorthfeydd o gwmpas ein hetholaethau. Fel gwleidyddion, byddwn yn cwyno ac yn protestio'n ddigon teg pan gaeir cyfleusterau megis swyddfeydd post a blychau ffôn yn ein hetholaethau ac, eto i gyd, er gwaethaf eu pwysigrwydd, bydd llawer ohonom yn sefyll yn fud pan ddaw'n fater o gau neuaddau eglwys.

Peth arall sy'n gysylltiedig â'r adeiladau yw'r budd a ddaw yn eu sgil i'n diwydiant twristiaeth. Mae cyfran sylweddol o grwpiau ffydd, mewn ffordd, yn gwarchod etifeddiaeth bensaernïol bwysig iawn. Mae cymunedau ffydd yn cynnal oddeutu 1,600 o adeiladau rhestredig yng Nghymru; mae'r Eglwys yng Nghymru'n unig yn gyfrifol am dros 900. Mae'n bwysig gweld, er bod yr adeiladau o werth mawr, eu bod hefyd yn adlewyrchu cysylltiad dyfnach â'r cymdogaethau y maent yn eu cynrychioli ac yn dangos bod y dreftadaeth y maent yn ei chynrychioli'n ganrifoedd oed. Credaf fy mod yn iawn yn dweud bod dros hanner enwadau Cristnogol Cymru wedi'u sefydlu cyn canol yr 1800au—rhai ohonynt yn mynd yn ôl cyn belled ag i 350 OC. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd David Melding yn fy nghywiro ynglŷn â hynny os wyf yn anghywir. Mae'r adeiladau sy'n cynrychioli'r enwadau hyn yn werthfawr am eu bod yn ein hatgoffa am y gorffennol ac yn gymorth i'n gwreiddio yn ein hetifeddiaeth gyfoethog.

Bob blwyddyn, bydd dros 2.5 miliwn o dwristiaid o rannau eraill y DU ac o dramor yn heidio i Gymru a hynny'n bennaf er mwyn ymweld ag adeiladau crefyddol ym mhob cwr o'r wlad. Maent yn dod â manteision economaidd enfawr yn eu sgil nad oes modd eu hanwybyddu, ac eto i gyd, bydd llawer o grwpiau'n straffaglu i dalu am gynnal a chadw'r adeiladau hyn, ac mae'n anodd iddynt gael gafael ar adnoddau i'w cynorthwyo yn y gwaith, Gyda llaw, ni wn am unrhyw gymuned ffydd yng Nghymru

organisations such as Capel, the Chapels Heritage Society, of which I am a member, does excellent work in helping to protect this heritage.

Faith communities can also play an important role in community regeneration. Community garden projects at St Cynbryd's church in Llanddulas in my constituency and at St John's church in Old Colwyn are just two examples of churches playing their part to improve the local environment and encouraging others to do likewise.

Another important part of Welsh heritage is our language and culture. Again, faith communities play a huge role in the development and use of the language. Two of the Christian denominations—the Annibynwyr and the Welsh Presbyterians—conduct their affairs primarily in Welsh. A survey conducted by the Evangelical Alliance Wales in 1995 called, 'Challenge to Change', concluded that Welsh is used exclusively in about a third of all church services, and is partially used in half of them.

In addition to that, hundreds of churches and chapels participate annually in eisteddfodau and other Welsh language activities. Interestingly, the 'Faith in Wales' report suggests that around 130 churches were involved in running Welsh language classes. So in addition to contributing to our built heritage, faith groups are helping to keep the Welsh language alive and are contributing to the growth in its use.

The final area that I would like to highlight, before suggesting a few conclusions, is the economic benefit and contribution that faith makes to Wales. This is worth considering, especially in a world where merit is so often associated with economic parameters. An economic estimate can be achieved by the sum of a number of components, including those that I have mentioned today. When those benefits to Wales are looked at collectively, they clearly demonstrate that faith is delivering sizeable economic benefits to the nation. For example, the value of

sy'n codi tâl mynediad i'w hadeilad. Dylwn sôn yma bod mudiadau fel Capel, Cymdeithas Treftadaeth y Capeli, yr wyf yn aelod ohoni, yn gwneud gwaith ardderchog yn ceisio gwarchod y dreftadaeth hon.

Gall cymunedau ffydd chwarae rhan bwysig hefyd wrth adfywio cymunedau. Nid yw prosiectau gerddi cymunedol yn eglwys Sant Cynbryd yn Llanddulas yn fy etholaeth ac yn eglwys Sant Ioan yn Hen Golwyn ond yn ddwy enghraifft o eglwysi'n chwarae eu rhan i wella'r amgylchedd lleol ac annog pobl eraill i wneud yr un fath.

Rhan bwysig arall o dreftadaeth Cymru yw'n hiaith a'n diwylliant. Unwaith eto, mae cymunedau ffydd yn chwarae rhan enfawr o ran datblygu a defnyddio'r iaith. Cymraeg yn bennaf a ddefnyddir gan ddwy o'r enwadau Cristnogol—yr Annibynwyr a Phresbyteriaid Cymru—wrth iddynt gynnal eu busnes. Mewn arolwg a gynhaliwyd gan y Gynghrair Efynglaidd yng Nghymru yn 1995 dan y teitl 'Her i Newid', casglwyd mai'r Gymraeg yn unig a ddefnyddir mewn oddeutu traean holl wasanaethau'r eglwysi, a bod yr iaith yn cael ei defnyddio i ryw raddau yn hanner yr oedfaon.

Yn ogystal â hynny, mae cannoedd o eglwysi a chapel'i'n cymryd rhan bob blwyddyn mewn eisteddfodau a gweithgareddau Cymraeg eraill. Mae'n ddiddorol bod adroddiad 'Ffydd yng Nghymru' yn awgrymu bod oddeutu 130 o eglwysi'n ymwneud â chynnal dosbarthiadau Cymraeg. Felly, yn ogystal â chyfrannu at dreftadaeth ein hadeiladau, mae grwpiau ffydd yn helpu i gadw'r Gymraeg yn fyw ac yn cyfrannu at ei thwf.

Y maes olaf yr hoffwn dynnu sylw ato, cyn awgrymu ambell gasgliad, yw'r budd a'r cyfraniad economaidd a ddaw i Gymru yn sgil ffydd. Mae hyn yn werth ei ystyried, yn enwedig mewn byd lle bydd gwerth mor aml yn cael ei fesur ar sail ariannol. Gellir amcangyfrif y gwerth economaidd drwy gyfuno nifer o elfennau, gan gynnwys y rheini yr wyf wedi sôn amdanynt heddiw. Ac edrych ar y manteision hynny i Gymru gyda'i gilydd, maent yn amlwg yn dangos bod ffydd yn dod â manteision economaidd sylweddol i'r genedl. Er enghraifft, amcangyfrifir mai

79,000 voluntary hours per week over the course of a year is estimated to be worth about £43.8 million.

The value of tourism generated by faith communities is estimated to be worth about £12 million. The 'Faith in Wales' report estimated that the total benefit of all of the factors that I have mentioned today was around £102.5 million. Those are remarkable statistics. It should not be forgotten that faith communities are largely self-financing, with only 27 per cent indicating that they have ever received any funding from public sources. Given that faith communities contribute over £100 million to Welsh life every year, if faith communities were not doing all that, who would be and from whose pockets would that money be coming?

However, what statistics are unable to demonstrate is the value of the expression of faith on a personal level. Every one of the major faiths encourages its followers to do good and to work for the benefit of civil society. The message of 'love thy neighbour' crosses all boundaries, and there is no way of ascertaining the good contributions that individuals make by simply following a few simple teachings or allowing their religious conscience to play a part in decision making. The contribution of such principles to society is invaluable and is something that I would not want us to lose.

I have only managed to scratch the surface of the benefits that faith groups are bringing to Wales, but I hope that it will trigger a better understanding of the importance of faith groups to the very fabric of our society, not just in terms of moral guidance—that is an area that I have shied away from today—but in terms of economic benefit, of protecting our Welsh heritage and language and of improving the quality of life for hundreds and thousands of Welsh citizens.

Their contribution should not be swept under the carpet or eyed with suspicion but valued because faith groups have a genuine motivation to help people and to do good. Faith groups should be trusted to take part in, and contribute to, all areas of Welsh life, and their faith should be seen as an asset and not

gwerth 79,000 awr o wirfoddoli yr wythnos dros gyfnod o flwyddyn yw oddeutu £43.8 miliwn.

Amcangyfrifir mai gwerth y dwristiaeth a gynhrychir gan gymunedau ffydd yw oddeutu £12 miliwn. Amcangyfrif adroddiad 'Ffydd yng Nghymru' oedd mai cyfanswm budd yr holl ffactorau yr wyf wedi sôn amdanynt heddiw oedd oddeutu £102.5 miliwn. Mae'r rheini'n ystadegau rhyfeddol. Ni ddylid anghofio bod cymunedau ffydd yn eu cyllido'u hunain gan mwyaf, gyda dim ond 27 y cant yn dweud iddynt gael unrhyw arian erioed o ffynonellau cyhoeddus. Ac ystyried bod cymunedau ffydd yn cyfrannu dros £100 miliwn i fywyd Cymru bob blwyddyn, pe na baent yn gwneud hynny i gyd, pwy a fyddai'n ei wneud ac o bocedi pwy y byddai'r arian hwnnw'n dod?

Serch hynny, yr hyn na all ystadegau ei ddangos yw gwerth proffesu ffydd ar lefel bersonol. Mae pob un o'r prif grefyddau'n annog ei dilynwyr i wneud daioni a gweithio er lles cymdeithas sifil. Mae neges 'câr dy gymydog' yn croesi pob ffin, ac nid oes ffordd o wybod faint o gyfraniadau da a wneir gan unigolion dim ond drwy ddilyn ychydig o athrawiaethau syml neu adael i'w cydwybod grefyddol chwarae ei rhan wrth iddynt wneud penderfyniadau. Mae cyfraniad egwyddorion o'r fath i'r gymdeithas yn amhrisiadwy ac yn rhywbeth na fyddwn am inni ei golli.

Nid wyf ond wedi llwyddo i grafu wyneb y manteision y mae grwpiau ffydd yn eu dwyn i Gymru, ond gobeithiaf y bydd yn sbarduno gwell dealltwriaeth o bwysigrwydd grwpiau ffydd i wead ein cymdeithas, nid dim ond o ran arweiniad moesol—mae hwnnw'n faes yr wyf wedi'i osgoi heddiw—ond o ran budd economaidd, gwarchod ein treftadaeth Gymreig a'r iaith a gwella ansawdd bywyd i gannoedd ar filoedd o ddinasyddion Cymru.

Ni ddylid sgubo'u cyfraniad o'r golwg nac edrych arno'n amheus ond ei drysori oherwydd mae gan grwpiau ffydd gymhellant dilys i helpu pobl ac i wneud lles. Dylid ymddiried mewn grwpiau ffydd i gymryd rhan ym mhob maes o fywyd Cymru a chyfrannu atynt, a dylid gweld eu ffydd yn

as something detrimental, as is often the case. All too often the contribution of faith groups to our nation is overlooked, particularly by politicians.

Therefore, I want to challenge every one of us today to do more to support faith groups in our constituencies as they help to improve the quality of life across Wales. I also ask the Welsh Assembly Government how it will assist faith groups in the future. I would like to see the Assembly Government using policies and strategies that take into account the contribution that faith groups make to Government objectives, and I want it to consider how faith communities can be the vehicle for delivering services and objectives in the future.

That can happen only with better communication and clearer funding pathways, to enable faith groups to participate further in building the nation. Incidentally, we could do with Government support on the unfair charging of water bills to churches, which are registered charities. Members of the Scottish Parliament recently fought successfully to ensure that churches remained exempt from water rates until the next review in 2014. Perhaps the Minister could outline the Welsh Assembly Government's position on that in his response.

In conclusion, the impact of faith in Wales today is as important as it has been in the past, and we must ensure that the benefits that faith groups bring to Wales are not lost for the future.

The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government (Brian Gibbons): I thank Darren for his thoughtful contribution. This is probably one of the first times that we have discussed this subject in the National Assembly since it was established nine years ago, and I suppose that it is a bit strange, in view of the history, culture and tradition of Wales, that we find ourselves in that position.

There is no doubt that faith communities have played an enormous role in fashioning

gaffaeliad yn hytrach nag yn rhywbeth niweidiol, fel y gwneir yn aml. Yn rhy aml o lawer, bydd cyfraniad grwpiau ffydd i'n cenedl yn cael ei ddibrisio, yn enwedig gan wleidyddion.

Felly, yr wyf am herio pob un ohonom heddiw i wneud rhagor i gefnogi grwpiau ffydd yn ein hetholaethau wrth iddynt gynorthwyo i wella ansawdd bywyd ledled Cymru. Gofynnaf hefyd i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru sut y bydd yn cynorthwyo grwpiau ffydd yn y dyfodol. Hoffwn weld Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn defnyddio polisiau a strategaethau sy'n rhoi sylw i gyfraniad grwpiau ffydd i amcanion y Llywodraeth, ac yr wyf am iddi ystyried sut y gall cymunedau ffydd fod yn gyfrwng ar gyfer darparu gwasanaethau a gwireddu amcanion yn y dyfodol.

Ni fydd hynny ond yn gallu digwydd o gael gwell cyfathrebu a llwybrau ariannu cliriach, i alluogi grwpiau crefyddol i gyfrannu ymhellach at adeiladu'r genedl. Gyda llaw, byddai'n dda gennym wrth gefnogaeth gan y Llywodraeth ynghylch codi biliau dŵr yn annheg ar eglwysi, sy'n elusennau cofrestredig. Yn ddiweddar, ymladdodd Aelodau Senedd yr Alban yn llwyddiannus i sicrhau bod eglwysi'n dal wedi'u heithrio rhag talu trethi dŵr tan yr adolygiad nesaf yn 2014. Efallai y gallai'r Gweinidog amlinellu safbwynt Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar hynny yn ei ymateb.

I gloi, mae effaith crefydd yng Nghymru heddiw cyn bwysiced ag y bu yn y gorffennol, a rhaid inni sicrhau na cholli'r buddion y mae Cymru'n eu cael gan grwpiau crefyddol yn y dyfodol.

Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol (Brian Gibbons): Diolchaf i Darren am ei gyfraniad meddylgar. Mae'n debyg mai hwn yw un o'r troeon cyntaf inni drafod y testun hwn yn y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ers ei sefydlu naw mlynedd yn ôl, ac mae'n debyg gennyf ei bod braidd yn rhyfedd, o gofio hanes, diwylliant a thraddodiad Cymru, ein cael ein hunain yn y sefyllfa honno.

Nid oes amheuaeth nad yw cymunedau crefyddol wedi chwarae rhan fawr iawn wrth

the kind of society that we have in Wales, as Darren outlined. The nature of our faith communities is changing, and Darren mentioned that in connection with the interfaith forum, which comprises a wide range of groups. When we talk about faith in this context, we are talking about all faiths in Wales and we are not taking an exclusivist view of who is covered by that description.

Darren mentioned the conservatism that was possibly related to this matter, but people on the left would point out that it has often been said that Welsh socialism owes more to Methodism than to Marxism in its evolution. That is probably true. It is a part of our historic legacy, and church and faith groups have contributed to the cultural richness that makes up modern Wales.

However, we need to be realistic enough to acknowledge that tensions will emerge, and we need to work more diligently to improve understanding at such times. There have been occasions in the recent past when that has not happened, and it is important that we respond to those challenges constructively. The events of 11 September in New York, 7 July in London, and 11 March in Madrid are stark reminders of that, and they brought home to us all the sense of urgency that is needed to address some of the issues that can arise when tensions emerge. Closer to home, there has been rioting in Bradford, Burnley and Oldham, which shows that the United Kingdom is not immune to these issues. Thirty years ago, who would have imagined the turmoil that would engulf Northern Ireland, which was facing a quarter of a century of civil strife, referred to euphemistically as 'the Troubles'? Those Troubles had major sectarian overtones, even though the main source of grievance rested in the social, economic and constitutional domain. That sectarianism is still pervasive in a number of cities and communities across mainland Britain.

It is often the case that such divisions represent an opportunity to respond positively by developing a sense of inclusivity and cohesiveness. Even in the

lunio'r math o gymdeithas sydd gennym yng Nghymru, fel y dangosodd Darren. Mae natur ein cymunedau crefyddol yn newid, a chyfeiriodd Darren at hynny mewn cysylltiad â'r fforwm rhyng-ffydd, sy'n cynnwys llawer math o grwpiau. Pan soniwn am grefydd yn y cyd-destun hwn, yr ydym yn sôn am bob crefydd yng Nghymru ac nid ydym yn cyfyngu'r rhai sydd wedi'u cynnwys yn y disgrifiad hwnnw.

Cyfeiriodd Darren at y geidwadaeth a oedd yn gysylltiedig o bosibl â'r mater hwn, ond byddai pobl ar y chwith yn nodi bod rhai wedi dweud yn aml fod ar sosialaeth Cymru fwy o ddyled i Fethodistiaeth nag i Farcisiaeth o ran ei datblygiad. Mae'n debyg bod hynny'n wir. Mae'n rhan o'n hetifeddiaeth hanesyddol, ac mae grwpiau eglwysig a chrefyddol wedi cyfrannu at y cyfoeth diwylliannol sy'n ffurfio Cymru fodern.

Er hynny, rhaid inni fod yn ddigon hirben i gydnabod y bydd tensiynau'n codi, ac mae angen inni weithio'n fwy diwyd i wella cyd-ddealltwriaeth ar adegau o'r fath. Bu achlysuron yn y gorffennol agos pan nad yw hynny wedi digwydd, ac mae'n bwysig inni ymateb i'r heriau hynny'n adeiladol. Mae'r digwyddiadau ar 11 Medi yn Efrog Newydd, ar 7 Gorffennaf yn Llundain, ac ar 11 Mawrth ym Madrid yn ein hatgoffa'n ddigamsyniol am hynny, a gwnaethant ein deffro i gyd i weld bod angen ymdrin ar frys â rhai o'r problemau sy'n gallu codi pan fydd tensiynau'n dod i'r golwg. Yn agosach atom, bu terfysgoedd yn Bradford, Burnley ac Oldham, sy'n dangos nad yw'r Deyrnas Unedig yn rhydd rhag y problemau hyn. Ddeng mlynedd ar hugain yn ôl, pwy a fyddai wedi dychmygu'r helbulon a fyddai'n llyncu Gogledd Iwerddon, a oedd yn wynebu chwarter canrif o wrthdaro sifil, a elwid yn llednais yn 'Helyntion'? Yr oedd arlliwiau sectyddol cryf i'r Helyntion hynny, er bod prif achos y gŵyn yn y maes cymdeithasol, economaidd a chyfansoddiadol. Mae'r sectyddiaeth honno'n dal yn gyffredin mewn nifer o ddinasoedd a chymunedau ledled tir mawr Prydain.

Mae'n digwydd yn aml fod rhaniadau o'r fath yn cynnig cyfle i ymateb yn gadarnhaol drwy feithrin ymdeimlad o gynhwysiant a chydlyniant. Hyd yn oed yng nghyd-destun

Northern Ireland context, we have seen a period of peace for most of the past decade, and the emphasis now is not on civil conflict, but on building a process of peace and reconciliation.

Following the attacks of 11 September, there was a genuine concern here that there would be a backlash against Muslims living in Wales. Conscious of those concerns, the Assembly Government responded rapidly, appropriately and effectively by meeting with religious and cultural leaders in Wales and working to maintain the good community relations that characterise Welsh society on the whole. As Darren mentioned, the Faith Communities Forum emerged from those discussions, which has been useful in facilitating the discussion between political leaders and the major faith groups. Undoubtedly, it has made a real difference, and I have had the privilege of sitting in on a number of those forum meetings. By bringing various faiths together, which I do not think was happening before the forum was established, encouraging dialogue and discussion, exploring creative new areas of work, and working in that way, we can work together constructively to stem the tide of interfaith intolerance, recognising that that is, sadly, a reality in a modern society.

5.20 p.m.

The contribution of faith groups to Welsh society has gone beyond mere talking and discussion, important though that is. Darren clearly outlined a wide range of services that are provided by faith groups in Wales across the spectrum. The media, when it reports on faith issues, often choose to focus on the negative—on division, extremism, and the potential threats, in some instances, to our national security—and rarely do we get the counterbalancing good story.

I recognise and pay tribute to that good civic responsibility and activity that is undertaken by all faith groups in Wales, of which Darren has given several examples. As an Assembly

Gogledd Iwerddon, yr ydym wedi gweld cyfnod o heddwch dros y rhan fwyaf o'r degawd diwethaf, ac mae'r pwyslais yn awr ar ddatblygu proses o heddwch a chymodi yn hytrach na gwrthdaro sifil.

Yn dilyn yr ymosodiadau ar 11 Medi, yr oedd pryder gwirioneddol yma y byddai adwaith gelyniaethus yn erbyn Mwslimiaid sy'n byw yng Nghymru. A hithau'n ymwybodol o'r pryderon hynny, ymatebodd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn gyflym, yn briodol ac yn effeithiol drwy gwrdd ag arweinwyr crefyddol a diwylliannol yng Nghymru ac ymdrechu i gadw'r cysylltiadau cymunedol da sy'n nodweddiadol o'r gymdeithas Gymreig at ei gilydd. Fel y nododd Darren, cododd Fforwm Cymunedau Ffydd o'r trafodaethau hynny, a fu'n ddefnyddiol o ran hwyluso'r drafodaeth rhwng arweinwyr gwleidyddol a'r prif grwpiau crefyddol. Yn sicr, mae wedi gwneud gwahaniaeth pendant, ac yr wyf wedi cael y ffrainc o fod yn bresennol yn nifer o gyfarfodydd y fforwm. Drwy ddod â gwahanol grefyddau at ei gilydd, nad oedd yn digwydd cyn sefydlu'r fforwm hyd y gwn, a hybu deialog a thrafodaeth, ac ymchwilio i feysydd gwaith newydd a chreadigol, a gweithio yn y modd hwnnw, gallwn gydweithio'n adeiladol i atal y cynnydd mewn anoddefgarwch rhwng crefyddau, gan gydnabod bod hynny'n bodoli, gwaetha'r modd, mewn cymdeithas fodern.

Mae cyfraniad grwpiau crefyddol i gymdeithas Cymru wedi mynd ymhellach na siarad a thrafod yn unig, er pwysiced hynny. Rhoddodd Darren ddisgrifiad clir o amrywiaeth fawr o wasanaethau y mae grwpiau crefyddol yng Nghymru'n eu darparu ym mhob maes. Bydd y cyfryngau, wrth adrodd ar faterion crefyddol, yn aml yn dewis canolbwyntio ar yr ochr negyddol—ar ymrannu, eithafiaeth, a'r bygythiadau posibl, mewn rhai achosion, i'n diogelwch gwladol—ac anaml y cawn stori dda i ddal y ddysgl yn wastad.

Yr wyf yn cydnabod ac yn rhoi teyrnged i'r cyfrifoldeb a'r gweithgarwch dinesig da y mae'r holl grwpiau crefyddol yn ymgymryd â hwy yng Nghymru, y mae Darren wedi rhoi

Government, working through other state bodies, we work actively with faith groups to deliver public services in Wales. At Bethel chapel in Pontyclun, STREET youth work and a church drop-in centre have combined forces to become an effective tool in engaging with bored youngsters and taking them off the streets. Every Friday night, more than 70 young people go there.

The Islamic social services in Wales are another example of how faith communities can provide culturally sensitive service provision where mainstream providers may not have the necessary infrastructure. They seek to give members of the Muslim community in Wales a range of services, from counselling to advocacy. In my constituency of Aberavon, St Therese's Catholic church set up what was, I believe, the very first credit union in Wales. The common bond in that instance was the Catholic church itself.

We can see how faith-based organisations work with us as an Assembly Government to be significant contributors to the common good. I am conscious of the services that faith groups provide, particularly in difficult areas such as substance misuse. Rhosserchan centre outside Aberystwyth and Chooselife Cymru in Llanelli are two good examples of organisations that are working constructively, drawing down significant public funds to benefit the recipients of their services.

For many migrants to Wales, their place of worship is often an important anchor, helping them to adjust to life in a new country and to make that transition into a new society as they build a new life. The Assembly Government has a laudable and credible record on supporting the work of these organisations. However, it must be clear about its expectations on the delivery of public services. Public services that are funded through the Welsh Assembly Government must draw a distinction between the faith base of an organisation and any other aims. While having a faith base is

nifer o enghreifftiau ohonynt. Fel Llywodraeth Cynulliad, drwy weithio drwy gyrff gwladol eraill, yr ydym yn cydweithio â grwpiau crefyddol i gyflenwi gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru. Yng nghapel Bethel ym Mhont-y-clun, mae gweithwyr ieuenctid STREET a chanolfan galw heibio sydd gan eglwys wedi dod at ei gilydd i ymgysylltu'n effeithiol â phobl ifanc sydd wedi diflasu a'u denu oddi ar y strydoedd. Bob nos Wener, mae mwy na 70 o bobl ifanc yn mynd yno.

Mae gwasanaethau cymdeithasol Islamaidd yng Nghymru'n enghraifft arall o'r modd y gall cymunedau crefyddol ddarparu gwasanaethau sy'n sensitif i ddiwylliant lle na fydd darparwyr prif ffrwd yn meddu o bosibl ar y seilwaith angenrheidiol. Maent yn ceisio cynnig amryw o wasanaethau i aelodau'r gymuned Fwslimaidd yng Nghymru, yn amrywio o gynghori i eirioli. Yn fy etholaeth i, sef Aberafan, sefydlodd eglwys Gatholig St Therese y cyntaf un, yr wyf yn credu, o'r undebau credyd yng Nghymru. Y cwlwm cyffredin yn yr achos hwnnw oedd yr eglwys Gatholig ei hun.

Gallwn weld sut y mae cyrff crefyddol yn cydweithio â ni fel Llywodraeth Cynulliad i gyfrannu'n sylweddol at les pawb. Yr wyf yn ymwybodol o'r gwasanaethau y mae grwpiau crefyddol yn eu darparu, yn enwedig mewn meysydd anodd fel camddefnyddio sylweddau. Mae canolfan Rhosserchan y tu allan i Aberystwyth a Chooselife Cymru yn Llanelli yn ddwy enghraifft dda o gyrff sy'n gweithio'n adeiladol, gan dynnu i lawr cyllid cyhoeddus sylweddol i ddod â budd i'r rhai sy'n derbyn eu gwasanaethau.

Yn achos llawer sy'n mudo i Gymru, mae eu man addoli'n aml yn angorfa bwysig, yn eu helpu i ymaddasu i fywyd mewn gwlad newydd ac i ddod yn rhan o gymdeithas newydd wrth iddynt ddechrau bywyd newydd. Mae gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad hanes clodwiw a hygred o hybu gwaith y cyrff hyn. Er hynny, rhaid iddi fod yn glir ynghylch ei disgwyliadau ar gyfer cyflenwi gwasanaethau cyhoeddus. Rhaid i wasanaethau cyhoeddus a ariannir drwy Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wahaniaethu rhwng sylfaen grefyddol y corff ac unrhyw nodau eraill. Er bod pob cyfiawnhad dros

entirely legitimate, it is not appropriate that some faith groups use public money to promote their faith, either directly or as a part of the delivery of services.

When I was recently in Swansea, I had a meeting with the interfaith group there. I was pleased to hear how several groups from different faiths were working together constructively to deliver a broad range of benefits to the community in Swansea. Therefore, faith communities play a positive role in Wales, and it is important that we recognise that as part of our diverse society. As an Assembly Government, we are keen to respect and promote that diversity. We are currently developing a single equality scheme, which will demonstrate our unequivocal commitment to promoting equality, diversity and human rights in Wales. Given that people may face discrimination based on a host of complex factors, that scheme will address the six equality strands of gender, age, race, disability, sexual orientation, and religious faith or belief. Our single equality scheme is intended to tackle discrimination on the basis of any of those six strands. Discrimination on any basis is not, and should not be, acceptable in a modern pluralistic society in the twenty-first century such as Wales, and I am pleased that faith tolerance is specifically included as one of the six strands.

I have mentioned—as did Darren—how faith communities contribute to the wider political debate. Faith groups have an important role to play in contributing to the wider public debate on developing public policy. That debate must take place not on the basis of theology or of theological differences but on the basis of the common good. That can happen within a framework of mutual respect and a clear commitment to democratic principles.

Everyone can contribute to this debate, regardless of which faith they owe their particular allegiance to—if any, as is the case for many people in Wales. It is important that we recognise that, and, although the faith groups have engaged with the Assembly

gael sylfaen grefyddol, nid yw'n briodol bod rhai grwpiau crefyddol yn defnyddio arian cyhoeddus i hyrwyddo eu crefydd, un ai'n uniongyrchol neu fel rhan o'r broses o gyflenwi gwasanaethau.

Pan oeddwn yn Abertawe'n ddiweddar, cefais gyfarfod â'r grŵp rhyng-ffydd yn y fan honno. Yr oeddwn yn falch o glywed sut yr oedd nifer o grwpiau o wahanol grefyddau'n cydweithio'n adeiladol i ddod â buddion o lawer math i'r gymuned yn Abertawe. Felly, mae cymunedau crefyddol yn chwarae rhan gadarnhaol yng Nghymru, ac mae'n bwysig inni gydnabod hynny fel rhan o'n cymdeithas amrywiol. Fel Llywodraeth Cynulliad, yr ydym yn awyddus i barchu a hyrwyddo'r amrywiaeth honno. Ar hyn o bryd, yr ydym yn datblygu cynllun cydraddoldeb sengl, a fydd yn dangos ein hymrwymiad diamwys i hybu cydraddoldeb, amrywiaeth a hawliau dynol yng Nghymru. Gan y gallai pobl wynebu gwahaniaethu ar sail lluo o ffactorau cymhleth, bydd y cynllun hwnnw'n ymdrin â'r chwe maes cydraddoldeb, sef rhywedd, oed, hil, anabledd, cyfeiriadedd rhywiol, a ffydd neu gred grefyddol. Amcan ein cynllun cydraddoldeb sengl yw delio â gwahaniaethu ar sail unrhyw un o'r chwe maes hwnnw. Nid yw gwahaniaethu ar unrhyw sail yn dderbyniol mewn cymdeithas luosryw fodern yn yr unfed ganrif ar hugain fel Cymru, ac ni ddylai fod, ac yr wyf yn falch bod goddefgarwch at grefydd wedi'i gynnwys yn benodol fel un o'r chwe maes.

Yr wyf wedi sôn—fel y gwnaeth Darren—am y modd y mae cymunedau crefyddol yn cyfrannu i'r ddadl wleidyddol ehangach. Mae rhan bwysig i'w chwarae gan grwpiau crefyddol wrth gyfrannu i'r ddadl gyhoeddus ehangach am ddatblygu polisi cyhoeddus. Rhaid i'r ddadl honno ddigwydd nid ar sail diwinyddiaeth neu wahaniaethau diwinyddol ond ar sail y lles cyffredin. Gall hynny ddigwydd o fewn fframwaith o barch gan y naill at y llall ac ymrwymiad pendant i egwyddorion democrataidd.

Gall pawb gyfrannu i'r ddadl hon, ni waeth pa grefydd y mae'n ei harddel—os oes un o gwbl, fel y mae'n digwydd yn achos llawer o bobl yng Nghymru. Mae'n bwysig inni gydnabod hynny, ac, er bod y grwpiau crefyddol wedi ymgysylltu â Llywodraeth y

Government, that has been done on the basis of pluralism, tolerance and an open and democratic approach.

The final point that I wish to highlight may reach a bit beyond Wales, but we in Wales—in the Assembly and as a country—can take a certain amount of pride in it, and that is the fair-trade campaign. Wales has become the first fair-trade country in the world, and there is no doubt that one of the main drivers of that proud achievement was the churches, including the Church in Wales, the Catholic church and the interfaith forum to name just a few. They have been very supportive in promoting the fair-trade campaign, and they have contributed significantly to it. Indeed, the Wales Fair Trade Forum is currently in consultation with the interfaith forum, the Muslim Council of Wales and the Cardiff United Synagogue on how we can move the fair-trade status of Wales further forward and build on the progress made to date.

In conclusion, I am grateful to Darren for raising this subject. A debate on this was long overdue. Faith groups make a significant contribution to the quality of life of people here in Wales, and, provided that we engage with them on the basis of mutual respect, in an open and democratic way, that benefit should continue into the future.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: That brings today's proceedings to a close.

Cynulliad, gwnaed hynny ar sail lluosrywiaeth, goddefgarwch a dull gweithredu agored a democrataidd.

Mae'r pwynt olaf y dymunaf dynnu sylw ato'n un a allai ymestyn ychydig y tu hwnt i Gymru, ond yr ydym ni yng Nghymru—yn y Cynulliad ac fel gwlad—yn gallu ymfalchïo ynddo i ryw raddau, a hwnnw yw'r ymgyrch masnach deg. Cymru bellach yw'r wlad masnach deg gyntaf yn y byd, ac nid oes amheuaeth nad un o brif ysgogwyr y cyflawniad pwysig hwnnw oedd yr eglwysi, gan gynnwys yr Eglwys yng Nghymru, yr eglwys Gatholig a'r fforwm rhyng-ffydd, ac enwi ond rhai ohonynt. Maent wedi bod yn gefnogol iawn o ran hyrwyddo'r ymgyrch masnach deg, ac maent wedi cyfrannu ati'n sylweddol. Yn wir, mae Fforwm Masnach Deg Cymru yn ymgynghori ar hyn o bryd â'r fforwm rhyng-ffydd, Cyngor Mwslimiaid Cymru a Synagog Unedig Caerdydd ynghylch y modd y gallwn hyrwyddo statws masnach deg Cymru ymhellach ac adeiladu ar sail y cynnydd a wnaed hyd yma.

I gloi, yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i Darren am godi'r testun hwn. Yr oedd yn hen bryd cael dadl ar hyn. Mae grwpiau crefyddol yn cyfrannu'n sylweddol at ansawdd bywyd pobl yma yng Nghymru, ac, ar yr amod ein bod yn ymwneud â hwy ar sail parch gan y naill at y llall, mewn modd agored a democrataidd, dylai'r budd hwnnw barhau yn y dyfodol.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Daw hynny â chyfarfod heddiw i ben.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5.27 p.m.
The meeting ended at 5.27 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)