



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

**Cofnod y Trafodion
The Record of Proceedings**

**Dydd Mercher, 18 Mehefin 2008
Wednesday, 18 June 2008**

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

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

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

Y Llywydd: Galwaf y Cynulliad i drefn.

The Presiding Officer: I call the Assembly to order.

Ethol Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro Election of Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer

Y Llywydd: Yn absenoldeb anorfod y Dirprwy Lywydd, gofynnaf i'r Cynulliad ethol Dirprwy Lywydd dros dro am hyd y Cyfarfod Llawn heddiw. Felly, gwahoddaf enwebiadau.

The Presiding Officer: In the absence of the Deputy Presiding Officer, which is unavoidable, I ask the Assembly to elect a temporary Deputy Presiding Officer for the duration of today's Plenary meeting. Therefore, I invite nominations.

William Graham: I nominate Lorraine Barrett.

William Graham: Yr wyf yn enwebu Lorraine Barrett.

Y Llywydd: Mae Lorraine Barrett wedi'i henwebu. A oes enwebiadau eraill? Gwela'nad oes. Felly mae Lorraine Barrett wedi'i hethol yn Ddirprwy Llywydd dros dro ar gyfer hyd Cyfarfod Llawn heddiw. Diolchaf iddi hi am wasanaethu yn fy absenoldeb anorfod.

The Presiding Officer: Lorraine Barrett has been nominated. Are there any other nominations? I see that there are not. Therefore, Lorraine Barrett has been elected as temporary Deputy Presiding Officer for the duration of today's Plenary meeting. I thank her for serving in my unavoidable absence.

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Gyllid a Chyflenwi Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Questions to the Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery

Y Llywydd: Mae'r Prif Weinidog wedi rhoi rhybudd imi y bydd ef, o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 7.50, yn ateb cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Gyllid a Chyflenwi Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus

The Presiding Officer: The First Minister has given me notice that, under Standing Order Rhif 7.50, he will answer questions to the Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery.

The Strategic Capital Investment Board

Y Bwrdd Buddsoddi Cyfalaf Strategol

Q1 Sandy Mewies: Has the Minister made any assessment of the impact that the availability of credit on global financial markets will have on plans for the new strategic capital investment board? OAQ(3)0389(FPS)

C1 Sandy Mewies: A yw'r Gweinidog wedi asesu effaith argaeledd credyd ym marchnadoedd ariannol y byd ar y cynlluniau ar gyfer y bwrdd buddsoddi cyfalaf strategol newydd? OAQ(3)0389(FPS)

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): Despite the turmoil in international capital markets, we are confident that we will be able to fund and deliver our strategic capital investment programme, which has been allocated at least £400 million over the next three years in our budget.

Y Prif Weinidog (Rhodri Morgan): Er gwaethaf y cythrwfl yn y marchnadoedd cyfalaf rhyngwladol, yr ydym yn hyderus y byddwn yn gallu ariannu a chyflwyno ein rhaglen buddsoddi cyfalaf strategol y mae o leiaf £400 miliwn o'n cyllideb wedi'i neilltuo ar ei chyfer dros y tair blynedd nesaf.

Sandy Mewies: I am sure that you would agree that the importance of a strategic approach to capital investment in times of credit difficulty is essential. The Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economy and Transport has said in the past that the strategic approach would partly be achieved by accessing the best possible advice through an external advisory panel. Could you give me an update on the establishment of that panel, and tell me how it will add value to the capital expenditure process?

The First Minister: Interviews are taking place this week and we would expect the first meeting of the external advisory expert panel to take place in July. Decisions by Ministers will remain decisions by Ministers but, along the lines that you have described, the decisions will be better informed on the basis of advice from experts who have skill sets that we do not have.

Alun Cairns: You mentioned in your response to Sandy Mewies that you have made £400 million available under this strategic capital investment programme over the next three years. I have no doubt that every party will welcome that. However, there is a school maintenance backlog approaching £1 billion—and I do not want to overstate it, because various local authorities will have various estimate figures, but it is fair to say that it is between £800 million and £1 billion. Similarly, in health, there is a capital and maintenance backlog well in excess of £1 billion, and the asbestos problem alone will take hundreds of millions of pounds to resolve, particularly in north Wales hospitals. Given those backlogs, how far do you think that that £400 million will go, and what is your policy on involving private investment in public services, as has been the case in Scotland and England? For the last four years of the previous Scottish Government, one new school was built every week—that is 200 schools in comparison with our poor performance.

The First Minister: The private finance

Sandy Mewies: Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddech yn cytuno bod pwysigrwydd dull strategol o ran buddsoddiad cyfalaf mewn cyfnod credyd anodd yn hanfodol. Mae'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth wedi dweud yn y gorffennol y byddai'r dull strategol yn cael ei gyflawni'n rhannol drwy gael y cyngor gorau posibl drwy banel cynghori allanol. A allech roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf imi am y broses o sefydlu'r panel hwnnw, a rhoi gwybod imi sut y bydd yn ychwanegu gwerth at y broses gwariant cyfalaf?

Y Prif Weinidog: Cynhelir cyfweiliadau'r wythnos hon a byddem yn disgwyl cynnal cyfarfod cyntaf y panel cynghori arbenigol allanol ym mis Gorffennaf. Y Gweinidogion fydd yn parhau i wneud penderfyniadau ond, fel y gwnaethoch ddisgrifio'n fras, bydd y penderfyniadau'n fwy seiliedig ar gyngor gan arbenigwyr a chanddynt sgiliau nad oes gennym ni mohonynt.

Alun Cairns: Gwnaethoch gyfeirio yn eich ymateb i Sandy Mewies eich bod wedi sicrhau bod £400 miliwn ar gael o dan y rhaglen buddsoddi cyfalaf strategol hon dros y tair blynedd nesaf. Yr wyf yn sicr y bydd bob plaid yn croesawu hynny. Fodd bynnag, mae'r ôl-groniad o waith cynnal a chadw ysgolion yn agosáu at £1 biliwn—ac nid wyf am or-ddweud hyn, gan y bydd gan lawer o awdurdodau lleol ffigurau amcangyfrif amrywiol, ond mae'n deg nodi bod hyn rhwng £800 miliwn ac £1 biliwn. Yn yr un modd, ym maes iechyd, mae'r ôl-groniad cynnal a chadw a chyfalaf ymhell dros £1 biliwn, a bydd y broblem asbestos ynddi'i hun yn defnyddio cannoedd o filiynau o bunnoedd i'w datrys, yn enwedig yn ysbytai gogledd Cymru. Ac ystyried yr ôl-groniadau hyn, pa mor bell yr ydych yn credu yr aiff y £400 miliwn hwnnw, a beth yw eich polisi o ran cynnwys buddsoddi preifat mewn gwasanaethau cyhoeddus, fel sydd wedi digwydd yn yr Alban ac yn Lloegr? Am y pedair blynedd diwethaf yng nghyn Lywodraeth yr Alban, adeiladwyd un ysgol newydd bob wythnos—mae hynny'n 200 o ysgolion o'i gymharu â'n perfformiad gwael ni.

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'r fenter cyllid preifat

initiative has become much less attractive following the acceptance by the Office for National Statistics of the ruling by the International Accounting Standards Board that the interest payment obligations cannot be kept off balance sheet by a Government. Once you have entered into a commitment, it has to be shown on your balance sheet, and so that side of PFI has simply become much less attractive. I understand that there is still an appetite for public-private partnerships in other forms, and we will certainly be exploring that. That is part of the strategic capital investment board's remit, because it will continue to stretch the Welsh pound further at a time of straightened circumstances in terms of the availability of public finance.

On the issue of the £400 million relative to the size of maintenance backlogs in schools, certainly packages of new school building would be eligible candidates. Maintenance would not really be eligible, but new school and hospital programmes would be eligible candidates for strategic capital investment board funding. It is in addition to the normal budget allocation, and not instead of it.

Alun Ffred Jones: Gyda golwg ar y bwrdd buddsoddi cyfalaf strategol, a fydd yr arian ar gael i gyrff sydd hyd braich o'r Llywodraeth ond sy'n cael eu hariannu yn bennaf gan y Llywodraeth?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae awdurdodau lleol yn enghraifft o gyrff o'r fath. Yr amod yw bod y cais busnes yn strategol. Byddai awdurdodau lleol yn gallu cyflwyno cais busnes i adeiladu ysgolion newydd neu becyn o ysgolion newydd, ar yr amod eu bod yn gwneud hynny mewn modd strategol. Gall prifysgolion a cholegau addysg bellach ag uwch hefyd wneud hyn. Cyhyd â bod y cais yn strategol, gallant geisio am ran o'r £400 miliwn.

Eleanor Burnham: Mae Gweinidogion gwahanol wedi addo llawer o arian i helpu ysgolion, gan fod rhai ysgolion mewn cyflwr ofnadwy. Os ydych hefyd yn bwriadu ailstrwythuro'r gwasanaeth iechyd a gwella trafnidiaeth, tybed pa Weinidog fydd y cyntaf yn y ciw.

wedi dod yn llai deniadol o lawer ar ôl i'r Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol dderbyn dyfarniad y Bwrdd Safonau Cyfrifyddu Rhyngwladol sef na all Llywodraeth gadw ymrwymadau o ran taliadau llog oddi ar y fantolen. Unwaith yr ydych wedi ymrwymo, mae'n rhaid dangos hynny ar eich mantolen, ac felly mae'r ochr honno o fentrau cyllid preifat wedi dod yn llawer llai deniadol. Deallaf fod awch am bartneriaethau cyhoeddus-preifat o hyd mewn ffurfiau eraill, a byddwn yn ymchwilio i hynny'n bendant. Mae hynny'n rhan o gylch gwaith y bwrdd buddsoddi cyfalaf, gan y bydd yn parhau i ymestyn y bunt Gymreig ymhellach mewn cyfnod lle mae amgylchiadau wedi'u hunioni o ran faint o gyllid cyhoeddus sydd ar gael.

Ynglŷn â'r mater o £400 miliwn o'i gymharu â maint yr ôl-groniadau o ran cynnal a chadw mewn ysgolion, yn sicr byddai pecynnau o ysgolion newydd yn ymgeiswyr cymwys. Ni fyddai cynnal a chadw'n gymwys mewn gwirionedd, ond byddai rhaglenni ysgolion ac ysbytai newydd yn ymgeiswyr cymwys ar gyfer cael arian gan y bwrdd buddsoddi cyfalaf strategol. Mae'n ychwanegol at ddyraniad arferol y gyllideb, ac nid yn ei le.

Alun Ffred Jones: With a view to the strategic capital investment board, will that money be available to arm's-length bodies from the Government but that are financed mainly by the Government?

The First Minister: Local authorities are an example of such bodies. The condition is that the business case is strategic. Local authorities may present a business case to build new schools or a package of new schools on the condition that they do so in a strategic way. Universities and further education colleges may also do that. As long as the bid is strategic, they may apply for some of that £400 million.

Eleanor Burnham: Different Ministers have promised a great deal of money to assist schools, given that some schools are in a terrible state. If you also intend to restructure the health service and improve transport, I wonder which Minister will be the first in the queue.

Y Prif Weinidog: Bydd y Gweinidogion yn y ciw yn ôl pa mor strategol y gallant fod ac o ran y sgiliau sydd ganddynt wrth baratoi cais busnes clir a strategol. Bydd gan y panel o arbenigwyr sgiliau nad ydynt ar gael i ni fel Gweinidogion—ac efallai nad ydynt ar gael yn y gwasanaeth sifil ychwaith—a bydd yn deall sut i wneud i'r bunt Gymreig ymestyn i'r eithaf drwy ddenu cyfalaf o bob ffynhonnell. Rhaid i'r Gweinidogion ddatblygu eu ceisiadau busnes mewn ffordd sy'n cyd-fynd â hynny ac â'n blaenoriaethau strategol.

The First Minister: The Ministers will line up in the queue according to how strategic they can be and according to their skills in preparing a clear and strategic business case. The panel of experts will have skills that are not at our disposal, as Ministers—and perhaps they are not found in the civil service either—and it will understand how to stretch the Welsh pound to its limit by attracting capital from all sources. Ministers will have to develop their business cases in such a way as to fit in with that and with our strategic priorities.

Postcode Lottery

Q2 Jeff Cuthbert: Will the Minister make a statement on how the Assembly Government's budget will help to reduce the postcode lottery of public service delivery across Wales? OAQ(3)0368(FPS)

Q5 Joyce Watson: Will the Minister make a statement on how the Welsh Assembly Government's budget will help to reduce the postcode lottery of public services across Wales? OAQ(3)0369(FPS)

The First Minister: Our budget is clearly intended to deliver the priorities set out in the 'One Wales' agreement. With regard to the postcode lottery, we are in favour of a good postcode lottery—that is, the establishment of new best practice—but we cannot abide areas of public service delivery that lag behind: a bad postcode lottery. We want to drive up standards by setting minimum standards, to prevent people from being adversely affected by poor public services.

Jeff Cuthbert: Thank you for that reply, First Minister. One of the findings of the dyslexia rapporteur group, on which I sit, is that the early identification and diagnosis of dyslexia varies across Wales. We would like to see a uniform service across Wales that is not subject to the variance of individual local authorities. Do you agree that that is a reasonable goal?

The First Minister: I understand that an interim report was published last December,

Y Loteri Cod Post

C2 Jeff Cuthbert: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am sut y bydd cyllideb Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn helpu i leihau'r loteri cod post yng nghyswllt cyflenwi gwasanaethau cyhoeddus ledled Cymru? OAQ(3)0368(FPS)

C5 Joyce Watson: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am sut y bydd cyllideb Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n helpu i leihau'r loteri cod post yng nghyswllt gwasanaethau cyhoeddus ledled Cymru? OAQ(3)0369(FPS)

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'n amlwg y bwriedir i'n cyllideb gyflawni'r blaenoriaethau a osodwyd allan yng nghytundeb 'Cymru'n Un'. O ran y loteri cod post, yr ydym o blaid loteri cod post da—sef, sefydlu arfer gorau newydd—ond ni allwn ddiodef meysydd cyflenwi gwasanaethau cyhoeddus sy'n llusgo ar ôl: sef loteri cod post gwael. Yr ydym am godi safonau drwy osod safonau gofynnol, er mwyn atal gwasanaethau cyhoeddus gwael rhag cael effaith andwyol ar bobl.

Jeff Cuthbert: Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw, Brif Weinidog. Un o ganfyddiadau'r grŵp rapporteur dyslecsia, yr wyf yn aelod ohono, yw bod y gallu i ganfod dyslecsia a gwneud diagnosis cynnar yn amrywio ledled Cymru. Hoffem weld gwasanaeth unffurf ledled Cymru nad yw'n amodol ar amrywiaethau o fewn awdurdodau lleol unigol. A ydych yn cytuno bod hon yn nod rhesymol?

Y Prif Weinidog: Deallaf y cyhoeddwyd adroddiad interim fis Rhagfyr y llynedd, a

which indicated that the early identification of the condition was key in dealing with it effectively. It highlighted the need to screen every child in Wales who might be at risk of having dyslexia at the age of 6 or 7 in both Welsh and English—whichever language is more relevant. It stressed the importance of reaching a consensus on the definition of dyslexia and the need for accurate information to be provided. That seems to be an attempt to establish new, good best practice. We do not want any local authorities to lag behind and fail to abide by that statement of intent.

12.40 p.m.

Joyce Watson: All local authorities have had increased funding year on year from the Welsh Assembly Government since its inception. However, from looking at figures, I have found that Pembrokeshire County Council currently has a waiting time of over 1,000 days for adaptations for disabled people, which is well above the national average. Considering that we are funding local authorities well, do you find it disturbing and unacceptable, as I do, that some authorities are failing to address the basic needs of their constituents? How are we going to help to facilitate this for these people?

The First Minister: I think that any objective observer would have to accept that your use of the adjectives ‘disturbing’ and ‘unacceptable’ is absolutely correct about any mandatory service that is taking 1,112 days to deliver. That is a matter for Pembrokeshire council to take up. It needs to understand that a mandatory service does not mean a mandatory service to be supplied two-and-a-half or three years late.

Mark Isherwood: The postcode lottery in service delivery is often exacerbated in rural areas with, for example, pensioners in rural areas relying heavily on volunteer drivers to access health services. I understand that the number of volunteer drivers for community schemes has been falling as a consequence of rising fuel costs—their mileage payments are pegged at 40p or 41p before they become taxable. I appreciate that the Assembly

oedd yn nodi bod canfod y cyflwr yn gynnar yn hanfodol i'r broses o ddelio ag ef yn effeithiol. Amlygodd yr angen i sgrinio pob plentyn yng Nghymru a allai fod mewn perygl o fod â dyslecsia yn 6 neu 7 oed yn Gymraeg ac yn Saesneg—pa bynnag iaith sydd fwyaf perthnasol. Pwysleisiodd bwysigrwydd cyrraedd consensws ar y diffiniad o ddyslecsia a'r angen i ddarparu gwybodaeth gywir. Mae hynny'n ymddangos fel ymgais i sefydlu arfer gorau da, newydd. Nid ydym am i unrhyw awdurdodau lleol lusgo y tu ôl a methu cydymffurfio â'r datganiad hwnnw o fwriad.

Joyce Watson: Mae pob awdurdod lleol wedi cael mwy o arian bob blwyddyn gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ers ei sefydlu yn y dechrau. Fodd bynnag, wrth edrych ar y ffigurau, sylwais fod gan Gyngor Sir Penfro amser aros o dros 1,000 o ddyddiau ar hyn o bryd ar gyfer addasiadau i bobl anabl, sydd ymhell uwchben y cyfartaledd cenedlaethol. Ac ystyried ein bod yn ariannu awdurdodau lleol yn dda, a ydych yn cytuno â mi ei bod yn ysgytwol ac yn annerbyniol bod rhai awdurdodau yn methu mynd i'r afael ag anghenion sylfaenol eu hetholwyr? Sut yr ydym yn mynd i helpu i hwyluso hyn ar gyfer y bobl hyn?

Y Prif Weinidog: Credaf y byddai unrhyw arsylwr gwrthrychol yn gorfod derbyn bod eich defnydd o'r ansoddeiriau 'ysgytwol' ac 'annerbyniol' yn hollol gywir am unrhyw wasanaeth gorfodol sy'n cymryd 1,112 o ddyddiau i'w gyflenwi. Mae hynny'n fater i Gyngor Sir Benfro fynd i'r afael ag ef. Mae angen iddo ddeall nad yw gwasanaeth gorfodol yn golygu gwasanaeth gorfodol a ddarperir ddwy flynedd a hanner neu dair blynedd yn hwyr.

Mark Isherwood: Mae'r loteri cod post mewn cyflenwi gwasanaeth yn aml yn waeth mewn ardaloedd gwledig, er enghraifft, pensïynwyr mewn ardaloedd gwledig sy'n dibynnu'n drwm ar yrwyr gwirfoddol i gael mynediad at wasanaethau iechyd. Deallaf fod nifer y gywyr gwirfoddol ar gyfer cynlluniau cymunedol wedi disgyn o ganlyniad i'r cynnydd mewn costau tanwydd—mae eu taliadau fesul milltir yn 40c neu'n 41c cyn

Government does not control taxes, but what measures will the Assembly Government consider to support these schemes to ensure that those volunteer drivers can continue to provide this vital service?

The First Minister: I suppose that you could stretch the definition of a postcode lottery to include the impact of lengthier average journeys in rural areas, but I guess that you would probably be talking about something that is across Wales rather than in individual postcodes. That variation is a variation between rural and urban areas because the journeys are longer in rural areas. If you would write to me and mention some of the examples that you have just referred to, we will have a look at the matter. However, they do not quite fit into the definition that I would use when looking for examples of bad practice from areas that are lagging badly behind or are not really attempting to follow best practice even though it has been established in other areas.

Nerys Evans: In addition to the postcode lottery with services, there is an emerging postcode lottery in the civil service following Westminster's decision to introduce regional pay into elements of the civil service. This is to start with Ministry of Justice staff with all Welsh staff currently in the lowest two pay ranges, and the Treasury is encouraging other departments to do the same. Obviously, this is a threat to the standard of living in Wales, and people in Wales are being paid less for doing the same work as people in England. Will you join me in condemning this move? What is the Assembly Government doing to prevent this happening in other departments and to try to reverse the decision in the Ministry of Justice?

The First Minister: We have made it clear to the Westminster Government that we regard it as unhelpful for it to be bringing this in in certain services that we have no control over—the court service is a notable early example of a body that has regional pay.

iddynt ddod yn drethadwy. Yr wyf yn deall nad yw Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn rheoli trethi, ond pa fesurau fydd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn eu hystyried er mwyn cefnogi'r cynlluniau hyn er mwyn sicrhau y gall y gyrrwyr gwirfoddol hynny barhau i ddarparu'r gwasanaeth hanfodol hwn?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'n debyg y gallech ymestyn y diffiniad o loteri cod post i gynnwys effaith siwrneiau hwy na'r arfer mewn ardaloedd gwledig, ond credaf y byddech fwy na thebyg yn sôn am rywbeth sy'n wir ledled Cymru yn hytrach nag mewn codau post unigol. Mae'r amrywiad hwnw'n amrywiad rhwng ardaloedd gwledig ac ardaloedd trefol oherwydd bod y siwrneiau'n hwy mewn ardaloedd gwledig. Petaech yn ysgrifennu ataf ac yn sôn am rai o'r enghreifftiau yr ydych newydd gyfeirio atynt, gwnawn edrych ar y mater. Fodd bynnag, nid ydynt yn cyd-fynd â'r diffiniad y byddem yn ei ddefnyddio mewn gwirionedd wrth chwilio am enghreifftiau o arfer gwael mewn ardaloedd sy'n llusgo ymhell y tu ôl neu ardaloedd nad ydynt wir yn ceisio dilyn arfer da er ei fod wedi'i sefydlu mewn ardaloedd eraill.

Nerys Evans: Yn ychwanegol i'r loteri cod post gyda gwasanaethau, mae loteri cod post yn codi yn y gwasanaeth sifil yn dilyn penderfyniad San Steffan i gyflwyno tâl rhanbarthol i elfennau o'r gwasanaeth sifil. Bydd hyn yn dechrau gyda staff y Weinyddiaeth Gyfiawnder lle mae pob aelod o staff o Gymru yn yr ystod cyflog isaf, ac mae'r Trysorlys yn annog adrannau eraill i wneud yr un fath. Yn amlwg, mae hyn yn fygythiad i safonau byw yng Nghymru, ac mae pobl yng Nghymru yn cael llai o gyflog am wneud yr un gwaith â phobl yn Lloegr. A wnewch ymuno â mi i gondemnio'r cam hwn? Beth mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ei wneud i rwystro hyn rhag digwydd mewn adrannau eraill a cheisio gwyrdroi'r penderfyniad yn y Weinyddiaeth Gyfiawnder?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydym wedi nodi'n glir wrth Lywodraeth San Steffan nad yw'n ddefnyddiol rhoi hyn ar waith mewn rhai gwasanaethau nad oes gennym reolaeth drostynt—mae'r gwasanaeth llysoedd yn enghraifft gynnar nodedig o gorff sydd â thâl

Although everybody accepts the principle of London weighting, we do not accept the principle that it makes sense to reduce the pay of civil servants in areas outside London. Indeed, even as regards London weighting, there is no point in attempting to compensate for every pound of additional cost. If beer costs £3 a pint instead of £2 a pint, you cannot compensate for that in full, otherwise all that you would be doing would be exaggerating the inflation of house prices in London and so on, and you will make the problem worse, not better. We have made that point clear to Westminster, but we do not control what it does and this has been a Treasury obsession for some years now.

Jonathan Morgan: First Minister, in answer to Jeff Cuthbert, you said that a postcode lottery could help to raise standards. One of the problems that we have had has been the way in which the 22 local health boards have had difficulty in commissioning and paying for certain services, so the negative effects of the postcode lottery have been accentuated in Wales. Your Minister for Health and Social Services is seeking to reduce the number of local health boards, possibly to eight, although we do not yet know the final figure. As the First Minister and as a Government, are you committed to keeping local health boards in some shape or form?

The First Minister: Let me be absolutely clear about what I was saying earlier. When people talk about a postcode lottery, they do not mean that you should never allow a local area to make an advance with regard to the average provision of a service by using some exciting new innovation. It is the essence of any kind of enterprise in the provision of public services that people have the ability to establish a new service. That would be a good postcode lottery. What we cannot accept is a local authority, health authority or health board falling behind the average for a long time and simply refusing to adopt best practice.

On local health board and trust provision, it is far too early to say. We are aware of the

rhanbarthol. Er bod pawb yn derbyn egwyddor pwysiad Llundain, nid ydym yn derbyn yr egwyddor ei bod yn gwneud synnwyr gostwng cyflog gweision sifil mewn ardaloedd y tu allan i Lundain. Yn wir, hyd yn oed wrth ystyried pwysiad Llundain, nid oes pwynt ceisio talu iawndal am bob punt o gostau ychwanegol. Os yw cwrw'n costio £3 y peint yn hytrach na £2, ni allwch dalu iawndal am hynny'n llawn, neu fel arall y cyfan y byddech yn ei wneud fyddai cynyddu chwyddiant prisiau tai yn Llundain ac ati, a byddech yn gwneud y broblem yn waeth, yn hytrach na gwell. Yr ydym wedi cyfleu'r pwynt hwnnw'n glir i San Steffan, ond ni allwn reoli'r hyn y mae'n ei wneud ac mae hyn wedi bod yn obsesiwn i'r Trysorlys am rai blynyddoedd bellach.

Jonathan Morgan: Brif Weinidog, yn eich ateb i Jeff Cuthbert, dywedsoch y gallai loteri cod post helpu i godi safonau. Un o'r problemau yr ydym wedi'u cael yw'r ffordd y mae'r 22 o fyrddau iechyd lleol wedi cael anhawster o ran comisiynu a thalu am rai gwasanaethau, felly mae effeithiau negyddol y loteri cod post wedi'u dwysáu yng Nghymru. Mae eich Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yn ceisio lleihau nifer y byrddau iechyd lleol, i wyth o bosibl, er nad ydym yn gwybod y ffigur terfynol eto. Fel Prif Weinidog ac fel Llywodraeth, a ydych wedi ymrwymo i gadw byrddau iechyd lleol ar ryw ffurf neu'i gilydd?

Y Prif Weinidog: Gadewch imi fod yn gwbl glir gyda'r hyn a ddywedais yn gynharach. Pan fydd pobl yn siarad am loteri cod post, nid ydynt yn golygu na ddylech byth adael i ardal leol wneud cynnydd o ran darpariaeth gyfartalog gwasanaeth drwy ddefnyddio syniad arloesol newydd, cyffrous. Hanfod unrhyw fath o fenter ym maes cyflenwi gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yw bod y gallu gan bobl i sefydlu gwasanaeth newydd. Byddai hwnnw'n enghraifft o loteri cod post da. Yr hyn na allwn ei dderbyn yw awdurdod lleol, awdurdod iechyd neu fwrdd iechyd yn methu cyrraedd y lefel gyfartalog am gryn amser ac, yn syml, yn gwrthod mabwysiadu arfer gorau.

O ran darpariaeth byrddau iechyd lleol ac ymddiriedolaethau, mae'n llawer rhy fuan

general opinion, however, and we will have heard the same things as you. We are getting the consultation responses in, which show that some people are lobbying strongly for something similar to the Scottish model to be adopted in Wales, and they ask why we are having this sort of purchaser/provider or commissioner/provider divide. No decision has been taken yet as regards Wales following the Scottish road.

Monitoring the Budget

Q3 Angela Burns: What steps does the Minister take to monitor the budget? OAQ(3)0377(FPS)

The First Minister: We now believe that we have a state-of-the-art monitoring system for expenditure as of 1 April. A leading-edge enterprise resource planning system was introduced by SAP, the famous German company that specialises in this field.

Angela Burns: What additional use will your Government make of hypothecation to monitor and control the devolved funds of local government?

The First Minister: The enterprise resource planning system that we are introducing enables us to say much earlier than in previous years and with a much higher degree of accuracy whether we are above or below where we want to be at various points in the financial year. Therefore, it is on a much less rule-of-thumb, hit-or-miss basis.

As regards other authorities that we help to fund, in health or local government, I would like to think that SAP's new system—and this is partly an answer to the previous question, in a way—will establish new best practice, assuming that it works as well as we already think it does, based on two months' experience. These systems of SAP's are being introduced in business throughout Wales, and so there is a parallel movement in the private and public sectors. If it works as well for us as it seems to have done in the first two months, we would like to show it as best practice to other public authorities that

dweud. Yr ydym yn ymwybodol o'r farn gyffredinol, fodd bynnag, a byddwn wedi clywed yr un pethau â chi. Yr ydym yn casglu'r ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad, ac maent yn dangos bod rhai pobl yn lobbio'n gadarn dros fabwysiadu yng Nghymru fodel tebyg i'r hwnnw a geir yn yr Alban, a gofynnant pam ein bod yn cael rhaniad prynwr/darparwr neu gomisiynydd/darparwr fel hwn. Nid oes dim penderfyniad wedi'i wneud hyd yma yng nghyswllt Cymru'n dilyn trywydd yr Alban.

Monitro'r Gyllideb

C3 Angela Burns: Pa gamau mae'r Gweinidog yn eu cymryd i fonitro'r gyllideb? OAQ(3)0377(FPS)

Y Prif Weinidog: Credwn fod gennym yn awr system fonitro fodern tu hwnt ar gyfer gwariant er 1 Ebrill. Cyflwynwyd system flaenllaw ar gyfer cynllunio adnoddau menter gan SAP, y cwmni enwog o'r Almaen sy'n arbenigo yn y maes hwn.

Angela Burns: Pa ddefnydd ychwanegol y bydd eich Llywodraeth yn ei wneud o glustnodi er mwyn monitro a rheoli cyllid datganoledig llywodraeth leol?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'r system cynllunio adnoddau menter yr ydym yn ei chyflwyno yn ein galluogi i ddweud a ydym yn uwch ynteu'n is na'r man y dymunwn fod ar wahanol adegau yn ystod y flwyddyn ariannol, a hynny'n gynharach o lawer ac yn fanylach o lawer. Felly, gwneir hyn ar raddfa llawer lai anwadal a chyffredinol nag yn y blynyddoedd a fu.

O ran yr awdurdodau eraill y byddwn yn cynorthwyo i'w hariannu, ym maes iechyd neu lywodraeth leol, hoffwn feddwl y bydd system newydd SAP—ac mae hwn yn rhannol ateb y cwestiwn blaenorol, mewn ffordd—yn sefydlu arfer gorau newydd, a thybio ei bod yn gweithio gystal ag yr ydym eisoes yn meddwl ei fod, ar sail dau fis o brofiad. Mae'r systemau hyn gan SAP yn cael eu cyflwyno i fusnesau ym mhob cwr o Gymru, ac felly ceir symudiad paralel yn y sector preifat a'r sector cyhoeddus. Os bydd yn gweithio cystal i ni ag yr ymddengys iddo'i wneud yn y ddau fis cyntaf, hoffem ei

should perhaps be thinking of these types of systems—and I must not advertise the particular company that is supplying us. Enterprise resource planning systems that enable one to monitor in-year expenditure are a good thing, whoever supplies them.

Mohammad Asghar: ‘One Wales’ contains a commitment to provide a nurse in every secondary school in Wales. What provision is in the budget for delivering this commitment, and what progress has been made so far?

The First Minister: I am afraid that this is where my erudition as Minister for finance pro tempore breaks down. I will have to write to you on this point, as the question asks for a level of detail that I cannot manage at the moment.

The Leader of the Opposition (Nick Bourne): First Minister, I would be grateful if you could pass our party’s best wishes to Andrew Davies for a speedy recovery.

I have had the opportunity over the past few weeks to ask you about the state of the economy, which is particularly relevant now, in view of the Governor of the Bank of England’s comments yesterday about inflation being set to rise above 4 per cent this year and inflation for food and energy set to rise far above that figure—in his words. What discussions are you holding with Westminster and stakeholders in Wales, such as schools, hospitals and local authorities, about the impact that that will have on their budgets and their delivery, particularly in rural Wales where the petrol price increase will hit people very hard?

The First Minister: As regards rural Wales and the taxation on fuel prices coming on top of the price rises in crude oil, as I mentioned yesterday, the Deputy First Minister, in his capacity as Minister for transport, has already written to Angela Eagle, the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, asking her to bear that in mind in the pre-budget report and to remember that the impact on rural areas is particularly severe.

ddangos fel arfer gorau i awdurdodau cyhoeddus eraill a ddylai, efallai, fod yn meddwl am systemau fel y rhain—a rhaid imi beidio â hyrwyddo’r cwmni penodol sy’n ein cyflenwi ni. Mae systemau cynllunio adnoddau menter sy’n galluogi rhywun i fonitro gwariant yn ystod y flwyddyn yn beth da, pw y bynnag sy’n eu cyflenwi.

Mohammad Asghar: Mae ‘Cymru’n Un’ yn cynnwys ymrwymiad i gael nyrs ym mhob ysgol uwchradd yng Nghymru. Pa ddarpariaeth sydd yn y gyllideb ar gyfer gwireddu’r ymrwymiad hwn, a pha gynnydd a wnaethpwyd hyd yma?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae arnaf ofn mai dyma lle mae fy ngwybodaeth fel Gweinidog dros gyllid dros dro yn dod i ben. Bydd yn rhaid imi ysgrifennu atoch ynghylch y pwynt hwn, gan fod y cwestiwn yn gofyn am fanylder na allaf ymdopi â hi ar hyn o bryd.

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Nick Bourne): Brif Weinidog, byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallech fynegi dymuniadau gorau ein plaid i Andrew Davies am wellhad buan iddo.

Yr wyf wedi cael y cyfle dros yr ychydig wythnosau diwethaf i’ch holi am gyflwr yr economi, sy’n arbennig o berthnasol yn awr, ac ystyried sylwadau Llywodraethwr Banc Lloegr ddoe ynghylch y ffaith bod lefelau chwyddiant yn debygol o godi’n uwch na 4 y cant eleni a bod disgwyl i lefelau chwyddiant ar gyfer bwyd ac ynni godi’n uwch o lawer na’r ffigur hwnnw—yn ei eiriau ef. Pa drafodaethau yr ydych yn eu cynnal gyda San Steffan a chyda rhanddeiliaid yng Nghymru, fel ysgolion, ysbytai ac awdurdodau lleol, am effaith hynny ar eu cyllidebau ac ar eu cyflenwi, yn enwedig yng Nghymru wledig lle bydd y cynnydd mewn pris petrol yn ergyd drom i bobl?

Y Prif Weinidog: O ran Cymru wledig a’r dreth ar brisiau tanwydd yn ychwanegol at y cynnydd ym mhris olew crai, fel y soniais ddoe, mae’r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog, yn ei swydd fel Gweinidog dros drafnidiaeth, eisoes wedi ysgrifennu at Angela Eagle, Ysgrifennydd y Trysorlys, yn gofyn iddi gofio hynny yn yr adroddiad rhag-gyllidebol ac i gofio bod yr effaith ar yr ardaloedd gwledig yn neilltuol o ddifrifol.

As regards the impact on the delivery of public services by the bodies that we sponsor, they will bear in mind the rise in fuel and transport costs that will affect their costs. We must avoid everybody assuming that they can simply pass these costs on, because, if you do that, you build in inflationary expectations. That was also very much a part of the Governor of the Bank of England's message. You cannot simply assume that because fuel costs more, you should be given more money, and so it does not matter if costs go up because you have a cost pass-through mechanism.

O ran yr effaith ar gyflenwi gwasanaethau cyhoeddus gan y cyrff a noddwn, byddant yn cofio am y cynnydd mewn costau tanwydd a theithio a fydd yn effeithio ar eu costau hwy. Rhaid inni osgoi cael pawb yn tybio y gallant yn syml basio'r costau hyn ymlaen, oherwydd os gwnewch hynny, byddwch yn codi disgwyliadau o ran chwyddiant. Yr oedd hynny hefyd yn rhan sylweddol o neges Llywodraethwr Banc Lloegr. Ni allwch yn syml dybio y dylech gael rhagor o arian oherwydd bod tanwydd yn ddrutach, ac felly nid oes ots a yw costau'n cynyddu ai peidio oherwydd mae gennych fecanwaith lle mae'r costau'n cael eu trosglwyddo o un cam i'r llall.

12.50 p.m.

We must also think about what could be done to reduce energy costs, if they are to remain high. Fortunately, food costs seem to be going the other way—and I have had this discussion with Andrew R.T. Davies before. Food prices at least seem to have topped and come down the other side. We are not going to return to the era of cheap food, but it will not be as bad as it was at the time of the spike, having now received much better news on the harvests from Australia and the Ukraine. That was confirmed by the views expressed by Finsbury Food Group Plc, which is one of our largest food processors, in the business news section of the *Western Mail* this morning.

Rhaid inni hefyd feddwl beth y gellir ei wneud i leihau costau ynni, os ydynt am aros yn uchel. Mae costau bwyd, diolch byth, i weld yn mynd y ffordd arall—ac yr wyf wedi cael y drafodaeth hon gydag Andrew R.T. Davies o'r blaen. Ymddengys fod prisiau bwyd o leiaf wedi cyrraedd y brig ac yn dod i lawr yr ochr arall. Nid ydym yn mynd i ddychwelyd i oes bwyd rhad, ond ni fydd cynddrwg ag yr oedd pan gyrhaeddodd y lefel uchaf, ar ôl cael y newyddion llawer gwell yn awr am y cynaeafau yn Awstralia a'r Ukrain. Cadarnhawyd hynny gan y safbwyntiau a fynegwyd gan Finsbury Food Group Ccc, sy'n un o'n prosesyddion bwyd mwyaf, yn adran newyddion busnes y *Western Mail* y bore yma.

As regards your best wishes to the other Andrew Davies, the missing Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery, although there is no doubt that you will have two motives for wanting to see more of him and less of me, I will certainly pass those on to him, and I am grateful to you and your group for them.

O ran eich dymuniadau gorau i'r Andrew Davies arall, y Gweinidog dros Gyllid a Chyflenwi Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus sy'n absennol, er nad oes amheuaeth na fydd gennych ddau gymhelliant dros fod eisiau gweld mwy ohono ef a llai ohonof fi. Byddaf yn sicr o'u rhoi iddo, ac yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i chi ac i'ch grŵp amdanynt.

Nick Bourne: I thank the First Minister for that response. That motive was not in my mind when I wished him a speedy recovery, but it was an unlooked-for bonus, you might say.

Nick Bourne: Diolchaf i'r Prif Weinidog am yr ateb hwnnw. Nid oeddwn yn meddwl am y cymhelliant hwnnw pan ddymunais wellhad buan iddo, ond yr oedd yn fonws annisgwyl efallai.

Would the First Minister not accept that there will be continued pressure on food prices, not

Oni fyddai'r Prif Weinidog yn derbyn y bydd pwysau parhaus ar brisiau bwyd, yn bennaf

least because food will be moved by road, even after making a rail journey? I accept that that pressure will probably not be the same as that on petrol prices, which is certainly worse, and I understand what he is saying about inflationary pressures, particularly given the warnings of the Governor of the Bank of England yesterday. However, I am really looking at what he is doing in the current year, because there are immediate pressures. What is being said to local government about the delivery of its services? What is being said to hospitals about their delivery, given the existing pressures on food and, particularly, on energy and petrol prices?

The First Minister: The usual process will be followed in local government, but the numbers involved in that process will clearly be different because of these factors. Therefore, I am sure that the rising cost of the food component of school meals and the rising transport costs associated with that—because even if food has become a little cheaper since its recent peak, the cost of transporting it will nevertheless be higher, which I accept—will be dealt with, as usual, in the joint planning exercise carried out by our experts and those of local government when they prepare the bid for next year's revenue support grant. The same will apply to the budget negotiations between Edwina Hart and Andrew Davies, when he returns, or me right now, to some extent. What additional costs should be built in? We must also try to reinforce the message to local government that there must be a change of culture if energy costs remain high for a long time. We cannot assume that there will be a cost pass-through; otherwise, we will go down the same road we went down in the 1970s and the early 1980s, namely one of high inflation getting built into the system. That is what everyone is worried about.

Jenny Randerson: When you monitor the budget, First Minister, you must monitor the further education budget. FE colleges have had an overall increase this year of just over

oherwydd y bydd bwyd yn cael ei gludo ar y ffordd, hyd yn oed ar ôl cael ei gludo ar y trêr? Derbyniaf na fydd y pwysau hwnnw yr un fath â hwnnw ar brisiau petrol, sy'n sicr yn waeth, a deallaf yr hyn y mae'n ei ddweud am bwysau sy'n gysylltiedig â chwyddiant, yn enwedig a chofio rhybuddion Llywodraethwr Banc Lloegr ddoe. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn edrych yn fanwl ar yr hyn y mae'n ei wneud yn y flwyddyn bresennol, oherwydd ceir pwysau uniongyrchol. Beth sy'n cael ei ddweud wrth lywodraeth leol am y modd y cyflenwir ei gwasanaethau? Beth sy'n cael ei ddweud wrth ysbytai am y modd y cyflenwir eu gwasanaethau hwy, a chofio am y pwysau o safbwynt brisiau bwyd ac, yn benodol, ar brisiau ynni a phetrol, ar hyn o bryd?

Y Prif Weinidog: Dilynir y drefn arferol o ran llywodraeth leol, ond mae'n amlwg y bydd y niferoedd sy'n gysylltiedig â'r broses honno'n wahanol oherwydd y ffactorau hyn. Felly, yr wyf yn siŵr y delir â phris cynyddol yr elfen fwyd mewn ysgolion a'r costau teithio cynyddol sy'n gysylltiedig â hynny—oherwydd hyd yn oed os yw bwyd wedi mynd ychydig yn rhatach ers cyrraedd ei uchafbwynt diweddar, bydd y gost o'i gludo yn uwch, a derbyniaf hynny—yn yr ymarfer cynllunio ar y cyd, fel arfer, a gynhelir gan ein harbenigwyr a'r arbenigwyr mewn llywodraeth leol pan fyddant yn paratoi'r cais am grant cynnal refeniw y flwyddyn nesaf. Bydd yr un peth yn wir yng nghyswllt y negodiadau cyllideb rhwng Edwina Hart ac Andrew Davies, pan fydd yn dychwelyd, neu rhwng Edwina Hart a mi yn awr, i ryw raddau. Pa gostau ychwanegol ddylai fod yn rhan o hyn? Rhaid inni hefyd geisio atgyfnerthu'r neges i lywodraeth leol ei bod yn rhaid cael newid mewn diwylliant os bydd costau ynni yn parhau'n uchel am amser maith. Ni allwn dybio y bydd y costau'n cael eu trosglwyddo o un cam i'r llall; fel arall, byddwn yn dilyn yr un llwybr ag y gwnaethom ei ddilyn yn yr 1970au a'r 1980au cynnar, sef llwybr lle mae chwyddiant uchel yn cael ei adeiladu'n rhan o'r system. Am hynny y mae pawb yn poeni.

Jenny Randerson: Pan fyddwch yn monitro'r gyllideb, Brif Weinidog, rhaid ichi fonitro'r gyllideb addysg bellach. Eleni, mae colegau AB wedi cael cynnydd cyffredinol

£4 million, despite the fact that the cost of implementing the pay award alone will be £7.5 million, so we are talking about an overall reduction of £3.5 million or 1.25 per cent. That is before they take into account additional pension costs, fuel inflation and general inflation at 3 per cent. How are they expected to square that circle, and where does this situation leave your Government's rhetoric on improving skills in Wales?

The First Minister: I have read the Fforwm letter; in fact, I read it last night as a backbench Assembly Member. We have all had the same letter from Fforwm, making exactly the points that you have just made. Different FE colleges have different experiences, all according to how they have dealt with the equal pay issues in their establishments and their arrangements for improving access to students from deprived areas. I was at one college recently where a member of staff told me, 'I am not very popular at Fforwm because we have done pretty well while I know that other colleges have not'. Recently, Yale College was speaking about how it is getting on with merging its back-office functions with those of Deeside and Llandrillo colleges to try to reduce costs in that way. Therefore, a good academic performance is needed, which Yale certainly has, and a reduction in back-office costs, sometimes achieved by mergers, and there are also the implications of the Webb report to consider. There is a different impact on every FE college.

Jenny Randerson: In some ways, you have anticipated my second point, which is the dramatic difference between one college and another. Overall, 18 of the 25 further education institutions in Wales have an increase below the standard rate of inflation, if you take that as being at 3 per cent, which is probably slightly optimistic. That cannot be interpreted by anyone as being a good settlement for further education. Are you saying that 18 of 25 FE institutions in Wales have failed to deliver for the sector of their learners that you have concentrated upon? You know that that is not true; they have had

ychedig uwch na £4 miliwn, er y ffaith y bydd gweithredu'r codiad cyflog yn unig yn £7.5 miliwn, felly yr ydym yn edrych ar ostyngiad cyffredinol o £3.5 miliwn neu 1.25 y cant. Mae hynny cyn iddynt ystyried costau pensiwn ychwanegol, chwyddiant yng nghyswllt tanwydd a chwyddiant cyffredinol ar 3 y cant. Sut mae disgwyl iddynt droi'r cylch yn sgwâr, a lle mae'r sefyllfa hon yn gadael rhethreg eich Llywodraeth ar wella sgiliau yng Nghymru?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr wyf wedi darllen llythyr Fforwm; yn wir, fe'i darllenais neithiwr fel Aelod mainc gefn y Cynulliad. Mae pob un ohonom wedi cael yr un llythyr gan Fforwm, sy'n dynodi'r un pwyntiau'n union â'r rhai yr ydych newydd eu gwneud. Mae gan wahanol golegau AB wahanol brofiadau, yn dibynnu ar sut y maent wedi delio â'r materion cyflog cyfartal yn eu sefydliadau a'u trefniadau ar gyfer gwella mynediad i fyfyrwyr o ardaloedd difreintiedig. Yr oeddwn mewn un coleg yn ddiweddar lle dywedodd aelod o staff wrthyf, 'Nid wyf yn boblogaidd iawn yn Fforwm oherwydd ein bod ni wedi gwneud yn eithaf da ond gwn nad yw hynny'n wir am golegau eraill'. Yn ddiweddar, yr oedd Coleg Iâl yn sôn am sut y mae'r gwaith uno ei swyddogaethau swyddfa gefn gyda rhai colegau Glannau Dyfrdwy a Llandrillo yn mynd rhagddo, er mwyn ceisio lleihau costau yn y ffordd honno. Felly, mae angen perfformiad academaidd da, ac mae hynny'n wir am Goleg Iâl, a gostyngiad yn y costau swyddfa gefn. Gellir gwneud hyn weithiau drwy uno, a rhaid hefyd ystyried oblygiadau adroddiad Webb. Mae'r effaith ar bob coleg AB yn wahanol.

Jenny Randerson: Mewn rhai ffyrdd, yr ydych wedi rhagweld fy ail bwynt, sef y gwahaniaeth dramatig rhwng un coleg a'r llall. Yn gyffredinol, mae gan 18 o'r 25 sefydliad addysg bellach gynnydd sy'n is na'r gyfradd chwyddiant safonol, os cymerwch mai 3 y cant yw hwynnw, sydd ychedig yn optimistaidd mwy na thebyg. Ni allai neb ddehongli hynny fel setliad da ar gyfer addysg bellach. A ydych yn dweud bod 18 o 25 sefydliad AB yng Nghymru wedi methu cyflawni ar gyfer y sector o'u dysgwyr yr ydych wedi canolbwyntio arnynt? Gwyddoch nad yw hynny'n wir; maent wedi cael

excellent inspection reports.

You mentioned Yale College, where 23 redundancies have been announced today. Look locally at your own FE college, Coleg Glan Hafren, which is also mine. There are 40 redundancies in the pipeline for that college, which is teaching 20 per cent more students than you have been paying it for, and has been doing so consistently over several years. Will you recognise that the funding settlement for further education this year falls woefully short of your ambition and rhetoric?

The First Minister: I do not accept that description, because we know that different FE colleges have managed the risk involved very differently. FE colleges are autonomous bodies: we do not run them or appoint their boards, and they have to make their own adjustments and do their business planning as well as they can. There is a variation in their ability to read the signals that we give them, about what and where we are incentivising them on. Some take a lot of note of that, some might like to but cannot, and others just do not take note and then seem to have a terrible shock. Others seem to be able to anticipate these things, are ready for them, and do far better. With autonomous institutions, it is quite difficult because, to some extent, they are in the public sector—they are not-for-profit institutions—but they are also businesses, to an extent, and so they need to take account of that in their planning.

The Llywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 4, OAQ(3)0382(FPS), yn ôl, ac atebwyd cwestiwn 5 gyda chwestiwn 2.

Health and Social Services

Q6 William Graham: Will the Minister outline the discussions held concerning the impact upon the budget allocation for the health and social services portfolio arising from the proposals to reduce local health boards? OAQ(3)0343(FPS)

The First Minister: It is slightly early to answer this question now, because the budget

adroddiadau arolygiad rhagorol.

Crybwyllasoch Goleg Iâl, lle cyhoeddwyd heddiw y bydd 23 o bobl yn colli eu swyddi. Edrychwch yn lleol ar eich coleg AB eich hun, Coleg Glan Hafren, sef f'un innau hefyd. Mae'n edrych yn debyg y bydd 40 o bobl yn colli eu swyddi yn y coleg hwnnw. Mae'r coleg yn addysgu 20 y cant yn fwy o fyfyrwyr nag yr ydych wedi talu iddo i'w wneud, ac mae wedi bod yn gwneud hynny'n barhaus dros nifer o flynyddoedd. A wnewch gydnabod bod y setliad cyllido ar gyfer addysg bellach eleni yn brin iawn o'ch uchelgais a'ch rhethreg?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid wyf yn derbyn y disgrifiad hwnnw, oherwydd gwyddom fod gwahanol golegau AB wedi rheoli'r risg sy'n gysylltiedig yn wahanol iawn. Mae colegau AB yn gyrff ymreolaethol: nid ni sy'n eu rhedeg nac yn penodi eu byrddau, ac maent wedi gwneud eu haddasiadau eu hunain a chynllunio eu busnes gystal ag y gallant. Mae eu gallu i ddarllen yr arwyddion a roddwn iddynt ynghylch beth a lle a gymhellwn yn amrywio. Bydd rhai yn cymryd llawer o sylw o hynny, efallai y byddai rhai yn hoffi gwneud hynny ond na allant, ac nid yw eraill yn eu hystyried ac ymddengys eu bod wedyn yn cael sioc ofnadwy. Ymddengys fod eraill yn gallu rhagweld y pethau hyn, maent yn barod amdanynt, ac maent yn gwneud yn well o lawer. Gyda sefydliadau ymreolaethol, mae'n bur anodd oherwydd, i ryw raddau, maent yn y sector cyhoeddus—sefydliadau di-elw ydynt—ond maent hefyd yn fusnesau, i ryw raddau, ac felly mae angen iddynt ystyried hynny wrth gynllunio.

The Presiding Officer: Question 4, OAQ(3)0382(FPS), is withdrawn, and question 5 was grouped with question 2.

Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol

C6 William Graham: A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu'r trafodaethau a gafwyd ynghylch effaith y cynigion i leihau byrddau iechyd lleol ar y dyraniad cyllideb ar gyfer y portffolio iechyd a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol? OAQ(3)0343(FPS)

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae braidd yn gynnar i ateb y cwestiwn hwn yn awr, oherwydd mai

round for 2009-10 is just starting. That would be the first budget that could take account of any changes in the health and social services portfolio structures.

William Graham: Could you confirm whether any savings identified will be included in that budget?

The First Minister: I do not want to exaggerate the level of savings. If there were changes in the number of health bodies, there would be some reduction in costs because there would not be as many boards. However, that is not a big expenditure. Likewise, each body involved in health—every trust and local health board—has a separate chief executive officer, and so if you had fewer of those, there would be up-front redundancy costs followed by savings after that. They do not have separate finance officers, and there has been quite a lot of sharing of back-office staff. Therefore, I do not want to indicate that there would be large savings. It is certainly not a savings-driven exercise.

Helen Mary Jones: To pursue William Graham's point, there may not be massive savings, but do you agree that part of the point of the exercise is to reduce the amount of money that is spent on bureaucracy, and to ensure that that money is then spent on front-line services? It may be too early to give a guarantee, but can you give an indication today that it is the Government's intention to retain any savings that are made within the health and social care budget, so that, if there are savings, they will not be lost to the health and social care budget? That is the concern that has been put to me by some front-line practitioners.

The First Minister: That is a fair point. The general drive is in the direction of trying to save on bureaucracy and push more money into front-line services. I just do not want to exaggerate the potential. It is true that we believe that the annual savings would be almost as great as the up-front costs of redundancy for x number of chief executives, but compared with the total health budget, which will be approximately £6 billion in two years' time, the sums involved are 0.001 per

dim ond megis dechrau y mae cylch cyllideb 2009-10. Honno fyddai'r gyllideb gyntaf a allai ddangos unrhyw newidiadau yn y strwythurau portffolio ar gyfer iechyd a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol.

William Graham: A allech gadarnhau a fydd unrhyw gynilion a ddynodwyd yn cael eu cynnwys yn y gyllideb honno?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid oes arnaf eisiau gorliwio lefel yr arbedion. Pe ceid newidiadau yn nifer y cyrff iechyd, ceid rhywfaint o ostyngiad yn y costau gan na fyddai cynifer o fyrddau. Fodd bynnag, nid yw hwnnw'n wariant mawr. Yn yr un modd, mae gan bob corff sy'n ymwneud ag iechyd—pob ymddiriedolaeth a bwrdd iechyd lleol—brif swyddog gweithredol ar wahân, ac felly, petai gennych lai o'r rheini, ceid costau dileu swydd uniongyrchol ac arbedion ar ôl hynny. Nid oes ganddynt swyddogion cyllid ar wahân, a gwelwyd llawer o rannu staff cefn swyddfa. Felly, nid oes arnaf eisiau dynodi y byddai'r arbedion yn uchel. Yn bendant, nid yw'n ymarfer sy'n cael ei yrru gan arbedion.

Helen Mary Jones: I ddilyn trywydd pwynt William Graham, efallai na cheir arbedion enfawr, ond a gytunwch fod lleihau'r arian sy'n cael ei wario ar fiwrocratiaeth, a sicrhau bod yr arian wedyn yn cael ei wario ar wasanaethau rheng flaen, yn rhan o bwynt yr ymarfer? Efallai ei bod yn rhy gynnar i warantu, ond a allwch roi arwydd imi, heddiw, bod y Llywodraeth yn bwriadu dal ei gafael ar unrhyw arbedion a wneir yn y gyllideb iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol fel na fydd arbedion, os ceir rhai, yn cael eu colli o'r gyllideb iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol? Hwnnw yw'r pryder y mae rhai ymarferwyr rheng flaen wedi'i gyflwyno imi.

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae hwnnw'n bwynt teg. Y bwriad cyffredinol yw mynd i gyfeiriad ceisio arbed ar fiwrocratiaeth a gwthio mwy o arian i wasanaethau rheng flaen. Nid oes arnaf eisiau gorliwio'r potensial, dyna'r unig beth. Mae'n wir ein bod yn credu y byddai'r arbedion blynyddol bron mor fawr â'r costau uniongyrchol ar gyfer dileu swyddi nifer benodol o brif weithredwyr, ond o'i gymharu â chyfanswm y gyllideb iechyd, a fydd oddeutu £6 biliwn ymhen dwy flynedd, yr

cent of that. Therefore, they are not that great and I do not want to exaggerate them.

ydim yn edrych ar symiau o 0.001 y cant o hynny. Felly, nid ydynt mor wych â hynny ac nid oes arnaf eisiau eu gorliwio.

Post Offices

Q7 Kirsty Williams: What representations has the Minister received regarding the provision of additional funding for local authorities wishing to keep threatened post offices running? OAQ(3)0365(FPS)

1.00 p.m.

The First Minister: As yet, we have had no such representations.

Kirsty Williams: I am sure that you are aware of the existence of the village of Llanbadarn Fynydd on the A483 in my constituency. The post office in that village has not been earmarked for closure, thank goodness. It is a hosted service, run by a community group that volunteered to keep the shop, the petrol station and the post office open. It has just refurbished the building out of which it operates and has, at the last minute, been landed with an unexpected bill of more than £1,000 from the Post Office to reconnect the wiring. As I have said, this is a community not-for-profit organisation staffed by volunteers. Is there any chance that your Government could provide an upfront portion of the post office grant money from the fund that you are going to reopen later this year to ensure the survival of the post office in Llanbadarn Fynydd?

The First Minister: I admire very much the service available and the multiplicity of that service—it is almost like the rural Irish model, because you can get your cake and your coffee, your petrol and your Spar top-up shopping all in the same place. It is not unique in Wales but it is as near as damn it, as far as I am aware. Therefore, I hope that, whatever happens, the Llanbadarn Fynydd community experiment succeeds in overcoming any temporary problems it might have.

Our main means of assisting post offices are the rate relief scheme, which I think is the most generous in Great Britain, and,

Swyddfeydd Post

C7 Kirsty Williams: Pa sylwadau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cael ynghylch darparu cyllid ychwanegol ar gyfer awdurdodau lleol sy'n dymuno cadw swyddfeydd post sydd dan gythyriad ar agor? OAQ(3)0365(FPS)

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid ydim wedi cael unrhyw sylwadau o'r fath hyd yma.

Kirsty Williams: Yr wyf yn siŵr y gwyddoch am fodolaeth pentref Llanbadarn Fynydd ar yr A483 yn fy etholaeth. Nid yw swyddfa bost y pentref hwnnw wedi'i chlustnodi ar gyfer ei chau, diolch i'r drefn. Gwasanaeth a gynhelir ydyw, a redir gan grŵp cymunedol a wirfoddolodd i gadw'r siop, yr orsaf betrol a'r swyddfa bost ar agor. Mae newydd adnewyddu'r adeilad lle bydd yn gweithredu ac ar y funud olaf, mae wedi cael bil annisgwyl o dros £1,000 gan Swyddfa'r Post am ailgysylltu'r system weirio. Fel yr wyf wedi'i ddweud, mae hwn yn fudiad cymunedol di-elw a chanddo wirfoddolwyr yn staff. A oes unrhyw siawns y gallai'ch Llywodraeth ddarparu cyfran gychwynnol o arian grant swyddfa'r post o'r gronfa y byddwch yn ei hailagor yn ddiweddarach eleni er mwyn sicrhau parhad swyddfa bost Llanbadarn Fynydd?

Y Prif Weinidog: Edmygaf y gwasanaeth sydd ar gael yn fawr, yn ogystal â'r amrywiol bethau a gynigir gan y gwasanaeth hwnnw—mae bron yr un fath â model cefn gwlad Iwerddon, oherwydd gallwch gael eich cacen a'ch coffi, eich petrol a'ch siopa ychwanegol yn Spar i gyd yn yr un lle. Nid yw'n unigryw yng Nghymru, ond mae'n ddigon agos, hyd y gwn i. Felly, beth bynnag a ddigwydd, gobeithiaf y bydd arbrawf cymuned Llanbadarn Fynydd yn goresgyn unrhyw broblemau dros dro y bydd yn eu hwynebu o bosibl.

Ein prif gyfrwng ar gyfer cynorthwyo swyddfeydd post yw'r cynllun rhyddhad ardrethi—y cynllun mwyaf hael ym

secondly, through the post office development fund, which we hope to be able reopen soon, once we have a clearer picture from the Post Office that we will not be funding post offices that it wants to close down. We will take up the point that you make about Llanbadarn Fynydd post office and see what can be done to ensure that it is not crippled by any unexpected charges from the Post Office that might wreck its budget.

Alun Davies: The situation in Llanbadarn Fynydd is a good example of how communities working together can maintain and develop services within those communities. I understand that the Post Office is not a devolved function but the responsibility of the Government in London, but could the Welsh Assembly Government provide help, not only in financial terms, but by acting as a catalyst, to enable communities in other parts of Wales to follow the example of Llanbadarn Fynydd and to promote the work of such social enterprises and community ownership as an alternative to the current closure programme?

The First Minister: We encourage creative thinking with regard to how to save post offices, particularly post offices in remote rural areas, such as Llanbadarn Fynydd, or in deprived urban communities in the Valleys, for example, where there may be a high proportion of people on benefits and where, therefore, the post office may have got 80 or 90 per cent of its turnover from benefits. In the latter case, if that has all gone, the budgets are stressed. I understand that Dyfed-Powys Police Authority is working with 11 post offices to combine police stations and post offices. The community-based approach in Llanbadarn Fynydd is a very good example of best practice that we would wish to see followed elsewhere. If people have the willingness to give it a go, we would like to act as a catalyst to help them do that.

Andrew R.T. Davies: I wish to draw the attention of the First Minister to the operation on Cowbridge High Street, which very much resembles the situation in Llanbadarn Fynydd. The post office is located in the local

Mhrydain Fawr fe gredaf—ac, yn ail, y gronfa datblygu swyddfeydd post, y gobeithiwn allu ei hailagor yn fuan, ar ôl inni gael darlun cliriach gan Swyddfa'r Post ynghylch y ffaith na fyddwn yn ariannu swyddfeydd post y mae arno eisiau eu cau. Byddwn yn ystyried y pwynt a wnewch am swyddfa bost Llanbadarn Fynydd ac yn gweld beth gellir ei wneud i sicrhau na chaiff ei llethu gan gostau annisgwyl gan Swyddfa'r Post a allai ddinistrio'i chyllideb.

Alun Davies: Mae sefyllfa Llanbadarn Fynydd yn enghraifft dda o sut y gall cymunedau sy'n cydweithio gynnal a datblygu gwasanaethau yn y cymunedau hynny. Deallaf fod Swyddfa'r Post yn fater nas datganolwyd, ac mai cyfrifoldeb y Llywodraeth yn Llundain ydyw, ond a allai Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru roi help llaw, nid yn unig o ran arian, ond drwy fod yn gatalydd er mwyn galluogi cymunedau mewn rhannau eraill o Gymru i ddilyn esiampl Llanbadarn Fynydd a hyrwyddo gwaith mentrau cymdeithasol a pherchnogaeth gymunedol o'r fath fel dewis arall yn hytrach na'r rhaglen gau bresennol?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydym yn annog meddwl yn greadigol yng nghyd-destun sut y mae achub swyddfeydd post, yn enwedig swyddfeydd post mewn ardaloedd gwledig anghysbell, megis Llanbadarn Fynydd, neu mewn cymunedau trefol difreintiedig yn y Cymoedd er enghraifft, a all fod â chyfran uchel o bobl ar fudd-daliadau a lle, felly, y gall budd-daliadau fod yn gyfrifol am 80 neu 90 y cant o drosiant y swyddfa bost. Yn yr ail achos, os yw hynny i gyd wedi diflannu, bydd y cyllidebau dan straen. Caf ar ddeall bod Awdurdod Heddlu Dyfed-Powys yn gweithio gydag 11 swyddfa bost er mwyn cyfuno gorsafedd heddlu a swyddfeydd post. Mae'r agwedd gymunedol yn Llanbadarn Fynydd yn enghraifft dda iawn o arfer gorau y caredm ei weld yn cael ei efelychu mewn mannau eraill. Os yw pobl yn barod i roi cynnig arni, hoffem fod yn gatalydd i'w cynorthwyo i wneud hynny.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Dymunaf dynnu sylw'r Prif Weinidog at y gwaith ar Stryd Fawr y Bontfaen, sy'n hynod debyg i'r sefyllfa yn Llanbadarn Fynydd. Mae'r swyddfa bost wedi'i lleoli yn y siop Spar

Spar shop. Visiting that post office can prove to be an expensive exercise when you have the kids with you, because you have to walk past the sweet racks. The situation in Llanbadarn Fynydd is not unique; we have the same situation in Cowbridge, where the post office is facing closure.

Does the First Minister believe that the Welsh Assembly Government will be able to work with local authorities, along the lines of the model used in Essex, to provide post office services along with other services so that the overlap can be removed and that services can be provided as part of council services?

The First Minister: As far as I am aware, Essex County Council's willingness to take on some responsibility for some post offices does not involve going to the Department for Communities and Local Government—our equivalent in this situation—to ask for money to do it. They are big boys and they are saying that they are doing it; they are not going to pretend that they are doing it but ask the Government to fund it. The Government has said that the subsidy is £150 million and that it is not going above that. Therefore, Essex council is not asking the Government for money to do that. We understand from Post Office Ltd that two Welsh local authorities have made inquiries about what is happening in Essex. There has been some positive progress recently recently in that Essex council has been given clearance on state aid grounds that, under the de minimis rule, this will not be construed as a distortion of the competitive market for postal and other services. Therefore, it is now able to take the next steps, but that is not based on asking for a subsidy from Government.

leol. Gall ymweld â'r swyddfa bost honno fod yn brofiad drud pan fydd y plant gyda chi, oherwydd mae'n rhaid ichi gerdded heibio'r rhesi losin. Nid yw sefyllfa Llanbadarn Fynydd yn unigryw; mae gennym yr un sefyllfa yn y Bontfaen, lle mae'r swyddfa bost yn wynebu cael ei chau.

A yw'r Prif Weinidog yn credu y gall Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru weithio gydag awdurdodau lleol, gan ddilyn y model a ddefnyddiwyd yn Essex, i ddarparu gwasanaethau swyddfa bost ynghyd â gwasanaethau eraill, fel y gellir cael gwared ar y gorgyffwrdd ac y gellir darparu gwasanaethau fel rhan o wasanaethau'r cyngor?

Y Prif Weinidog: Hyd y gwn i, nid yw parodrwydd Cyngor Sir Essex i ysgwyddo rhywfaint o gyfrifoldeb dros rai swyddfeydd post yn cynnwys troi at yr Adran Cymunedau a Llywodraeth Leol—ein hadran gyfatebol yn y sefyllfa hon—i ofyn am arian er mwyn gwneud hynny. Maent yn fechgyn mawr, ac maent yn dweud eu bod yn gwneud hynny; nid ydynt yn mynd i esgus eu bod yn gwneud hynny, ond yn gofyn i'r Llywodraeth ei ariannu. Mae'r Llywodraeth wedi dweud mai £150 miliwn yw'r cymhorthdal ac na fydd yn rhoi mwy na hynny. Felly, nid yw cyngor Essex yn gofyn i'r Llywodraeth am arian i wneud hynny. Cawn ar ddeall gan Swyddfa'r Post Cyf fod dau awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru wedi gwneud ymholiadau ynghylch yr hyn sy'n digwydd yn Essex. Cafwyd rhywfaint o gynnydd cadarnhaol yn ddiweddar o ran bod cyngor Essex wedi cael cadarnhad ar sail cymorth gwladol na chaiff hyn, dan reol de minimis, ei ddehongli fel ystumio'r farchnad gystadleuol ar gyfer gwasanaeth post a gwasanaethau eraill. Felly, gall yn awr gymryd y camau nesaf, ond nid yw hynny'n seiliedig ar ofyn am gymhorthdal gan y Llywodraeth.

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau Questions to the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills

Educational Attainment

Q1 Joyce Watson: What is the Assembly Government doing to improve educational attainment in Wales? OAQ(3)0470(CEL)

Cyrhaeddiad Addysgol

C1 Joyce Watson: Beth mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ei wneud i wella cyrhaeddiad addysgol yng Nghymru? OAQ(3)0470(CEL)

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

The school effectiveness framework aims to improve outcomes for learners by schools, local authorities and the Welsh Assembly Government focusing activities and policies on raising attainment and wellbeing.

Joyce Watson: The range of initiatives that you outlined shows what a commitment there is to raising educational standards in Wales. How are the preparations for the pilot schemes of the new school effectiveness framework going? I know that we will debate this issue before the summer recess, but is it possible to give me an update on any progress at this stage?

Jane Hutt: The school effectiveness framework, which I mentioned in response to your question, will be piloted in 100 schools across Wales, beginning in September. We are looking at an even distribution of schools, covering a cross section of size, sector and phase, and I will give much more information on this in next week's debate.

Andrew R.T. Davies: A problem that has been holding back school improvements in terms of educational attainment in Wales is the distinct lack of funding for the foundation phase from your Labour-Plaid Government. Teachers are crying out for extra money to implement the foundation phase and yet your Government has written a blank cheque to schools to fund free school breakfasts. In a written answer to my colleague, Darren Millar, you admitted that you have no idea how much the free school breakfast scheme will cost in future. Given your prioritisation of funding for bowls of cereal rather than for early years education, do you not think that pupils, teachers and parents will be disappointed to see your distorted views of priorities?

Jane Hutt: I was going to say that I look forward to working with you in your new role. Where was the funding for the foundation phase in the Welsh Conservatives' manifesto? I do not remember

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

Nod y fframwaith effeithiolrwydd ysgolion yw gwella canlyniadau i ddysgwyr wrth i ysgolion, awdurdodau lleol a Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wneud gwella cyrhaeddiad a lles yn ganolbwynt i weithgareddau a pholisïau.

Joyce Watson: Mae ystod y cynlluniau a amlinellwyd gennych yn dangos cymaint o ymrwymiad a geir at godi safonau addysgol yng Nghymru. Sut y mae'r paratodau ar gyfer cynlluniau peilot y fframwaith newydd ynghylch effeithiolrwydd ysgolion yn mynd rhagddynt? Gwn y cawn ddadl ynghylch y mater hwn cyn toriad yr haf, ond a yw'n bosibl rhoi'r manylion diweddaraf imi ynghylch unrhyw gynnydd ar hyn o bryd?

Jane Hutt: Caiff y fframwaith effeithiolrwydd ysgolion a grybwyllais wrth ateb eich cwestiwn, ei dreialu mewn 100 o ysgolion ledled Cymru, gan ddechrau ym mis Medi. Yr ydym yn bwriadu defnyddio dosbarthiad cytbwys o ysgolion, gan gynnwys trawstoriad o ran maint, sector a chyfnod, a rhoddaf mwy o wybodaeth o lawer am hyn yn nadl yr wythnos nesaf.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Mae diffyg cyllid gan eich Llywodraeth Llafur-Plaid ar gyfer y cyfnod sylfaen yn broblem a fu'n rhwystr i wella ysgolion o ran cyrhaeddiad addysgol yng Nghymru. Mae athrawon yn galw am arian ychwanegol i roi'r cyfnod sylfaen ar waith ac eto, mae eich Llywodraeth wedi ysgrifennu sicw wag i ysgolion er mwyn ariannu brecwast am ddim. Gwnaethoch gyfaddef mewn ateb ysgrifenedig i'm cyd-Aelod, Darren Millar, nad oes gennych syniad beth fydd cost y cynllun brecwast am ddim mewn ysgolion yn y dyfodol. Ac ystyried ichi roi blaenoriaeth i ariannu bowlenni o rawnfwyd yn hytrach nag i addysg blynyddoedd cynnar, oni chredwch y caiff disgyblion, athrawon a rhieni siom wrth weld eich blaenoriaethau gwyrngam?

Jane Hutt: Yr oeddwn yn mynd i ddweud fy mod yn edrych ymlaen at weithio gyda chi yn eich swyddogaeth newydd. Ble'r oedd y cyllid ar gyfer y cyfnod sylfaen ym maniffesto'r Ceidwadwyr Cymreig? Ni

seeing that. I do not remember seeing that priority on this pioneering reform for the early years coming from your party.

I am determined to ensure the success of the foundation phase, which is a major operational change and reform in terms of its impact; it is also costly. That is why we are depending on the local authorities to assist us in partnership—which is how I work as a Minister—providing us with the necessary information, and you know that we have been severely let down in that regard. However, I am confident that, as a result of the four-year phasing and the extra £5 million that I secured for this financial year, we will achieve the effective roll-out of the foundation phase.

On free school breakfasts, I am sure that children in the Vale of Glamorgan—the constituency that you so often focus on and which I am proud to represent—and their parents will not be happy to hear that the Welsh Conservatives are once again attacking a pioneering initiative. Of course we have clarity on the costing of the free school breakfast scheme, and around 55 per cent of our primary schools are now taking this up. If you want to visit schools to see its impact, there are some in your region. Do not just go to schools in the Vale of Glamorgan, but go to Rhondda Cynon Taf, for example, where you will see the impact that this is having on the attainment opportunities and wellbeing of those children. You will then see that your priorities are wrong.

Andrew R.T. Davies: When I shadowed Ieuan Wyn Jones, all I got was a lot of wind and I am now getting a lot of bluster and wind from you. Councils clearly need security in terms of their budgets. In April you were denying that there was a problem with the foundation phase, so what confidence can councils have, even with the delay, that the resources will be available in September 2009 to meet the aspirations of the foundation phase?

1.10 p.m.

chofiaf weld hynny. Ni chofiaf weld y flaenoriaeth honno ar y diwygiad arloesol hwn ar gyfer y blynyddoedd cynnar yn dod o du'ch plaid chi.

Yr wyf yn benderfynol o wneud yn siŵr y bydd y cyfnod sylfaen yn llwyddo, sy'n newid ac yn ddiwygiad gweithredol enfawr o ran ei effaith; mae hefyd yn gostus. Dyma pam yr ydym yn dibynnu ar yr awdurdodau lleol i'n cynorthwyo mewn partneriaeth—dyna sut yr wyf yn gweithredu fel Gweinidog—gan roi inni'r wybodaeth angenrheidiol, a gwyddoch inni gael ein siomi'n ddifrifol yn hynny o beth. Fodd bynnag, yn sgil y cyfnod cyflwyno pedair blynedd a'r £5 miliwn ychwanegol yr wyf wedi'i sicrhau ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol hon, yr wyf yn ffyddiog y llwyddwn i roi'r cyfnod sylfaen ar waith yn effeithiol.

O ran brecwast am ddim mewn ysgolion, yr wyf yn siŵr na fydd plant a'u rhieni ym Mro Morgannwg—yr etholaeth y byddwch yn canolbwyntio arni mor aml, ac yr wyf yn falch o'i chynrychioli—yn falch o glywed bod y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig yn ymosod ar gynllun arloesol eto fyth. Wrth gwrs ein bod yn glir ynghylch cost y cynllun brecwast am ddim mewn ysgolion, ac erbyn hyn mae oddeutu 55 y cant o'n hysgolion cynradd yn mabwysiadu'r cynllun hwn. Os hoffech ymweld ag ysgolion i weld effaith y cynllun, ceir rhai yn eich rhanbarth chi. Peidiwch â mynd i ysgolion ym Mro Morgannwg yn unig, ewch i Rhondda Cynon Taf er enghraifft, lle gwelwch effaith hyn ar gyfleoedd cyflawni ac ar les y plant hynny. Cewch weld wedyn fod eich blaenoriaethau'n anghywir.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Pam fŷm yn cysgodi Ieuan Wyn Jones, yr oll a gefais ganddo oedd llawer o siarad gwag, ac yr wyf yn awr yn cael llawer o addewidion ofer a siarad gwag gennych chi. Yn amlwg mae angen sicrwydd ar gynghorau o ran eu cyllidebau. Yr oeddech yn gwadu ym mis Ebrill y ceid problem gyda'r cyfnod sylfaen, felly sut y gall cynghorau fod yn hyderus, hyd yn oed gyda'r oedi, y bydd yr adnoddau ar gael ym mis Medi 2009 i wireddu dyheadau'r cyfnod sylfaen?

Jane Hutt: It now appears that the Welsh Conservatives have adopted our policy for the roll-out of the foundation phase—I am glad that they have seen the light at last. There is international evidence that the foundation phase will make a difference to the early years and that it will impact upon the learning of those children. I work in partnership with the Welsh Local Government Association, the Association of Directors of Education in Wales and all of the teachers' unions—my next meeting with them is in July. I said in my evidence to the Finance Committee, and in my discussions with the Minister for finance, on the financial modelling, for which we depend on accurate estimates from local authorities, that we recognise that we must be clear about our calculations for the roll-out over the next three years.

The Presiding Officer: Order. May I offer some advice to opposition spokespersons? If they seek to catch my eye—as is said elsewhere—or want to ask second supplementary questions, having previously interrupted and barracked the Minister, I will take those earlier sedentary remarks to have been their supplementary questions.

Janet Ryder: Minister, do you agree that we have just seen the epitome of hard, right-wing, extremist Tory education policy, totally misunderstanding what children need to learn? [*Interruption.*] While you and I may disagree on the universal provision of free school breakfasts, there is a significantly high number of children for whom a good meal in the morning is crucial, and who do not, unfortunately, have that meal provided at home. Therefore, in many cases, those breakfast clubs are necessary for young children to be able to attain. Is it not a pity, Minister, that we are seeing the Tories going back to their old Victorian days?

Jane Hutt: One only has to go back to the milk-snatcher regime to recognise that we may be into a breakfast-snatcher regime.

Jane Hutt: Ymddengys yn awr fod y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig wedi mabwysiadu ein polisi ar gyfer rhoi'r cyfnod sylfaen ar waith—yr wyf yn falch iddynt weld y goleuni o'r diwedd. Ceir tystiolaeth ryngwladol y gwnaiff y cyfnod sylfaen wahaniaeth i'r blynyddoedd cynnar ac y caiff effaith ar ddysg y plant hynny. Yr wyf yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth gyda Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, Cymdeithas Cyfarwyddwyr Addysg Cymru a'r holl undebau athrawon—caf fy nghyfarfod nesaf gyda hwy ym mis Gorffennaf. Dywedais yn fy nhystiolaeth i'r Pwyllgor Cyllid, ac yn fy nhrafodaethau gyda'r Gweinidog dros gyllid, ynghylch y modelu ariannol, y dibynnwn ar amcangyfrifon cywir gan awdurdodau lleol ar ei gyfer, ein bod yn sylweddoli ei bod yn rhaid inni fod yn glir ynghylch ein cyfrifiadau ar gyfer rhoi'r cyfnod sylfaen ar waith dros y tair blynedd nesaf.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. A gaf gynnig rhywfaint o gyngor i lefarwyr yr wrthblaid? Os ceisiant ddal fy llygad—fel y dywedir mewn man arall—neu os byddant am ofyn ail gwestiwn atodol, ar ôl iddynt dorri ar draws neu blagio'r Gweinidog cyn hynny, byddaf yn derbyn y sylwadau cynharach hynny a wnaethant ar eu heistedd fel eu cwestiynau atodol.

Janet Ryder: Weinidog, a gytunwch ein bod newydd weld crynodeb o bolisi addysg asgell dde, caled ac eithafol Doriaidd yn camddeall yn llwyr yr hyn y mae angen i blant ei ddysgu? [*Torri ar draws.*] Er fy mod i a chithau'n anghytuno efallai ynghylch darparu brecwast am ddim mewn ysgolion yn gyffredinol, ceir nifer eithriadol uchel o blant y mae pryd da yn y bore yn hollbwysig iddynt, ac nad ydynt, yn anffodus, yn cael y pryd hwnnw gartref. Felly, mewn nifer o achosion, mae'r clybiau brecwast hynny'n angenrheidiol er mwyn i blant ifanc allu cyflawni. Onid yw'n drueni Weinidog, ein bod yn gweld y Toriaid yn dychwelyd at eu hen ddyddiau Fictoriaidd?

Jane Hutt: Nid oes ond angen ichi fynd yn ôl at y gyfundrefn dwyn llaeth oddi ar blant i sylweddoli ein bod efallai'n wynebu cyfundrefn dwyn brecwast oddi ar blant.

The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats Group (Michael German):

Yesterday, Minister, 23 members of staff at Yale College in Wrexham were called in and told that they were being made redundant, because the college's budget has been frozen in absolute terms, with no cash increase, for the coming year. The example of those 23 members of staff may well be replicated throughout Wales. What advice do you offer to the principal, the parents, the students and the lecturers at Yale College about the predicament that they face, where they have no money to pay salary awards or to pay for the current complement of staff, for which it has just received a grade 1 award in its Estyn report?

Jane Hutt: First of all, I congratulate Yale College on its achievements. The First Minister fully answered a question on this point in response to a supplementary from Jenny Randerson, and we also have a debate this afternoon on the further education sector. As the First Minister said, there has been an increase and uplift in funding, but we are working closely with our further education colleagues, because there is support available, and the post-16 and post-19 provision is the crucial issue that we are looking at. European funding is making a huge difference to the FE sector with the introduction of convergence funding.

Michael German: Minister, Yale College's budget for the current year is £17.2 million and its budget for next year will be £17.2 million. Where is the uplift?

Jane Hutt: As I said, my Deputy Minister for Skills will address these issues in today's opposition debate, but also, as the First Minister said, this is about how the FE sector—which is autonomous from Government, local education authorities and institutional control—is managing the post-16 provision planning and funding arrangements.

Secondary School Education

Q2 Brynle Williams: Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's priorities for secondary school education in north Wales?

Arweinydd Grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Michael German):

Ddoe, Weinidog, cafodd 23 aelod o staff Coleg Iâl, Wrecsam eu galw i mewn, a dywedwyd wrthynt eu bod yn colli eu swyddi am fod cyllideb y coleg wedi'i rhewi mewn termau absoliwt, heb ddim cynnydd arian ar gyfer y flwyddyn i ddod. Mae'n ddigon posibl y caiff profiad y 23 aelod o staff hynny ei ailadrodd ym mhob cwr o Gymru. Pa gyngor a gynigiwch i bennaeth, i rieni, i fyfyrwyr ac i ddarlithwyr Coleg Iâl am y sefyllfa anodd y maent yn ei hwynebu, lle nad oes ganddynt arian i dalu dyfarniadau cyflog nac i dalu am gyflogi'r staff presennol—staff sydd newydd gael gwobr gradd 1 yn ei adroddiad Estyn?

Jane Hutt: Yn gyntaf oll, llongyfarchaf Goleg Iâl ar ei gyflawniadau. Atebodd y Prif Weinidog gwestiwn am y pwynt hwn yn llawn wrth ateb cwestiwn atodol gan Jenny Randerson, ac mae gennym hefyd ddadl y prynhawn yma ar y sector addysg bellach. Fel y dywedodd y Prif Weinidog, cafwyd rhagor o gyllid, ond yr ydym yn gweithio'n agos gyda'n cydweithwyr ym maes addysg bellach, oherwydd mae cefnogaeth ar gael, a'r ddarpariaeth ôl-16 ac ôl-19 yw'r mater allweddol yr ydym yn edrych arno. Mae cyllid Ewropeaidd yn gwneud gwahaniaeth aruthrol i'r sector AB drwy gyflwyno cyllid cydgyfeirio.

Michael German: Weinidog, cyllideb Coleg Iâl ar gyfer y flwyddyn gyfredol yw £17.2 miliwn, a'i chyllideb ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf fydd £17.2 miliwn. Ble mae'r cynnydd?

Jane Hutt: Fel y dywedais, bydd fy Nirprwy Weinidog dros Sgiliau'n rhoi sylw i'r materion hyn yn nadl yr wrthblaid heddiw, ond hefyd, fel y dywedodd y Prif Weinidog, mae a wnelo hyn â sut y mae'r sector AB—sy'n rhydd rhag rheolaeth sefydliadau, y Llywodraeth ac awdurdodau addysg lleol—yn rheoli'r trefniadau ar gyfer cynllunio a chyllido'r ddarpariaeth ôl-16.

Addysg Ysgolion Uwchradd

C2 Brynle Williams: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am flaenoriaethau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer addysg ysgolion uwchradd yn y gogledd? OAQ(3)0476(CEL)

OAQ(3)0476(CEL)

Jane Hutt: The priorities for secondary school education in north Wales are recorded in 'The Learning Country: Vision into Action' and in 'One Wales'. Secondary education and the learners it serves will benefit from the implementation of these policies.

Brynle Williams: I am sure that you will agree that while the number of secondary school pupils leaving school without qualifications has fallen, it is still unacceptably high, and it is disturbing that 25 per cent of people in Wales do not have basic literacy skills and 53 per cent do not have basic numeracy skills. How is your Government going to turn this situation around? More and more employers are having to train young workers in the basics of mathematics, spelling and grammar, skills which it should be taken for granted that they would have after 12 years of full-time education.

Jane Hutt: We will have an opportunity to hear about that this afternoon, with the statement from the Deputy Minister for Skills on delivering 'Skills That Work for Wales', and particularly looking at our measures. Our consultation, which I am sure that you will respond to, Brynle, on how we address this issue and reduce the numbers of young people not in education, employment or training, is critical. I am sure that you will contribute to that. Will you welcome the fact that, in terms of north Wales and our pioneering 14-19 learning pathways, we are putting £3.96 million into capital funding and £0.6 million into revenue funding, which is having a major impact on the opportunities for our 14 to 19-year-olds? With the Measure coming through, I am backed by a statutory entitlement and a duty on providers.

Gareth Jones: Cyhoeddodd Estyn adroddiad ar arfarniad o'r cwrs TGAU byr Cymraeg ail iaith fis Hydref y llynedd. Mae'r adroddiad hwn ac adroddiad blynyddol Estyn yn frith o gyfeiriadau at ddiffygion amlwg mewn perthynas â dysgu'r Gymraeg fel ail iaith yn ein hysgolion. Datganodd yr adroddiad fod diffygion pwysig mewn bron i hanner y

Jane Hutt: Mae'r blaenoriaethau ar gyfer addysg ysgolion uwchradd yn y gogledd wedi'u nodi yn 'Y Wlad sy'n Dysgu: Gweledigaeth ar Waith' ac yn 'Cymru'n Un'. Bydd addysg uwchradd a'r dysgwyr y mae'n eu gwasanaethu yn elwa yn sgîl gweithredu'r polisïau hyn.

Brynle Williams: Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwch yn cytuno er bod nifer y disgyblion ysgol uwchradd sy'n gadael ysgol heb gymwysterau wedi disgyn, ei fod yn dal yn annerbyniol o uchel, a'i bod yn peri pryder nad oes gan 25 y cant o bobl yng Nghymru sgiliau llythrennedd sylfaenol ac nad oes gan 53 y cant sgiliau rhifedd sylfaenol. Sut y mae eich Llywodraeth am sicrhau tro ar fyd i'r sefyllfa hon? Mae mwy a mwy o gyflogwyr yn gorfod hyfforddi gweithwyr ifanc yn elfennau sylfaenol mathemateg, sillafu a gramadeg, sgiliau y dylid cymryd yn ganiataol y byddai ganddynt ar ôl 12 mlynedd o addysg amser llawn.

Jane Hutt: Byddwn yn cael cyfle i glywed am hynny'r prynhawn yma, gyda'r datganiad gan y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Sgiliau am ddarparu 'Sgiliau sy'n Gweithio i Gymru', a chan edrych yn benodol ar ein mesurau. Mae ein hymgyngoriad yn hanfodol ac yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwch chi, Brynle, yn ymateb iddo o ran sut yr ydym yn mynd i'r afael â'r mater hwn ac yn lleihau nifer y bobl ifanc nad ydynt mewn addysg, cyflogaeth na hyfforddiant. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwch yn cyfrannu at hwnnw. A wnewch groesawu'r ffaith ein bod, ac ystyried y gogledd a'n llwybrau dysgu 14-19 arloesol, yn rhoi £3.96 miliwn i gyllid cyfalaf a £0.6 miliwn i gyllid refeniw, sy'n cael effaith fawr ar y cyfleoedd ar gyfer pobl ifanc 14 i 19 oed? Gyda'r Mesur yn dod drwyddo, fe'm cefnogir gan hawl statudol a dyletswydd ar ddarparwyr.

Gareth Jones: Estyn published a report on an evaluation of the short GCSE Welsh second language course last October. Both this report and Estyn's annual report are full of references to clear deficiencies in relation to teaching Welsh as a second language in our schools. The report said that there were important deficiencies in almost half the

gwaith, ac yr oedd bron i un o bob pump o'r gwersi yn raddau 4 neu 5. Mae hynny'n waeth na'r llynedd ac yn dangos bod y safonau isel a welwyd yn y pwnc mewn blynyddoedd blaenorol yn parhau.

Pa fesurau neu gamau arbennig a allwch eu cymryd i adfer sefyllfa sydd yn gwbl annerbyniol ac yn tansilio nod clodwiw Llywodraeth Cymru i hyrwyddo dwyieithrwydd?

Jane Hutt: That was an important report last year from Estyn, evaluating the GCSE Welsh as a second language short course. Looking at the implications, as you recognise, there has been a significant increase over the last few years in the proportion of pupils that have been entered for the short GCSE course in key stage 4, rather than for the full GCSE course. I have become very concerned about that since I became Minister. We responded to the Estyn report, welcoming the recommendations, and we are working with Estyn, local government, local education authorities, schools and the WJEC to achieve those recommendations, and I will be glad to come back and report to the Assembly on progress.

Eleanor Burnham: There has been a shocking revelation today with the publication of statistics on the high level of teenage drinking, the levels of which in Wales are the highest in the whole of Europe. That obviously has repercussions for schooling. Apparently, this equates to about 1,500 young people, many under the age of 16, being permanently excluded from education and, therefore, not given the opportunity to learn and develop. I find this worrying. What strategy and funding do you have available so that we can address these extremely worrying statistics?

Jane Hutt: I believe that these statistics came from a publication on the health of school-aged children, which is a European analysis—and I am glad that Wales is included in that analysis. This is, of course, an issue for us to be concerned about and we are tackling it across the Assembly Government. It is a key part of our anti-alcohol policy, in terms of abuse, and our

work and almost one in five lessons were a grade 4 or 5. That is worse than last year and show that the low standards seen in this subject in previous years continue.

What special measures or steps can you take to remedy a situation that is completely unacceptable and which undermines the praiseworthy aim of the Government of Wales to promote bilingualism?

Jane Hutt: Yr oedd hwnnw'n adroddiad pwysig y llynedd gan Estyn, yn gwerthuso'r cwrs byr TGAU Cymraeg ail iaith. Ac edrych ar y goblygiadau, fel yr ydych yn ei gydnabod, bu cynnydd sylweddol dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf yng nghyfran y disgyblion a gofrestrwyd ar gyfer y cwrs TGAU byr yng nghyfnod allweddol 4, yn hytrach na'r cwrs TGAU llawn. Yr wyf wedi bod yn poeni llawer am hynny ers imi ddod yn Weinidog. Gwnaethom ymateb i adroddiad Estyn, gan groesawu'r argymhellion, ac yr ydym yn gweithio gydag Estyn, llywodraeth leol, awdurdodau addysg lleol, ysgolion a CBAC i gyflawni'r argymhellion hynny, a byddaf yn falch o ddod yn ôl ac adrodd i'r Cynulliad am y cynnydd.

Eleanor Burnham: Cafwyd agoriad llygad syfrdanol heddiw drwy gyhoeddi ystadegau ar lefel uchel yfed ymysg y glasoed. Y lefelau yng Nghymru yw'r uchaf yn Ewrop i gyd. Yn amlwg caiff hynny effaith ar addysg. Mae'n debygol bod hyn yn gyfystyr ag oddeutu 1,500 o bobl ifanc, nifer ohonynt dan 16 oed, yn cael eu gwahardd yn barhaol o addysg ac, felly, ddim yn cael y cyfle i ddysgu ac i ddatblygu. Mae hyn yn fy mhoeni. Pa strategaeth a chyllid sydd ar gael gennych er mwyn inni allu mynd i'r afael â'r ystadegau gwirioneddol bryderus hyn?

Jane Hutt: Yr wyf yn credu i'r ystadegau hyn ddod o gyhoeddiad ar iechyd plant oed ysgol, sy'n ddadansoddiad Ewropeaidd—ac yr wyf yn falch bod Cymru wedi cael ei chynnwys yn y dadansoddiad hwnnw. Mae hwn, wrth gwrs, yn fater inni bryderu yn ei gylch ac yr ydym yn mynd i'r afael ag ef ar draws Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Mae'n rhan allweddol o'n polisi gwrth-alcohol, o ran

personal and social education remit in the curriculum is also key.

Primary School Education

Q3 William Graham: Will the Minister make a statement on the provision of primary school education in South Wales East? OAQ(3)0447(CEL)

Jane Hutt: A range of education policies, strategies and grant funding has been provided to local authorities, schools and children's services in Wales. These have been designed to improve the quality of primary education, and to establish a culture of lifelong learning, including in South Wales East.

1.20 p.m.

William Graham: It is fair to say that you are well known as a Minister for always reading into your brief. However, I remind you of the assurances given to your predecessor in the former Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee that the Welsh Conservatives are fully behind the foundation phase. Our warning was always on finance, which has been reiterated by practitioners in the field. Can you assure Plenary today that the roll-out of this most important initiative will be fault-free in the future?

Jane Hutt: I thank you for your considered contribution on this matter, William, as usual. I have already made it clear that I am confident about, and working towards, the full, effective roll-out of the foundation phase.

Jeff Cuthbert: New primary schools have been built in my constituency, at Cwrt Rawlin and at Penallta—Ysgol Ifor Bach—and, in the next few years, a new school will be built at Waterloo, near Machen. Do you agree that that shows that, together with other excellent initiatives to involve our youngest children in their environment, such as the eco-schools policy, we are investing heavily in primary school education? Do you share—as I am sure you do—my sense of grave alarm when the Conservatives consistently

camddefnyddio, ac mae ein cylch gwaith addysg bersonol a chymdeithasol yn y cwricwlwm hefyd yn allweddol.

Addysg Ysgolion Cynradd

C3 William Graham: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ddarparu addysg ysgolion cynradd yn Nwyrain De Cymru? OAQ(3)0447(CEL)

Jane Hutt: Mae amrywiaeth o bolisiâu, strategaethau a chyllid grant ym maes addysg wedi cael eu darparu i awdurdodau lleol, ysgolion a gwasanaethau plant yng Nghymru. Mae'r rhain wedi cael eu dylunio i wella ansawdd addysg gynradd, a sefydlu diwylliant o ddysgu gydol oes, gan gynnwys yn Nwyrain De Cymru.

William Graham: Mae'n deg dweud bod gennych enw da fel Gweinidog am ddarllen eich briff yn drwyadl bob amser. Fodd bynnag, fe'ch atgoffaf o'r sicrwydd a roddwyd i'ch rhagflaenydd yn y cyn Bwyllgor Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau bod y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig yn cefnogi'r cyfnod sylfaen i'r carn. Yr oedd ein rhybudd bob tro'n ymwneud â chyllid, ac mae hyn wedi cael ei ailadrodd gan ymarferwyr yn y maes. A allwch sicrhau'r Cyfarfod Llawn heddiw y cyflwynir y fenter hollbwysig hon heb wallau yn y dyfodol?

Jane Hutt: Yr wyf yn diolch ichi am eich cyfraniad ystyriol ar y mater hwn, William, fel arfer. Yr wyf eisoes wedi egluro fy mod yn hyderus am gyflwyno'r cyfnod sylfaen yn llawn ac yn effeithiol ac fy mod yn gweithio at hynny.

Jeff Cuthbert: Mae ysgolion cynradd newydd wedi cael eu hadeiladu yn fy etholaeth yng Nghwrt Rawlin ac ym Mhenallta—Ysgol Ifor Bach—ac, yn yr ychydig flynyddoedd nesaf, bydd ysgol newydd yn cael ei hadeiladu yn Waterloo, ger Machen. A ydych yn cytuno bod hynny'n dangos, ynghyd â mentrau gwych eraill i gynnwys ein plant ieuengaf yn eu hamgylchedd, megis y polisi eco-ysgolion, ein bod yn buddsoddi'n drwm mewn addysg ysgol gynradd? A ydych chi—ac yr wyf yn

attack the free breakfast scheme, which is proving so beneficial, especially for children in the most disadvantaged areas? If they visited those schools, and talked to teachers, they would see the improvements in attendance, in behaviour and in learning. Do you agree that that shows the Conservatives in their true colours?

Jane Hutt: Thank you for that question, Jeff. It gives me the opportunity to say that in South Wales East, 122 schools, out of a possible 241, are currently taking up the free breakfast scheme. I am sure that those 122 schools will want to hear from their Welsh Conservative representatives. A further nine schools have signed up to participate in the scheme by the end of the year.

Addysg Cyfrwng Cymraeg

C4 Nerys Evans: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ddarparu addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn sir Gaerfyrddin? OAQ(3)0500(CEL)

Jane Hutt: Mae sir Gaerfyrddin yn dynodi 74 o ysgolion cynradd yn rhai categori A, sef cyfrwng Cymraeg yn bennaf, 32 yn rhai categori B, sef Cymraeg a Saesneg yn cael eu defnyddio yn y cyfnod meithrin ac yn adran y babanod, a 15 yn gategori A/B, sef ffrydiau o'r naill gategori a'r llall. O blith y 14 o ysgolion uwchradd, dynodir tair yn ddwyieithog, gan ddysgu'n bennaf drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

Nerys Evans: Mae pryder yn sir Gaerfyrddin ar hyn o bryd nad oes digon o lefydd yn yr ysgolion i blant sydd eisiau addysg Gymraeg—mae'r angen yn enfawr. Er enghraifft, mae 25 o blant wedi cael gwrthod lle yn Ysgol Dewi Sant ar gyfer mis Medi, gan nad oes digon o le. Yr wyf hefyd wedi clywed bod dau ddsbarth weithiau yn cael eu dysgu mewn un ystafell ddsbarth oherwydd diffyg lle. A gytunwch fod hyn yn annerbyniol, ac y dylai plant sydd eisiau addysg Gymraeg ei derbyn? A ydych yn fodlon edrych ar y sefyllfa annerbyniol hon yn sir Gaerfyrddin, gan bod angen gwella'r ddarpariaeth ar frys?

siŵr eich bod—fel finnau'n pryderu'n arw pan fydd y Ceidwadwyr yn ymosod ar y cynllun brecwast am ddim yn gyson, sydd mor fuddiol, yn enwedig i blant yn yr ardaloedd mwyaf difreintiedig? Petaent yn ymweld â'r ysgolion hynny, ac yn siarad ag athrawon, byddent yn gweld y gwelliannau mewn presenoldeb, mewn ymddygiad ac mewn dysgu. A ydych yn cytuno bod hyn yn dangos gwir liwiau'r Ceidwadwyr?

Jane Hutt: Diolch ichi am y cwestiwn hwnnw, Jeff. Mae'n rhoi cyfle imi ddweud bod 122 o ysgolion, o 241 posibl, yn defnyddio'r cynllun brecwast am ddim ar hyn o bryd yn Nwyrain De Cymru. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd y 122 o'r ysgolion hynny eisiau clywed gan eu cynrychiolydd Ceidwadol Cymreig. Mae naw ysgol arall wedi cofrestru i gymryd rhan yn y cynllun erbyn diwedd y flwyddyn.

Welsh-Medium Education

Q4 Nerys Evans: Will the Minister make a statement on the provision of Welsh-medium education in Carmarthenshire? OAQ(3)0500(CEL)

Jane Hutt: Carmarthenshire describes 74 primary schools as category A, that is primarily Welsh-medium schools, 32 as category B, that is with Welsh and English used in nursery and infant phases, and 15 as category A/B, that is, with streams of both categories. Of its 14 secondary schools, three are described as bilingual, teaching mainly through the medium of Welsh.

Nerys Evans: There is concern in Carmarthenshire at present that there are not enough places in schools for pupils who want Welsh-medium education—the need is great. For example, 25 children have been refused a place for September at Ysgol Dewi Sant, as there is a shortage of places. I have also heard that two classes are occasionally taught in one classroom, because of a shortage of space. Do you agree that this is unacceptable, and that children who want a Welsh-medium education should receive it? Are you willing to look at this unacceptable situation in Carmarthenshire, as we need to improve the provision as a matter of urgency?

Jane Hutt: It is a major responsibility of local education authorities to make provision in their areas in the light of parental demand and local knowledge. Indeed, the children and young people's plans, which are now in draft form, and which will be published in September, need to have addressed this issue. I understand that there are pressures, in Llanelli, for example, in your region, and I assure you that, although it is a matter for local determination, my officials will be supporting the authority in looking at how this should be handled effectively. I believe that the Welsh-medium education strategy will assist in identifying priorities for the future.

Jane Hutt: Un o gyfrifoldebau mawr awdurdodau addysg lleol yw gwneud darpariaeth yn eu hardaloedd yng ngoleuni galw rhieni a gwybodaeth leol. Yn wir, mae angen i'r cynlluniau plant a phobl ifanc, sydd yn awr ar ffurf drafft, ac a gyhoeddir ym mis Medi, fod wedi rhoi sylw i'r mater hwn. Yr wyf yn deall bod pwysau, yn Llanelli, er enghraifft, yn eich rhanbarth, ac yr wyf yn eich sicrhau, er ei fod yn fater y penderfynir arno'n lleol, y bydd fy swyddogion yn cefnogi'r awdurdod i edrych ar sut y dylid delio â hyn yn effeithiol. Yr wyf yn credu y bydd y strategaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn helpu i ddynodi blaenoriaethau ar gyfer y dyfodol.

Skill Levels

Q5 Jeff Cuthbert: What is the Assembly Government doing to increase skill levels in different sectors of the economy? OAQ(3)0471(CEL)

The Deputy Minister for Skills (John Griffiths): A sectoral approach to skills development lies at the heart of 'Skills That Work for Wales'. Using sector skills agreements and our sector strategies as our cue, our vision is of a demand-led system, with valuable qualifications and development opportunities that are fit for purpose and delivered when and in a way in which they are needed by the sector.

Jeff Cuthbert: Do you agree that last week's announcement on the investment of £70 million in Welsh apprenticeships and the development of a new modern skills diploma for adults shows our determination to provide the Welsh workforce with the skills that it needs to face the challenges of the future? Do you also agree that it is now for all sector skills councils, employers' organisations and trade unions to take advantage of these facilities and to do their very best for the Welsh workforce?

John Griffiths: Absolutely. The increase in apprenticeships in recent times has been very well received by the public in general, because people understand their value, and by the apprentices themselves and the

Lefelau Sgiliau

C5 Jeff Cuthbert: Beth mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ei wneud i gynyddu lefelau sgiliau mewn gwahanol sectorau o'r economi? OAQ(3)0471(CEL)

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Sgiliau (John Griffiths): Mae agwedd sectoraidd at ddatblygu sgiliau wrth galon 'Sgiliau sy'n Gweithio i Gymru'. Gan ddefnyddio cytundebau sgiliau sector a'n strategaethau sector fel ein harwyddion, system wedi'i harwain gan alw yw ein gweledigaeth, gyda chymwysterau a chyfleoedd datblygu gwerthfawr sy'n addas i'r diben ac sy'n cael eu darparu ar adeg ac mewn ffordd sy'n unol ag anghenion y sector.

Jeff Cuthbert: A ydych yn cytuno bod cyhoeddiad yr wythnos diwethaf ar fuddsoddi £70 miliwn mewn prentisiaethau Cymreig a datblygu diploma sgiliau modern newydd ar gyfer oedolion yn dangos ein penderfyniad i arfogi gweithlu Cymru â'r sgiliau y mae eu hangen arnynt i wynebu sialensiau'r dyfodol? A ydych hefyd yn cytuno ei bod yn awr yn gyfrifoldeb ar yr holl gynghorau sgiliau sector, sefydliadau cyflogwyr ac undebau llafur i fanteisio ar y cyfleusterau hyn ac i wneud eu gorau glas dros weithlu Cymru?

John Griffiths: Yn sicr. Mae'r cynnydd mewn prentisiaethau yn ddiweddar wedi cael croeso cynnes gan y cyhoedd yn gyffredinol, oherwydd bod pobl yn deall eu gwerth, ynghyd â'r prentisiaid eu hunain a'r

employers whom they work for. That £70 million of European social fund money will be put to very good use in providing over 20,000 people with greater skills, which will obviously benefit them, their companies, the communities in which they live and the economy. It is also true to say that we intend to drive this forward. In no way do we intend to rest on our laurels. The partnership between the Government, the sector skills councils, the employers, the providers and the learners, which you mentioned, will be crucial to making that further progress.

Andrew R.T. Davies: While many students have benefited from national vocational qualification courses, especially those in plumbing and electrics, there is a great deficit of apprenticeships in those fields for them to take up so that they can qualify as fully-fledged professionals. In those fields, how do you see the Government working with private enterprise to develop the apprenticeship base so that once students have finished their NVQ courses they can move on into the professional world?

John Griffiths: It is stating the obvious, really, but it is vital that we get more employers engaged in what we want to do on this front. We know that it is only by having the appropriate and best placements with employers that our young people and others will get the skills that they need and the full qualifications up to the level that will allow them to have very worthwhile and well-paid careers. Our work-based learning improvement plan will be important in getting that sort of employer engagement. It will have a clearing house system to connect young people who are thinking about apprenticeships with employers, in a way that has worked well in other sectors of education and training. It will also be quite innovative. One aspect of that is the shared apprenticeship model, which links small and medium-sized enterprises that perhaps would not be able to offer apprenticeships individually, allowing them to collectively offer apprenticeships to the benefit of the learners and the firms involved.

cyflogwyr y maent yn gweithio iddynt. Bydd y £70 miliwn hwnnw o arian cronfa gymdeithasol Ewrop yn cael ei ddefnyddio'n dda iawn drwy arfogi dros 20,000 o bobl â rhagor o sgiliau, a fydd yn amlwg o fudd iddynt hwy, i'w cwmnïau, i'r cymunedau lle maent yn byw ac i'r economi. Mae hefyd yn wir dweud ein bod yn bwriadu gyrru hyn ymlaen. Nid ydym mewn unrhyw ffordd yn bwriadu gorffwys ar ein rhwyfau. Mae'r bartneriaeth rhwng y Llywodraeth, y cynghorau sgiliau sector, y cyflogwyr, y darparwyr a'r dysgwyr, y soniasoch amdanynt, yn hanfodol i gyflawni'r cynnydd pellach hwnnw.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Er bod nifer o fyfyrwyr wedi elwa o gyrсияu cymwysterau galwedigaethol cenedlaethol, yn enwedig y rheini ym meysydd plymiaeth a thrydan, ceir prinder dybryd o brentisiaethau yn y meysydd hynny iddynt eu dilyn er mwyn iddynt allu cymhwyso fel gweithwyr proffesiynol llawn. Yn y meysydd hynny, sut yr ydych yn gweld y Llywodraeth yn gweithio gyda mentrau preifat i ddatblygu'r sylfaen prentisiaeth er mwyn i fyfyrwyr allu symud ymlaen i'r byd proffesiynol ar ôl iddynt orffen eu cyrsiau NVQ?

John Griffiths: Mae'n gwbl amlwg, a dweud y gwir, ond mae'n hanfodol ein bod yn cael rhagor o gyflogwyr i ymgysylltu â'r hyn yr ydym yn dymuno'i wneud i'r perwyl hwn. Yr ydym yn gwybod mai dim ond drwy gael y lleoliadau gorau a phriodol gyda chyflogwyr y bydd ein pobl ifanc ac eraill yn cael y sgiliau y mae eu hangen arnynt a'r cymwysterau llawn hyd at y lefel a fydd yn eu galluogi i gael gyrfaedd gwerth chweil a fydd yn talu'n dda. Bydd ein cynllun gwella dysgu seiliedig ar waith yn bwysig o ran cael y math hwnnw o ymgysylltiad â chyflogwyr. Bydd ganddo system clirio i gysylltu pobl ifanc sy'n meddwl am brentisiaethau â chyflogwyr, mewn ffordd sydd wedi gweithio'n dda mewn sectorau eraill o addysg a hyfforddiant. Bydd hefyd yn eithaf arloesol. Un agwedd ar hynny yw'r model prentisiaeth a rennir, sy'n cysylltu mentrau bach a chanolig eu maint na fyddai efallai'n gallu cynnig prentisiaethau'n unigol, gan ganiatáu iddynt gynnig prentisiaethau ar y cyd er budd y dysgwyr a'r cwmnïau dan sylw.

Mohammad Asghar: I am very pleased with the announcement of £70 million over the next three years to raise the skill levels of the workforce in our most deprived areas. Will the Deputy Minister join me in welcoming this new apprenticeship scheme as a way to assist the achieving of our aim of ensuring that 70 per cent of adults of working age in Wales have a qualification equivalent to NVQ level 2 or above?

John Griffiths: All our targets are important, but those that relate to particular levels that of general use and importance across the economy are very important indeed. The money that you mentioned will be put to good use, and I think that all of us would agree with that. It is doing what all of the experts tell us should and needs to be done to obtain the progress that we wish to see in terms of skills, the economy and general community wellbeing.

You mentioned deprived areas, and we have a central commitment to social justice as an administration. That will ensure that we drive that forward as a very central part of everything that you mentioned.

Exclusions from Schools

Q6 Jenny Randerson: Will the Minister make a statement on exclusions from schools? OAQ(3)0479(CEL)

Jane Hutt: The Assembly Government takes the issue of exclusions very seriously. That is why we commissioned the independent national behaviour and attendance review in 2006, which I recently received from the chair of the group, Professor Ken Reid.

1.30 p.m.

Jenny Randerson: You have already referred to the World Health Organisation's report today on the number of young people in Wales getting drunk. Statistics show that, last year—and these are Welsh Assembly Government statistics—over 450 children were excluded from school, either

Mohammad Asghar: Yr wyf yn falch iawn o'r cyhoeddiad ynghylch £70 miliwn dros y tair blynedd nesaf i godi lefelau sgiliau'r gweithlu yn ein hardaloedd mwyaf difreintiedig. A wnaiff y Dirprwy Weinidog ymuno â mi i groesawu'r cynllun prentisiaeth newydd hwn fel ffordd o helpu i gyflawni ein nod o sicrhau bod gan 70 y cant o oedolion oed gweithio gymhwyster sy'n cyfateb i NVQ lefel 2 neu uwch?

John Griffiths: Mae ein holl dargedau yn bwysig, ond mae'r rheini sy'n ymwneud â lefelau penodol o ddefnydd a phwysigrwydd cyffredinol ar draws yr economi yn bwysig dros ben. Bydd yr arian a grybwyllwyd gennych yn cael ei ddefnyddio'n dda, ac yr wyf yn meddwl y byddem i gyd yn cytuno â hynny. Mae'n gwneud yr hyn y mae'r holl arbenigwyr yn ei ddweud wrthym y dylid ei wneud ac y mae angen ei wneud i gael y cynnydd yr ydym yn dymuno ei weld o ran sgiliau, yr economi a lles cyffredinol cymunedau.

Soniasoch am ardaloedd difreintiedig, ac mae gennym ymrwymiad canolog i gyfiawnder cymdeithasol fel gweinyddiaeth. Bydd hynny'n sicrhau ein bod yn mynd â hyn rhagddo fel rhan ganolog iawn o bopeth a grybwyllwyd gennych.

Gwaharddiadau o Ysgolion

C6 Jenny Randerson: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am waharddiadau o ysgolion? OAQ(3)0479(CEL)

Jane Hutt: Mae gwaharddiadau yn bwnc difrifol iawn i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad. Dyna pam y bu inni gomisiynu'r adolygiad cenedlaethol annibynnol o ymddygiad a phresenoldeb yn 2006, a gefais yn ddiweddar gan gadeirydd y grŵp, yr Athro Ken Reid.

Jenny Randerson: Yr ydych eisoes wedi cyfeirio at adroddiad Sefydliad Iechyd y Byd heddiw ar nifer y bobl ifanc yng Nghymru sy'n meddwi. Yn ôl yr ystadegau, y llynedd—ac ystadegau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yw'r rhain—cafodd dros 450 o blant eu gwahardd o'r ysgol, naill ai'n

permanently or as a short-term exclusion, for drug and alcohol abuse. I refer back to your answer to my colleague, Eleanor Burnham. You said that you are tackling the problem across the Assembly Government and that it is a very important problem. With all due respect, Minister, that is not a very impressive answer. We need much more precise action by the Assembly Government and a recognition, both financially in terms of resource commitment and at policy level, that your Government should be tackling this problem as one of the most pressing in Welsh society today.

Jane Hutt: It certainly is a pressing problem, Jenny, and I cannot do justice to priorities and policies across the Welsh Assembly Government in answer to an oral question, but I would certainly want to give a more thorough account of the work that has been undertaken. I mentioned our overall policy of tackling alcohol abuse, and how we are doing that, and education is a key part of that. I also mentioned personal and social education as being a key part of the curriculum in terms of our children and young people. You mentioned drugs as well as alcohol, and the role of education, in terms of the police work that is being done across Wales, is critical here. However, it must also feature in the children and young people's plans because it is the multi-agency work at a local level that will make a difference in addressing these issues. That is the case both in and out of school, and children's services are critical to that.

Leanne Wood: There were 267 exclusions for violent behaviour from schools in Rhondda Cynon Taf last year. What discussions has your department had with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and other councils to reduce this punishment of last resort? What progress is being made into the inquiry into disengagement from learning among children and young people, which is one of the commitments that is contained in the 'One Wales' agreement?

Jane Hutt: I have not had any direct discussions with Rhondda Cynon Taf on this issue. As you know, we are now carefully considering the report from Professor Ken

barhaol neu dros dro, am gamddefnyddio cyffuriau ac alcohol. Cyfeiriai yn ôl at eich ateb i'm cyd-Aelod, Eleanor Burnham. Dywedasoch eich bod yn mynd i'r afael â'r broblem ar draws Llywodraeth y Cynulliad a'i bod yn broblem bwysig iawn. Â phob dyledus barch, Weinidog, nid yw hwnnw'n ateb da iawn. Mae angen gweithredu llawer mwy manwl gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad a chydabyddiaeth, yn ariannol yn nhermau addo adnoddau a hefyd ar lefel polisi, y dylai eich Llywodraeth fod yn delio â'r broblem hon fel un o'r rhai mwyaf enbyd yng nghymdeithas Cymru heddiw.

Jane Hutt: Yn sicr mae'n broblem enbyd, Jenny, ac ni allaf wneud cyfiawnhad â blaenoriaethau a pholisïau ar draws Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru mewn ateb i gwestiwn llafar, ond yn sicr hoffwn roi cyfrif mwy trwyadl o'r gwaith sydd wedi'i wneud. Soniais am ein polisi cyffredinol o fynd i'r afael â chamddefnydd alcohol, a sut yr ydym yn delio â hynny, ac mae addysg yn rhan allweddol o hynny. Soniais hefyd fod addysg bersonol a chymdeithasol yn rhan allweddol o'r cwricwlwm ar gyfer ein plant a'n pobl ifanc. Soniasoch am gyffuriau yn ogystal ag alcohol, ac mae rôl addysg, o ran gwaith yr heddlu sy'n digwydd ledled Cymru, yn allweddol yma. Fodd bynnag, rhaid i hyn fod yn rhan o gynlluniau'r plant a'r bobl ifanc hefyd, oherwydd y gwaith aml-asiantaeth ar lefel leol a fydd yn gwneud gwahaniaeth wrth roi sylw i'r pethau hyn. Mae hynny'n wir yn yr ysgol a'r tu allan, ac mae gwasanaethau plant yn allweddol i hynny.

Leanne Wood: Cafwyd 267 gwaharddiad am ymddygiad treisiol o ysgolion yn Rhondda Cynon Taf y llynedd. Pa drafodaethau y mae eich adran wedi'u cael gyda Chyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf a chynghorau eraill i leihau'r gosb derfynol hon? Pa ddatblygiad sy'n digwydd gyda'r ymchwiliad i ymddieithriad oddi wrth addysg ymysg plant a phobl ifanc, sef un o'r ymrwymadau a geir yng nghytundeb 'Cymru'n Un'?

Jane Hutt: Nid wyf wedi cael unrhyw drafodaethau uniongyrchol gyda Rhondda Cynon Taf ar y mater hwn. Fel y gwyddoch, yr ydym yn awr yn ystyried yr adroddiad gan

Reid and we are developing an action plan.

yr Athro Ken Reid yn ofalus ac yn datblygu cynllun gweithredu.

In terms of our exclusions guidance, it is very clear in the circular that exclusions should not be used if alternative solutions are available, for example, pastoral support programmes, internal exclusion, the restorative justice process or a managed move to another school. There are several recommendations in his report that address your point, and John Griffiths will shortly make a statement that also addresses disengagement factors. This also relates to what I said about the importance and impact of the changes in the curriculum, the anti-bullying policy and the work that we have done through various strategies to tackle bullying effectively in schools.

O ran ein canllawiau ar wahardd, mae'n glir iawn yn y cylchlythyr na ddylid defnyddio gwahardd os oes atebion eraill ar gael, er enghraifft, rhaglenni cefnogaeth fugeiliol, gwahardd mewnol, y broses gyfiawnder adferol neu symudiad dan reolaeth i ysgol arall. Mae amryw o argymhellion yn ei adroddiad sydd yn ateb eich pwynt, a bydd John Griffiths yn gwneud datganiad cyn bo hir a fydd hefyd yn rhoi sylw i ffactorau ymddieithriad. Mae hyn yn berthnasol hefyd i'r hyn a ddywedais am bwysigrwydd ac effaith y newidiadau yn y cwricwlwm, y polisi gwrth-fwlio a'r gwaith yr ydym wedi'i wneud drwy amryfal strategaethau i ddelio'n effeithiol â bwlio mewn ysgolion.

Availability of Welsh-language Education

Argaeledd Addysg Gymraeg

Q7 Nick Bourne: Will the Minister make a statement on the availability of Welsh-language education across Wales? OAQ(3)0446(CEL)

C7 Nick Bourne: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am argaeledd addysg Gymraeg ledled Cymru? OAQ(3)0446(CEL)

Jane Hutt: Of the 1,527 primary schools in January 2007, 466 taught solely or mainly through the medium of Welsh, and a further 28 used Welsh for part of the curriculum. Of the 224 secondary schools, 54 were categorised as Welsh-speaking schools, teaching more than half of the foundation subjects through the medium of Welsh.

Jane Hutt: O blith y 1,527 o ysgolion cynradd ym mis Ionawr 2007, yr oedd 466 yn addysgu'n unig neu yn bennaf drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg a 28 arall yn defnyddio Cymraeg ar gyfer rhan o'r cwricwlwm. O blith y 224 o ysgolion uwchradd, dynodwyd 54 yn rhai Cymraeg eu hiaith, yn addysgu dros hanner pynciau'r cyfnod sylfaen drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

Nick Bourne: I am grateful for the Minister's response and I know of her commitment, but I want to know the position in higher education with regard to linking campuses and the idea of having a virtual campus to facilitate the use of the Welsh language. How are you driving forward that agenda to ensure that Welsh is used more at a higher education level, and that it is available to those students who want to use it currently?

Nick Bourne: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am ymateb y Gweinidog a gwn am ei hymroddiad, ond mae arnaf eisiau gwybod beth yw'r sefyllfa mewn addysg uwch o ran cysylltu aml i gampws a'r syniad o gael rhith-gampws i hwyluso defnyddio'r Gymraeg. Sut yr ydych yn gyrru'r agenda honno yn ei blaen i sicrhau y defnyddir mwy ar y Gymraeg ar lefel addysg uwch, a'i bod ar gael i'r myfyrwyr hynny sydd yn awyddus i'w defnyddio ar hyn o bryd?

Jane Hutt: That provides me with the opportunity to give an update on our work on the coleg federal, which is in the 'One Wales' agreement. We are grateful for the work that has been undertaken in terms of the Welsh-medium higher education sector group. We

Jane Hutt: Mae hynny'n rhoi cyfle imi roi'r newyddion diweddaraf am ein gwaith ar y coleg ffederal, sydd yn y cytundeb 'Cymru'n Un'. Yr ydym yn ddiolchgar am y gwaith sydd wedi'i wneud yn nhermau'r grŵp sector addysg uwch cyfrwng Cymraeg. Yr ydym yn

are now looking at the development of higher education through the medium of Welsh and a strengthening of the networks. We are also looking at the next steps in terms of the coleg ffederal. I have a meeting tomorrow to discuss progress.

David Lloyd: Yr ydym wedi clywed eisoes gan Nerys Evans am y pwysau ar ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg yn sir Gaerfyrddin; maent i gyd yn orlawn. Mae sefyllfa debyg yn Abertawe. Yr wyf yn delio ag achos ar hyn o bryd lle mae merch pedair oed o Waunarlwydd yn methu â chael mynediad i'r un ysgol â'i chwaer, sy'n wyth oed, oherwydd nad oes digon o le. Mae'n mynychu uned feithrin yr ysgol honno ond bydd yn cael ei symud i ysgol arall i ddechrau ysgol go iawn. Mae gennyf nifer o achosion tebyg oherwydd bod yr ysgolion yn llawn. A fyddwch yn ystyried creu hyblygrwydd yn y system, fel strategaeth, er mwyn i frodyr a chwiorydd aros gyda'i gilydd yn yr un ysgol? Efallai y gallech, fel rhan o'r strategaeth, ganiatáu hyblygrwydd o ran cael mwyafrif o 30 o ddisgyblion mewn un dosbarth mewn achosion prin, anghyffredin, oherwydd dyma beth sydd wedi esgor ar y broblem hon. A ydych yn fodlon gyda sefyllfa lle naill ai mae dwy chwaer yn cael eu rhannu i fynychu dwy ysgol wahanol, fel sydd yn mynd i ddiwydd ar hyn o bryd, neu y bydd y chwaer hyn, sy'n sefydlog yn yr ysgol, yn cael ei symud—ac mae peryg, wedyn, o'i hansefydlogi hi—er mwyn cadw'r ddwy chwaer gyda'i gilydd?

Jane Hutt: Mae'n rhaid i mi geisio ateb—ni chlywais cyfieithiad y cwestiwn.

Perhaps I can do the question more justice by answering in English in terms of my fluency. It is important that we have flexibility in the arrangements and access to Welsh-medium education. In terms of the opportunities—and this will be considered in our developing strategy—we will be looking at Welsh-medium statutory nursery and primary provision being open to children from all backgrounds, whether they come from Welsh-speaking homes or non-Welsh-speaking homes. Funding for those coming late to Welsh-medium education is a key issue in terms of the Welsh Language Board's grants to LEAs for promoting the use

edrych yn awr ar ddatblygu addysg uwch drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg a chryfhau'r rhwydweithiau. Yr ydym yn edrych hefyd ar y camau nesaf yn nhermau'r coleg ffederal. Mae gennyf gyfarfod yfory i drafod yr hyn a gyflawnwyd hyd yma.

David Lloyd: We have already heard from Nerys Evans about the pressure on Welsh-medium schools in Carmarthenshire; they are all full to the brim. There is a similar situation in Swansea. I am dealing with a case where a four-year-old girl from Waunarlwydd cannot gain entry to the same school as her sister, who is eight years old, because there is not enough space. She attends the nursery of that school but she will be moved to another school to begin school proper. I have several similar cases because schools are full. Will you consider creating flexibility in the system, as a strategy, so that brothers and sisters can be kept together in the same school? Perhaps, as part of the strategy, you could allow flexibility in terms of having a maximum of 30 pupils in one classroom in rare, unusual cases, because that is what has brought about this problem. Are you happy with a situation where either two sisters are split up to attend two different schools, as is going to happen at present, or the older sister, who is settled in the school, is moved—and there is then the danger of her being unsettled—in order to keep the sisters together?

Jane Hutt: I will try to answer—I did not hear the translation of the question.

Efallai y gallaf wneud mwy o gyfiawnder â'r cwestiwn drwy ateb yn Saesneg, o ran pa mor rhugl yr ydwyf. Mae'n bwysig inni gael hyblygrwydd yn y trefniadau a mynediad at addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg. O ran y cyfleon—ac ystyrir hyn yn ein strategaeth ddatblygiadol—byddwn yn anelu at sicrhau bod darpariaeth meithrin a chynradd statudol drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg ar gael i blant o bob cefndir, boent yn dod o gartrefi Cymraeg neu gartrefi di-Gymraeg. Mae cyllid ar gyfer y rhai a ddaw'n hwyr i addysg Gymraeg yn bwnc allweddol yn nhermau grantiau Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg i AALLau ar gyfer hybu defnydd y Gymraeg drwy gyrsiau Cymraeg

of Welsh through intensive Welsh courses and immersion pilot schemes. The report that is being produced by the Welsh Language Board identifies effective models of late immersion education in secondary and primary schools. That will not answer your points fully, but I hope that we can take this forward in the development of the Welsh-medium education strategy.

dwys a chynlluniau treialu trochi. Mae'r adroddiad sydd ar y gweill gan Fwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg yn enwi modelau effeithiol o addysg drochi hwyr mewn ysgolion uwchradd a chynradd. Ni wnaiff hynny ateb eich pwyntiau'n llawn, ond yr wyf yn gobeithio y gallwn fynd â hyn ymlaen yn natblygiad y strategaeth addysg Gymraeg.

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro i'r Gadair am 1.38 p.m.
The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair at 1.38 p.m.*

Datganiad am y Diweddaraaf am y Strategaeth ar gyfer Pobl Ifanc nad ydynt mewn Addysg, Cyflogaeth na Hyfforddiant (NEET)
Statement on an Update on the Young People not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) Strategy

The Deputy Minister for Skills (John Griffiths): We live in a world of rapid change. Together with competitor countries, we constantly strive to upskill our people to help create the value-added, knowledge-based economy that is vital for success in the new millennium. We want our young people to be well educated because that is a good in itself and is important for general quality of life. Our aim is that they receive a good education and good training, and secure well-paid and rewarding jobs. Wales today is better skilled than ever before, but we must do even more to avoid slipping behind other nations.

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Sgiliau (John Griffiths): Yr ydym yn byw mewn byd o newid cyflym. Ynghyd â gwledydd sy'n gystadleuwyr inni, ymdrechwn yn barhaus i uwchsgilio ein pobl i helpu i greu'r economi gwerth-ychwanegol, seiliedig ar wybodaeth, sy'n hanfodol i lwyddo yn y mileniwm newydd. Mae arnom eisiau i'n pobl ifanc gael addysg dda am fod hynny'n beth da ynddo'i hun ac yn bwysig er mwyn ansawdd cyffredinol bywyd. Ein nod yw iddynt gael addysg dda a hyfforddiant da, a sicrhau swyddi gwerth chweil sy'n talu'n dda. Mae gan Gymru heddiw well sgiliau nag erioed o'r blaen, ond rhaid inni wneud mwy fyth er mwyn peidio â llithro'n ôl y tu ôl i wledydd eraill.

1.40 p.m.

As a Government, our commitment to social justice demands that we prioritise the lower skilled and unqualified. A more equal country is in the interests of all—less crime and damaged communities, better health and wellbeing, and rising standards of living. This puts 'Skills That Work for Wales', our new strategy for skills and employment, at the centre of the Assembly Government's agenda for a prosperous and fair society. We published a draft in January, and the consultation period closed in April. We will publish the final strategy next month.

Fel Llywodraeth, mae ein hymrwymiad i gyfiawnder cymdeithasol yn mynnu ein bod yn rhoi blaenoriaeth i'r rhai â llai o sgiliau a heb gymwysterau. Mae gwlad fwy cydradd yn fuddiol i bawb—llai o droseddau a niweidio cymunedau, gwell iechyd a lles, a safonau byw'n codi. Mae hyn yn gosod 'Sgiliau sy'n Gweithio i Gymru', ein strategaeth newydd ar gyfer sgiliau a chyflogaeth, wrth galon agenda Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar gyfer cymdeithas ffyniannus a theg. Cyhoeddassom ddrafft yn Ionawr, a daeth y cyfnod ymgynghori i ben yn Ebrill. Byddwn yn cyhoeddi'r strategaeth derfynol fis nesaf.

Young people are at the heart of this. We cannot afford to leave any young person behind, outside work or study. We owe it to our young people to equip them for the world in which they are growing up. There is a clear moral and economic imperative to do that. Encouragingly, progress is being made, and the proportion of young people not in education, training or employment is down from the 1980s high, when youth unemployment climbed to record levels. Last year, we succeeded in meeting our 'Vision into Action' target, decreasing the figure to 10 per cent.

However, there is much more to do. Young people who leave school early without good skills and qualifications are far less likely to get a good job. Currently, under half of those with no qualifications are in work, compared with nearly 90 per cent of those with graduate-level qualifications. Those who stay in education are more likely to gain further qualifications and to earn more in the future. Obtaining five or more good GCSEs, or the equivalent, means earnings of around £100,000 more than lower achievement.

If we do not act now to increase participation in education and employment, it will be the most disadvantaged who will be the losers in this fast-changing world. Therefore, last month, I launched a consultation document setting out our proposals to further reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training—the so-called NEETs. The document is the first in what will become a series of themed papers tackling the issues in 'Skills That Work for Wales'. The early publication reflects the urgency that we attach to increasing participation in positive forms of activity.

It is underpinned by 14-19 learning pathways. We want to ensure that as many young people as possible, including those with multiple barriers, choose to stay in learning or enter good quality employment, post-16. To do that, we need to get three building blocks in place. The first is to ensure that we have efficient processes for identifying and re-engaging young people

Mae pobl ifanc wrth graidd hyn. Ni allwn fforddio gadael neb ifanc ar ôl, heb fod mewn gwaith nac astudiaeth. Mae arnom ddyled i'n pobl ifanc i'w harfogi ar gyfer y byd y maent yn tyfu ynddo. Mae rheidrwydd moesol ac economaidd clir i wneud hynny. Yn galonogol, mae pethau'n symud ymlaen, ac mae'r gyfran o bobl ifanc nad ydynt mewn addysg, hyfforddiant na chyflogaeth i lawr o uchafbwynt y 1980au, pryd y dringodd diweithdra ymhlith yr ifanc i'r lefelau uchaf erioed. Y llynedd, llwyddasom i gyrraedd targed ein 'Gweledigaeth ar Waith', gan leihau'r ffigur i 10 y cant.

Fodd bynnag, mae angen gwneud llawer mwy. Mae pobl ifanc sy'n gadael ysgol yn gynnar heb sgiliau a chymwysterau da yn llawer llai tebygol o gael swydd dda. Ar hyn o bryd, llai na hanner y rheini heb ddim cymwysterau sydd mewn gwaith, o'i gymharu â bron 90 y cant o'r rheini â chymwysterau lefel gradd. Mae'r rhai sy'n aros mewn addysg yn fwy tebygol o ennill cymwysterau pellach ac o ennill mwy o gyflog yn y dyfodol. Mae llwyddo'n dda mewn pump neu fwy o bynciau TGAU, neu gyfwerth, yn golygu enillion o ryw £100,000 yn fwy na chyflawni llai.

Os na weithredwn yn awr i gynyddu cyfranogiad mewn addysg a chyflogaeth, y rhai mwyaf difreintiedig fydd ar eu colled yn y byd newidiol hwn. Felly, y mis diwethaf, lansiais ddogfen ymgynghori yn amlinellu ein cynigion i leihau ymhellach nifer y bobl ifanc nad ydynt mewn addysg, cyflogaeth na hyfforddiant—y NEETs fel y cânt eu galw. Y ddogfen hon yw'r gyntaf yn yr hyn a fydd yn gyfres o bapurau thema yn ymdrin â'r cwestiynau yn 'Sgiliau sy'n Gweithio i Gymru'. Mae'r cyhoeddi cynnar yn arwydd o'r brys yr ydym yn ei roi ar gynyddu cyfranogiad mewn ffurfiau gweithgaredd cadarnhaol.

Tanategir hyn gan lwybrau dysgu 14-19. Mae arnom eisiau sicrhau bod cynifer o bobl ifanc ag sy'n bosibl, gan gynnwys y rheini â rhwystrau lluosog, yn dewis aros mewn addysg neu'n mynd i gyflogaeth o ansawdd da, wedi 16. I wneud hynny, mae angen cael tri bloc adeiladu i'w lle. Y cyntaf yw sicrhau bod gennym brosesau effeithlon ar gyfer canfod pobl ifanc sydd wedi gadael addysg a

who leave education and training early. That means being smarter at using and sharing information, both nationally and locally. Our proposals here include: the improvement of local data collection and sharing; the enhancement of keeping-in-touch protocols, which set out how young people's partnerships identify, engage, assess and refer for support; and the introduction of a new statement of arrangements setting out requirements for learning providers to notify Careers Wales as soon as a young person disengages.

The second building block is ensuring that we have a full range of learning options to meet needs—a system where, no matter what level a person is at, there are suitable opportunities; no matter what style of learning most appeals, there are courses available; and no matter where the young person is, those opportunities are there as an entitlement. Our proposals include: legislating to place a duty upon local authorities, schools and further education institutions to co-operate to offer wide curriculum choice and deliver an entitlement for learners to options, experiences and support; our 14-19 learning pathways Measure; and developing a new entry-level programme to replace Skill Build, setting out clear progression routes for young people who need a new start, with a clear focus on employability as an outcome.

The third building block is learning support, careers advice and guidance, so that the young are given the skills that they need to access education, training or employment. Our proposals include: investing in the development of an enhanced model for learning coach support, specifically for disengaged young people; developing guidance on the delivery of personal support; and working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions to make changes to benefit entitlements so that young people with a history of not being in education, employment or training can be fast-tracked straight onto the New Deal. If we get these three things right now, we are confident that we will set ourselves on a path to success—success for our young people, our communities, employers and the economy. I look forward to hearing Members' views, to

hyfforddiant yn gynnar ac ailennyn eu diddordeb. Mae hynny'n golygu bod yn glyfrach wrth ddefnyddio a rhannu gwybodaeth, yn genedlaethol ac yn lleol. Mae ein cynigion yma'n cynnwys: gwella dulliau casglu a rhannu data lleol; gwella protocolau cadw mewn cysylltiad, sy'n pennu sut y mae partneriaethau pobl ifanc yn nodi, yn asesu ac yn cyfeirio am gymorth; a chyflwyno datganiad trefniadau newydd yn amlinellu gofynion i ddarparwyr dysg hysbysu Gyrfaoedd Cymru cyn gynted ag y bydd unigolyn ifanc yn ymddieithrio.

Yr ail bloc adeiladu yw sicrhau bod gennym amrediad llawn o opsiynau dysgu i gwrdd â'r anghenion—system lle ceir cyfleon addas, heb ots ar ba lefel y mae rhywun; lle bo cyrsiau ar gael, heb ots pa arddull dysgu sy'n apelio fwyaf; a lle mae'r cyfleon yno fel hawl, heb ots ble mae'r unigolyn ifanc. Mae ein cynigion yn cynnwys: deddfu i osod dyletswydd ar awdurdodau lleol, ysgolion a sefydliadau addysg bellach i gydweithredu i gynnig dewis cwricwlwm eang a sicrhau bod gan ddysgwyr hawl i opsiynau, profiadau a chefnogaeth; ein Mesur llwybrau dysgu 14-19; a datblygu rhaglen lefel mynediad newydd i gymryd lle Adeiladu Sgiliau, gan amlinellu llwybrau camu ymlaen clir i bobl ifanc sydd angen dechrau o'r newydd, gan ganolbwyntio'n eglur ar gyflogadwyedd fel canlyniad.

Y trydydd bloc adeiladu yw cymorth dysgu, cyngor ac arweiniad gyrfael, fel y rhoddir i'r ifanc y sgiliau y mae arnynt eu hangen i gael mynediad at addysg, hyfforddiant neu gyflogaeth. Mae ein cynigion yn cynnwys: buddsoddi i ddatblygu gwell model o ran cymorth gan anogwr dysgu, yn benodol ar gyfer pobl ifanc sydd wedi ymddieithrio; datblygu canllawiau ar gyflenwi cymorth personol; a gweithio'n agos gyda'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau i wneud newidiadau i'r hawl i fudd-dal fel y bydd pobl ifanc sydd â hanes o beidio â bod mewn addysg, cyflogaeth na hyfforddiant yn gallu cael eu rhoi ar y trywydd cyflym i fynd yn syth ar y Fargen Newydd. Os cawn ni'r tri pheth hyn yn iawn yn awr, yr ydym yn hyderus y byddwn yn gosod ein hunain ar lwybr tuag at lwyddiant—llwyddiant i'n pobl ifanc, i'n cymunedau, i gyflogwyr ac i'r economi.

receiving responses to the consultation and to launching our final action plan in the autumn.

David Melding: There is much that we agree with in the statement and the consultation document that the Deputy Minister referred to. However, I want to make some points, not in a negative fashion, but to emphasise the challenge ahead, and I hope that the Deputy Minister will respond in the same spirit.

Let us start by saying something obvious: young people ought to be full of ambition, looking forward to the challenge of early adulthood and the expanded horizons that that brings. If they are not, it is because there is some barrier, pretty much not of their own making. That ought to be where we start. Everyone should be looking forward to the future with great prospects, determination and ambition, and so I welcome the Government's approach of seeing where those barriers are.

The Deputy Minister was right to say that the level of young people not in education, employment or training has been declining. I think that it is at a relatively low level in the UK compared with many other European countries, and we are now at 10 per cent. We must remember that some of that 10 per cent is actually engaged in other types of purposeful activity—they may be on a gap year or abroad. We are left with quite a challenging group of people who may have had adverse experiences in the education sector and at home, and who may be from a culture where people are not used to a strong work ethic or knowing what they can do and feeling that they can get out and make their way in life. Another obvious group is people in the care sector or recent care leavers. Therefore, I think that the Government is right to say that, as a first step, we need excellent data. Without those data, we do not know who the very different groups of people are, although they face this common challenge, which usually involves a lack of confidence and basic skills. We really need to know where they are and what we can do. We need effective monitoring,

Edrychaf ymlaen at glywed barn yr Aelodau, at dderbyn ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad ac at lansio ein cynllun gweithredu terfynol yn yr hydref.

David Melding: Mae llawer yr ydym yn cytuno ag ef yn y datganiad ac yn y ddogfen ymgynghorol y cyfeiriodd y Dirprwy Weinidog ati. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf am wneud rhai pwyntiau, nid mewn modd negyddol, ond i bwysleisio'r her sydd o'n blaenau, a gobeithiaf y bydd y Dirprwy Weinidog yn ymateb yn yr un ysbryd.

Gadewch inni ddechrau drwy ddweud rhywbeth amlwg: dylai pobl ifanc fod yn llawn uchelgais, yn edrych ymlaen at her bod yn oedolion ifanc a'r gorwelion ehangach a ddaw yn sgil hynny. Os nad ydynt, mae hynny oherwydd rhyw rwystr, ac nid yw hwnnw o'u gwneuthuriad hwy at ei gilydd. Dyna yw'r priod fan cychwyn inni. Dylai pawb edrych ymlaen i'r dyfodol gyda rhagolygon, penderfyniad ac uchelgais arbennig, ac felly yr wyf yn croesawu dull y Llywodraeth o fynd ati i ganfod beth yw'r rhwystrau hynny.

Yr oedd y Dirprwy Weinidog yn iawn i ddweud bod lefel y bobl ifanc nad ydynt mewn addysg, cyflogaeth na hyfforddiant wedi bod yn gostwng. Credaf ei bod ar lefel gymharol isel yn y DU o'i chymharu â llawer o wledydd eraill Ewrop, ac yr ydym ni yn awr ar 10 y cant. Rhaid inni gofio bod rhai o'r 10 y cant hwnnw wrthi'n ymgymryd â mathau eraill o weithgarwch bwriadus—efallai eu bod ar flwyddyn i ffwrdd neu dramor. Fe'n gadewir â grŵp digon heriol o bobl sydd efallai wedi cael profiadau drwg yn y sector addysg neu gartref, ac sydd efallai'n dod o ddiwylliant lle nad yw pobl wedi arfer ag etheg gwaith gref neu wybod yr hyn y gallant ei wneud a theimlo y gallant fynd allan a gwneud eu ffordd eu hunain mewn bywyd. Grŵp amlwg arall yw pobl yn y sector gofal neu'r rhai sydd wedi gadael gofal yn ddiweddar. Felly, credaf fod y Llywodraeth yn iawn i ddweud, fel cam cyntaf, fod angen data rhagorol arnom. Heb y data hwnnw, ni wyddom pwy yw'r grwpiau tra gwahanol o bobl, er eu bod yn wynebu'r un her gyffredin hon, sydd fel arfer yn golygu diffyg hyder a sgiliau sylfaenol. Mae gwir angen inni wybod pwy ydynt a beth y gallwn

encouragement and plans. We have to stick with it. It will be a tough challenge to get that figure down to 7 per cent and, hopefully, go even further. As long as the Government carries out effective monitoring and improves data, it will get our support, even if progress is a bit slower than expected as the data get harder.

The practical outcome that we need is better, more effective vocational provision, and the Webb review is very important in that regard. To raise the esteem in which vocational qualifications are held is, I think, a first step, as is getting people onto such courses, when they lack some basic skills. That is very important.

On a recent visit to a large comprehensive school, I was told by the headteacher in relation to a group of underachievers that the one thing that he would change, above all else, if he could, would be to give them good social skills. They lack engagement sometimes, and they need to be able to look at people and have a conversation, not only with their teachers, but also with their peers, those around them who did seem to be succeeding and getting on. Basic skills can be much more than just basic numeracy and literacy, although they are crucial.

I also like the idea of a learning coach. I think that that will contribute to a targeted approach, with follow-up, and sharing the information when people drop out of the system reveals a bit of rigour. That is an idea on which we will follow through, and ensure that an effective model is implemented. I would say that perhaps the learning coach needs to be combined with a good role model.

1.50 p.m.

There are people who have special skills to relate to young people, and they are often youngish themselves, and that represents a key area for improvement. I therefore urge

ei wneud. Mae angen monitro, anogaeth a chynlluniau effeithiol arnom. Rhaid inni ddyfalbarhau. Bydd cael y ffigur hwn i ostwng i 7 y cant a, gobeithio, ymhellach fyth, yn her anodd. Cyhyd â bo'r Llywodraeth yn rhoi gwaith monitro effeithiol ar waith a'i bod yn gwella'r data, caiff ein cefnogaeth, hyd yn oed os yw'r cynnydd ychydig yn arafach na'r disgwyl wrth i'r data fynd yn fwy cadarn.

Y canlyniad ymarferol y mae ei angen arnom yw gwell darpariaeth alwedigaethol, a honno'n fwy effeithiol. Mae adolygiad Webb yn bwysig iawn yn y cyswllt hwnnw. Mae cynyddu'r parch sydd gan bobl tuag at gymwysterau galwedigaethol yn gam cyntaf, fe gredaf, ynghyd â chael pobl i fynd ar gyrsiau o'r fath, pan nad yw rhai sgiliau sylfaenol ganddynt. Mae hynny'n bwysig iawn.

Ar ymweliad ag ysgol gyfun fawr yn ddiweddar, dywedwyd wrthyf gan y pennaeth yng nghyswllt grŵp o fyfyrwyr a oedd yn tangyflawni, mai'r un peth y byddai ef yn ei newid, uwchlaw popeth, pe gallai, fyddai rhoi sgiliau cymdeithasol da iddynt. Nid ydynt yn ymgysylltu weithiau, ac mae angen iddynt allu edrych ar bobl a chynnal sgwrs, nid dim ond â'u hathrawon, ond â'u cyfoedion hefyd, y rhai o'u cwmpas a oedd yn ôl pob golwg yn llwyddo ac yn symud ymlaen. Gall sgiliau sylfaenol olygu llawer mwy na dim ond rhifedd a llythrennedd sylfaenol, er eu bod hwy'n hanfodol.

Yr wyf hefyd yn hoffi'r syniad o anogwr dysgu. Credaf y bydd yn cyfrannu tuag at ddull gweithredu wedi'i dargedu, gyda gwaith dilynol, ac mae rhannu'r wybodaeth pan fydd pobl yn ymwrthod â'r system ac yn ymadael yn dangos rhywfaint o lymder. Mae hynny'n syniad y byddwn yn gweithio arno, ac yn sicrhau bod model effeithiol yn cael ei weithredu. Byddwn yn dweud bod efallai angen i'r anogwr dysgu gael ei gyfuno â delfryd ymddwyn dda.

Mae yna bobl sydd â sgiliau arbennig i ymagweddu at bobl ifanc, ac maent yn aml yn weddol ifanc eu hunain; mae hwnnw'n faes allweddol i'w wella. Anogaf y Dirprwy

the Deputy Minister to pay particular attention to what people have to say about how learning coaches will operate.

John Griffiths: David, thank you for the balanced way in which you made your remarks. I agree with the tenor of what you said. Yes, we do face challenges, but, as you rightly say, the achievement of the 10 per cent target shows that it is possible to make progress on this front. When you factor out those who are not particularly in need of our help, such as those travelling around the world on a gap year, for example, you are still left with young people who have considerable barriers to overcome. We will have to put together an effective, multi-agency approach to tackle all those barriers, no matter what they might be.

I also agree with your comments about the young people not being responsible for building those barriers. It is about how society organises and conducts itself. It is because of that that these barriers exist, and it is up to the state to organise itself better and to intervene more effectively when necessary at an early stage, to prevent these barriers from developing.

Data are vital and, as a first step, we need to make sure that all the organisations that collect information on young people who are not in education, employment or training use a common terminology, because local organisations at present interpret the term 'NEET' differently. That reflects the focus of support that a particular organisation provides. We therefore need to make sure that we are much smarter and more integrated in using, processing and collecting data. That will be very important indeed.

Social skills are vital, and we hear that from employers all the time. They set great store by employees, prospective and current, having good social skills, being able to communicate, presenting themselves well, being employment-ready, and being keen to do the job. Those attributes are valued by employers, which is why projects such as Skill Build—and, hopefully, its successor project—are focused on making young

Weinidog, felly, i roi sylw arbennig i'r hyn sydd gan bobl i'w ddweud am y ffordd y bydd anogwyr dysgu yn gweithredu.

John Griffiths: David, diolch ichi am y ffordd gytbwys y gwnaethoch eich sylwadau. Yr wyf yn cytuno â sylwedd yr hyn a ddywedasoch. Ydym, yr ydym yn wynebu heriau, ond, fel y dywedwch yn hollol iawn, mae cyrraedd y targed o 10 y cant yn dangos ei bod yn bosibl gwneud cynnydd yn y maes hwn. Ar ôl ystyried y rhai nad oes gwir angen help arnynt, megis y rhai sy'n teithio o amgylch y byd ar flwyddyn i ffwrdd, yr ydych yn dal i gael eich gadael â phobl ifanc sydd â rhwystrau sylweddol i'w goresgyn. Bydd yn rhaid inni sefydlu dull effeithiol, amlasiantaethol i fynd i'r afael â'r holl rhwystrau hynny, beth bynnag y bônt.

Cytunaf hefyd â'ch sylwadau nad y bobl ifanc sy'n gyfrifol am godi'r rhwystrau hynny. Mae a wnelo â'r ffordd y mae cymdeithas yn ei threfnu ei hun ac yn ymddwyn. Oherwydd hynny y mae'r rhwystrau hyn yn bodoli, a chyfrifoldeb y wladwriaeth yw trefnu ei hun yn well ac ymyrryd yn fwy effeithiol pan fydd raid yn ddigon cynnar, i atal y rhwystrau hyn rhag datblygu.

Mae data'n hanfodol ac, fel cam cyntaf, mae angen inni wneud yn siŵr bod pob corff sy'n casglu gwybodaeth am bobl ifanc nad ydynt mewn addysg, cyflogaeth na hyfforddiant yn defnyddio'r un derminoleg, oherwydd ar hyn o bryd mae cyrff lleol yn dehongli'r term 'NEET' yn wahanol. Mae hynny'n adlewyrchu ffocws y cymorth a ddarperir gan gorff neilltuol. Mae angen felly inni wneud yn siŵr ein bod yn llawer craffach a mwy integredig yn y ffordd yr ydym yn defnyddio, yn prosesu ac yn casglu data. Bydd hynny'n bwysig iawn yn wir.

Mae sgiliau cymdeithasol yn hollbwysig, ac yr ydym yn clywed hynny gan gyflogwyr o hyd. Maent yn rhoi pwys mawr ar gael gweithwyr, yn ddarpar weithwyr a rhai cyfredol, sydd â sgiliau cymdeithasol da, sy'n gallu cyflwyno eu hunain yn dda, sy'n barod ar gyfer cyflogaeth, ac yn awyddus i wneud y gwaith. Caiff y priodweddau hyn eu gwerthfawrogi gan gyflogwyr, a dyna pam mae prosiectau fel Adeiladu Sgiliau—a,

people employment-ready, bridging the gap between where they are and where they need to be to get jobs, and good-quality jobs at that. Of course, if we can prevent the problems from occurring earlier in young people's lives, we will not have to take that level of remedial action later, and that is where we must get to.

Peter Black: I endorse David Melding's remarks about social skills. The Deputy Minister responded to them, and I do not want to repeat what David said, but it is crucial that their social skills are up to the mark if we are to get young people in particular into employment and training. It is vital that that is addressed in the school environment, if at all possible. I hope that the Deputy Minister can give a degree of priority to that, as part of the strategy.

I also endorse the Deputy Minister's direction of travel as part of this strategy. It is certainly the right aspiration for us to reduce the number of people who have no education, training, skills or employment by getting them engaged in one of those pursuits.

However, I feel less generous than David Melding about the latitude that we will afford you, Deputy Minister, in fulfilling your targets, not because we do not believe that you should have an opportunity to deliver on this issue, as we do, but because we have had a Labour Government since 1997, and this issue has not just appeared out of nowhere in the last two years. Therefore, it has to be addressed properly. I hope that you will accept that you have our good wishes and goodwill in this regard. If you are able to deliver on what you say you wish to deliver, you will have the full support of the Welsh Liberal Democrats.

There are a couple of issues that I want to raise with you, Deputy Minister, particularly the proposal to legislate to place a duty on local education authorities, schools and further education institutions to co-operate in

gobeithio, y prosiect a fydd yn ei olynu—yn canolbwyntio ar wneud pobl ifanc yn barod ar gyfer cyflogaeth, gan bontio'r bwlch rhwng lle maent a lle mae angen iddynt fod er mwyn cael swydd, a swyddi o ansawdd dda at hynny. Wrth gwrs, os allwn atal problemau rhag digwydd yn gynharach ym mywydau pobl ifanc, ni fydd yn rhaid inni roi'r lefel honno o weithredu adferol ar waith yn ddiweddarach, a dyna'r nod y mae'n rhaid inni ei gyrraedd.

Peter Black: Cefnogaf sylwadau David Melding am sgiliau cymdeithasol. Ymatebodd y Dirprwy Weinidog iddynt, ac nid wyf am ailadrodd yr hyn a ddywedodd David, ond mae'n hanfodol fod eu sgiliau cymdeithasol yn ddigonol os ydym i gael pobl ifanc yn arbennig i mewn i gyflogaeth a hyfforddiant. Mae'n hanfodol fod sylw'n cael ei roi i hyn yn amgylchedd yr ysgol, os yw hynny'n bosibl o gwbl. Gobeithiaf y gall y Dirprwy Weinidog roi rhywfaint o flaenoriaeth i hynny, fel rhan o'r strategaeth.

Cefnogaf hefyd y llwybr y mae'r Dirprwy Weinidog yn teithio fel rhan o'r strategaeth hon. Yn sicr, gostwng nifer y bobl nad oes ganddynt addysg, hyfforddiant, sgiliau na chyflogaeth, drwy eu cael i gymryd rhan yn un o'r gorchwylion hynny, yw'r dyhead iawn i ni.

Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn teimlo'n llai hael na David Melding am y penrhdyddid a roddwn ichi, Ddirprwy Weinidog, wrth gyflawni eich targedau, nid am nad ydym yn credu y dylech gael cyfle i gyflawni ar y mater hwn, gan ein bod yn credu hynny, ond am ein bod wedi cael Llywodraeth Lafur er 1997, ac nid yw'r mater hwn wedi ymddangos yn ddisymwth dros y ddwy flynedd ddiwethaf. Felly, rhaid mynd i'r afael ag ef yn iawn. Gobeithiaf y byddwch yn derbyn bod ein dymuniadau da a'n hewyllys dda gyda chi yn y cyswllt hwn. Os gallwch gyflawni'r hyn y dywedwch yr ydych yn dymuno ei gyflawni, cewch gefnogaeth lawn Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru.

Mae cwpl o faterion yr wyf am eu codi gyda chi, Ddirprwy Weinidog, yn arbennig y cynnig i ddeddfu i roi dyletswydd ar awdurdodau addysg lleol, ysgolion a sefydliadau addysg bellach i gydweithredu i

the delivery of a local options menu for young people. Most schools have discovered that the provision of an alternative curriculum focused on vocational training and education is very expensive. You cannot just conjure it up out of thin air, and schools often struggle to offer that provision. If you are to place a statutory requirement on local education authorities and schools, I hope that that requirement will come with proper funding. The worst thing that could happen would be for schools to be given that obligation, only to find that they are not able to deliver it, as has happened with so many other programmes in the past, when the expectations of pupils who desperately need to be on those vocational courses have been raised so much. Some reassurances from you now, Deputy Minister, that the necessary funding will be provided with that statutory requirement would be very much welcomed—and not just by me, but by all local education authorities and schools.

The second point that I want to—

The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. I remind Members that this is not the time to make speeches; we need to hear some questions to the Deputy Minister.

Peter Black: I just asked a question, Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer—

The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer: It had a long preamble.

Peter Black: As a party spokesperson, I think that more latitude is usually given.

The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Can you be brief, otherwise—

Peter Black: I am trying to be brief, but you keep interrupting me.

The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer: With respect, Peter, we do not have long left for this item, so please just get to your questions.

Peter Black: The second question that I wish

gyflwyno dewislen opsiynau leol ar gyfer pobl ifanc. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o ysgolion wedi darganfod bod darparu cwricwlwm amgen sy'n canolbwyntio ar hyfforddiant ac addysg alwedigaethol yn ddrud iawn. Ni allwch gonsurio hynny o'r gwynt, ac mae ysgolion yn aml yn ei chael hi'n anodd cynnig y ddarpariaeth honno. Os rhoch chi ofyniad statudol ar awdurdodau addysg lleol ac ysgolion, gobeithiaf y bydd y gofyniad hwnnw yn dod law yn llaw â chyllid priodol. Y peth gwaethaf a allai ddigwydd fydd rhoi'r orfodaeth hynny ar ysgolion, dim ond ichi ganfod na allant ei gwireddu, fel sydd wedi digwydd gyda chynifer o raglenni eraill yn y gorffennol, pan fydd disgwyliadau'r disgyblion y mae taer angen iddynt fod ar y cyrsiau galwedigaethol hynny wedi cael eu codi i'r fath raddau. Byddai rhywfaint o sicrwydd gennych chi yn awr, Ddirprwy Weinidog, y caiff y cyllid angenrheidiol ei ddarparu gyda'r gofyniad statudol hwnnw yn cael ei groesawu'n fawr—nid dim ond gennyf fi, ond gan yr holl awdurdodau addysg lleol a'r ysgolion.

Yr ail bwynt yr wyf am ei—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Trefn. Atgoffaf yr Aelodau nad dyma'r amser i wneud areithiau; mae angen inni glywed cwestiynau i'r Dirprwy Weinidog.

Peter Black: Yr wyf newydd ofyn cwestiwn, Ddirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Yr oedd iddo ragymadrodd hir.

Peter Black: Fel llefarydd plaid, credaf fod mwy o hyblygrwydd yn cael ei ganiatáu fel arfer.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Trefn. A allwch fod yn fyr, neu—

Peter Black: Yr wyf yn ceisio bod yn fyr, ond yr ydych yn torri ar fy nhraws o hyd.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Gyda pharch, Peter, nid oes gennym lawer o amser ar ôl i'r eitem hon, felly gofynnwch eich cwestiynau os gwelwch yn dda.

Peter Black: Mae a wnelo'r ail gwestiwn yr

to ask the Deputy Minister is in relation to the delivery of the objectives of the strategy. Will we have an action plan in place for its delivery? We believe that the timescale to 2010 is too narrow, especially given the need to legislate and to put in place all the mechanisms that he wants to deliver the strategy. We are looking for a concrete action plan at an early stage, together with stepped targets on how he will achieve it. I would be grateful if the Deputy Minister could indicate whether that will be forthcoming in due course.

John Griffiths: I appreciate your endorsement of our direction of travel, as you put it. There is a wide degree of consensus in the Assembly, as there should be, on the importance of achieving progress on this front. Anyone who thinks about the issues would not doubt that for a second. Therefore, I thank you for that. Social skills are important and need to be fostered in all our learning settings, as we now tend to call them.

With regard to the fact that we have had a Labour UK Government since 1997, I mentioned earlier that considerable progress has been made on this front, although it is a difficult problem to do something about. That is widely recognised by all the organisations and people who work in the field. There are multiple barriers and deeply entrenched problems in deprived communities, which have to be approached from a variety of different angles by a host of organisations and Government policies. It is crucial yet difficult territory. However, we have made progress, and a lower percentage of our young people are not in education, employment or training than those in England and Scotland at present. We have got to that stage because we have made that progress. We must recognise that, although there is a lot yet to do.

When it comes to our Measure and the statutory duty to provide good-quality choice and good-quality vocational choice, we must be careful not to think of that as schools duplicating the work of FE colleges. Some schools have incurred unnecessary expense

wyf am ei ofyn i'r Dirprwy Weinidog â gwireddu amcanion y strategaeth. A fyddwch yn sefydlu cynllun gweithredu i'w rhoi ar waith? Credwn fod yr amserlen hyd at 2010 yn rhy gul, yn enwedig ac ystyried yr angen i ddeddfu ac i sefydlu'r holl fecanweithiau y mae am eu cael er mwyn rhoi'r strategaeth ar waith. Yr ydym yn chwilio am gynllun gweithredu cryf yn gynnar yn y broses, ynghyd â thargedau fesul cam o ran sut y bydd yn gwireddu'r strategaeth. Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallai'r Dirprwy Weinidog ddweud a fydd hynny'n cael ei gyhoeddi maes o law.

John Griffiths: Gwerthfawrogaf y ffaith eich bod yn cymeradwyo'r cyfeiriad yr ydym yn teithio iddo, i ddefnyddio eich geiriau chi. Mae consensws eang iawn yn y Cynulliad, fel y dylai fod, ynglŷn â phwysigrwydd sicrhau cynnydd yn y maes hwn. Ni fyddai unrhyw un sy'n ystyried y materion yn amau hynny am eiliad. Felly, diolchaf ichi am hynny. Mae sgiliau cymdeithasol yn bwysig ac mae angen iddynt gael eu meithrin yn ein holl sefydliadau dysgu, fel yr ydym yn tueddu i'w galw erbyn hyn.

O ran y ffaith y bu gennym Lywodraeth Lafur yn y DU er 1997, soniais yn gynharach fod cynnydd sylweddol wedi cael ei wneud yn y maes hwn, er ei bod yn broblem anodd i fynd i'r afael â hi. Caiff hynny ei gydnabod yn eang gan bob corff a pherson sy'n gweithio yn y maes. Mae llw o rwystrau a phroblemau sydd wedi magu gwreiddiau dwfn mewn cymunedau difreintiedig, a rhaid i lawer o gyrff a pholisïau o du'r Llywodraeth ymdrin â hynny o amryw o onglau gwahanol. Mae'n diriogaeth hollbwysig, ond anodd. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym wedi gwneud cynnydd, ac mae canran is o'n pobl ifanc ni heb fod mewn addysg, cyflogaeth na hyfforddiant na'r gyfran yn Lloegr a'r Alban ar hyn o bryd. Yr ydym wedi cyrraedd y sefyllfa honno am ein bod wedi gwneud y cynnydd hwnnw. Rhaid inni gydnabod hynny, er bod llawer i'w wneud eto.

O ran ein Mesur a'r ddyletswydd statudol i ddarparu dewis o ansawdd dda a dewis galwedigaethol o ansawdd dda, rhaid inni fod yn ofalus i beidio â meddwl am hynny fel petai ysgolion yn dyblygu gwaith colegau AB. Mae rhai ysgolion wedi wynebu costau

by going down that road, and we do not want to see that happening. We do not want duplication; we want co-operation. In the 14 to 19 age bracket, school pupils are able to attend FE colleges for vocational courses. We do not want to see duplication, which has existed for far too long; we want to see it tackled effectively, so that precious resources can be better used.

2.00 p.m.

We will listen carefully to the consultation on our NEET strategy and, as ever, we will closely evaluate all of the responses in deciding the most effective way forward. I would not want to pre-empt that exercise and some of the workshops and events that are taking place around it by making any announcements at this stage.

The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer: I will call on Jeff Cuthbert. Although Jeff was not here at the beginning of the meeting, he did give apologies as he was called out urgently. I remind Members that, if they want to speak, they should be here for the beginning of the item.

Jeff Cuthbert: Thank you for your generosity, Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer. Hopefully, I have a grasp of the subject as it is.

If we truly want to reverse the deprivation in the south Wales Valleys and in other disadvantaged parts of Wales, and to make our workforce truly competitive in the global market, getting people who are not in education, employment or training re-engaged with the process is paramount. Moreover, that identification and removal of barriers to learning needs to be made at the earliest possible time to prevent young people from falling into the NEET category in the first place. Many of the barriers to learning that lead people into a situation where they become NEET are associated with poverty and the causes of poverty, which is why there are generations of families who fall into this category. Therefore, by tackling the NEET problem, we are also tackling the root causes

dianghenraid wrth fynd ar hyd y llwybr hwnnw, ac nid ydym am weld hynny'n digwydd. Nid ydym am gael dyblygu; yr ydym am gael cydweithredu. Yn y grŵp oedran 14 i 19, gall disgyblion ysgol fynychu colegau AB ar gyfer cyrsiau galwedigaethol. Nid ydym am weld dyblygu, sydd wedi bodoli'n rhy hir o lawer; yr ydym am weld mynd i'r afael â hynny'n effeithiol, fel y bydd modd defnyddio adnoddau gwerthfawr yn well.

Byddwn yn gwrando'n ofalus ar yr ymgynghori ar ein strategaeth NEET, ac fel bob amser, byddwn yn pwysu a mesur yr holl ymatebion yn ofalus wrth benderfynu'r ffordd fwyaf effeithiol i fwrw ymlaen. Ni fyddwn am ragdybio'r ymarfer hwnnw a rhai o'r gweithdai a'r digwyddiadau sydd ar y gweill yn gefn iddo drwy gyhoeddi dim byd ar hyn o bryd.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Galwaf ar Jeff Cuthbert. Er nad oedd Jeff yma ar ddechrau'r cyfarfod, ymddiheurodd am iddo gael ei alw allan ar frys. Atgoffaf yr Aelodau, os ydynt yn dymuno siarad, y dylent fod yma ar gyfer dechrau'r eitem.

Jeff Cuthbert: Diolch ichi am eich haelioni, Ddirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro. Gobeithio bod gennyf afael ar y pwnc fel y mae.

Os ydym yn wir am wrthdroi'r amddifadedd yng Nghymoedd y de ac mewn rhannau eraill o Gymru sydd dan anfantais, a sicrhau bod ein gweithlu'n wirioneddol gystadleuol yn y farchnad fyd-eang, mae cael pobl nad ydynt mewn addysg, cyflogaeth na hyfforddiant i ailymwneud â'r broses yn hollbwysig. Yn anad dim, mae angen adnabod y rhwystrau rhag dysgu a'u dileu cyn gynted ag y bo modd er mwyn atal pobl ifanc rhag disgyn i'r categori NEET yn y lle cyntaf. Mae llawer o'r rhwystrau rhag dysgu sy'n arwain pobl i sefyllfa NEET yn gysylltiedig â thlodi ac â'r hyn sy'n achosi tlodi. Dyna pam mae cenedlaethau o deuluoedd yn disgyn i'r categori hwn. Felly, drwy fynd i'r afael â phroblem NEET, yr ydym hefyd yn mynd i'r afael ag achosion tlodi yn y gwraidd a'r

of poverty and associated problems. I see this as essential to help achieve our major aim of abolishing child poverty.

The foundation phase—which was mentioned earlier—and the 14-19 learning pathways are fundamental to preventing and removing some of the barriers to learning. The modern apprenticeship scheme seeks to help those with basic and key skills who are outside full-time education, and we also have the joint Welsh Assembly Government and Department for Work and Pensions project, Want to Work. I believe that the policies coming from the Welsh Assembly Government indicate that we are looking at the right areas to tackle and prevent those people from falling into the not in education, employment or training category.

While I welcome the positive statement from David Melding a short while ago, do you agree, Deputy Minister, that this is in direct contrast with the lack of policies brought forward by his party's previous Government, which simply shifted people from unemployment benefit to incapacity benefit, the legacy of which can still be seen today?

John Griffiths: The deprivation that exists in Wales is central to this agenda of tackling young people who are not doing youthful and active things when they should be, for their benefit and for the benefit of others. I am pleased to say that we have the opportunity of using European funding for the convergence areas to tackle some of those problems. Skill Build is an example of that, and we also hope to work up a project directly on NEET and taking forward this strategy that we have to tackle those who are in the NEET category in terms of the convergence areas and European funding. That gives us great opportunities of which we must take full advantage in the south Wales Valleys.

I also agree that we must tackle these issues at the earliest possible opportunity, which is why I said earlier that it is about having a multi-faceted approach to these issues. It is not just about what is in our NEET strategy;

problemau sy'n gysylltiedig â hynny. I mi, mae hyn yn hollbwysig i helpu gwireddu ein prif nod, sef dileu tlodi ymhlith plant.

Mae'r cyfnod sylfaen—y cyfeiriwyd ato'n gynharach—a'r llwybrau dysgu 14-19 yn hanfodol er mwyn atal a dileu rhai o'r rhwystrau rhag dysgu. Mae'r cynllun prentisiaeth fodern yn ceisio cynorthwyo'r rheini sydd â sgiliau sylfaenol ac allweddol ac sydd y tu allan i faes addysg amser llawn. Mae gennym hefyd brosiect ar y cyd rhwng Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau, Yn Awyddus i Weithio. Credaf fod y polisiau sy'n dod oddi wrth Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn dangos ein bod yn edrych ar y meysydd iawn i'r afael â hwy ac i atal y bobl hynny rhag disgyn i gategori pobl nad ydynt mewn addysg, cyflogaeth na hyfforddiant.

Er fy mod yn croesawu'r datganiad cadarnhaol gan David Melding gynnau, a gytunwch, Ddirprwy Weinidog, fod hyn yn gwbl groes i'r diffyg cyflwyno polisiau gan Lywodraeth flaenorol ei blaid, na wnaeth ddim mwy na symud pobl oddi ar fudd-dal diweithdra i fudd-dal analluogrwydd, a bod gwaddol hynny'n dal i'w weld heddiw?

John Griffiths: Mae'r amddifadedd sy'n bodoli yng Nghymru yn elfen ganolog yn yr agenda hon, sef mynd i'r afael â phobl ifanc nad ydynt yn gwneud y pethau egniol a bywiog y dylent fod yn eu gwneud, er eu lles eu hunain ac er lles pobl eraill. Yr wyf yn falch dweud bod cyfle inni ddefnyddio arian Ewrop ar gyfer yr ardaloedd cydgyfeirio i fynd i'r afael â rhai o'r problemau hynny. Mae Adeiladu Sgiliau yn enghraifft o hynny, a gobeithiwn hefyd ddatblygu prosiect sy'n ymwneud yn uniongyrchol â NEET gan fwrw ymlaen â'r strategaeth hon sydd gennym i fynd i'r afael â phobl sydd yn y categori NEET drwy ddefnyddio arian Ewrop yn yr ardaloedd cydgyfeirio. Mae hynny'n cynnig cyfleoedd rhagorol inni y mae'n rhaid inni fanteisio i'r eithaf arnynt yng Nghymoedd y de.

Cytunaf hefyd ei bod yn rhaid inni fynd i'r afael â'r materion hyn ar y cyfle cynharaf posibl, a dyna pam y dywedais gynnau fod angen mynd ati mewn amryw o ffyrdd. Nid yr hyn sydd yn ein strategaeth NEET yn unig

it is about everything else that the Assembly Government is trying to do to tackle deprivation. It is about Communities First, Flying Start, the foundation phase, Want to Work—as you mentioned—and a whole raft of things that take forward our central commitment to improving social justice.

Despite David Melding's progressive remarks, I agree with Jeff about the Tories' previous performance when in Government at a UK level, and about their underlying philosophy, although there is a range of opinion within the Conservative Party; David represents one part of that. In general terms, and looking at their history, Jeff, I agree that many of the problems that we are now trying to tackle through our NEET strategy, have come about to a large extent because of the policies, strategies and the philosophy of the Conservative Party in the UK.

Mohammad Asghar: First, I congratulate you on your statement, Deputy Minister, which I welcome. When you say that your aim is good education, good training and well-paid and rewarding jobs, I do not think that anyone disagrees. In the consultation document, 'Delivering Skills that Work for Wales', the Minister states that the Government intends to:

'work with our partners to develop and enhance methods for early identification of young people likely to become NEET to prevent them falling out of the system'.

I am concerned that the World Health Organization survey found greater problems with alcohol among children under the age of 13 in Wales than anywhere else in the western world. These children could well go on to fall into the NEET category. What progress is being made with those partners to develop the necessary system to ensure that these vulnerable young children are identified at an early stage? In view of this survey, this aspect is very important. I attach great importance to the idea of new arrangements for schools, colleges and training providers to let Careers Wales know as soon as a young person drops out of education or training.

sydd dan sylw; ond popeth arall y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ceisio'i wneud i fynd i'r afael ag amddifadedd. Mae'n ymwneud â Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, Dechrau'n Deg, y cyfnod Sylfaen, Yn Awyddus i Weithio—fel y soniech—a llu o bethau eraill sy'n mynd ymlaen â'n hymrwymiad canolog i wella cyfiawnder cymdeithasol.

Er gwaethaf sylwadau blaengar David Melding, cytunaf â Jeff am berfformiad blaenorol y Toriaid pan oeddent yn Llywodraethu ar lefel y DU, ac am eu hathroniaeth sylfaenol, er bod barn amrywiol o fewn y Blaid Geidwadol; mae David yn cynrychioli un rhan o honno. Yn gyffredinol, ac wrth edrych ar eu hanes, Jeff, cytunaf fod llawer o'r problemau yr ydym yn ceisio mynd i'r afael â hwy yn awr drwy gyfrwng ein strategaeth NEET wedi codi i raddau helaeth oherwydd polisïau, strategaethau ac athroniaeth y Blaid Geidwadol yn y DU.

Mohammad Asghar: Yn gyntaf, hoffwn eich llongyfarch ar eich datganiad, Ddirprwy Weinidog. Yr wyf yn ei groesawu. Pan ddywedwch mai eich nod yw addysg dda, hyfforddiant da a swyddi gyda chyflog da sy'n rhoi boddhad, ni chredaf fod neb yn anghytuno. Yn y ddogfen ymgynghori, 'Darparu Sgiliau sy'n Gweithio i Gymru', dywed y Gweinidog mai bwriad y Llywodraeth yw:

gweithio gyda'n partneriaid i ddatblygu a gwella'r dulliau o adnabod yn fuan y bobl ifanc sy'n debygol o fod yn NEET er mwyn eu hatal rhag syrthio allan o'r system.

Yr wyf yn poeni bod Sefydliad Iechyd y Byd wedi gweld mwy o broblemau gydag alcohol ymhlith plant dan 13 oed yng Nghymru nag yn unman arall yn y byd gorllewinol. Maes o law, gallai'r plant hyn yn wir ddisgyn i'r categori NEET. Pa gynnydd sy'n cael ei wneud gyda'r partneriaid hynny i ddatblygu'r system angenrheidiol er mwyn sicrhau bod y plant ifanc hyn sy'n agored i niwed yn cael eu hadnabod yn gynnar? O ran yr arolwg hwn, mae'r agwedd hon yn bwysig iawn. Credaf fod y syniad o gael trefniadau newydd i ysgolion, colegau a darparwyr hyfforddiant roi gwybod i Gyrfa Cymru cyn gynted ag y bydd unigolyn ifanc yn rhoi'r gorau i addysg

What responses has the Deputy Minister received to date on these two points?

John Griffiths: ‘Skills That Work for Wales’ is another very important part of this agenda, which is why this is the first themed paper under that initiative. We must obviously join things up and make those important connections. The fact that far too many young people in Wales drink to excess—we have had recent publicity about that—points to one of the barriers that we mentioned earlier. Substance misuse, whether it is alcohol or illegal drugs, is one barrier that some young people will have to overcome if they are to play a productive part in society and get the education, training and employment that they would want and that we would want them to have.

That is why I said that it must be a multi-agency approach. It is important when identifying young people who may fall into the NEET category that we have the ability to do something about it, make the appropriate referrals and involve the appropriate organisations. That is what the three building blocks that I mentioned are about. Sharing data is extremely important to this, which is why I said earlier that we need common interpretations and approaches to data on the part of all organisations and agencies involved.

You mentioned Careers Wales, which has a big role to play in this. When we talk about having one lead body responsible for young people who are NEET, we would envisage Careers Wales as being that body. That would give it a very important role in terms of co-ordination and pulling things together. It would build on its existing remit as it already does a great deal of work supporting post-16 transition and identifying and registering young people who are not in education, employment or training. It also has very close links with Jobcentre Plus, which is a crucial factor.

Therefore, if we can pull all of this together and make the strategy effective, we will

neu hyfforddiant yn syniad pwysig iawn. Pa ymatebion y mae'r Dirprwy Weinidog wedi'u cael hyd yma i'r ddau bwynt hyn?

John Griffiths: Mae ‘Sgiliau sy’n Gweithio i Gymru’ yn rhan bwysig iawn arall o'r agenda hon. Dyna pam mai hwn yw'r papur thematig cyntaf dan y cynllun hwnnw. Mae'n amlwg ei bod yn rhaid inni gysylltu pethau a chreu'r cysylltiadau pwysig hynny. Mae'r ffaith fod gormod o lawer o bobl ifanc Cymru'n yfed gormod—cawsom gyhoeddusrwydd ynglŷn â hynny'n ddiweddar—yn dangos un o'r rhwystrau y cyfeiriwyd atynt gynnu. Camddefnyddio sylweddau, boed yn alcohol ynteu'n gyffuriau anghyfreithlon, yw un o'r rhwystrau y bydd yn rhaid i rai pobl ifanc eu goresgyn er mwyn chwarae rhan gynhyrchiol mewn cymdeithas a chael yr addysg, yr hyfforddiant a'r gwaith y byddent yn dymuno'u cael ac y byddem ni'n dymuno iddynt eu cael.

Dyna pam y dywedais ei bod yn rhaid inni fynd ati drwy gyfrwng nifer o asiantaethau. Mae'n bwysig wrth adnabod y bobl ifanc a allai ddisgyn i'r categori NEET inni allu gwneud rhywbeth yn ei gylch, eu cyfeirio'n briodol a chynnwys y sefydliadau priodol. Dyna hanfod y tri bloc adeiladu a grybwyllais. Mae rhannu data yn elfen bwysig iawn yn hyn, a dyna pam y dywedais gynnu fod angen i bob sefydliad ac asiantaeth sy'n ymwneud â'r gwaith ddehongli data ac ymdrin â hwy yn yr un modd.

Soniecch am Gyrfa Cymru sydd â rhan fawr yn hyn. Pan soniwn am gael un corff arweiniol i fod yn gyfrifol am bobl ifanc sy'n NEET, byddem yn rhagweld mai Gyrfa Cymru fyddai'r corff hwnnw. Byddai hynny'n rhoi rôl bwysig iawn iddo o ran cydlynu a dwyn pethau at ei gilydd. Byddai'n adeiladu ar sail y cylch gorchwyl sydd ganddo ar hyn o bryd, gan ei fod eisoes yn gwneud llawer iawn o waith yn cefnogi'r cyfnod pontio ôl-16, ac yn nodi a chofrestru pobl ifanc nad ydynt nac mewn addysg, cyflogaeth na hyfforddiant. Mae cysylltiad clos iawn rhyngddo hefyd â'r Ganolfan Byd Gwaith, sy'n ffactor hollbwysig.

Felly, os gallwn ddod â hyn i gyd at ei gilydd a gwneud y strategaeth yn effeithiol, byddwn

achieve all the things that you have mentioned, Oscar. In doing those things, we will be doing young people in Wales a great service.

The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer: Finally, we will have a very short question from Mark Isherwood.

Mark Isherwood: Official Government statistics figures show that the number of young people in Wales who are unemployed and economically inactive has risen since 1997. Following the widening participation agenda introduced by the Conservatives, I know, as a parent, that increasing selection has been forced on our FE colleges because of cuts in real terms to core budgets, after pay and pensions, over recent years. What action do you propose to assist those hardest to reach young people who access taster courses in those colleges, often very successfully, but then return to school, do not achieve at GCSE and fail to meet the entry requirements for FE colleges and become statistics within the NEET figures?

2.10 p.m.

John Griffiths: As I said earlier, in answers to Members' questions this afternoon, we have made progress that has been borne out by the statistics—we have reduced young people in the NEET category to 10 per cent, which was the target in 'The Learning Country: Vision into Action'. We are now in a better position than the situation in Scotland and England and, as I think that David Melding said, the UK is generally better than many of our competitor countries. So, I do not recognise the negative picture that you paint, Mark, which is typical of your contributions in the Chamber.

On FE colleges, they are incentivised by us to reach those young people who are hardest to reach. That is an important part of their mission. That has been agreed with the FE colleges and we expect them to prioritise their provision and activities accordingly.

yn gwireddu'r holl bethau yr ydych wedi sôn amdanynt, Oscar. Wrth wneud y pethau hynny, byddwn yn gwneud tro da iawn â phobl ifanc yng Nghymru.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Yn olaf, cawn gwestiwn byr iawn gan Mark Isherwood.

Mark Isherwood: Dengys ffigurau ystadegau swyddogol y Llywodraeth fod nifer y bobl ifanc yng Nghymru sy'n ddi-waith ac yn economaidd anweithgar wedi codi er 1997. Yn dilyn yr agenda ehangu cyfranogiad a gyflwynwyd gan y Ceidwadwyr, fel rhiant gwn fod ein colegau AB wedi eu gorfodi i ddethol fwyfwy oherwydd bod eu cyllidebau craidd wedi'u torri mewn termau real. Pa gamau a gynigiwch i gynorthwyo'r bobl ifanc hynny sydd fwyaf anodd eu cyrraedd ac sy'n manteisio ar gyrsiau blasu yn y colegau hynny, a hynny'n aml yn llwyddiannus iawn, ond yna'n dychwelyd i'r ysgol, yn methu â chyflawni yn eu TGAU, yn methu ag ateb gofynion derbyn i golegau AB ac wedyn yn dod yn ystadegau yn y ffigurau NEET?

John Griffiths: Fel y dywedais gynnau, wrth ateb cwestiynau'r Aelodau y prynhawn yma, yr ydym wedi gwneud cynnydd ac mae'r ystadegau'n dangos hynny—yr ydym wedi gostwng nifer y bobl ifanc yn y categori NEET i 10 y cant, sef y targed yn 'Y Wlad sy'n Dysgu: Gweledigaeth ar Waith'. Yr ydym yn awr mewn gwell sefyllfa nag yw'r Alban a Lloegr, ac y dywedodd David Melding, mi gredaf, mae'r DU yn gyffredinol yn well na llawer o'r gwledydd sy'n cystadlu â ni. Felly, nid wyf yn adnabod y darlun negyddol yr ydych yn ei roi, Mark, ac sy'n nodweddiadol o'ch cyfraniadau yn y Siambr.

O ran colegau AB, yr ydym yn eu cymell i gyrraedd y bobl ifanc hynny sydd fwyaf anodd eu cyrraedd. Mae hynny'n rhan bwysig o'u cenhadaeth. Cytunwyd ar hynny gyda'r colegau AB a disgwyliwn iddynt flaenoriaethu eu darpariaethau a'u gweithgareddau yn unol â hynny.

Atal Rheolau Sefydlog Suspension of Standing Orders

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

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

yn atal Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.18(i) a'r rhan honno o Reol Sefydlog Rhif 6.10 sy'n ei gwneud yn ofynnol bod y cyhoeddiad wythnosol o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 6.3 yn darparu'r amserlen ar gyfer busnes yn y Cyfarfod Llawn yr wythnos ganlynol, er mwyn caniatáu i'r cynnig o dan eitem 4 gael ei ystyried yn y cyfarfod llawn ddydd Mercher 18 Mehefin 2008. (NDM3965)

The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer: This requires a majority of two thirds. The proposal is to suspend Standing Orders to bring forward the business under item 4. Does any Member object? I see that you do not. The proposal is therefore agreed, in accordance with Standing Order No. 7.35

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

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

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

suspends Standing Order No. 7.18(i) and that part of Standing Order No. 6.10 that requires the weekly announcement under Standing Order No. 6.3 to constitute the timetable for business in Plenary for the following week, to allow the motions under item 4 to be considered in Plenary on Wednesday 18 June 2008. (NDM3965)

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dros: Mae angen dwy ran o dair o fwyafrif ar gyfer hyn. Y cynnig yw ein bod yn atal Rheolau Sefydlog er mwyn dod ymlaen â'r busnes dan eitem 4. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrthwynebu? Gwelaf nad oes. Felly, derbynnir y cynnig, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.35.

Ethol Aelodau i Bwyllgorau Election of Members to Committees

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

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 10.3 yn pennu aelodaeth y Pwyllgor Cyfle Cyfartal fel a ganlyn—Ann Jones (Llafur), Huw Lewis (Llafur), Bethan Jenkins (Plaid Cymru), Mark Isherwood (Ceidwadwyr) ac Eleanor Burnham (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol). (NNDM3966)

Cynigiaf fod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 10.3 yn pennu aelodaeth y Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol fel a ganlyn—Jeff Cuthbert (Llafur), Sandy Mewies (Llafur), Nerys Evans (Plaid Cymru), William Graham (Ceidwadwyr) a Michael

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

the National Assembly, in accordance with Standing Order No. 10.3 determines that the membership of the Committee on Equality of Opportunity shall be—Ann Jones (Labour), Huw Lewis (Labour), Bethan Jenkins (Plaid Cymru), Mark Isherwood (Conservative) and Eleanor Burnham (Liberal Democrat). (NNDM3966)

I propose that

the National Assembly, in accordance with Standing Order No. 10.3 determines that the membership of the European and External Affairs Committee shall be—Jeff Cuthbert (Labour), Sandy Mewies (Labour), Nerys Evans (Plaid Cymru), William Graham

German (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol). (Conservative) and Michael German (Liberal Democrat). (NNDM3967)

Cynigiaf fod

I propose that

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 10.3 yn ethol Nick Bourne (Ceidwadwyr) yn aelod o'r Pwyllgor Cyllid yn lle Alun Cairns (Ceidwadwyr). (NNDM3968)

the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Order No. 10.3 elects Nick Bourne (Conservative) as a member of the Finance Committee in place of Alun Cairns (Conservative). (NNDM3968)

Cynigiaf fod

I propose that

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 10.3 yn ethol Andrew R.T. Davies (Ceidwadwyr) yn aelod o'r Pwyllgor Menter a Dysgu yn lle Alun Cairns (Ceidwadwyr). (NNDM3969)

the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Order No. 10.3 elects Andrew R.T. Davies (Conservative) as a member of the Enterprise and Learning Committee in place of Alun Cairns (Conservative). (NNDM3969)

Cynigiaf fod

I propose that

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 10.3, yn ethol Joyce Watson (Llafur) yn aelod o'r Pwyllgor Is-ddeddfwriaeth yn lle Irene James (Llafur). (NNDM3970)

the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Order No. 10.3, elects Joyce Watson (Labour) as a member of the Subordinate Legislation Committee in place of Irene James (Labour). (NNDM3970)

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

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Y cynnig yw ein bod yn derbyn y cynigion. A oes unrhyw aelod yn gwrthwynebu? Gwelaf nad oes gwrthwynebiad. Felly, derbynnir y cynigion yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.35.

*Derbyniwyd y cynigion.
Motions carried.*

Dadl y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives Debate

Ysgolion ac Anghenion Addysgol Arbennig Schools and Special Educational Needs

The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendments 1 and 2 in the name of Carwyn Jones.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliannau 1 a 2 yn enw Carwyn Jones.

Andrew R.T. Davies: I propose that

Andrew R.T. Davies: Cynigiaf fod

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. expresses concern over the steady rise in the number of temporary exclusions of pupils at schools across Wales; and

1. yn mynegi pryder ynghylch y cynnydd graddol yn nifer y disgyblion sy'n cael eu gwahardd dros dro o ysgolion ledled Cymru;

a

2. *calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to:* 2. *yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i:*

a) increase the opportunities for vocational qualifications in order to address the behavioural problems presented by those pupils who are unable to participate in purely academic study;

a) cynyddu'r cyfleoedd ar gyfer cymwysterau galwedigaethol er mwyn rhoi sylw i'r problemau ymddygiad a ddangosir gan y disgyblion hynny na allant gymryd rhan mewn astudiaethau sy'n hollol academaidd;

b) support schools and parents in the early identification of pupils with special educational needs as often failure to do so can result in behavioural problems,

b) cefnogi ysgolion a rhieni i adnabod disgyblion sydd ag anghenion addysgol arbennig yn fuan gan fod methu â gwneud hynny'n aml yn gallu arwain at broblemau ymddygiad,

c) provide better support to parents and teachers to enable them to deal with pupils with behavioural problems,

c) darparu cefnogaeth well i rieni ac i athrawon er mwyn eu galluogi i ddelio â disgyblion sydd â phroblemau ymddygiad,

d) give schools the freedom and support to tackle issues relating to individual pupil behaviour,

d) rhoi'r rhyddid a'r gefnogaeth i ysgolion er mwyn mynd i'r afael â materion sy'n ymwneud ag ymddygiad disgyblion unigol,

e) note the recommendations of Professor Ken Reid's national behaviour and attendance review report and present to the Assembly an action plan at the earliest opportunity. (NDM3959)

e) nodi argymhellion adroddiad yr adolygiad cenedlaethol o ymddygiad a phresenoldeb gan yr Athro Ken Reid a chyflwyno i'r Cynulliad gynllun gweithredu ar y cyfle cyntaf. (NDM3959)

I first pay tribute to my predecessor, Alun Cairns, in his role as shadow education spokesman. He carried out that role diligently and professionally and always acted in good faith on behalf of the educational establishments of this country, and sought to advance the cause of everyone connected with education, whether teachers, parents or pupils. I feel greatly honoured to be able to pick up the mantle from him and build on the solid foundations that he laid in the shadow portfolio.

Rhoddaf deyrnged i ddechrau i'm rhagflaenydd, Alun Cairns, yn ei swydd fel llefarydd yr wrthblaid ar addysg. Gwnaeth y gwaith hwnnw'n ddiwyd ac yn broffesiynol gan weithredu'n ddidwyll bob amser ar ran sefydliadau addysg y wlad hon, a cheisio hyrwyddo achos pawb yn y byd addysg, boed yn athrawon, yn rhieni ynteu'n ddisgyblion. Mae'n anrhydedd fawr imi allu cymryd y fantell ac adeiladu ar y seiliau cadarn a osodwyd ganddo ym mhortffolio'r wrthblaid.

Before I go into my more substantial contribution to this debate, I will discuss the amendments tabled in the name of Carwyn Jones. We will support amendment 1, because it is a matter of fact that school exclusions have fallen, albeit slowly, over the last reported year, from a figure of 465 permanent exclusions in 2004 to 438 in 2005-06. That is a matter of record.

Cyn imi symud ymlaen i'm cyfraniad mwy sylweddol i'r ddadl hon, trafodaf y gwelliannau a gyflwynwyd yn enw Carwyn Jones. Byddwn yn cefnogi gwelliant 1, oherwydd mae'n ffaith fod y nifer sydd wedi'u gwahardd o'r ysgol wedi gostwng, er mai gostyngiad araf fu hwnnw, dros y flwyddyn ddiweddaraf y mae gennym adroddiadau ar ei chyfer, o 465 o waharddiadau parhaol yn 2004 i 438 yn 2005-06. Mae hynny wedi ei gofnodi.

However, we will not support amendment 2. Freedom is a crucial component of schools being able to determine their own destiny, and deleting the word 'freedom' from point 2(d) would diminish what we are trying to achieve.

When we look at education, we always want to be positive. Many Members will have visited schools in their constituencies, and can refer to many examples of positive experiences of such visits. I visited the Welsh-medium school in Pentrebane the other day and was greatly heartened to see the pleasure, the excitement and, above all, the pride that the pupils, parents and teachers felt in participating in their own eisteddfod. The energy and effort in that school environment was a real tribute to everyone connected with that educational establishment.

Many, over the summer, will attend sports days, which is another great institution that celebrates achievement and brings the school community together.

This motion is not about damning the education professions, children or parents—it is about highlighting the fact that temporary exclusion rates have, sadly, exploded in the past five years. Exclusions for five days or less have increased 58 per cent, from 11,297 in 2001 to 17,802 in 2006. Sadly, the figures for exclusions of six days or more are far more dramatic in percentage terms. These have increased 245 per cent, from 676 in 2001 to 2,338 in 2006. This is clearly unsustainable, and we must address the environment, which, sadly, a minority of pupils and a minority in the education establishment are finding it difficult to cope with.

There are various reasons as to why this is happening. We attribute various issues to it. Special educational needs are one factor. A failure to diagnose dyslexia or autism at an early age often results in problems for children as they progress through education, and often ends up in their exclusion or suspension. There needs to be better diagnosis of children in their early years so

Fodd bynnag, ni fyddwn yn cefnogi gwelliant 2. Mae rhyddid yn elfen hollbwysig o ran bod ysgolion yn cael llywio'u tynged eu hunain, a byddai dileu'r gair 'rhyddid' o bwynt 2(d) yn cyfyngu'r hyn yr ydym yn ceisio'i gyflawni.

Wrth edrych ar addysg, yr ydym bob amser am fod yn adeiladol. Bydd nifer o'r Aelodau wedi ymweld ag ysgolion yn eu hetholaethau, ac yn gallu cyfeirio at lu o enghreifftiau o brofiadau cadarnhaol yn ystod ymweliadau o'r fath. Euthum i'r ysgol Gymraeg ym Mhentre-baen y diwrnod o'r blaen a chael fy nghalonogi'n fawr o weld y pleser, y cyffro, ac yn anad dim, y balchder a deimlai'r disgyblion, y rhieni a'r athrawon wrth iddynt gystadlu yn eu heisteddfod eu hunain. Yr oedd yr egni a'r ymdrech yn yr ysgol honno'n deyrnged wirioneddol i bawb sy'n ymwneud â'r sefydliad addysgol hwnnw.

Bydd llawer, dros yr haf, yn mynd i ddiwrnodau mabolgampau, sefydliad pwysig arall sy'n dathlu cyflawniad ac yn dod â chymuned yr ysgol ynghyd.

Nid diben y cynnig hwn yw collfarnu'r proffesiynau addysg, plant na rheini—ei bwrpas yw tynnu sylw at y ffaith fod cyfraddau gwahardd dros dro wedi codi i'r entrychion, gwaetha'r modd, yn y pum mlynedd diwethaf. Mae gwaharddiadau am bum niwrnod neu lai wedi codi 58 y cant, o 11,297 yn 2001 i 17,802 yn 2006. Yn anffodus, mae'r ffigurau am waharddiadau o chwe diwrnod neu ragor yn fwy trawiadol o lawer o ran eu canran. Mae'r rhain wedi codi 245 y cant, o 676 yn 2001 i 2,338 yn 2006. Mae'n amlwg na all hyn barhau, a rhaid inni roi sylw i'r amgylchedd y mae lleiafrif o ddisgyblion, a lleiafrif yn y sefydliad addysg, gwaetha'r modd, yn ei chael yn anodd ymdopi ag ef.

Mae amryw o resymau am hyn. Yr ydym yn priodoli amrywiol broblemau iddo. Mae anghenion addysgol arbennig yn un ffactor. Bydd methiant sylwi ar ddyslecsia neu awtistiaeth yn ifanc yn arwain yn aml at broblemau i blant wrth iddynt fynd ymlaen â'u haddysg, ac yn aml bydd yn arwain yn y diwedd at eu gwahardd neu eu hatal dros dro. Mae angen gwell diagnosis o blant yn eu

that assistance can be put in place.

Bullying is also a factor. Sadly, bullying is all too common in many environments. I think that all Assembly Members would abhor any form of bullying. Childline Cymru recently informed Members that one in every four calls that it receives is in connection with bullying. Over the years, there has been a gradual increase in the levels of and sophistication of bullying. Twenty to 25 years ago, technology was not as advanced, so bullying was very much either verbal or physical. Now, sadly, bullying extends beyond the school gates, with text messaging, internet access and the videoing of incidents of bullying. That is a tragedy not only for the individual who is being bullied, but for those who perpetrate bullying, because there is something fundamentally wrong with an individual who perpetrates such an act on another individual. We believe that dramatic action is needed to tackle the school atmosphere that is, sadly, giving rise to these statistics on bullying.

On staff morale, the ability to stand up and support our staff in education establishments must also be addressed. Sadly, there has been a culture of recrimination and false allegations that has undermined the confidence of many professional staff in seeking to address these issues on a day-to-day basis in our schools. We would subscribe to any measures that would bring forward a comprehensive programme to strengthen the role and support of staff in schools so that they can tackle these issues, which they face daily in our schools.

Vocational training is an aspect of education that we believe should be greatly enhanced in our school environment. I draw the Minister's attention to Cantonian High School, a school that has been under threat of closure in Cardiff. Through the initiative of the headteacher and her staff, the school has taken a proactive approach to developing vocational courses on the school campus. It has developed a suite of hairdressing salons and also plumbing, wallpapering and other vocational courses. Not everyone is academically-minded, and for such children

blynyddoedd cynnar fel y gellir rhoi'r cymorth hwnnw.

Mae bwlio'n ffactor hefyd. Gwaetha'r modd, mae bwlio'n gyffredin iawn mewn llawer o amgylcheddau. Credaf y byddai holl Aelodau'r Cynulliad yn ffeiddio at unrhyw fath o fwlio. Yn ddiweddar, rhoddodd Childline Cymru wybod i Aelodau fod un o bob pedair o'r galwadau a gaiff yn gysylltiedig â bwlio. Dros y blynyddoedd, bu cynnydd graddol mewn lefelau bwlio a'i soffistigedigrwydd. Rhwng 20 a 25 mlynedd yn ôl, nid oedd technoleg mor ddatblygedig, felly yr oedd bwlio'n eiriol neu'n gorfforol i raddau helaeth. Yn awr, gwaetha'r modd, mae bwlio'n ymestyn y tu hwnt i gatiâu'r ysgol, gyda negeseuon testun, mynediad i'r rhyngwrwyd a thynnu lluniau fideo o achosion o fwlio. Mae hynny'n drasiedi nid yn unig i'r unigolyn sy'n cael ei fwlio, ond i'r rheini sy'n bwlio, gan fod rhywbeth sylfaenol o'i le ar unigolyn sy'n cyflawni gweithred o'r fath yn erbyn unigolyn arall. Credwn fod angen cymryd camau dramatig i ddelio â'r awyrgylch ysgol sydd, gwaetha'r modd, yn achosi'r ystadegau hyn ar fwlio.

Ynghylch morâl staff, rhaid rhoi sylw hefyd i'r gallu i sefyll a chefnogi ein staff mewn sefydliadau addysg. Yn anffodus, gwelwyd diwylliant o edliw a chyhuddiadau ffug sydd wedi tansailio hyder llawer o staff proffesiynol wrth geisio delio â'r materion hyn o ddydd i ddydd yn ein hysgolion. Byddem yn cefnogi unrhyw fesurau a fyddai'n rhoi rhaglen gynhwysfawr gerbron i gryfhau a chefnogi rôl staff mewn ysgolion, fel y gallant fynd i'r afael â'r problemau hyn, sy'n eu hwynebu bob dydd yn ein hysgolion.

Mae hyfforddiant galwedigaethol yn un agwedd ar addysg y credwn y dylid ei gwella'n fawr yn amgylchedd ein hysgolion. Tynnaf sylw'r Gweinidog at Ysgol Uwchradd Cantonian, ysgol a fu dan fygythiad ei chau yng Nghaerdydd. Drwy fenter y pennaeth a'i staff, mae'r ysgol wedi cymryd camau rhagweithiol i ddatblygu cyrsiau galwedigaethol ar gampws yr ysgol. Mae wedi datblygu set o salonau trin gwallt yn ogystal â chysiau plymio a phapuro, a chysiau galwedigaethol eraill. Nid yw pawb yn academaidd ei fryd, ac yn achos plant

to go to school and be presented with just an academic diet surely encourages them to rebel against the school's agenda. We should be trying to work with schools to allow vocational training in the curriculum and on campus, and work with the third sector to develop skill levels. We heard earlier today about the ability of children to interact with the jobs market as they progress to adulthood, and the third sector has a vital role to play in developing children's skills within education fields.

2.20 p.m.

It is a fundamental Conservative principle and ethos that schools should enjoy as much independence as possible in determining on their agenda and outlook. We believe passionately that headteachers, governors and parents should enjoy the benefit of running their own schools. That has been proven in Sweden through the free schools initiative, launched there in 1991. That has brought about positive outcomes in that country, which have now been unfolded across Europe, most recently in Holland. We would subscribe to that initiative and ask the Welsh Assembly Government to take up that option. We would also encourage the Welsh Assembly Government to bring forward the initiatives in Professor Ken Reid's report, because valuable contributions to the education environment and education benefits for our country are to be had from that report. That report has been published for some considerable time, and I believe that those recommendations should be brought before the Assembly so that they can be debated and implemented.

The Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (Jane Hutt): I propose the following amendments in the name of Carwyn Jones. Amendment 1: add at the end of point 1:

while noting that permanent exclusions fell in the last year for which figures are available.

Amendment 2: in point 2d) replace 'freedom' with 'means'.

Peter Black: The Welsh Liberal Democrats

felly mae mynd i'r ysgol a chael dim ond deiet academiaidd yn sicr o'u cymell i wrthryfela yn erbyn agenda'r ysgol. Dylem geisio gweithio gydag ysgolion i ganiatáu hyfforddiant galwedigaethol yn y cwricwlwm ac ar y campws, a gweithio gyda'r trydydd sector i ddatblygu lefelau sgiliau. Clywsom yn gynharach heddiw am allu plant i ryngweithio â'r farchnad swyddi wrth iddynt ddod yn oedolion, ac mae gan y trydydd sector ran hanfodol i'w chwarae wrth ddatblygu sgiliau plant ym meysydd addysg.

Un egwyddor ac ethos Ceidwadol sylfaenol yw y dylai ysgolion gael cymaint o annibyniaeth ag y bo modd wrth benderfynu eu hagenda a'u hagwedd. Credwn yn gryf y dylai penaethiaid, llywodraethwyr a rhieni gael budd o redeg eu hysgolion eu hunain. Dangoswyd hynny yn Sweden drwy'r cynllun ysgolion rhydd, a lanswyd yno yn 1991. Mae hynny wedi rhoi canlyniadau cadarnhaol yn y wlad honno, sydd bellach wedi'u lledaenu ledled Ewrop, yn fwyaf diweddar yn yr Iseldiroedd. Byddem yn cefnogi'r cynllun hwnnw, a gofynnwn i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru gymryd y dewis hwnnw. Byddem hefyd yn annog Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i gyflwyno'r cynlluniau sydd yn adroddiad yr Athro Ken Reid, oherwydd mae cyfraniadau gwerthfawr at amgylchedd addysg a manteision i addysg ein gwlad i'w cael yn yr adroddiad hwnnw. Mae'r adroddiad hwnnw wedi'i gyhoeddi ers cryn amser, a chredaf y dylid dod â'r argymhellion hynny gerbron y Cynulliad fel y gellir cael dadl arnynt a'u rhoi ar waith.

Y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau (Jane Hutt): Cynigïaf y gwelliannau canlynol yn enw Carwyn Jones. Gwelliant 1: ychwanegu ar ddiwedd pwynt 1:

tra'n nodi bod gwaharddiadau parhaol wedi disgyn yn y flwyddyn olaf y mae ffigurau ar gael ar ei chyfer.

Gwelliant 2; ym mhwynt 2d) yn lle 'rhyddid' rhoi 'modd'.

Peter Black: Bydd Democratiaid

will support both amendments. As Andrew R.T. Davies said, amendment 1 relates to a matter of fact. Our view on amendment 2 is that, although freedom is important, if you do not have the means, that is, the resources to carry out what needs to be done, you do not have the freedom to do so. That is why we will support amendment 2. That is quite an important point in this regard, because we often hear schools talk about what they would like to do on a whole range of issues, but they do not have the resources to carry it out. Therefore, if the Government wants to amend this motion to state that it wants to provide the means for schools to do this, then that is to be welcomed.

When we are looking at how we can reduce the number of children excluded from schools, which I am sure that we all agree on as an aim, we need to look primarily at the reasons why they are being excluded. After all, few children are born badly behaved. I am grateful to the Conservatives for highlighting the fact that 42 per cent of children who are permanently excluded have additional educational needs. That is a crucial statistic, which was highlighted on several occasions during the four years of the previous Assembly, when the Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee carried out an extensive review into additional educational needs. We were concerned, as part of that review, about the number of children with additional needs who were being excluded. We felt that early identification, as Andrew rightly pointed out, was not being achieved in all cases and that the needs of those children were not being taken into account when the behavioural issues were being addressed. It is vital that, as part of the Government's agenda in dealing with exclusions, it addresses this specific issue. The report of the Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee contains several recommendations, some of which have been implemented, others of which are in the process of being implemented, others that have yet to be implemented and some that require legislation. Those recommendations, in my view and that of my party, offer a way forward for the Assembly Government to ensure a fairer playing field for children with additional educational

Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn cefnogi'r ddau welliant. Fel y dywedodd Andrew R.T. Davies, mae gwelliant 1 yn ymwneud â mater o ffaith. Ein barn ni am welliant 2 yw hyn: er bod rhyddid yn bwysig, os nad oes gennych y modd, hynny yw, yr adnoddau i gyflawni'r hyn y mae ei angen, nid oes gennych y rhyddid i wneud hynny. Dyna pam y byddwn yn cefnogi gwelliant 2. Mae hynny'n bwynt eithaf pwysig yn y cyd-destun hwn, oherwydd clywn ysgolion yn aml yn sôn am yr hyn y carent ei wneud ynghylch nifer o faterion, ond nid oes ganddynt yr adnoddau i'w wneud. Felly, os yw'r Llywodraeth am ddiwygio'r cynnig hwn i ddweud ei bod am ddarparu'r modd i ysgolion wneud hyn, mae hynny i'w groesawu.

Pan ydym yn ystyried sut y gallwn leihau nifer y plant sy'n cael eu gwahardd o ysgolion, sy'n nod yr ydym i gyd yn gytûn arno, yr wyf yn siŵr, mae angen inni edrych yn bennaf ar y rhesymau dros eu gwahardd. Wedi'r cwbl, ychydig o blant sydd wedi'u geni'n afreolus. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r Ceidwadwyr am dynnu sylw at y ffaith fod 42 y cant o blant sydd wedi'u gwahardd yn barhaol yn rhai sydd ag anghenion addysgol ychwanegol. Mae hwnnw'n ystadegyn hollbwysig, a thynnwyd sylw ato droeon yn ystod pedair blynedd y Cynulliad blaenorol, pan wnaeth y Pwyllgor Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau adolygiad cynhwysfawr o anghenion addysgol ychwanegol. Yr oeddem yn bryderus, wrth ymgymryd â'r adolygiad hwnnw, ynghylch nifer y plant gydag anghenion ychwanegol a oedd yn cael eu gwahardd. Teimlem nad oeddent yn cael eu hadnabod yn gynnar ym mhob achos, fel y nododd Andrew yn hollol gywir, ac nad oedd anghenion y plant hynny'n cael eu hystyried wrth ddelio â'r materion ymddygiadol. Mae'n hollbwysig i'r Llywodraeth, fel rhan o'i hagenda ar ddelio â gwaharddiadau, roi sylw i'r mater penodol hwn. Mae adroddiad y Pwyllgor Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau yn cynnwys nifer o argymhellion, rai ohonynt wedi'u rhoi ar waith, ac eraill ar ganol cael eu gweithredu, rhai heb eu gweithredu eto a rhai'n galw am ddeddfu. Mae'r argymhellion hynny, yn fy marn i ac ym marn fy mhlaid, yn cynnig ffordd ymlaen i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad er mwyn sicrhau mwy o chwarae teg i blant sydd ag anghenion addysgol ychwanegol. Bydd hynny,

needs, which will hopefully lead to a reduction in the number of exclusions. It is crucial that the Assembly Government takes that on board.

The report covers many more issues around additional learning needs than just exclusions. In a way, I regret that exclusions have been singled out, when there is a whole range of other issues that need to be dealt with. I do not think that we should come away from this debate thinking that children with additional learning needs are synonymous with children who might be excluded and have bad behaviour. That is not so in the majority of cases, however, it is the case that they form a high proportion of children who are excluded.

The other concern that we have around the reasons for permanent exclusions is that recent reports about the amount of substance misuse, particularly among those aged under 16, note that 8.4 per cent of permanent exclusions are down to substance misuse—that is around 38 children every year. I suspect that nearly all of those will be under the age of 16, and there is clearly a stronger role for personal and social education to play in tackling this in our schools. The figures are deeply worrying. Substance misuse is damaging to children's health not only in the short term, but in the long term, and those who drink or take drugs face disciplinary problems. It is vital that we focus on that issue if we are to avoid these children being excluded in the future, and we must tackle the root causes.

The other issue—and this was also highlighted by Andrew—is bullying and its effect on the educational process. We have discussed the disciplinary problems that arise in schools, and I suspect that much of it is to do with bullying. In fact, a considerable number of exclusions, particularly fixed-term exclusions, are caused by bullying. Exclusions fall into the following categories: 3.9 per cent are down to bullying; 17.1 per cent are down to assault or violence against pupils; just over 1 per cent are because of racial or sexual harassment; 17 per cent are

gobeithio, yn arwain at ostwng nifer y gwaharddiadau. Mae'n hollbwysig i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad ystyried hynny.

Mae'r adroddiad yn ymdrin â llawer iawn mwy o faterion yn ymwneud ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol na gwaharddiadau'n unig. Ar un ystyr, mae'n ofid imi fod gwaharddiadau wedi cael sylw neilltuol, gan fod amryw byd o faterion eraill y mae angen delio â hwy. Ni chredaf y dylem feddwl, ar ddiwedd y ddadl hon, fod plant sydd ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol yn gyfystyr â phlant y gellid eu gwahardd ac sy'n afreolus. Nid yw hynny'n wir yn y rhan fwyaf o achosion. Mae'n wir, er hynny, eu bod yn gyfran fawr o'r plant sy'n cael eu gwahardd.

Y testun pryder arall i ni mewn cysylltiad â'r rhesymau dros waharddiadau parhaol yw bod adroddiadau'n ddiweddar ar gamddefnyddio sylweddau, yn enwedig ymysg pobl dan 16 oed, yn nodi bod 8.4 y cant o'r gwaharddiadau parhaol yn ganlyniad i gamddefnyddio sylweddau—mae hynny'n golygu tua 38 o blant bob blwyddyn. Yr wyf yn amau y bydd bron pob un o'r rheini dan 16 oed, ac mae'n amlwg bod mwy o ran i addysg bersonol a chymdeithasol wrth fynd i'r afael â hyn yn ein hysgolion. Mae'r ffigurau'n peri gofid mawr. Mae camddefnyddio sylweddau'n niweidiol i iechyd plant nid yn unig yn y tymor byr, ond yn y tymor hir, ac mae'r rheini sy'n yfed neu'n cymryd cyffuriau yn wynebu problemau disgyblaeth. Mae'n hanfodol inni ganolbwyntio ar y mater hwnnw os yw'r plant hyn i beidio â chael eu gwahardd yn y dyfodol, a rhaid inni fynd i'r afael â'r achosion sylfaenol.

Y mater arall—a thynnodd Andrew sylw at hwn hefyd—yw bwlio a'i effaith ar y broses addysgol. Yr ydym wedi trafod y problemau disgyblaeth sy'n codi mewn ysgolion, ac yr wyf yn amau bod llawer o hynny'n ymwneud â bwlio. Mewn gwirionedd, mae nifer sylweddol o waharddiadau, yn enwedig rhai am gyfnod penodol, yn cael eu hachosi gan fwlio. Mae gwaharddiadau'n perthyn i'r categorïau canlynol: mae 3.9 y cant yn ganlyniad i fwlio; mae 17.1 y cant yn ganlyniad i ymosod neu drais yn erbyn disgyblion; mae ychydig dros 1 y cant yn

because of verbal abuse; and 9 per cent are because of threatening or dangerous behaviour. Clearly, schools need to take action in the most serious of cases. The problem of bullying is particularly serious, and I hope that the Minister will review it to ensure that schools have the appropriate policies in place to deal with it.

Darren Millar: I am pleased to participate in this debate on this important subject. I wish to take this opportunity to commend the excellent work done by teachers, and other professionals, in the education system. Day in, day out, they demonstrate commitment and dedication to the children and the subjects that they teach. I am thankful for the quality of education that people are able to enjoy in Wales, and our teachers are at the forefront of that process.

However, there is a big fly in the ointment, which consistently undermines the efforts of teachers and headteachers. That is perhaps the underlying issue in the exclusion debate, which is the bad behaviour of a small, but increasing, minority of pupils. It is this bad behaviour that has undoubtedly led to the increase in temporary exclusions that we have seen over the past few years, which the Welsh Conservative Party highlighted last month. My colleague, Andrew R.T. Davies, referred to some of the alarming statistics about the growth in the number of temporary and permanent exclusions over the past few years. The statistics are even worse in my constituency. In Conwy and Denbighshire, the number of suspensions from schools has almost trebled. Conwy County Borough Council issued a robust statement when I drew its attention to the growth in expulsions, which defines where the problem lies. The opening sentence of its response notes that,

‘Over recent years, teachers have had to face an increasing number of pupils who exhibit challenging behaviour—this is a national issue. Many of these young people have difficult emotional and behavioural needs that require support and specific learning and

ganlyniad i aflonyddu hiliol neu rywiol; mae 17 y cant yn ganlyniad i gam-drin geiriol; ac mae 9 y cant yn ganlyniad i ymddygiad bygythiol neu beryglus. Mae'n amlwg fod angen i ysgolion gymryd camau yn yr achosion mwyaf difrifol. Mae bwlio'n broblem neilltuol o ddifrifol, ac yr wyf yn gobeithio y bydd y Gweinidog yn ei adolygu i sicrhau bod y polisiau priodol ar waith gan ysgolion i ddelio ag ef.

Darren Millar: Yr wyf yn falch cymryd rhan yn y ddadl hon ar y testun pwysig hwn. Hoffwn fanteisio ar y cyfle hwn i ganmol y gwaith rhagorol a wneir gan athrawon, a gweithwyr proffesiynol eraill, yn y system addysg. Dydd ar ôl dydd, maent yn dangos ymroddiad ac ymrwymiad i'r plant ac i'r pynciau y maent yn eu haddysgu. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am ansawdd yr addysg y mae pobl yn gallu ei mwynhau yng Nghymru, ac mae ein hathrawon ar flaen y gad yn y broses honno.

Fodd bynnag, mae yna ddrwg mawr yn y caws, sy'n gyson yn tanseilio ymdrechion athrawon a phenaethiaid. Hwnnw, o bosibl, yw'r ystyriaeth sylfaenol yn y ddadl am waharddiadau, sef yr ymddygiad gwael gan leiafrif bach, ond cynyddol, o ddisgyblion. Mae'n sicr mai'r ymddygiad gwael hwn sydd wedi arwain at y cynnydd yn nifer y gwaharddiadau dros dro a welsom dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf ac y tynnodd Plaid Geidwadol Cymru sylw ato fis diwethaf. Cyfeiriodd fy nghyd-Aelod, Andrew R.T. Davies, at rai o'r ystadegau brawychus am y twf yn nifer y gwaharddiadau parhaol a'r gwaharddiadau dros dro dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Mae'r ystadegau'n waeth byth yn fy etholaeth i. Yng Nghonwy a sir Ddinbych, mae nifer y plant a atalwyd dros dro o ysgolion wedi treblu bron. Cyhoeddodd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Conwy ddatganiad grymus pan dynnais ei sylw at y cynnydd yn nifer y gwaharddiadau, sy'n diffinio natur y broblem. Mae'r frawddeg agoriadol yn ei ymateb yn dweud,

Dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf, mae athrawon wedi gorfod wynebu nifer cynyddol o ddisgyblion sy'n ymddwyn yn heriol—mae hon yn broblem genedlaethol. Mae gan lawer o'r bobl ifanc hyn anghenion emosiynol ac ymddygiadol dyrys sy'n galw am gymorth ac

counselling programmes. Teachers also need to be supported in order for them to feel confident that the structure and processes are in place to allow them to teach pupils in a positive classroom environment.'

If there is anything to be said in this debate, it is that—these needs exist. It is a national problem, and it needs to be addressed through the support of our teaching professionals. It is Conwy council, not me, saying that this is a national problem, and we need to recognise it as such. I hope that the Labour-Plaid Government will get to grips with this problem in future, partly as a result of today's debate.

There needs to be a dual approach. Schools that are identified as having significant problems should be given extra resources and support to invest in the basic skills of pupils who are prone to more disruptive behaviour. Headteachers should be given greater control and freedom, as our motion suggests, over discipline in their own schools, rather than being tied by external guidance, rules and regulations. More powers need to be given to our headteachers, school governors and parents to allow them to act and respond individually to each situation. They have the contextual knowledge and the experience, and they should be trusted to make the decisions. There also needs to be a greater sense of partnership between the agencies.

2.30 p.m.

I was alarmed to receive a visit from a constituent who had been involved in an incident on a school bus. The constituent, who is a teacher, was assaulted by a pupil on the bus in front of other youngsters. The pupil was then suspended for four days by the school and North Wales Police launched an investigation and prepared a case for the Crown Prosecution Service, only to be advised by the CPS that there was no public interest in taking the matter to court. As a result of that, rather than making an example of this particular boy, the system has allowed him to return to school, where he is now

am raglenni dysgu a chynghori penodol. Mae angen cefnogi athrawon hefyd fel y gallant deimlo'n sicr bod y strwythur a'r prosesau angenrheidiol ar waith i ganiatáu iddynt addysgu disgyblion mewn amgylchedd cadarnhaol yn yr ystafell ddosbarth.

Os oes angen dweud rhywbeth yn y ddadl hon, dyma ef—mae'r anghenion hyn yn bodoli. Mae'n broblem genedlaethol, ac mae angen rhoi sylw iddi drwy gefnogi ein gweithwyr addysgu proffesiynol. Cyngor Conwy, nid fi, sy'n dweud bod hon yn broblem genedlaethol, ac mae angen inni ei chydnabod felly. Gobeithio y bydd y Llywodraeth Lafur-Plaid yn mynd i'r afael â'r broblem hon yn y dyfodol, yn rhannol o ganlyniad i'r ddadl heddiw.

Mae angen dull gweithredu deuol. Dylid rhoi adnoddau ychwanegol i ysgolion y gwelir bod ganddynt broblemau sylweddol, a chymorth i fuddsoddi yn sgiliau sylfaenol y disgyblion sy'n dueddol o ymddwyn yn fwy aflonyddol. Dylid rhoi mwy o reolaeth a rhyddid i benaethiaid, fel y mae ein cynnig yn ei awgrymu, dros ddisgyblaeth yn eu hysgolion eu hunain, yn hytrach na chael eu rhwymo gan gyfarwyddyd, rheolau a rheoliadau allanol. Mae angen rhoi mwy o bwerau i'n penaethiaid, llywodraethwyr ysgol a rhieni i ganiatáu iddynt weithredu ac ymateb i bob sefyllfa neilltuol. Mae ganddynt yr wybodaeth a phrofiad o'r cyd-destun, a dylid ymddiried ynddynt i wneud y penderfyniadau. Mae angen mwy o ymdeimlad o bartneriaeth hefyd rhwng yr asiantaethau.

Dychrynais pan ddaeth un o'm hetholwyr i'm gweld ar ôl bod yn gysylltiedig â digwyddiad ar fws ysgol. Yr oedd disgybl wedi ymosod ar yr etholwr, sy'n athro, ar y bws o flaen pobl ifanc eraill. Cafodd y disgybl ei wahardd wedyn am bedwar diwrnod gan yr ysgol a lansiodd Heddlu Gogledd Cymru ymchwiliad gan baratoi achos i Wasanaeth Erlyn y Goron. Ond cafodd wybod gan Wasanaeth Erlyn y Goron nad oedd dim budd i'r cyhoedd o fynd â'r mater i'r llys. O ganlyniad i hynny, yn hytrach na gwneud esiampl o'r bachgen penodol hwn, mae'r system wedi caniatáu iddo ddychwelyd i'r

swaggering around in the corridors bragging about the incident and taunting the teacher who was involved in it. That is wrong; it cannot be right that that is allowed to happen in our schools. Where is the back-up for teachers in these situations? There is a desperate need for inter-agency working to improve. I recognise that the CPS is outside the Assembly Government's remit, but there must be more communication with the CPS if we are ever to get this right in the future. I would be grateful if the Minister, in her response, could indicate to what extent she is communicating with the police and the CPS, so that if a similar event happens in the future, it can be properly addressed and we can get it right. I urge Members to support the motion.

Janet Ryder: I am glad that the amendment on numbers is being accepted. Statistics, as I have found through many years of sitting in the Chamber, can take Assembly Members hours to debate without being very profitable. What is important is that we all accept that, whether the numbers of exclusions are rising or falling, and whether they are temporary or permanent, this is a matter of great concern and something that this Government should be addressing, and is addressing, in a number of ways. Plaid Cymru would certainly agree, therefore, with the motion that it is a matter of concern. We also agree that more needs to be done to widen the availability of different vocational courses and access to different kinds of training, including voluntary work perhaps, to engage young people and try to prevent them from dropping out of school.

These problems, as many in the Chamber have said, start at a very early age. I have felt for some time that an early diagnosis of special needs and the right support for any additional learning needs being put in place are crucial in tackling this issue. That is underlined in the report highlighted in the motion.

I ask the Minister to reassess the initial teacher training courses as they stand at present. Whether a teacher is doing a three or

ysgol, lle mae'n awr yn torsiysu yn y coridorau gan frolio am y digwyddiad a gwawdio'r athro dan sylw. Mae hynny'n anghyfiawn; ni all fod yn iawn fod hyn yn cael digwydd yn ein hysgolion. Ble y mae'r gefnogaeth i athrawon yn y sefyllfaoedd hyn? Mae angen dirfawr am i weithio rhwng asiantaethau wella. Sylweddolaf fod Gwasanaeth Erlyn y Goron y tu allan i gylch gwaith Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, ond rhaid cael rhagor o gyfathrebu â Gwasanaeth Erlyn y Goron os byth yr ydym i gael pethau'n iawn yn y dyfodol. Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallai'r Gweinidog, yn ei hymateb, ddangos i ba raddau y mae'n cyfathrebu â'r heddlu a Gwasanaeth Erlyn y Goron, fel y gellir rhoi sylw priodol i hyn a chael pethau'n iawn os digwydd rhywbeth tebyg yn y dyfodol. Anogaf yr Aelodau i gefnogi'r cynnig hwn.

Janet Ryder: Yr wyf yn falch fod y gwelliant am niferoedd yn cael ei dderbyn. Fel yr wyf wedi'i ddarganfod o eistedd yn y Siambr hon am flynyddoedd lawer, gall Aelodau'r Cynulliad gymryd oriau i drafod ystadegau heb lawer o fudd. Yr hyn sy'n bwysig yw inni i gyd dderbyn, boed nifer y gwaharddiadau'n codi neu'n syrthio, a boed hynny dros dro neu'n barhaol, fod hwn yn achos pryder mawr ac yn rhywbeth y dylai'r Llywodraeth hon fod yn rhoi sylw iddo, ac yn rhoi sylw iddo, mewn llawer ffordd. Byddai Plaid Cymru'n sicr yn cytuno, felly, â'r cynnig ei fod yn achos pryder. Cytunwn hefyd fod angen gwneud rhagor i ehangu'r gwahanol gyrsiau galwedigaethol sydd ar gael a mynediad i wahanol fathau o hyfforddiant, gan gynnwys gwaith gwirfoddol, efallai, er mwyn cynnwys pobl ifanc a cheisio'u rhwystro rhag troi eu cefnau ar yr ysgol.

Mae'r problemau hyn, fel y mae llawer yn y Siambr wedi'i ddweud, yn dechrau'n gynnar iawn. Yr wyf yn teimlo ers tro fod gwneud diagnosis yn fuan o anghenion arbennig, a'r gefnogaeth iawn i unrhyw anghenion dysgu ychwanegol gael ei sefydlu, yn hanfodol i fynd i'r afael â'r mater hwn. Tanlinellir hynny yn yr adroddiad y mae'r cynnig yn tynnu sylw ato.

Gofynnaf i'r Gweinidog ailasesu cyrsiau hyfforddiant cychwynnol athrawon fel y maent ar hyn o bryd. P'un a yw athro'n

four-year course or, as is increasingly the case, a short postgraduate certificate of education for one year, or perhaps a two-year, part-time course, the amount of time that is spent in training them to identify children with additional needs is very short. Yet, the basis of the work that they should be doing in the classroom is identifying those needs and knowing how to put in place the structures to support a child when he or she needs it. They should know what can be offered and, if they cannot offer it, they should know where to go to get that support. I would hope that, if nothing else, the Minister takes from this the need to reassess initial teacher training courses to ensure that we are equipping our teachers with the ability, whether it is primary or secondary schools, to do that work.

I will also touch on what Andrew R.T. Davies said about the need to look at the help that we are giving teachers in the classroom. Teaching is becoming a very stressful job, because teachers are asked to deal with so many different kinds of characters in the classroom, the majority of whom are wonderful and lovely, but there are occasions when there are problems, and staff under those circumstances can be under a great deal of strain. We should be putting in the support for teachers in those circumstances. I know that the Minister and the Government have looked at this on several occasions because, occasionally, complaints are made against staff. Whether they are genuine or not, swift action is required because you do not want the teacher waiting for an answer and you do not want the person who has made the complaint waiting for an answer.

We know that the Minister has developed the investigation team with Dream Group Ltd to go in to deal with these complaints when they are very specific. However, parents, having had their case reviewed by the investigation team and having been told that there is no case to answer, can then take the case to social services, the police and the children's commissioner and be told that there is no case to answer. That is not fair on the member of staff concerned. I ask the Minister to consider that. Yes, it is right to allow an appeal, but there must be a conclusion in

gwneud cwrs tair neu bedair blynedd neu, fel sy'n gynyddol wir, gwrs byr tystysgrif addysg i raddedigion am flwyddyn, neu efallai gwrs rhan-amser, dwy flynedd, byr iawn yw'r amser a dreuliant yn cael hyfforddiant i adnabod plant ag anghenion ychwanegol. Eto, sylfaen y gwaith y dylent fod yn ei wneud yn y dosbarth yw nodi'r anghenion hynny a gwybod sut i sefydlu'r strwythurau i gynorthwyo plentyn pan fydd arno ef neu hi eu hangen. Dylent wybod beth y gellir ei gynnig ac, os na allant ei gynnig, dylent wybod lle i fynd i gael y gefnogaeth honno. Byddwn yn gobeithio y bydd y Gweinidog yn cymryd o hyn, os dim arall, fod angen ailasesu cyrsiau hyfforddiant cychwynnol athrawon i sicrhau ein bod yn rhoi i'n hathrawon y gallu, boed yn yr ysgol gynradd ynteu'r ysgol uwchradd, i wneud y gwaith hwnnw.

Cyffyrddaf hefyd â'r hyn a ddywedodd Andrew R.T. Davies fod angen edrych ar yr help a roddwn i athrawon yn y dosbarth. Mae addysgu'n mynd yn swydd sy'n peri llawer iawn o straen, oherwydd gofynnir i athrawon ddelio â chynifer o wahanol fathau o gymeriadau yn y dosbarth, a'r rhan fwyaf yn ddymunol ac yn hawddgar. Ond mae adegau pan fydd problemau, a gall staff yn yr amgylchiadau hynny fod dan straen aruthrol. Dylem fod yn darparu'r gefnogaeth i athrawon yn yr amgylchiadau hynny. Gwn fod y Gweinidog a'r Llywodraeth wedi edrych ar hyn droeon, oherwydd weithiau bydd cwynion yn erbyn staff. P'un a ydynt yn ddilys ai peidio, mae gofyn gweithredu'n ddi-oed oherwydd ni fyddwch am i'r athro fod yn aros am ateb a'r sawl a wnaeth y gŵyn fod yn aros am ateb.

Gwyddom fod y Gweinidog wedi sefydlu'r tîm ymchwilio gyda Dream Group Cyf i fynd i mewn i ddelio â'r cwynion hyn pan fyddant yn benodol iawn. Er hynny, gall rhieni, ar ôl archwilio'u hachos gan y tîm ymchwilio ac ar ôl clywed nad oes achos i'w ateb, fynd â'r achos wedyn at y gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, yr heddlu a'r comisiynydd plant a chael gwybod nad oes dim achos i'w ateb. Nid yw hynny'n deg â'r aelod staff dan sylw. Gofynnaf i'r Gweinidog ystyried hynny. Ydy, mae'n iawn caniatáu apêl, ond rhaid dod i gasgliad o safbwynt diogelwch

terms of the security of staff to enable them to deal with issues in their classes.

It is not just schools that deal with these issues, and we need to consider the support that is given to parents. Bangor University's Incredible Years project, which Gwynedd County Council is rolling out and which I know you have considered to see whether it can be rolled out across Wales, is a marvellous parental support programme that teaches, helps and supports parents who do not have parenting skills to develop those skills. Unless we attack this through schools and parents, we will not find the solution that we need, which is to fully equip young children with the ability to learn and to give them good, strong parenting in a safe and secure home.

Mark Isherwood: The number of pupils excluded from maintained schools in north Wales more than doubled to almost 4,000 between 2001 and 2006, and the number receiving temporary exclusions in north Wales over the same period more than quadrupled. We must give headteachers greater control over discipline and invest in services to improve the behaviour and basic skills of disruptive pupils, but we must also intervene early, while recognising that behavioural problems often result from additional learning needs, caused by a range of factors, from neglected special educational needs to family breakdown. Headteachers must also operate in a system that ensures accountability to arm's-length governing bodies. Young people need a scaffolding of values and a network of supportive adults around them. They need guidelines, boundaries, relationships, families and strong values, and they need to respect authority. You can have the best laws and administration in the world, but they will not work if you do not have the culture to back them up.

Mae'n rhaid i ni daclo'r rhesymau yn ogystal â symptomau'r problem.

That means that we must also be prepared to give people a second chance. Too often, excluded pupils will have additional learning needs or mental health problems, which, unaddressed, can lead to anti-social

staff i'w galluogi i ddelio â phroblemau yn eu dosbarthiadau.

Nid ysgolion yn unig sy'n delio â'r problemau hyn, ac mae angen inni ystyried y gefnogaeth a roddir i rieni. Mae'r prosiect Blynnyddoedd Rhyfeddol gan Brifysgol Bangor, sy'n cael ei gyflwyno gan Gyngor Sir Gwynedd, ac sydd wedi'i ystyried gennyh, mi wn, i weld a ellir ei gyflwyno ledled Cymru, yn rhaglen gymorth ardderchog i rieni sy'n addysgu, yn helpu ac yn cefnogi rhieni nad oes ganddynt sgiliau magu plant i ddatblygu'r sgiliau hynny. Oni ymosodwn ar hyn drwy gyfrwng ysgolion a rhieni, ni fyddwn byth yn dod o hyd i'r ateb y mae arnom ei angen, sef rhoi i bobl ifanc y gallu llwyr i ddysgu a rhoi iddynt fagwraeth dda, gadarn mewn cartref diogel.

Mark Isherwood: Rhwng 2001 a 2006 bu dyblu yn nifer y disgyblion a waharddwyd o ysgolion yn y gogledd a gynhelir, i bron 4,000, a chynyddodd y nifer a gafodd eu gwahardd dros dro yn y gogledd yn ystod yr un cyfnod dros bedair gwaith. Rhaid inni roi i bennaethiaid fwy o reolaeth dros ddisgyblaeth a buddsoddi mewn gwasanaethau i wella ymddygiad a sgiliau sylfaenol disgyblion aflonyddgar. Ond rhaid inni hefyd ymyrryd yn gynnar, gan gydnabod bod problemau ymddygiad yn aml yn deillio o anghenion dysgu ychwanegol, yn cael eu hachosi gan amryw ffactorau, o esgeuluso anghenion addysgol arbennig i chwalfa deuluol. Rhaid i bennaethiaid hefyd weithredu mewn system sy'n sicrhau atebolrwydd i gyrff llywodraethu hyd braich. Mae ar bobl ifanc angen sgaffaldiau o werthoedd a rhwydwaith o oedolion cefnogol o'u cwmpas. Mae arnynt angen canllawiau, ffiniau, perthynas, teuluoedd a gwerthoedd cadarn, ac mae angen iddynt barchu awdurdod. Gallwch gael y deddfau a'r weinyddiaeth orau yn y byd, ond ni fyddant yn gweithio os nad oes gennyh y diwylliant i'w hategu.

We must tackle the causes as well as the symptoms of the problem.

Mae hynny'n golygu ei bod yn rhaid inni hefyd fod yn barod i roi ail gyfle i bobl. Yn rhy aml, bydd gan ddisgyblion a waharddir anghenion dysgu ychwanegol neu broblemau iechyd meddwl, problemau sydd, o beidio â

behaviour and crime. Almost half of all the anti-social behaviour orders issued to young people aged between 10 and 17 have been breached on more than one occasion, and 35 per cent of ASBOs are given to young people under the age of 17 with a diagnosed mental health disorder or an accepted learning difficulty.

In giving schools the freedom to tackle issues that relate to the behaviour of individual pupils, we must also expect them to exercise that responsibly. For example, a parent who came to see me only last week told me that his daughter had been regularly excluded from her LEA-funded, self-governing school for being naughty. However, her behaviour was linked to attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and autism. What is worse is that his daughter and several other pupils with a reputation for being naughty had been excluded for the period of the school's Estyn inspection. The only place in which his daughter had done well was a pupil referral unit that provided one-to-one teaching.

Learning needs linked to sensory impairment are also too often neglected. The National Deaf Children's Society and the Royal National Institute for Deaf People have expressed concern that the mental health and behavioural issues demonstrated by a number of deaf children have not been sufficiently considered at the new child and adolescent mental health services residential centres for children with mental health and behavioural problems in Bridgend and Llandudno.

The 2003 'Lost Children of Wales' report found that young people and Welsh business were looking for a transformation in 14-19 education so that it focused on the development of leadership, teamwork, communication and creativity. The report also found that, in Welsh schools, too many young people's minds are unseen and their owners are made economically disabled, and when they enter the workforce, the results alarm employers. It found that young people

rhoi sylw iddynt, yn gallu arwain at ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol a throseddau. Mae bron i hanner yr holl orchmynion ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol a roir i bobl ifanc rhwng 10 a 17 wedi eu torri fwy nag unwaith, a rhoir 35 y cant o orchmynion ASBO i bobl ifanc 17 oed y gwelwyd bod ganddynt anhwylder iechyd meddwl neu anhawster dysgu cydnabyddedig.

Wrth roi i ysgolion y rhyddid i fynd i'r afael â materion sy'n ymwneud ag ymddygiad disgyblion unigol, rhaid inni hefyd ddisgwyl iddynt ymarfer y cyfrifoldeb hwnnw. Er enghraifft, dywedodd rhiant a ddaeth i'm gweld yr wythnos diwethaf fod ei ferch wedi ei gwahardd yn rheolaidd o'i hysgol hunanlywodraethol, a ariennir gan yr AALL, am fod yn ddrygionus. Er hynny, yr oedd ei hymddygiad yn gysylltiedig ag anhwylder diffyg canolbwytio a gorfywiogrwydd ac awtistiaeth. Yr hyn sy'n waeth yw bod ei ferch, a nifer o ddisgyblion eraill a oedd ag enw drwg am fod yn ddrygionus, wedi eu gwahardd dros gyfnod arolygiad Estyn yn yr ysgol. Yr unig fan lle'r oedd ei ferch wedi gwneud yn dda oedd mewn uned cyfeirio disgyblion a oedd yn darparu addysgu un-i-un.

Caiff anghenion dysgu sy'n gysylltiedig â nam ar y synhwyrau hefyd eu hesgeuluso'n rhy aml. Mae'r Gymdeithas Genedlaethol Plant Byddar a'r Sefydliad Cenedlaethol Brenhinol Pobl Fyddar wedi mynegi pryder nad yw'r problemau ymddygiad ac iechyd meddwl y mae nifer o blant byddar yn eu harddangos wedi eu hystyried yn ddigonol yn y canolfannau gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl preswyl newydd i blant a'r glasoed ar gyfer plant sydd â phroblemau ymddygiad ac iechyd meddwl ym Mhen-y-bont ar ogwr a Llandudno.

Darganfu'r adroddiad 'Plant Coll Cymru' yn 2003 fod pobl ifanc a busnesau yng Nghymru yn awyddus i weddnewid addysg 14-19 er mwyn iddo ganolbwytio ar ddatblygu arweinyddiaeth, gwaith tîm, cyfathrebu a chreadigrwydd. Darganfu'r adroddiad hefyd, yn ysgolion Cymru, fod gormod o feddyliau pobl ifanc yn anweledig a'u perchnogion yn cael eu gwneud yn economaidd anabl, a phan fyddant yn camu i'r gweithlu, mae'r canlyniadau'n dychryn cyflogwyr. Gwelodd

want to succeed, have a good job and own their own home. However, employers complain that they are ill-equipped by school and that they are left poorly motivated; the young people involved agreed. They said that school inadvertently trains them in absenteeism as they devise ways to escape what they see as a raw deal. This is particularly concerning when headteachers state that these forgotten young people can represent between 20 per cent and 50 per cent of a year group in certain areas. This research found that we must remove the wall between work and that which is taught in school by teaching the curriculum in a work-related context and building basic and social skills rather than bussing young people around on short-term work experience and college placements.

fod pobl ifanc yn awyddus i lwyddo, cael swydd dda a chael eu cartref eu hunain. Er hynny, mae cyflogwyr yn cwyno nad ydynt yn cael eu cymhwysu'n briodol gan yr ysgol gan eu gadael heb fawr ddim cymhelliant; cytunai'r bobl ifanc dan sylw. Dywedent fod yr ysgol drwy amryfusedd yn dysgu absenoliaeth iddynt wrth iddynt ddyfeisio ffyrdd i ddianc o'r hyn a ystyriant yn annhegwch. Mae hyn yn peri pryder arbennig pan ddywed penaethiaid y gall y bobl ifanc angof hyn fod rhwng 20 y cant a 50 y cant o grŵp blwyddyn mewn ardaloedd penodol. Darganfu'r ymchwil hwn ei bod yn rhaid inni chwalu'r mur rhwng gwaith a'r hyn a addysgir yn yr ysgol drwy addysgu'r cwricwlwm mewn cyd-destun sy'n gysylltiedig â gwaith, a meithrin sgiliau sylfaenol a chymdeithasol yn hytrach na bysio pobl ifanc o gwmpas ar leoliadau coleg a phrofiad gwaith tymor byr.

2.40 p.m.

The report concluded that the 14 to 19 agenda was not being addressed by the Assembly Government. Perhaps, therefore, we should not be surprised that, unlike her opposite number in Westminster, the former Minister for education here buried the report rather than acting upon its evidence base. As we heard at last year's conference on 14 to 19 learning in Denbighshire, it would cost £2,300 to release one pupil from school to attend college for one day a week but would save the school only £400.

Daeth yr adroddiad i'r casgliad nad oedd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn rhoi sylw i'r agenda 14 i 19. Efallai, felly, na ddylem synnu bod y cyn-Weinidog dros addysg yma, yn wahanol i'r aelod cyfatebol iddi yn San Steffan, wedi claddu'r adroddiad yn hytrach na gweithredu ar ei sylfaen tystiolaeth. Fel y clywsom yng nghynhadledd y llynedd ar ddysgu 14 i 19 oed yn sir Ddinbych, byddai'n costio £2,300 i ryddhau un disgybl o'r ysgol i fynd i'r coleg am un diwrnod yr wythnos, ond mai £400 yn unig y byddai'r ysgol yn ei arbed.

We must champion the life chances of all young people by building on solid foundations, developing education with the developing child. We must break the self-fulfilling prophecy where the low expectations of pupils in too many areas produce low aspirations in too many young people.

Rhaid inni hyrwyddo cyfleoedd bywyd yr holl bobl ifanc drwy adeiladu ar sylfeini cadarn, gan ddatblygu addysg gyda'r plentyn sy'n datblygu. Rhaid inni chwalu'r broffwydoliaeth hunangyflawndol lle mae'r disgwyliadau isel o ddisgyblion mewn gormod o ardaloedd yn esgor ar ddyheadau isel mewn gormod o bobl ifanc.

Jeff Cuthbert: I begin by congratulating Andrew R.T. Davies on his speech; he has demonstrated a speedy grasp of his brief. Time will tell if he means what he says.

Jeff Cuthbert: Dechreuaf drwy longyfarch Andrew R.T. Davies ar ei arait; mae wedi dangos amgyffrediad buan o'i friff. Amser a ddengys a yw'n golygu'r hyn a ddywed.

In general terms, I support the motion, providing that the two amendments are carried. However, I have a particular

Mewn geiriau cyffredinol, yr wyf yn cefnogi'r cynnig, cyn belled ag y derbynnir y ddau welliant. Er hynny, mae gennyf

reservation, which I will concentrate upon in the few minutes that I have this afternoon. I want to draw particular attention to point 2(a) of the motion, which calls on the Assembly to:

‘increase the opportunities for vocational qualifications in order to address the behavioural problems presented by those pupils who are unable to participate in purely academic study.’

First, I welcome the change of stance from the Conservatives on vocational education. I can remember the battles that we had to get them to accept its value. It may have taken them some time to realise the virtues of vocational education, but it is better late than never. However, does this now mean that the Conservatives would like to endorse such things as the Welsh baccalaureate, the 14-19 learning pathways and, indeed, the modern apprenticeship schemes, or does it simply mean that they are trying to make the most of Chris Grayling MP’s recent coining of the term ‘the Jeremy Kyle generation’? Plans thought up by him and Michael Gove, the shadow secretary of state for children, schools, and families state that, under a Conservative government, apprenticeships would be run by employers and based on workplace training, which sounds eerily similar to the much maligned youth training scheme brought in under the Thatcher Government. That brought widespread condemnation for enabling employers to exploit school leavers for cheap labour. On the basis of Government promises of training places for all school leavers without jobs, social security cover was withdrawn. Unfortunately, places under the YTS did not necessarily match demand, thus leaving some school leavers in financial difficulty without any form of future.

Modern day apprenticeships, further education partners of the 14-19 learning pathways, and deliverers of the Welsh baccalaureate should all work with the sector skills councils to ensure that the skills that are being provided are demand-led so that, as far

amheuaeth benodol, a chanolbwyntiaf arni yn yr ychydig funudau sydd gennyf y prynhawn yma. Hoffwn dynnu’ch sylw’n benodol at bwynt 2(a) yn y cynnig, sy’n galw ar y Cynulliad i:

‘cynyddu’r cyfleoedd ar gyfer cymwysterau galwedigaethol er mwyn rhoi sylw i’r problemau ymddygiad a ddangosir gan y disgyblion hynny na allant gymryd rhan mewn astudiaethau sy’n hollol academaidd.’

Yn gyntaf, croesawaf y newid yn safiad y Ceidwadwyr o safbwynt addysg alwedigaethol. Gallaf gofio’r brwydrau a gawsom i’w cael i dderbyn ei gwerth. Hwyrach iddi gymryd cryn amser iddynt sylweddoli rhinweddau addysg alwedigaethol, ond gwell hwyr na hwyrach. Er hynny, a yw hyn yn awr yn golygu yr hoffai’r Ceidwadwyr gymeradwyo pethau fel Bagloriaeth Cymru, y llwybrau dysgu 14-19 ac, yn wir, y cynlluniau prentisiaethau modern, ynteu a yw’n golygu’n syml eu bod yn ceisio gwneud y gorau o’r term ‘cenhedlaeth Jeremy Kyle’ a fathwyd gan yr AS Chris Grayling yn ddiweddar? Mae’r cynlluniau a ddyfeisiwyd ganddo ef a Michael Gove, ysgrifennydd gwladol yr wrthblaid dros blant, ysgolion a theuluoedd, yn dweud y byddai prentisiaethau modern, dan lywodraeth Geidwadol, yn cael eu rhedeg gan gyflogwyr ac yn seiliedig ar hyfforddiant yn y gweithle, rhywbeth sy’n teimlo’n annaearol o debyg i’r cynllun hyfforddi ieuencid a ddifriwyd mor aml ac a gyflwynwyd dan Lywodraeth Thatcher. Enynnodd hwnnw feirmiadaeth helaeth am alluogi cyflogwyr i gamfanteisio ar bobl ifanc a oedd yn gadael yr ysgol. Ar sail addewidion y Llywodraeth am leoedd hyfforddiant i bawb a oedd yn gadael yr ysgol heb swyddi, tynnwyd arian nawdd cymdeithasol yn ei ôl. Yn anffodus, nid oedd lleoedd dan y cynllun hyfforddi ieuencid o anghenraid yn cyd-fynd â’r galw, gan adael rhai pobl ifanc a oedd yn gadael yr ysgol mewn anhawster ariannol heb ddyfodol o unrhyw fath.

Dylai prentisiaethau’r oes hon, partneriaid addysg bellach y llwybrau dysgu 14-19, a darparwyr Bagloriaeth Cymru i gyd weithio gyda’r cynghorau sgiliau sector i sicrhau bod y sgiliau a ddarperir yn cael eu harwain gan y galw, fel y bydd gan y rheini sy’n cael

as possible, those in training will have a place in employment upon completion. Only last week, the Welsh Assembly Government announced a £70 million three-year project. The new modern apprenticeship world-class skills project will help more than 22,500 people to raise their skill levels, with more than 14,000 training places made possible thanks to £40 million of European funding.

The Conservatives in Westminster are trying to create an image that would show them as no longer placing the academic route in higher regard than the vocational route and are trying to say that the current Government is not giving parity to the two. However, the wording of their motion illustrates that they still believe that vocational education should be for those,

‘unable to participate in purely academic study’.

I am worried by that statement, and I ask the Tories, in summing up, to clarify whether they see vocational studies as being equal to academic studies, though clearly different, for that different group of young people to whom they are open.

On this side of the Chamber, we have always argued that children and learners should have access to their chosen route, whether it is academic or vocational. That is why we are implementing the Welsh baccalaureate, with its mixed yet balanced approach to academic and vocational education, and the 14-19 learning pathways, enabling learners of those ages to follow their desired route.

Moreover, we believe that tackling basic skills should be at the forefront of our action, to eliminate a major cause of disengagement in the classroom, and in subsequent education and training settings. That is why we are introducing the foundation phase in Wales, which will help to eradicate the problem of disenfranchised youth in the classroom by identifying and helping those who struggle with basic skills.

hyfforddiant, cyn belled â phosibl, le mewn cyflogaeth ar ôl cwblhau. Yr wythnos diwethaf cyhoeddodd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru brosiect tair blynedd gwerth £70 miliwn. Bydd y prosiect sgiliau newydd o'r radd flaenaf ar gyfer prentisiaeth fodern yn helpu dros 22,500 o bobl i wella lefel eu sgiliau, a bydd dros 14,000 o leoedd hyfforddiant yn bosibl, diolch i £40 miliwn o arian Ewropeaidd.

Mae'r Ceidwadwyr yn San Steffan yn ceisio creu delwedd a fyddai'n dangos nad ydynt mwyach yn gosod y llwybr academiaidd yn uwch na'r llwybr galwedigaethol, ac maent yn ceisio dweud nad yw'r Llywodraeth bresennol yn gosod gwerth cyfartal ar y ddau. Er hynny, mae geiriad eu cynnig yn dangos eu bod yn dal i gredu y dylai addysg alwedigaethol fod ar gyfer y rheini,

‘na allant gymryd rhan mewn astudiaethau sy'n hollol academiaidd’.

Mae'r datganiad hwnnw'n peri pryder imi, a hoffwn i'r Toriaid, wrth gloi'r ddadl, egluro a ydynt yn credu bod astudiaethau galwedigaethol yn gydradd ag astudiaethau academiaidd, er eu bod yn amlwg yn wahanol, ar gyfer y grŵp gwahanol hwnnw o bobl ifanc y maent ar gael iddynt.

Ar yr ochr hon o'r Siambr, yr ydym bob amser wedi dadlau y dylai plant a dysgwyr allu dilyn y llwybr o'u dewis, boed yn academiaidd ynteu'n alwedigaethol. Dyna pam yr ydym yn cyflwyno bagloriaeth Cymru, gyda dull amrywiol ond cytbwys o addysg academiaidd a galwedigaethol, a'r llwybrau dysgu 14-19, sy'n galluogi dysgwyr o'r oedrannau hynny i ddilyn eu dewis o lwybr.

At hynny, credwn y dylai ymdrin â sgiliau sylfaenol fod ar y blaen yn y camau a gymerwn, er mwyn dileu un o brif achosion ymddieithrio yn yr ystafell ddosbarth, ac mewn lleoliadau addysg a hyfforddiant wedyn. Dyna pam yr ydym yn cyflwyno'r cyfnod sylfaen yng Nghymru, a fydd yn helpu dileu problem pobl ifanc sydd wedi'u difreinio yn yr ystafell ddosbarth drwy nodi a helpu'r rheini sy'n cael anhawster gyda sgiliau sylfaenol.

To conclude, vocational education is not a safety net; it is an equally valid approach to learning for many intelligent young people, and should be supported in its own right.

Leanne Wood: Lots of statistics, figures and reports have been used in this debate so far, but none of them adequately explains to me whether the behaviour of schoolchildren has changed markedly over time, or whether society's view of what constitutes bad behaviour in children has changed and schools are reflecting society's view. I will use the example of alcohol, which seems to be especially topical today.

Relatively speaking, I accept that the price of alcohol has come down, so perhaps it is the case that children of school age have more access to alcohol, and can better afford it than they could in the past. However, let us not kid ourselves, as we look back to our own youth through rose-tinted spectacles, that kids did not drink when we were young.

I raise the issue of alcohol partly because of the World Health Organization report that is published today, which puts Wales at the bottom of the league table on almost every indicator. Incidentally, the report compares Wales with other countries, but does not give us a picture over time, so we do not know whether these problems are new or whether they are getting worse.

I also raise the issue of alcohol because I recently submitted a freedom-of-information request to Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council about school exclusions and, worryingly, it revealed that eight children, seven of whom were girls, had been excluded from school for drinking. Three of them had brought alcohol into school. I am not sure whether that is a new phenomenon, because I remember alcohol being an issue in my school, two decades ago, but I do not remember a single pupil being excluded for possessing alcohol in school. We talk today about binge drinking, but that is a relatively new term. Do we need a new term to describe what has become a new phenomenon?

I gloi, nid rhwyd achub yw addysg alwedigaethol; mae'n ffordd o ddysgu sydd lawn mor ddilys i lawer o bobl ifanc ddeallus, a dylid ei chefnogi yn ei rhinwedd ei hun.

Leanne Wood: Defnyddiwyd llawer o ystadegau, ffigurau ac adroddiadau yn y ddadl hon hyd yma, ond nid oes yr un ohonynt yn egluro'n ddigonol i mi a yw ymddygiad plant ysgol wedi newid yn sylweddol dros amser, ynteu a yw barn cymdeithas am yr hyn sy'n ymddygiad gwael wedi newid a bod ysgolion yn adlewyrchu barn cymdeithas. Yr wyf am ddefnyddio alcohol fel enghraifft, sy'n ymddangos yn hynod amserol heddiw.

Er mwyn cymharu, yr wyf yn derbyn bod pris alcohol wedi gostwng, ac felly efallai ei bod yn wir bod plant oed ysgol yn gallu cael gafael ar alcohol yn haws, a'u bod yn gallu ei fforddio yn fwy nag yn y gorffennol. Ni ddylem gymryd ein twyllo, fodd bynnag, wrth inni edrych yn ôl yn hiraethus ar ein hieuenctid ein hunain, nad oedd plant yn yfed pan oeddem ni'n ifanc.

Soniaf am fater alcohol yn rhannol oherwydd yr adroddiad a gyhoeddwyd heddiw gan Sefydliad Iechyd y Byd, sy'n gosod Cymru ar waelod y tabl ym mhob dangosydd fwy neu lai. Gyda llaw, mae'r adroddiad yn cymharu Cymru â gwledydd eraill, ond nid yw'n rhoi darlun dros amser inni, felly, ni wyddom a yw'r problemau hyn yn rhai newydd ynteu a dynt yn gwaethygu.

Soniaf am alcohol hefyd oherwydd cyflwynais gais rhyddid gwybodaeth i Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf yn ddiweddar ynglŷn â gwahardd plant o'r ysgol, ac yr oedd yr hyn a ddatgelwyd yn peri pryder imi, sef bod wyth plentyn wedi eu gwahardd o'r ysgol am yfed, saith ohonynt yn ferched. Yr oedd tri wedi mynd ag alcohol i'r ysgol. Nid wyf yn siŵr a yw honno'n ffenomen newydd, oherwydd cofiaf fod alcohol yn broblem yn ein hysgol ni, ddau ddegawd yn ôl, ond ni chofiaf i'r un disgybl gael ei wahardd am fod ag alcohol yn ei feddiant yn yr ysgol. Soniwn heddiw am oryfed mewn pyliau, ond mae hwnnw'n derm cymharol newydd. A oes arnom angen term newydd i ddisgrifio'r hyn sydd wedi dod yn ffenomen newydd?

My view is that people have probably always drunk too much—and it is not just young people, either; it happens across the age groups. We drink too much in Wales, and alcohol is an intrinsic part of our culture. It is difficult to think of many social activities that are not centred on drinking, and I am sure that most Members will understand the point that I am trying to make. Until and unless adults' attitudes to alcohol change, how can we expect our young people to behave differently from the adults around them?

It is a worry that school exclusion figures have increased, even if the numbers of permanent exclusions have gone down. As an Assembly Member, I have been involved in the case of an excluded pupil—and I accept that is not a typical case, but, in my view, it need not have happened. I refer to the case of Sarika Singh, the Aberdare schoolgirl. I am sure that most Members are familiar with the case, which is today being heard at the High Court in London. Sarika Singh is now in a new school where wearing a kara, the symbol of her Sikh faith, is not an issue. Why was it an issue in one school but not in another, which is just down the road? To me, Sarika's case is an example of how exclusions can be made without real need or benefit, and all schools should be clear that exclusion is the last resort. The more exclusions we have, the more young people are being let down by the Assembly, by their local education authority, and by their school. Everything possible should be done to avoid excluding kids from school; otherwise, we could be setting them up for a lifetime of missed opportunities.

2.50 p.m.

Alun Cairns: I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute. I wish Andrew R.T. Davies well and recognise the excellent contribution that he made earlier today when starting the debate.

In this debate, it would be easy to focus on school discipline in a macho way, but I think

Yn fy marn i, mae'n debyg fod pobl bob amser wedi yfed gormod—ac nid pobl ifanc yn unig sy'n gwneud hynny ychwaith; mae'n digwydd ymhlith pobl o bob oed. Yr ydym yn yfed gormod yng Nghymru, ac mae alcohol yn rhan gynhenid o'n diwylliant. Mae'n anodd meddwl am nifer o weithgareddau cymdeithasol lle nad yw yfed yn ganolbwynt iddynt, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd y rhan fwyaf o'r Aelodau'n deall y pwynt yr wyf yn ceisio'i gyfleu. Nes ac oni bai i agweddau oedolion at alcohol newid, sut y gallwn ddisgwyl i'n pobl ifanc ymddwyn yn wahanol i'r oedolion o'u cwmpas?

Mae'n peri pryder bod ffigurau gwahardd plant o'r ysgol wedi codi, hyd yn oed os yw nifer y gwaharddiadau parhaol wedi gostwng. Fel Aelod o'r Cynulliad, yr wyf wedi bod yn ymwneud ag achos disgybl sydd wedi'i gwahardd—a derbyniaf nad yw'n achos nodweddiadol, ond, yn fy marn i, nid oedd angen iddo fod wedi digwydd. Cyfeirio yr wyf at achos Sarika Singh, y ferch ysgol o Aberdâr. Yr wyf yn siŵr fod y rhan fwyaf o'r Aelodau'n gyfarwydd â'r achos, sy'n cael ei glywed yn yr Uchel Lys yn Llundain heddiw. Mae Sarika Singh bellach mewn ysgol newydd, lle nad yw gwisgo'r kara, sy'n symbol o'i ffydd fel Sîc, yn peri problem. Pam yr oedd yn broblem mewn un ysgol ond nid mewn ysgol arall gyfagos? I mi, mae achos Sarika yn enghraifft o'r ffordd y gellir gwahardd disgyblion heb unrhyw wir angen na budd, a dylai pob ysgol wybod yn glir mai yn niffyg dim arall yn unig y dylid gwahardd disgyblion. Po fwyaf o ddisgyblion sy'n cael eu gwahardd, mwya'n y byd o bobl ifanc sy'n cael eu siomi gan y Cynulliad, gan eu hawdurdod addysg lleol a chan eu hysgol. Dylid gwneud popeth posibl i osgoi gwahardd plant o'r ysgol; fel arall, gallem fod yn eu paratoi am oes o golli cyfleon.

Alun Cairns: Diolch am y cyfle i gyfrannu. Hoffwn ddymuno'n dda i Andrew R.T. Davies a chydnabod y cyfraniad gwych a wnaeth yn gynharach heddiw wrth agor y ddadl.

Yn y ddadl hon, byddai'n hawdd canolbwyntio ar ddisgyblaeth mewn ysgolion

that school discipline is an exceptionally important element of school life. It is important that young people understand the boundaries, and that teachers and parents know their roles and can provide support in keeping the boundaries. In my contribution, I want to refer to many of the comments made about special educational needs, specifically those of Janet Ryder and Peter Black.

Dyspraxia, dyslexia, autism, Asperger's syndrome and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder are all conditions that need to be identified early, and that may be another area of Government policy that needs to be focused on and scrutinised. This debate is also about the support that can be provided to pupils with special educational needs, to identify the support necessary to assist them in overcoming the difficulties that cause them to act in an undisciplined way. Local education authorities and schools are often left without the necessary resources to tackle special educational needs.

Getting a statement of special educational need for a pupil is a battle in itself, not only with the school, but also sometimes with the local authority. Not only can it be a battle to get the statement in the first place, it can also be a battle to work out the detail of the statement, which outlines the assistance required to overcome the pupil's specific special educational need, including the frequency of their occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, or any other therapy. Without a statement, there is no question that there will be an impact on the child. There is a risk that the child will become withdrawn and may become unruly. It surely cannot be fair that a school is taking action to exclude a 14-year-old child because of a special educational need if that need was not identified when the child was maybe six or seven years of age, or even younger. If the need of a severely dyslexic child has not been identified early and has not been acted on, you cannot blame that child if he or she is acting in an unruly way in later years, as it is a consequence of the lack of action taken by the school or the local education authority.

mewn modd *macho*, ond credaf fod disgyblaeth ysgol yn elfen eithriadol o bwysig ym mywyd ysgol. Mae'n bwysig i bobl ifanc ddeall y ffiniau, a bod athrawon a rhieni yn gwybod beth yw eu swyddogaeth ac yn gallu rhoi cefnogaeth wrth gadw at y ffiniau. Yn fy nghyfraniad, hoffwn gyfeirio at nifer o'r sylwadau a wnaethpwyd ynghylch anghenion addysgol arbennig, yn enwedig gan Janet Ryder a Peter Black.

Mae dyspraxia, dyslecsia, awtistiaeth, syndrom Asperger ac anhwylder diffyg canolbwyntio a gorfywiogrwydd i gyd yn gyflyrau y mae angen eu darganfod yn gynnar, ac efallai fod honno'n agwedd arall ar bolisi'r Llywodraeth y mae angen canolbwyntio a chraffu arni. Mae'r ddadl hon yn ymwneud hefyd â'r gefnogaeth y gellir ei rhoi i ddisgyblion ag anghenion addysgol arbennig, i nodi'r gefnogaeth y mae arnynt ei hangen i'w cynorthwyo i oresgyn yr anawsterau sy'n peri iddynt ymddwyn yn afreolus. Yn aml gadewir awdurdodau addysg lleol ac ysgolion heb yr adnoddau angenrheidiol i ymdrin ag anghenion addysgol arbennig.

Mae cael datganiad anghenion addysgol arbennig i ddisgybl yn frwydr ynddo'i hun, nid yn unig â'r ysgol, ond hefyd â'r awdurdod lleol weithiau. Nid yn unig gall fod yn frwydr i gael y datganiad yn y lle cyntaf, ond gall hefyd fod yn frwydr i bennu manylion y datganiad, sy'n amlinellu'r cymorth angenrheidiol i oresgyn anghenion addysgol arbennig penodol y disgybl, gan gynnwys pa mor aml y bydd arno angen therapi galwedigaethol, therapi iaith a lleferydd neu unrhyw therapi arall. Bydd peidio â chael datganiad yn cael effaith ar y plentyn yn ddi-os. Mae perygl y bydd y plentyn yn encilio ac yn dechrau ymddwyn yn afreolus. Does bosibl ei bod yn deg fod ysgol yn cymryd camau i wahardd plentyn 14 oed oherwydd anghenion addysgol arbennig os na chafodd yr angen hwnnw ei nodi pan oedd y plentyn yn chwech neu'n saith, neu hyd yn oed yn iau. Os yw anghenion plentyn sydd â dyslecsia difrifol heb eu nodi'n gynnar ac os na weithredwyd ar hynny, ni allwch feio'r plentyn hwnnw os bydd ef neu hi'n ymddwyn yn afreolus pan fydd yn hŷn, gan fod hynny'n ganlyniad i'r diffyg gweithredu gan yr ysgol neu'r awdurdod addysg lleol.

There is a need to support teachers and parents: teachers need support in identifying a special educational need, and parents need support in knowing how to handle it, as well as knowing their rights. The rights of parents and pupils under the Learning and Skills Act 2000 are strong but, sadly, you almost need to threaten to go to a tribunal before you get them implemented. Surely that cannot be right. I know that many Assembly Members play a role in enforcing the rights of a child, but, quite obviously, the fact that a parent has felt the need to approach an Assembly Member in the first instance shows that the system has failed them to an extent.

ADHD manifests itself in poor behaviour, which is an explicit example of the need for support for teachers to be clear so that the guidance is understood and, more than anything, implemented. If we can identify some of these special educational needs early on and take appropriate action in schools, outside schools, and with parents, I have no doubt that we can influence positively the exclusion figures, on a temporary and a permanent basis.

While amendment 1 acknowledges that there has been a fall in the number of permanent exclusions made over the past year, we need to look very closely at the trend. If part of the reason for that is that we are not dealing with the special educational needs of pupils, shame on us all.

Eleanor Burnham: I used to teach, peripatetically, many disaffected 14 to 16-year-olds across north-east Wales, and I learned an enormous amount. As an imperfect parent, I thought that I knew quite a lot about youngsters until I was put in front of these pupils. They were absolutely charming and fun, but most of them were bored rigid, fed up and stuck in a meaningless and inappropriate curriculum that restricted their creativity. Most of them were not being inspired, which is not the fault of the teachers, as they were quite rightly trying to achieve the various Government-set

Mae angen cefnogi athrawon a rhieni: mae angen cefnogaeth ar athrawon i nodi anghenion addysgol arbennig, ac mae angen cefnogaeth ar rieni i wybod sut i ymdrin â hwy, yn ogystal â gwybod beth yw eu hawliau. Mae gan rieni a disgyblion hawliau pendant dan Ddeddf Dysgu a Medrau 2000, ond yn anffodus bron nad oes angen ichi fygwth mynd i dribiwnlys cyn y bydd yr hawliau hynny'n cael eu gweithredu. Does bosibl fod hynny'n iawn. Gwn fod nifer o Aelodau'r Cynulliad yn gwneud eu rhan wrth fynnu hawliau plant, ond mae'r ffaith fod rhiant wedi teimlo bod angen cysylltu ag Aelod o'r Cynulliad yn y lle cyntaf yn dangos bod y system wedi'u siomi i raddau.

Mae anhwylder diffyg canolbwyntio a gorfywiogrwydd yn amlygu'i hun ar ffurf ymddygiad gwael, sy'n enghraifft amlwg fod angen i gefnogaeth i athrawon fod yn eglur er mwyn iddynt ddeall y canllawiau ac, yn anad dim, yn eu gweithredu. Os gallwn nodi rhai o'r anghenion addysgol arbennig hyn yn gynnar a chymryd camau priodol yn yr ysgol, oddi allan i'r ysgol, a chyda rhieni, nid oes gennyf ddim amheuaeth na allwn ddylanwadu'n gadarnhaol ar ffigurau gwahardd plant dros dro a'u gwahardd yn barhaol.

Er bod gwelliant 1 yn cydnabod bod gostyngiad yn nifer y gwaharddiadau parhaol dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf, mae angen inni edrych yn fanwl iawn ar y duedd. Os yw'r ffaith nad ydym yn ymdrin ag anghenion addysgol arbennig disgyblion yn rhan o'r rheswm dros hynny, dylai fod cywilydd arnom i gyd.

Eleanor Burnham: Arferwn addysgu llawer o bobl ifanc rhwng 14 ac 16 oed a oedd wedi'u dadrithio ledled y gogledd-ddwyrain ar sail beripatetig, a dysgais beth wmbredd. A minnau'n rhiant amherffaith, credwn fy mod yn gwybod cryn dipyn am blant nes imi gael fy rhoi o flaen y disgyblion hyn. Yr oeddent yn ddymunol tu hwnt ac yn llawn hwyl, ond yr oedd y rhan fwyaf ohonynt wedi diflasu'n llwyr, wedi cael llond bol ac yn gaeth mewn cwricwlwm diystyr ac anaddas a oedd yn cyfyngu eu creadigrwydd. Nid oedd y rhan fwyaf ohonynt yn cael eu hysbrydoli, ac nid bai'r athrawon yw hynny, gan eu bod hwy,

targets. In many respects, we are failing many of our youth, and I am worried about that. I therefore thank the Tories for tabling this imaginative motion.

We live in a highly complex age. A recent Ofsted report suggested that many innovative, full-circle ideas, which do not require much money to implement, could help. One Ofsted report that I read last week talked about the dramatic improvements seen by bringing about small changes, such as introducing—dare I say it—a public school house style, reintroducing uniforms, showing leadership, and supporting teachers.

Parenting is an important issue, too. As I said, I am an imperfect parent, and I think that we all need help with parenting, because it is a complex arena. There are many role models out there today, and one issue that many of the kids raised with me was the enormous peer pressure that they felt. What their peers thought of them was very important to them, almost more so than family.

Many of them told me that they just wanted to be rich and famous. That revealed a lot to me. They were not interested in the education that was available to them—and, on vocational education, I have to say that while I admire Jeff greatly, Labour is merely paying lip service to FE. Only today, we heard about Yale College in Wrexham losing many dedicated lecturers. Is that Labour defending FE? Together with the school curriculum, FE offers an important vocational advancement to many of these kids who are bored by the current strict curriculum.

Jeff Cuthbert: I agree with you that the FE sector is a crucial aspect of our learning cycle. My own college does not have the financial difficulties that Yale has, so the picture is a mixed one, but I am sure that it

yn gwbl briodol, yn ceisio cyrraedd yr amrywiol dargedau a osodir gan y Llywodraeth. Ar lawer ystyr, yr ydym yn siomi nifer o'n pobl ifanc, ac mae hynny'n bryder imi. Hoffwn ddiolch i'r Toriaid, felly, am gyflwyno'r cynnig creadigol hwn.

Yr ydym yn byw mewn oes hynod gymhleth. Awgrymodd adroddiad gan Ofsted yn ddiweddar y gallai llawer o syniadau arloesol sy'n mynd yn ôl at y gwreiddiau, ac na fyddent yn ddrud iawn i'w cyflwyno, fod o gymorth. Yr oedd un adroddiad gan Ofsted a ddarllenais yr wythnos diwethaf yn sôn am y gwelliannau trawiadol a welwyd drwy gyflwyno mân newidiadau, megis—os meiddiaf ddweud—cyflwyno system tai fel sydd mewn ysgolion preifat, ailgyflwyno gwisg ysgol, dangos arweinyddiaeth a chefnogi athrawon.

Mae'r ffordd y caiff plant eu magu yn fater pwysig, hefyd. Fel y soniais, rhiant amherffaith ydwyf fi, a chredaf fod ar bob un ohonom angen cymorth wrth fagu plant, oherwydd mae'n faes cymhleth. Mae yna nifer o unigolion i'w hefelychu y dyddiau hyn, ac un peth y byddai nifer o'r plant yn ei grybwyll wrthyf oedd y pwysau aruthrol a deimlent gan eu cyfoedion. Yr oedd barn eu cyfoedion amdanynt yn hynod bwysig iddynt, yn fwy felly, bron, na barn eu teuluoedd.

Dywedodd nifer wrthyf mai'r cyfan a ddymunent oedd bod yn gyfoethog ac yn enwog. Yr oedd hynny'n dweud cyfrolau wrthyf. Nid oedd ganddynt ddi-ddordeb yn yr addysg a oedd ar gael iddynt—ac o safbwynt addysg alwedigaethol, rhaid imi ddweud, er fy mod yn edmygu Jeff yn fawr, mai esgus cefnogi AB yn unig y mae Llafur. Clywsom heddiw fod Coleg Iâl yn Wrecsam yn colli nifer o ddarlithwyr ymroddedig. Ai Llafur yn amddiffyn AB yw hynny? Ynghyd â'r cwricwlwm ysgol, mae AB yn cynnig datblygiad galwedigaethol pwysig i lawer o'r plant hyn sy'n diflasu ar y cwricwlwm caeth presennol.

Jeff Cuthbert: Cytunaf â chi fod y sector AB yn agwedd hollbwysig ar ein cylch dysgu. Nid oes gan fy ngholeg i yr un anawsterau ariannol ag Iâl, felly, mae'r darlun yn un cymysg. Ond yr wyf yn siŵr yr eir i'r afael â

will be addressed seriously.

Eleanor Burnham: I hope so, because it is no use telling us that you are into vocational training and then allowing Yale and other wonderful colleges across north Wales, which have scored the highest scores in all criteria, to lose their staff.

It is crucial that we get this right for our youngsters. Leanne Wood agrees with me that we must not demonise young people; we need to support them, give them something meaningful and aspirational to do, and inspire them. Otherwise, we have lost them.

The Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (Jane Hutt): I welcome today's opportunity to debate the issue of exclusion from schools. It is a complex issue, and the more we can do to explain and understand the complexities and explore how we can improve practice in and out of school, the better it will be for children and young people.

I am grateful to the Welsh Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats for accepting our amendment 1, which highlights the fact that the number of permanent exclusions in Wales dropped in the last recorded year. In fact, there was also a marginal drop overall in the number of temporary exclusions. That said, however, I am certainly not complacent about the level of exclusions. That is why we have commissioned Professor Ken Reid to carry out an independent review of behaviour and attendance in Wales.

3.00 p.m.

A wide range of people were involved in supporting him in this review, from schools, communities and the children's commissioner's office, who had the expertise and experience to guide him. We are committed to doing more to reduce the overall numbers of exclusions as well as developing a consistent and effective approach—many of you have mentioned that today—across all Welsh schools and local authorities.

hyn o ddifrif.

Eleanor Burnham: Yr wyf yn gobeithio hynny, oherwydd nid oes pwrpas ichi ddweud wrthym eich bod yn cefnogi hyfforddiant galwedigaethol ac yna'n gadael i Iâl a cholegau gwych eraill ledled y gogledd, ac sydd wedi cael y marciau uchaf yn yr holl feini prawf, golli eu staff.

Mae'n hanfodol inni wneud hyn yn iawn er mwyn ein pobl ifanc. Mae Leanne Wood yn cytuno â mi na ddylem bardduo pobl ifanc; mae angen inni eu cefnogi, rhoi rhywbeth ystyrlon ac uchelgeisiol iddynt i'w wneud, a'u hysbrydoli. Oni wnawn hynny, byddwn wedi'u colli.

Y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau (Jane Hutt): Croesawaf y cyfle heddiw i drafod pwnc gwahardd plant o'r ysgol. Mae'n fater cymhleth, a pho fwyaf y gallwn ei wneud i egluro a deall y cymhlethodau ac archwilio sut y gallwn wella arferion yn yr ysgolion ac oddi allan iddynt, gorau oll i blant a phobl ifanc.

Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r Ceidwadwyr Cymreig a'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol am dderbyn ein gwelliant 1, sy'n tynnu sylw at y ffaith fod nifer y gwaharddiadau parhaol yng Nghymru wedi gostwng yn y flwyddyn ddiwethaf y mae ffigurau ar gael ar ei chyfer. Yn wir, bu gostyngiad bychan hefyd yn nifer y gwaharddiadau dros dro. Er dweud hynny, fodd bynnag, nid wyf yn hunanfodhaus o gwbl ynghylch lefel y gwaharddiadau. Dyna pam yr ydym wedi comisiynu'r Athro Ken Reid i wneud adolygiad annibynnol o ymddygiad a phresenoldeb yng Nghymru.

Bu amrywiaeth eang o bobl yn ei gefnogi yn yr adolygiad hwn, o ysgolion, cymunedau a swyddfa'r comisiynydd plant, ac yr oeddynt ganddynt yr arbenigedd a'r profiad i'w roi ar ben y ffordd. Yr ydym wedi ymrwymo i wneud mwy i leihau cyfanswm y gwaharddiadau yn ogystal â datblygu dull gweithredu cyson ac effeithiol—cyfeiriodd nifer ohonoch at hynny heddiw—ar gyfer pob ysgol ac awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru.

I thank Mark for being willing to look at causes as well as symptoms. That was very welcome, Mark. There were considered contributions from across the Chamber in terms of understanding those causes in the context of school, home and community, and the wider pressures on young people, on teachers and on parents. All speakers addressed this, and in taking this forward, I want to deal with many of the issues that have come forward in this motion. My officials are now putting in place the mechanisms for drawing up the action plan. There are 90 recommendations, many of which are wide-ranging, so we must consider our actions carefully, and we will be looking at this in the children and young people Cabinet sub-committee meeting next week. That sub-committee brings together Ministers who have a cross-cutting policy interest in this action plan.

In terms of the initiatives that we already have in place that touch on these points, the school effectiveness framework is key, as well as the learning pathways for 14 to 19-year-olds—I will mention that later—and, of course, the review of special educational needs. Work is starting on that action plan, which I want to develop by early 2009 at the latest. On the way, the initiatives that I mentioned are having an impact.

Some of the specific recommendations to improve practices on exclusion sit well with our current intentions and policies. In particular, the report sets out the need for all parties, with the Welsh Assembly Government in the lead, to bring an end to the practice of unofficial exclusions—exclusions where parents are asked to take their children from school to avoid the taint of official exclusion. We have not focused much on that in this afternoon's debate, but it is an important point. I will be writing to all schools before the end of this term to remind them of their duties in this area, while also taking the opportunity to draw their attention to the review. The children's commissioner's office published a report last year highlighting its concerns about this practice; I

Hoffwn ddiolch i Mark am fod yn barod i edrych ar achosion yn ogystal â symptomau. Yr oeddwn yn falch iawn gweld hynny, Mark. Cafwyd cyfraniadau ystyriol o bob ochr i'r Siambr o ran deall yr achosion hynny yng nghyd-destun yr ysgol, y cartref a'r gymuned, a'r pwysau ehangach sydd ar bobl ifanc, athrawon a rhieni. Rhoddwyd sylw i hyn gan bob siaradwr, ac wrth fwrw ymlaen â hyn yr wyf yn awyddus i ymdrin â llawer o'r materion sydd wedi codi yn y cynnig hwn. Mae fy swyddogion yn gwneud trefniadau yn awr i lunio'r cynllun gweithredu. Mae yna 90 o argymhellion, a chan fod nifer ohonynt yn argymhellion eang eu cwmpas, rhaid inni ystyried ein gweithredoedd yn ofalus. Byddwn yn edrych ar hyn yng nghyfarfod is-bwyllgor y Cabinet ar blant a phobl ifanc yr wythnos nesaf. Mae'r is-bwyllgor hwnnw'n dod â Gweinidogion sydd â diddordeb polisi trawsbynciol yn y cynllun gweithredu hwn at ei gilydd.

O ran y cynlluniau sydd gennym eisoes ac sy'n ymwneud â'r pwyntiau hyn, mae'r fframwaith effeithiolrwydd ysgolion yn bwysig, yn ogystal â'r llwybrau dysgu ar gyfer pobl ifanc 14 i 19 oed—cyfeiriad at hynny'n nes ymlaen—ac, wrth gwrs, yr adolygiad o anghenion addysgol arbennig. Mae gwaith yn dechrau cael ei wneud ar y cynllun gweithredu hwnnw, ac yr wyf yn awyddus i'w ddatblygu erbyn dechrau 2009 fan bellaf. Ar hyd y daith, mae'r cynlluniau y cyfeiriais atynt yn cael effaith.

Mae rhai o'r argymhellion penodol i wella arferion sy'n ymwneud â gwahardd yn gydnaws â'n bwriadau a'n polisiâu presennol. Yn fwyaf arbennig, mae'r adroddiad yn gosod allan fod angen i bob plaid, dan arweiniad Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, ddod â'r arfer o wneud gwaharddiadau answyddogol i ben—gwaharddiadau lle gofynnir i rieni fynd â'u plant o'r ysgol er mwyn osgoi staen gwaharddiad swyddogol. Nid ydym wedi canolbwyntio lawer ar hynny yn y ddadl y prynhawn yma, ond mae'n bwynt pwysig. Byddaf yn ysgrifennu at bob ysgol cyn diwedd y tymor hwn i'w hatgoffa o'u dyletswyddau yn y maes hwn, ac yn manteisio ar y cyfle hefyd i dynnu eu sylw at yr adolygiad. Cyhoeddodd swyddfa'r comisiynydd plant adroddiad y llynedd yn

share those concerns wholeheartedly.

On a positive note, I want to highlight that there is a great deal of good practice in Wales in many schools. It is about school leadership—Eleanor made this point—and recognising that leadership. Many schools and authorities are increasingly adopting the alternatives to exclusion that are laid out in the current guidance. If we look at those approaches, such as the managed move, where a pupil may be moved to another unit or to another mainstream school, additional pastoral support is crucial. It is important that we draw on and share good practice. Shared learning is one of the main strands of our school effectiveness framework, which we are calling a tri-level reform. It is about putting schools at the forefront, but it is also about schools, the Welsh Assembly Government and local education authorities working together, recognising that it is headteachers and leaders within schools, at the sharp end in the teaching profession, who know what it is like to manage and to deal with these demands and pressures on a day-to-day basis.

However, in terms of avoiding exclusions, we recognise that, in some cases, exclusion is unavoidable. We need to get the balance right between ensuring that teachers and other school staff have the means by which to manage behaviour in schools and ensuring that any sanctions are used effectively and consistently. That is why we are seeking to amend the motion, to talk about the means for schools to tackle pupils' behaviour as opposed to the original wording of giving freedom to schools. It should be about the means and the sharing of good practice. Schools have a large degree of freedom to use a range of methods for managing behaviour, in which we must support them and put in place the means by which they can achieve that.

I want to spend a few minutes on the issues that have been specifically raised in relation to additional learning needs. Andrew, Alun and other speakers rightly recognise the fact

tynnu sylw at ei phryder ynglŷn â'r arfer hwn; yr wyf yn cytuno gant y cant â'r pryderon hynny.

Ar nodyn cadarnhaol, hoffwn bwysleisio bod llawer iawn o arferion da yng Nghymru mewn nifer o ysgolion. Mae a wnelo hyn ag arweiniad ysgolion—gwnaethpwyd y pwynt hwn gan Eleanor—a chydabod yr arweiniad hwnnw. Mae mwy a mwy o ysgolion ac awdurdodau'n penderfynu mabwysiadu'r dewisiadau eraill sy'n cael eu rhestru yn y canllawiau presennol yn lle gwahardd disgyblion. Os edrychwn ar y dulliau hynny, fel symud sy'n cael ei reoli, lle gall disgybl gael ei symud i uned arall neu i ysgol brif ffrwd arall, mae cymorth bugeiliol ychwanegol yn hanfodol. Mae'n bwysig inni fabwysiadu a rhannu arferion da. Mae dysgu a rennir yn un o brif elfennau ein fframwaith effeithiolrwydd ysgolion, a elwir yn ddiwygio ar dair lefel. Mae'n ymwneud â rhoi ysgolion yn y rheng flaen, ond mae hefyd yn ymwneud â chael ysgolion, Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ac awdurdodau addysg lleol i weithio gyda'i gilydd, gan gydnabod mai penaethiaid ac arweinwyr mewn ysgolion, yn rheng flaen y proffesiwn addysgu, sy'n gwybod sut brofiad yw rheoli ac ymdrin â'r gofynion a'r pwysau hyn o ddydd i ddydd.

Fodd bynnag, o ran osgoi gwaharddiadau, yr ydym yn cydnabod bod gwaharddiadau'n anorfod mewn rhai achosion. Mae angen inni gael cydbwysedd priodol rhwng sicrhau bod modd i athrawon a staff eraill mewn ysgolion reoli ymddygiad mewn ysgolion a sicrhau bod unrhyw gosbau'n cael eu defnyddio'n effeithiol ac yn gyson. Dyna pam yr ydym yn ceisio gwella'r cynnig, i siarad am y ffordd i ysgolion fynd i'r afael ag ymddygiad disgyblion yn hytrach na'r geiriad gwreiddiol sy'n sôn am roi rhyddid i ysgolion. Dylai fod yn ymwneud â'r modd a rhannu arferion da. Mae gan ysgolion lawer iawn o ryddid i ddefnyddio amrywiaeth o dulliau ar gyfer rheoli ymddygiad, a rhaid inni eu cefnogi a sicrhau bod modd iddynt gyflawni hynny.

Hoffwn dreulio ychydig funudau'n ymdrin â'r materion penodol a godwyd ynglŷn ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol. Mae Andrew, Alun a siaradwyr eraill yn hollol gywir yn

that early identification and diagnosis of additional learning needs is crucial. The commitment of this Government is quite clear; the first legislative competence Order to come as a result of our additional powers was on additional learning needs. I was in the House of Lords yesterday briefing on the Education and Skills Bill. Peers said that we have exactly the right starting point in the legislative competence that has been transferred to us on additional learning needs. That is because Peter led the review in his committee and because we immediately took this forward.

Our commitment to the reference group for specific learning difficulties, which was set up by my predecessor, illustrates that we are talking across the board about a number of specific learning difficulties, as does our support for the British Dyslexia Association, for example, in achieving dyslexia-friendly schools. Janet mentioned initial teacher training, and we have already talked about the fact that we need to address that and the opportunities that will come through in terms of the foundation phase and the investment in training as far as that is concerned.

In respect of the issues that have been raised about effective anti-bullying policies and strategies in schools, children, young people, school councils, the bullying strategy, mentors, buddies, and all of the schemes that are developing from primary to secondary schools are having a huge impact in helping the whole school to manage behaviour. I know that you will be seeing that in your visits to schools across Wales. Respecting others is vital.

The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Will you please wind up?

Jane Hutt: Jeff's point on 14-19 learning pathways is right; this is groundbreaking. In terms of north Wales, I mentioned £3.96 million in capital and £6.6 million in revenue; that is the commitment that we have to our 14-19 learning pathways.

I am privileged to be the Minister for

cydnabod y ffaith fod nodi a diagnosio anghenion dysgu ychwanegol yn gynnar yn hollbwysig. Mae ymrwymiad y Llywodraeth hon yn hollol glir; yr oedd y Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol cyntaf a ddaeth o ganlyniad i'n pwerau ychwanegol yn ymwneud ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol. Yr oeddwn yn Nhŷ'r Arglwyddi ddoe yn siarad ar y Mesur Addysg a Sgiliau. Dywedodd rhai o'r Arglwyddi fod gennym fan cychwyn perffaith yn y cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol sydd wedi'i drosglwyddo inni ar anghenion dysgu ychwanegol. Mae hynny oherwydd bod Peter wedi arwain yr adolygiad yn ei bwyllgor ac oherwydd inni frw ymlaen â hyn ar unwaith.

Mae ein hymrwymiad i'r grŵp cyfeirio ar gyfer anawsterau dysgu penodol, a sefydlwyd gan fy rhagflaenydd, yn dangos ein bod yn siarad yn gyffredinol am nifer o anawsterau dysgu penodol. Mae'r un peth yn wir am ein cefnogaeth i Gymdeithas Dyslecsia Prydain, er enghraifft, wrth sicrhau ysgolion sy'n ystyried dyslecsia. Cyfeiriodd Janet at hyfforddiant cychwynol athrawon, ac yr ydym wedi siarad eisoes am y ffaith fod angen inni roi sylw i hynny ac i'r cyfleoedd a ddaw o ran y cyfnod sylfaen a'r buddsoddi mewn hyfforddiant yn y cyswllt hwnnw.

O ran y materion a godwyd ynglŷn â pholisïau a strategaethau effeithiol ar wrth-fwlio mewn ysgolion, mae plant, pobl ifanc, cynghorau ysgolion, y strategaeth fwlio, mentoriaid, 'bydis', a'r holl gynlluniau sy'n datblygu mewn ysgolion cynradd ac uwchradd yn cael dylanwad mawr iawn drwy helpu'r ysgol gyfan i reoli ymddygiad. Gwn y byddwch yn gweld hynny wrth ymweld ag ysgolion ledled Cymru. Mae parchu pobl eraill yn hanfodol.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Trefn. A wnewch chi dynnu at y terfyn, os gwelwch yn dda?

Jane Hutt: Mae pwynt Jeff ynglŷn â llwybrau dysgu 14-19 yn iawn; mae hyn yn torri tir newydd. O ran y gogledd, cyfeiriais at £3.96 miliwn o arian cyfalaf a £6.6 miliwn o arian refeniw; dyna yw ein hymrwymiad i'n llwybrau dysgu 14-19.

Mae'n fraint imi gael bod yn Weinidog dros

Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills. As Andrew, Alun and other Members know, children's services are crucial in this respect, as well as what we get right in education. I know that, when we address this issue at our next Cabinet sub-committee meeting, Ministers of the Welsh Assembly Government will consider contributions across the Government.

Andrew R.T. Davies: I thank everyone who has contributed to the debate today. It was nearly the first debate that I have sat through where there were no interventions, until that was spoilt towards the end by Jeff intervening on Eleanor's contribution. [*Interruption.*] To be fair, it was a valid and consensual point of view.

The figures on exclusions that I highlighted in my speech show a disturbing trend, particularly in temporary exclusions. As I said, it is a tragedy for the individuals concerned. It seems that a consensus has developed across the Chamber on what we need to aim for in identifying the problems that many young people face, and in supporting parents. Peter Black spoke about identification issues and substance misuse, and his point was echoed by Leanne Wood in the points that she made about alcohol. It is poignant to note that the report published today by the World Health Organization on the misuse of alcohol by young people reveals that, sadly, Wales is at the top of that league. That is quite a challenge for us, as a country. We must deal with the fact that we are talking about children of 13 years of age, identified in a comprehensive study of 41 countries to which 250,000 recipients responded. It is a worthwhile point to make in this debate.

Darren mentioned how the number of temporary exclusions from schools in Denbighshire and Conwy has tripled. He also mentioned a particular case in his constituency where a teacher failed to get support, and is now taunted in school on virtually a daily basis. That is the real issue, as I tried to convey: it is a matter of support, as we heard across the Chamber, and of

Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau. Fel y gŵyr Andrew, Alun ac Aelodau eraill, mae gwasanaethau plant yn hollbwysig yn y cyswllt hwn, yn ogystal â'r hyn yr ydym yn ei wneud yn iawn ym maes addysg. Gwn y bydd Gweinidogion Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ystyried cyfraniadau gan y Llywodraeth gyfan pan fyddwn yn rhoi sylw i'r mater hwn yng nghyfarfod nesaf isbwyllgor y Cabinet.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Hoffwn ddiolch i bawb sydd wedi cyfrannu at y ddadl heddiw. Bron na ddywedwn mai hon oedd y ddadl gyntaf imi eistedd drwyddi heb glywed unrhyw ymyriad, nes i Jeff ddifetha hynny yn agos at y diwedd drwy ymyrryd yng nghyfraniad Eleanor. [*Torri ar draws.*] I fod yn deg, yr oedd yn safbwynt dilys a chydsyniol.

Mae'r ffigurau ar gwaharddiadau y tynnais sylw atynt yn fy araith yn dangos tuedd sy'n peri pryder, yn enwedig o ran gwaharddiadau dros dro. Fel y dywedais, mae'n drychineb i'r unigolion dan sylw. Ymddengys fod consensws wedi datblygu ar draws y Siambr ynglŷn â'r hyn y mae angen inni anelu ato wrth nodi'r problemau sy'n wynebu nifer o bobl ifanc, ac wrth gefnogi rhieni. Siaradodd Peter Black am faterion adnabod a chamddefnyddio sylweddau, ac ategwyd ei bwynt gan Leanne Wood yn y pwyntiau a wnaeth ynglŷn ag alcohol. Ni allwn ond gofidio wrth weld bod yr adroddiad a gyhoeddwyd heddiw gan Sefydliad Iechyd y Byd ar gamddefnyddio alcohol ymhlith pobl ifanc yn datgelu, yn anffodus, fod Cymru ar frig y gynghrair honno. Mae honno'n her fawr i ni, fel gwlad. Rhaid inni fynd i'r afael â'r ffaith ein bod yn sôn am blant 13 oed, a nodwyd mewn astudiaeth gynhwysfawr o 41 o wledydd lle yr oedd 250,000 o bobl ifanc wedi ymateb. Mae'n bwynt y mae'n werth ei wneud yn y ddadl hon.

Cyfeiriodd Darren at y modd y mae nifer y gwaharddiadau dros dro o ysgolion yn siroedd Dinbych a Chonwy wedi treblu. Cyfeiriodd hefyd at achos penodol yn ei etholaeth lle mae athro neu athrawes wedi methu â chael cymorth, ac yn awr yn wynebu gwawd yn yr ysgol bron bob dydd. Dyna'r broblem go iawn, fel y ceisiais ei chyfleu: mae'n fater o gefnogaeth, fel y clywsom ar

working with professionals to ensure that these issues can be resolved quickly for the benefit of all parties, so that people can move on with their lives.

3.10 p.m.

Janet Ryder made a point about teacher training. That is a valuable point to make. If teachers are not trained in how to deal with the situations that they face on a daily basis, how can those situations be addressed professionally and effectively? I hope that the Minister takes that point on board, because if teachers are not trained professionally, how will we stop the problems in our schools?

Mark raised several issues about identification and the importance of allowing young people to succeed and reach their full potential. An exclusion spoils the progress of the individual concerned, and if the support is not there to rehabilitate that young person and to work with his or her parents, how can he or she go back into education? We all want to see as many people as possible benefiting from education, because it is their future lives that are being shaped in those formative years.

Jeff, thank you for your congratulations on my appointment to this brief. However, we then sadly got the usual tirade against the Tories from the Member for Caerphilly. In fact, it was the Conservative Party that introduced modern apprenticeships, back in 1994, and I am as committed as anyone to vocational training. I happen to believe that it is a valuable tool in education, and I will not diminish its standing at all. If that is a new policy initiative that the Welsh Conservatives will have to bring forward, we will advocate it. However, I do not think that it is a new position, because we have always advocated vocational training as a valuable tool for people who are not academic but can be included in mainstream education. It is also worth remembering that it was the Conservative Government that turned polytechnics into universities, so that they could gain that footing on the educational establishment ladder.

draws y Siambr, ac o weithio gyda gweithwyr proffesiynol i sicrhau bod modd datrys y problemau hyn yn fuan er budd pawb, er mwyn i bobl allu symud ymlaen yn eu bywyd.

Gwnaeth Janet Ryder bwynt ynglŷn â hyfforddiant athrawon. Mae hwnnw'n bwynt gwerthfawr i'w wneud. Os na chaiff athrawon eu hyfforddi i ddelio â'r sefyllfaoedd sy'n eu hwynebu bob dydd, sut y gellir rhoi sylw i'r sefyllfaoedd hynny'n broffesiynol ac yn effeithiol? Gobeithio y bydd y Gweinidog yn ystyried y pwynt hwnnw, oherwydd os na chaiff athrawon eu hyfforddi'n broffesiynol, sut y gallwn atal y problemau yn ein hysgolion?

Cododd Mark nifer o faterion yn ymwneud ag adnabod a phwysigrwydd caniatáu i bobl ifanc lwyddo a chyflawni eu potensial yn llawn. Mae gwaharddiad yn difetha cynnydd yr unigolyn dan sylw, ac os nad oes cefnogaeth ar gael i adsefydlu'r unigolyn ifanc hwnnw a gweithio gyda'i rieni, sut y gall ef neu hi ddychwelyd i addysg? Mae ar bob un ohonom eisiau gweld cynifer o bobl ifanc ag sy'n bosibl yn elwa o addysg, oherwydd eu bywydau hwy sy'n cael eu ffurfio yn y blynyddoedd ffurfiannol hynny.

Diolch ichi, Jeff, am eich llongyfarchion ar gael fy mhenodi i'r briff hwn. Fodd bynnag, yn dilyn hynny, yn anffodus, cawsom y bregeth arferol yn erbyn y Torïaid gan yr Aelod dros Gaerffili. Mewn gwirionedd, y Blaid Geidwadol a gyflwynodd brentisiaethau modern, yn 1994, ac yr wyf wedi ymrwymo gymaint â neb i hyfforddiant galwedigaethol. Yr wyf yn digwydd credu ei fod yn arf gwerthfawr ym maes addysg, ac ni fyddwn yn bychanu ei statws o gwbl. Os yw hynny'n fenter polisi newydd y bydd yn rhaid i Geidwadwyr Cymru ei chyflwyno, byddwn yn ei chefnogi. Fodd bynnag, ni chredaf ei fod yn safiad newydd, oherwydd yr ydym bob amser wedi cefnogi hyfforddiant galwedigaethol fel arf gwerthfawr i bobl nad ydynt yn academaidd ond y gellir eu cynnwys mewn addysg brif ffrwd. Mae hefyd yn werth cofio mai'r Llywodraeth Geidwadol a drodd golegau polytechnig yn brifysgolion, er mwyn iddynt allu cael troed ar ysgol y

sefydliadau addysgol.

I have touched on what Leanne Wood said about the alcohol situation in our schools. Alun Cairns contributed his detailed knowledge on special needs. No-one can doubt Alun's expertise in this field, and his contribution to the debate highlighted many of the issues at stake. I am grateful for his expertise in the debate; he brought to the fore many important points, including attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, which he mentioned in his closing summary.

Yr wyf wedi cyfeirio'n fyr at yr hyn a ddywedodd Leanne Wood am y sefyllfa yng nghyswllt alcohol yn ein hysgolion. Cyfrannodd Alun Cairns ei wybodaeth fanwl am anghenion arbennig. Ni all neb amau arbenigedd Alun yn y maes hwn, a thynnwyd sylw yn ei gyfraniad i'r ddadl at nifer o wasanaethau sydd yn y fantol. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar iddo am ei arbenigedd yn y ddadl; tynnodd sylw at nifer o bwyntiau pwysig, gan gynnwys anhwylder diffyg canolbwyntio a gorfywio-grwydd, y cyfeiriodd ato yn ei grynoded wrth gloi.

Eleanor Burnham highlighted her personal experiences and the need to stimulate children in the school environment. It must be the main goal for any educational establishment to have a stimulating, challenging agenda to ensure that the child wants to go to school and will enjoy that experience. I emphasise my support for Eleanor's point of view on that.

Cyfeiriodd Eleanor Burnham at ei phrofiadau personol hi a'r angen i ysgogi plant yn amgylchedd yr ysgol. Rhaid i bob sefydliad addysgol anelu'n bennaf at gael agenda sy'n ysgogi plant ac yn her iddynt. Bydd hyn yn sicrhau bod ar y plentyn eisiau mynd i'r ysgol ac y bydd yn mwynhau'r profiad hwnnw. Yr wyf yn pwysleisio fy nghefnogaeth i safbwynt Eleanor ar hynny.

Minister, your response was consensual to a point, because, at the end of the day, none of us wants to see school exclusion rates rising at the current rate. However, the fact of the matter is—it is worth repeating this—that figures for temporary exclusions have risen to 17,802 and figures for exclusions of six days or more have risen to 2,338, which is a 245 per cent increase. That is a massive challenge for us all. However, we must not just talk about reports but act on them. I was glad to hear that the Cabinet sub-committee is starting to address the report; I look forward to its recommendations. You highlighted the point that you now have the LCO; we now want to see you using the powers brought by the LCO to bring forward Measures that the Welsh Assembly Government can implement to the benefit of children in Wales.

Weinidog, yr oedd eich ymateb yn gydsyniol hyd ryw fan oherwydd, yn y pen draw, nid oes ar neb ohonom eisiau gweld cyfraddau gwahardd o ysgolion yn codi ar y raddfa bresennol. Fodd bynnag, y gwir amdani—ac mae'n werth ailadrodd hyn—yw bod y ffigurau ar gyfer gwaharddiadau dros dro wedi codi i 17,802 a'r ffigurau ar gyfer gwaharddiadau o chwe diwrnod neu fwy wedi codi i 2,338, sy'n gynydd o 245 y cant. Mae hynny'n her aruthrol inni bob un. Fodd bynnag, yn hytrach na dim ond siarad am adroddiadau, rhaid inni weithredu arnynt. Yr oeddwn yn falch clywed bod is-bwyllgor y Cabinet yn dechrau rhoi sylw i'r adroddiad; edrychaf ymlaen at glywed ei argymhellion. Tynnwyd sylw gennych at y pwynt fod y Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol gennych erbyn hyn; yr ydym yn awyddus yn awr i'ch gweld yn defnyddio'r pwerau a gafwyd drwy'r Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol i gyflwyno Mesurau y gall Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru eu gweithredu er budd plant yng Nghymru.

In my speech, I highlighted the issue of free schools and the Swedish model. I had hoped that you might have touched on that. I hope that you will look to that, Minister,

Tynnais sylw yn fy araith at ysgolion rhydd a model Sweden. Yr oeddwn wedi gobeithio y byddech wedi cyfeirio at hynny. Gobeithio y byddwch yn ymchwilio i hynny, Weinidog,

because—

oherwydd—

The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Please wind up your speech, Andrew.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Trefn. Dewch â'ch araith i ben os gwelwch yn dda, Andrew.

Andrew R.T. Davies: It is a genuinely independent model that schools in Sweden have benefited from, and I believe that it could be developed in Wales. I urge Members to support the motion. It is not a motion that seeks to make trouble, and I think that most Members would agree with it, so I hope that we will enjoy the support of Members from across the Chamber.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Mae'n fodel gwirioneddol annibynnol ac y mae ysgolion yn Sweden wedi elwa ohono, a chredaf y gellid ei ddatblygu yng Nghymru. Anogaf yr Aelodau i gefnogi'r cynnig. Nid yw'n gynnig sy'n ceisio creu helynt, a chredaf y byddai'r rhan fwyaf o'r Aelodau'n cytuno ag ef, felly, gobeithio y cawn gefnogaeth Aelodau o bob ochr i'r Siambr.

The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is to agree amendment 1. Is there any objection? I see that there is not. In accordance with Standing Order No. 7.35, amendment 1 motion is therefore agreed.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Y cynnig yw derbyn gwelliant 1. A oes gwrthwynebiad? Gwelaf nad oes gwrthwynebiad. Felly, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.35, derbynnir gwelliant 1.

*Derbyniwyd gwelliant 1.
Amendment 1 carried.*

The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is to agree amendment 2. Is there any objection? I see that there is, so I will defer all further voting on this item until voting time.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Y cynnig yw derbyn gwelliant 2. A oes gwrthwynebiad? Gwelaf fod gwrthwynebiad, felly, byddaf yn gohirio pob pleidlais arall ar yr eitem hon tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.

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

Dadl y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives Debate

Heintiau sy'n Ymwneud a Gofal Iechyd Healthcare Associated Infections

The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendments 1, 3, 4 and 7 in the name of Carwyn Jones, and amendments 2, 5 and 6 in the name of Kirsty Williams.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliannau 1, 3, 4 a 7 yn enw Carwyn Jones, a gwelliannau 2, 5 a 6 yn enw Kirsty Williams.

Jonathan Morgan: I propose that
the National Assembly for Wales:

Jonathan Morgan: Cynigiaf fod
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1) deplures the common and repeated occurrence of patients becoming infected as a direct result of receiving healthcare in Wales and recognises the right of every patient in Wales to expect NHS treatment without their

1) yn gresynu wrth yr achlysuron cyffredin a mynych o gleifion yn cael eu heintio o ganlyniad uniongyrchol i gael gofal iechyd yng Nghymru ac yn cydnabod hawl pob claf yng Nghymru i ddisgwyl triniaeth GIG heb

health being put at risk;

2) *recognises that some good progress has been made by NHS trusts in Wales in trying to tackle the problem of healthcare-associated infections;*

3) *calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to prioritise the containment of C. difficile and other healthcare-associated infections in Welsh hospitals by;*

a) *ensuring that all healthcare professionals working in Welsh hospitals are properly and fully trained in infection control measures;*

b) *ensuring that the control of C. difficile infection along with other healthcare-associated infections, becomes a key performance indicator for the Welsh Assembly Government; and*

c) *ensuring that there is an adequate and appropriately skilled workforce of cleaners who are under the direct management of a ward sister or charge nurse. (NDM3960)*

I am delighted to lead this debate on what is a fundamental challenge facing the NHS in Wales today. I was asked a few weeks ago whether I would feel confident enough to go into a Welsh hospital if I were sick. I have always believed that when someone is so ill that they are required to be in hospital to receive the expert treatment that we expect them to receive, then hospital is also the best place for that person to recover, if that is necessary. However, I know from talking to people throughout Wales that confidence has decreased. People are less confident about NHS treatment—not because the NHS lacks expertise in medicine, research and technology, but because some of the basics are lacking in ensuring that our hospitals are clean. I do not have absolute confidence that our hospitals are kept clean. I know that staff do a wonderful job in trying to achieve that, but I share in the lack of confidence of the people of Wales because of what I have witnessed in the past two years in going back and forth to hospitals.

Healthcare-associated infections threaten the

i'w hiechyd fod mewn perygl;

2) *yn cydnabod bod rhywfaint o gynnydd da wedi cael ei wneud gan ymddiriedolaethau'r GIG yng Nghymru o ran ceisio mynd i'r afael â phroblem heintiau sy'n gysylltiedig â gofal iechyd;*

3) *yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i flaenoriaethu rheoli C. difficile a heintiau eraill sy'n gysylltiedig â gofal iechyd yn ysbytai Cymru drwy;*

a) *sicrhau bod yr holl weithwyr gofal iechyd proffesiynol sy'n gweithio yn ysbytai Cymru wedi cael eu hyfforddi'n briodol ac yn llawn o ran mesurau i reoli heintiau;*

b) *sicrhau bod rheoli haint C. difficile ynghyd â heintiau eraill sy'n gysylltiedig â gofal iechyd, yn dod yn ddangosydd perfformiad allweddol ar gyfer Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru; a*

c) *sicrhau bod gweithlu digonol o lanhawyr sydd â sgiliau priodol sydd o dan reolaeth uniongyrchol prif nyrs ward. (NDM3960)*

Mae'n bleser gennyf arwain y ddadl hon ar her sylfaenol sy'n wynebu'r GIG yng Nghymru heddiw. Gofynnwyd imi ychydig wythnosau yn ôl a fyddwn yn teimlo'n ddigon hyderus i fynd i ysbyty yng Nghymru petawn yn sâl. Yr wyf bob amser wedi credu, pan fydd rhywun mor sâl nes bydd angen iddo fynd i'r ysbyty i gael y gofal arbenigol y disgwyliwn i bobl ei gael, mai'r ysbyty yw'r lle gorau i'r unigolyn hwnnw wella hefyd, os oes angen. Fodd bynnag, gwn o siarad â phobl ledled Cymru eu bod wedi colli hyder. Mae pobl yn llai hyderus ynghylch triniaeth y GIG—nid am nad oes arbenigedd mewn meddygaeth, ymchwil a thechnoleg yn y GIG, ond oherwydd nad yw rhai o'r pethau sylfaenol ar waith i sicrhau bod ein hysbytai'n lân. Nid wyf yn gwbl hyderus fod ein hysbytai'n cael eu cadw'n lân. Gwn fod staff yn gwneud gwaith gwych i geisio sicrhau hynny, ond fel pobl Cymru nid oes gennyf hyder oherwydd yr hyn yr wyf wedi'i weld dros y ddwy flynedd diwethaf wrth fynd yn ôl ac ymlaen i ysbytai.

Mae heintiau sy'n ymwneud â gofal iechyd

very core of what the NHS exists to deliver. It exists to deliver quality care to those who need to be treated, but we are now seeing, with increased frequency, Welsh patients using the services of the NHS as a result of becoming more unwell than when they first came into contact with the service. We need to ensure that when patients come into contact with the NHS, they can do so safely.

We must not, as we debate this issue today, lose sight of the fact that health professionals working in the frontline work extremely hard—they work hard to minimise the risk of infections and, because of the nature of this problem, can often be blamed for its continuing prevalence. Nor should we ignore the fact that our infection rates, as the Audit Committee identified, are lower than in other parts of the UK. We should welcome that, but it does not mean that we should rest on our laurels. Some NHS trusts have made some progress, but we cannot shy away from the problems that we face with some of the superbugs. *Clostridium difficile* is one of the most prevalent and virulent bugs in our hospitals. I thought that it was important to table a motion that did not simply criticise and identify the problem, but outlined ideas that we thought would help the NHS to improve its handling of hospital-acquired infections and how it controls the spread of infections.

The Audit Committee and the auditor general have done a huge amount of work in this area. I commend the work of the Audit Committee to the Assembly. In particular, I point out that in its report it states that the evidence submitted to the committee observes that the incidence of *C. difficile* infections has increased significantly in Wales, particularly between 1993 and 2005. We have seen evidence during the last few weeks of problems in Gwent, particularly at the Prince Charles Hospital, relating to *C. difficile* rates. The committee also observed that Wales has a problem with the number of infections following surgery, particularly orthopaedic surgery and caesarean sections—that number is higher in Wales than in other comparative countries.

yn bygwth craidd yr hyn y crëwyd yr GIG i'w ddarparu. Mae'n bodoli er mwyn darparu gofal o safon i bobl sydd ag angen triniaeth arnynt, ond gwelwn yn gynyddol bellach fod cleifion Cymru yn defnyddio gwasanaethau'r GIG oherwydd i'w hiechyd waethygu ers y iddynt ddod i gysylltiad gyntaf â'r gwasanaeth. Mae angen inni sicrhau, pan ddaw cleifion i gysylltiad â'r GIG, y gallant wneud hynny'n ddiogel.

Wrth drafod y mater hwn heddiw, ni ddylem golli golwg ar y ffaith fod gweithwyr iechyd proffesiynol sy'n gweithio yn y rheng flaen yn gweithio'n eithriadol o galed—maent yn gweithio'n galed i leihau risg heintiau, ac oherwydd natur y broblem hon cânt eu beio'n gyson am eu parhad. Ni ddylem ychwaith anwybyddu'r ffaith fod ein cyfraddau heintio, fel y nododd y Pwyllgor Archwilio, yn is nag mewn rhannau eraill o'r DU. Dylem groesawu hynny, ond nid yw'n golygu y dylem orffwys ar ein rhwyfau. Mae rhai ymddiriedolaethau'r GIG wedi gwneud rhywfaint o gynnydd, ond ni allwn gefni ar y problemau a wynebwn gyda rhai o'r uwchfygiau. *Clostridium difficile* yw un o'r bygiau mwyaf cyffredin a gwenwynig yn ein hysbytai. Credais ei bod yn bwysig cyflwyno cynnig nad oedd yn beirniadu ac yn nodi'r broblem yn unig, ond yn amlinellu'r syniadau yr oeddem yn credu y byddent yn helpu'r GIG i wella'r ffordd y mae'n delio â heintiau sy'n tarddu mewn ysbytai a'r ffordd y mae'n rheoli lledaeniad heintiau.

Mae'r Pwyllgor Archwilio a'r archwilydd cyffredinol wedi gwneud llawer iawn o waith yn y maes hwn. Cymeradwyaf waith y Pwyllgor Archwilio i'r Cynulliad. Yn benodol, tynnaf sylw at y ffaith ei fod yn dweud yn ei adroddiad fd y dystiolaeth a gyflwynwyd i'r pwyllgor yn dangos bod nifer yr achosion o *C. difficile* wedi cynyddu'n sylweddol yng Nghymru, yn arbennig rhwng 1993 a 2005. Gwelsom dystiolaeth yn ystod yr ychydig wythnosau diwethaf am broblemau yng Ngwent, yn arbennig yn Ysbyty'r Tywysog Siarl, yn ymwneud â chyfraddau *C. difficile*. Sylwodd y pwyllgor hefyd fod gan Gymru broblem gyda nifer yr heintiau yn dilyn llawdriniaethau, yn arbennig llawdriniaethau orthopedig a thoriadau cesaraidd—mae'r nifer yn uwch yng Nghymru nag mewn gwledydd eraill

cymharol.

So, we have a challenge and we cannot ignore it. It is incumbent upon us all to face that challenge and to do so with as many ideas, policies and as many resources as we can muster. Our motion this afternoon is clear. It calls for constructive measures to improve the status of cleanliness as a key performance indicator. I have always believed that chief executives of our NHS trusts should be more accountable for the cleanliness of their hospitals and, frankly, if people are not up to the job, then they should not be in post.

We also believe that we should address training for NHS staff. It is a worry that only 46 per cent of our nurses have had the mandatory—and I stress that it is mandatory—training in infection control. That is a requirement of NHS trusts, so we should ask why staff in our hospitals are not getting the mandatory training that they need. Many are calling for that training as a matter of urgency to help them do their jobs more effectively.

We have also focused on cleaners and how cleaning teams are often seen as being ancillary and peripheral to the delivery of good healthcare. We think that they should be part of our healthcare teams. I believe strongly that we should look at how cleaners are recruited, how they are rewarded and how we can ensure that they feel a part of what the NHS delivers.

3.20 p.m.

This motion was tabled after consultation with health professionals, who believe that we need key changes in the NHS to ensure further eradication of hospital-acquired infections. One of the most crucial elements in tackling healthcare-acquired infections is the organisation of hospital wards. Thanks to a growing disconnect in direct medical control over the day-to-day management of hospital wards, particularly in larger hospitals, simple management of how the ward is maintained can prove almost impossible. We must be prepared to debate what we believe should be the ideal bed

Felly, mae gennym her ac ni allwn ei hanwybyddu. Mae'n ddyletswydd arnom bob un i wynebu'r her honno ac i wneud hynny gyda chynifer o syniadau, polisiau ac adnoddau ag a fedrwn. Mae ein cynnig y prynhawn yma'n glir. Mae'n galw am fesurau adeiladol i wella safonau glendid fel dangosydd perfformiad allweddol. Yr wyf bob amser wedi credu y dylai prif weithredwyr ein hymddiriedolaethau GIG fod yn fwy atebol am lendid eu hysbytai ac, i fod yn onest, os yw pobl yn methu gwneud y gwaith, yna ni ddylent fod yn y swydd.

Credwn hefyd y dylem fynd i'r afael â hyfforddiant i staff y GIG. Mae'r ffaith mai 46 y cant yn unig o'n nyrsys sydd wedi cael yr hyfforddiant gorfodol—a phwysleisaf ei fod yn orfodol—mewn rheoli heintiau yn destun pryder. Mae hynny'n un o ofynion ymddiriedolaethau'r GIG, felly, dylem ofyn pam nad yw staff yn ein hysbytai'n cael yr hyfforddiant gorfodol y mae arnynt ei angen. Mae llawer yn galw am yr hyfforddiant hwnnw ar frys i helpu cyflawni eu swyddi'n fwy effeithiol.

Yr ydym hefyd wedi canolbwyntio ar lanhawyr a'r ffordd yr ystyrir timau glanhau yn aml fel elfen ategol neu ymylol i ddarparu gofal iechyd da. Credwn y dylent fod yn rhan o'n timau gofal iechyd. Credaf yn gryf y dylem edrych ar y ffordd y caiff glanhawyr eu recriwtio, sut y cânt eu gwobrwo a sut y gallwn sicrhau eu bod yn teimlo'n rhan o'r hyn y mae'r GIG yn ei ddarparu.

Cyflwynwyd y cynnig hwn ar ôl ymgynghori â gweithwyr iechyd proffesiynol, sy'n credu bod angen newidiadau allweddol yn y GIG i ddileu ymhellach heintiau sy'n deillio o ysbytai. Un o'r elfennau pwysicaf wrth fynd i'r afael â heintiau sy'n tarddu o ofal iechyd yw'r ffordd y caiff wardiau ysbytai eu trefnu. Oherwydd datgysylltu cynyddol mewn rheolaeth feddygol uniongyrchol dros y ffordd y caiff wardiau ysbytai eu rheoli o ddydd i ddydd, yn arbennig mewn ysbytai mawr, gall rheolaeth syml dros y ffordd y caiff ward ei rhedeg fod bron yn amhosibl. Rhaid inni fod yn barod i ddadlau dros yr hyn

occupancy rates across the NHS. Derek Wanless told us that the rates were getting dangerously high, and we know that in many mainland European countries infection rates are kept down by means of a lower bed occupancy rate. Bed occupancy rates in Wales are currently well over 90 per cent. In many areas, they are well over 95 per cent. Having such high rates of bed occupancy is not helpful in managing infection or in ensuring that we can keep our hospital wards clean.

Almost every professional body to which I have spoken believes that this is an unsustainably high level of occupancy, and has adverse consequences across a range of outcomes in the health service. There is little doubt that one of those adverse outcomes is the limited time available for basic ward cleaning, and the limited availability to manage capacity in terms of where available beds are located and how patients can be moved about. I do not think that there is a difference between the Government and the opposition's view on that particular point. We welcome the Liberal Democrat's amendment 2 that highlights this particularly crucial issue, and we will also be supporting the other Liberal Democrat amendments.

The importance of hospital cleaning in the day-to-day activities of the ward must be raised. By their very nature, hospital wards are busy and occasionally frenetic places. So, there is a natural assumption that with medical rounds to be done, visiting relatives, and meals to be served, cleaning the ward comes last. It can become the lowest priority because of all of the other activities that take place. That is a serious cultural anomaly that we need to address. There are pressures on ward management and on how staff can manage wards. Cleaning needs to be a timetabled process rather than being slotted in as and when it can be done.

I note from the Government amendments to the motion that it seeks to delete point 1. I think that the Assembly should deplore patients becoming infected as a result of

a gredwn yw'r cyfraddau delfrydol ar gyfer defnyddio gwelyau ar draws y GIG. Dywedodd Derek Wanless wrthym fod y cyfraddau'n beryglus o uchel, a gwyddom fod cyfraddau heintiau mewn llawer gwlad ar dir mawr Ewrop yn cael eu cadw'n isel drwy gyfraddau isel o ddefnyddio gwelyau. Ar hyn o bryd mae cyfraddau defnyddio gwelyau yng Nghymru ymhell dros 90 y cant. Mewn llawer ardal maent ymhell dros 95 y cant. Nid yw cael cyfraddau mor uchel o ddefnyddio gwelyau yn helpu wrth reoli heintiau nac wrth sicrhau y gallwn gadw wardiau ein hysbytai yn lân.

Mae bron pob corff proffesiynol yr wyf wedi siarad ag ef yn credu bod y lefel hon o ddefnyddio gwelyau yn anghynaliadwy o uchel, ac yn cael canlyniadau niweidiol mewn amrywiaeth o feysydd yn y gwasanaeth iechyd. Un o'r canlyniadau andwyol hyn yn ddi-os yw'r amser prin sydd ar gael ar gyfer glanhau sylfaenol mewn wardiau, a'r gallu cyfyngedig i reoli adnoddau o ran ble mae gwelyau sydd ar gael a sut i symud cleifion o gwmpas. Ni chredaf fod gwahaniaeth rhwng barn y Llywodraeth a barn yr wrthblaid ar y pwynt penodol hwnnw. Croesawn welliant 2 gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol sy'n tynnu sylw at y mater hollbwysig hwn, a byddwn hefyd yn cefnogi gwelliannau eraill y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol.

Rhaid codi pwysigrwydd glanhau ysbytai fel rhan o weithgareddau dyddiol y ward. O ran eu natur, mae wardiau ysbytai yn lleoedd prysur a gwyllt ar brydiau. Felly, mae tybiaeth naturiol ar ôl y rowndiau meddygol, ymweliadau gan berthnasau, a gweini prydau, mai glanhau'r ward sydd olaf. Gall fod ar waelod y rhestr o flaenoriaethau oherwydd yr holl weithgareddau eraill sy'n digwydd. Mae hynny'n anghysondeb diwylliannol difrifol y mae angen inni fynd i'r afael ag ef. Mae pwysau ar reolwyr wardiau ac ar y ffordd y gall staff reoli wardiau. Mae angen i lanhau fod yn broses wedi ei amserlennu, yn hytrach na rhywbeth a wneir pryd bynnag y bydd cyfle.

Sylwaf fod gwelliannau'r Llywodraeth i'r cynnig yn gofyn am ddileu pwynt 1. Credaf y dylai'r Cynulliad resynu bod cleifion yn cael eu heintio oherwydd cael gofal iechyd yng

receiving healthcare in Wales, and recognise the right of patients in Wales to be able to expect to get NHS treatment without their health being put at risk. I do not see the problem in the National Assembly for Wales—a democratically elected body, representing the people of Wales—saying that it thinks that it is unacceptable for patients to become ill because of infection acquired as a result of their treatment in hospital. I can only assume that the Labour and Plaid alliance does not believe that patients developing C. difficile after contact with a Welsh hospital is deplorable, otherwise why table the amendment? People do find it deplorable, and families are worried about it.

When you look at the range of problems that are currently faced in hospitals, the way in which data are collected, managed and used by Government to inform strategy is a huge concern. Until recently, after the remarks of the chief medical officer, we were not even collecting data on C. difficile infection rates for anyone under the age of 65. I welcome the fact that the Minister is now looking to collect those data, but that was a knee-jerk reaction to the BBC's *Week In Week Out* programme that demonstrated the problem at the Royal Gwent Hospital. We should not need television programmes to inform Government policy and the direction of policy—we need Government to be proactive in coming up with ideas for tackling infections, for managing, using and collecting data and for training staff, and not waiting for the next crisis to inform what the Minister does next.

I ask the Minister to deal with the issue of proper training seriously, because it is a huge issue when you talk to nursing staff. They want to be involved in how their wards are managed and they need to understand how their wards need to be kept clean when there is not a cleaning team on hand to sort out a particular problem. When only 46 per cent of nursing staff are getting the relevant training, it is a huge issue for nursing staff in Wales and for the NHS trusts. Why are those trusts not being held to account? They are failing in their obligation to ensure that mandatory training takes place.

Nghymru, a chydabod hawliau cleifion yng Nghymru i allu disgwyl cael triniaeth gan y GIG heb beryglu eu hiechyd. Ni welaf fod yna broblem wrth i Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru—corff wedi ei ethol yn ddemocrataidd sy'n cynrychioli pobl Cymru—ddweud ei fod credu ei bod yn annerbyniol i gleifion fynd yn sâl oherwydd haint a gafwyd oherwydd eu triniaeth yn yr ysbyty. Ni allaf ond tybio nad yw'r glymblaid Lafur a Phlaid Cymru yn credu bod y ffaith fod cleifion yn cael C. difficile ar ôl bod mewn cysylltiad ag ysbyty yng Nghymru yn alaethus, neu pam cyflwyno'r gwelliant? Mae pobl yn credu ei fod yn alaethus, ac mae teuluoedd yn pryderu amdano.

Pan edrychwch ar ystod y problemau sy'n wynebu ysbytai ar hyn o bryd, mae'r ffordd y caiff data eu casglu, eu rheoli a'u defnyddio gan y Llywodraeth i lunio strategaethau yn achos pryder mawr. Tan yn ddiweddar, ar ôl sylwadau'r prif swyddog meddygol, nid oeddem hyd yn oed yn casglu data am gyfraddau heintio C. difficile ar gyfer neb dan 65 oed. Croesawaf y ffaith fod y Gweinidog bellach yn bwriadu casglu'r data hynny, ond ymateb amddiffynnol oedd hynny i raglen *Week In Week Out* y BBC, a ddangosodd y broblem yn Ysbyty Brenhinol Gwent. Ni ddylai fod angen arnom rhaglenni teledu i lywio polisïau'r Llywodraeth a chyfeiriad polisïau—mae angen i'r Llywodraeth fod yn rhagweithiol wrth feddwl am syniadau i fynd i'r afael â heintiau, rheoli, defnyddio a chasglu data a hyfforddi staff, ac nid aros tan yr argyfwng nesaf cyn penderfynu peth wnaiff y Gweinidog nesaf.

Gofynnaf i'r Gweinidog fynd i'r afael o ddifrif â hyfforddiant priodol, oherwydd mae'n broblem fawr pan siaradwch â staff nyrsio. Maent am gymryd rhan yn y ffordd y rheolir eu wardiau, ac mae angen iddynt ddeall sut y mae angen cadw eu wardiau'n lân pan nad oes tîm glanhau wrth law i ddatrys problem benodol. Gyda dim ond 46 y cant o staff nyrsio yn cael yr hyfforddiant perthnasol, mae'n broblem fawr i staff nyrsio yng Nghymru ac i ymddiriedolaethau'r GIG. Pam nad yw'r ymddiriedolaethau hynny'n cael eu dwyn i gyfrif? Maent yn methu yn eu dyletswydd i sicrhau bod hyfforddiant gorfodol yn digwydd.

There is an issue around barrier nursing. We know that barrier nursing does not happen as it should, and the exposé at the Royal Gwent Hospital demonstrated that. In fact, Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust has accepted the criticism in that particular BBC report.

Nursing staff and cleaning staff all have a role to play. The Audit Committee was right when it said that the problem with infection control and cleaning is that it is not seen as everyone's business. It is everyone's business, regardless of whether you are a hospital cleaner, managing a ward or a trust—or managing a Government department, as the Minister for Health and Social Services is. We need to ensure that the cleaning contracts and the arrangements for cleaning staff are robust and that we can monitor them in a way that allows us to judge how effective the cleaning of hospitals is. We need to see cleaners as an essential part of our health team, not as peripheral, and we need them to take a degree of ownership over how and when wards are cleaned.

People deserve to be safe when they are in hospital and people need to have confidence that our hospitals can treat them without them becoming ill because of some acquired infection. People who are ill used to say that they were worried about going to hospital because of the nature of their illness and whether they would recover. However, many of them now say that they are simply worried about going into hospital. That is not acceptable and we should not tolerate that situation—it is not tolerated in other parts of western Europe—and I believe that we have to do a better job to ensure that our hospitals are clean and safe places to go into.

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart): I propose the following amendments in the name of Carwyn Jones. Amendment 1: delete point 1 and renumber the bullet points.

Amendment 3: in point 3b) replace ‘, becomes a key performance indicator’ with ‘remains a priority’.

Mae problem yn gysylltiedig â nyrsio ataliol. Gwyddom nad yw nyrsio ataliol yn digwydd fel y dylai, a dangosodd y datgeliadau yn Ysbyty Brenhinol Gwent hynny. Yn wir, mae Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Gofal Iechyd Gwent wedi derbyn y feirniadaeth yn yr adroddiad penodol hwnnw gan y BBC.

Mae gan staff nyrsio a staff glanhau i gyd eu rôl. Yr oedd y Pwyllgor Archwilio yn gywir pan ddywedodd mai'r broblem gyda rheoli heintiau a glanhau yw na chaiff ei ystyried yn fusnes i bawb. Mae yn fusnes i bawb, p'un ai a ydych yn lanhawr mewn ysbyty, yn rheoli ward neu ymddiriedolaeth—neu'n rheoli un o adrannau'r Llywodraeth, fel y mae'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol. Mae angen inni sicrhau bod y contractau glanhau a'r trefniadau ar gyfer staff glanhau yn gadarn ac y gallwn eu monitro mewn ffordd sy'n caniatáu inni farnu pa mor effeithiol yw'r glanhau mewn ysbytai. Mae angen inni weld glanhawyr fel rhan hanfodol o'n tîm iechyd, nid rhan ymylol, ac mae angen iddynt deimlo rhywfaint o berchnogaeth dros y ffordd y caiff wardiau eu glanhau a phryd.

Mae pobl yn haeddu bod yn ddiogel pan fyddant yn yr ysbyty ac mae angen i bobl fod yn hyderus y gall ein hysbytai eu trin heb iddynt fynd yn sâl oherwydd rhyw haint a gawsant yno. Arferai pobl sy'n sâl ddweud eu bod yn pryderu am fynd i'r ysbyty oherwydd natur eu salwch a ph'un a fyddent yn gwella. Fodd bynnag, mae llawer ohonynt yn awr yn dweud eu bod yn pryderu am fynd i'r ysbyty. Nid yw hynny'n dderbyniol ac ni ddylem oddef y sefyllfa honno—ni chaiff ei goddef mewn rhannau eraill o orllewin Ewrop—a chredaf ei bod yn rhaid inni wneud ymdrech well i sicrhau bod ein hysbytai yn lleoedd glân a diogel.

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Edwina Hart): Cynigïaf y gwelliannau canlynol yn enw Carwyn Jones. Gwelliant 1: dileu pwynt 1 ac ailrifo'r pwyntiau bwled.

Gwelliant 3: yn pwynt 3b) yn lle ‘dod yn ddangosydd perfformiad allweddol’, rhoi ‘yn parhau i fod yn flaenoriaeth’.

Amendment 4: in point 3c) replace 'ensuring that there is' with 'welcomes the work of the Welsh Assembly Government in ensuring'.

Gwelliant 4: yn pwynt 3c) rhoi 'croesawu gwaith Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i' o flaen 'sicrhau bod'.

Amendment 7: add as a new point at the end of the motion:

Gwelliant 7: ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

welcomes the fact that, where able, cleaning contracts have come back into the NHS and will lead to a long-term improvement in standards.

yn croesawu'r ffaith fod contractau glanhau, lle bo modd, wedi dod yn ôl i mewn i'r GIG ac y byddant yn arwain at wella safonau yn y tymor hir.

Jenny Randerson: I propose the following amendments in the name of Kirsty Williams. Amendment 2: add as a new point 3 and renumber accordingly:

Janet Randerson: Cynigiau y gwelliannau canlynol yn enw Kirsty Williams. Gwelliant 2: cynnwys pwynt 3 newydd ac ailrifio'r pwyntiau sy'n dilyn:

believes that a serious and pressing cause of healthcare-associated infections relates to high levels of bed occupancy.

yn credu bod lefelau uchel o ddefnyddio gwllâu yn ymwneud ag un o'r achosion difrifol ac enbyd dros heintiau sy'n gysylltiedig â gofal iechyd.

Amendment 5: add as a new sub-point at the end of the motion:

Gwelliant 5: ychwanegu is-bwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

dealing with the crisis in bed occupancy by carefully prioritising funding within the NHS.

delio â'r argyfwng mewn defnyddio gwllâu drwy flaenoriaethu cyllid yn ofalus yn y GIG.

Amendment 6: add as a new sub-point at the end of the motion:

Gwelliant 6: ychwanegu is-bwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

bringing forward guidelines over hospital uniforms and clothing, including a return to on-site laundry and changing facilities as well as a greater provision of uniforms.

cyflwyno canllawiau ynghylch gwisgoedd a dillad ysbytai, gan gynnwys dychwelyd at olchdy a chyfleusterau newid ar y safle yn ogystal â darparu mwy o wisgoedd.

I welcome the chance to debate this crucial issue today and I thank the Conservatives for bringing the topic forward. The Welsh Liberal Democrats agree with the thrust of the Conservatives' motion, particularly the featuring of the key role of ward sisters and the need for training of all staff concerned. I wish to briefly express my amazement at Labour's amendment 1, and my horror that the message being given to Welsh patients is that they do not have a right to expect to be treated in a hospital without catching an infection.

Croesawaf y cyfle i drafod y mater pwysig hwn heddiw, a diolchaf i'r Ceidwadwyr am gyflwyno'r pwnc hwn. Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn cytuno â chraidd cynnig y Ceidwadwyr, yn arbennig rôl allweddol prif nyrsys ward a'r angen am hyfforddi'r holl staff dan sylw. Hoffwn, yn gryno, fynegi fy syndod at welliant 1 gan y Blaid Lafur, a'm harswyd mai'r neges a roddir i gleifion yng Nghymru yw nad oes hawl ganddynt i ddisgwyl cael eu trin mewn ysbyty heb ddal haint.

I appreciate that the Minister is due to respond shortly to the Audit Committee report on hospital infections and that she will be announcing soon the findings of the task and finish group on hospital infections.

Sylweddolaf y bydd y Gweinidog yn ymateb maes o law i adroddiad y Pwyllgor Archwilio ar heintiau mewn ysbytai ac y bydd cyn hir yn cyhoeddi casgliadau'r grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen ar heintiau mewn ysbytai. Er

Despite that, I believe that the debate today offers the possibility of a good debate on these issues. Given the highly complex nature of healthcare-associated infections, we felt it essential to draw out two of what we believe are the most important and stringent causes lying behind these infections. In proposing the Liberal Democrat amendments, I will concentrate my remarks on these issues.

For me, the high level of bed occupancy in Wales is probably the issue that accounts most for the underlying structural causes of hospital infections. It is a sign of the pressure that the NHS in Wales is under, but it is widely accepted that a safe level of bed occupancy is around 85 per cent, and, yet, in Wales, the figure hovers well above 90 per cent and in some hospitals it is regularly about 95 per cent to 97 per cent. It is clear that if the beds are full for a long time, keeping them clean and free of infection is more difficult, and if people are queuing in accident and emergency departments to take over a bed, the chances are that the cleaning between one patient and another will be scant and, therefore, one cannot be surprised that cleaning is not as thorough as it needs to be. It does not matter whether the cleaners work for a private company or directly for the NHS, and I remind you that the BBC inquiry into the Royal Gwent Hospital showed poor cleaning practices among a hospital-controlled cleaning team and a hospital-employed cleaning team.

I often raise the issue of careful prioritising of funding for our NHS, and I cannot think of a better or more urgent example of a matter that requires careful investment to enable improved cleaning through reduced bed occupancy. That is core to driving down healthcare-associated infections. Our amendment 2 asks the Welsh Assembly Government simply to recognise the impact that high levels of bed occupancy have on this urgent issue.

3.30 p.m.

Turning to the issue of uniforms, I thoroughly accept that the Minister, once again, is dealing with this issue through the task and finish group, and I accept that that

gwaethaf hynny, credaf fod y ddadl hon heddiw yn cynnig posibilrwydd cael trafodaeth dda ar y materion hyn. O gofio natur gymhleth iawn heintiau sy'n ymwneud â gofal iechyd, teimlem ei bod yn hanfodol tynnu sylw at yr hyn a gredwn sy'n ddau o'r achosion pwysicaf a llymaf y tu ôl i'r heintiau hyn. Wrth gynnig gwelliannu'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, canolbwyntiaf fy sylwadau ar y materion hyn.

I mi, mae'n debyg mai lefel uchel y gyfradd defnyddio gwelyau yng Nghymru yw'r prif fater sydd i'w gyfrif am achosion strwythurolog sylfaenol heintiau mewn ysbytai. Mae'n arwydd o'r pwysau sy'n wynebu'r GIG yng Nghymru, ond derbynnir yn gyffredinol mai tuag 85 y cant yw'r gyfradd ddiogel o ddefnyddio gwelyau. Ac eto, yng Nghymru, mae'r ffigurau ymhell dros 90 y cant mewn rhai ysbytai a rhwng 95 y cant a 97 y cant yn rheolaidd. Yn amlwg, os yw'r gwelyau'n llawn am gyfnod hir, mae'n anos eu cadw'n lân ac yn rhydd o heintiau, ac os oes pobl yn aros am wely mewn adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys, mae'n bur debyg mai brysiog fydd y glanhau rhwng un claf a'r llall. Felly, nid yw'n syndod nad yw'r glanhau mor drylwyr ag y mae ei angen. Nid oes gwahaniaeth a yw'r glanhawyr yn gweithio i gwmni preifat ynteu'n uniongyrchol i'r GIG, ac fe'ch atgoffaf fod ymchwiliad y BBC i Ysbyty Brenhinol Gwent wedi dangos arferion glanhau gwael ymysg tîm glanhau a reolid gan yr ysbyty a thîm glanhau a gyflogid gan yr ysbyty.

Byddaf yn aml yn codi mater blaenoriaethu cyllid ar gyfer y GIG, ac ni allaf feddwl am enghraifft well na phwysicach o fater y mae angen buddsoddi'n ofalus ynddo er mwyn gwella glanhau drwy leihau cyfraddau defnyddio gwelyau. Mae hynny'n allweddol er mwyn lleihau heintiau'n ymwneud â gofal iechyd. Mae ein gwelliant rhif 2 yn gofyn yn syml i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru gydnabod yr effaith a gaiff lefelau uchel o ddefnyddio gwelyau ar y mater brys hwn.

I droi at fater gwisgoedd, derbyniaf yn llwyr fod y Gweinidog, unwaith eto, yn mynd i'r afael â'r mater hwn drwy'r grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen, a derbyniaf y gall hwnnw yn hawdd

may well address the twin issues of uniforms and changing facilities. However, it beggars belief—and I was amazed to find this out when I first went into hospitals, as health spokesperson, to talk to staff—that staff are not able to operate a regime that enables them to change when they come into work and when they leave work. That applies to all staff, not just nurses; it applies to doctors, surgeons and any member of staff coming into contact with patients. Staff tell me that they frequently have to wear the same clothes on public transport and while walking to work; they wear the same clothes all day, coming into contact with blood and bodily fluids, and at the end of the day, they go home and wash those clothes in their own domestic washing machine at temperatures that are lower than that required to clean them properly. We need decent changing facilities and more uniforms for staff, and the uniforms need to be cleaned properly and professionally at high temperatures, on site.

Nick Ramsay: This is an important and pertinent debate, coming as it does at a time when hospital cleanliness is high on the political agenda, and in the wake of the recent *Week In, Week Out* investigation into hospital cleanliness, an investigation that has rightly shocked those involved in healthcare delivery and the public at large. People are looking for leadership from this place, and from the Minister, on how we tackle what is a very pressing issue.

*Daeth William Graham i'r Gadair am 3.33 p.m.
William Graham took the Chair at 3.33 p.m.*

It is important that we acknowledge, as did point 2 of the motion as we originally tabled it, that the number of patients contracting infections as a consequence of attending hospitals is generally lower in Wales than in other parts of the United Kingdom. That is certainly a good story that we need to build upon. A recent survey suggested that 6.5 per cent of all patients in Wales's acute hospitals had a healthcare-associated infection compared with 8 per cent in England and 9.5 per cent in Scotland. Figures also suggest that Wales has a lower C. difficile infection rate than either of those countries. We should congratulate the front-line members of staff

ymdrin â mater deublyg gwisgoedd a chyfleusterau newid. Fodd bynnag, mae y tu hwnt i amgyffred—ac fe'm synnwyd o ddeall hyn pan euthum gyntaf i ymweld ag ysbytai, fel llefarydd iechyd, i siarad â'r staff—na fedr y staff ddilyn trefn sy'n eu galluogi i newid pan ddeuant i'r gwaith ac wrth adael y gwaith. Mae hyn yn wir am staff ar bob lefel, nid nyrsys yn unig; mae'n wir am feddygon, llawfeddygon ac unrhyw aelod o'r staff sy'n dod i gysylltiad â chleifion. Dywed staff wrthyf ei bod yn rhaid iddynt yn aml wisgo'r un dillad ar drafnidiaeth gyhoeddus ac wrth gerdded i'r gwaith; maent yn gwisgo'r un dillad drwy'r dydd, gan ddod i gysylltiad â gwaed a hylifau'r corff, ac ar derfyn dydd, maent yn mynd adref ac yn golchi'r dillad hynny yn eu peiriannau golchi yn eu cartrefi eu hunain ar dymheredd is nag sy'n angenrheidiol i'w glanhau'n iawn. Mae arnom angen cyfleusterau newid iawn a mwy o wisgoedd i staff, a rhaid i'r gwisgoedd gael eu glanhau'n iawn ac yn broffesiynol ar dymheredd uchel, ar y safle.

Nick Ramsay: Mae hon yn ddadl bwysig a pherthnasol, ac mae'n digwydd ar adeg pan fo glendid ysbytai ar frig yr agenda wleidyddol, ac yn sgil ymchwiliad diweddar *Week In, Week Out* i lendid ysbytai, ymchwiliad sydd wedi dychryn pobl sy'n ymwneud â darparu gofal iechyd a'r cyhoedd yn gyffredinol, a da hynny. Mae pobl yn chwilio am arweiniad o'r lle hwn, a chan y Gweinidog, ar y ffordd i fynd i'r afael â phwnc sy'n eithriadol bwysig.

Mae'n bwysig inni gydnabod, fel yr oedd pwynt 2 yn y cynnig fel y'i cyflwynwyd yn wreiddiol gennym, fod nifer y cleifion sy'n cael eu heintio wrth ddod i'r ysbyty yn gyffredinol yn is yng Nghymru nag mewn rhannau eraill o'r Deyrnas Unedig. Mae hynny'n sicr yn newyddion da y dylem adeiladu arno. Awgrymodd arolwg yn ddiweddar fod gan 6.5 y cant o'r holl gleifion yn ysbytai aciwt Cymru haint yn ymwneud â gofal iechyd, o'u cymharu ag 8 y cant yn Lloegr a 9.5 y cant yn yr Alban. Awgryma'r ffigyrau hefyd fod gan Gymru gyfradd heintio C. difficile sy'n is na'r naill neu'r llall o'r gwledydd hynny. Dylem longyfarch staff

in the NHS—the doctors, nurses and the NHS trusts—for their very real and strong efforts to adapt strategies for the eradication of all these hospital infections.

I recently had the opportunity, along with Jonathan Morgan, to visit Nevill Hall Hospital in Abergavenny to see, first hand, the efforts being made there to combat hospital-acquired infections. At the heart of the Nevill Hall strategy has been a straightforward and easily understandable approach to cleanliness. To plagiarise Eleanor Burnham's favourite expression, it is not rocket science. As you walk from one part of the hospital to another, there is a profusion of hand washes and cleanliness aids, and staff and visitors are encouraged at every opportunity to make use of these washes as frequently as possible, and there are awards for best practices for those members of staff and visitors who do this to the best of their ability. There are also spot checks on members of staff to ensure that the procedures that have been decided upon are implemented.

While at the hospital, I also had the chance to speak to the hospital's microbiological consultant, who explained that cleanliness is not simply an add-on or an afterthought that you can attach afterwards to a hospital procedure; it has to be at the centre of the practice from the outset. These are simple steps and they are not, by any means, the whole story, but they can be effective, and are already proving to be so.

We look to the Minister to see how examples of best practice can be carried from one hospital to another and from one region to another, so that those areas in which we are doing well in Wales can be built upon, and those areas where we are lagging behind can be improved.

Nevill Hall Hospital has one of the best records for dealing with MRSA, not only in Wales, but in the United Kingdom as a whole, so something is clearly going right there. We should recognise that it is not just about the cost to patients when superbugs and hospital-acquired infections are allowed to get out of control; there is also a large

rheng-flaen y GIG—y meddygon, y nyrsys ac ymddiriedolaethau'r GIG—am eu hymdrechion glew a gwirioneddol i addasu strategaethau i ddileu'r holl heintiau ysbyty hyn.

Cefais gyfle yn ddiweddar, gyda Jonathan Morgan, i ymweld ag Ysbyty Nevill Hall yn y Fenni i weld dros of fy hun yr ymdrechion a wneir yno i atal heintiau a ddelir mewn ysbytai. Craidd strategaeth Nevill Hall yw agwedd uniongyrchol a dealladwy at lendid. I ddwyn un o hoff ymadroddion Eleanor Burnham, nid yw hyn yn fater o wyddor rocedi. Wrth i chi gerdded o un rhan o'r ysbyty ina arall, mae digonedd o fannau glanhau dwylo a chymhorthion glendid, a chaiff staff ac ymwelwyr eu hannog ar bob cyfle i ddefnyddio'r cyfleusterau ymolchi hyn mor aml â phosibl, ac mae gwobrau ar gael am arfer da i staff ac ymwelwyr sy'n gwneud hyn orau y gallant. Bydd gwiriadau ar hap hefyd ar aelodau'r staff i wneud yn siŵr fod y gweithdrefnau sydd wedi eu penderfynu yn cael eu gweithredu.

Tra bŵm yn yr ysbyty, cefais gyfle hefyd i siarad ag ymgynghorydd microbioleg yr ysbyty, a esboniodd nad ychwanegiad neu rywbeth y medrwech ei roi wedyn wrth gwt gweithdrefn ysbyty yw glendid; rhaid iddo fod wrth galon yr arferion o'r cychwyn. Camau syml yw'r rhain, ac nid dyma'r stori gyflawn o bell ffordd, ond gallant fod yn effeithiol, ac y mae prawf eisoes eu bod.

Disgwyliwn i'r Gweinidog ddangos sut y mae modd cludo esiamplau o arfer da o un ysbyty i'r llall ac o un rhanbarth i'r llall, fel y gellir adeiladau ar y meysydd hynny yng Nghymru lle'r ydym yn gwneud yn dda, ac y medrwn wella'r meysydd hynny lle'r ydym ar ei hôl hi.

Mae gan Ysbyty Nevill Hall enw gyda'r gorau am ymdrin ag MRSA, nid yn unig yng Nghymru ond yn y Deyrnas Unedig gyfan, felly, mae'n amlwg eu bod yn gwneud rhywbeth yn iawn yno. Dylem gydnabod nad mater o gost i gleifion yn unig yw caniatáu i arch-heintiau a heintiau a godir mewn ysbytai fynd allan o reolaeth; mae cost ariannol fawr

financial cost that has to be picked up somewhere down the line. Hospital infections cost the NHS £50 million each year. MRSA affected 1,500 people in the UK in 2006 and *C. difficile* affected 6,500 in the same year. At present, the NHS is having to bear a high financial cost for these infections. Progress has been made, but we are still at the start of a long road.

Our motion establishes, as a guiding principle, the fundamental right of every patient in Wales to expect NHS treatment without their health being put at risk. People should be able to go into hospital without the fear of coming out having caught something life threatening that they did not have when they went into hospital. It is unacceptable that there were 352 cases of MRSA in hospitals in 2006-07. *C. difficile* has also increased significantly in Wales, although other areas of the United Kingdom may have been worse affected in the past. It is particularly worrying that Welsh patients are more likely to contract infections following surgery in Welsh hospitals than are their English and Scottish counterparts; something is clearly not going right there, and it needs to be addressed.

I urge Members to support this motion. We will be supporting the Liberal Democrat amendments. This is a timely and sound motion, and we owe it to patients and to NHS staff to do all that we can to assist them in the fight against a serious problem.

Val Lloyd: Colleagues will be aware of my personal interest in issues relating to hospital cleanliness and healthcare-associated infections. I introduced backbench legislation in the last Assembly to require trusts to identify a senior director to be in charge of co-ordinating these areas. I welcome the Welsh Assembly Government's continued commitment to hospital cleanliness, and to tackling the infections that we have been talking about. The Government has shown its intent by introducing a requirement for all trusts to have in place continuous national healthcare-associated infections surveillance programmes for some bloodstream infections and *C. difficile*, among others.

yn digwydd rywle ar hyd y daith. Mae heintiadau ysbyty'n costio £50 miliwn bob blwyddyn i'r GIG. Effeithiodd MRSA ar 1,500 o bobl yn y DU yn 2006 ac effeithiodd *C. difficile* ar 6,500 yn yr un flwyddyn. Ar hyn o bryd, mae'r GIG yn gorfod dioddef cost ariannol uchel am yr heintiadau hyn. Gwnaethpwyd cynnydd, ond megis dechrau ar daith hir yr ydym.

Mae ein cynnig ni yn gosod, fel egwyddor canllaw, hawl sylfaenol pob claf yng Nghymru i ddisgwyl triniaeth ar y GIG heb i'w hiechyd gael ei beryglu. Dylai pobl allu mynd i'r ysbyty heb ofni dod allan wedi dal rhywbeth sy'n bygwth eu bywyd ac nad oeddent yn dioddef ganddo pan aethant i'r ysbyty. Mae'n annerbyniol bod 352 o achosion o MRSA mewn ysbytai yn 2006-07. Cynyddodd *C. difficile* yn sylweddol hefyd yng Nghymru, er y gallai ardaloedd eraill o'r Deyrnas Unedig fod wedi dioddef yn waeth yn y gorffennol. Mae'n fater o bryder arbennig fod cleifion yng Nghymru yn fwy tebygol o ddal heintiau yn dilyn llawdriniaeth yn yr ysbyty yng Nghymru na'u cyfoedion yn Lloegr a'r Alban; mae rhywbeth yn amlwg o'i le yma, ac mae angen mynd i'r afael ag ef.

Anogaf yr Aelodau i gefnogi'r cynnig hwn. Byddwn yn cefnogi gwelliannau'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol. Mae'n gynnig amserol a chadarn, ac y mae arnom ddyletswydd i gleifion ac i staff y GIG i wneud popeth a fedrwn i'w helpu i ymladd problem ddirifol iawn.

Val Lloyd: Bydd fy nghyd-Aelodau yn gwybod am fy niddordeb personol mewn materion yn ymwneud â glendid ysbytai a heintiau'n ymwneud â gofal iechyd. Cyflwynais ddeddfwriaeth meinciau cefn yn y Cynulliad diwethaf i fynnu bod ymddiriedolaethau'n enwi uwchgyfarwyddwr i ofalu am gydgordio'r meysydd hyn. Croesawaf ymrwymiad parhaus Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i lendid ysbytai, ac i fynd i'r afael â'r heintiau y buom yn siarad amdanynt. Dangosodd y Llywodraeth eu bwriad drwy ei gwneud yn ofynnol i bob ymddiriedolaeth gael rhaglenni gwyliadwriaeth cenedlaethol parhaus ar gyfer heintiau sy'n gysylltiedig â gofal iechyd ar gyfer rhai o heintiau llif gwaed a *C. difficile*,

ymysg eraill.

Nick spoke about the comparative UK infection rates. I am convinced that in-house cleaning contracts will help to ensure that Wales continues to be top of the UK clean list, with even lower infection rates; it would be lovely to say zero infection rates, but we all know that that is a practical impossibility, but we must aim for even lower infection rates. Improvement is already visible, but, again, we must not be complacent. I have been monitoring the situation in Swansea, where the cleaning contract was taken in-house in June 2006, and I am pleased that feedback points to good results. The standards of cleanliness are described as much better and there has also been positive feedback from the cleaning staff. Sickness levels have fallen, and a greater sense of belonging has been identified. That is only one hospital; I prefer to speak of what I know and, where I can, of what the situation is.

Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Trust's healthcare-associated infection rates have also decreased overall over the past few years and, according to the figures that I have taken today, are now generally lower than the Wales average. The trust has put in place systems to deal with infections such as C. difficile. In the west division of that trust, a multidisciplinary task and finish group was established in 2007, and environmental infection control inspections have started. Reports are being shared with the ward manager so that it is possible to complete an action plan, taking it back to where it started and looking at the results. The trust's MRSA rates also compare well with the seven similar-sized, multispecialty trusts in England that are used as comparators; they are lower than in all but one of those seven.

Renal patients, as you will know, are a particularly vulnerable group. A major project, concentrating on reducing MRSA infections, has been extremely successful, and you may remember that it even won a UK award last year. This good practice has now been rolled out to other parts of the trust.

Soniodd Nick am gyfraddau heintio cymharol y DU. Yr wyf yn argyhoeddedig y bydd contractau glanhau mewnol yn help i sicrhau y bydd Cymru'n dal ar frig rhestr glendid y DU, gyda chyfraddau heintio is fyth; hyfryd fyddai gallu sôn am gyfraddau heintio o sero, ond gwyddom i gyd fod hynny'n ymarferol amhosibl, ond dylem anelu at gyfraddau heintio is fyth. Gallwn weld y gwelliannau eisoes, ond eto, ni ddylem fod yn hunanfodlon. Yr wyf wedi bod yn monitro'r sefyllfa yn Abertawe, lle gwnaed y contract glanhau yn un mewnol ym mis Mehefin 2006, ac mae'n bleser dweud bod yr ymateb yn awgrymu canlyniadau da. Mae'r safonau glendid a ddisgrifir yn well o lawer a chafwyd ymateb cadarnhaol hefyd gan y staff glanhau. Mae lefelau salwch wedi gostwng, a gwelwyd gwell ymdeimlad o berthyn. Un ysbyty yn unig yw hynny; mae'n well gennyf siarad am yr hyn y gwn amdano a'r sefyllfa yno, lle gallaf wneud hynny.

Mae cyfraddau heintio sy'n ymwneud â gofal iechyd yn Ymddiriedolaeth Prifysgol Abertawe Bro Morgannwg hefyd wedi gostwng yn gyffredinol dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf, ac yn ôl y ffigurau a gymerais heddiw, maent yn gyffredinol is na'r cyfartaledd Cymreig. Sefydlodd yr ymddiriedolaeth systemau i fynd i'r afael â heintiau megis C. difficile. Yn rhanbarth gorllewinol yr ymddiriedolaeth honno, sefydlwyd grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen aml-ddisgyblaeth yn 2007, a chychwynwyd archwiliadau rheoli heintiau amgylcheddol. Mae adroddiadau'n cael eu rhannu gyda rheolwr y ward fel y gellir cwblhau cynllun gweithredu a mynd ag ef yn ôl i'r lle dechreuodd ac edrych ar y canlyniadau. Mae cyfraddau MRSA yr ymddiriedolaeth hefyd yn cymharu'n dda â'r saith ymddiriedolaeth aml-arbenigedd cyffelyb eu maint yn Lloegr a ddefnyddir i gymharu â hwy: maent yn is nag ym mhobun ond un o'r saith hynny.

Fel y gwyddoch, mae cleifion yr arenau yn grŵp sy'n arbennig o agored i niwed. Mae prosiect mawr, a oedd yn canolbwyntio ar ostwng heintiau MRSA, wedi bod yn dra llwyddiannus, ac efallai y cofiwch iddo hyd yn oed ennill gwobr ledled y DU y llynedd. Mae'r arfer da hwn bellach wedi dechrau cael

ei gyflwyno mewn rhannau eraill o'r ymddiriedolaeth.

3.40 p.m.

However, I do not intend to only paint a rosy picture of the situation. Patients' experiences still vary from trust to trust, and we keep getting reports that point out that good practice is not always implemented. Unfortunately, many of us might have seen that for ourselves when we visit patients. My mother is about to go into hospital and I have already told her what action to take should she spot things that should not be happening. The Government must continue to lead the way to ensure that cleanliness is systematically embedded into every aspect of the healthcare environment.

Fodd bynnag, nid fy mwriad yw rhoi darlun ffafriol yn unig o'r sefyllfa. Mae profiadau cleifion yn dal i amrywio o un ymddiriedolaeth i'r llall, ac yr ydym yn parhau i gael adroddiadau sy'n dangos nad yw arferion da bob amser yn cael eu gweithredu. Yn anffodus, gall llawer ohonom fod wedi gweld hynny drosom ein hunain wrth ymweld â chleifion. Mae fy mam ar fin mynd i'r ysbyty, ac yr wyf eisoes wedi dweud wrthi beth i'w wneud petai'n gweld pethau na ddylai fod yn digwydd. Rhaid i'r Llywodraeth barhau i arwain y ffordd i sicrhau bod glendid yn cael ei wreiddio'n systemaidd ym mhob agwedd ar yr amgylchedd gofal iechyd.

As a former ward sister, I take a particular interest in the work carried out by the group looking into expanded powers being given to hospital sisters. Establishing a single point of co-ordination and responsibility at ward level for issues ranging from patient nutrition to ward cleaning and uniforms is key. I have always believed that simplifying the system and having one person who is responsible is the best way to ensure high standards of cleanliness.

Fel cyn brif nyrs ward, mae gennyf ddiddordeb arbennig yn y gwaith a wneir gan y grŵp sy'n ymchwilio i'r pwerau estynedig a roddir i brif nyrsys mewn ysbytai. Mae sefydlu un pwynt cydlynu a chyfrifoldeb ar lefel ward dros faterion sy'n amrywio o faeth cleifion i lanhau wardiau a gwisgoedd yn allweddol. Yr wyf wedi credu erioed mai symleiddio'r drefn a chael un unigolyn i fod yn gyfrifol yw'r ffordd orau i sicrhau safonau uchel o lendid.

I want the public to have full and uncompromising confidence in the NHS, I want all patients to feel assured that they will receive excellent quality of care in the cleanest environment possible, and I want all staff to feel confident that they have the resources, support and guidance to maintain the highest standards of infection control and cleanliness possible.

Yr wyf am i'r cyhoedd gael hyder llwyr a diamod yn y GIG, yr wyf am i'r cleifion i gyd deimlo'n sicr y byddant yn cael safon ardderchog o ofal yn yr amgylchedd glanaf posibl, ac yr wyf am i'r holl staff deimlo'n hyderus bod ganddynt yr adnoddau, y gefnogaeth a'r canllawiau i gynnal y safonau uchaf i gyd wrth reoli haint ac o lendid.

Nick Bourne: This is clearly an important debate. I will refer to amendment 1 in a moment, but I will refer first to the issue of C. difficile. I recognise, as has been said, that the position in Wales is not as serious as that in England and Scotland, but I do not think that we can take much comfort from that; it is just that the position elsewhere is even more deplorable—I can see that the Minister, characteristically, agrees with that. It is qualified good news, but this is a very serious

Nick Bourne: Mae hon yn amlwg yn ddadl bwysig. Cyfeirïaf at welliant 1 yn y munud, ond cyfeirïaf yn gyntaf at fater C. difficile. Yr wyf yn cydnabod, fel y dywedwyd, nad yw'r sefyllfa yng Nghymru cynddrwg ag yn Lloegr a'r Alban, ond ni chredaf y gallwn gael cysur o hynny; y cyfan a ddywed hynny yw bod y sefyllfa mewn mannau eraill yn fwy gwarthus fyth—gwelaf fod y Gweinidog, yn nodweddiadol, yn cytuno â hynny. Newyddion gweddol dda yw hyn, ond mae'n

issue. To put it into monetary terms, which is less important than the human impact of course, it cost £11 million in the last year for which figures are available to treat patients with this infection. Had we somehow been able to obviate the need to spend that money—and I recognise that we are not able to do that as things stand, but that has to be the ultimate aim—we could have employed 500 more nurses. As has been said, cleanliness must be mainstreamed; this must not be a voluntary add-on, as Nick Ramsay rightly said.

Jenny Randerson made a considered contribution about the importance of uniforms and cleaning and laundry arrangements. That is a telling issue that we could put right without massive cost, and it needs to be dealt with pretty quickly.

On the human impact, which, as we must not forget, is the most important issue, there were 2,927 cases of *C. difficile* in Wales in the last year for which we have records. A total of 143 of those were in Carmarthenshire and 44 were in Powys. In terms of the impact on individual areas, at the small community hospital in Llandovery, there are currently two cases—that is how serious the situation is. England and Wales figures show that, over the last five years, 6,000 people have died after contracting *C. difficile*.

On amendment 1, I fail to understand why the Government cannot deplore,

‘the common and repeated occurrence of patients becoming infected as a direct result of receiving healthcare in Wales’

and recognise,

‘the right of every patient in Wales to expect NHS treatment without their health being put at risk’.

Surely every patient is entitled to expect that. The motion does not apportion blame or say that this is the Government’s fault; it simply sets a standard to which we must surely all aspire. If the Assembly carries that amendment, we will be sending out completely the wrong message that we do not

fater eithriadol o ddifrifol. I’w roi mewn termau ariannol, sy’n llai pwysig na’r effaith ar bobl, wrth gwrs, costiodd £11 miliwn yn y flwyddyn ddiwethaf y mae ffigyrau ar gael ar ei chyfer i drin cleifion a oedd â’r haint hwn. Petaem rywsut wedi gallu osgoi’r angen i wario’r arian hwnnw—ac yr wyf yn cydnabod na allwn wneud hynny fel y mae pethau, ond rhaid mai dyna’r nod yn y pen draw—gallasem gyflogi 500 yn fwy o nyrsys. Fel y dywedwyd, rhaid prif-frydio glendid; ni ddylai fod yn ychwanegiad gwirfoddol, fel y dywedodd Nick Ramsay yn berffaith iawn.

Gwnaeth Jenny Randerson gyfraniad ystyrllon am bwysigrwydd gwisgoedd a threfniadau glanhau a golchi. Mae hwnnw’n fater pwysfawr y gallem ei unioni heb gost enfawr, a rhaid mynd i’r afael ag ef yn eithaf sydyn.

O ran yr effaith ddynol, sef y mater pwysicaf, fel y dylem gofio, bu 2,927 o achosion o *C. difficile* yng Nghymru yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf y mae gennym gofnodion ar ei chyfer. Yr oedd cyfanswm o 143 o’r rheini yn sir Gaerfyrddin a 44 ym Mhowys. O ran yr effaith ar ardaloedd unigol, yn yr ysbty cymunedol bychan yn Llanymddyfri, mae dau achos ar hyn o bryd—dyna mor ddifrifol yw’r sefyllfa. Dengys ffigurau Cymru a Lloegr, dros y pum mlynedd diwethaf, fod 6,000 o bobl wedi marw ar ôl dal *C. difficile*.

Ar welliant 1, ni allaf yn fy myw ddeall pam na all y Llywodraeth resynu

‘wrth yr achlysuron cyffredin a mynych o gleifion yn cael eu heintio o ganlyniad uniongyrchol i gael gofal iechyd yng Nghymru’

a chydabod,

‘hawl pob claf yng Nghymru i ddisgwyl triniaeth GIG heb i’w hiechyd fod mewn perygl’.

Does bosibl nad oes gan bob claf yr hawl i ddisgwyl hynny. Nid beio neb y mae’r cynnig na dweud mai bai’r Llywodraeth yw hyn; y cyfan y mae’n ei wneud yw gosod safon y dylem i gyd anelu ati siawns. Os cefnoga’r Cynulliad y gwelliant hwnnw, byddwn yn anfon y neges hollol anghywir nad ydym yn

deplore this situation and that we somehow regard it as acceptable. I certainly do not believe that it is. I hope that the Minister and the Government will reconsider and withdraw that amendment. The spirit of this debate has not been to apportion blame; it has been to look at constructive ways of tackling this issue, and no-one has said that this is the Government's fault or anyone else's fault. We have put forward suggestions on how we can remedy this situation. Therefore, I hope that the amendment is withdrawn, because it sends out the wrong message on an issue on which we should be united in finding ways to tackle this dreadful scourge, to save people's lives, and, ultimately, to save money that can then be put into the front end of services to save even more lives by employing more nurses and doctors.

I am pleased to speak in this debate. I urge Members to support the motion and the Liberal Democrats' amendments that Jonathan referred to. This is an important issue, and I hope it is one on which we can stand together as a National Assembly.

David Lloyd: Mae'n gywir nodi bod graddfeydd achosion heintiau MRSA a C. difficile yng Nghymru yn is nag ydynt yn Lloegr. Yr oeddwn wedi bwriadu gosod cefndir meddygol i'r ddadl y prynhawn yma, oherwydd nid yw rhoi gosodiad fel, 'Mae llai o broblem gyda'r heintiau hyn yng Nghymru nag yn Lloegr', yn dibrisio'r broblem a'r her sylweddol sydd o'n blaenau. Rhaid i ni wneud mwy na 'nodi' y sefyllfa sydd gerbron; os ydym am fynd i'r afael â'r heintiau peryglus hyn, rhaid gwneud rhywbeth ynghylch yr her sy'n ein hwynebu ni i gyd—nid yn unig yn feddygon, yn nyrsys ac yn weinyddwyr yn ein hysbytai, ond i bawb fel cymdeithas. Mae nifer o wahanol achosion o'r heintiau newydd—y *superbugs*—hyn.

Un o'r prif achosion yw'r gordddefnydd neu'r camddefnydd o wrthfotig yn ein cymdeithas, sy'n newid y bacteria sydd yn ein cyrff ac yn creu MRSA a'r niferoedd lluosog o C. difficile yn y lle cyntaf.

Yr ail achos yw'r ffaith ein bod yn trin pobl hen, sâl iawn yn ein hysbytai y dyddiau hyn.

gresynu wrth y sefyllfa hon a'n bod, rywsut, yn ystyried ei bod yn dderbynol. Yn sicr, nid wyf fi'n credu ei bod. Gobeithio y bydd y Gweinidog a'r Llywodraeth yn ailystyried ac yn tynnu'r gwelliant yn ôl. Nid beio neb fu naws y ddadl hon; mater fu o edrych ar ffyrdd adeiladol o fynd i'r afael â'r pwnc, ac ni ddywedodd neb ei bod yn fai ar y Llywodraeth na neb arall. Cyflwynwyd awgrymiadau gennym am y ffordd i wella'r sefyllfa hon. Felly, gobeithio y caiff y gwelliant ei dynnu'n ôl, oherwydd mae'n anfon y neges anghywir ar bwnc y dylem fod yn unedig arno, sef dod o hyd i ffyrdd i fynd i'r afael â'r aflwydd hwn, achub bywydau pobl, ac yn y pen draw arbed arian y gellid wedyn ei ddefnyddio yn y gwasanaethau rheng-flaen i achub mwy fyth o fywydau drwy gyflogi mwy o nyrsys a meddygon.

Mae'n bleser gennyf siarad yn y ddadl hon. Anogaf yr Aelodau i gefnogi'r cynnig a gwelliannau'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol y cyfeiriodd Jonathan atynt. Mae hwn yn fater pwysig, a gobeithio'i fod yn un y gallwn ei gefnogi gyda'n gilydd fel Cynulliad Cenedlaethol.

David Lloyd: It is correct to note that the number of cases of MRSA and C. difficile in Wales is lower than in England. I had intended to set out the medical background to this debate this afternoon, because making a statement such as, 'These infections are less threatening in Wales than in England', does not make it any less of a problem or take away the substantial challenge facing us. We have to do more than just 'note' the situation we have before us; if we want to tackle these dangerous infections, we have to do something about the challenge facing us all—not just doctors, nurses and administrators within our hospitals, but everyone in society. There are many different causes for these new infections—the superbugs.

One of the main causes is the excess use or misuse of antibiotics within our society, which change the bacteria within our bodies and create MRSA and the multiple cases of C. difficile in the first place.

The second cause is the fact that we treat elderly and very sick people in our hospitals

Mae pobl yn cael llawdriniaeth yn awr na fyddai wedi gallu ei chael ddegawd yn ôl, hyd yn oed, ac mae'r cyfraddau goroesi yn well o lawer na'r rhai ddegawd yn ôl. Felly, mae'r sawl sy'n goroesi ar ôl llawdriniaeth, yn enwedig yr hen a'r methodig, mewn cyflwr bregus iawn ar ôl cael llawdriniaeth, a'r rheiny sy'n dal yr heintiau peryglus hyn. Mae'r mwyafrif llethol o bobl sy'n cael eu heintio gan MRSA a C. difficile dros eu 65 oed. Am y rheswm hwn yr oeddem yn casglu ffigurau ar gyfer yr oedran hwn yn unig tan yn ddiweddar.

Jenny Randerson: This is a fascinating little insight from your professional perspective, Dai. However, you have not explained why the prevalence of healthcare-acquired infections is so much worse in Wales and the UK in general than in many other parts of the world. You have not drawn out the things that are different in those parts of the world where the levels of infection are much lower.

David Lloyd: 'Await', I would say.

Mae angen amynedd, Jenny, achos yr wyf yn dod ymlaen at y trydydd achos yn awr, sef diffyg glendid, nid yn unig yn ein hysbytai ac o ran y staff yn ein hysbytai, ond mewn cymdeithas ac ar ein rhan ni i gyd.

Jonathan Morgan: Dr Lloyd, you said that there is an issue with a lack of hygiene in society generally. The point that Jenny Randerson rightly raised is that we have a problem in Wales, particularly with surgery, as our infection rates are higher post surgery than other parts of the UK. Therefore, are we dirtier in Wales? Is that what you are saying?

David Lloyd: No, we are not dirtier, but this is a multifactorial, multifaceted situation. There is no one cause, just as there is no one answer. However, we are operating on very elderly people nowadays, which was not previously possible.

nowadays. There are people now receiving surgery who would not have undergone such surgery a decade ago, and the survival rates are much better than they were a decade ago. Therefore, many of those who survive surgery, particularly the elderly and frail, are in a very vulnerable situation after surgery, and they are the people who catch these dangerous infections. The vast majority of people who are infected with MRSA and C. difficile are over 65 years of age. It is for that reason that we collected figures only for that particular age group until recently.

Jenny Randerson: Mae hwn yn gipolwg fach ddiddorol o'ch safbwynt proffesiynol, Dai. Fodd bynnag, nid ydych wedi egluro pam y mae nifer yr achosion o heintiau sy'n ymwneud â gofal iechyd gymaint yn uwch yng Nghymru a'r DU yn gyffredinol nag mewn llawer rhan arall o'r byd. Nid ydych wedi sôn am y pethau hynny sy'n wahanol yn y rhannau hynny o'r byd lle mae lefelau'r haint yn llawer is.

David Lloyd: 'Amynedd', meddaf.

Patience is the key, Jenny, because I was moving on to my third cause, which is the lack of hygiene, not just in our hospitals and on the part of staff in our hospitals, but on the part of society and all of us.

Jonathan Morgan: Dr Lloyd, dywedech fod problem gyda diffyg glendid yn ein cymdeithas yn gyffredinol. Y pwynt teg a godwyd gan Jenny yw bod gennym broblem yng Nghymru, yn enwedig yn achos llawdriniaethau, gan fod ein cyfraddau heintio'n uwch ar ôl llawdriniaeth nag mewn rhannau eraill o'r DU. Felly, a ydym yn futrach yng Nghymru? Ai dyna yr ydych yn ei ddweud?

David Lloyd: Nage, nid ydym yn futrach, ond mae hon yn sefyllfa sy'n cynnwys nifer o ffactorau a nifer o agweddau gwahanol. Nid oes un achos, ac nid oes un ateb ychwaith. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym yn rhoi llawdriniaethau i bobl oeddrannus iawn y dyddiau hyn, rhywbeth nad oedd yn bosibl yn gyffennol.

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro i'r Gadair am 3.50 p.m.
The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair at 3.50 p.m.*

I fynd yn ôl at y sefyllfa o ran glendid, mae staff yn cael eu hyfforddi ar hyn o bryd, ond mae angen rhagor o hyfforddiant ar eu cyfer. Mae mesurau hyrwyddo glendid yn eu lle, ond rhaid bod yn hollol obsesiynol ynglŷn â glendid. Yr oedd yn drychineb i allanoli cytundebau glanhau mewn ysbytai i gontractwyr preifat allanol rai blynyddoedd yn ôl oherwydd dinistriwyd, dros nos, y tîm ar y ward. Yr oedd y meddygon, y nyrsys, y porthorion a'r glanhawyr oll yn perthyn i'r un tîm sefydlog. Drwy allanoli, collwyd hynny ynghyd ag ymrwymiad i'r tîm ac i'r ward, yr obsesiwn am lendid, a'r atebolrwydd uniongyrchol i brif nyrs y ward wrth i ni allanoli cytundebau glanhau. Yn sylfaenol, mae'n rhaid i bawb fod yn obsesiynol ynglŷn â glendid. Fy neges i feddygon, nyrsys, ac ymwelwyr ag ysbytai, gan gynnwys ymwelwyr o'r Blaid Doriaidd, hyd yn oed, yw 'Golchwch eich dwylo'. Holwch i weld a oes rhaid i chi ymweld â'r ysbyty yn y lle cyntaf.

Mae angen glanhau dwfn i'n wardiau yn aml, yn enwedig bob tro y mae claf newydd yn dod i'r gwely, sydd weithiau'n digwydd deirgwaith mewn diwrnod. Mae'n rhaid lleihau nifer yr ymwelwyr ac mae'n rhaid i ni gyd edrych ar ein defnydd o wrthfotig. Maent yn gyffuriau bendigedig pan y'u defnyddir yn briodol, ond o'u defnyddio'n amhriodol gallant arwain at straen newydd cryf o facteria sy'n byw ac yn lluosogi er gwaethaf popeth yr ydym yn eu taflu atynt. Diolch yn fawr am eich amynedd. Dyna gefndir sylfaenol y ddadl.

The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer: Thank you, Dai. I did allow you some more time, because of your two interventions.

Angela Burns: I am delighted to take part in today's debate, because it is so important to the people of Wales and to us as individuals. I have two points to make, but I will start by saying that I do not think that anyone doubts the Minister's personal commitment to eradicating hospital-acquired infections, and making our hospitals in Wales better and safer places. As Jonathan Morgan said when he started his debate, this is everyone's business, and I believe that.

To go back to the situation in terms of cleanliness, staff training is available at present, but more training is needed. Measures to promote hygiene are in place, but we need to be completely obsessive about hygiene. It was a disaster to have outsourced the cleaning contracts in hospitals to outside private contractors some years ago because the ward team was destroyed overnight. The doctors, nurses, porters, and cleaners had all been part of the same permanent team. That was lost through outsourcing, and with it went the commitment to the team and the ward, the obsession with cleanliness, and the direct accountability to the ward sister. In essence, everyone needs to be obsessive about cleanliness. My message to doctors, nurses, and hospital visitors, including visitors from the Tory party, is 'Wash your hands'. Ask whether you have to visit the hospital in the first place.

Wards need to be deep-cleaned frequently, particularly every time when a new patient is admitted to a bed, which can happen three times a day. We need to cut down on the number of visitors and we all need to look at our use of antibiotics. They are a fantastic medicine when used in the right way, but when they are misused, they can lead to new, stronger strains of bacteria which live and multiply no matter what we throw at them. Thank you for your patience. That is the basic background to this debate.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Diolch Dai. Caniateais ychydig mwy o amser i chi, oherwydd eich dau ymyriad.

Angela Burns: Yr wyf wrth fy modd cael cymryd rhan yn y ddadl heddiw, oherwydd ei bod mor bwysig i bobl Cymru ac i ni fel unigolion. Hoffwn wneud dau bwynt, ond yr wyf am gychwyn drwy ddweud nad oes neb yn amau ymrwymiad personol y Gweinidog i ddileu heintiau sy'n ymwneud â gofal iechyd, ac i wneud ein hysbytai yng Nghymru'n sefydliadau gwell a mwy diogel. Fel y dywedodd Jonathan Morgan pan agorodd ei ddadl, mae hwn yn fater i bawb, ac yr wyf finnau'n credu hynny.

We are asking for all healthcare professionals to be properly trained in infection control. I want to give a couple of examples here to highlight that point. We should not stop at healthcare professionals; everyone who goes into hospital should be included, whether they are managers, architects, design consultants or whoever. I went into a hospital just last week with an architect who was showing me the extra—[*Interruption.*]

The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer (Lorraine Barrett): Order. Please could Members be quiet and listen to the debate?

Angela Burns: I went with an architect to look at the designs for the hospital, and I was horrified to note that no-one challenged us as we walked up and down the wards. Although I stopped and used the cleansing rub as often as I could, the architect did not give a stuff, and carried on regardless. I told him that he should use the rub, but he was not interested.

I will now take a moment to tell you about a mystery patient I know. She was in Morrision Hospital and was lying in bed after a fairly major operation when she was approached by a consultant other than her usual consultant. The consultant wanted to check how she was doing, but he approached her straight after seeing other patients, and, when he was asked to wash his hands before touching her, he refused point blank to do so. This was at Morrision Hospital, just a couple of months ago. He was affronted that he had been asked to wash his hands.

That mystery patient also noticed that cleaning staff were using a rag to wipe down the table, glass and the edge of the bed of one patient and then moving on to another patient's bed without changing the rag. We talk about standards of cleanliness, but they are just not being observed at the moment. There are those who do not care about being clean, like the architect whom I mentioned, and those who think that they are above it, like the consultant. Until these people's mindsets are changed totally, we will not be

Yr ydym yn gofyn am i bob gweithiwr gofal iechyd proffesiynol gael ei hyfforddi'n drylwyr i reoli heintiau. Hoffwn roi dwy enghraifft yma i dynnu sylw at y pwynt hwnnw. Ni ddylem gyfyngu hyn i weithwyr gofal iechyd proffesiynol yn unig; dylid cynnwys pawb sy'n mynd i ysbyty; boed yn rheolwyr, yn benseiri, yn ymgynghorwyr dylunio neu bwy bynnag. Euthum i ysbyty gyda phensaer yr wythnos diwethaf a oedd yn dangos yr—[*Torri ar draws.*]

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro (Lorraine Barrett): Trefn. A wnaiff yr Aelodau fod yn dawel a gwrandao ar y ddadl?

Angela Burns: Euthum gyda phensaer i edrych ar y dyluniadau ar gyfer yr ysbyty, a chefais fy syfrdanu na chawsom ein herio wrth inni gerdded i fyny ac i lawr y wardiau. Er imi aros a defnyddio'r rhwbiwr golchi dwylo mor aml ag y gallwn, nid oedd y pensaer yn malio'r un ffeuen, ac aeth yn ei flaen yn gwbl ddi-hid. Dywedais wrtho y dylai ddefnyddio'r golchwr dwylo, ond nid oedd ganddo ddim diddordeb.

Yr wyf am dreulio munud fach yn sôn wrthych am glaf dirgel yr wyf yn ei adnabod. Yr oedd yn Ysbyty Treforys ac yr oedd yn gorwedd yn ei gwely ar ôl cael llawdriniaeth weddol fawr pan ddaeth ymgynghorydd gwahanol i'r arfer ati. Yr oedd yr ymgynghorydd am gael gwybod sut yr oedd yn dod ymlaen, ond daeth ati'n syth ar ôl gweld cleifion eraill, a phan ofynnodd hi iddo olchi ei ddwylo cyn cyffwrdd â hi, gwrthododd yn blaen. Digwyddodd hyn yn Ysbyty Treforys, ddeufis yn unig yn ôl. Yr oedd wedi gweld y chwith am iddi ofyn iddo olchi'i ddwylo.

Sylwodd y claf dirgel hefyd fod y staff glanhau'n defnyddio clwt i sychu bwrdd, gwydr ac ymyl gwely un claf ac yna'n symud ymlaen at wely claf arall gan ddefnyddio'r un clwt. Yr ydym yn sôn am safonau glendid, ond mae'n amlwg na chedwir atynt ar hyn o bryd. Nid yw rhai'n malio am lendid, fel y pensaer y soniais amdano, a'r rheini sy'n credu eu bod uwchlaw pethau felly, fel yr ymgynghorydd. Nes newidir meddylfryd y bobl hyn yn llwyr, ni fyddwn yn gallu gostwng nifer yr achosion o heintiau sy'n

able to drive down the number of cases of hospital-acquired infections.

I would also want to make a brief point about the high level of bed occupancy. The Liberal Democrats have brought this forward in an amendment, and it has an enormous bearing on hospital-acquired infections. I again cite the story of the mystery patient: because a bed was not available for her ahead of her scheduled operation, she had to wait until one became free. She was rushed in and interviewed by the anaesthetist in a broom cupboard in Morrision Hospital, surrounded by pots, pans, mops and buckets, because that was the only place available in which to interview her, and to carry out all the health checks that are needed before admitting a person to hospital.

She was admitted to hospital, but the bed that she was supposed to take up was not ready, and so she was taken to a ward that was not the one that she ended up on, and she was asked to change at the foot of another patient's bed. The patient who occupied that bed was not a surgical patient, but a person with a disease, an illness. Therefore, you can see how this awful thing of infections being transported around could happen. It is all because we do not have enough spare beds.

MRSA is a real concern, and I speak from the heart as somebody who has lost a relative to it. With the will, we can fight it and win. However, although we are speaking the right words, Minister, I do not believe that we have enough funding in place to resolve issues such as bedblocking. Above all, we have not yet won over the hearts and minds of an awful lot of people working in the NHS. We talk an awful lot about the cleaners—and the poor old cleaners do not half get a battering on this—but it is not just them. In fact, very often, they are some of the better people; this is about the other staff who move from bed to bed without any thought of transmitting infection.

As for the mystery patient and whether or not that story is true—

The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer:

ymwneud â gofal iechyd.

Hoffwn wneud pwynt byr am lefel uchel defnyddio gwelyau. Mae'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol wedi cyflwyno hyn mewn gwelliant, ac mae'n ffactor pwysig eithriadol o ran o heintiau'n ymwneud â gofal iechyd. Cyfeiriau unwaith eto at hanes y claf dirgel: oherwydd nid oedd gwely ar gael ar ei chyfer cyn yr amser a drefnwyd ar gyfer ei llawdriniaeth, a bu'n rhaid iddi aros nes oedd un ar gael. Cafodd ei rhuthro i mewn a daeth yr anaesthetydd i'w gweld mewn cwpwrdd brwshys yn Ysbyty Treforys, gyda photiau, padelli, mopiau a bwcedi o'i chwmpas ym mhobman, oherwydd dyna'r unig le a oedd ar gael i'w chyfweld, ac i wneud yr archwiliadau meddygol sy'n angenrheidiol cyn derbyn unigolyn i'r ysbyty.

Fe'i derbyniwyd i'r ysbyty, ond nid oedd y gwely a oedd wedi'i drefnu ar ei chyfer yn barod, felly aethpwyd â hi i ward wahanol i'r un y diweddodd ynddi, a gofynnwyd iddi newid wrth droed gwely claf arall. Nid claf llawfeddygaeth oedd yn y gwely hwnnw, ond unigolyn ag afiechyd, salwch. Felly, gallwch weld sut y mae'r mater arswydus hwn o heintiau yn gallu cael ei drosglwyddo. Mae hyn yn digwydd am nad oes gennym ddigon o welyau dros ben.

Mae MRSA yn bryder mawr, ac yr wyf yn siarad o'r galon fel rhywun sydd wedi colli perthynas o ganlyniad iddo. Gyda digon o ewyllys, gallwn ymladd yn ei erbyn ac ennill. Fodd bynnag, er ein bod yn defnyddio'r geiriau cywir, Weinidog, nid wyf yn credu bod digon o arian ar gael i ddatrys problemau fel blocio gwelyau. Yn anad dim, nid ydym eto wedi ennill calonnau a meddyliau llawer iawn o bobl sy'n gweithio yn y GIG. Yr ydym yn sôn llawer am y glanhawyr—ac mae'r glanhawyr druan yn cael eu colbio ar y mater hwn—ond nid hwy yn unig sydd ar fai. A dweud y gwir, yn aml iawn hwy yw rhai o'r goreuon; mae hyn yn ymwneud â staff eraill sy'n symud o wely i wely heb feddwl ddwywaith am drosglwyddo heintiau.

O ran y claf dirgel ac a oedd y stori'n wir ai peidio—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Trefn. A

Order. Could you wind up, please, Angela?

allwch ddirwyn i ben, os gwelwch yn dda, Angela?

Angela Burns: Certainly. I can assure you that that story is true, because I was that mystery patient. I experienced all of that and saw it all first hand at the beginning of this year.

Angela Burns: Wrth gwrs. Gallaf eich sicrhau bod y stori'n wir, oherwydd fi oedd y claf dirgel. Profais hyn i gyd a gwelais y cyfan â'm llygaid fy hun ddechrau'r flwyddyn eleni.

Michael German: I am sure that many other Members have also had direct experience of the problem of *C. difficile* in our hospitals. I want to relate a story that has a very sad ending, about a recent case in the Royal Gwent Hospital.

Michael German: Yr wyf yn siŵr bod nifer o Aelodau eraill wedi cael profiad uniongyrchol o broblem *C. difficile* yn ein hysbytai. Hoffwn adrodd stori sydd â diweddglo trist iawn, am achos diweddar yn Ysbyty Brenhinol Gwent.

While I understand that the Minister will have some announcements about this in the future—and something is in the pipeline—this issue is so serious, given that it concerns people's lives, that we have to respond to the issues as we see them, we have to have a sustained public debate, and we also have to ensure that the public's voice is heard.

Er fy mod yn deall y bydd y Gweinidog yn gwneud rhai cyhoeddiadau am hyn yn y dyfodol—ac mae rhywbeth yn yr arfaeth—mae hwn yn fater mor bwysig, o gofio'i fod yn effeithio ar fywydau pobl, nes bod rhaid inni ymateb i'r problemau fel yr ydym yn eu gweld, rhaid inni gael dadl gyhoeddus drylwyr, a rhaid inni hefyd sicrhau bod llais y cyhoedd yn cael ei glywed.

The Wales Audit Office report, 'Minimising Healthcare Associated Infections in NHS Trusts in Wales', which was released in May, drew the conclusion that the incidence of *C. difficile* has increased dramatically between 1993 and 2005. While the report did note that progress had been made in Wales, it noted that preventing the spread of infection should be seen as everybody's business. It is not just the Minister's business; it is everyone's business. I welcome the fact that the report found that the approach of targeting all infections, rather than just those with a high profile, such as MRSA—a point made by Dai—is working and is to be welcomed. However, the English approach, which I think is wrong, seems to target the most high profile infections and I think that that approach is based on headlines, rather than on dealing with the problems in the most effective way.

Daeth adroddiad Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru 'Lleihau Heintiau sy'n Gysylltiedig â Gofal Iechyd mewn Ymddiriedolaethau GIG yng Nghymru', a gyhoeddwyd ym mis Mai, i'r casgliad fod nifer yr achosion o *C. difficile* wedi cynyddu'n sylweddol rhwng 1993 a 2005. Er bod yr adroddiad yn nodi bod cynnydd wedi'i wneud yng Nghymru, nododd y dylid ystyried bod atal lledaenu yn fusnes i bawb. Nid busnes i'r Gweinidog yn unig ydyw; mae'n fusnes i bawb. Croesawaf y ffaith fod yr adroddiad wedi darganfod bod y dull o dargedu pob haint, yn hytrach na'r rheini sydd â phroffil uchel yn unig, megis MRSA—pwynt a wnaethpwyd gan Dai—yn gweithio, ac mae hynny'n rhywbeth i'w goesawu. Fodd bynnag, mae'r dull a ddefnyddir yn Lloegr, sy'n anghywir yn fy marn i, fel petai'n targedu'r heintiau sydd â'r proffil uchaf, a chredaf fod y dull hwnnw'n seiliedig ar benawdau papur newydd, yn hytrach nag ar ddelio â'r problemau yn y ffordd fwyaf effeithiol.

I, too, am perplexed by amendment 1. If I were a more considerate politician, I might think that perhaps the person who tabled the amendment meant to delete only the first half of point 1 of the motion, and to retain the

Mae gwelliant 1 yn peri dryswch i mi hefyd. Petawn yn wleidydd mwy ystyriol, efallai y byddwn yn credu mai bwriad yr unigolyn a gyflwynodd y gwelliant oedd dileu hanner cyntaf pwynt 1 o'r cynnig yn unig, a chadw'r

second half. If that is true, that is what should have been put forward as an amendment. I cannot believe that the Government meant to remove the second half of point 1, which is the crucial part of it, and which recognises the right of every patient in Wales to expect NHS treatment without their health being put at risk—a straightforward right, I think. That would have been the correct way to go about it. I do not understand why the whole of point 1 of the motion had to be deleted, even if there was thought to be some ambiguity concerning the first half of it.

Amendment 7 seeks to ensure that all cleaning is dealt with by in-house bodies in the national health service. However, I want tell you about an in-house cleaning service at the Royal Gwent Hospital, for the Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust. It has not been outsourced.

4.00 p.m.

The case relates to a patient from Newport who, at the beginning of this year, was admitted for a routine operation to remove a benign tumour from her intestine. For two days, her recovery seemed to be going well. Then, on the third day, she went into a slow decline, having contracted *C. difficile*. Before the patient died, her family reported to me that, despite the provision of alcohol-based hand washes, even though they are ineffective against *C. difficile* spores, there was no signage to advise on their use or on their effectiveness. Soiled bedding was left in the room for hours on end, and the bed occupancy rate was so high that the relative of another patient saw patches of blood on the floor underneath the bed. Added to all this is the fact that the patient in this case was kept in a holding area for many hours rather than placed on a ward.

Unfortunately, the patient eventually died, and the cause of death was recorded as bowel cancer and a *C. difficile* infection. The patient's surgeon told the family that the operation was a complete success, so you must reach the conclusion that it was the *C. difficile* infection that actually caused this patient's death.

ail hanner. Os yw hynny'n wir, dyna y dylai fod wedi'i gyflwyno fel gwelliant. Ni allaf gredu bod y Llywodraeth wedi bwriadu dileu ail hanner pwynt 1, sef y rhan hollbwysig sy'n cydnabod hawl pob claf yng Nghymru i ddisgwyl triniaeth GIG heb i'w iechyd fod mewn perygl—hawl sylfaenol, byddwn yn tybio. Honno fyddai'r ffordd gywir i fynd o'i chwmpas hi. Ni allaf ddeall pam y mae'n rhaid dileu pwynt 1 yn y cynnig yn ei gyfanrwydd, hyd yn oed os credid bod rhywfaint o amwysedd ynglŷn â'r hanner cyntaf.

Mae gwelliant 7 yn ceisio sicrhau bod yr holl waith glanhau'n cael ei wneud gan gyrff mewnol yn y gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol. Fodd bynnag, hoffwn sôn wrthyfch am wasanaeth glanhau mewnol yn Ysbyty Brenhinol Gwent, ar gyfer Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Gofal Iechyd Gwent. Nid yw wedi'i allanoli.

Mae'r achos yn ymwneud â chlaf o Gasnewydd a dderbyniwyd, ddechrau'r flwyddyn hon, ar gyfer llawdriniaeth arferol i symud tiwmor anfalaen o'i choluddyn. Am ddau ddiwrnod, yr oedd yn gwella fel petai'n dod ymlaen yn dda. Yna, ar y trydydd diwrnod, dechreuodd ddirywio'n araf, ar ôl cael *C. difficile*. Cyn i'r claf farw, dywedodd ei theulu wrthyf, er bod hylifau golchi dwylo'n seiliedig ar alcohol wedi eu darparu, er eu bod yn aneffeithiol yn erbyn sborau *C. difficile*, nad oedd dim arwydd i ddweud wrth bobl am eu defnyddio nac yn esbonio pa mor effeithiol ydynt. Byddai dillad gwely'n cael eu gadael yn yr ystafell am oriau bwy gilydd, ac yr oedd y raddfa defnyddio gwelyau mor uchel nes i berthynas claf arall weld dafnau gwaed ar y llawr o dan y gwely. At hyn i gyd cafodd y claf yn yr achos hwn ei chadw mewn man cadw am oriau lawer yn hytrach na'i rhoi mewn ward.

Gwaetha'r modd, bu'r claf farw yn y pen draw, a chofnodwyd mai achos y farwolaeth oedd canser y perfedd a haint *C. difficile*. Dywedodd llawfeddyg y claf wrth y teulu fod y llawdriniaeth yn llwyddiant llwyr, felly, rhaid ichi ddod i'r casgliad mai'r haint *C. difficile* mewn gwirionedd a achosodd farwolaeth y claf.

I am saddened by this patient's death, and I am appalled by the recent deaths at Prince Charles Hospital in Merthyr. I believe that we need to be clearer about what we are doing, we need to recognise the problem and engage in public debate. That is why I urge the Assembly to support the motion as a whole together with our amendments.

Brynle Williams: I will concentrate in my contribution on hospital hygiene from the point of view of patients and hospital visitors.

As a regular visitor to Wrexham Maelor Hospital, where, without question, the staff are doing a fantastic job, I have a serious concern about the attitude toward hygiene that has, at times, appeared haphazard. The Minister will be aware that I have written to her on a number of occasions about constituents' complaints about cleanliness, and not just in the Maelor, but in other north Wales hospitals as well.

From a patient perspective, current practices are, regrettably, doing little to inspire confidence. On a subject that has been raised several times today, I have spoken to nurses who told me that there are no laundry services for their uniforms. What happened to the doctor doing his or her rounds in a smart white coat? This needs to be addressed as well, Minister. Laundry services for nurses are necessary. As we heard, they go back and forth from one ward to the next, and then they go home in the same uniform. It is common sense that, if simple steps to minimise the risk of transmitting diseases such as *C. difficile* and MRSA could be taken, they should be taken. In that regard, I welcome the amendment from the Liberal Democrats that calls for on-site cleaning for clothes and uniforms.

I have been astounded to see patients sitting outside smoking, in their dressing gowns, some hooked up to drips, and some with oxygen facilities. [*Interruption.*] I am sorry that some Members find this humorous, but this is the avenue by which the problem is introduced onto the wards. There is the stench of smoking outside hospitals, making

Rwyf yn drist iawn clywed am farwolaeth y claf yma, ac mae'n fraw clywed am y marwolaethau'n ddiweddar yn Ysbyty'r Tywysog Siarl ym Merthyr. Credaf fod angen inni fod yn eglurach ynglŷn â'r hyn yr ydym yn ei wneud; mae angen inni gydnabod y broblem a chael dadl gyhoeddus. Dyna pam yr wyf yn annog y Cynulliad i gefnogi'r cynnig yn gyfan ynghyd â'n gwelliannau.

Brynle Williams: Canolbwyntiaf yn fy nghyfraniad ar hylendid ysbytai o safbwynt cleifion ac ymwelwyr ag ysbytai.

Fel ymwelydd rheolaidd ag Ysbyty Maelor Wrecsam, lle mae'r staff, yn ddiamau, yn gwneud gwaith aruthrol, yr wyf yn gofidio'n ddifrifol am yr agwedd at hylendid sydd, ar brydiau, wedi ymddangos yn esgeulus. Bydd y Gweinidog yn ymwybodol fy mod wedi ysgrifennu ati lawer gwaith ynghylch cwynion etholwyr am lanweithdra, ac nid yn y Maelor yn unig, ond mewn ysbytai eraill yng ngogledd Cymru hefyd.

O safbwynt cleifion, nid yw arferion cyfredol, gwaetha'r modd, yn gwneud fawr ddim i hybu hyder. Ar bwnc sydd wedi ei godi droeon heddiw, yr wyf wedi siarad â nyrsys a ddywedodd wrthyf nad oes dim gwasanaethau i olchi eu gwisgoedd. Beth a ddigwyddodd i'r meddyg a fyddai'n mynd ar ei rowndiau mewn cot wen daclus? Mae angen ymdrin â hyn hefyd, Weinidog. Mae gwasanaethau golchi dillad i nyrsys yn angenrheidiol. Fel y clywsom, maent yn mynd yn ôl ac ymlaen o un ward i'r ward nesaf, ac yna'n mynd adref yn yr un wisg. Synnwyr cyffredin yw dweud, os gellir cymryd camau syml i leihau risg trosglwyddo clefydau megis *C. difficile* ac MRSA, y dylid eu cymryd. Yn hynny o beth, yr wyf yn croesawu'r gwelliant gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol sy'n galw am wasanaeth glanhau dillad a gwisgoedd ar y safle.

Rwyf wedi fy syfrdanu o weld cleifion yn eistedd y tu allan yn ysmegu, yn eu gynau nos, rhai wedi'u cysylltu wrth ddiferwyr, a rhai gyda chyfleusterau ocsigen. [*Torri ar draws.*] Mae'n ddrwg gennyf fod rhai Aelodau'n meddwl bod hyn yn ddigrif, ond ar hyd y llwybr hwn y daw'r broblem i'r wardiau. Mae drewdod ysmegu y tu allan i

the place smell like an ashtray. I am sorry to put it so bluntly, but these are the facts—the evidence is there to see. It is all very well encouraging hand washing, but common sense should say that patients continually traipsing in and out of wards with medical equipment, will only increase the risk of transmitting infection through the hospital.

In fairness, ward cleanliness should not just be an issue for the cleaning staff and nurses; it should also be an issue for patients and visitors. As Dai Lloyd said earlier, we need to ask whether we need to visit; even Conservatives should ask that question. We all have a role to play in stopping these infections from spreading throughout the hospital. I know that the Minister is serious about reducing hospital-acquired infections, like *C. difficile*, but Welsh hospitals have a long way to go before they meet the expectations of the patients using them.

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart): I welcome the opportunity to put on record once again the Government's position in relation to healthcare-associated infections and our determination for the risk of infection to be minimised. MRSA and *C. difficile* are emotive topics for the public, but we must not allow our emotions to cloud the facts or to frighten potential patients. The opposition health spokesperson might want to reflect on some of the comments that he made in his initial contribution. Our overall HAI rate is 6.4 per cent, which is lower than the 8.2 per cent in England and the 9 per cent in Scotland. However, 6.4 per cent does not represent our ambitions; it is our starting point, not where we aim to be in the future. I agree with the leader of the opposition that we need to look at where we are now and to improve on that. Even though some of our statistics stack up well, they are still not good enough.

However, we need to recognise that we are at such a starting point—in part, at least—because of the approach that we have adopted in Wales to tackling HAIs. This has involved increasing staff training; I have taken to heart

ysbytai yn gwneud i'r lle arogl fel blwch llwch. Mae'n ddrwg gennyf ddweud hyn mor blwmp a phlaen, ond dyma'r ffeithiau—mae'r dystiolaeth yno i'w gweld. Mae'n ddigon hawdd annog pobl i olchi eu dwylo, ond dylai synnwyr cyffredin ddweud na fydd cleifion sy'n troedio i mewn ac allan o wardiau gydag offer meddygol ond yn cynyddu risg trosglwyddo heintiau drwy'r ysbyty.

A bod yn deg, ni ddylai glendid fod yn fater i staff glanhau a nyrsys yn unig; dylai hefyd fod yn fater i gleifion ac ymwelwyr. Fel y dywedodd Dai Lloyd yn gynharach, dylem ofyn a oes angen i ni ymweld; dylai Ceidwadwyr hyd yn oed ofyn y cwestiwn hwnnw. Mae gennym i gyd ran i'w chwarae wrth atal yr heintiau hyn rhag lledu drwy'r ysbyty. Gwn fod y Gweinidog o ddifrif ynghylch lleihau heintiau sy'n digwydd mewn ysbytai, fel *C. difficile*, ond mae gan ysbytai Cymru ffordd bell i fynd cyn y byddant yn bodloni disgwyliadau'r cleifion sy'n eu defnyddio.

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Edwina Hart): Yr wyf yn croesawu'r cyfle i gofnodi unwaith eto safbwynt y Llywodraeth ar heintiau'n ymwneud â gofal iechyd a'n bod yn benderfynol o leihau risg heintiau. Mae MRSA a *C. difficile* yn bynciau sy'n ennyn ymateb cryf ymhlith y cyhoedd, ond rhaid inni beidio â gadael i'n teimladau gymylu'r ffeithiau na dychryn cleifion posibl. Hwyrach y byddai llefarydd yr wrthblaid ar iechyd yn dymuno ystyried rhai o'r sylwadau a wnaeth yn ei gyfraniad cychwynnol. Ein cyfradd gyffredinol o heintiau sy'n tarddu mewn ysbytai yw 6.4, sy'n is na'r 8.2 y cant yn Lloegr a'r 9 y cant yn yr Alban. Fodd bynnag, nid yw 6.4 yn cynrychioli ein huchelgeisiau; ein man cychwyn ydyw, nid y man lle'r anelwn at fod yn y dyfodol. Cytunaf ag arweinydd yr wrthblaid fod angen inni ystyried ymhle yr ydym yn awr a gwella ar hynny. Er bod rhai o'n hystadegau'n gymharol dda, nid ydynt yn ddigon da o hyd.

Fodd bynnag, mae angen inni gydnabod ein bod mewn man cychwyn felly—yn rhannol, o leiaf—oherwydd y dull a fabwysiadwyd gennym yng Nghymru i fynd i'r afael â heintiau sy'n tarddu mewn ysbytai. Mae hyn

some of the points that have been made today about staff training, and I will commission further work in terms of what staff have been trained to do, and what training regimes exist in hospitals, because I think that that is important. It has also involved reducing the prescribing of antibiotics, on which Dr Dai Lloyd commented, and raising the profile of hand-hygiene issues among clinicians and the public. I was taken by Angela Burns's points on this and by some of the wider points made by Brynle, that this is everyone's responsibility. Some of our hospitals are more like central stations than places of rest and recuperation, and there are issues around that that need to be addressed. Our general approach in terms of staff training and so on has been endorsed by the Wales Audit Office, and I will publish my response to the Audit Committee report tomorrow.

Turning to the amendments, the Government's amendment 1 seeks to alter the motion by removing what I regard to be the grossly overdramatic content of point 1. In reading the original motion, you could be led to believe that all hospitals are unsafe and unfit for purpose. There is no excuse for this sort of scaremongering. Even as we debate this issue today, there are real people, in real need, facing the prospect of a hospital operation, many of whom, because of age and illness, will be vulnerable in a range of different ways—perhaps in their social circumstances or in their underlying state of health. They are vulnerable to fear about their prospects of getting well again. It is irresponsible to seek to extract a small piece of political advantage in what has been an excellent debate at the expense of spreading exaggerated alarm and anxiety among those who are in need of treatment. The facts simply do not bear out the sweeping statement that the Assembly is being asked to endorse today.

Jonathan Morgan: I am grateful to the Minister for giving way. Point 1 of the motion 'deplores the common and repeated occurrence of patients becoming infected'. Every single year, a number of people become infected in every hospital in Wales,

wedi cynnwys cynyddu hyfforddiant staff; yr wyf wedi cymryd sylw o rai o'r pwyntiau a wnaethpwyd heddiw ynghylch hyfforddi staff, a byddaf yn comisiynu gwaith pellach ar yr hyn y mae staff wedi'u hyfforddi i'w wneud, a pha systemau sy'n bodoli mewn ysbytai, oherwydd credaf fod hynny'n bwysig. Mae hefyd wedi cynnwys rhoi llai o wrthfotigau ar bresgripsiwn, rhywbeth y soniodd Dr Dai Lloyd amdano, a chodi proffil materion yn gysylltiedig â glendid y dwylo ymysg clinigwyr a'r cyhoedd. Gwnaethpwyd argraff arnaf gan bwyntiau Angela Burns ar hyn a chan rai o bwyntiau ehangach Brynle, fod hyn yn gyfrifoldeb i bawb. Mae rhai o'n hysbytai'n debycach i orsafoedd canolog na mannau gorffwys ac ymadfer, ac mae problemau ynglŷn â hynny y mae angen mynd i'r afael â hwy. Cafodd ein dull cyffredinol o hyfforddi staff ac yn y blaen ei gadarnhau gan Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru, a byddaf yn cyhoeddi yfory fy ymateb i adroddiad y Pwyllgor Archwilio.

I droi at y gwelliannau, mae gwelliant 1 gan y Llywodraeth yn ceisio newid y cynnig drwy ddileu cynnwys pwynt 1 sydd, yn fy marn i, lawer yn rhy ddramatig. Wrth ddarllen y cynnig gwreiddiol, gallech gredu bod pob ysbyty'n anniogel ac yn anaddas at y diben. Nid oes esgus dros y math hwn o godi bwganod. Hyd yn oed wrth inni drafod y mater hwn heddiw, mae pobl go-iawn, mewn gwir angen, sy'n wynebu posibilrwydd llawdriniaeth mewn ysbyty, a bydd nifer ohonynt, oherwydd oed ac afiechyd, yn fregus mewn nifer o wahanol ffyrdd—yn eu hamgylchiadau cymdeithasol, efallai, neu yng nghyflwr sylfaenol eu hiechyd. Maent yn dueddol o fod yn ofnus am eu rhagolygon o gwella eto. Anghyfrifol yw ceisio tynnu darn bach o fantais wleidyddol mewn dadl sydd wedi bod yn un ardderchog, ar draul lledaenu ofn a phryder gormodol ymysg pobl y mae arnynt angen triniaeth. Nid yw'r ffeithiau'n cadarnhau'r gosodiad ysgubol y gofynnir i'r Cynulliad ei gymeradwyo heddiw.

Jonathan Morgan: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r Gweinidog am ildio. Mae pwynt 1 yn y cynnig yn 'gresynu wrth yr achlysuron cyffredin a mynych o gleifion yn cael eu heintio'. Bob blwyddyn, bydd nifer o bobl yn cael eu heintio ym mhob ysbyty yng

and the infection is acquired because they are in hospital having treatment. That is a fact, and this motion deplores that fact. It does not say that we will eradicate every infection; it says that this increasing prevalence should be deplored by the Government and by the Assembly and that we should expect people in Wales to have access to safe treatment. It is not a political point; it is a point that is based on the facts and statistics that your Government has published, particularly around C. difficile rates for the over-65s.

Edwina Hart: That is the position that you take, but I am concerned that the phraseology of the first part of this motion is overdramatic.

4.10 p.m.

Our amendments regarding 3)b) and 3)c) are self explanatory, so I turn to amendment 7—our final amendment. When the decision was made to open up cleaning to private companies—and we all know who took that decision; it is a matter of fact—it was one of the worst decisions ever made. The cleaner was no longer part of the team and the ward sister was no longer in control. I am delighted that this policy has been reversed in nearly all areas of the NHS in Wales. It will take time to rebuild that team spirit and pride in work, but I am sure that, in the long term, cleaning services will improve dramatically.

In response to some of the issues that Jenny raised in her contribution, it will be about how these cleaning services are managed in-house in the trusts and how to establish the team and the cleaner as part of the team.

Turning to the Liberal Democrat amendments, I understand the issues about bed occupancy, but the amendments seem to be striving for high drama, rather than contributing to a constructive debate. I am advised that, in 2006-07, bed occupancy levels across Wales were 82.8 per cent, which is below the 85 per cent level regarded as optimal. Therefore, there is no crisis.

Nghymru, a'r haint wedi ei ddal oherwydd eu bod mewn ysbyty yn cael triniaeth. Ffaith yw hynny, ac mae'r cynnig hwn yn gresynu wrth y ffaith honno. Nid yw'n dweud y byddwn yn dileu pob haint; mae'n dweud y dylai'r Llywodraeth a'r Cynulliad resynu wrth y niferoedd cynyddol hyn, ac y dylem ddisgwyl i bobl yng Nghymru allu cael triniaethau diogel. Nid pwynt gwleidyddol ydyw; mae'n bwynt wedi'i seilio ar y ffeithiau a'r ystadegau a gyhoeddwyd gan eich Llywodraeth chi, yn arbennig ynghylch graddfeydd C. difficile i bobl dros 65 oed.

Edwina Hart: Dyna yw eich safbwynt chi, ond yr wyf fi'n pryderu bod geiriad rhan gyntaf y cynnig hwn yn or-ddramatig.

Mae ein gwelliannau ynglŷn â 3)b) a 3)c) yn hunaneglurhaol, felly, trof at welliant 7—ein gwelliant olaf. Pan wnaethpwyd y penderfyniad i wneud gwaith glanhau yn agored i gwmnïau preifat—a gwyddom i gyd pwy a wnaeth y penderfyniad hwnnw; mae'n fater o ffaith—yr oedd yn un o'r penderfyniadau gwaethaf a wnaethpwyd erioed. Nid oedd y glanhawr yn rhan o'r tîm mwyach ac nid oedd prif nyrs y ward yn rheoli mwyach. Yr wyf wrth fy modd fod y polisi hwn wedi'i newid yn llwyr ym mhob rhan bron o'r GIG yng Nghymru. Fe gymer amser i ailadeiladu'r ysbryd tîm hwnnw a'r balchder hwnnw mewn gwaith, ond yr wyf yn sicr y bydd gwasanaethau glanhau, yn y tymor hir, yn gwella'n ddramatig.

I ymateb i rai o'r materion a gododd Jenny yn ei chyfraniad, bydd hyn yn ymwneud â'r modd y caiff y gwasanaethau glanhau hyn eu rheoli'n fewnol yn yr ymddiriedolaethau, a sut i sefydlu'r tîm a'r glanhawr fel rhan o'r tîm.

I droi at welliannau'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, yr wyf yn deall y problemau ynglŷn â defnyddio gwelyau, ond mae'r gwelliannau fel pe baent yn anelu at ddrama fawr, yn hytrach na chyfrannu at ddadl adeiladol. Dywedir wrthyf fod lefelau defnyddio gwelyau ledled Cymru, yn 2006-07, yn 82.8 y cant, sy'n is na'r lefel o 85 y cant a ystyrir fel y lefel orau. Felly, nid oes

There are pressures, which have to be managed, but the language used in the amendments is not designed to help reach sensible solutions; it simply aims to stir up emotions, with no relationship to the reality across Wales.

Instead of empty rhetoric, the Government is doing certain things within the NHS. We want to minimise the transfer of patients between wards where this is not appropriate, and isolate patients where necessary. We want to reduce inappropriate admissions, develop care pathways, increase the proportion of procedures being done as day cases, and deploy clinical leadership to ensure that discharge plans begin on the day of admission, so that patients do not stay unnecessarily in hospital. These are practical solutions that we are undertaking. These are everyday actions that are the business of the NHS.

Beyond that, we are currently addressing the issue of specialised negative pressure facilities, which are needed for isolating certain infections. Trusts are working through how they will meet their requirements in order to adopt this in their areas. These are the practical issues of dealing with infections. This is an issue that needs practical action rather than posturing.

I will support your amendment 6, about issuing guidelines, because it fits in nicely with the report recently completed by my task and finish group on empowering ward sisters in the NHS. The report is due to be launched next week, and will be about developing a plan to ensure that ward sisters have the authority, knowledge and skills to improve the hospital environment and standards of care, and includes 35 recommendations. Some of the comments made in the Chamber today will be covered by that report.

When I launch the report next week, I do not want to see press releases from other parties stating that it was all your idea and that you raised it in Plenary. I established this task group in November 2007 to advise me, and its report will be published next week. It includes some 35 recommendations that will,

argyfwng. Mae yna bwysau y mae'n rhaid eu rheoli, ond nid diben yr iaith a ddefnyddir yn y gwelliannau yw helpu cyrraedd atebion synhwyrol; ei bwriad yn syml yw corddi teimladau, heb unrhyw berthynas â'r realiti ar draws Cymru.

Yn hytrach na rhywreg wag, mae'r Llywodraeth yn gwneud rhai pethau o fewn y GIG. Yr ydym am leihau trosglwyddo cleifion rhwng wardiau lle nad yw hynny'n briodol, ac ynysu cleifion lle bydd angen. Yr ydym am leihau derbyn cleifion yn amhriodol, datblygu llwybrau gofal, cynyddu cyfran y triniaethau a roir fel achosion dydd, a defnyddio arweiniad clinigol i sicrhau bod cynlluniau rhyddhau yn dechrau ar y diwrnod derbyn, fel na fydd cleifion yn aros yn ddiangen yn yr ysbyty. Mae'r rhain yn atebion ymarferol sydd ar y gweill gennym. Mae'r rhain yn gamau pob sy'n rhan o fusnes y GIG.

Ymhellach na hynny, ar hyn o bryd yr ydym yn mynd i'r afael â mater cyfleusterau pwysau negyddol arbenigol sy'n angenrheidiol ar gyfer ynysu rhai heintiau. Mae ymddiriedolaethau astudio sut y byddant yn bodloni eu gofynion er mwyn mabwysiadu hyn yn eu hardaloedd. Materion ymarferol yw'r rhain wrth ddelio â heintiau. Mae hwn yn fater sy'n galw am weithredu ymarferol yn hytrach nag ymhonni.

Byddaf yn cefnogi eich gwelliant 6, ynghylch cyflwyno canllawiau, oherwydd mae'n cydfynd i'r dim â'r adroddiad a gwblhawyd yn ddiweddar gan fy ngrŵp gorchwyl a gorffen ar rymuso prif nyrsys wardiau yn y GIG. Mae'r adroddiad i gael ei lansio wythnos nesaf, a bydd yn ymdrin â datblygu cynllun i sicrhau bod gan brif nyrsys wardiau yr awdurdod, y wybodaeth a'r sgiliau i wella amgylchedd yr ysbyty a safonau gofal, ac mae'n cynnwys 35 o argymhellion. Caiff rhai o'r sylwadau a wnaethpwyd yn y Siambr heddiw eu cynnwys yn yr adroddiad hwnnw.

Pan fyddaf yn lansio'r adroddiad wythnos nesaf, nid wyf am weld datganiadau i'r wasg gan bleidiau eraill yn dweud mai eu syniad hwy oedd y cyfan a'ch bod wedi ei godi yn y Cyfarfod Llawn. Sefydlais y tasglu hwn ym mis Tachwedd 2007 i'm cynghori, a chyhoeddir ei adroddiad wythnos nesaf.

I am sure, be welcomed across the Chamber.

Mae'n cynnwys tua 35 o argymhellion a gaiff eu croesawu, yr wyf yn sicr, ar draws y Siambr.

Finally, on the specific matter of C. difficile, on which we have heard a variety of contributions, it is important that we look at issues such as antibiotic usage and patient information leaflets, and that we have advice across the piece. I take on board the issues about surveillance; we have collated figures for patients aged over 65 years. We have not been sprung into action by any television programmes—this motion has probably come about as a result of a television programme. We have been doing work in this area for a while in terms of what the chief medical officer has been looking at.

Yn olaf, ar fater penodol C. difficile, y clywsom amryw gyfraniadau arno, mae'n bwysig inni ystyried materion megis defnyddio gwrthfotigau a thafenni gwybodaeth i gleifion, ac yn cael cyngor ar draws y maes cyfan. Yr wyf yn derbyn y problemau ynghylch gwyliadwriaeth; yr ydym wedi crynhoi ffigurau ar gyfer cleifion dros 65 oed. Nid ydym wedi cael ein cymell i weithredu gan unrhyw raglenni teledu—mae'n debygol fod y cynnig hwn wedi ei godi o ganlyniad i raglen deledu. Yr ydym wedi gweithio yn y maes hwn ers tro o ran yr hyn y mae'r prif swyddog meddygol wedi bod yn edrych arno.

As Minister, I accept that there are problems that need to be addressed. Like all of you, as a constituency AM, I am concerned about the issues of cleanliness. I do not necessarily like to see what I see when I visit family and friends in hospital. However, I cannot accept the claim that the NHS is not vigorously attacking this issue, because it is doing so, with some very good practice in some areas. The motion, as tabled, deals with a serious issue, but we need to depoliticise it. There has been too much hype around it, perhaps. Action is what is required. I am determined to take action and, as Minister, I will take the necessary action and I hope that the report that will be published next week on empowering ward sisters will also be a step forward.

Fel Gweinidog, yr wyf yn derbyn bod problemau y mae angen mynd i'r afael â hwy. Fel pob un ohonoch, fel AC etholaethol, yr wyf yn pryderu ynglŷn â'r problemau glendid. Nid wyf o angenrheidrwydd yn hoffi gweld yr hyn a welaf wrth ymweld â theulu a ffrindiau yn yr ysbyty. Fodd bynnag, ni allaf dderbyn yr honiad nad yw'r GIG yn mynd i'r afael â'r mater hwn yn egniol, oherwydd y mae'n gwneud hynny, gydag arferion da iawn mewn rhai ardaloedd. Mae'r cynnig, fel y'i cyflwynwyd, yn ymdrin â mater difrifol, ond mae angen inni dynnu gwleidyddiaeth allan ohono. Efallai fod gormod o siarad eithafol wedi bod yn ei gylch. Gweithredu sydd eisiau. Yr wyf yn benderfynol o gymryd camau, ac fel Gweinidog byddaf yn cymryd y camau angenrheidiol ac yn gobeithio y bydd yr adroddiad a gyhoeddir wythnos nesaf ar rymuso prif nyrsys wardiau hefyd yn gam ymlaen.

I thank Members, in the main, for the contributions, which have been extremely helpful.

Diolchaf i Aelodau, yn bennaf, am y cyfraniadau, sydd wedi bod yn hynod o gynorthwyol.

Jonathan Morgan: I will start with the Minister's response. This motion was clearly not tabled to politicise the issue; it does not seek to criticise the actions—or the lack action—of the Assembly Government. There is no reference to criticism of the Government in the motion. In fact, we say that we believe that people should be treated in safe and clean hospitals. I am astonished

Jonathan Morgan: Dechreuaf gydag ymateb y Gweinidog. Yn amlwg ni chafodd y cynnig hwn ei gyflwyno i wleidyddoli'r mater; nid yw'n ceisio beirniadu gweithredoedd—na diffyg gweithredu—gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad. Nid oes dim cyfeiriad yn y cynnig at feirniadu'r Llywodraeth. Mewn gwirionedd, dywedwn ein bod yn credu y dylai pobl gael eu trin mewn ysbytai diogel a

that you agree that the motion should be amended to remove point 1, so that we do not deplore the fact that people acquire infections in hospitals. Quite frankly, that would be saying that we should not be concerned about the common and repeated occurrence of C. difficile. I can tell you, Minister, that, in every hospital in Wales, people die from C. difficile. That is a fact, in data collected and published by your Government. We should be worried about that.

You should not diminish the impact of what has been a very constructive debate by saying that it has been highly politicised. There has been hardly any criticism of the role of Government. Very constructive points were made by my Conservative colleagues and by Val Lloyd, Jenny Randerson, Mike German and Dai Lloyd about how we can all ensure that tackling hospital-acquired infections are everybody's business. You have only to hear the evidence that we all gather in personal stories when we visit hospitals, not just in our capacity as politicians, when the trumpet fanfare goes up to say that some politician has arrived, but when we visit a family member or friend in a personal capacity, when we are not recognised for the job that we do, but seen as an ordinary member of the public and get to experience the NHS and the problems that occur—

Joyce Watson: Will you take an intervention?

Jonathan Morgan: I will give way in a moment, Joyce, but I am very short on time.

That is when you get to see the problems in hospitals, and that is when you gain the sort of insight that we got from Angela Burns and hear the sort of stories that we heard from Mike German. I could give you a catalogue of stories relating to the experiences of members of my family, including my wife's grandparents, who have been in hospital in the past 12 months. Frankly, what I saw was not acceptable, which is why my confidence has been dented, as has the confidence of most people in Wales, who fear the prospect of being in hospital, not because of the standard of care and treatment that they will receive, but because of the prospect of

glân. Yr wyf yn synnu eich bod yn cytuno y dylid diwygio'r cynnig i ddileu pwynt 1, fel nad ydym yn gresynu at y ffaith fod pobl yn dal heintiau mewn ysbytai. I fod yn onest, byddai hynny'n dweud na ddylem fod yn pryderu bod C. difficile yn digwydd yn gyffredin, dro ar ôl tro. Gallaf ddweud wrthy, Weinidog, fod pobl ym mhob ysbyty yng Nghymru yn marw o C. difficile. Mae hynny'n ffaith, mewn data sydd wedi eu casglu a'u cyhoeddi gan eich Llywodraeth chi. Dylem fod yn poeni am hynny.

Ni ddylech fychanu effaith dadl sydd wedi bod yn un adeiladol iawn drwy ddweud iddi fod yn un wleidyddol dros ben. Ni fu nemor ddim beirmiadaeth o rôl y Llywodraeth. Gwnaethpwyd pwyntiau adeiladol iawn gan fy nghyd-Geidwadwyr a chan Val Lloyd, Jenny Randerson, Mike German a Dai Lloyd am y ffordd y gallwn i gyd sicrhau bod mynd i'r afael â heintiau sy'n tarddu mewn ysbytai yn fusnes i bawb. Nid oes ond rhaid clywed y dystiolaeth y mae pawb ohonom yn ei chasglu mewn hanesion personol wrth ymweld ag ysbytai, nid yn unig yn ein swydd fel gwleidyddion, pan seinir yr utgorn i gyhoeddi dyfodiad rhyw wleidydd, ond wrth ymweld ag aelod o'r teulu neu gyfaill mewn sefyllfa bersonol, pan na fydd pobl yn ein hadnabod oherwydd y gwaith a wnawn, ond fel aelod cyffredin o'r cyhoedd a chael profi'r GIG a'r problemau sy'n digwydd—

Joyce Watson: A wnewch chi gymryd ymyriad?

Jonathan Morgan: Ildiaf ymhen munud, Joyce, ond yr wyf yn brin iawn o amser.

Dyna pryd y cewch weld y problemau mewn ysbytai, a dyna pryd y cewch y math o fewnwelediad a gawsom gan Angela Burns ac y clywch y math o straeon a glywsom gan Mike German. Gallwn roi catalog o straeon ichi ynglŷn â phrofiadau aelodau o'm teulu, gan gynnwys nain a thaid fy ngwraig, sydd wedi bod yn yr ysbyty yn y 12 mis diwethaf. I fod yn onest, yr oedd yr hyn a welais yn annerbyniol, a dyna pam y mae fy hyder wedi cael tol, fel hyder y rhan fwyaf o bobl yng Nghymru, sy'n ofni gorfod mynd i'r ysbyty, nid oherwydd safon y gofal a'r driniaeth a gânt, ond oherwydd y posibilrwydd o ddal haint. Yn awr ildiaf yn llawen i Joyce.

contracting an infection. I will now happily give way to Joyce.

Joyce Watson: Earlier this year I spent quite some time in Prince Philip Hospital in Llanelli, where no-one knew who I was and where there were no trumpets announcing my arrival, and the standard of hygiene in that hospital is exemplary. I walked in the front door and immediately saw a highly polished but safe-to-walk-on surface. I commended the staff on their very high levels of hygiene. No-one could move around the hospital without ensuring that they cleaned their hands at every move. I wish to pay tribute to those staff, because some of what you are saying—

The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer: Joyce, this is supposed to be a short intervention, not a speech.

Joyce Watson: Okay. However, some of what you are saying, Jonathan, scares people.

Jonathan Morgan: It does not scare people; people are concerned about standards of cleanliness. You are right to point to Prince Philip Hospital in Llanelli. In 2006, six people died from C. difficile in that hospital; it was the lowest rate of all the hospitals in Wales. There is good practice; we have said that in this debate. If you have read the motion, you will know that we say that some trusts have made good progress. However, Members across the political spectrum have raised concerns about the challenges that we face, whether those are about bed occupancy rates, the role of the nursing profession, nurses' uniforms or patients and families taking ownership. I know from my experiences in the University Hospital of Wales—and Brynle Williams pointed out that this is also the case in north Wales—that it is a common occurrence that patients walk down the stairs in their slippers and dressing gowns into the public area and outside into the rain. It is not healthy; it cannot be good for keeping hospitals clean. We all have a duty to ensure that this is a higher priority. That was the reason for the debate. I am sorry that the Government has seen this as some sort of attack on it.

Joyce Watson: Yn gynharach eleni treuliais gryn dipyn o amser yn Ysbyty'r Tywysog Philip yn Llanelli, lle na wyddai neb pwy oeddwn a lle nad oedd utgryn i gyhoeddi fy nyfodiad, ac mae safon hylendid yn yr ysbyty hwnnw'n esiampl. Cerddais i mewn drwy'r drws ffrynt a gwelais lawr a oedd yn sgleinio ond yn ddiogel i gerdded arno. Canmolais y staff ar eu lefelau hylendid uchel iawn. Ni allai neb symud o gwmpas yr ysbyty heb sicrhau eu bod yn glanhau eu dwylo bob tro y byddent yn symud. Yr wyf am roi teyrnged i'r staff hynny, oherwydd mae rhywfaint o'r hyn a ddywedwch—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Joyce, ymyriad byr yw hwn i fod, nid araith.

Joyce Watson: Iawn. Fodd bynnag, mae rhywfaint o'r hyn a ddywedwch, Jonathan, yn dychryn pobl.

Jonathan Morgan: Nid yw'n dychryn pobl; y mae pobl yn bryderus ynghylch safonau glendid. Yr ydych yn iawn i bwyntio at Ysbyty'r Tywysog Philip yn Llanelli. Yn 2006 bu farw chwech o bobl o C. difficile yn yr ysbyty hwnnw; dyna'r gyfradd isaf o'r holl ysbytai yng Nghymru. Mae ymarfer da i'w gael; yr ydym wedi dweud hynny yn y ddadl hon. Os ydych wedi darllen y cynnig, gwyddoch ein bod yn dweud bod ambell ymddiriedolaeth wedi cymryd camau da ymlaen. Fodd bynnag, mae Aelodau ar draws y sbectwm gwleidyddol wedi mynegi pryderon am yr her a wynebwn, boed ynghylch cyfraddau defnyddio gwelyau, rôl y proffesiwn nyrsio, gwisgoedd nyrsys, neu berchenogaeth gan gleifion a theuluoedd. Gwn o'm profiadau yn Ysbyty Prifysgol Cymru—a nododd Brynle Williams fod hyn yn wir hefyd yn y gogledd—ei bod yn gyffredin i gleifion gerdded i lawr y grisiau yn eu slipers a'u gynau nos i'r man cyhoeddus ac allan i'r glaw. Nid yw'n beth iach; ni all fod yn dda o ran cadw ysbytai'n lân. Mae'n ddyletswydd arnom bob un i sicrhau rhoi blaenoriaeth uwch i hyn. Dyna'r rheswm am y ddadl. Mae'n flin gennyf fod y Llywodraeth wedi gweld hyn fel rhyw fath o ymosodiad arni.

Finally, I wish to agree with the view of the leader of the opposition that, just because we are doing marginally better in Wales on C. difficile figures in comparison to the rest of the United Kingdom, it does not mean that we are doing well. We are still doing much worse than most other parts of western Europe. I believe strongly that there is a case for our spending more of our resources, time and energy on ensuring that hospitals are clean. I do not think that it would be right for me to stand here and say that I have the utmost confidence in the way in which our hospitals are run and the way in which they are kept clean. I would be lying to the Assembly if I were to say that. I believe that we should reflect people's genuine concern about our hospitals. Some of them are very good, but others are simply not up to scratch. This Assembly Government has a job to do, and it must get on and do it properly.

The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is to agree amendment 1. Are there any objections? I see that there are, so I will defer voting until voting time.

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

4.20 p.m.

Dadl Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru Welsh Liberal Democrats Debate

Cyllid Addysg Bellach ar gyfer 2008-09 Further Education Funding for 2008-09

The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendments 1, 2 and 3 in the name of Carwyn Jones, and amendments 4 and 5 in the name of William Graham.

Kirsty Williams: I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales:

1. notes that the further education sector in Wales has received a real-terms cut in funding for 2008/09;

2. believes that this cut will have an adverse impact on the sector;

Yn olaf, hoffwn gytuno â barn arweinydd yr wrthblaid nad yw'r ffaith ein bod yn gwneud fymryn yn well yng Nghymru o ran ffigurau C. difficile o'n cymharu â gweddill y Deyrnas Unedig yn golygu ein bod yn gwneud yn dda. Yr ydym yn dal i wneud lawer yn waeth na'r rhan fwyaf o weddill gorllewin Ewrop. Credaf yn gryf fod achos dros inni wario mwy o'n hadnoddau, ein hamser a'n hegni ar sicrhau bod ysbytai'n lân. Ni chredaf y byddai'n iawn i mi sefyll yma a dweud bod gennyf hyder llwyr yn y ffordd y rhedir ein hysbytai a'r ffordd y cânt eu cadw'n lân. Byddwn yn dweud celwydd wrth y Cynulliad pe dywedwn hynny. Credaf y dylem adlewyrchu pryder gwirioneddol pobl am ein hysbytai. Mae rhai ohonynt yn dda iawn, ond nid yw eraill yn ddigon da. Mae gan y Llywodraeth Cynulliad hon waith i'w wneud, a rhaid iddi fwrw ati a gwneud y gwaith yn iawn.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Y cynnig yw cytuno gwelliant 1. A oes gwrthwynebiadau? Gwelaf fod, felly, gohiriaf y bleidlais tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliannau 1, 2 a 3 yn enw Carwyn Jones, a gwelliannau 4 a 5 yn enw William Graham.

Kirsty Williams: Cynigiaf fod (NDM3962)

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. yn nodi bod y sector addysg bellach yng Nghymru wedi cael toriad termau real mewn cyllid ar gyfer 2008/09;

2. yn credu y caiff y toriad hwn effaith andwyol ar y sector;

3. *calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to assess whether this level of funding is sufficient to deliver the Welsh Assembly Government's skills strategy.* (NDM3962)

Members will be aware that this is the third debate that the Welsh Liberal Democrats have held on issues relating to education in recent weeks. We have done so because the Government has refused repeated requests to hold such debates and also because this Government refuses to acknowledge the mounting difficulties that the Minister for education is facing in her portfolio.

First we debated the foundation phase, then we debated the funding gap in higher education and today we are focusing on the further education sector. We will focus on the failure of the Minister to secure adequate funding for that sector and the effect that that failure will have on the quality of teaching and training that the sector will be able to deliver. We believe that that failure will restrict course choices for students and thus impact on the skills agenda. We will, therefore, support the Conservatives' amendments 4 and 5 to our motion.

The stark reality is that in April 2008, the Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills circulated to colleges their provisional funding allocations. Total funding, including consolidated FE pay, is around £285.9 million for 2008-09, compared with £281.8 million for the previous year. That translates to only a 1.45 per cent increase, which is well below inflation. Whatever spin the Welsh Assembly Government wants to put on it, in my book, and that of the colleges, that is a cut.

In addition, the way in which individual colleges have been allocated grant for this year gives new meaning to the word 'opaque'. It seems that there is little rhyme or reason to how individual colleges have been funded. Allocation formulae and weighting were changed weekly in the run-up to the final announcement on 21 April. Colleges were told on one day that they would have a certain amount, only to find that they were to have tens of thousands of pounds less the

3. *yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i asesu a yw'r lefel hon o gyllid yn ddigonol i ddarparu strategaeth sgiliau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru.* (NDM3962)

Bydd aelodau'n ymwybodol mai hon yw'r drydedd ddadl i Ddemocratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru ei chynnal ar faterion yn ymwneud ag addysg yn yr wythnosau diwethaf. Yr ydym wedi gwneud hynny am fod y Llywodraeth wedi gwrthod cais ar ôl cais am gynnal dadleuon felly, a hefyd oherwydd bod y Llywodraeth hon yn gwrthod cydnabod yr anawsterau cynyddol y mae'r Gweinidog addysg yn eu hwynebu yn ei phortffolio.

Yn gyntaf cyflwynwyd dadl gennym ar y cyfnod sylfaen, wedyn y bwlch cyllid mewn addysg uwch, a heddiw yr ydym yn canolbwyntio ar y sector addysg bellach. Byddwn yn canolbwyntio ar fethiant y Gweinidog i sicrhau cyllid digonol ar gyfer y sector hwnnw a'r effaith a gaiff y methiant hwnnw ar ansawdd yr addysgu a'r hyfforddi y bydd y sector yn gallu eu darparu. Credwn y bydd y methiant hwnnw'n cyfyngu'r dewis o gyrsiau i fyfyrwyr ac felly'n effeithio ar yr agenda sgiliau. Felly, byddwn yn cefnogi gwelliannau 4 a 5 gan y Ceidwadwyr i'n cynnig.

Y gwir plaen yw bod yr Adran Plant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau yn Ebrill 2008 wedi cylchlythyrw colegau gyda'u dyraniadau cyllid arfaethedig. Mae cyfanswm y cyllid, gan gynnwys tâl cyfunol AB, oddeutu £285.9 miliwn ar gyfer 2008-09, o'i gymharu â £281.8 miliwn ar gyfer y flwyddyn flaenorol. Mae hwnnw'n gynydd o 1.45 y cant yn unig, sy'n is o lawer na chwyddiant. Pa bynnag sbin y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru am ei roi arno, i mi, ac i'r colegau, toriad yw hynny.

Yn ogystal, mae'r modd y dyrannwyd grant i golegau unigol am y flwyddyn hon yn rhoi ystyr newydd i'r gair 'anhryloyw'. Mae'n ymddangos nad oes fawr o reol na rheswm i'r modd yr ariannwyd colegau unigol. Newidiwyd fformiwlâu dyrannu a phwysoliad bob wythnos yn y cyfnod cyn y cyhoeddiad terfynol ar 21 Ebrill. Dywedwyd wrth golegau un dydd y caent swm penodol, a gweld wedyn yr wythnos ganlynol y caent ddegau o filoedd o bunnoedd yn llai na

following week. Believe me, however the money is allocated, you can be assured that there are more losers than winners. Only seven colleges will get anything close to what they need to keep up with inflation and over half our colleges will see a freezing of their budgets or a decrease. The results are already becoming clear: redundancies were announced at Yale College and access to agricultural courses has been reduced in Coleg Powys, and it is not alone. Fifteen colleges are reporting that they are likely to close courses in Wales and 17 out of 20 will seek voluntary or compulsory redundancies, including among lecturing staff as well as business support staff. Fifteen colleges will freeze posts when they become available.

The Deputy Minister for Skills (John Griffiths): I was interested that you mentioned Coleg Powys. I believe that its increase for the forthcoming year is around 10 per cent, so I would be interested to hear your explanation as to how that is responsible for the situation that you just described.

Kirsty Williams: I will explain this issue in more detail later, but today's figures follow on the back of years of a lack of investment in the FE sector. Therefore, even though that individual college wins in this year's settlement, it cannot address the failures in previous years and therefore cannot go on. It also demonstrates the lack of planning that makes it incredibly difficult for colleges to manage their budgets.

As I was saying, earlier the First Minister was at his buck-passing best. None of this was his fault. These were independent organisations that should be able to manage better. How ridiculous, even by his usual standards. It should be noted that One Wales states that there should be a three-year funding formula for FE colleges. We are no closer to achieving that, which is particularly ironic given that colleges are required to report on a five-yearly basis.

The reality is that this is not the first funding blow, as I said to John Griffiths, that the sector has received, which makes it even more difficult to respond to challenging times. Welsh colleges, including Coleg

hynny. Credwch fi, sut bynnag y dyrennir yr arian, gallwch fod yn siŵr fod mwy ar eu colled nag ar eu hennill. Dim ond saith coleg a gaiff ddim byd tebyg i'r hyn y mae arnynt ei angen i gadw i fyny â chwyddiant, a bydd cyllidebau dros hanner ein colegau yn cael eu rhewi neu eu gostwng. Mae'r canlyniadau eisoes yn dod yn amlwg: cyhoeddwyd colli swyddi yng Ngholeg Iâl a chwtogwyd nifer y llefydd ar gyrsiau amaethyddol yng Ngholeg Powys, ac nid yw hwnnw ar ei ben ei hun. Dywed pymtheg o golegau eu bod yn debygol o gau cyrsiau yng Nghymru, a bydd 17 allan o 20 yn ceisio cael diswyddiadau gwirfoddol neu orfodol, gan gynnwys ymhlith staff darlithio yn ogystal â staff cynnal busnes. Bydd pymtheg o golegau'n rhewi swyddi wrth iddynt ddod yn wag.

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Sgiliau (John Griffiths): Diddorol oedd ichi grybwyll Coleg Powys. Credaf fod ei gynnydd am y flwyddyn sydd i ddod o gwmpas 10 y cant, felly, byddai'n ddiddorol clywed eich eglurhad o'r ffordd y mae hynny'n gyfrifol am y sefyllfa yr ydych newydd ei disgrifio.

Kirsty Williams: Egluraf y mater hwn yn fanylach yn ddiweddarach, ond mae ffigurau heddiw'n dod ar gefn blynyddoedd o ddiffyg buddsoddi yn y sector AB. Felly, er bod y coleg unigol hwnnw ar ei ennill yn setliad eleni, ni all wneud iawn am y diffygion mewn blynyddoedd blaenorol ac felly ni all fynd ymlaen. Mae'n dangos hefyd y diffyg cynllunio sy'n ei gwneud yn rhyfeddol o anodd i golegau reoli eu cyllidebau.

Fel y dywedais, yn gynharach yr oedd y Prif Weinidog ar ei orau'n pasio'r bai. Nid ei fai ef oedd dim o hyn. Sefydliadau annibynnol oedd y rhain a ddylai allu ymdopi'n well. Mor chwerthinllyd, hyd yn oed yn ôl ei safonau arferol ef. Dylid sylwi bod Cymru'n Un yn dweud y dylid cael fformiwla ariannu tair blynedd ar gyfer colegau AB. Nid ydym rony'n yn nes at sicrhau hynny, sy'n arbennig o eironig o gofio bod gofyn i golegau gyflwyno adroddiad bob pum mlynedd.

Y realiti yw nad dyma'r ergyd ariannol gyntaf, fel y dywedais wrth John Griffiths, y mae'r sector wedi'i chael, sy'n ei gwneud yn anos fyth ymateb i adegau anodd. Eisoes gofynnwyd i golegau yng Nghymru, gan

Powys, have already been required to make efficiency savings over many years, and have responded to that challenge. On average, they have made efficiency savings of 1.44 per cent since 1993, through purchasing consortia arrangements, for instance. While I acknowledge that comparisons between England and Wales are difficult, if you compare the funding for post-16 programmes in England and Wales since 2001-02, we can see a period of convergence up to 2004-05 followed by a downward trend, with less being spent per head in Wales than in England. With regards to capital, the Webb report lamented that Wales's funding was less than 3 per cent of the funding available in England. The report states that

'The quantum of public funding must be increased—we cannot substantially disadvantage post-14 learners compared with those elsewhere in the UK'.

There are many other aspects in which the Government is letting down further education colleges, such as in the failure to support effectiveness training. It is available to schools in Wales, but not to FE colleges. FE colleges in England have been able to send their leaders on dedicated courses to improve effectiveness, but that is not available to college leaders in Wales.

Given that picture, you would have thought that we did not have a problem in Wales with skills acquisition, economic activity levels or productivity levels. If the Government is to fulfil its aspirations with regards to skills—as tame as they are—it cannot do so unless it starts to value the further education sector.

Research in Scotland has quantified that every £1 invested in FE generates an additional £3.20 for the economy of Scotland. If that multiplier was applied to Wales, FE would pump £730 million into the Welsh economy. Instead of seeing a situation in which colleges are turning away people, and are sacking some staff to enable them to pay the wages of others, we need the Government to step up to the plate and do more. The colleges and FE learners need the support of this Government, but they are not getting it at the moment.

gynnwys Coleg Powys, wneud arbedion effeithlonrwydd dros flynyddoedd lawer, ac maent wedi ymateb i'r her honno. Ar gyfartaledd, maent wedi gwneud arbedion effeithlonrwydd o 1.44 y cant er 1993, drwy drefniadau consortia prynu, er enghraifft. Er fy mod yn cydnabod ei bod yn anodd cymharu Cymru a Lloegr, os cymharwch y cyllid ar gyfer rhaglenni ôl-16 yng Nghymru a Lloegr er 2001-02, gallwn weld cyfnod o gydgyfeiriant hyd at 2004-05, wedyn tuedd at i lawr, a llai'n cael ei wario y pen yng Nghymru nag yn Lloegr. O ran cyfalaf, yr oedd adroddiad Webb yn gresynu bod cyllid Cymru yn llai na 3 y cant o'r cyllid a oedd ar gael yn Lloegr. Meddai'r adroddiad

Rhaid cynyddu'r cwantwm cyllid cyhoeddus—ni allwn roi dysgwyr ôl-14 dan anfantais sylweddol o'u cymharu â'r rheini mewn rhannau eraill o'r Deyrnas Unedig.

Mae llawer agwedd arall lle mae'r Llywodraeth yn siomi colegau addysg bellach, fel y methiant i gefnogi hyfforddiant effeithiolrwydd. Mae ar gael i ysgolion yng Nghymru, ond nid i golegau AB. Mae colegau AB yn Lloegr wedi gallu anfon eu harweinwyr ar gyrsiau arbennig i wella effeithiolrwydd, ond nid yw hynny ar gael i arweinwyr colegau yng Nghymru.

O weld y darlun hwnnw, gallech dybio nad oedd gennym broblem yng Nghymru o ran meithrin sgiliau, lefelau gweithgaredd economaidd neu lefelau cynhyrchiant. Os yw'r Llywodraeth am gyflawni ei dyheadau o safbwynt sgiliau—rhaf dof fel ag yr ydynt—ni all wneud hynny oni fydd yn dechrau gwerthfawrogi'r sector addysg bellach.

Mae ymchwil yn yr Alban wedi mesur bod pob £1 a fuddsoddir mewn AB yn cynhyrchu £3.20 ychwanegol i economi'r Alban. Pe cymhwysid y lluosydd hwnnw i Gymru, byddai AB yn pwmpio £730 miliwn i mewn i economi Cymru. Yn lle gweld sefyllfa lle mae colegau'n troi pobl i ffwrdd, ac yn diswyddo rhai aelodau staff er mwyn gallu talu cyflogau aelodau staff eraill, mae angen i'r Llywodraeth gamu i'r adwy a gwneud mwy. Mae ar y colegau a'r myfyrwyr AB angen cefnogaeth y Llywodraeth hon, ond nid ydynt yn ei chael ar hyn o bryd.

Our colleges are delivering excellence in many ways, as demonstrated by the Estyn report, but they are doing so despite, rather than because of, the actions of this Government.

The Deputy Minister for Skills (John Griffiths): I propose the following amendments in the name of Carwyn Jones. Amendment 1: in point 1 delete all after 'received' and replace with:

a 1.45 per cent increase in its 2008-09 budget, taking the total annual investment in the sector to £386 million.

Amendment 2: delete point 2 and replace with:

endorses the Government's determination to protect teaching and training resources under a tight financial settlement and supports the implementation of the skills and learning strategy.

Amendment 3: delete point 3.

David Melding: I propose the following amendments in the name of William Graham. Amendment 4: add as a new point at the end of the motion:

recognises the role the FE sector plays in driving up workforce skills and reducing economic inactivity levels in Wales.

Amendment 5: add as a new point at the end of the motion:

expresses concern that as a direct result of funding cuts, it is estimated that fifteen colleges will have to close courses and up to 2,400 full-time and part-time learners will be affected.

I congratulate the Liberal Democrats on bringing this motion forward, and I also commend the excellent speech that we just heard from Kirsty Williams. She spoke with passion and laid out the situation in which the FE sector finds itself.

The Government has reacted most

Mae ein colegau'n sicrhau rhagoriaeth mewn amryw ffyrdd, fel y dangosir gan adroddiad Estyn, ond maent yn gwneud hynny er gwaethaf, yn hytrach nag oherwydd, gweithredoedd y Llywodraeth hon.

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Sgiliau (John Griffiths): Cynigiau y gwelliannau canlynol yn enw Carwyn Jones. Gwelliant 1: ym mhwynt 1 dileu popeth ar ôl 'cael' ac yn ei le rhoi:

cynnydd o 1.45 y cant yng nghyllideb 2008-09, gan gymryd cyfanswm y buddsoddiad blynyddol yn y sector i £386 miliwn.

Gwelliant 2: dileu pwynt 2 ac yn ei le rhoi:

yn cymeradwyo penderfyniad y Llywodraeth i ddiogelu adnoddau addysgu a hyfforddiant o dan setliad ariannol tynn ac yn cefnogi gweithredu'r strategaeth sgiliau a dysgu.

Gwelliant 3: dileu pwynt 3.

David Melding: Cynigiau y gwelliannau canlynol yn enw William Graham. Gwelliant 4: ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn cydnabod y swyddogaeth y mae'r sector addysg bellach yn ei chwarae o ran codi sgiliau'r gweithlu a lleihau lefelau anweithgarwch economaidd yng Nghymru.

Gwelliant 5: ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn mynegi pryder yr amcangyfrifir, o ganlyniad uniongyrchol i doriadau cyllido, y bydd yn rhaid i bymtheg o golegau gau cyrsiau ac yr effeithir ar hyd at 2,400 o ddysgwyr amser llawn a rhan amser.

Llongyfarchaf y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol ar gyflwyno'r cynnig hwn, a chymeradwyaf hefyd yr araith ragorol a glywsom yn awr gan Kirsty Williams. Siaradodd gydag angerdd a gosododd allan y sefyllfa y mae'r sector AB ynddi.

Mae'r Llywodraeth wedi adweithio'n

remarkably to the Webb review, which said that the FE sector will be central in driving up our skills base. The Government has turned around and said that as part of that strategy, the first thing that it will do is to cut funding in real terms for FE colleges. It is the kind of response that you would expect in a James Bond film, when Blofeld says, 'Mr Bond, I really do like you as a person, but I am now going to drop you into my shark pool'. [*Laughter.*] I am afraid that it is that action that will carry more weight than all the fine words. I find it remarkable that this is the Government's response to a fundamentally important report, which has been widely received.

We need a demand-led skills strategy, which is at the heart of amendment 4. This was identified by Adrian Webb, and there are two key drivers in having a demand-led skills strategy—the learners themselves, who are potential employees, and the employers. It will be interesting to see how the Government will translate into action the call for more resources and power to be held by the key players in driving a demand-led skills strategy.

4.30 p.m.

The FE sector is especially important in helping small and medium-sized enterprises to drive up their level of skills. If you look at the amount of training that people receive, you will see that it goes down with the number of employees that are employed, so the fewer that are employed, the less likelihood there is of receiving training. Once you fall below 100 employees, the drop-off is considerable. Yet, the majority of people work for small and medium-sized organisations, and a good number work for very small and microfirms, which, taken together, although they may only employ one to 10 people or whatever, constitute a hugely important part of our economy. That is where we know we must drive up the level of skills. The Government's own red book on economic research—a very good document—identifies that the key requirement is to drive up labour productivity. It states that the real problem with these small firms is that, at the moment, they find it very difficult to access

rhyfeddol iawn i adolygiad Webb, a oedd yn dweud y bydd y sector AB yn ganolog i yrru ein sylfaen sgiliau i fyny. Mae'r Llywodraeth wedi troi a dweud mai'r peth cyntaf a wna fel rhan o'r strategaeth honno yw torri cyllid mewn termau real i golegau AB. Dyna'r math o ymateb a ddisgwyliech mewn ffilm James Bond, pan fydd Blofeld yn dweud, 'Mr Bond, yr wyf yn hoff iawn ohonoch fel person, ond yn awr yr wyf yn mynd i'ch gollwng i'm pwll siarcod'. [*Chwerthin.*] Mae arnaf ofn mai'r gweithredu hwnnw a fydd yn cario mwy o bwysau na'r holl eiriau teg. Mae'n rhyfeddol i mi mai dyma ymateb y Llywodraeth i adroddiad sylfaenol bwysig, sydd wedi cael derbyniad eang.

Mae arnom angen strategaeth sgiliau sy'n cael ei harwain gan y galw, sef yr hyn sydd wrth galon gwelliant 4. Nodwyd hyn gan Adrian Webb, ac mae dau brif yrrwr o gael strategaeth sgiliau sy'n cael ei harwain gan y galw—y dysgwyr eu hunain, sy'n ddarpar weithwyr, a'r cyflogwyr. Bydd yn ddiddorol gweld sut y bydd y Llywodraeth yn troi'n weithredu yr alwad am i ragor o adnoddau a grym gael eu dal gan y chwaraewyr allweddol wrth yrru strategaeth sgiliau sy'n cael ei harwain gan y galw.

Mae'r sector AB yn arbennig o bwysig i helpu mentrau bach a chanolig i godi lefel eu sgiliau. Os edrychwch ar faint o hyfforddiant y mae pobl yn ei gael, gwelwch ei fod yn gostwng gyda nifer y gweithwyr sy'n cael eu cyflogi. Felly, po leiaf a gyflogir, lleiaf oll yw'r tebygolrwydd fod yna hyfforddiant. Ar ôl ichi fynd islaw 100 o weithwyr, mae'r gostyngiad yn sylweddol. Ond mae'r mwyafrif o bobl yn gweithio i gyrff bach a chanolig eu maint, ac mae nifer dda yn gweithio i gwmnïau bach iawn a microgwmnïau sydd, o'u cymryd gyda'i gilydd, er nad ydynt efallai'n cyflogi rhwng un a 10 o bobl neu beth bynnag, yn rhan eithriadol o bwysig o'n heconomi. Gwyddom mai dyna lle mae'n rhaid inni godi'r lefel sgiliau. Mae llyfr coch y Llywodraeth ei hun ar ymchwil economaidd—dogfen dda iawn—yn nodi mai'r gofyniad allweddol yw cynyddu cynhyrchiant llafur. Mae'n dweud mai'r broblem wirioneddol gyda'r cwmnïau bach hyn yw eu bod, ar hyn o bryd, yn ei

effective training, which lies at the heart of improving productivity. The Government must see further than the temporary need to react to a very difficult funding round, and it must make strategic decisions; it has not done so yet in essential areas.

I will just say a word on economic inactivity, which is also included in our amendment. It is very important to remember that, in areas that have high levels of economically inactive people, there is also a high demand for workers to do jobs with low skills. It is a paradox. Those are the areas where most of the migrants from the accession states, many of them from eastern Europe, have come to because there is a labour shortage. You cannot get the local population to take up many of those jobs. Much of that is because these people lack confidence; they have been economically inactive for a long time and they do not have soft skills. If we are going to get to those people, we are going to have to use the further education sector extensively.

Again, I am disappointed that, so far, we have not seen the Government grasp the challenge. It commissioned an excellent report, but it has not met the essential recommendations, grasped them and taken them forward. That is a failing, and if it is not corrected, the Government will stand condemned for missing yet another opportunity to lead the UK in driving up skills. The Government says the right thing, namely that where we need to start, not stop, is with the people with poor skills, but it cannot see that that requires financial commitment.

The sector is under great pressure, and we know that from the lobbying that we have received, so I ask the Government to re-examine its priorities in this area.

Eleanor Burnham: As we have been hearing, there is a huge difficulty in the further education sector. I commend all the wonderful FE colleges across north Wales who have scored extremely highly. In fact, some of them could not have scored any higher in all the criteria. On that basis, it was

chael yn anodd cael hyfforddiant effeithiol, sydd wrth galon gwella cynhyrchiant. Rhaid i'r Llywodraeth weld ymhellach na'r angen dros dro am ymateb i gylch cyllido hynod o anodd, a rhaid iddi wneud penderfyniadau strategol; nid yw wedi gwneud hynny eto mewn meysydd hollbwysig.

Dywedaf air yn unig am anweithgarwch economaidd, sydd hefyd wedi'i gynnwys yn eich gwelliant. Mae'n bwysig cofio, mewn ardaloedd lle mae lefelau uchel o bobl sy'n anweithgar yn economaidd, fod galw uchel hefyd am weithwyr i wneud swyddi sydd â sgiliau isel. Mae'n baradocs. I'r ardaloedd y mae'r rhan fwyaf o weithwyr mudol o'r gwladwriaethau sydd wedi'u derbyn, lawer ohonynt o ddwyrain Ewrop, wedi dod oherwydd bod prinder llafur. Ni allwch gael y boblogaeth leol i gymryd llawer o'r swyddi hynny. Mae llawer o hynny am nad oes hyder gan y bobl hyn; maent wedi bod yn anweithgar yn economaidd ers amser maith ac nid oes ganddynt sgiliau meddal. Os ydym i gyrraedd y bobl hynny, bydd yn rhaid inni ddefnyddio'r sector addysg bellach yn helaeth.

Eto, yr wyf yn siomedig nad ydym, hyd yma, wedi gweld y Llywodraeth yn ymafflyd yn yr her. Comisiynodd adroddiad rhagorol, ond nid yw eto wedi ateb yr argymhellion hanfodol, wedi gafael ynddynt a'u symud ymlaen. Mae hynny'n fethiant, ac os na chaiff ei gywiro bydd y Llywodraeth yn cael ei chondemnio am fethu cyfle arall eto i arwain y DU drwy godi lefelau sgiliau. Mae'r Llywodraeth yn dweud y peth iawn, sef mai'r man lle mae angen inni dechrau, nid stopio, yw gyda'r bobl sydd â sgiliau gwael, ond nid yw'n gallu gweld ei bod yn rhaid wrth ymrwymiad ariannol i wneud hynny.

Mae'r sector dan bwysau mawr, a gwyddom hynny o'r lobiö yr ydym wedi'i wynebu, felly, gofynnaf i'r Llywodraeth edrych eto at ei blaenoriaethau yn y maes hwn.

Eleanor Burnham: Fel yr ydym wedi clywed, mae anhawster enfawr yn y sector addysg bellach. Cymeradwyaf yr holl golegau AB gwych ar draws y gogledd sydd wedi sgorio'n eithriadol o uchel. Yn wir, ni allai rhai ohonynt fod wedi sgorio'n uwch ym mhob un o'r meini prawf. Ar y sail honno, yr

very sad to see in the *Daily Post* today that 23 senior managers at Yale College in Wrexham have been offered voluntary redundancy because of a funding freeze. They have until the end of the month to make a decision. The college's budget is frozen at £17.238 million for the year. This is distressing and depressing.

I do not know what it is about the UK psyche, but there has been a very chequered past in terms of training, apprenticeships and getting it all right. There was a debacle with the training and enterprise councils, which did not fare very well, and we had the community consortia for education and training and this, that and the other and, quite frankly, in the end, they did not seem to deliver. We went from one muddle to another, and I am very sad and cross about that because we are talking about the futures of many wonderful young people, for whom one-size-fits-all criteria are not particularly applicable.

We need flexibility, and we need to discuss and have partnerships with the SMEs, as David Melding has just eloquently stated. They are the driving factor in many respects, but so are the young people. We need to use their creativity; we should not put them in straitjackets. Many of them will go on in a continuum to higher education but there are also many people who like to dip in and out of education. That is one of the biggest issues that has been completely neglected and overlooked despite the Welsh Assembly Government's warm words.

So many options have been closed down, and when you have so many courses that have capacity issues and the demand is so high, the colleges just cannot cope, even with fundamentals such as plumbing, which I was discussing with people at Yale College during its launch of the Bersham road campus. We have had plumbers from Poland and you have to ask where our own plumbers are, for goodness' sake. Now that many of the Polish people are going back to Poland because their own economy is doing so well, we have to be careful about how we go about this. Thinking about our own set-ups at home, if you have water coming through the

oedd yn drist iawn gweld yn y *Daily Post* heddiw fod 23 o uwch reolwyr yng Ngholeg Iâl yn Wrecsam wedi cael cynnig diswyddiad gwirfoddol oherwydd rhewi cyllid. Mae ganddynt tan ddiwedd y mis i benderfynu. Mae cyllideb y coleg wedi ei rhewi ar £17.238 miliwn am y flwyddyn. Mae hynny'n peri loes a digalondid.

Ni wn beth yw'r broblem yn seici y DU, ond brith iawn fu'r gorffennol o safbwynt hyfforddiant, prentisiaethau a chael y cyfan yn iawn. Bu chwalfa gyda'r cyngorau hyfforddiant a menter, na wnaethant yn dda iawn, a chawsom y consortia cymunedol dros addysg a hyfforddiant a hyn, y llall ac arall ac, a bod yn blaen, yn y pen draw, nid oeddent fel petaent yn cyflawni. Aethom o un dryswch i ddryswch arall, ac yr wyf yn drist iawn ac yn ddig am hynny, oherwydd yr ydym yn siarad am ddyfodol llawer o bobl ifanc ragorol, nad yw meini prawf un-ateb-sy'n-gweddu-i-bawb yn addas iawn iddynt.

Mae arnom angen hyblygrwydd, ac mae angen inni drafod a chael partneriaethau gyda'r cwmnïau bach a chanolig eu maint, fel y mae David Melding newydd ei ddweud mor huawdl. Hwy yw'r ffactorau gyrru mewn llawer ffordd, ond felly hefyd y bobl ifanc. Mae angen inni ddefnyddio'u creadigrwydd; ni ddylem eu cyfyngu. Bydd nifer ohonynt yn parhau mewn continwwm i addysg uwch, ond mae nifer o bobl hefyd sy'n hoffi pigo tipyn ar addysg bob hyn a hyn. Dyna un o'r materion mwyaf sydd wedi eu hesgeuluso a'u hanwybyddu'n llwyr er gwaethaf geiriau cynnes Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru.

Mae cynifer o ddewisiadau wedi eu cau, a phan fydd gennych gynifer o gyrsiau sydd â phroblemau capasiti a'r galw mor uchel, nid yw'r colegau'n gallu ymdopi, hyd yn oed â phethau sylfaenol fel gwaith plymwr, y bwm yn ei drafod gyda phobl yng Ngholeg Iâl pan oedd yn lansio'i gampws ar ffordd Bersham. Yr ydym wedi cael plymwyr o Wlad Pwyl a rhaid ichi ofyn ble, er mwyn popeth, mae ein plymwyr ni. Gan fod llawer o'r Pwyliaid yn mynd yn ôl i Wlad Pwyl erbyn hyn oherwydd bod eu heconomi hwy'n gwneud mor dda, rhaid inni fod yn ofalus sut y byddwn yn ymdrin â hyn. A meddwl am ein systemau ni gartref, os oes gennych ddŵr yn dod drwy'r

ceiling, you cannot wait until tomorrow or next week for a plumber, you need one immediately. It is essential that we get this right.

The other issue is the Webb report, which challenges the Government on many issues, but I do not think that the Government has risen to any of the challenges. It should be considered in a much more rounded fashion, and I hope that the Welsh Assembly Government is listening because, otherwise, we will just waste an opportunity again.

We were talking about excluded pupils earlier, and many of them like to go on to the FE college, because there is some flexibility compared with the tight curriculum of a school. We have targets and we know that we have to achieve excellence but, on the other hand, we have these other youngsters who might need a little more nurturing and caring for, and if you are dispensing with all of these lecturers, the lecturer to pupil ratio will be even more severely savaged. I urge the Government to take note of this issue, which is a serious issue, and that is why, as Kirsty mentioned, we are coming back to address education and, in particular, FE, which is the key in the whole issue of driving the economy and improving our skills base. If we do not address these problems, we will live to regret it.

Janet Ryder: Many people, including Kirsty, have said that this is the third time that this issue has been brought forward this term but, if you look at the history of Assembly debates, you will see that this subject has been debated time and time again. It is an important issue, but it all revolves very much around the same thing.

This issue goes back to the first Assembly, and to the then Education and Lifelong Learning Committee's inquiry that put forward the idea of Education and Learning Wales. We all know the history of ELWa and the history of the planning and funding formula that was devised under ELWa and all of the debates that took place on it. ELWa has since gone—it has been taken into the Government—and, unfortunately, the planning and funding mechanism has also gone. That still has a year or so before it is

nenfwd, ni allwch ddisgwyl tan yfory neu'r wythnos nesaf i gael plymwr: mae angen un arnoch ar unwaith. Mae'n hanfodol inni gael hyn yn iawn.

Y mater arall yw adroddiad Webb, sy'n herio'r Llywodraeth ar lawer mater, ond ni chredaf fod y Llywodraeth wedi ymateb i ddim un o'r heriau. Dylai gael ei ystyried mewn ffordd lawer mwy cynhwysfawr, a gobeithio bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn gwranddo, oherwydd, fel arall, ni fyddwn ond yn gwastraffu cyfle arall eto.

Yr oeddem yn siarad yn gynharach am ddisgyblion sydd wedi'u gwahardd, ac mae llawer ohonynt yn hoffi mynd ymlaen i goleg AB, oherwydd mae rhywfaint o hyblygrwydd o'i gymharu â chwricwlwm caeth ysgol. Mae gennym dargedau a gwyddom ei bod yn rhaid inni sicrhau rhagoriaeth, ond ar y llaw arall mae gennym y bobl ifanc eraill hyn y gallai fod angen ychydig mwy o feithrin a gofal arnynt, ac os cewch wared â'r holl ddarlithwyr hyn, bydd y gymhareb darlithydd disgybl yn cael ei thanseilio'n fwy fyth. Anogaf y Llywodraeth i roi sylw i'r mater hwn, sy'n fater difrifol, a dyna pam, fel y dywedodd Kirsty, yr ydym yn dod yn ôl i ymdrin ag addysg, ac AB yn arbennig, sef yr allwedd i holl fater gyrru'r economi a gwella ein sylfaen sgiliau. Os nad awn i'r afael â'r problemau hyn, byddwn yn edifarhau eto.

Janet Ryder: Mae llawer o bobl, gan gynnwys Kirsty, wedi dweud mai dyma'r drydedd waith i'r mater hwn gael ei ddwyn gerbron y tymor hwn, ond os edrychwch chi ar hanes dadleuon y Cynulliad gwelwch fod y pwnc hwn wedi ei drafod dro ar ôl tro. Mae'n fater pwysig, ond mae'r cyfan yn troi o gwmpas yr un peth yn ei hanfod.

Mae'r mater hwn yn mynd yn ôl i'r Cynulliad cyntaf, ac i ymchwiliid y Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes ar y pryd a gyflwynodd y syniad o Ddysgu ac Addysgu Cymru. Gwyddom i gyd am hanes ELWa a hanes y fformiwla gynllunio a chyllido a ddyfeisiwyd dan ELWa a'r holl ddadleuon a gafwyd ynglŷn â hynny. Mae ELWa wedi mynd ers hynny—mae wedi ei ymgorffori yn y Llywodraeth—ac, yn anffodus, mae'r mecanwaith cynllunio a chyllido hefyd wedi mynd. Mae blwyddyn eto fwy neu lai cyn y

fully rolled out among all of the colleges. The idea behind that planning and funding formula was to evaluate, or attempt to evaluate academic and vocational courses in a more or less equal way and to give them a monetary value, so that you could put a cost on the course or the unit that was being taught. We have all been involved in debates on this, whether it is here in the Chamber or at home in our constituencies, and we have seen the effect that that had on sixth forms and the effect that it is now starting to have on colleges. On top of that there have been the shifts—and, unfortunately, there have been a number of shifts—in emphasis in the funding in the further education sector, which have led to an instability in colleges, which has meant that they have not been able to plan as they should have been able to do.

The emphasis this time has been moved onto recruitment at the age of 16, which some colleges have gained from because they have been able to increase the numbers of pupils aged 16 and over that they have recruited. Some colleges already operate as tertiary colleges, and Yale College falls into that category, so it already recruits those tertiary students. It recruits several of the key groups that the Minister wants to encourage, including many people who are not in education and training, bringing them back into training. It is difficult for it to increase the number of students that it recruits because it is already acting as a tertiary college.

Kirsty Williams: Do you share my concern that, if you look at the demographics, you can see that the numbers of the students you are talking about are falling and that we have growing numbers of older people in the workforce who will need the opportunities to re-skill and retrain to maintain that employment? Therefore, do you share my concern that, where this funding formula has thrown all of the money at 16-year-olds, if you look at demographics, you can see that the Government needs to look at providing training opportunities for older people who may currently be in the workforce, or who are trying to get into the workforce?

caiff hynny ei roi ar waith yn llawn ymhlith yr holl golegau. Y syniad wrth wraidd y fformiwla gynllunio a chyllido honno oedd gwerthuso, neu geisio gwerthuso, cyrsiau academiaidd a galwedigaethol mewn ffordd gydradd fwy neu lai a rhoi gwerth ariannol iddynt, fel y gallech osod cost ar yr uned neu'r cwrs a oedd yn cael ei addysgu. Yr ydym i gyd wedi cymryd rhan mewn dadleuon ar hyn, boed yma yn y Siambr ynteu gartref yn eich hetholaethau, a gwelsom i gyd yr effaith a gafodd hynny ar y chweched dosbarth a'r effaith y mae'n dechrau ei chael yn awr ar golegau. At hynny, bu newidiadau—ac yn anffodus bu nifer o newidiadau—o ran y pwyslais cyllido yn y sector addysg bellach, sydd wedi arwain at ansefydlogrwydd mewn colegau, a golygodd hynny nad ydynt wedi gallu cynllunio fel y dylent fod wedi gallu gwneud.

Mae'r pwyslais y tro hwn wedi symud i recriwtio yn 16 oed, ac mae rhai colegau wedi elwa o hynny gan eu bod wedi gallu cynyddu nifer y disgyblion 16 oed a hŷn y maent wedi'u recriwtio. Mae rhai colegau eisoes yn gweithredu fel colegau trydyddol, ac mae Coleg Iâl yn y categori hwnnw, felly mae eisoes yn recriwtio myfyrwyr trydyddol. Mae'n recriwtio amryw o'r grwpiau allweddol y mae'r Gweinidog am eu hannog, gan gynnwys llawer o bobl nad ydynt mewn addysg a hyfforddiant, gan ddod â hwy'n ôl i faes hyfforddiant. Mae'n anodd iddo gynyddu nifer y myfyrwyr y mae'n eu recriwtio gan ei fod eisoes yn gweithredu fel coleg trydyddol.

Kirsty Williams: A ydych chi, fel finnau, yn pryderu, os edrychwch ar y ddemograffeg, y gallwch weld bod nifer y myfyrwyr yr ydych yn sôn amdanynt yn gostwng a bod gennym nifer cynyddol o bobl hŷn yn y gweithlu y bydd angen cyfleoedd arnynt i ddysgu sgiliau newydd a chael eu hailhyfforddi er mwyn cadw'r gyflogaeth honno? Felly, a ydych chi, fel finnau, yn pryderu, lle mae'r fformiwla gyllido hon wedi taflu'r arian i gyd at bobl ifanc 16 oed, os edrychwch ar y ddemograffeg, y gallwch weld bod angen i'r Llywodraeth ystyried darparu cyfleoedd hyfforddi i bobl hŷn a all fod yn y gweithlu ar hyn o bryd, neu'n sy'n ceisio ymuno â'r gweithlu?

4.40 p.m.

Janet Ryder: Plaid Cymru has made that point on several occasions, and I will touch on that in a minute.

There are concerns about this present funding formula, its history, and the way in which it is affecting things. It was developed to try to take out competition in that 16-plus area. One area that Estyn has continually highlighted as being a major problem in the area, as did the Webb review, is the competition for resources between colleges and schools. The effect of the funding formula this year has not been to overcome that competition by decreasing the number of schools and colleges, but to increase that competition, and to do so not just between schools and colleges, but between colleges themselves. That is one issue that the Minister must address.

Colleges will say that the Minister has a statutory duty to provide that 16-19 education, however, post-19 education needs to be funded, as Kirsty said. What many colleges are concerned about is the effect on that post-16 education. There are cuts particularly in community education, which is highly expensive but necessary to bring people back over the threshold into learning, so that you can start to encourage them back into the workforce. That is now being put at risk by the way that this funding mechanism is working out.

The other group is those people who want to retrain and increase their skills. The ability of courses to answer that agenda is being restricted. On the post-16 sector, further education colleges in particular have increased their performance, and many of them are now performing well. Unfortunately, I fear that that might have a destabilising and detrimental impact on the sector.

Jenny Randerson: I will begin by talking about capital investment. This year, £27 million has been made available for capital funding in FE; much of that will be spent by 14-19 partnerships, so it may not be invested in colleges. However, let us look at a few comparisons. We gain a great deal of

Janet Ryder: Mae Plaid Cymru wedi gwneud y pwynt hwnnw droeon, a dof at hynny mewn munud.

Mae yna bryderon ynglŷn â'r fformiwla gyllido hon ar hyn o bryd, ei hanes, a'r ffordd y mae'n effeithio ar bethau. Fe'i datblygwyd i geisio tynnu cystadleuaeth o'r maes 16+. Un maes y mae Estyn wedi tynnu sylw ato'n barhaus fel problem fawr yn y maes, fel y gwnaeth adolygiad Webb, yw'r gystadleuaeth am adnoddau rhwng colegau ac ysgolion. Nid goresgyn y gystadleuaeth honno drwy ostwng nifer yr ysgolion a'r colegau oedd effaith y fformiwla gyllido eleni, ond cynyddu'r gystadleuaeth honno, ac mae wedi gwneud hynny nid yn unig rhwng ysgolion a cholegau, ond rhwng colegau a'i gilydd. Mae hwnnw'n un mater y mae'n rhaid i'r Gweinidog roi sylw iddo.

Bydd y colegau'n dweud bod gan y Gweinidog ddyletswydd statudol i ddarparu addysg 16-19. Fodd bynnag, mae angen cyllido addysg ôl-19, fel y dywedodd Kirsty. Yr hyn y mae nifer o golegau'n poeni yn ei gylch yw'r effaith ar yr addysg ôl-16 honno. Mae yna doriadau yn enwedig mewn addysg gymunedol, sy'n hynod o ddrud ond yn angenrheidiol i ddod â phobl yn ôl dros y trothwy i fyd dysgu, fel y gallwch ddechrau eu hannog yn ôl i'r gweithlu. Mae hynny'n awr yn cael ei beryglu gan y ffordd y mae'r mecanwaith cyllido'n gweithio allan.

Y grŵp arall yw'r bobl hynny sydd am gael eu hailhyfforddi a chynyddu eu sgiliau. Mae gallu cyrsiau i ateb yr agenda honno'n cael ei gyfyngu. O ran y sector ôl-16, mae colegau addysg bellach yn arbennig wedi cynyddu eu perfformiad, ac mae nifer ohonynt yn perfformio'n dda erbyn hyn. Yn anffodus, ofnaf y gallai hynny gael effaith niweidiol ar y sector a'i ansefydlogi.

Jenny Randerson: Dechreuaf drwy sôn am fuddsoddi cyfalaf. Eleni, mae £27 miliwn wedi ei ddarparu ar gyfer cyllid cyfalaf ym maes AB; caiff llawer o hynny ei wario gan bartneriaethau 14-19, felly ni fydd yn cael ei fuddsoddi mewn colegau. Fodd bynnag, gadewch inni edrych ar rai cymariaethau.

innocent amusement here by repeating how bad it was in the dark days of the Tories in the mid 1990s. It is worth pointing out, therefore, that, in 1994, the Tories spent £31 million on capital funding for FE in Wales—that was £31 million 14 years ago, and inflation must also be taken into account; this year, we have £27 million, and probably half of that will not go to the colleges, because of the funding system.

Let us look over the border, at England. Some £60 million is going to one college in the north-east of England. That might be an exceptional case, so let us look at the total. The total for England, with 393 colleges, is £750 million. Do your sums, work out one twentieth of that, and you will see that, pro rata, it is substantially more. In Scotland, it is a simpler sum—you divide by not quite two. In Scotland, 43 colleges are receiving £88 million. Therefore, by any kind of rough guess, you will see that, pro rata, we should be looking for somewhere between £48 million and £51 million for the capital funding of FE in Wales.

However, do not believe me—look at what Sir Adrian Webb had to say:

‘Where as capital expenditure for the post-16 educational estate in England is growing at an increasing rate, for example from £500m this year to £750m in 2009/10, no such growth is planned for Wales... In comparison, in Wales, there is a backlog of maintenance for the sector of £92m and it would cost in the region of a further £200m to upgrade the high proportion of accommodation categorised as poor’. That was his judgment. Therefore, the funding for capital provision for further education this year is well below what is acceptable let alone what would deliver a world-class system, which is the Government’s avowed ambition.

Let us turn to the issue of pay. Quite rightly, the Government has supported and encouraged colleges to introduce higher levels of pay in FE to get good-quality staff and to have parity of pay with teachers. You have got to have that if you are to attract the

Cawn llawer o hwyl diniwed yma yn ailadrodd mor ddrwg oedd pethau yn nyddiau du y Torïaid ganol y 1990au. Mae’n werth tynnu sylw, felly, at y ffaith fod y Torïaid, ym 1994, wedi gwario £31 miliwn ar gyllid cyfalaf ar gyfer AB yng Nghymru—yr oedd hynny’n £31 miliwn 14 mlynedd yn ôl, a rhaid ystyried chwyddiant; eleni, mae gennym £27 miliwn, ac mae’n debyg na fydd hanner hwnnw’n mynd i’r colegau, oherwydd y system gyllido.

Gadewch inni edrych dros y ffin, ar Loegr. Mae rhyw £60 miliwn yn mynd i un coleg yng ngogledd-ddwyrain Lloegr. Gallai hwnnw fod yn achos eithriadol, felly, gadewch inni edrych ar y cyfanswm. Mae’r cyfanswm i Loegr, gyda 393 o golegau, yn £750 miliwn. Gwnewch eich symiau, gweithiwch allan un rhan o ugain o hynny, a gwelwch, pro rata, ei fod yn sylweddol fwy. Yn yr Alban, mae’r sym yn symlach—yr ydych yn rhannu ag ychydig llai na dau. Yn yr Alban, mae 43 o golegau’n cael £88 miliwn. Felly, ar sail unrhyw fras amcan, gwelwch y dylem, pro rata, fod yn disgwyl rhwng tua £48 miliwn a £51 miliwn o gyllid cyfalaf i AB yng Nghymru.

Fodd bynnag, peidiwch â’r credu i—edrychwch ar yr hyn a oedd gan Syr Adrian Webb i’w ddweud:

Tra mae gwariant cyfalaf ar gyfer yr ystâd addysgol ôl-16 yn Lloegr yn tyfu’n gynyddol, er enghraifft, o £500m eleni i £750m yn 2009/10, nid oes twf o’r fath wedi’i gynllunio ar gyfer Cymru... Mewn cymhariaeth, yng Nghymru mae ôl-groniad gwerth £92 o waith cynnal a chadw ar gyfer y sector gwerth, a byddai’n costio £200m arall i uwchraddio’r gyfran uchel o lety a elwir yn wael. Dyna oedd ei farn ef. Felly, mae’r cyllid ar gyfer darparu cyfalaf i addysg bellach eleni yn is o lawer nag sy’n dderbyniol, heb sôn am yr hyn a fyddai’n sicrhau system o’r radd flaenaf, sef yr uchelgais y mae’r Llywodraeth wedi ymrwymo iddi.

Gadewch inni droi at fater cyflogau. Yn gwbl briodol, mae’r Llywodraeth wedi cymell ac annog colegau i gyflwyno lefelau cyflog uwch mewn AB i gael staff o safon a chyflogau cyfartal â chyflogau athrawon. Rhaid cael hynny os ydych i ddenu’r math

right sort of people. Colleges have been very keen to maintain that pay parity. The Welsh Assembly Government has said that the colleges have known for years that pay would no longer come as a separate ring-fenced sum but would be included in the total budget, and so should have prepared for that—the First Minister said that to me this afternoon. However, the sector says that it is not concerned about how the pie will be divided; it is merely concerned about the total size of the pie. The condition of funding for colleges is that they must respect pay parity, which will amount to a pay increase of 2.45 per cent. Awarding a pay increase of that size to all staff will cost them £6.6 million in a full year with an additional £1 million for progression through the thresholds. Therefore, there is a total pay bill of more than £7.5 million, and colleges have a total overall increase of just £4.09 million. By anyone's calculations, that leaves you with a deficit of £3.5 million.

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

Jenny Randerson: Yes. The cynical among us would say that the Welsh Assembly Government feels that it can ignore FE, because it is not called the cinderella service for nothing.

Nick Ramsay: As has been said, we seem to spend a large amount of time discussing this subject, but that is because it is vital to people across Wales. I thank the Liberal Democrats for tabling the motion that is under consideration.

I have to say that amendment 1, tabled in the name of Carwyn Jones, is a bit rich, and the original motion, as tabled, offers a far more accurate and honest reflection of the harsh financial reality that many FE colleges and institutions across Wales are facing currently. The amendment seeks to emphasise the fact that the Welsh Assembly Government has increased the budget for FE in Wales by 1.45 per cent. Although that is a statement of fact, it takes away from the message of the motion, which is that that sum of money is simply not enough. When you consider that

iawn o bobl. Mae colegau wedi bod yn awyddus iawn i gadw'r cydraddoldeb hwnnw o ran cyflogau. Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi dweud bod y colegau'n gwybod ers blynyddoedd na fyddai cyflogau bellach yn dod fel swm ar wahân wedi'i glustnodi ac y byddent wedi'u cynnwys yn y gyllideb gyfan, ac felly y dylent fod wedi paratoi ar gyfer hynny—dywedodd y Prif Weinidog hynny wrthyf y prynhawn yma. Er hynny, mae'r sector yn dweud nad yw'n poeni sut y caiff y deisen ei rhannu; poeni am faint y deisen y mae. Yr amod ar gyfer cyllid i golegau yw ei bod yn rhaid iddynt barchu cydraddoldeb cyflogau, a fydd yn golygu codiad cyflog o 2.45 y cant. Bydd dyfarnu codiad cyflog o'r maint hwnnw i'r holl staff yn costio £6.6 miliwn iddynt mewn blwyddyn gyfan, ynghyd ag £1 filiwn ychwanegol ar gyfer dilyniant drwy'r trothwyon. Felly, mae yna gyfanswm bil cyflogau o fwy na £7.5 miliwn, ac mae colegau'n cael cyfanswm codiad o ddim ond £4.09 miliwn. Ni waeth pwy sy'n cyfrif, mae hynny'n gadael diffyg o £3.5 miliwn.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Trefn. A newech chi gloi, os gwelwch yn dda?

Jenny Randerson: Gwnaf. Byddai'r rhai sinigaidd yn ein plith yn dweud bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn teimlo y gall anwybyddu AB, gan fod rheswm da dros ei galw'n wasanaeth sinderela.

Nick Ramsay: Fel y dywedwyd, mae'n ymddangos ein bod yn treulio llawer o amser yn trafod y testun hwn, ond y rheswm am hynny yw ei fod yn hollbwysig i bobl ledled Cymru. Diolch i'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol am gyflwyno'r cynnig sydd dan sylw.

Rhaid imi ddweud bod gwelliant 1, a gyflwynwyd yn enw Carwyn Jones, braidd yn anodd ei lyncu, ac mae'r cynnig gwreiddiol, fel y'i cyflwynwyd, yn cynnig darlun llawer mwy cywir a gonest o'r sefyllfa ariannol anodd y mae nifer o golegau a sefydliadau AB ledled Cymru'n ei hwynebu ar hyn o bryd. Mae'r gwelliant yn ceisio pwysleisio'r ffaith fod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi cynyddu'r gyllideb i AB yng Nghymru 1.45 y cant. Er bod hwnnw'n ddatganiad o ffaith, mae'n gwanhau'r neges sydd yn y cynnig, sef nad

the Welsh Assembly Government's own inflation rate is currently 2.7 per cent, you cannot help but think that it is stretching the definition of an 'increase' to breaking point. An increase of 1.45 per cent is welcomed as far as it goes, but when we have an inflation rate of 2.7 per cent, it is nowhere near sufficient. It is a real-terms cut that has put unexpected pressure on the FE sector in Wales. When you consider all the other pressures facing colleges, you realise what a dire financial position they are in.

On hearing the news that FE funding would not be financed as it should be, a number of colleges began undertaking impact assessment exercises. I am one of the many Members who received letters and representations from those institutions about their dire predicament. Kirsty Williams has already mentioned the situation in Powys, and I want to refer to the situation in Coleg Gwent, in my constituency.

The governors and staff of the college are deeply worried, as they received notification from the Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills that the college's provisional funding allocation for next year would remain at the current level. Although there is that base level, as Jenny Randerson said, there will be winners and losers, and, unfortunately, Coleg Gwent is one of those losers. It is looking at a decrease of 2 per cent in real terms when you take into account factors such as staffing levels and the increase in staff pay as a result of pay settlements. All of that is leading to an immediate shortfall of well over £1.5 million. I know that that particular college is in touch with the Deputy Minister for Skills, and I urge the Deputy Minister to do all that he can to provide assistance for that college.

4.50 p.m.

The FE sector does a considerable amount to improve social inclusion. It also does an enormous amount for children coming to the colleges from schools, and also, as David Melding said in his opening comments, for those workers who are looking to acquire the

yw'r swm hwnnw'n ddigon. Pan ystyriwch fod cyfradd chwyddiant Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ei hun yn 2.7 y cant ar hyn o bryd, ni allwch lai na meddwl nad yw'n ymestyn y diffiniad o 'gynnydd' i'r eithaf. Mae cynnydd o 1.45 y cant i'w groesawu cyn belled ag y mae'n mynd, ond pan fydd gennym gyfradd chwyddiant o 2.7 y cant, mae ymhell o fod yn ddigon. Mae'n doriad mewn gwir werth sydd wedi rhoi pwysau annisgwyl ar y sector AB yng Nghymru. Os ystyriwch yr holl bwysau eraill sydd ar golegau, fe sylweddolwch mor enbyd yw eu sefyllfa ariannol.

Ar ôl clywed y newydd na fyddai'r cyllid i AB yn cael ei ariannu fel y dylai, dechreuodd nifer o golegau wneud asesiadau o'r effaith. Yr wyf yn un o'r nifer mawr o Aelodau a gafodd lythyrau a sylwadau gan y sefydliadau hynny ynghylch eu penbleth ddybryd. Mae Kirsty Williams eisoes wedi sôn am y sefyllfa ym Mhowys, ac yr wyf fi am gyfeirio at y sefyllfa yng Ngholeg Gwent, yn fy etholaeth i.

Mae llywodraethwyr a staff y coleg yn poeni'n ddirfawr, gan iddynt gael gwybod gan yr Adran Plant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau y byddai dyraniad cyllid y coleg dros dro am y flwyddyn nesaf yn aros ar y lefel bresennol. Er bod y lefel sylfaen honno ar gael, fel y dywedodd Jenny Randerson, bydd rhai ar eu hennill a rhai ar eu colled, a gwaetha'r modd mae Coleg Gwent yn un o'r rheini sydd ar eu colled. Mae'n rhagweld gostyngiad gwirioneddol o 2 y cant pan ystyrir ffactorau fel lefelau staffio a'r cynnydd yng nghyflogau staff o ganlyniad i setliadau cyflog. Mae hynny i gyd yn arwain at ddiffyg ar unwaith o fwy nag £1.5 miliwn ymhell. Gwn fod y coleg hwnnw mewn cysylltiad â'r Dirprwy Weinidog dros Sgiliau, ac anogaf y Dirprwy Weinidog i wneud popeth yn ei allu i ddarparu cymorth i'r coleg hwnnw.

Mae'r sector AB yn gwneud cryn lawer i wella cynhwysiant cymdeithasol. Mae hefyd yn gwneud llawer iawn dros blant sy'n dod i'r colegau o ysgolion, a hefyd, fel y dywedodd David Melding yn ei sylwadau agoriadol, dros y gweithwyr hynny sy'n

skills that our economy needs. That is what education is about: not just academic advancement, but providing the skills that the economy needs. FE colleges clearly do not believe that this is being properly financed at the moment. Further education always seems to receive the smallest share of the cake. It might be a smaller cake than we would like it to be, but even within the amounts on offer, that is—

Carl Sargeant: Thank you for giving way. It is an interesting debate. Once again, your little helpers in the Liberal Democrats have had some wonderful ideas. However, not one of you has come up with a policy. Eleanor Burnham said that colleges are doing particularly well educationally, and you are saying that we are not giving enough money. What policy does either one of you have? Where would you take the money from to put into the FE sector?

Nick Ramsay: It is not only we who say that, Carl, but the Webb report. That concluded that post-16 funding per head of the population is lower in Wales than it is in England, and is falling. *[Interruption.]* You are the Government—although you sometimes deny that, Carl. The Government is certainly on that side of the Chamber. We can find a range of ways to allow us to fund further education, but you are the Government and you are in the position to do it. Therefore, you should do it.

I mentioned the example from my constituency, and there are other examples across Powys. Further education is clearly underresourced. However, we have also spoken today about the foundation phase. There are all sorts of areas where—*[Interruption.]* We said that we would fund that by getting rid of the costly free breakfast scheme. We have policies in place. However, you are in Government at the moment, so get on with it and give FE the resources that it deserves to carry out its job.

The Deputy Minister for Skills (John Griffiths): It has been an interesting debate. We do not seek to shy away from the fact that it is a tight and challenging budget for further

ceisio dysgu'r sgiliau y mae ar ein heconomi eu hangen. Dyna yw pwrpas addysg: nid cynnydd academaidd yn unig, ond darparu'r sgiliau y mae ar yr economi eu hangen. Mae'n amlwg nad yw colegau AB yn credu bod hyn yn cael ei ariannu'n briodol ar hyn o bryd. Mae'n ymddangos mai addysg bellach sy'n cael y darn lleiaf o'r deisen bob tro. Hwyrach fod y deisen yn llai nag y carem iddi fod, ond hyd yn oed o fewn y symiau sydd wedi'u cynnig, mae hynny—

Carl Sargeant: Diolch i chi am ildio. Mae'n ddadl ddiddorol. Unwaith eto, mae eich cynorthwywyr bach o blith y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol wedi cael rhai syniadau gwych. Er hynny, nid oes yr un ohonoch wedi meddwl am bolisi. Dywedodd Eleanor Burnham fod colegau'n gwneud yn neilltuol o dda o ran addysg, ac yr ydych chi'n dweud nad ydym yn rhoi digon o arian. Pa bolisi sydd gan yr un ohonoch? O ble y byddech yn cymryd yr arian i'w roi yn y sector AB?

Nick Ramsay: Nid ni'n unig sy'n dweud hynny, Carl, ond adroddiad Webb. Daeth hwnnw i'r casgliad fod y cyllid ôl-16 y pen yn is yng Nghymru nag yn Lloegr, a'i fod yn gostwng. *[Torri ar draws.]* Chi yw'r Llywodraeth—er eich bod yn gwadu hynny weithiau, Carl. Mae'r Llywodraeth yn sicr ar yr ochr honno i'r Siambr. Gallwn ddod o hyd i amrywiol ffyrdd i ganiatáu inni ariannu addysg bellach, ond chi yw'r Llywodraeth ac yr ydych yn y sefyllfa i wneud hynny. Felly, dylech wneud hynny.

Cyfeiriais at yr enghraifft yn fy etholaeth i, ac mae enghreifftiau eraill ledled Powys. Mae'n amlwg nad yw addysg bellach yn cael adnoddau digonol. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym hefyd wedi sôn heddiw am y cyfnod sylfaen. Mae yna bob math o feysydd lle—*[Torri ar draws.]* Dywedasom y byddem yn ariannu hynny drwy gael gwared â'r cynllun drud brechwastau am ddim. Mae gennym bolisiau. Fodd bynnag, chi sydd mewn grym ar hyn o bryd, felly, ymlaen â chi a rhowch i AB yr adnoddau y mae'n eu haeddu i wneud ei gwaith.

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Sgiliau (John Griffiths): Mae wedi bod yn ddadl ddiddorol. Nid ydym yn ceisio celu'r ffaith ei bod yn gyllideb dynn a heriol i addysg

education. However, we firmly believe that there is much to be positive about. If we can continue working with further education in Wales, as we have done effectively and successfully in the past, I am sure that we will continue to improve standards and take things forward in the future. There is much happening that is very exciting and promising currently, with 'Skills That Work for Wales' being a prime example.

I will deal with some of the matters raised in the debate to start with, and I will then make some more general points. On the effectiveness policies that apply to schools in Wales, we intend to have an effectiveness framework for further education in Wales. That will be important in raising standards and ensuring that there is continued improvement.

On the allegations that we lack strategic direction, it is premature to say that, given that 'Skills That Work for Wales', the strategy and the action plan, will be with us next month. As I said earlier, there is great promise at the moment and it is all vital for further education.

Apprenticeships were mentioned in a negative way, which is ironic given that we have just announced £70 million of European funding for apprenticeships in the convergence areas of Wales. That money will upskill more than 20,000 people in our most deprived communities. When it comes to adult education post 19, there are issues, which is why we will have a review. That is to ensure that we take a more targeted approach. There will be a fees policy and we will ensure that the people who need the most help will benefit the most from post-19 education, and get the necessary provision.

On capital funding, it is easy to make facile comparisons with England and Scotland, but people need to do a lot more work when looking at the relative situations. When it comes to our departmental capital budget, we know that money is potentially available from the strategic capital investment board, and we believe that we can make effective bids for the transformational change that we

bellach. Er hynny, credwn yn gryf fod llawer y gellir ei ganmol. Os gallwn barhau i gydweithio ag addysg bellach yng Nghymru, fel yr ydym wedi ei wneud yn effeithiol ac yn llwyddiannus yn y gorffennol, yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwn yn dal i godi safonau a symud ymlaen yn y dyfodol. Mae nifer o bethau cyffrous ac addawol iawn yn digwydd ar hyn o bryd, ac mae 'Sgiliau sy'n Gweithio i Gymru' yn un enghraifft ragorol.

Deliaf yn gyntaf â rhai o'r materion a godwyd yn y ddadl, ac wedyn gwnaf rai pwyntiau mwy cyffredinol. Ar y polisiau effeithiolrwydd sy'n gymwys i ysgolion yng Nghymru, bwriadwn gael fframwaith effeithiolrwydd ar gyfer addysg bellach yng Nghymru. Bydd hynny'n bwysig wrth godi safonau a sicrhau bod gwelliant parhaus.

Ar yr honiadau nad oes gennym gyfeiriad strategol, mae'n rhy gynnar i ddweud hynny, gan y bydd 'Sgiliau sy'n Gweithio i Gymru', y strategaeth a'r cynllun gweithredu, wedi cyrraedd fis nesaf. Fel y dywedais yn gynharach, mae pethau'n argoeli'n dda ar hyn o bryd ac mae'r cyfan yn hollbwysig i addysg bellach.

Soniwyd yn negyddol am brentisiaethau, ac mae hynny'n eironig o gofio ein bod newydd gyhoeddi £70 miliwn o gyllid Ewropeaidd ar gyfer prentisiaethau yn yr ardaloedd cydgyfeirio yng Nghymru. Bydd yr arian hwnnw'n gwella sgiliau dros 20,000 o bobl yn ein cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig. Pan daw'n fater o addysg oedolion ôl-19, mae yna broblemau, a dyna pam y byddwn yn cael adolygiad. Gwneir hynny er mwyn sicrhau bod gennym ddull sy'n targedu'n fwy. Bydd polisi ffioedd, a byddwn yn sicrhau y bydd y rhai y mae arnynt angen y cymorth mwyaf yn cael y budd mwyaf o addysg ôl-19, ac yn cael y ddarpariaeth angenrheidiol.

O ran cyllid cyfalaf, mae'n hawdd tynnu cymariaethau arwynebol â Lloegr a'r Alban, ond mae angen gwneud llawer mwy o waith wrth edrych ar y sefyllfaoedd cymharol. Gyda golwg ar ein cyllideb gyfalaf adrannol, gwyddom fod modd cael arian gan y bwrdd buddsoddi cyfalaf strategol, a chredwn y gallwn wneud ceisiadau effeithiol ar gyfer y gweddnewid y gallwn ei hyrwyddo ym maes

can take forward around further education. There are also issues of land sales and borrowing in England, and a much more detailed look is necessary before making any easy comparisons.

It is interesting to hear the Liberal Democrats defend the record of the Conservatives. That shows how things are developing in the Assembly, and we are comfortable in opposing that coming-together, reminding people of the true record of the Tories, who certainly did not help any deprived communities here in Wales.

Jenny Randerson: You are clutching at straws. Either that or you have had a sense-of-humour bypass, which I do not believe, Deputy Minister. The key point, which you are neatly trying to sidestep, is that the level of capital funding this year is less than it was 14 years ago. Can you explain why it is so terrible when Sir Adrian Webb has accurately identified that you need more than £200 million of capital funding to make up the backlog?

John Griffiths: I have already explained that the departmental sum that you refer to does not factor in the strategic capital investment board money, and there are also other avenues through which capital can be raised by further education colleges.

Nick mentioned particular colleges, and we have a number of meetings scheduled with further education colleges in Gwent to try to work through the difficulties and ensure that we all understand the reasons why particular colleges are in their current funding situations.

I started by saying that this is not an ideal funding situation, and we all accept that. However, it varies from one college to another. Some are in a much stronger position than others. The national planning and funding system is being phased in, and will be fully operational in 2010. It is also true that further education colleges are independent corporations, and get funding from a variety of sources. Some are doing well at leveraging in private moneys, for example, and not just where colleges are

addysg bellach. Mae yna broblemau hefyd mewn cysylltiad â gwerthu tiroedd a benthyca yn Lloegr, ac mae angen edrych yn fanylach o lawer cyn tynnu unrhyw gymariaethau syml.

Mae'n ddiddorol clywed y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn amddiffyn record y Ceidwadwyr. Mae hynny'n dangos sut y mae pethau'n datblygu yn y Cynulliad, ac yr ydym yn fodlon gwrthwynebu'r cydgysylltu hwnnw, gan atgoffa pobl am wir record y Toriaid, na wnaethant ddim, yn sicr, i helpu'r un gymuned ddifreintiedig yma yng Nghymru.

Jenny Randerson: Yr ydych yn cydio mewn gwelltyn. Un ai hynny ynteu yr ydych wedi colli'ch synnwyr digrifwch, ac nid wyf yn credu hynny, Ddirprwy Weinidog. Y pwynt allweddol yr ydych yn ceisio'i osgoi'n ddeheuig yw bod lefel y cyllid cyfalaf eleni'n is nag yr oedd 14 blynedd yn ôl. A allwch egluro pam y mae mor ofnadwy gan fod Syr Adrian Webb wedi nodi'n gywir fod arnoch angen dros £200 miliwn o gyllid cyfalaf i glirio'r ôl-groniad?

John Griffiths: Yr wyf eisoes wedi egluro nad yw'r swm adrannol y cyfeiriwch ato'n cynnwys arian y bwrdd buddsoddi cyfalaf strategol, ac mae dulliau eraill hefyd y gall colegau addysg bellach eu defnyddio i godi cyfalaf.

Soniodd Nick am golegau penodol, ac yr ydym wedi trefnu nifer o gyfarfodydd â cholegau addysg bellach yng Ngwent i geisio datrys yr anawsterau a sicrhau ein bod i gyd yn deall y rhesymau dros sefyllfaedd ariannol presennol colegau penodol.

Dechreuais drwy ddweud nad yw hon yn sefyllfa ariannu ddelfrydol, ac yr ydym i gyd yn derbyn hynny. Er hynny, mae'n amrywio o goleg i goleg. Mae rhai mewn sefyllfa lawer cryfach nag eraill. Mae'r system gynllunio ac ariannu genedlaethol yn cael ei chyflwyno'n raddol, a bydd yn gwbl weithredol yn 2010. Mae hefyd yn wir fod colegau addysg bellach yn gorfforaethau annibynnol, a'u bod yn cael cyllid o amrywiol ffynonellau. Mae rhai'n gwneud yn dda wrth ysgogi arian preifat, er enghraifft,

located next to big employers, as some are doing very well with small and medium-sized enterprises in rural areas of Wales. It is obvious that the colleges that are proactive, that are looking at different sources of funding, and that are working with the grain of Welsh Assembly Government policies are doing reasonably well, although there are all sorts of local circumstances across Wales.

I want to make it crystal clear that we totally refute any suggestion that the impressive improvement in further education standards in Wales has been achieved without the policies, strategies and help of the Welsh Assembly Government. That is a travesty of the truth, and anyone who takes anything like an objective view will quickly come to see that. We have introduced the 14-19 learning pathways, and our area office is working closely with further education colleges. We have the performance provider review, and the review of the standards that we require for funding.

Let me say something about pay parity. We make no apologies for ensuring that there is pay parity for further education lecturers in Wales. We will ensure that that continues, as it is one aspect of driving up quality. We all know that any service provider in Wales is only as good as the people who work for that organisation. If you properly reward staff, they will be better motivated and you will have a better quality workforce. We have worked very closely with the unions to ensure that we have achieved FE pay parity, as well as working with Fforwm and the individual FE colleges.

5.00 p.m.

We look forward to much better use of existing resources as we take forward 'Skills That Work for Wales' and our general policies and strategies. We all know that there is a need for reconfiguration, for transformational change; that will come through 'Skills That Work for Wales' and our

ac nid yn unig lle y mae colegau yn ymyl busnesau sy'n cyflogi niferoedd mawr, gan fod rhai'n gwneud yn dda iawn mewn cysylltiad â busnesau bach a chanolig eu maint mewn ardaloedd gwledig yng Nghymru. Mae'n amlwg fod y colegau sy'n rhagweithiol, sy'n edrych ar wahanol ffynonellau cyllid, ac sy'n gweithio'n unol â pholisïau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn gwneud yn lled da, er bod pob math o amgylchiadau lleol ledled Cymru.

Dymunaf ei gwneud yn berffaith glir ein bod yn gwrthod yn llwyr unrhyw awgrym fod y gwelliant trawiadol yn safonau addysg bellach yng Nghymru wedi'i sicrhau heb bolisïau, strategaethau na chymorth gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Ystumiad o'r gwirionedd yw hynny, a bydd unrhyw un sy'n edrych ar hyn yn wrthrychol, i unrhyw raddau, yn dod i weld hynny'n fuan. Yr ydym wedi cyflwyno'r llwybrau dysgu 14-19, ac mae ein swyddfa ranbarth yn cydweithio'n agos â cholegau addysg bellach. Mae gennym yr adolygiad o berfformiad darparwyr, a'r adolygiad o'r safonau yr ydym yn eu gofyn ar gyfer ariannu.

Gadewch imi ddweud rhywbeth am gydraddoldeb cyflogau. Nid ydym yn ymddiheuro o gwbl am sicrhau bod cydraddoldeb cyflogau ar gyfer darlithwyr addysg bellach yng Nghymru. Byddwn yn sicrhau bod hynny'n parhau, oherwydd mae'n un agwedd ar wella ansawdd. Gwyddom i gyd fod llwyddiant unrhyw ddarparwr gwasanaeth yng Nghymru yn dibynnu ar y bobl sy'n gweithio i'r sefydliad hwnnw. Os gwobrwywch staff yn iawn, bydd ganddynt fwy o gymhelliant a bydd gennych weithlu o well safon. Yr ydym wedi gweithio'n glos iawn gyda'r undebau i sicrhau cyflogau cyfartal mewn AB, yn ogystal â gweithio gyda Fforwm a'r colegau AB unigol.

Edrychwn ymlaen at ddefnyddio'r adnoddau sydd eisoes ar gael yn well o lawer wrth inni fwrw ymlaen â 'Sgiliau sy'n Gweithio i Gymru' a'n polisïau a'n strategaethau cyffredinol. Gwyddom i gyd fod angen aildrefnu, bod angen gweddnewid pethau; daw hynny drwy gyfrwng 'Sgiliau sy'n

framework for reconfiguration. We already see a great deal of activity right around Wales, where colleges are talking to each other, coming forward to us with proposals, merging backroom functions, looking at economies of scale and looking at saving administration costs that can then be used for provision. An awful lot is happening and it is a very exciting time. When we have 'Skills That work for Wales' out there, next month, I think that we are going to see a great deal of progress.

The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Could you wind up now, Deputy Minister?

John Griffiths: In conclusion, let me say that, as I have travelled around Wales, I have been very impressed by the commitment of the further education sector in Wales. It shares with us a strong commitment to continue to drive up excellence, which it has already done very impressively. What we want to do, in the Welsh Assembly Government, is to continue working in ever closer partnership with further education colleges and Fforwm to substantially improve that impressive progress that has already taken place.

The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Deputy Minister, you are going to have to wind up.

John Griffiths: We have a tight budgetary situation, but if we can continue with that partnership, we will continue to drive forward this extremely important agenda in Wales.

Peter Black: I will start by summing up the main thrust of the argument that the Welsh Liberal Democrats have put forward today. On the whole education agenda, from early years to adult learning, the Welsh Assembly Government has lost control of education funding. The fact that this has fallen off the priority list of the One Wales Government has been illustrated and underlined today by the fact that not a single Labour backbencher has felt able to contribute to this debate. That is shocking, given the emphasis that many in the Chamber have put on education and skills

Gweithio i Gymru' a'n fframwaith ar gyfer ad-drefnu. Yr ydym eisoes yn gweld llawer iawn o weithgarwch ym mhob cwr o Gymru, lle mae colegau'n siarad â'i gilydd, yn dod atom gyda chynigion, yn uno swyddogaethau ystafell gefn, yn edrych ar arbedion maint ac yn ceisio arbed costau gweinyddu er mwyn gallu defnyddio'r arian hwnnw wedyn ar gyfer darparu. Mae llawer iawn yn digwydd ac mae'n gyfnod cyffrous iawn. Pan fydd gennym 'Sgiliau sy'n Gweithio i Gymru' ar waith, fis nesaf, credaf y gwelwn lawer iawn o gynydd.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Trefn. A wnewch chi ddirwyn i ben yn awr, Ddirprwy Weinidog?

John Griffiths: I gloi, gadewch imi ddweud, wrth imi deithio o gwmpas Cymru, fod ymrwymiad y sector addysg bellach yng Nghymru wedi creu argraff fawr arnaf. Mae ganddo ymrwymiad cryf fel ninnau i barhau i sbarduno rhagoriaeth, ac mae eisoes wedi creu cryn argraff wrth wneud hynny. Yr hyn y dymunwn ei wneud, yn Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, yw parhau i weithio mewn partneriaeth fwyfwy agos gyda cholegau addysg bellach a Fforwm er mwyn gwella'n sylweddol y cynnydd da hwnnw sydd eisoes wedi digwydd.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Trefn. Ddirprwy Weinidog, bydd yn rhaid ichi ddirwyn i ben.

John Griffiths: Mae'r gyllideb yn dynn, ond os gallwn barhau'r bartneriaeth honno, byddwn yn dal i fwrw ymlaen â'r agenda eithriadol bwysig hon yng Nghymru.

Peter Black: Dechreuaf drwy grynhai prif fyrdwn y ddadl y mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru wedi'i chyflwyno heddiw. O ran yr agenda addysg drwyddi draw, o'r blynyddoedd cynnar i addysg oedolion, mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi colli rheolaeth dros gyllido addysg. Mae'r ffaith fod hyn wedi disgyn oddi ar restr blaenoriaethau Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un wedi ei hamlygu a'i phwysleisio heddiw gan y ffaith nad oes neb ar feinciau cefn Llafur wedi teimlo'n abl i gyfrannu at y ddadl hon. Mae hynny'n frawychus, o gofio'r pwyslais y

in the past.

The need to see investment in education as a long-term investment in the future of Welsh society and the economy is paramount in our view, and should be paramount in the view of the One Wales Government. During the debate, many speakers underlined and supported that particular view. David Melding talked about the need for a demand-led skills strategy—the two strands of which were learners and employers. I agree with him that we need to provide resources to deliver that. David stressed the need to drive up the level of skills. Again, he is right that we must help small and medium-sized enterprises and microbusinesses to access training.

Eleanor Burnham said that we should encourage creativity and allow people to dip in and out of education. She highlighted the value of further education in providing vocational alternatives for excluded pupils. The Deputy Minister made that point during his earlier statement, yet there is no point in relying on further education to fill the gap in vocational provision for 14 to 19-year-olds if you are not funding the colleges adequately.

Janet Ryder highlighted problems in the funding mechanism, particularly with regard to community education. Nick Ramsay also addressed funding and the real-terms cut faced by the further education sector. Jenny Randerson referred to the shortfall in capital investment. She drew attention to the fact that we are only spending £27 million this year, compared with £31 million in 1994-95. She estimated that, pro rata, we should be spending between £48 million and £51 million this year and quoted Sir Adrian Webb in support of that argument. She also highlighted the issue of pay and the fact that colleges are not being funded to meet the demands being put upon them. There is a funding gap of £3.5 million.

Carl Sargeant stood up and asked about funding. I think that there a number of reasons for that. In fact, the Deputy Minister

mae llawer yn y Siambr wedi'i roi ar addysg a sgiliau yn y gorffennol.

Yn ein golwg ni, mae'n hollbwysig gweld buddsoddi mewn addysg yn fuddsoddiad tymor hir yn nyfodol cymdeithas ac economi Cymru, a dylai fod yn hollbwysig yng ngolwg Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un. Yn ystod y ddadl, mae nifer o siaradwyr wedi pwysleisio a chefnogi'r safbwynt penodol hwnnw. Dywedodd David Melding fod angen strategaeth sy'n cael ei harwain gan sgiliau—ac mai'r ddau llyn yn hynny oedd dysgwyr a chyflogwyr. Cytunaf ag ef fod angen inni ddarparu adnoddau er mwyn gwireddu hynny. Pwysleisiodd David fod angen codi lefel sgiliau. Unwaith eto, mae'n gywir ei bod yn rhaid inni gynorthwyo mentrau bach a chanolig a microfusnesau i allu cael hyfforddiant.

Dywedodd Eleanor Burnham y dylem annog creadigrwydd a gadael i bobl bicio i mewn ac allan o fyd addysg. Pwysleisiodd werth addysg bellach wrth ddarparu dewisiadau galwedigaethol amgen i ddisgyblion sy'n cael eu gwahardd. Gwnaeth y Dirprwy Weinidog y pwynt hwnnw yn ystod ei ddatganiad cynharach, ond eto nid oes diben dibynnu ar addysg bellach i lenwi'r bwlch yn y ddarpariaeth alwedigaethol i bobl 14 i 19 oed os nad ydych yn rhoi digon o arian i'r colegau

Pwysleisiodd Janet Ryder y problemau yn y mecanwaith cyllido, yn enwedig o ran addysg gymunedol. Soniodd Nick Ramsay hefyd am gyllido a'r toriadau mewn termau real sy'n wynebu'r sector addysg bellach. Cyfeiriodd Jenny Randerson at y diffyg mewn buddsoddi cyfalaf. Tynnodd sylw at y ffaith ein bod yn gwario dim ond £27 miliwn eleni, o'i gymharu â £31 miliwn yn 1994-95. Yr oedd yn amcangyfrif y dylem, pro rata, fod yn gwario rhwng £48 miliwn a £51 miliwn eleni, a dyfynnodd eiriau Syr Adrian Webb i gefnogi'r ddadl honno. Tynnodd sylw hefyd at fater cyflogau a'r ffaith nad yw colegau'n cael digon o arian i ateb y gofynion sydd arnynt. Mae'r bwlch cyllido'n £3.5 miliwn.

Safodd Carl Sargeant ar ei draed a holi am gyllido. Credaf fod nifer o resymau dros hynny. A dweud y gwir, awgrymodd y

indicated where some funding might come from, although he did not make a commitment that that money would actually go into further education. I will give just one example on funding: you can see what is happening in Scotland, where the Scottish Futures Trust initiative is aiming to release up to £150 million each year for increased investment in infrastructure, through greater partnership, improved preparation and the handling of projects and getting best value from finance. That is just one example of how you might be able to find more money for capital, in particular.

John Griffiths accused us of defending the Conservative record. On the contrary; we were highlighting the fact that this Government's record is worse than the Conservative record. It gives me no great pleasure to say that, but those are the facts.

Mark Isherwood: Will you confirm that the widening participation agenda was launched by the last Conservative Government and that participation grew every year until the beginning of the second Assembly—I concede that you were in partnership during the first Assembly—after which narrowing participation grew on the back of core funding cuts in real terms under the last Labour Assembly Government?

Peter Black: As ever, Mark, I need to check the facts that you give when you stand in Plenary. I will certainly look at that matter.

Returning to the debate, I will make one more point about the contributions made by other Members. John Griffiths referred to the value of apprenticeships, and I think that we all agree with him that it is necessary that we invest in them. However, it is all very well to say that we need apprentices, but the question is: where will they be trained? Are you going to train them in buildings that are falling down? That is the reality facing many FE colleges today.

A number of issues need to be addressed in the further education sector, and we hope that that comes out in this debate and that the Government takes it on board. We need to be constructive about the way forward, and there

Dirprwy Weinidog o ble y gallai rhywfaint o arian ddod, er na chawsom ymrwymiad ganddo y byddai'r arian hwnnw mewn gwirionedd yn mynd i addysg bellach. Dyma i chi un enghraifft yn unig ar gyllido: gallwch weld yr hyn sy'n digwydd yn yr Alban, lle mae'r fenter Scottish Futures Trust yn anelu at ryddhau hyd at £150 miliwn bob blwyddyn er mwyn buddsoddi mwy yn y seilwaith, drwy gyfrwng mwy o bartneriaethau, paratoi ac ymdrin â phrosiectau'n well a chael y gwerth gorau am yr arian. Dyna un enghraifft yn unig o'r ffordd y gallech ddod o hyd i fwy o arian ar gyfer cyfalaf, yn benodol.

Cawsom ein cyhuddo gan John Griffiths o amddiffyn record y Ceidwadwyr. I'r gwrthwyneb; pwysleisio'r oeddem fod record y Llywodraeth hon yn waeth na record y Ceidwadwyr. Nid yw'n rhoi pleser mawr imi ddweud hynny, ond dyna'r ffeithiau.

Mark Isherwood: A wnewch chi gadarnhau mai'r Llywodraeth Geidwadol ddiwethaf a lansiodd yr agenda ehangu cyfranogiad, a bod cyfranogiad wedi tyfu bob blwyddyn tan ddechrau'r ail Gynulliad—derbyniat eich bod yn bartneriaid yn ystod y Cynulliad cyntaf—ac wedyn fod cyfranogiad wedi crebachu eto yn sgil toriadau yn y gyllideb graidd mewn termau real dan Lywodraeth Lafur ddiwethaf y Cynulliad?

Peter Black: Fel bob amser, Mark, bydd angen imi wirio'r ffeithiau a rowch pan fyddwch yn codi mewn Cyfarfod Llawn. Yn sicr, byddaf yn edrych ar y mater hwnnw.

I ddychwelyd at y ddadl, gwnaf un pwynt arall am y cyfraniadau a gafwyd gan Aelodau eraill. Cyfeiriodd John Griffiths at werth prentisiaethau, a chredaf ein bod i gyd yn cytuno ag ef fod angen inni fuddsoddi ynddynt. Fodd bynnag, digon hawdd dweud bod arnom angen prentisiaethau, ond y cwestiwn yw: ymhle y cânt eu hyfforddi? A ydych am eu hyfforddi mewn adeiladau sy'n dadfeilio? Dyna'r realiti sy'n wynebu llawer coleg AB heddiw.

Mae angen rhoi sylw i nifer o faterion yn y sector addysg bellach, a gobeithio y daw hynny'n amlwg yn y ddadl hon ac y bydd y Llywodraeth yn rhoi sylw iddo. Mae angen inni fod yn adeiladol ynglŷn â'r ffordd

is certainly a need for a common approach to measuring quality, collecting data, and defining retention and achievement, in which the development of partnerships and the raising of skills levels is central.

John Griffiths: On being constructive, it is important that we take a reality check on some of the things being said. You talk about delivering apprentice training in crumbling buildings, but if you were to travel around Wales, like I do, to see all the newly constructed facilities being opened right across the country—north, west, south and east—I think that you would have something different to say.

Peter Black: I am not detracting from the value of the new construction that has taken place, John, but the fact is that Sir Adrian Webb identified a gap of £200 million in the capital investment needed in further education. Despite the work that has been done, there is not enough money in the system, as has already been illustrated—the gap that exists has been highlighted by the professionals. In fact, a review that your Government commissioned shows that you are not doing enough; that is the point that we are making.

Eleanor Burnham: Will you take an intervention?

Peter Black: I want to get on, Eleanor. I am running out of time, and I want to make an important point about the funding system. The Welsh Assembly Government has many policies on education and further education, but if you do not have a funding system in place that can deliver on those aspirations, I am afraid that you are just whistling in the dark. You want partnerships between schools and colleges, but that is not helped when you reward colleges for growth in the 16 to 18-year-old sector and penalise schools. It is not helped when you do not give real-terms increases to FE colleges and somehow expect them to deliver on the vocational agenda that you referred to in your statement on skills, Deputy Minister. A great deal more needs to be done, but if you do have these aspirations, you need to start putting your money where your mouth is.

ymlaen, ac yn sicr mae angen un ffordd o fynd ati i fesur ansawdd, casglu data, a diffinio cadw a chyflawni, a bydd datblygu partneriaethau a chodi lefelau sgiliau'n elfen ganolog yn hynny.

John Griffiths: O ran bod yn adeiladol, mae'n bwysig inni feddwl o ddifrif am ystyr rhai o'r pethau sy'n cael eu dweud. Yr ydych yn sôn am ddarparu hyfforddiant i brentisiaid mewn adeiladau sy'n dadfeilio, ond petaech yn teithio o gwmpas Cymru, fel y byddaf fi, i weld agor yr holl gyfleusterau newydd sy'n cael eu hadeiladu ar hyd ac ar led y wlad—yn y gogledd, y gorllewin, y de a'r dwyrain—credaf y byddai gennych rywbeth gwahanol i'w ddweud.

Peter Black: Nid wyf yn difrïo gwerth yr adeiladu newydd sydd wedi digwydd, John, ond y ffaith yw fod Syr Adrian Webb wedi gweld bwlch o £200 miliwn yn y buddsoddiad cyfalaf angenrheidiol ar gyfer addysg bellach. Er y gwaith sydd wedi'i wneud, nid oes digon o arian yn y system, fel y dangoswyd eisoes—mae pobl broffesiynol wedi tynnu sylw at y bwlch sy'n bodoli. A dweud y gwir, mae adolygiad a gomisiynwyd gan eich Llywodraeth chi'n dangos nad ydych yn gwneud digon; dyna'r pwynt yr ydym yn ei wneud.

Eleanor Burnham: A gaf fi ymyrryd?

Peter Black: Yr wyf am fwrw ymlaen, Eleanor. Mae fy amser yn dirwyn i ben, ac yr wyf am wneud pwynt pwysig am y system gyllido. Mae gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru nifer o bolisiâu ar addysg ac addysg bellach, ond os nad oes gennych system gyllido sy'n gallu gwireddu'r dyheadau hynny, mae arnaf ofn eich bod yn chwibanu yn y tywyllwch. Yr ydych am gael partneriaethau rhwng ysgolion a cholegau, ond nid yw gwobrwyo colegau am dyfu yn y sector 16 i 18 oed a chosbi ysgolion yn gymorth i hynny. Nid yw'n gymorth peidio â rhoi cynnydd mewn termau real i golegau AB ac eto rywsut ddisgwyl iddynt wireddu'r agenda alwedigaethol y cyfeirich ati yn eich datganiad am sgiliau, Ddirprwy Weinidog. Mae angen gwneud llawer mwy, ond os yw'r dyheadau hyn gennych, mae angen ichi ddechrau bod crystal â'ch gair drwy

ddarparu'r arian.

Eleanor, I will take an intervention now.

Eleanor, cewch ymyrryd yn awr.

Eleanor Burnham: Is it not rather perverse, Peter, in the aftermath of the launch of an important new part of Yale College only a few weeks ago, which highlighted a specific aspect of its apprenticeship schemes, that the college is now suddenly losing 23 senior managers?

Eleanor Burnham: Onid yw braidd yn wrthnysig, Peter, yn sgil lansio rhan newydd bwysig o Goleg Iâl brin ychydig wythnosau'n ôl, a oedd yn pwysleisio agwedd benodol ar ei gynlluniau prentisiaeth, fod y coleg yn awr yn sydyn yn colli 23 o uwch reolwyr?

Peter Black: Thank you for that point, Eleanor—you make my point for me. That point has also been made by Jenny Randerson today.

Peter Black: Diolch ichi am y pwynt hwnnw, Eleanor—yr ydych yn gwneud fy mhwynt drosod. Mae'r pwynt hwnnw hefyd wedi'i wneud gan Jenny Randerson heddiw.

On funding, we need more stability to enable financial forecasts to be more meaningful and relevant, and some guarantees of long-term funding are also needed.

O ran cyllido, mae arnom angen mwy o sefydlogrwydd er mwyn i ragamcanion ariannol fod yn fwy ystyrlon a pherthnasol, ac mae angen rhai gwarantau hefyd ynglŷn â chyllido tymor hir.

Finally, we also need recognition of the importance of self-regulation in raising quality. The Welsh Liberal Democrats highly value the further education sector, as we value the whole education sector, from crib to grave. Schools, FE colleges and higher education colleges are all needed, as is investment in skills and workplace training and vocational training, in order for Wales to improve and develop as a successful economy. However, if we do not invest in that and do not make it a Welsh Assembly Government priority, we will fail again in terms of achieving those aspirations.

Yn olaf, mae angen inni hefyd gydnabod pwysigrwydd hunan-reoleiddio wrth godi safonau. Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru'n werthfawrogol iawn o'r sector addysg bellach, fel yr ydym yn gwerthfawrogi'r holl sector addysg, o'r crud i'r bedd. Mae angen ysgolion, colegau AB, a cholegau addysg uwch i gyd, yn ogystal â buddsoddi mewn sgiliau a hyfforddiant yn y gweithle a hyfforddiant galwedigaethol, er mwyn i Gymru wella a datblygu'n economi lwyddiannus. Fodd bynnag, oni fuddsoddwn yn hynny a gwneud hyn yn flaenoriaeth i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, byddwn yn methu eto o ran gwireddu'r dyheadau hynny.

5.10 p.m.

The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is that amendment 1 is agreed. Is there any objection? I see that there is, so we will proceed to voting time.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Y cynnig yw ein bod yn cytuno gwelliant 1. A oes unrhyw wrthwynebiad? Gwelaf fod, felly, awn ymlaen i'r cyfnod pleidleisio.

Cyfnod Pleidleisio Voting Time

The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer: We will do this slowly, so that you do not make any mistakes. [*Laughter.*]

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Gwnawn hyn yn araf, er mwyn osgoi unrhyw gamgymeriadau. [*Chwerthin.*]

*Gwelliant 2 i NDM3959: O blaid 38, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 9.
Amendment 2 to NDM3959: For 38, Abstain 0, Against 9.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammad
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, Jocelyn
Evans, Nerys
Franks, Chris
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Watson, Joyce
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment carried.*

Motion NDM3959 as amended: that

the National Assembly for Wales:

1. expresses concern over the steady rise in the number of temporary exclusions of pupils at schools across Wales, while noting that permanent exclusions fell in the last year for which figures are available; and

2. calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to;

a) increase the opportunities for vocational qualifications in order to address the

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

Cairns, Alun
Davies, Paul
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan
Ramsay, Nick
Williams, Brynle

Cynnig NDM3959 fel y'i diwygiwyd: bod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. yn mynegi pryder ynghylch y cynnydd graddol yn nifer y disgyblion sy'n cael eu gwahardd dros dro o ysgolion ledled Cymru, tra'n nodi bod gwaharddiadau parhaol wedi disgyn yn y flwyddyn olaf y mae ffigurau ar gael ar ei chyfer; a

2. yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i;

a) cynyddu'r cyfleoedd ar gyfer cymwysterau galwedigaethol er mwyn rhoi sylw i'r

- | | |
|--|--|
| <i>behavioural problems presented by those pupils who are unable to participate in purely academic study;</i> | <i>problemau ymddygiad a ddangosir gan y disgyblion hynny na allant gymryd rhan mewn astudiaethau sy'n hollol academaidd;</i> |
| <i>b) support schools and parents in the early identification of pupils with special educational needs as often failure to do so can result in behavioural problems;</i> | <i>b) cefnogi ysgolion a rhieni i adnabod disgyblion sydd ag anghenion addysgol arbennig yn fuan gan fod methu â gwneud hynny'n aml yn gallu arwain at broblemau ymddygiad;</i> |
| <i>c) provide better support to parents and teachers to enable them to deal with pupils with behavioural problems;</i> | <i>c) darparu cefnogaeth well i rieni ac i athrawon er mwyn eu galluogi i ddelio â disgyblion sydd â phroblemau ymddygiad;</i> |
| <i>d) give schools the means and support to tackle issues relating to individual pupil behaviour;</i> | <i>d) rhoi'r modd a'r gefnogaeth i ysgolion er mwyn mynd i'r afael â materion sy'n ymwneud ag ymddygiad disgyblion unigol;</i> |
| <i>e) note the recommendations of Professor Ken Reid's national behaviour and attendance review report and present to the Assembly an action plan at the earliest opportunity.</i> | <i>e) nodi argymhellion adroddiad yr adolygiad cenedlaethol o ymddygiad a phresenoldeb gan yr Athro Ken Reid a chyflwyno i'r Cynulliad gynllun gweithredu ar y cyfle cyntaf.</i> |

*Cynnig NDM3959 fel y'i diwygiwyd: O blaid 37, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 9.
Motion NDM3959 as amended: For 37, Abstain 0, Against 9.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammad
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, Jocelyn
Evans, Nerys
Franks, Chris
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri

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

Cairns, Alun
Davies, Paul
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan
Ramsay, Nick
Williams, Brynle

Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig NDM3959 fel y'i diwygiwyd.
 Motion NDM3959 as amended carried.*

*Gwelliant 1 i NDM3960: O blaid 32, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 15.
 Amendment 1 to NDM3960: For 32, Abstain 0, Against 15.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
 Asghar, Mohammad
 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, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Watson, Joyce

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

Black, Peter
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Cairns, Alun
 Davies, Paul
 German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Law, Trish
 Melding, David
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Ramsay, Nick
 Randerson, Jenny
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment carried.*

*Gwelliant 2 i NDM3960: O blaid 27, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 20.
 Amendment 2 to NDM3960: For 27, Abstain 0, Against 20.*

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

Asghar, Mohammad
 Black, Peter
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Cairns, Alun
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Davies, Paul

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

Andrews, Leighton
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Alun
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice

Evans, Nerys
 Franks, Chris
 German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Law, Trish
 Lloyd, David
 Melding, David
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Ramsay, Nick
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

Griffiths, John
 Griffiths, Lesley
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 James, Irene
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Watson, Joyce

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment carried.*

*Gwelliant 3 i NDM3960: O blaid 32, Ymatal 1, Yn erbyn 13.
 Amendment 3 to NDM3960: For 32, Abstain 1, Against 13.*

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

Asghar, Mohammad
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Alun
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Evans, Nerys
 Franks, Chris
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 James, Irene
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Law, Trish
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Watson, Joyce
 Williams, Kirsty

Ymataliodd yr Aelod canlynol:
 The following Member abstained:

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

Black, Peter
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Cairns, Alun
 Davies, Paul
 German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Melding, David
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Ramsay, Nick
 Randerson, Jenny
 Williams, Brynle

Griffiths, Lesley

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment carried.*

*Gwelliant 4 i NDM3960: O blaid 34, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 13.
Amendment 4 to NDM3960: For 34, Abstain 0, Against 13.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammad
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, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Watson, Joyce
Williams, Kirsty

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

Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Davies, Paul
German, Michael
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan
Ramsay, Nick
Randerson, Jenny
Williams, Brynle

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment carried.*

*Gwelliant 5 i NDM3960: O blaid 15, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 32.
Amendment 5 to NDM3960: For 15, Abstain 0, Against 32.*

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

Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Davies, Paul
German, Michael
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Law, Trish

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

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammad
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, Jocelyn
Evans, Nerys
Franks, Chris

Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan
Ramsay, Nick
Randerson, Jenny
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Watson, Joyce

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 6 i NDM3960: O blaid 46, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Amendment 6 to NDM3960: For 46, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammad
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Paul
Evans, Nerys
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val

Melding, David
 Mewies, Sandy
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Ramsay, Nick
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Watson, Joyce
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment carried.*

*Gwelliant 7 i NDM3960: O blaid 33, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 14.
 Amendment 7 to NDM3960: For 33, Abstain 0, Against 14.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
 Asghar, Mohammad
 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, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Law, Trish
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Watson, Joyce

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment carried.*

Motion NDM3960 as amended: that
the National Assembly for Wales:

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

Black, Peter
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Cairns, Alun
 Davies, Paul
 German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Melding, David
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Ramsay, Nick
 Randerson, Jenny
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

Cynnig NDM3960 fel y'i diwygiwyd: bod
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1) recognises that some good progress has been made by NHS trusts in Wales in trying to tackle the problem of healthcare-associated infections;</p> | <p>1) yn cydnabod bod rhywfaint o gynnydd da wedi cael ei wneud gan ymddiriedolaethau'r GIG yng Nghymru o ran ceisio mynd i'r afael â phroblem heintiau sy'n gysylltiedig â gofal iechyd;</p> |
| <p>2) believes that a serious and pressing cause of healthcare-associated infections relates to high levels of bed occupancy;</p> | <p>2) yn credu bod lefelau uchel o ddefnydd gwllâu yn ymwneud ag un o'r achosion difrifol ac enbyd dros heintiau sy'n gysylltiedig â gofal iechyd;</p> |
| <p>3) calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to prioritise the containment of <i>C. difficile</i> and other healthcare-associated infections in Welsh hospitals by:</p> | <p>3) yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i flaenoriaethu rheoli <i>C. difficile</i> a heintiau eraill sy'n gysylltiedig â gofal iechyd yn ysbytai Cymru drwy:</p> |
| <p>a) ensuring that all healthcare professionals working in Welsh hospitals are properly and fully trained in infection control measures;</p> | <p>a) sicrhau bod yr holl weithwyr gofal iechyd proffesiynol sy'n gweithio yn ysbytai Cymru wedi cael eu hyfforddi'n briodol ac yn llawn o ran mesurau i reoli heintiau;</p> |
| <p>b) ensuring that the control of <i>C. difficile</i> infection along with other healthcare-associated infections remains a priority for the Welsh Assembly Government;</p> | <p>b) sicrhau bod rheoli haint <i>C. difficile</i> ynghyd â heintiau eraill sy'n gysylltiedig â gofal iechyd yn parhau i fod yn flaenoriaeth ar gyfer Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru;</p> |
| <p>c) welcomes the work of the Welsh Assembly Government in ensuring an adequate and appropriately skilled workforce of cleaners who are under the direct management of a ward sister or charge nurse;</p> | <p>c) croesawu gwaith Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i sicrhau bod gweithlu digonol o lanhawyr sydd â sgiliau priodol sydd o dan reolaeth uniongyrchol prif nyrs ward;</p> |
| <p>d) bringing forward guidelines over hospital uniforms and clothing, including a return to on-site laundry and changing facilities as well as a greater provision of uniforms; and</p> | <p>d) cyflwyno canllawiau ynghylch gwisgoedd a dillad ysbytai, gan gynnwys dychwelyd at olchdy a chyfleusterau newid ar y safle yn ogystal â darparu mwy o wisgoedd; a</p> |
| <p>4) welcomes the fact that, where able, cleaning contracts have come back into the NHS and will lead to a long-term improvement in standards.</p> | <p>4) yn croesawu'r ffaith fod contractau glanhau, lle bo modd, wedi dod yn ôl i mewn i'r GIG ac y byddant yn arwain at wella safonau yn y tymor hir.</p> |

Cynnig NDM3960 fel y'i diwygiwyd: O blaid 38, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 9.

Motion NDM3960 as amended: For 38, Abstain 0, Against 9.

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

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammad
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, Jocelyn

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

Cairns, Alun
Davies, Paul
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan
Ramsay, Nick

Evans, Nerys
 Franks, Chris
 German, Michael
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Griffiths, Lesley
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 James, Irene
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Law, Trish
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Watson, Joyce
 Williams, Kirsty

Williams, Brynle

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig NDM3960 fel y'i diwygiwyd.
 Motion NDM3960 as amended carried.*

*Gwelliant 1 i NDM3962: O blaid 32, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 15.
 Amendment 1 to NDM3962: For 32, Abstain 0, Against 15.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
 Asghar, Mohammad
 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, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy

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

Black, Peter
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Cairns, Alun
 Davies, Paul
 German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Law, Trish
 Melding, David
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Ramsay, Nick
 Randerson, Jenny
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

Morgan, Rhodri
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Watson, Joyce

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment carried.*

*Gwelliant 2 i NDM3962: O blaid 32, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 15.
 Amendment 2 to NDM3962: For 32, Abstain 0, Against 15.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
 Asghar, Mohammad
 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, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Watson, Joyce

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

Black, Peter
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Cairns, Alun
 Davies, Paul
 German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Law, Trish
 Melding, David
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Ramsay, Nick
 Randerson, Jenny
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment carried.*

*Gwelliant 3 i NDM3962: O blaid 32, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 15.
 Amendment 3 to NDM3962: For 32, Abstain 0, Against 15.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
 Asghar, Mohammad
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Alun
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Evans, Nerys

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

Black, Peter
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Cairns, Alun
 Davies, Paul
 German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark

Franks, Chris
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Watson, Joyce

Law, Trish
Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan
Ramsay, Nick
Randerson, Jenny
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment carried.*

*Gwelliant 4 i NDM3962: O blaid 47, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Amendment 4 to NDM3962: For47, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammad
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Paul
Evans, Nerys
Franks, Chris
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw

Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Melding, David
 Mewies, Sandy
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Ramsay, Nick
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Watson, Joyce
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment carried.*

*Gwelliant 5 i NDM3962: O blaid 16, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 31.
 Amendment 5 to NDM3962: For 16, Abstain 0, Against 31.*

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

Black, Peter
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Cairns, Alun
 Davies, Paul
 German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Jones, Elin
 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
 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, Ieuan Wyn
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Watson, Joyce

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment defeated.*

Motion NDM3962 as amended: that

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynnig NDM3962 fel y'i diwygiwyd: bod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. notes that the further education sector in Wales has received a 1.45 per cent increase in its 2008-09 budget, taking the total annual investment in the sector to £386 million;</p> <p>2. endorses the Government's determination to protect teaching and training resources under a tight financial settlement and supports the implementation of the skills and learning strategy;</p> <p>3. recognises the role the FE sector plays in driving up workforce skills and reducing economic inactivity levels in Wales.</p> | <p>1. yn nodi bod y sector addysg bellach yng Nghymru wedi cael cynnydd o 1.45 y cant yng nghyllideb 2008-09, gan gymryd cyfanswm y buddsoddiad blynyddol yn y sector i £386 miliwn;</p> <p>2. yn cymeradwyo penderfyniad y Llywodraeth i ddiogelu adnoddau addysgu a hyfforddiant o dan setliad ariannol tynn ac yn cefnogi gweithredu'r strategaeth sgiliau a dysgu;</p> <p>3. yn cydnabod y swyddogaeth y mae'r sector addysg bellach yn ei chwarae o ran codi sgiliau'r gweithlu a lleihau lefelau anweithgarwch economaidd yng Nghymru.</p> |
|---|--|

*Cynnig NDM3962 fel y'i diwygiwyd: O blaid 32, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 14.
Motion NDM3962 as amended: For 32, Abstain 0, Against 14.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammad
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, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Watson, Joyce

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

Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Davies, Paul
German, Michael
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan
Ramsay, Nick
Randerson, Jenny
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd cynnig NDM3962 fel y'i diwygiwyd.
Motion NDM3962 as amended carried.*

Dadl Fer Short Debate

Ledled Gogledd Cymru? Across North Wales?

The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer: Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Os oes If Members are leaving, please do so quietly. Aelodau'n ymadael, gwnewch hynny'n dawel os gwelwch yn dda.

Eleanor Burnham: Ann Jones has asked for some of my time in which to speak, and I am pleased that she has.

Eleanor Burnham: Mae Ann Jones wedi gofyn am ychydig o'm hamser i siarad, ac yr wyf yn falch ei bod wedi gwneud hynny.

I will speak briefly about the north Wales transport infrastructure, including the infamous A55, rail links and the possible alternative of shipping. The European route E22 from Dublin to Rotterdam is the main arterial route from Anglesey to Chester, Merseyside and beyond. Its deficiencies adversely affect the public and all types of businesses. With decreased tourism visits we need to do everything to ensure that visitors' experiences are of the best quality as soon as they set foot in Wales.

Yr wyf am siarad yn fyr am seilwaith trafnidiaeth y gogledd, gan gynnwys yr A55 fondigrybwyll, cysylltiadau rheilffyrdd a'r dewis arall posibl, sef morgludiant. Llwybr Ewropeaidd yr E22 o Ddilyn i Rotterdam yw'r prif lwybr prifwythiennol o Ynys Môn i Gaer, Glannau Mersi a thu hwnt. Mae ei ddiffygion yn cael effaith andwyol ar y cyhoedd ac ar fusnesau o bob math. Gan fod llai o ymweliadau twristiaeth, mae angen inni wneud ein gorau glas i sicrhau bod ymwelwyr yn cael profiadau o'r safon uchaf cyn gynted ag y cyrhaeddant Gymru.

While gathering information for this debate through the usual Members Research Service channels, I was slightly horrified to have been refused by the Minister data referring to maintenance and ongoing road works on the A55. I was told that the information would only be available through a specific ministerial question. Is this our open and frank democracy?

Wrth gasglu gwybodaeth ar gyfer y ddadl hon drwy sianelau arferol Gwasanaeth Ymchwil yr Aelodau, dychrynais braidd o glywed nad oedd y Gweinidog yn fodlon datgelu data'n ymwneud â gwaith cynnal a chadw a gwaith atgyweirio parhaus ar yr A55. Dywedwyd wrthyf mai drwy gwestiwn penodol yn unig i weinidog y gallwn gael y wybodaeth. Ai hyn yw ein democratiaeth agored ac onest?

Mae'n rhaid gwella ffordd yr A55 ac isadeileddau eraill, gan gynnwys y rheilffordd a chludiant môr. Rhaid cofio bod angen croesawu ymwelwyr i Gymru yn gyffredinol ac er mwyn lles ein busnesau, sy'n cynnwys twristiaeth. Mae'r argraff gyntaf wrth deithio ar draws y rhanbarth yn bwysig dros ben, a gall berswadio pobl i ddychwelyd. Os ydyw'r argraff yn un wael, hwyrach na ddônt yn ôl.

The A55 and other infrastructures must be improved, including the railway and shipping. We must remember that we need to welcome visitors to Wales generally and for the sake of our businesses, including the tourism industry. The first impression in travelling across the region is exceptionally important, and can persuade people to return. If the impression is a bad one, they may not return.

The Federation of Small Businesses described the transport system in north Wales as abysmal and not fit for purpose, while the chief inspector of North Wales Police, Geraint Anwyl, says that the situation is

Cyfeiriodd Ffederasiwn y Busnesau Bach at system drafnidiaeth y gogledd fel un ddifrifol ac anaddas, ac yn ôl prif arolygydd Heddlu Gogledd Cymru, Geraint Anwyl, mae'r sefyllfa'n gwaethygu wrth i'r traffig trwm

getting worse as the volume of heavy traffic increases. He goes on to outline a list of hazards that he believes endanger us, including there being no hard shoulder for the entire route, five bus stops with no protection on the expressway near Llanfairfechan, 88 lay-bys, some of which are too short for lorries to use safely, and a cycle track crossing the road near Penmaen-mawr—can you imagine it? Just visualise it; it is bizarre. There are also officially marked pedestrian crossing points, which is equally bizarre, and traffic roundabouts.

5.20 p.m.

I believe that the increased status of the European route should be a positive point, welcomed for generating greater prosperity and business opportunities for the whole region. However, currently, due to the ongoing blockages, of which there are many, the route is inappropriate for today's needs. As far as tourism is concerned, perhaps we should consider moving some business to rail to free up the roads for tourists and others.

A local Conwy hotelier is tearing his hair out. He described the A55 as dire and said that alternative transport was unfeasible because the infrastructure does not exist. Frighteningly, his business is losing approximately £15,000 to £20,000 a month in revenue—and this is a guy who knows his business—as a result of the negative impact of the A55 and its ongoing maintenance disruption; two of three main routes to his business were closed for repairs. That is absolutely dire.

Only last week, potential customers coming into north Wales near Broughton were delayed for at least 30 minutes as a result of resurfacing. The first impression of access to north Wales is very poor. In a nutshell, the cost to business, including tourism, is in wasted time, wasted fuel—the cost of which is ever increasing, as we all know—and lost sales.

Maintenance of just-in-time deliveries is

gynyddu. Mae'n mynd ymlaen i amlinellu rhestr o beryglon sydd, yn ei farn ef, yn rhoi bywydau pobl mewn perygl, gan gynnwys diffyg llain galed ar unrhyw ran o'r ffordd, pum safle bws heb unrhyw amddiffyniad ar y wibffordd ger Llanfairfechan, 88 cilfan parcio, rai ohonynt yn rhy fyr i lorïau eu defnyddio'n ddiogel, a llwybr beiciau sy'n croesi'r ffordd ger Penmaen-mawr—a allwch ddychmygu hynny? Meddyliwch am y peth; mae'n od iawn. Mae yna hefyd fannau croesi ffordd swyddogol ar gyfer cerddwyr, sydd yr un mor od, ynghyd â chylchfannau traffig.

Credaf y dylai statws uwch y llwybr Ewropeaidd fod yn bwynt cadarnhaol, ac y dylid ei groesawu gan ei fod yn creu mwy o ffyniant a chyfleoedd busnes i'r rhanbarth yn gyffredinol. Fodd bynnag, ar hyn o bryd mae'r holl dagfeydd parhaus yn golygu nad yw'r llwybr yn briodol ar gyfer anghenion heddiw. O safbwynt twristiaeth, efallai y dylem ystyried symud rhywfaint o fusnes i'r rheilffyrdd er mwyn rhyddhau'r ffyrdd ar gyfer ymwelwyr a phobl eraill.

Mae gwestywr lleol yng Nghonwy yn tynnu gwallt ei ben. Mae'n dweud bod yr A55 yn ddychrynlyd a bod mathau eraill o drafnidiaeth yn anymarferol gan nad yw'r seilwaith yn bodoli. Mae ei fusnes, coeliwch neu beidio, yn colli rhwng £15,000 ac £20,000 o refeniw y mis—ac mae hwn yn ddyn sy'n gwybod beth y mae'n ei wneud—o ganlyniad i effaith negyddol yr A55 a'r tarfu parhaus oherwydd gwaith cynnal a chadw; cafodd dau o'r tri phrif lwybr i'w fusnes eu cau er mwyn gwaith atgyweirio. Mae hynny'n ddychrynlyd.

Yr wythnos diwethaf hyd yn oed yr oedd darpar gwsmeriaid a oedd yn teithio i'r gogledd ger Brychdyn yn cael eu dal yn ôl am 30 munud o leiaf gan fod wyneb newydd yn cael ei roi ar y ffordd. Mae'r argraff gyntaf o'r gogledd yn wael iawn. Yn fyr, mae busnesau, gan gynnwys twristiaeth, yn talu am hyn mewn gwastraff amser, gwastraff tanwydd—ac mae cost hwnnw'n cynyddu o hyd, fel y gwyddom i gyd—a cholli gwerthiant.

Mae cynnal gwasanaeth danfon dim-ond-

hugely jeopardised in the present scenario. As I am sure most of us remember, this is a Japanese concept to reduce the need to hold goods in storage; basically, people get the goods just in time. It obviously relies on a fast, reliable transport system. Furthermore, the current situation means that businesses are losing contracts and customers. It is causing perishable goods to perish, and stationary vehicles cause greater pollution by burning ever more costly fuel in their delayed journeys.

Another important factor is that there are no designated stopping areas for heavy goods vehicles on the A55. I believe that it is about 120 miles from the Chester side of the A55 to Anglesey, so it is a long stretch. In our recent conference, our party discussed this issue, and we have called for French-style frequent rest places, which we are calling 'hafanau', which are stopping places for HGVs in appropriate places, but, very importantly, where there is community approval. As I am sure the Minister realises, there is controversy surrounding one area near Caerwys at the moment. Such stopping places could also be used as gateways to the communities across the A55, off the main route, with tourists stopping to use toilets, shops and other facilities and finding out information on local towns and villages, thus generating increased off-route tourism.

There is an element of controversy with regard to foreign lorries from the EU, which we obviously wish to welcome. The Federation of Small Businesses and the Confederation of British Industry and local campaigners have all spoken of the vexing question of foreign transport vehicles passing through the north Wales region along the A55 or E22 route. These vehicles do not pay any fee and often—and this is obviously an issue—do not refuel in the area. There is therefore a loss of potential revenue to the area. Why do we not move much more of this freight off the roads and onto rail? There is the possibility of this in the Deeside area and

mewn-pryd yn arbennig o anodd yn y sefyllfa bresennol. Mae'n siŵr fod y rhan fwyaf ohonom yn cofio mai syniad o Siapan yw hwn i leihau'r angen i storio nwyddau; yn y bôn, mae pobl yn cael y nwyddau mewn pryd o drwch blewyn. Mae'n dibynnu, wrth gwrs, ar system gludiant gyflym a dibynadwy. Yn ychwanegol at hyn, mae'r sefyllfa bresennol yn golygu bod busnesau'n colli contractau a chwsmeriaid. Mae'n golygu bod nwyddau darvoud yn pydru, ac mae cerbydau llonydd yn achosi mwy o lygredd drwy losgi tanwydd, sy'n codi yn ei bris o hyd, mewn siwrneiau sy'n cael eu dal yn ôl.

Ffactor pwysig arall yw nad oes manau wedi'u dynodi ar yr A55 yn fannau lle gall cerbydau nwyddau trwm aros. Credaf fod y pellter o ochr Caer i'r A55 i Ynys Môn oddeutu 120 milltir, felly, mae'n ddarn hir. Trafodwyd y mater hwn yng nghynhadledd ein plaid, a gynhaliwyd yn ddiweddar, ac yr ydym wedi galw am nifer o fannau gorffwys, neu 'hafanau' fel y byddwn ni'n eu galw, fel sydd i'w gweld yn Ffrainc. Mannau aros ar gyfer cerbydau nwyddau trwm yw'r rhain, ond, yn bwysig iawn, maent mewn lleoedd priodol, ac wedi eu cymeradwyo gan y gymuned. Fel y mae'r Gweinidog yn ei sylweddoli, mae'n siŵr, mae anghydfod ynglŷn ag un man aros ger Caerwys ar hyn o bryd. Gellid defnyddio manau aros o'r fath hefyd fel pyrth i'r cymunedau ar draws yr A55, oddi ar y prif lwybr, gydag ymwelwyr yn aros i ddefnyddio toiledau, siopau a chyfleusterau eraill a chael gwybodaeth am drefi a phentrefi lleol. Byddai hynny'n cynhyrchu mwy o dwristiaeth oddi ar y llwybr.

Mae elfen o anghydfod yng nghyswllt loriau tramor o'r UE yr ydym wrth gwrs yn awyddus i'w croesawu. Mae Ffederasiwn y Busnesau Bach a Chydffederasiwn Diwydiant Prydain ac ymgyrchwyr lleol i gyd wedi cyfeirio at y pryder ynglŷn â cherbydau nwyddau tramor sy'n teithio drwy ranbarth y gogledd ar hyd yr A55 neu lwybr yr E22. Nid yw'r cerbydau hyn yn talu ffi o gwbl, ac yn aml iawn—ac mae hyn yn amlwg yn bwynt pwysig—nid ydynt yn prynu mwy o danwydd yn yr ardal. O ganlyniad, mae'r ardal yn colli refeniw posibl. Pam na wnawn ni symud llawer mwy o'r nwyddau hyn oddi ar y ffyrdd i'r rheilffyrdd? Mae hyn yn bosibl

in relation to a third crossing over the Menai Straits. Has the Minister thought about this issue? After all, the One Wales Government apparently aims to help achieve a significant increase in the amount of freight moved in and out of Wales by rail and shipping.

The FSB says that, currently, businesses cannot trust the railway as a reliable method of transport. I am challenging the Welsh Assembly Government and the Minister to invest adequate funds in infrastructure in order to provide a viable, sustainable transportation method and unblock the existing blockages on the A55. I also challenge the Minister and the Assembly Government to be much more creative and visionary. Why not access EU funds and electrify the railway from Crewe to Chester and then Holyhead? That has been on the cards and discussed by many people over the years.

The CBI also asserts that short sea shipping could be a workable alternative to using the A55 to move freight, as it is feasible and environmentally friendly. Only this month, the Bethesda-based company, Welsh Slate, switched some transportation of aggregate to shipping. The managing director, Alan Smith, said that

‘using the sea is a good option, especially with the price of fuel the way it is at the moment’,

and that:

‘Sea transport is something we want to expand and take more lorries off the roads in North Wales’.

As we know, north Wales already has the port of Mostyn and one of the two deep water ports in Wales at Holyhead.

A workable, environmentally friendly, sustainable and visionary transport strategy is desperately needed across north Wales. I recommend that the Welsh Assembly Government undertakes an urgent review of

yn ardal Glannau Dyfrdwy ac yng nghyswllt trydedd bont dros Afon Menai. A yw'r Gweinidog wedi ystyried y mater hwn? Wedi'r cyfan, mae Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un yn ôl pob golwg yn ceisio helpu sicrhau cynnydd sylweddol yn nifer y nwyddau sy'n cael eu cludo i mewn ac allan o Gymru mewn trenau ac ar longau.

Yn ôl Ffederasiwn y Busnesau Bach, ni all busnesau ymddiried yn y rheilffyrdd ar hyn o bryd fel dull cludiant dibynadwy. Heriaf Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a'r Gweinidog i fuddsoddi arian digonol mewn seilwaith er mwyn darparu dull cludiant ymarferol a chynaliadwy, a dileu'r tagfeydd sydd ar yr A55 ar hyn o bryd. Yr wyf hefyd yn herio'r Gweinidog a Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i fod lawer yn fwy creadigol ac uchelgeisiol. Beth am ddefnyddio arian yr UE a thrydaneiddio'r rheilffordd o Crewe i Gaer ac yna i Gaergybi? Mae hynny wedi bod gerbron ac wedi ei drafod gan lawer o bobl dros y blynyddoedd.

Mae Cydffederasiwn Diwydiant Prydain hefyd yn honni y gallai cludo nwyddau ar y môr ar siwrneiau byr fod yn ddewis arall posibl yn lle defnyddio'r A55, gan fod morgludo yn ymarferol ac yn ecogyfeillgar. Y mis hwn hyd yn oed, cyhoeddodd cwmni Llechi Cymreig ym Methesda ei fod am ddefnyddio llongau i gludo rhywfaint o gerrig mân. Yn ôl y rheolwr gyfarwyddwr, Alan Smith,

mae defnyddio'r môr yn ddewis da, yn enwedig a phris tanwydd fel y mae ar hyn o bryd,

ac

yr ydym yn awyddus i gludo mwy o nwyddau ar y môr a thynnu mwy o lorïau oddi ar ffyrdd y gogledd.

Fel y gwyddom, mae yn y gogledd eisoes borthladd Mostyn, ac un o'r ddau borthladd dŵr dwfn yng Nghymru yng Nghaergybi.

Mae gwir angen strategaeth gludiant ecogyfeillgar, gynaliadwy sy'n gweithio ac sy'n seiliedig ar weledigaeth ar draws y gogledd. Yr wyf yn argymhell y dylai Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wneud

the ongoing projects and maintenance work. Why do we need miles and miles of cones upon cones, often when no work seems to be taking place? Can we not get rid of grass in the middle of the A55? We would then no longer need to cut it. Instead, we could have astroturf or even concrete, as on some of the route. Why on earth cannot some of this work take place in the late evening and overnight, particularly during the summer? Even these small changes would help to alleviate the frustration that most of us feel daily. I am sure that Carwyn Jones would be pleased to hear that, only the other day, while trying to avoid the blockage around Holywell en route from Wrexham to Llandudno, I unfortunately got held up in another blockage on the Mold to Denbigh road. So that is a caution about using the Mold to Denbigh road at the moment.

In a nutshell, the Welsh Assembly Government needs to have some vision. We need to adopt important strategies. We need to talk to business people, including the Confederation of British Industry and the Federation of Small Businesses. We also need to talk to the tourism communities, which, unfortunately, because of the ongoing issue of the A55 and the trans-north Wales route, need your help. So, Minister, I hope that you are listening.

Ann Jones: I thank Eleanor for allowing me to contribute. The title of her short debate, 'Across North Wales?', got my imagination going, but I guessed that she would talk about transport, so I will confine my remarks to transport.

I am pleased that she has raised the issue of the A55 and public safety. I have questioned the Minister on that many times. Like Eleanor, I think that we should look to put freight on rail. I know that it sounds easy, but we really need to start looking at whether that can become a reality.

adolygiad brys o'r prosiectau a'r gwaith cynnal a chadw sy'n mynd ymlaen. Pam y mae arnom angen milltiroedd ar filltiroedd o gonau y naill ar ôl y llall, a hynny'n aml pan nad yw'n ymddangos bod dim gwaith yn digwydd? Oni allwn gael gwared ar y glaswellt sydd yng nghanol yr A55? Ni fyddai angen inni ei dorri wedyn. Gallen gael glaswellt artiffisial neu hyd yn oed goncrid yn lle glaswellt. Dyna sydd i'w weld ar ran o'r ffordd. Pam ar wyneb y ddaear na ellir gwneud rhywfaint o'r gwaith hwn gyda'r nos a thros nos, yn enwedig yn ystod yr haf? Byddai hyd yn oed y newidiadau bychain hyn yn helpu lleihau'r rhwystredigaeth y bydd y rhan fwyaf ohonom yn ei theimlo bob dydd. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai Carwyn Jones yn falch clywed fy mod, y dydd o'r blaen, wrth geisio osgoi'r dagfa yng nghyffiniau Treffynnon ar y ffordd o Wrecsam i Landudno, yn anffodus, wedi fy nal mewn tagfa arall ar y ffordd o'r Wyddgrug i Ddinbych. Felly, mae hynny'n rhybudd i bobl sy'n defnyddio'r ffordd o'r Wyddgrug i Ddinbych ar hyn o bryd.

Yn fyr iawn, mae angen i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru gael rhyw weledigaeth. Mae angen inni fabwysiadu strategaethau pwysig. Mae angen inni siarad â phobl fusnes, gan gynnwys Cydffederasiwn Diwydiant Prydain a Ffederasiwn y Busnesau Bach. Mae angen inni hefyd siarad â'r cymunedau twristiaeth. Yn anffodus mae arnynt angen ein cymorth oherwydd problemau parhaus yr A55 a'r llwybr ar draws y gogledd. Felly, Weinidog, gobeithio eich bod yn gwrando.

Ann Jones: Hoffwn ddiolch i Eleanor am adael imi gyfrannu. Yr oedd teitl ei dadl fer, 'Ar Draws Gogledd Cymru?', wedi cydio yn fy nychymyg, ond yr oeddwn yn dyfalu mai am drafnidiaeth y byddai'n siarad, felly, yr wyf am gyfyngu fy sylwadau i faes trafnidiaeth.

Yr wyf yn falch ei bod wedi codi mater yr A55 a diogelwch y cyhoedd. Yr wyf wedi holi'r Gweinidog ynglŷn â hynny droeon. Fel Eleanor, credaf y dylem ystyried defnyddio'r rheilffyrdd i gludo nwyddau. Gwn ei fod yn swnio'n hawdd, ond mae angen inni ddechrau ystyried o ddifrif a oes modd i hynny fod yn realiti.

On truck stops, again, I agree with Eleanor, but, sometimes, there has to be recognition of drivers' tachographs and where they need to stop along the A55. It may well be that the turn-off at Caerwys is the right place at the right time for a stop in their journey to the port and onto the boat.

I wanted to briefly raise the issue of signage on the A55, which I have raised with the Minister on many occasions. For me, to have signage on the A55 that will open up the beauty of the Vale of Clwyd, which I am so proud to represent, can only be a good thing. We seriously need some signage on the A55 to tell people what they are missing when they travel along the A55 and do not turn off to look at the treasures in the Vale of Clwyd. We have some wonderful castles, and a lovely view from Rhuddlan Castle now that the people have made Denbighshire County Council see sense and have persuaded it not to site its recycling plant in front of the castle. That battle was won through people power. We also have a wonderful cathedral at St Asaph. We have more castles and more of the beauties of the Vale of Clwyd to be opened up. Minister, I implore you to look at signage on the A55 to the Vale of Clwyd.

Y Dirprwy Prif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Yn gyntaf, hoffwn ddiolch i'r Dirprwy Lywydd dros dro am ei gwaith y prynhawn yma. Yr wyf hefyd yn ddiolchgar i Eleanor am godi materion yn ymwneud â gogledd Cymru. Mae wedi cyfeirio'n benodol at yr A55. Dywedodd ei bod eisiau trafod trafndiaeth yn ehangach, ond bu iddi ganolbwyntio'n bennaf ar yr A55 er iddi gyfeirio at y rheilffyrdd ac at drafnidiaeth ar y môr. Hoffwn gyfeirio at y ddau bwynt hynny cyn diwedd y cyfraniad.

5.30 p.m.

Un pwynt eithaf sylfaenol y mae'n rhaid i rywun ei wneud yw bod angen, o bryd i'w gilydd, gwneud gwaith cynnal a chadw ar ffyrdd; mae hynny yr un mor wir am yr A55 ag am unrhyw ffordd arall. Yn naturiol, pan

O ran manau aros ar gyfer lorïau, unwaith eto yr wyf yn cytuno ag Eleanor, ond weithiau rhaid inni ystyried teclynau tacograff gyrwyr ac ymhle y mae angen iddynt aros ar hyd yr A55. Mae'n ddigon posibl mai'r troad yng Nghaerwys yw'r man iawn a'r adeg iawn ar gyfer seibiant yn ystod taith i'r porthladd ac at y llong.

Yr oeddwn yn awyddus i gyfeirio'n fyr at fater arwyddion ar yr A55. Yr wyf wedi dwyn y mater hwn i sylw'r Gweinidog droeon. Yn bersonol, credaf y byddai cael arwyddion ar yr A55 a fyddai'n cyflwyno pobl i harddwch Dyffryn Clwyd yr wyf mor falch o'i gynrychioli yn fanteisiol dros ben. Mae gwir angen arwyddion o ryw fath ar yr A55 i ddweud wrth bobl beth y maent yn ei golli pan fyddant yn teithio ar hyd yr A55 heb droi i ffwrdd i edrych ar y trysorau sydd yn Nyffryn Clwyd. Mae gennym gestyll ysblennydd, a golygfa fendigedig o Gastell Rhuddlan ers i'r bobl lwyddo i berswadio Cyngor Sir Ddinbych i beidio â gosod ei waith ailgylchu o flaen y castell. Enillwyd y frwydr honno drwy rym y bobl. Mae gennym hefyd eglwys gadeiriol odidog yn Llanelwy. Mae mwy o gestyll a mwy o olygfeydd godidog yn Nyffryn Clwyd sy'n aros i gael eu gweld. Weinidog, yr wyf yn crefu arnoch i ystyried gosod arwyddion ar yr A55 i ddangos y ffordd i Ddyffryn Clwyd.

The Deputy First Minister and the Minister for the Economy and Transport (Ieuan Wyn Jones): First of all, I thank the temporary Deputy Presiding Officer for her work this afternoon. I am also grateful to Eleanor for raising issues concerning north Wales. She has referred specifically to the A55. She said she wished to discuss transport in a wider sense, but she focused mainly on the A55, although she did mention railways and sea transport. I should like to mention those two subjects before I finish.

One quite fundamental point that one must make is that, from time to time, maintenance work has to be done on roads; that is as true of the A55 as of any other road. Naturally, when maintenance or resurfacing work is

fo gwaith cynnal a chadw neu ailwynebu ffordd yn cael ei wneud, nid yw trafndiaeth sy'n defnyddio'r ffordd yn gallu rhedeg mor esmwyth ag y byddai fel arall. Fodd bynnag, mae'n bwysig bod y gwaith hwnnw yn cael ei wneud oherwydd ei fod yn bwysig cynnal safon y ffordd. Mae angen inni hefyd sicrhau bod y gwaith sydd angen ei wneud yn cryfhau'r ffordd ar gyfer y dyfodol. Y bwriad, cyhyd â bod hynny'n bosibl, yw bod y gwaith ar y ffordd yn dod i ben yn ystod chwe wythnos gwyliau'r ysgol, ac nad yw'n digwydd ar benwythnosau rhwng mis Mai a mis Medi.

I think that Eleanor referred to cones, but it is important to recognise that the cones are there not just for the safety of the cars that are travelling, but also for the safety of the workmen. I am sure that Eleanor will recall that there have been a number of accidents on the A55 when workmen have been severely injured and, in some cases, sadly, have been killed. So, we must remember that there is a balance to be struck between getting the work needed on the road done, channelling the traffic away and maintaining the safety of the workforce.

As the First Minister indicated yesterday in his response to a question on the A55, it is a long stretch of dual carriageway without resting places or stops, which were not constructed as part of the original design. We recognise that it is a long distance to travel without stops, but the problem with getting suitable rest areas has so far been an issue of planning. Eleanor mentioned the proposal on the Caerwys area, which I gather has engendered a great deal of local opposition, so it is not easy to find suitable places. However, I assure Eleanor that we recognise that it as an important factor and will be looking to address it.

I understand the frustration that local people feel when work is being undertaken on the road—I visited Llanfairfechan with Gareth Jones, where we had a good discussion—but it was clear that there was much frustration around that work. I have agreed that where work that causes disruption is to be done, a good lead-in time is essential and that sufficient consultation should take place with local communities so that they can at least

done, traffic on the road is not able to run as smoothly as would otherwise be the case. However, it is important that that work is done, since it is important to maintain the quality of the road. We must also ensure that the work that needs to be done strengthens the road for the future. The intention, as far as possible, is that there should be no roadworks during the six-week school holiday or at weekends between May and September.

Credaf fod Eleanor wedi cyfeirio at gonau, ond mae'n bwysig cydnabod nad er mwyn diogelwch y ceir sy'n teithio yn unig y mae'r conau yno, ond hefyd er diogelwch y gweithwyr. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd Eleanor yn cofio bod nifer o ddamweiniau wedi digwydd ar yr A55 pan gafodd gweithwyr eu hanafu'n ddifrifol, ac mewn rhai achosion, yn anffodus, eu lladd. Felly, rhaid inni gofio'i bod yn rhaid cael cydbwysedd rhwng llwyddo i wneud y gwaith angenrheidiol ar y ffordd, sianelu'r traffig a chadw'r gweithlu'n ddiogel.

Fel y nododd y Prif Weinidog ddoe yn ei ymateb i gwestiwn am yr A55, mae'n ddarn hir o ffordd ddeuol heb fannau gorffwys nac aros, ac ni chawsant eu hadeiladu yn rhan o'r dyluniad gwreiddiol. Yr ydym yn cydnabod ei fod yn bellter hir i deithio heb aros, ond hyd yma mater cynllunio fu'r broblem o ran cael manau gorffwys addas. Soniodd Eleanor am y cynnig ar ardal Caerwys, a deallaf ei fod wedi denu llawer iawn o wrthwynebiad lleol, felly nid yw'n hawdd dod o hyd i fannau addas. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn sicrhau Eleanor ein bod yn cydnabod ei fod yn ffactor pwysig ac y byddwn yn mynd i'r afael ag ef.

Gallaf ddeall rhwystredigaeth pobl leol pan fydd gwaith yn cael ei wneud ar y ffordd—bûm yn ymweld â Llanfairfechan gyda Gareth Jones, lle cawsom drafodaeth dda—ond yr oedd yn amlwg bod llawer o rwystredigaeth ynghylch y gwaith hwnnw. Lle bydd gwaith yn digwydd sy'n achosi tarfu, yr wyf wedi cytuno bod amser paratoi da yn hanfodol ac y dylid ymgynghori'n ddigonol â chymunedau lleol er mwyn iddynt

prepare for the work.

The other point about construction is that the road was built as a dual carriageway and not as a motorway, as the First Minister mentioned yesterday. That is why, in certain areas, there is no hard shoulder and, in two particular areas, you have roundabouts, which would not be allowed on a motorway, for obvious reasons. So, that was the design that was built at the time; we were not in Government at the time and neither was the Labour Party—it was done under a Conservative Government. Decisions were taken at that time and we currently have to live with them.

You referred to the comments of the police. I have met the police to discuss ways of improving safety on the A55 in particular. My transport officials are working closely with the police to ensure that we minimise the impact if there are accidents and to increase safety on the roads, and they are working with local communities to ensure that that happens. I have agreed that there will be close co-operation between my officials and the police to ensure that that also happens.

I am not quite sure what Eleanor was trying to say about the foreign lorries. Was it that they should be taken off the road, or that we should be monitoring them, because some of them have been found to be defective or to have problems? If it is the latter—

Eleanor Burnham: The issue is that you do not appear to have a strategy that people are aware of in respect of wear and tear, or the fact that these lorries are not stopping, and so are not adding to any business in the area. All they are doing is travelling through an area, and that is it. I am slightly bemused that you are not addressing at all the loss of £15,000 to £20,000 of revenue per month by one person in a well established hotel business—which is in Conwy, Gareth. I am sorry to say that I cannot see any creativity or vision.

The Deputy First Minister: I now apologise for giving way, because I thought that we were going to have an interesting discussion

o leiaf allu paratoi ar gyfer y gwaith.

Y pwynt arall ynglŷn ag adeiladu yw bod y ffordd wedi'i hadeiladu fel ffordd ddeuol, nid fel traffordd, fel y soniodd y Prif Weinidog ddoe. Dyna pam nad oes llain galed mewn rhai mannau a pham y mae gennych, mewn dwy ardal benodol, gylchfannau na fyddent yn cael eu caniatáu ar draffordd, am resymau amlwg. Felly, dyna oedd y dyluniad a adeiladwyd ar y pryd; nid oeddem mewn Llywodraeth ar y pryd nac ychwaith y Blaid Lafur—fe'i gwnaethpwyd o dan Lywodraeth Geidwadol. Gwnaethpwyd penderfyniadau bryd hynny a rhaid inni fyw gyda hwy ar hyn o bryd.

Cyfeiriec at sylwadau'r heddlu. Yr wyf wedi cyfarfod â'r heddlu i drafod ffyrdd i wella diogelwch ar yr A55 yn benodol. Mae fy swyddogion trafndiaeth yn gweithio'n agos gyda'r heddlu i sicrhau ein bod yn lleihau'r effaith gymaint â phosibl os bydd damweiniau ac i wneud y ffyrdd yn fwy diogel, ac maent yn gweithio gyda chymunedau lleol i sicrhau bod hynny'n digwydd. Yr wyf wedi cytuno y bydd fy swyddogion a'r heddlu'n cydweithredu'n agos i sicrhau bod hynny hefyd yn digwydd.

Nid wyf yn gwbl sicr beth yr oedd Eleanor yn ceisio'i ddweud am y lorïau tramor. Ai ceisio dweud ydoedd y dylid eu cymryd oddi ar y ffordd, neu y dylem fod yn eu monitro, oherwydd darganfod bod rhai ohonynt yn ddiffygiol neu'n broblemus? Os dweud yr ail beth yr oedd—

Eleanor Burnham: Y mater yw nad yw'n ymddangos bod gennych strategaeth y mae pobl yn ymwybodol ohoni o ran traul, na'r ffaith nad yw'r lorïau hyn yn aros, nac felly'n ychwanegu at unrhyw fusnes yn yr ardal ychwaith. Y cyfan y maent yn ei wneud yw teithio drwy ardal, a dim byd arall. Yr wyf yn rhyfeddu braidd nad ydych yn rhoi sylw o gwbl i gollu refeniw o £15,000 i £20,000 y mis gan un unigolyn sydd mewn busnes gwesty sefydledig—sydd yng Nghonwy, Gareth. Mae'n flin gennyf ddweud na allaf weld unrhyw greadigrwydd na gweledigaeth.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Ymddiheuraf yn awr am ildio, oherwydd yr oeddwn yn credu ein bod am gael trafodaeth ddiddorol am yr

about what to do about foreign lorries. However, Eleanor chose instead to have a second go at her speech.

I will now deal with the issue of the foreign lorries—

Ann Jones: I will try to put forward what I think is the problem with foreign lorries. They have nowhere to stop although once the tachograph expires drivers have a duty under law to stop. Therefore, they often pull over in communities such as Bodelwyddan, which is just off the A55, which causes enormous upset to those communities. Is it not time that we considered truck stops? That is what I would like to see you looking at. I appreciate your assurances about the planning issues, but I think that the Assembly Government should work to look at truck stops.

The Deputy First Minister: Although I cannot disclose any precise details at this stage, I can give the Assembly the assurance that we are working with local authorities on finding suitable rest points. I made the point earlier that I have great sympathy with that case, and I will do all that I can, working with my officials and local authorities and, where necessary, the planning authorities, to see what can be done. At the end of the day, you also need some level of support from local communities. Provided that that is there and that we can find suitable locations, we ought to do that. I have discussed the issue of lorries with the police, whether they are foreign lorries or other lorries that do not come up to the mark in safety terms, and I know that the police are working hard on addressing that.

I will now mention some of the other points that were raised. I was rather surprised at the reference to the electrification of the north Wales railway line, because if there is one service that has improved beyond recognition in recent years, it is the service between north Wales and London. That is one of the success stories that we have. There is a long way to go to ensure that we have the same level of service between north and south, but the Virgin service between north Wales and London is now much better than it has been for many years, and is much better than when

hyn i'w wneud ynghylch lorïau tramor. Fodd bynnag, dewisodd Eleanor yn hytrach roi ail gynnig ar ei haraith hi.

Trof yn awr at fater y lorïau tramor—

Ann Jones: Ceisiaf egluro beth yw'r broblem gyda lorïau tramor yn fy marn i. Nid oes unman iddynt aros er bod dyletswydd gyfreithiol ar yrwyr i aros pan fydd y tacograff yn dod i ben. Maent felly'n aros yn aml mewn cymunedau fel Bodelwyddan, sydd ychydig oddi ar yr A55, gan aflonyddu'n sylweddol ar y cymunedau hynny. Onid yw'n bryd inni ystyried manau aros i dryciau? Dyna yr hoffwn eich gweld yn ei ystyried. Yr wyf yn gwerthfawri'ch sicrwydd am y materion cynllunio, ond credaf y dylai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad weithio i edrych ar fannau aros i dryciau.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Er na allaf ddatgelu dim manylion manwl ar hyn o bryd, gallaf sicrhau'r Cynulliad ein bod yn gweithio gydag awdurdodau lleol i ddod o hyd i fannau gorffwys addas. Soniais yn gynharach fy mod yn cydymdeimlo'n fawr â'r achos hwnnw, ac y gwnaf bopeth a fedraf, drwy weithio gyda fy swyddogion ac awdurdodau lleol a'r awdurdodau cynllunio, lle bydd angen, i weld beth ellir ei wneud. Yn y pen draw, mae arnoch hefyd angen rhywfaint o gefnogaeth gan gymunedau lleol. Cyhyd ag y bydd hynny yno ac y gallwn ddod o hyd i fannau addas, dylem wneud hynny. Yr wyf wedi trafod lorïau gyda'r heddlu, boed yn lorïau tramor ynteu'n lorïau eraill sy'n methu cyrraedd y safonau diogelwch, a gwn fod yr heddlu'n gweithio'n galed i fynd i'r afael â hynny.

Soniaf yn awr am rai o'r pwyntiau eraill a godwyd. Yr oeddwn yn synnu braidd at y cyfeiriad at drydaneiddio rheilffordd gogledd Cymru, oherwydd os yw un gwasanaeth wedi gwella y tu hwnt i adnabyddiaeth yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf, y gwasanaeth rhwng gogledd Cymru a Llundain yw hwnnw. Dyna un o'n llwyddiannau. Mae llawer i'w wneud o hyd i sicrhau y cawn yr un lefel o wasanaeth rhwng y gogledd a'r de, ond mae gwasanaeth Virgin rhwng gogledd Cymru a Llundain erbyn hyn lawer yn well nag a fu ers blynyddoedd lawer, ac yn well o lawer na

I used to go down to London as a Member of Parliament. Therefore, I am not sure what added value you would get from electrifying the line, because the quality of the coaches, the rolling stock and the ride between north Wales and London is substantially better than it has ever been. Therefore, I am not sure whether that would give us added value or not. Had Eleanor mentioned the service between north and south, I would have been able to say something on it, which is that we are currently looking at the provision of a service that would come down from the north in the morning and would return in the evening and which would be of a class that we have not traditionally seen—

Eleanor Burnham: Will you take an intervention?

The Deputy First Minister: No, you have had plenty of time already. That will be a significant improvement, if we can get everything in place from this December.

The other point that I wanted to make was about short sea crossings. There is a valuable point here, because one of the ideas in the Wales transport strategy that we published was to increase short sea crossings for freight.

5.40 p.m.

I was interested in the proposal for Penrhyn, which one wants to encourage, and I have had discussions with the management of Cardiff port about the prospects for this method of travel. I believe that there is great merit in pursuing that, and I assure the Assembly that I will do so positively.

Among the other points that were raised was that of transferring freight from road to rail. I am not sure whether Eleanor is aware of this, but, for many years, I was a member of the House of Commons rail freight group, which, from the 1980s, considered the reintroduction of freight onto the north Wales line. The problem is the relative cost of transport. I believe that many freight operators would be prepared to use rail for long distances, because that is when it becomes more competitive with the roads; however, for

phan arferwn fynd i Lundain fel Aelod Seneddol. Nid wyf yn siŵr felly pa werth ychwanegol y byddech yn ei gael o drydaneiddio'r lein, gan fod safon y cerbydau a'r daith rhwng gogledd Cymru a Llundain lawer yn well nag erioed. Nid wyf yn siŵr felly a fyddai hynny'n rhoi gwerth ychwanegol inni ai peidio. Petai Eleanor wedi sôn am y gwasanaeth rhwng y gogledd a'r de, byddwn wedi gallu dweud rhywbeth amdano, sef ein bod yn edrych ar hyn o bryd ar ddarparu gwasanaeth a fyddai'n dod i lawr o'r gogledd yn y bore ac yn dychwelyd gyda'r nos ac a fyddai o safon nad ydym wedi'i gweld yn draddodiadol—

Eleanor Burnham: A gymerwch chi ymyriad?

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog: Na wnaif, yr ydych wedi cael digonedd o amser yn barod. Bydd hynny'n welliant sylweddol, os gallwn gael popeth yn ei le o fis Rhagfyr eleni.

Yr oeddwn eisiau sôn hefyd am fordeithiau byr. Mae pwynt gwerthfawr yma, oherwydd un o'r syniadau yn strategaeth drafnidiaeth Cymru a gyhoeddwyd gennym oedd cynyddu mordeithiau byr ar gyfer cludo nwyddau.

Yr oedd gennyf ddiddordeb yn y cynnig ar gyfer Penrhyn, sy'n haeddu ei annog, ac yr wyf wedi cael trafodaethau gyda rheolwyr porthladd Caerdydd am y rhagolygon ar gyfer y dull hwn o deithio. Credaf fod llawer i'w ddweud o blaid mynd ar drywydd hynny, ac yr wyf yn sicrhau'r Cynulliad y byddaf yn gwneud hynny'n gadarnhaol.

Ymhlith y pwyntiau eraill a godwyd yr oedd trosglwyddo cludo nwyddau oddi ar y ffyrdd i'r rheilffyrdd. Nid wyf yn siŵr a yw Eleanor yn ymwybodol o hyn, ond am lawer blwyddyn yr oeddwn yn aelod o'r grŵp cludo nwyddau rheilffordd yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin. O'r 1980au bu'n ystyried ailgyflwyno cludo nwyddau i reilffordd gogledd Cymru. Y broblem yw cost gymharol y cludiant. Credaf y byddai nifer o weithredwyr cludo nwyddau yn barod i ddefnyddio'r rheilffordd ar gyfer pellter hir, oherwydd dyna pryd y daw'n fwy

short distances, it does not make commercial sense for many businesses.

The other issue is getting the right facilities in place. A lot of work needs to be done to ensure that the lines, the track that we have is sufficient to carry the level of freight that I believe should be carried. That is why I mentioned in the Wales transport strategy the need for us to look at increasing the modal shift away from road to rail in transport terms. I assure the Assembly that that work will continue.

Finally, for some reason, the impression was given that we are not engaging with business to discuss these issues. In fact, one of the early things that I did when I was appointed Minister for transport was ensure that the North Wales Economic Forum would continue to exist, so that it would be a forum for discussing with business representatives and local authorities the business needs of north Wales. That was very much welcomed by business representatives. I have begun a dialogue with them—I have met them twice already—and I think that there is good engagement now on how we take this forward. Not only do we have the North Wales Economic Forum, but we also have Taith, which also looks at north Wales's transport needs, and there is considerable engagement there. Therefore, we are already engaging successfully with businesses.

I want to ensure that we have a fast, reliable, safe transport service, and the Assembly Government is dedicated to ensuring that that happens in north Wales, as in other parts of Wales.

The Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer: That brings today's proceedings to a close.

cystadleuol â'r ffyrdd; fodd bynnag, ar gyfer pellter byr, nid yw'n gwneud synnwyr masnachol i lawer o fusnesau.

Y mater arall yw cael y cyfleusterau cywir yn eu lle. Mae angen gwneud llawer o waith i sicrhau bod y rheilffyrdd a'r trac sydd gennym yn ddigonol i gludo lefel y nwyddau y credaf y dylid eu cludo. Dyna pam y soniais yn strategaeth drafnidiaeth Cymru fod angen inni edrych ar gynyddu'r newid dull i ffwrdd o'r ffyrdd ac i'r rheilffyrdd o ran cludiant. Yr wyf yn sicrhau'r Cynulliad y bydd gwaith hwnnw'n parhau.

Yn olaf, am ryw reswm, rhoddwyd yr argraff nad ydym yn ymgysylltu â busnesau i drafod y materion hyn. Mewn gwirionedd, un o'r pethau cynnar a wneuthum ar ôl fy mhenodi'n Weinidog dros drafnidiaeth oedd sicrhau y byddai Fforwm Economaidd Gogledd Cymru yn dal i fod, fel y byddai'n fforwm i drafod anghenion busnes y Gogledd gyda chynrychiolwyr busnes ac awdurdodau lleol. Croesawyd hynny'n fawr iawn gan gynrychiolwyr busnes. Yr wyf wedi dechrau trafod gyda hwy—yr wyf eisoes wedi cyfarfod â hwy ddwywaith—a chredaf fod ymgysylltu da bellach am y ffordd yr awn â hyn yn ei flaen. Yn ogystal â Fforwm Economaidd Gogledd Cymru, mae gennym Taith hefyd, sydd hefyd yn edrych ar anghenion cludiant y Gogledd, ac mae ymgysylltu sylweddol yno. Felly, yr ydym eisoes yn ymgysylltu'n llwyddiannus â busnesau.

Yr wyf am sicrhau bod gennym wasanaeth trafndiaeth cyflym, dibynadwy, diogel, a bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi ymrwymo i sicrhau bod hynny'n digwydd yn y Gogledd, fel mewn rhannau eraill o Gymru.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd Dros Dro: Daw hynny â chyfarfod heddiw i ben.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5.42 p.m.
The meeting ended at 5.42 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)