



**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
(Y Cofnod Swyddogol)**

**The National Assembly for Wales
(The Official Record)**

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

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

*Cyfarfu'r Cynulliad am 2 p.m. gyda'r Llywydd yn y Gadair.
The Assembly met at 2 p.m. with the Presiding Officer in the Chair.*

Cwestiynau i Brif Weinidog Cymru Questions to the First Minister

Datblygu Cynaliadwy a Chynhwysiant Cymdeithasol Sustainable Development and Social Inclusion

C1 Cynog Dafis: Sut y bydd themâu trawsbynciol datblygu cynaliadwy a chynhwysiant cymdeithasol yn parhau i gael eu cynnwys ym mhrif lif materion y Cynulliad yn y dyfodol? (OAQ9325)

Prif Weinidog Cymru (Rhodri Morgan): Bydd hynny'n dibynnu ar faint o wrthdaro a welir rhwng y ddau nod. Er enghraifft, rhoesom hwb lwyddiannus i gais Glas Cymru i redeg y diwydiant dŵr a charffosiaeth yng Nghymru. Gellir ystyried hynny yn gynaliadwy. Fodd bynnag, efallai na fyddai rhai, megis yr undebau llafur yn gweld hynny o fudd o ran cynhwysiant ac allgáu cymdeithasol. Bydd enghreifftiau o'r fath yn y dyfodol, ond nid wyf innau'n gweld y gwrthdaro hwn yn codi'n rhy aml.

Cynog Dafis: Canolbwyntiaf yn arbennig ar ddatblygu cynaliadwy. Sut mae Prif Weinidog Cymru yn sicrhau bod gwahanol adrannau o'r Llywodraeth yn cydweithio er mwyn cyflawni'r amcanion? Er enghraifft—a chodais hyn eisioes—yr angen i gydweithio rhwng yr adran datblygu economaidd ar y naill law a'r adran gynllunio ar y llaw arall. Y perygl yw bod penderfyniadau yn yr adran gynllunio yn rhwystr bob amser i gynlluniau penodol yn ymwneud â datblygu cynaliadwy. Yr wyf yn sôn am ynni adnewyddol yn arbennig. Gofynnaf i'r Prif Weinidog ymateb yn benodol ynglŷn â chynllun Bontnewydd ar Wy sydd yn disgwyl penderfyniad. Nid oes gan y cwmni yn yr achos hwnnw syniad pryd y bydd yr ymchwiliad cyhoeddus yn digwydd a phryd y bydd penderfyniad yn cael ei wneud. Mae perygl i'r holl gynllun gael ei gollu o achos y gohirio.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Rhoddodd Cynog enghraifft o'r felin goed a'r felin sydd yn defnyddio coed gwastraff a blawd llif i gynhyrchu trydan. Mae honno'n enghraifft

Q1 Cynog Dafis: How will the cross-cutting issues of sustainable development and social inclusion continue to be mainstreamed in future Assembly affairs? (OAQ9325)

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): That will depend on how much conflict one sees between the two aims. For example, we successfully boosted Glas Cymru's application to run the water and sewerage industry in Wales. That could be considered sustainable. However, some, such as the trade unions might not view it as beneficial in terms of social inclusion and exclusion. There will be such examples in future, but I do not see that kind of conflict happening too frequently.

Cynog Dafis: I will concentrate on sustainable development in particular. How does the First Minister ensure that different Government departments co-operate in order to achieve these aims? For example—and I have raised this matter previously—the need to co-operate between the economic development department on the one hand and the planning department on the other. The danger is that decisions in the planning department continually hinder specific sustainable development schemes. I am thinking about renewable energy in particular. I ask the First Minister specifically about the Newbridge on Wye scheme, which is awaiting a decision. The company in that case has no idea when the public inquiry will take place and when a decision will be made. There is a danger that the whole scheme will be lost because of the delay.

The First Minister: Cynog gave an example of the wood mill and the mill that uses waste wood and sawdust to generate electricity. That is a good example of the possibility of

dda o'r posibilirwydd o wrthdaro. Byddai'r swyddi hynny yn helpu i leddfu tlodi yng nghanolbarth Cymru. Mae'n ddiwydiant trwm—yn yr ystyr hwnnw—a chynaliadwy. Mae enghreifftiau eraill megis melinau gwynt nad wyf yn credu y byddant yn cael cymaint o effaith o ran cynaliadwyedd. Gan fod Cynog wedi rhoi enghraifft mor berthnasol, ysgrifennaf ato ynglŷn â'r sefyllfa ddiweddaraf o ran y cais am ganiatâd cynllunio.

Alun Pugh: Equal opportunities is rightly a cross-cutting theme of the Assembly. The new management team at the National Council for Education and Training for Wales is all white, all male, and comes from a limited range of backgrounds. Do you believe that the management teams of such bodies should look more like the Welsh population and less like the Conservative group?

The First Minister: I would not wish that on anybody.

David Davies *rose*—

The Presiding Officer: Order. I will take a point of order later if you still wish to make it.

The First Minister: Alun is making a sociological point rather than a political one, David. I would not wish to stir up any problems of that kind. I think that the point Alun is making is about reflecting the population at large. All of us will have seen the photograph of the new management team. It reflects the pre-existing management teams of the predecessor organisations, which are working out their last two months of existence prior to the National Council for Education and Training for Wales's coming into being on 1 April. There are Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations to comply with and you want to limit fears about loss of continuity, institutional churn and minimise the damage that does. You try to keep the existing staff in post if that is suitable. Therefore it is a reflection of where we are today and not the aim that we would like to fulfil, which would fit in with what Alun is saying, of having a

conflict. Those jobs would help to alleviate poverty in mid-Wales. It is a heavy industry—in that sense—and a sustainable one. There are other examples such as windmills that I do not think will have such an impact on sustainability. Since Cynog has cited such a relevant example, I will write to him about the latest situation regarding the application for planning permission.

Alun Pugh: Mae cyfle cyfartal yn thema trawsbynciol yn y Cynulliad, ac yn gywir felly. Mae pob un o aelodau'r tîm rheoli newydd yng Nghyngor Cenedlaethol Cymru dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant yn wyn, yn ddynion, ac yn dod o ystod cyfyngedig o gefndiroedd. A ydych o'r farn y dylai timau rheoli cyrff o'r fath edrych yn debycach i boblogaeth Cymru ac yn llai tebyg i grŵp y Ceidwadwyr?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ni fyddwn yn dymuno hynny ar unrhyw un.

David Davies *a gododd* —

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Byddaf yn cymryd pwynt o drefn yn ddiweddarach os byddwch yn dymuno ei wneud o hyd.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae Alun yn gwneud pwynt cymdeithasegol yn hytrach nag un gwleidyddol, David. Ni fyddwn yn dymuno creu problemau o'r math hwnnw. Credaf fod pwynt Alun yn ymwneud ag adlewyrchu'r boblogaeth yn gyffredinol. Bydd pob un ohonom wedi gweld y llun o'r tîm rheoli newydd. Mae'n adlewyrchu timau rheoli blaenorol y sefydliadau a'i rhagflaenodd, sydd yn gweithredu am eu dau fis olaf cyn y daw Cyngor Cenedlaethol Cymru dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant i rym ar 1 Ebrill. Rhaid cydymffurfio â Rheoliadau Trosglwyddo Ymgymeriadau (Diogelu Cyflogaethol) ac yr ydych am leihau pryderon am golli dilyniant, cynnyrch sefydliadol a sicrhau eu bod yn achosi'r niwed lleiaf posibl. Yr ydych yn ceisio cadw'r staff presennol yn eu swyddi os yw hynny'n addas. Felly mae'n adlewyrchiad o lle yr ydym heddiw ac nid y nod y dymunwn ei gyflawni, a fyddai'n cyd-fynd â'r hyn a

senior management team that reflects society at large, in terms of gender and ethnic minority.

ddywed Alun, sef cael uwch dîm rheoli sydd yn adlewyrchu'r gymdeithas yn gyffredinol, o ran rhyw a lleiafrifoedd ethnig.

**'Rhoi Cymru'n Gyntaf' a 'Gwellcymru.com'
'Putting Wales First' and 'Betterwales.com'**

Q2 Jonathan Morgan: Will the First Minister make a statement on the interface between the policy documents 'Putting Wales First' and 'Betterwales.com'? (OAQ9330)

C2 Jonathan Morgan: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog Cymru ddatganiad ynghylch y rhyngberthynas rhwng y dogfennau polisi 'Rhoi Cymru'n Gyntaf' a 'Gwellcymru.com'? (OAQ9330)

The First Minister: I refer you to the answer that I gave to David Melding last week.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Fe'ch cyfeirïaf at yr ateb a roddais i David Melding yr wythnos diwethaf.

Jonathan Morgan: I draw your attention to chapter nine of 'Putting Wales First', which mentions creating a culture of openness in the Assembly. Would you be prepared to extend that culture of openness to the financial support which is being allocated to bring the Football Association Cup to Cardiff, which we all support? Will you tell us why we have not seen the figure that has been made available, and when can we expect such a statement from you or one of your colleagues?

Jonathan Morgan: Tynnaf eich sylw at bennod naw 'Rhoi Cymru'n Gyntaf', sydd yn crybwyll creu diwylliant agored yn y Cynulliad. A fydddech yn barod i ehangu'r diwylliant agored hwnnw i'r cymorth ariannol a ddyrennir er mwyn dod â Chwpan y Gymdeithas Bêl-droed i Gymru, yr ydym oll yn ei gefnogi? A ddywedwch wrthym pam nad ydym wedi gweld y ffigwr a bennwyd, a phryd y gallwn ddisgwyl datganiad o'r fath gennych chi neu gan un o'ch cyd-Aelodau?

The First Minister: I am grateful for that question and for the way in which it was asked. It is a work in progress. I would have liked to be able to announce the details to the Assembly by now. As soon as we are able to conclude the quite tricky three-dimensional negotiations, I will announce it to the Assembly. Time is dragging on, as I am sure Jonathan would agree, but there is no point in making an announcement until you have signed, sealed and delivered a document agreed by the Millennium Stadium plc and Cardiff City and County Council. It is a work in progress and I am grateful that Jonathan has raised the matter. I hope that we will be able to report fairly soon.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am y cwestiwn hwnnw ac am y ffordd y'i gofynnwyd. Mae'r gwaith yn mynd rhagddo ar hyn o bryd. Byddwn wedi dymuno cyhoeddi'r manylion i'r Cynulliad erbyn hyn. Cyn gynted ag y gallwn derfynu'r negodiadau tri dimensiwn gweddol gymhleth, fe'i cyhoeddaf i'r Cynulliad. Mae amser yn llusgo ymlaen, fel y cytuna Jonathan mae'n siŵr, ond nid oes diben gwneud cyhoeddiad hyd nes eich bod wedi rhoi sêl eich bendith ar ddogfen y cytunwyd arni gan Stadiwm y Mileniwm ccc a Chyngor Dinas a Sir Caerdydd a'i chyflwyno. Mae'r gwaith yn mynd rhagddo ar hyn o bryd ac yr wyf yn ddiolchgar bod Jonathan wedi codi'r mater. Gobeithio y gallwn gyflwyno adroddiad yn weddol fuan.

Pauline Jarman: Given that the employment problem is likely to worsen as a result of the Corus announcement, do you agree that we in Plaid Cymru—The Party of Wales were right to push for an employment strategy for Wales

Pauline Jarman: Gan ystyried bod y broblem gyflogaeth yn debygol o waethygu o ganlyniad i gyhoeddiad Corus, a gytunwch ein bod ni ym Mhlaid Cymru—The Party of Wales yn iawn i bwysu am strategaeth

to be included in 'Betterwales.com'? Will you explain why it has been postponed even though it was supposed to be ready before Christmas?

The First Minister: We have missed that Christmas deadline. I am not sure what 'Betterwales.com' has to do with the Corus announcement, unless the Corus announcement is seen as symptomatic rather than as a cataclysmic event on its own. 'Betterwales.com' is a medium-term and long-term strategic document. However big they are, it is difficult to take on board major events like the announcement of 3,800 job losses that Corus made last week. Corus claims that it is only 2,800 job losses but we would say that it is 3,800. A strategy and an event are not the same thing. That is the problem that Pauline's question is almost unfairly putting those together. I entirely agree with her on the basic point.

2:10 p.m.

The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives (Nick Bourne): As leader of that august body kindly trailed by Alun Pugh, I ask the First Minister whether, in view of the commitment in 'Putting Wales First' to freedom of information, he could comment on the widely-held concern regarding an alleged letter sent by the Minister for Health and Social Services to health bosses asking them to develop positive news stories and avoid leaking bad ones. Is this not just a tactic to avoid concentration on the growing waiting lists problem, which is already blamed on the media?

The First Minister: Jane will probably be able to write to you regarding the detail of the issue that you have raised. Broadly speaking, we would all want balanced media coverage that gives equal attention to good and bad news stories about the health service and any other public service. Getting that balance right would be the broad thrust of what Jane said. I am sure that Jane will write to you to

cyflogaeth i Gymru i'w chynnwys yn 'Gwellcymru.com'? A wnewch chi egluro pam y'i gohiriwyd er gwaethaf y ffaith y disgwyliwyd iddi fod yn barod cyn y Nadolig?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Collasom ddyddiad cau y Nadolig. Nid wyf yn sicr beth yw'r cysylltiad rhwng 'Gwellcymru.com' a chyhoeddiad Corus, heblaw yr ystyrir cyhoeddiad Corus fel digwyddiad symptomatig yn hytrach nag un cataclysmig ar ei ben ei hun. Mae 'Gwellcymru.com' yn ddogfen strategol tymor canolig a thymor hir. Waeth pa mor fawr ydynt, mae'n anodd derbyn digwyddiadau mawr megis y cyhoeddiad gan Corus yr wythnos diwethaf bod 3,800 i golli eu swyddi. Honna Corus mai dim ond 2,800 a fydd yn colli eu swyddi ond byddem ni'n dweud bod y ffigwr yn 3,800. Nid yw strategaeth a digwyddiad yr un peth. Dyna'r broblem sef bod cwestiwn Pauline bron yn annheg yn eu rhoi at ei gilydd. Cytunaf yn llwyr â hi ar y pwynt sylfaenol.

Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru (Nick Bourne): Fel arweinydd y corff mawreddog hwnnw y dilynwyd ei drywydd yn garedig gan Alun Pugh, gofynnaf i'r Prif Weinidog a allai yng ngoleuni'r ymrwymiad i ryddid gwybodaeth yn 'Rhoi Cymru'n Gyntaf', wneud sylwadau ar y pryder a geir yn eang ynglŷn â llythyr honedig a anfonwyd gan y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol at benaethiaid iechyd yn gofyn iddynt ddatblygu storïau newyddion cadarnhaol ac osgoi rhyddhau rhai gwael. Onid tacteg yn unig yw hyn i osgoi canolbwyntio ar broblem gynyddol y rhestrau aros, y mae'r cyfryngau eisoes yn cael eu beio amdani?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Gall Jane fwy na thebyg ysgrifennu atoch ynglŷn â manylion y mater a godwyd gennych. At ei gilydd, byddem oll yn dymuno sylw cytbwys gan y wasg sydd yn rhoi sylw teg i storïau newyddion da a drwg ynglŷn â'r gwasanaeth iechyd ac unrhyw wasanaeth cyhoeddus arall. Sicrhau'r cydbwysedd cywir fyddai pwyslais cyffredinol yr hyn a ddywedodd Jane. Yr wyf

explain this matter, and the content of the rumours that I have heard about this issue, further.

Nick Bourne: I am surprised that you are not in a position to comment in detail since you obviously know about this. Is this all not a tactic by the administration to try to control the media? You have been in office as First Minister for a year. During that time, waiting lists have worsened and the rural crisis has deepened. We now have a manufacturing jobs crisis and you have two unsackable Liberal Democrats in your Cabinet. Is it not time that we had a chance to debate 'Putting Wales First'? Will you make time—
[LABOUR ASSEMBLY MEMBERS: 'Ask a question.']

The Presiding Officer: Order. I am perfectly able to hear what the Leader of the Welsh Conservatives is saying. To my hearing, he has already asked two questions in succession.

Nick Bourne: Is it not time that we debated this document, which we have not had a chance to do so far? It is after all called the first—rather alarmingly—partnership agreement of the National Assembly for Wales.

The First Minister: I have no objections to a debate on this document.

Nick Bourne: Why do we not have one, then?

The First Minister: That is a matter for the Business Committee.

yn sicr y bydd Jane yn ysgrifennu atoch i egluro'r mater hwn ymhellach, ynghyd â chynnwys y sibrydion yr wyf wedi eu clywed ynglŷn â'r mater hwn.

Nick Bourne: Yr wyf yn synnu nad ydych mewn sefyllfa i roi sylwadau manwl o ystyried eich bod yn amlwg yn gwybod am hyn. Onid tacteg yw hyn oll gan y weinyddiaeth er mwyn ceisio rheoli'r cyfryngau? Buoch yn Brif Weinidog ers blwyddyn. Yn ystod yr amser hwnnw, mae rhestrau aros wedi gwaethygu ac mae'r argyfwng yng nghefn gwlad wedi dwysáu. Bellach mae gennym argyfwng swyddi diwydiannol ac mae gennych ddau Ddemocrat Rhyddfrydol yn eich Cabinet na ellir eu diswyddo. Onid yw'n bryd inni gael cyfle i gael dadl ar 'Rhoi Cymru'n Gyntaf'? A neilltuwch amser—[AELODAU LLAFUR Y CYNULLIAD: 'Gofynnwch gwestiwn.']

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Gallaf glywed yr hyn a ddywed Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru yn berffaith. Yn ôl yr hyn a glywais i, gofynnodd ddau gwestiwn eisoes yn olynol.

Nick Bourne: Onid yw'n bryd inni gael dadl am y ddogfen hon, gan nad ydym wedi cael cyfle i wneud hynny mor belled? Wedi'r cyfan fe'i gelwir—yn frawychus—yn gytundeb partneriaeth cyntaf Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Nid oes gennyf unrhyw wrthwynebiad i gael dadl am y ddogfen hon.

Nick Bourne: Pam, felly, na chawn un?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mater i'r Pwyllgor Busnes yw hynny.

Codi Ymwybyddiaeth o Gymru Dramor Raising Wales's Profile Abroad

Q3 Glyn Davies: Will the First Minister make a statement on raising Wales's profile abroad? (OAQ9339)

C3 Glyn Davies: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog Cymru ddatganiad ynghylch codi ymwybyddiaeth o Gymru dramor? (OAQ9339)

The First Minister: As I have made clear in

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Fel yr eglurais mewn

response to several similar questions recently—mostly from you, Glyn—raising the profile of Wales abroad is a key Cabinet priority. The Assembly is working with other public sector bodies to develop a co-ordinated approach at an all-Wales level to enhance our international profile. That includes developing a package of quality promotional material, including a CD-ROM and website, and the identification of overseas events to promote Wales. The establishment of the Assembly office in Brussels, an increasing number of visits to Wales by high-profile overseas politicians and officials, our trade missions programme, and the opportunities provided by our increased participation in international affairs—in Europe and elsewhere—will further increase Wales's profile internationally. This leaves to one side the question raised earlier by Jonathan Morgan, who is not in the Chamber at present, about the FA Cup and the other events announced in the package of agreement between the Millennium Stadium and the Football League and the Football Association.

Glyn Davies: Thank you for that most comprehensive answer. On a slightly tangential point, some people—including me—disagreed with the decision to bring the internationalisation function within the civil service to the Assembly. Not unreasonably, the Economic Development Committee Chairman agreed that that should be reviewed after an unspecified period. However, when I asked the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economic Development about this, he drew himself up to his full height, gave me a dusty answer and refused to make any comment. Will you give us an idea of when you believe this review should take place?

The First Minister: Far be it for me to intervene in any spat or spatette in the Economic Development Committee. If such events occur that is a matter for the Chair of the Economic Development Committee to sort out. I am not sure whether arrangements within the official empire of the administration as to which civil servants sit in which part of the administration, and which

ymateb i nifer o gwestiynau tebyg yn ddiweddar—y rhan fwyaf gennyh chi, Glyn—mae codi ymwybyddiaeth o Gymru dramor yn un o brif flaenoriaethau'r Cabinet. Mae'r Cynulliad yn gweithio gyda chyrrff sector cyhoeddus eraill er mwyn datblygu ymagwedd gydweithredol ar lefel Cymru gyfan i wella ein proffil rhyngwladol. Mae hynny'n cynnwys datblygu pecyn o ddeunydd hyrwyddo o ansawdd, yn cynnwys CD-ROM a gwefan, a nodi digwyddiadau dramor er mwyn hyrwyddo Cymru. Bydd sefydlu swyddfa'r Cynulliad ym Mrwsel, nifer cynyddol o ymweliadau â Chymru gan wleidyddion a swyddogion tramor o bwys, ein rhaglen cenadaethau masnach, a'r cyfleoedd a ddarperir gan ein cyfranogiad cynyddol mewn materion rhyngwladol—yn Ewrop ac mewn mannau eraill—yn gwella'r ymwybyddiaeth o Gymru yn rhyngwladol ymhellach. Mae hyn yn gadael y cwestiwn a godwyd yn gynharach gan Jonathan Morgan, nad yw'n bresennol yn y Siambr ar hyn o bryd, ynglŷn â Chwpan yr FA a digwyddiadau eraill a gyhoeddwyd yn y pecyn cytundeb rhwng Stadiwm y Mileniwm a'r Gynghrair Bêl-droed a'r Gymdeithas Bêl-droed.

Glyn Davies: Diolch am yr ateb cynhwysfawr hwnnw. Ar bwynt ychydig yn amherthnasol, anghytunodd rhai pobl—yn fy nghynnwys i—gyda'r penderfyniad i ddod â'r swyddogaeth ryngwladoli o fewn y gwasanaeth sifil i'r Cynulliad. Nid yn afresymol, cytunodd Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd y dylid ei adolygu ar ôl cyfnod amhenodol. Fodd bynnag, pan ofynnais i'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd am hyn, ymsythodd i'w lawn daldra, rhoddodd ateb niwlog a gwrthododd wneud unrhyw sylw. A wnewch chi roi syniad inni pryd, y credwch, y dylid cynnal yr adolygiad hwn?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Nid fy lle fi yw ymyrryd mewn unrhyw gweryl neu gwerylon yn y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd. Os ceir digwyddiadau o'r fath cyfrifoldeb Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd yw eu datrys. Ni wn a yw trefniadau o fewn terfynau swyddogol y weinyddiaeth ynglŷn â pha weision sifil sydd yn eistedd ym mha ran o'r weinyddiaeth, a pha adrannau sydd yn

departments report to which senior officials before they get to the political accountability level, are all that relevant to the chain of political accountability, which is what we should be discussing in this Chamber.

Mick Bates: We will soon have an event that will take Wales to millions of people across the world—the FA Cup Final—which you mentioned earlier. What proposals do you have to ensure that Welsh logos and Welsh products will have a high profile in the advertising in the stadium and the surrounding area?

The First Minister: That is certainly part of the intention. It applies to advertising Welsh locations for inward investment, Welsh facilities for tourism, Welsh branded products in the stadium's food and drink areas and Welsh factory shopping outlets—whether that be Burberrys or Tŷ Nant water or whatever you could buy in a factory shop to make a weekend of it while you are in Wales. Birmingham City and Liverpool supporters will visit Cardiff for the Worthington Cup Final, but I am not in a position to know who will be the finalists in the FA Cup. There are huge opportunities here. Birmingham City and Liverpool supporters will probably travel to Cardiff on the M5 and M6 but they may travel home via mid and north Wales. They should spend a long and productive weekend in Wales. They will pass through various tourist attractions, eat excellent meals at our best hostelrys and stay the night at good bed and breakfasts, farmhouses and hotels. They should enjoy the football and also Wales. That must be part of the message. We must advertise that in the Millennium Stadium and the surrounding area.

cyflwyno adroddiad i ba uwch swyddogion cyn iddynt gyrraedd y lefel atebolrwydd gwleidyddol, yn berthnasol i'r gadwyn o atebolrwydd gwleidyddol, sef yr hyn y dylem fod yn ei drafod yn y Siambr hon.

Mick Bates: Yn fuan bydd gennym ddigwyddiad a fydd yn cyflwyno Cymru i filiynau o bobl ar draws y byd—Gêm Derfynol Cwpan yr FA—a grybwyllwyd gennych yn gynharach. Pa gynigion sydd gennych i sicrhau y rhoddir amlygrwydd i logos Cymru a nwyddau Cymru yn yr hysbysiadau yn y stadiwm ac yn yr ardal o'i hamgylch?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae hynny'n sicr yn rhan o'r bwriad. Mae'n ymwneud â hysbysebu lleoliadau yng Nghymru ar gyfer mewnfuddsoddiad, cyfleusterau Cymru ar gyfer twristiaeth, nwyddau Cymru yn ardaloedd bwyd a diod y stadiwm a chanolfannau siopa yng Nghymru—boed yn Burberrys neu ddŵr Tŷ Nant neu beth bynnag y gallech ei brynu mewn canolfan siopa yng Nghymru tra'n treulio penwythnos yng Nghymru. Bydd cefnogwyr Birmingham City a Lerpwl yn ymweld â Chaerdydd ar gyfer Gêm Derfynol Cwpan Worthington, ond nid wyf mewn sefyllfa i wybod pwy fydd yn chwarae yng ngêm derfynol Cwpan yr FA. Mae cyfleoedd enfawr yma. Efallai y bydd cefnogwyr Birmingham City a Lerpwl yn teithio i Gaerdydd ar yr M5 a'r M6 ond efallai y byddant yn teithio adref drwy ganolbarth a gogledd Cymru. Dylent dreulio penwythnos hir a chynhyrchiol yng Nghymru. Byddant yn teithio drwy amryw atyniadau twristaidd, yn bwyta prydau gwych yn ein tafarnau gorau ac yn aros mewn gwely a brechwast, ffermdai a gwestai da. Dylent fwynhau'r pêl-droed ond hefyd dylent fwynhau Cymru. Rhaid i hynny fod yn rhan o'r neges. Rhaid inni hysbysebu hynny yn Stadiwm y Mileniwm ac yn yr ardal o'i hamgylch.

Ateb Llythyrau Aelodau'r Cynulliad Replying to Assembly Members' Letters

Q4 Peter Rogers: Will the First Minister make a statement on the average length of time his Cabinet Ministers have taken to reply to letters from Assembly Members over

C4 Peter Rogers: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog Cymru ddatganiad ynghylch yr amser y mae ei Weinidogion Cabinet wedi ei gymryd, ar gyfartaledd, i ateb llythyrau Aelodau'r

the past year? (OAQ9314)

The First Minister: We have not been able to do a full computerised check on this. However, from a manual check of the records that are available, I estimate that the average time taken to reply to Assembly Members' correspondence is 18 working days, with the majority of correspondence being answered within 20 days.

Peter Rogers: I wrote letters to a Cabinet Minister on 24 November, 4 December, 5 December and 17 January and received a reply on 1 February. Do you agree that it is unacceptable for Members to wait months to receive replies to letters and to chase Ministers and civil servants with phone calls to find out what exactly has happened in constituent stages? What will you do about this?

The First Minister: I agree with Peter. It is acceptable only where there are special circumstances, where information is not available. If that occurred, Peter should have received an indication of why the reply was held up and when we expected that information to become available. That is the only circumstance in which delay is acceptable. If there were no exceptional factors, I am happy to apologise. I am unhappy to be in the position of having to do so, but I am prepared to offer an apology to Peter if he has received an unacceptable level of service.

Rhaglenni Mewnfuddsoddi'r Llywodraeth Government Inward Investment Programmes

Q5 Alison Halford: In his role as policy co-ordinator for north Wales, what steps is the First Minister taking to encourage greater community involvement and consultation in Government inward investment programmes? (OAQ9345)

The First Minister: It is easier to do that in community regeneration programmes than in inward investment programmes. As a result of the commercially confidential nature of negotiations that might occur with

Cynulliad dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf? (OAQ9314)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Nid ydym wedi gallu cynnal gwiriad cyfrifiadurol llawn ar hyn. Fodd bynnag, o wiriad â llaw o'r cofnodion sydd ar gael, amcangyfrifaf mai'r amser a gymerir i ateb gohebiaeth Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar gyfartaledd yw 18 diwrnod gwaith, â mwyafrif yr ohebiaeth yn cael ei hateb o fewn 20 diwrnod.

Peter Rogers: Ysgrifennais lythyrau at Weinidog Cabinet ar 24 Tachwedd, 4 Rhagfyr, 5 Rhagfyr a 17 Ionawr a derbyniais ateb ar 1 Chwefror. A gytunwch ei bod yn annerbyniol i Aelodau aros misoedd i gael atebion i lythyrau a gorfod mynd ar drywydd Gweinidogion a gweision sifil â galwadau ffôn i ganfod beth yn union a ddigwyddodd ar bob cam? Beth a wnewch ynghylch hyn?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Cytunaf â Peter. Dim ond lle ceir amgylchiadau arbennig y mae hyn yn dderbyniol, lle nad oes gwybodaeth ar gael. Pe digwyddai hynny, byddai Peter wedi derbyn arwydd pam yr oedd oedi cyn cael yr ateb a phryd yr oeddem yn disgwyl i'r wybodaeth honno fod ar gael. Dyna'r unig amgylchiadau y mae oedi yn dderbyniol. Os nad oedd ffactorau eithriadol, yr wyf yn barod i ymddiheuro. Nid wyf yn fodlon bod yn y sefyllfa o orfod gwneud hynny, ond yr wyf yn barod i gynnig ymddiheuriad i Peter os derbyniodd lefel annerbyniol o wasanaeth.

C5 Alison Halford: Fel rhan o'i gyfrifoldeb fel cydlynnydd polisi ar gyfer gogledd Cymru, pa gamau y mae Prif Weinidog Cymru yn eu cymryd i hyrwyddo mwy o gyfranogi cymunedol ac ymgynghori â'r gymuned yn rhaglenni mewnfuddsoddi'r Llywodraeth? (OAQ9345)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae'n haws gwneud hynny mewn rhaglenni adfywio cymunedau nag mewn rhaglenni mewnfuddsoddi. O ganlyniad i natur gyfrinachol fasnachol y negodiadau a allai ddigwydd gyda chwmmnïau,

companies, it is not always possible to involve the community before companies commit inward investment to Wales. I am pleased that we have had a great deal of such investment in north-east Wales, such as the announcement of additional jobs in the Toyota engine plant in order to increase production. Other investments include Paramount Foods, Dailyce Chestergate, Mainetti UK Limited, Deeside Industrial Park and General Domestic Appliances Limited near Alison's constituency. However, there has not been a great deal of community involvement because of the commercial confidentiality of the investment.

Alison Halford: Will the First Minister join me in welcoming the recent announcement by Ford and Vauxhall's proposals for Ellesmere Port? It illustrates what can be gained through inclusiveness and community consultation. Is it not regrettable that such practices were not followed by Corus in Shotton?

2:20 p.m.

The First Minister: I agree. Let us set aside Corus and look at what has happened recently in motor manufacturing. Yesterday's decision by Ford in Wales involved £240 million of investment and more than 600 well-paid, highly-skilled jobs. Undoubtedly there is an impact on north Wales, not only from Toyota's decision—which is actually located in the north—but also Vauxhall's decision at Ellesmere Port, because many people in north-east Wales work there. That is also the customer base for Corus. Corus has said that it is only interested in the financial community and the stock exchange and that it does not want to consult with the trade unions or local authorities. However, Ford consulted closely with the appropriate trade unions and local authorities in the State of Ohio, where jobs were being lost on the B6 contract for the Jaguar, as well as in Wales where we will gain 600 jobs. That is a lesson for Corus on how this should be done.

nid yw o hyd yn bosibl cynnwys y gymuned cyn i gwmnïau ymroddi mewnfuddsoddiad i Gymru. Yr wyf yn falch inni gael llawer o fuddsoddiad o'r fath yng ngogledd-ddwyrain Cymru, megis cyhoeddi swyddi ychwanegol yn ffatri beiriannau Toyota er mwyn cynyddu cynhyrchiant. Ymysg buddsoddiadau eraill ceir Paramount Foods, Dailyce Chestergate, Mainetti UK Limited, Parc Diwydiannol Glannau Dyfrdwy a General Domestic Appliances Limited ger etholaeth Alison. Fodd bynnag, ni chymerodd y gymuned lawer o ran oherwydd cyfrinachedd masnachol y buddsoddiad.

Alison Halford: A ymuna'r Prif Weinidog â mi wrth groesawu'r cyhoeddiad diweddar gan Ford a chynigion Vauxhall ar gyfer Ellesmere Port? Dengys yr hyn y gellir ei ennill drwy gynhwysiant ac ymgynghori â'r gymuned. Onid yw'n drueni na ddilynwyd arferion o'r fath gan Corus yn Shotton?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Cytunaf. Gadewch inni roi Corus i un ochr ac edrych ar yr hyn a ddigwyddodd yn ddiweddar ym maes gweithgynhyrchu moduron. Yr oedd penderfyniad Ford yng Nghymru ddoe yn cynnwys £240 miliwn o fuddsoddiad a mwy na 600 o swyddi â chyflog uchel a lefel uchel o sgiliau. Heb os ceir effaith ar ogledd Cymru, nid yn unig o benderfyniad Toyota—sydd wedi'i leoli yn y gogledd—ond hefyd o benderfyniad Vauxhall yn Ellesmere Port, oherwydd bod llawer o bobl yng ngogledd-ddwyrain Cymru yn gweithio yno. Yno hefyd y mae canolfan gwsmeriaid Corus. Dywedodd Corus mai dim ond yn y gymuned ariannol a'r gyfnewidfa stoc y mae ganddo ddiddordeb ac nad yw am ymgynghori â'r undebau llafur na'r awdurdodau lleol. Fodd bynnag, ymgynghorodd Ford yn agos â'r undebau llafur a'r awdurdodau lleol priodol yn Nhalaith Ohio, lle y collwyd swyddi ar y contract B6 ar gyfer Jaguar, yn ogystal ag yng Nghymru lle y byddwn yn ennill 600 o swyddi. Mae honno'n wers i Corus ar sut y dylid gwneud hyn.

Janet Ryder: Do you agree that Government inward investment programmes play a major part in aiding an area to recover, especially when its major employer closes? In Brymbo it has taken nine or 10 years to pull all those programmes together. What discussions have you had following last week's announcement by Corus to ensure that the communities that might be affected do not have to wait as long?

The First Minister: There has been an almost continuous round of meetings since Thursday afternoon, the afternoon of Corus's announcement. We gathered representatives of the local authorities and the trade unions here in the Assembly. Flintshire was represented, because of Shotton's involvement, by Alex Aldridge, the leader of Flintshire County Council, and Philip McGreevy, its chief executive. The same is true for the affected areas of south Wales. Further meetings have been held since at ministerial level, as well as further meetings with local authorities and agencies such as the Welsh Development Agency and the training and enterprise councils. I am sure that the round of meetings will continue until we have defined the shape of the package that will be required by the time the moratorium on Corus's announcement being put into effect comes to an end, in about eight or nine days' time.

Janet Ryder: A gytunwch fod rhaglenni mewnfuddsoddi'r Llywodraeth yn chwarae rôl bwysig wrth gynorthwyo ardal i wella, yn enwedig pan fydd ei brif gyflogwr yn cau? Ym Mrymbo cymerodd naw neu 10 mlynedd i ddod â'r holl raglenni hyn ynghyd. Pa drafodaethau a gawsoch yn dilyn cyhoeddiad Corus yr wythnos diwethaf i sicrhau nad oes rhaid i'r cymunedau y gellir effeithio arnynt aros mor hir?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Cynhaliwyd cylch bron yn barhaol o gyfarfodydd ers prynhawn dydd Iau, prynhawn cyhoeddiad Corus. Casglasom gynrychiolwyr o'r awdurdodau lleol a'r undebau llafur ynghyd yma yn y Cynulliad. Cynrychiolwyd Sir y Fflint, oherwydd rhan Shotton, gan Alex Aldridge, arweinydd Cyngor Sir y Fflint, a Philip McGreevy, ei brif weithredwr. Mae'r un peth yn wir am yr ardaloedd yr effeithiwyd arnynt yn ne Cymru. Cynhaliwyd cyfarfodydd pellach ers hynny ar lefel weinidogol, yn ogystal â chyfarfodydd pellach ag awdurdodau lleol ac asiantaethau fel Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru a'r cynghorau hyfforddiant a menter. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd y cylch o gyfarfodydd yn parhau nes y byddwn wedi diffinio siâp y pecyn a fydd yn ofynnol erbyn i'r moratoriwm ar gyhoeddiad Corus sydd yn cael ei roi ar waith wedi dod i ben, ymhen tua wyth neu naw diwrnod.

'Gwellcymru.com'

'Betterwales.com'

C6 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog Cymru ddatganiad ar hynnt 'Gwellcymru.com'? (OAQ9323)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yr ydym yn camu ymlaen yn dda ym mhob agwedd ar y targedau yr ydym wedi'u gosod inni ein hunain yn 'Gwellcymru.com'. Rhoddaf bedair enghraifft er mwyn peidio ag ymhelaethu gormod. Bydd Cyngor Cenedlaethol Cymru dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant yn dechrau ar ei waith mewn llai na dau fis. Mae Comisynydd Plant annibynnol i Gymru wedi'i benodi ac mae'r Mesur gerbron Tŷ'r Cyffredin ar hyn o bryd. Mae'n cyrraedd y cyfnod adroddiadol ddydd Iau cyn iddo fynd draw i Dŷ'r Arglwyddi.

Q6 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Will the First Minister make a statement on the progress of 'Betterwales.com'? (OAQ9323)

The First Minister: We are making good progress in every aspect of the targets that we set ourselves in 'Betterwales.com'. I will give four examples so as not to go into excessive detail. The National Council for Education and Training in Wales will start on its work in less than two months. An independent Children's Commissioner for Wales has been appointed and the Bill is currently before the House of Commons. It will reach its report stage on Thursday before going before the House of Lords. Many measures are being taken in the Bill to extend the powers of the

Mae llawer o gamau yn cael eu cymryd gyda'r Mesur i ehangu pwerau'r Comisynydd Plant. Mae 'Rhoi Cymunedau'n Gyntaf' yng ngham olaf ei ddatblygiad yn awr. Hefyd bu inni sicrhau arian ar gyfer Amcan 1 ym mis Chwefror y llynedd.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Mae'n ddadlennol bod y Prif Weinidog yn dewis anwybyddu targedau economaidd yng ngoleuni penderfyniad y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd i beidio â chadarnhau dilysrwydd y targedau hynny yn ei gyfarfod yr wythnos diwethaf, ac yng ngoleuni methiant ei Lywyodraeth ef a Llywodraeth San Steffan i wneud unrhyw beth i atal y chwalfa yn y diwydiant dur yn sgîl penderfyniad Corus. Sut y gall y Prif Weinidog gydnabod ffigurau sydd yn sôn am godi cynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth y pen i 90 y cant o gyfartaledd Prydain, a sôn am greu 135,000 o swyddi ychwanegol yng Nghymru? Onid ffigurau cwbl ddewisol ac afrealistig yw'r rhain?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ni wn a oedd Rhodri yn gwranddo ar fy ateb. Dywed imi anwybyddu targedau economaidd a minnau wedi dweud, ymhlith y bedair enghraifft, ein bod wedi sicrhau arian Amcan 1. Onid yw hynny'n hollol berthnasol ac yn ganolog i ddatblygu economaidd? Os nad yw Rhodri yn meddwl bod Amcan 1 yn bwysig i ddatblygu economaidd, mae pethau wedi mynd ar gyfeiliorn ar feinciau cefn Plaid Cymru. Nid wyf yn siŵr am beth y mae'n siarad ynglŷn â'm dewis o flaenoriaethau.

O ran beth a ddigwyddodd ynglŷn â Corus, ymddengys fod gennym fwy o rwystrau i'w goresgyn, ond ar ôl cyhoeddiad Ford ddoe, efallai fod hynny ychydig yn haws. Fodd bynnag, ni ellwch gymharu cyhoeddiadau mawr, neu enfawr, o golli mwy na 4,000 o swyddi gan Corus yr wythnos diwethaf, â'r targedau tymor-hir hyn. Bob dydd a phob wythnos, rywle yng Nghymru, mae ffatrïoedd yn cau ac eraill yn agor. Y cydbwysedd rhwng yr elfennau cadarnhaol a negyddol sydd yn dweud a gawn dyfiant ac a gyrhaeddwn y targed o 90 y cant. Yr wyf yn siŵr pe baem wedi gosod targed o 85 y cant byddai Plaid Cymru yn cwyno nad oedd hwnnw'n darged digon uchelgeisiol.

Children's Commissioner. 'Putting Communities First' is currently in its final stage of development. We also secured money for Objective 1 last February.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: It is revealing that the First Minister chooses to ignore economic targets in the light of the Economic Development Committee's decision not to confirm the validity of those targets at its meeting last week, and in the light of the failure of his Government and the Westminster Government to do anything to prevent the obliteration of the steel industry in the wake of Corus's decision. How can the First Minister endorse figures that talk about raising gross domestic product per capita to 90 per cent of the British average and talk about creating 135,000 additional jobs in Wales? Are these figures not completely selective and unrealistic?

The First Minister: I do not know whether Rhodri was listening to my answer. He says that I ignored economic targets after I said, as one of the four examples, that we secured the money for Objective 1. Is that not completely relevant and central to economic development? If Rhodri does not think that Objective 1 is important to economic development, things have gone adrift on Plaid Cymru's backbenches. I am not sure what he is talking about as regards my choice of priorities.

Concerning what happened with Corus, it appears that there are more obstacles for us to overcome, but after Ford's announcement yesterday, perhaps that will be slightly easier. However you cannot compare large announcements, or massive ones, of the loss of more than 4,000 jobs by Corus last week, to these long-term targets. Every day and every week, somewhere in Wales, factories close and others open. The balance between the positive and negative elements tells us whether we will have growth and whether we will reach the target of 90 per cent. I am certain that had we set a target of 85 per cent Plaid Cymru would complain that that was not ambitious enough.

Alun Cairns: 'Betterwales.com' sets specific GDP targets as does the national economic development strategy, which was condemned by the Economic Development Committee two weeks ago. What specific changes in policy are you planning to introduce to achieve these growth targets?

Alun Cairns: Mae 'Gwelcymru.com' yn gosod targedau cynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth penodol fel y gwna'r strategaeth datblygu economaidd cenedlaethol, a gondemniwyd gan y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd bythefnos yn ôl. Pa newidiadau penodol i'r polisi y bwriadwch eu cyflwyno er mwyn cyflawni'r targedau twf hyn?

The First Minister: It would be better if we reconsidered the issue after the strategy has been out for consultation. That is the purpose of having a draft document that can be sent out for consultation. Everyone's views can then be considered, including those of Economic Development Committee members.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Byddai'n well inni ailystyried y mater wedi i ymgynghoriad gael ei gynnal ar y strategaeth. Dyna bwrpas cael dogfen ddrafft y gellir ei ddsbarthu ar gyfer ymgynghoriad. Yna gellir ystyried barn pawb, yn cynnwys barn aelodau'r Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd.

Pwerau Ychwanegol i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Additional Powers for the National Assembly

Q7 Peter Black: Will the First Minister make a statement on any meetings he has had with Government Ministers with regard to additional powers for the National Assembly? (OAQ9316)

C7 Peter Black: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog Cymru ddatganiad ar unrhyw gyfarfodydd y mae wedi'u cael gyda Gweinidogion y Llywodraeth ynghylch rhoi pwerau ychwanegol i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol? (OAQ9316)

The First Minister: My colleagues and I have frequent discussions with UK Government Ministers on powers for the Assembly in current and forthcoming Bills.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Bydd fy nghydweithwyr a minnau yn cael trafodaethau mynych â Gweinidogion Llywodraeth y DU ar bwerau ar gyfer y Cynulliad mewn Mesurau cyfredol a rhai arfaethedig.

Peter Black: As you know, the partnership agreement made a commitment to review the Assembly and to report after the elections in 2003. When will you set up that review? How will you ensure, in particular, that the UK Government has an input into that?

Peter Black: Fel y gwyddoch, gwnaeth y cytundeb partneriaeth ymrwymiad i gynnal adolygiad ar y Cynulliad a chyflwyno adroddiad ar ôl yr etholiadau yn 2003. Pryd y byddwch yn sefydlu'r adolygiad hwnnw? Sut y sicrhewch, yn benodol, y caiff Llywodraeth y DU fewnbwn i hynny?

The First Minister: Following the meeting between the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and the German Chancellor, Gerhard Schroeder, last week, in which they reaffirmed the conclusion of the Nice Summit, I would have thought that the next intergovernmental conference in early 2004 would consider a charter of competencies, which would attempt to define the competencies that should be reserved for the regional tier of

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yn dilyn y cyfarfod rhwng y Prif Weinidog, Tony Blair, a Changhellor yr Almaen, Gerhard Schroeder, yr wythnos diwethaf, pan ailddatganwyd casgliad Uwchgynhadledd Nice, byddwn wedi meddwl y byddai'r gynhadledd rynglywodraethol nesaf ddechrau 2004 yn ystyried siarter galluoedd, a fyddai'n ceisio diffinio'r galluoedd y dylid eu cadw ar gyfer haen ranbarthol llywodraeth. Dyna'n rhan ni.

government. That is where we fit in. We do not consider ourselves a region, but we fit into the regional, nation states and European tiers of Government. That would fit in well with our plan to set up a review in early 2002—although I do not want to be too definite about that—and to report back to the Assembly after the May 2003 elections, having digested the first full four-year term of this Assembly. A few months would be required for consultation with the British Government and then it would form part of the UK's contribution to the inter-governmental conference on the 'charter of competencies', as the British call it, or the 'constitution for Europe' as the Germans call it.

Jocelyn Davies: My concern is to ensure that we are not losing any powers. Will you explain why the Local Government Act 2000 confers certain powers for local government on the Secretary of State for Wales rather than this Assembly? Post-devolution, do you not find this unacceptable?

The First Minister: Without the details, Jocelyn, I find it difficult to comment. I would be grateful if you wrote to me to specify those powers that you believe the Assembly should have, but which have been conferred on the Secretary of State for Wales.

William Graham: Would the First Minister confirm that we must extend to the people of Wales a greater understanding of the present functions and responsibilities of this Assembly before they see the need for additional powers?

The First Minister: Yes, I agree. Nobody is currently committed to greater powers for the Assembly. We are committed to setting up an independent commission, which would work either side of the next election, so that it commenced its work before the next Assembly elections. It would complete its work after the elections. Its report would then be considered by the Assembly. However, we cannot change our powers. That is a matter of using persuasion, if we so choose, and to do that we must have the backing of the people of Wales. Therefore, your point is relevant. Without the backing of the people of Wales, I am sure that the British Government would

Nid ystyriwn ein hunain yn rhanbarth, ond gellir ein cynnwys o fewn haenau rhanbarthol, cenedlwladwriaethol ac Ewropeaidd Llywodraeth. Byddai hynny'n cyd-fynd yn dda â'n cynllun i sefydlu adolygiad ddechrau 2002—er nad wyf am fod yn rhy bendant ynghylch hynny—ac adrodd yn ôl i'r Cynulliad ar ôl etholiadau Mai 2003, wedi treulio tymor pedair blynedd cyntaf y Cynulliad hwn. Byddai angen ychydig fisoedd i ymgynghori â Llywodraeth Prydain ac yna byddai'n ffurfio rhan o gyfraniad y DU i'r gynhadledd rhynglywodraethol ar y 'siarter galluoedd', fel y geilw Prydeinwyr ef, neu 'gyfansoddiad ar gyfer Ewrop' fel y geilw'r Almaenwyr ef.

Jocelyn Davies: Fy mhryder yw sicrhau nad ydym yn colli unrhyw bwerau. A esboniwyd pam fod Deddf Llywodraeth Leol 2000 yn rhoi pwerau penodol ar gyfer llywodraeth leol i Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru yn hytrach na'r Cynulliad hwn? Ar ôl datganoli, oni chredwch fod hyn yn annerbyniol?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Heb y manylion, Jocelyn, mae'n anodd rhoi sylwadau. Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe byddech yn ysgrifennu ataf i nodi'r pwerau hynny y dylai'r Cynulliad feddu arnynt, ond a roddwyd i Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru.

William Graham: A gadarnha'r Prif Weinidog bod yn rhaid inni roi dealltwriaeth well o swyddogaethau a chyfrifoldebau'r Cynulliad hwn i bobl Cymru cyn iddynt weld yr angen i gael pwerau ychwanegol?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Cytunaf. Nod oes neb ar hyn o bryd yn ymroddedig i gael mwy o bwerau i'r Cynulliad. Yr ydym yn ymroddedig i sefydlu comisiwn annibynnol, a fyddai'n gweithio bob ochr i'r etholiad nesaf, fel y byddai'n cychwyn ar ei waith cyn etholiadau nesaf y Cynulliad. Byddai'n cwblhau ei waith wedi'r etholiadau. Yna byddai'r Cynulliad yn ystyried ei adroddiad. Fodd bynnag, ni allwn newid ein pwerau. Mater o ddefnyddio perswâd yw hynny, os byddwn yn dewis gwneud hynny, ac er mwyn gwneud hynny rhaid inni gael cefnogaeth pobl Cymry. Felly, mae eich pwynt yn berthnasol. Heb gefnogaeth pobl Cymru, yr

not give us more powers. It is also essential that we have a case that the UK Government can understand, as part of a more general case to define the charter of competencies for the three government levels—European, nation state and regional tier—in early 2004.

wyf yn siŵr na roddai Llywodraeth Prydain fwy o bwerau inni. Mae hefyd yn hanfodol bod gennym achos y gall Llywodraeth y DU ei ddeall, fel rhan o achos mwy cyffredinol i ddiffinio'r siarter galluoedd ar gyfer y tair lefel lywodraethol—yr haen Ewropeaidd, gwladwladwriaethol a rhanbarthol—ddechrau 2004.

Cysylltiadau Polisi ac Ymchwil gyda Phrifysgolion Cymru Policy and Research Links with Welsh Universities

C8 Delyth Evans: Beth y mae Prif Weinidog Cymru yn ei wneud i hyrwyddo cysylltiadau polisi ac ymchwil gyda phrifysgolion Cymru? (OAQ9336)

Q8 Delyth Evans: What is the First Minister doing to promote policy and research links with Welsh universities? (OAQ9336)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae uwchswyddogion y Cynulliad yn cyfarfod yn rheolaidd â sefydliadau addysg uwch yng Nghymru gyda'r amcan o wella gallu'r Cynulliad i lunio polisïau Cymreig ac i helpu sefydliadau academiaidd yng Nghymru i ddatblygu eu gallu i gyfrannu at y broses o lunio polisïau.

The First Minister: Senior Assembly officials meet regularly with higher education institutions in Wales with the aim of enhancing the Assembly's ability to form 'made in Wales' policies and helping academic institutions in Wales to develop their capacity to contribute to the policy-making process.

Fel rhan o'r broses hon, mae'r Cynulliad yn trefnu cyfres o seminarau ar y cyd rhwng academyddion a swyddogion y Cynulliad ar sail themâu 'Gwellcymru.com'. Mae seminarau ar adeiladu economi gryfach ac iechyd a lles eisoes wedi'u cynnal—un yn Aberystwyth ac un yng Nghaerdydd—a bwriedir cynnal mwy o seminarau cyn bo hir.

As part of this process, the Assembly is organising a series of joint seminars between academics and Assembly officials based on the themes of 'Betterwales.com'. Seminars on building a stronger economy and health and wellbeing have already taken place—one in Aberystwyth and one in Cardiff—and further seminars are planned in the near future.

2:30 p.m.

Delyth Evans: O dderbyn bod yr adnoddau i ddatblygu polisi oddi mewn i'r Cynulliad yn weddol gyfyng, a gytunwch fod y berthynas â'r prifysgolion yn holl bwysig a bod yn rhaid inni sicrhau ei bod yn gryf a ffrwythlon fel y gall y gwaith ymchwil a'r syniadau gorau a ddaw allan o'r prifysgolion fwydo i mewn, mewn ffordd ddeinamig, i'r broses polisi yn y Cynulliad?

Delyth Evans: Given that the resources to develop policy within the Assembly are relatively limited, do you agree that the relationship with the universities is essential and that we must ensure that it is strong and fruitful so that the research work and the best ideas that come out of the universities can feed, in a dynamic way, into the policy process in the Assembly?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Cytunaf yn llwyr gan mai gwlad fach yw Cymru gyda phoblogaeth o 3 miliwn a chwech neu saith o sefydliadau addysg uwch. Mae ganddynt adnoddau ymchwil a fydd yn cryfhau os cânt eu profi yn y byd go iawn, sef ym myd

The First Minister: I agree totally because Wales is a small country with a population of 3 million and six or seven higher education institutions. They have research resources that will be strengthened if they are tested in the real world, namely in government. If

llywodraeth. Os oes gallu o ran iechyd, economeg neu wyddoniaeth—lle mae hynny'n berthnasol—credaf y gallwn ei ddefnyddio i wneud iawn am unrhyw wendidau sydd gennym o ran ein gallu i greu polisiau ar wahân, yn ôl yr angen, o fewn y gwasanaeth sifil sydd yn gweithio drosom ni.

Elin Jones: Mae'n amlwg o'ch atebion, Brif Weinidog, eich bod yn cydnabod bod disgwyliadau'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol o'r sector addysg uwch yn uchel, yn enwedig o ran datblygu economaidd ac addysg gydol oes. Fodd bynnag, a ydych yn derbyn fod y setliad ariannol y mae'r sector addysg uwch wedi'i dderbyn eleni gan eich Llywodraeth yn annigonol, yn peryglu'r cyfraniad hwn ac yn gosod prifysgolion Cymru dan anfantais sylweddol o'i gymharu â phrifysgolion yr Alban a Lloegr?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Nid wyf yn derbyn fod unrhyw berthynas rhwng y setliad ariannol ar gyfer y prifysgolion, y trefniadau a wnawn a'r berthynas yr ydym yn ceisio ei chryfhau rhwng sefydliadau addysg uwch yng Nghymru, ein gwasanaeth sifil a'r ochr wleidyddol er mwyn crynhoi ein gallu fel cenedl—y 3 miliwn ohonom—i ddatblygu polisiau sydd wedi'u haddasu i'n hamgylchiadau unigryw yng Nghymru.

William Graham: In *The Times Higher Education Supplement* of 19 January, a graph prepared by the Further and Higher Education Funding Councils for Wales suggests that Welsh universities lose out on funding compared with those in Scotland. Will you commit yourself during the remainder of your administration to closing this funding gap so that our universities have equal treatment compared with England and Scotland?

The First Minister: We are wandering some distance away from the issue of policy development seminars. However, there is an extent to which—if you are referring to research capabilities and research funding—that must be so. Welsh universities would be pleased if we were to fund practically oriented research that is of real policy interest to us rather than to buy it in from outside.

there is ability on the health, economic or scientific side—where that is relevant—I think that we can use it to compensate for any weaknesses that we may have in terms of our ability to create separate policies, if needs be, within the civil service that is working for us.

Elin Jones: It is evident from your answers, First Minister, that you recognise that the National Assembly's expectations of the higher education sector are high, particularly in terms of economic development and lifelong learning. However, do you accept that the financial settlement that the higher education sector has received from your Government this year is insufficient, puts this contribution at risk and places Wales's universities under a considerable disadvantage compared with universities in Scotland and England?

The First Minister: I do not accept that there is any relationship between the financial settlement for universities, the arrangements that we make and the relationship that we are trying to strengthen between higher education institutions in Wales, our civil service and the political side in order to focus our ability as a nation—the 3 million of us—to develop policies that have been adapted to our unique circumstances in Wales.

William Graham: Yn *The Times Higher Education Supplement* 19 Ionawr, awgryma graff a ddarparwyd gan Gynghorau Cyllido Addysg Bellach ac Uwch Cymru bod prifysgolion Cymru yn colli allan ar arian o gymharu â'r prifysgolion yn yr Alban. A ymroddwch eich hun yn ystod gweddill eich gweinyddiaeth i gau'r bwlch ariannu hwn fel y caiff ein prifysgolion eu trin yn gyfartal o gymharu â Lloegr a'r Alban.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yr ydym yn crwydro gryn bellter oddi wrth y mater o seminarau datblygu polisi. Fodd bynnag, mae graddau—os ydych yn cyfeirio at allu ymchwil ac arian ymchwil—y mae'n rhaid bod hynny'n wir. Byddai prifysgolion Cymru yn falch os byddem yn ariannu ymchwil â thueddiad ymarferol iddo o ddiddordeb polisi gwirioneddol inni yn hytrach na'i brynu o'r

You might say that that would be financially helpful to our universities as it would give them a base from which to work. Having five people in an institute working jointly with the Assembly on the development of a social economic, scientific or health policy is helpful, because it means that you can use that platform to bid for other outside contracts. If William Graham is referring to the wider issues of wage levels or funding or student resources per head, there are several references to those matters in the partnership agreement.

tu allan. Gallech ddweud y byddai hynny'n ddefnyddiol yn ariannol i'n prifysgolion gan y byddai'n rhoi sail iddynt weithio oddi arno. Mae cael pump o bobl mewn sefydliad yn cydweithio â'r Cynulliad ar ddatblygu polisi cymdeithasol economaidd, gwyddonol neu iechyd yn ddefnyddiol, oherwydd mae'n golygu y gallwch ddefnyddio'r llwyfan hwnnw i wneud cynnig ar gyfer contractau allanol eraill. Os yw William Graham yn cyfeirio at faterion ehangach lefelau cyflogau neu ariannu neu adnoddau myfyrwyr y pen, ceir sawl cyfeiriad at y materion hynny yn y cytundeb partneriaeth.

Hynt Mesurau drwy'r Senedd The Progress of Bills through Parliament

Q9 Lorraine Barrett: Will the First Minister clarify the process by which he discusses and monitors the progress of Bills through Parliament that will affect Wales, with the Secretary of State for Wales? (OAQ9317)

C9 Lorraine Barrett: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog Cymru egluro'r broses a ddefnyddir ganddo i drafod a monitro hynt Mesurau a fydd yn effeithio ar Gymru drwy'r Senedd, gydag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru? (OAQ9317)

The First Minister: Yes. I have either weekly or fortnightly reports on this matter regarding every single Bill in Westminster's legislative machinery. You will probably be aware, Lorraine, that the Assembly has the ability to propose amendments to identified Bills going through Parliament under Standing Order No. 31.9.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Gwnaf. Caf naill ai adroddiadau wythnosol neu bob bythefnos ar y mater hwn yn ymwneud â phob Mesur ym mheirianwaith deddfwriaethol San Steffan. Mae'n debyg y byddwch yn ymwybodol, Lorraine, bod gan y Cynulliad y gallu i gynnig diwygiadau i Fesurau a nodir sydd yn mynd drwy'r Senedd o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 31.9.

Lorraine Barrett: Thank you for that clarification. Will you join me in welcoming the progress of the Children's Commissioner for Wales Bill, which has demonstrated real partnership working between the Assembly and Westminster and in condemning the Conservative Members of Parliament who tried to stop the second reading and who referred to Conservative Assembly Members' views as being unimportant?

Lorraine Barrett: Diolch am yr eglurhad hwnnw. A ymunwch â mi wrth groesawu cynnydd Mesur Comisiynydd Plant Cymru, a ddangosodd waith partneriaeth gwirioneddol rhwng y Cynulliad a San Steffan ac wrth gondemnio'r Aelodau Seneddol Ceidwadol a geisiodd atal yr ail ddarlleniad ac a gyfeiriodd at farn Aelodau Ceidwadol y Cynulliad fel rhai dibwys?

The First Minister: What a Member of another body said was far more insulting than what Alun Pugh said around 30 minutes ago in terms of the attitude expressed towards the Conservative Assembly Members. However, that is by the by because some Westminster Conservative Party members would never

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yr oedd yr hyn a ddywedodd Aelod o gorff arall yn llawer mwy sarhaus na'r hyn a ddywedodd Alun Pugh tua 30 munud yn ôl o ran yr agwedd a ddangoswyd tuag at Aelodau Ceidwadol y Cynulliad. Fodd bynnag, nid yw hyn nac yma nac acw oherwydd ni fyddai rhai o Aelodau

have accepted devolution. Fortunately, we do not have such people here.

On the Bill's progress, you are right about the Children's Commissioner for Wales Bill, but you must also remember the other Bills that include sections of relevance to Wales, namely those on health and social care, housing and special educational needs. We sometimes forget about those. The number of Bills in the Queen's Speech last November was relatively small because of the expectation of a shortened session, and because the previous session was an extra long one. However, almost a third of the Bills announced in the Queen's Speech last November—five out of 16—will give powers to the Assembly. That was a far better result than that of the previous, 13-month session, in which there were 13 Acts in that character, out of 44 Acts in total.

Dafydd Wigley: A gyflwynwyd unrhyw welliannau gan ei Lywodraeth i'r Mesur Cartrefi sydd ar hyn o bryd gerbron Tŷ'r Cyffredin ac a fydd yn mynd drwy'r cyfnod adroddiad yfory? Y mae llawer o bwerau'r Mesur hwnnw sydd yn ymwneud â thai—mater sydd wedi ei ddatganoli i'r Cynulliad—yn cael eu trin gan Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru, ac nid gan y Cynulliad. Paham y mae cyn lleied o bwerau i'r Cynulliad yn y Mesur?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Nid oes gennyf y manylion i roi ateb cadarn i Dafydd Wigley, felly ysgrifennaf ato ar y mater hwn.

David Melding: I am grateful, Presiding Officer, that you have plucked me from obscurity to pose this question. First Minister, why has your administration sought permissive powers on, for example, the retention of community health councils and the establishment of care trusts but not on the funding of personal care in line with the Royal Commission's recommendations? Surely that central policy issue should have been brought to the Assembly for us to make a decision on it?

The First Minister: That is your point of

Ceidwadol San Steffan byth wedi derbyn datganoli. Yn ffodus, nid oes gennym bobl o'r math hwn yma.

Ar gynnydd y Mesur, yr ydych yn gywir am Fesur Comisiynydd Plant Cymru, ond hefyd rhaid ichi gofio'r Mesurau eraill sydd yn cynnwys adrannau sydd yn berthnasol i Gymru, sef y rhai hynny ar iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol, tai ac anghenion addysgol arbennig. Anghofiwn am y rhain weithiau. Yr oedd nifer y Mesurau yn Araith y Frenhines fis Tachwedd diwethaf yn gymharol fach oherwydd y disgwyliwyd o sesiwn byrrach, ac oherwydd bod y sesiwn blaenorol yn un hwy na'r arfer. Fodd bynnag, bydd bron i draean o'r Mesurau a gyhoeddwyd yn Araith y Frenhines fis Tachwedd diwethaf—pump allan o 16—yn rhoi pwerau i'r Cynulliad. Yr oedd hynny'n ganlyniad llawer gwell na chanlyniad y sesiwn blaenorol, 13-mis, ble cafwyd 13 o Ddeddfau felly, allan o'r cyfanswm o 44 o Ddeddfau.

Dafydd Wigley: Has his Government tabled any amendments to the Homes Bill which is currently before the House of Commons and which will go through the report stage tomorrow? Many of the Bill's powers that relate to housing—a matter which is devolved to the Assembly—are being dealt with by the Secretary of State for Wales and not by the Assembly. Why are there so few powers for the Assembly in the Bill?

The First Minister: I do not have the details to give Dafydd a definite response, so I will write to him on this matter.

David Melding: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar, Lywydd, eich bod wedi fy achub o'm sefyllfa ddi-nod i ofyn y cwestiwn hwn. Brif Weinidog, pam y ceisiodd eich gweinyddiaeth gael pwerau goddefol, er enghraifft, ar gadw cynghorau iechyd cymunedol a sefydlu ymddiriedolaethau gofal ond nid ar ariannu gofal personol yn unol ag argymhellion y Comisiwn Brenhinol? Oni ddylid bod wedi dod â'r mater polisi canolog hwnnw i'r Cynulliad inni wneud penderfyniad arno?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Dyna eich barn chi,

view, David, but the administration has made its priorities on this clear. We are aware of the Royal Commission's recommendations on personal and nursing care and that they should be funded equally. Jane Hutt made her observations on this last week, and her proposals include six weeks of free personal care immediately after hospital treatment. Each body has to make a decision on this. Scotland made a decision that suited it. Alan Milburn made it clear that the UK Government would not go down the same road in the Health and Social Care Bill. Similarly, the Assembly's administration made its decision not to follow the Scottish or English routes, but a Welsh one, which is to offer six weeks of free personal care after leaving hospital. David Melding may disagree with that and we can debate it, and he can try to amend the decision and put across his point of view. However, if you have a system of Cabinet Government, you have to set your stall and priorities according to your budget and state what you intend to do.

David, ond gwnaeth y weinyddiaeth ei blaenoriaethau'n glir ar hyn. Yr ydym yn ymwybodol o argymhellion y Comisiwn Brenhinol ar ofal personol a nyrsio ac y dylid eu hariannu'n gyfartal. Gwnaeth Jane Hutt ei harsylwadau ar hyn yr wythnos diwethaf, ac mae ei chynigion yn cynnwys chwe wythnos o ofal personol am ddim yn syth ar ôl cael triniaeth mewn ysbyty. Rhaid i bob corff wneud penderfyniad ar hyn. Gwnaeth yr Alban benderfyniad a oedd yn gweddu iddi. Pwysleisiodd Alan Milburn na fyddai Llywodraeth y DU yn dilyn yr un llwybr yn y Mesur Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol. Yn yr un modd, gwnaeth gweinyddiaeth y Cynulliad ei phenderfyniad i beidio dilyn llwybrau yr Alban na Lloegr, ond un Cymreig, sef cynnig chwe wythnos o ofal personol am ddim ar ôl gadael yr ysbyty. Efallai y bydd David Melding yn anghytuno â hynny a gallwn ei ddadlau, a gall geisio diwygio'r penderfyniad a lleisio ei farn. Fodd bynnag, os oes gennych system o Lywodraeth Gabinet, rhaid ichi osod eich blaenoriaethau yn unol â'ch cyllideb a nodi'r hyn y bwriadwch ei wneud.

Y Berthynas rhwng Cymru a'r Unol Daleithiau **The Relationship between Wales and the United States**

Q10 Phil Williams: Will the First Minister make a statement on relations between Wales and the United States? (OAQ9324)

C10 Phil Williams: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog Cymru ddatganiad ar y berthynas rhwng Cymru a'r Unol Daleithiau? (OAQ9324)

The First Minister: You are clearly keen on the special relationship between Wales and the United States, which is well illustrated by the opening of a new US consular office in Cardiff and the appointment of a Welsh Affairs Officer charged with promoting closer ties between the United States and Wales. We continue to develop trade links with the USA through WalesTrade International and its international business opportunities and through Trade Partners UK, the UK Government's international trade arm. You will know that there are seven small Welsh Development Agency offices across the USA that actively promote links between Wales and North America, as does the Wales Tourist Board. I will meet the President—the President of the Wales North America Business Council, I should add—next month, and I will visit California later

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae'n amlwg eich bod yn frwdfrydig ynghylch y berthynas arbennig rhwng Cymru a'r Unol Daleithiau, a ddangosir yn glir gydag agor swyddfa gonsylaidd UD newydd yng Nghaerdydd a phenodi Swyddog Materion Cymreig â chyfrifoldeb o hybu cysylltiadau agosach rhwng yr Unol Daleithiau a Chymru. Parhawn i ddatblygu cysylltiadau masnachu gyda UDA drwy WalesTrade International a'i gyfleoedd busnes rhyngwladol a thrwy Trade Partners UK, cangen fasnach rhyngwladol Llywodraeth y DU. Gwyddoch fod gan Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru saith swyddfa fach ledled yr Unol Daleithiau sydd yn gweithredu wrth hybu cysylltiadau rhwng Cymru a Gogledd America, fel y gwna Bwrdd Croeso Cymru. Byddaf yn cwrrd â'r Llywydd—Llywydd Cyngor Busnes Gogledd America Cymru, efallai y dylwn

this year to attend the Festival of Wales 2001 at the end of August and early September, which is taking place in San José, the capital of Silicon Valley.

2:40 p.m.

Phil Williams: Bearing in mind that Ford's decision about 30 years ago to establish an engine factory in Bridgend was strongly influenced by a senior executive at Ford with strong Welsh connections, what plans do you have to emulate the method used in Ireland and establish network contacts with the millions of people in the US with Welsh connections as a means of not only raising Wales's profile but of encouraging appropriate investment?

The First Minister: That is important. Unlike Scotland and Ireland, we did not experience highland clearances or a potato famine and, therefore, the number of people who left Wales for the US during the nineteenth century was nowhere near the millions that left those countries. Germany, Sweden and other countries also exported their population in vast numbers, while Wales grew economically at a rate similar to the United States during most of the nineteenth century. We do not have the expatriate community that those other countries have. However, we have influence that must be used. As regards Ford, I am pleased that there are still influential Welsh expatriates in senior positions on the fifth floor of Ford's headquarters in Dearborn, Michigan. The performance Bridgend Ford plant's workforce in making the Jaguar engine, was a factor that persuaded Jaguar, now that it is a subsidiary of Ford, to give work to that plant. In doing so it was saying that the Premier Automotive Group—the Ford vehicles that do not carry the Ford badge, such as Jaguar, the Lincoln Continental, Aston Martin, Land Rover and others—wants to buy its engines from Ford because the workforce at Bridgend did such a superb job on the Jaguar engines that it is already making.

ychwanegu—fis nesaf, a byddaf yn ymweld â California yn nes ymlaen eleni i fynychu Gŵyl Cymru 2001 ddiwedd Awst a dechrau Medi a gynhelir yn San José, prifddinas Silicon Valley.

Phil Williams: O ystyried y dylanwadwyd yn gryf ar benderfyniad Ford tua 30 mlynedd yn ôl i sefydlu ffatri beiriannau ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr gan uwch reolwr yn Ford â chysylltiadau cryf â Chymru, pa gynlluniau sydd gennych i efelychu'r dull a ddefnyddiwyd yn Iwerddon a sefydlu cysylltiadau rhwydwaith â'r miliynau o bobl yn yr UD â chysylltiadau â Chymru fel ffordd nid yn unig o godi proffil Cymru ond o annog buddsoddiad priodol?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae hynny'n bwysig. Yn wahanol i'r Alban ac Iwerddon, ni phrofwyd gwacáu'r ucheldiroedd na newyn tatws yma ac, felly, nid oedd nifer y bobl a adawodd Gymru i fynd i'r UD yn ystod y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg yn debyg i'r miliynau a adawodd y gwledydd hynny. Yn ogystal, allforiodd yr Almaen, Sweden a gwledydd eraill eu poblogaeth mewn niferoedd helaeth, tra tyfodd Cymru yn economaidd ar gyfradd debyg i'r Unol Daleithiau yn ystod y rhan fwyaf o'r bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg. Nid oes gennym y gymuned alltud sydd gan y gwledydd eraill hyn. Fodd bynnag, mae gennym ddylanwad sydd yn rhaid ei ddefnyddio. O ran Ford, yr wyf yn falch bod alltudion dylanwadol o Gymru mewn uwch swyddi ar bumed llawr pencadlys Ford yn Dearborn, Michigan. Yr oedd perfformiad gweithlu ffatri Ford ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr wrth wneud injan y Jaguar, yn ffactor a berswadiodd Jaguar, sydd nawr yn is-gwmni o fewn Ford, i roi gwaith i'r ffatri honno. Wrth wneud hyn yr oedd yn dweud na fyddai'r Premier Automotive Group—cerbydau Ford nad ydynt yn cario bathodyn Ford, megis Jaguar, y Lincoln Continental, Aston Martin, Land Rover ac eraill—am brynu ei injanau gan Ford oherwydd i'r gweithlu ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr wneud gwaith mor dda ar yr injans Jaguar y mae'n ei wneud eisoes.

Datganiad ar Brosiect Injan V Ford Pen-y-Bont ar Ogwr **Statement on the Ford Bridgend V Engine Project**

The First Minister: There is almost a seamless web of continuity here today. Phil raised some interesting issues, which I may not repeat in this statement. He mentioned Ford's original decision, which was taken in the late 1970s. That in turn, followed on from a decision taken in the late 1960s, when I was a junior civil servant in the former Welsh Office, to establish a large industrial estate at Waterton. That estate remained empty for 10 years, until Ford's decision in 1976-77 to take up part of that site.

Were it not for the decision in 1966 to establish the industrial site and Ford's decision in 1976 to build a factory on that site, and for Jim Callaghan, Henry Ford II or III—whichever it was at the time—and Red Poling, the head of Ford in Europe, yesterday's decision would not have been made. It was with great pleasure that the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economic Development, the Minister for Assembly Business—who worked for Ford at Bridgend for five years—and I attended the formal announcement of Ford's proposal to invest about £240 million in the Bridgend engine plant to produce V6 and V8 Euro Tech engines for use in Jaguar and other Premier Automotive Group vehicles.

This investment will create over 600 new, top quality, well-paid and highly-skilled jobs and introduce an innovative flexible manufacturing line that will be the first of its type. Production of the new engine range should commence towards the end of 2002 and will take the total annual production at the plant to over 1 million engines per year. I am delighted that the National Assembly has been able to play an instrumental role in this decision through its offer of regional selective assistance of £16 million. This is a major boost for the Welsh economy and, coming so soon after the launch of Toyota's new engine assembly line in Deeside, as part of a new £100 million investment by that company in that plant, it shows how strong Wales has now become in automotive engine manufacturing.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ceir dilyniant di-dor yma heddiw bron. Cododd Phil rai materion diddorol, efallai na wnaef eu hailadrodd yn y datganiad hwn. Crybwyllodd benderfyniad gwreiddiol Ford, a wnaethpwyd ddiwedd y 1970au. Yn ei dro, arweiniodd hyn o benderfyniad a wnaethpwyd ddiwedd y 1960au, pan oeddwn yn is was sifil yn yr hen Swyddfa Gymreig, i sefydlu ystâd ddiwydiannol fawr yn Waterton. Parhaodd yr ystâd honno'n wag am 10 mlynedd, nes i Ford yn 1976-77 benderfynu cymryd rhan o'r safle hwnnw.

Oni bai am y penderfyniad yn 1966 i sefydlu'r safle diwydiannol a phenderfyniad Ford yn 1976 i adeiladu ffatri ar y safle hwnnw, ac am Jim Callaghan, Henry Ford II neu III—pa un bynnag yr oedd ar y pryd—a Red Poling, pennaeth Ford yn Ewrop, ni fyddai penderfyniad ddoe wedi ei wneud. Â phleser mawr y mynychodd y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Trefnydd—a weithiodd i Ford ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr am bum mlynedd—a minnau gyhoeddiad ffurfiol cynnig Ford i fuddsoddi tua £240 miliwn yn ffatri injanau Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr i gynhyrchu injanau V6 a V8 Euro Tech i'w defnyddio mewn cerbydau Jaguar a cherbydau eraill Premier Automotive Group.

Bydd y buddsoddiad hwn yn creu dros 600 o swyddi newydd, o'r ansawdd uchaf, sydd yn talu'n dda ac â lefel uchel o sgiliau ac yn cyflwyno llinell weithgynhyrchu hyblyg wreiddiol a fydd y cyntaf o'i bath. Dylai cynhyrchu'r gadwyn injanau newydd ddechrau tua diwedd 2002 ac yn cynyddu cyfanswm y cynhyrchiant blyneddol yn y ffatri i fwy na 1 miliwn injan y flwyddyn. Yr wyf wrth fy modd bod y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol wedi gallu chwarae rôl allweddol yn y penderfyniad hwn drwy ei gynnig o gymorth dewisol rhanbarthol o £16 miliwn. Mae hyn yn hwb mawr i'r economi yng Nghymru ac, o ddod mor fuan wedi lansio llinell gydosod injan newydd Toyota yng Nglannau Dyfrdwy, fel rhan o fuddsoddiad £100 miliwn newydd gan y cwmni hwnnw yn y ffatri honno, dengys pa

mor gryf y mae Cymru wedi dod ym maes gweithgynhyrchu injanau moduron.

It is an example of how management and trade unions can work together in partnership to bring quality and efficiency into production, and gain new investment against world-wide competition—in this case, from Cleveland, Ohio. This is an exemplary illustration of successful partnership working and demonstrates the considerable advantages that can be gained from joint working. It is in stark contrast to how Corus handled recent events, where it refused to work in partnership with the Assembly, the UK Government and, above all, its own workforce and their representatives. It also highlights the benefits that can be gained from close liaison with the public sector and is a fine example of the Team Wales approach. The WDA has worked closely with the Bridgend management in its bid for the investment and TEC South East Wales is also prepared to offer substantial support for training.

The WDA's role is also of strategic long-term interest. It is proposing to develop, next door to the Ford engine plant, a new 130 acre business park on the Brocastle site that adjoins the Ford plant, along the golden mile stretch of the old A48. It is expected that this could create a further 1,000 jobs over the next five years. The site is expected to attract a wide range of companies through its proximity to the engine plant, which will also make it of particular interest to automotive suppliers, as well as to the wider engineering industry. Initial talks are already being held between the agency and several companies that may be interested in the site.

Yesterday's announcement showed a colossal vote of confidence by Ford in the Welsh economy and in the British motor manufacturing industry, and is confirmation that the people of Wales have much to offer blue chip international companies. When the Bridgend plant was opened in 1980, it was widely saluted as the start of a comeback for the manufacturing industry after a difficult time for the Welsh and British economy in

Mae'n enghraifft o'r ffordd y gall rheolwyr ac undebau llafur gydweithio mewn partneriaeth i ddod ag ansawdd ac effeithlonrwydd i gynhyrchiant, ac ennill buddsoddiad newydd yn erbyn cystadleuaeth fyd-eang—yn yr achos hwn, o Cleveland, Ohio. Mae hwn yn ddarlun rhagorol o bartneriaeth lwyddiannus yn gweithio ac mae'n arddangos y manteision sylweddol y gellir eu hennill o gydweithio. Mae hyn yn wahanol iawn i'r modd yr ymdriniodd Corus â digwyddiadau diweddar, lle y gwrthododd weithio mewn partneriaeth â'r Cynulliad, Llywodraeth y DU ac, yn anad dim, ei weithlu ei hun a'u cynrychiolwyr. Yn ogystal, mae'n amlygu'r buddiannau y gellir eu cael drwy gysylltiad agos â'r sector cyhoeddus ac mae'n esiampl dda o ymagwedd Tîm Cymru. Mae'r WDA wedi cydweithio'n agos â thîm rheoli Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn ei gais ar gyfer y buddsoddiad ac mae TEC De Ddwyrain Cymru hefyd yn barod i gynnig cymorth sylweddol ar gyfer hyfforddiant.

Mae rôl y WDA hefyd o ddiddordeb tymor hir strategol. Mae'n cynnig datblygu, drws nesaf i ffatri injanau Ford, barc busnes 130 erw newydd ar safle Brocastle sydd ger ffatri Ford, ar hyd milltir euraidd yr hen A48. Disgwylir y gallai hyn greu 1,000 yn ychwanegol o swyddi dros y pum mlynedd nesaf. Disgwylir i'r safle ddenu amrywiaeth eang o gwmnïau drwy ei agosatrwydd at y ffatri injanau, a fydd hefyd yn golygu y bydd o ddiddordeb arbennig i gyflenwyr moduron, yn ogystal ag i'r diwydiant peirianeg ehangach. Cynhelir sgysiau cychwynnol eisoes rhwng yr awdurdod a sawl cwmni a allai fod â diddordeb yn y safle.

Dangosodd cyhoeddiad ddoe bleidlais anferth o hyder gan Ford yn yr economi yng Nghymru ac yn y diwydiant gweithgynhyrchu moduron ym Mhrydain, ac mae'n gadarnhad bod gan bobl Cymru lawer i gynnig i gwmnïau rhyngwladol blaengar. Pan agorwyd ffatri Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn 1980, gwelwyd hyn yn eang fel dechrau ailymddangosiad y diwydiant gweithgynhyrchu wedi cyfnod anodd i'r

the mid 1970s in the wake of the oil price rises of 1973. I am sure that this investment will, in the near future, be regarded in just the same way.

Janet Davies: On behalf of Plaid Cymru—The Party of Wales, and as a regional Assembly Member for the area, I welcome the First Minister's statement and Ford's decision to invest £240 million in Bridgend. The 600 new jobs will be welcome, especially in light of the recent series of losses in manufacturing in Wales. According to Ford's representative on the radio this morning, the decision to invest in the Bridgend plant was taken in anticipation of the United Kingdom joining the euro zone. Was this explained to the First Minister? Accepting that you cannot tell us when we will join the euro zone, are you committed to joining it, and will you clarify the Assembly's role in conjunction with its offer of regional selective assistance of £16 million, in securing this investment?

The First Minister: The euro issue is relevant to many recent decisions. These include the decision by Vauxhall yesterday in relation to Ellesmere Port, Nissan's decision to increase car production at Sunderland by 30 per cent, and Toyota's decision to increase engine production in Wales, as well as car production in Burnaston near Derby, by 30 per cent. All of these announcements have come since December 5—the day that Corus announced its decision to review its operations and its restructuring proposals, which eventually resulted in that dreadful announcement last Thursday.

The euro issue for them was that they did not want to see joining the euro excluded during the course of the next Parliament. I will put it no higher than that. If the Government had told them that there was no chance of Britain joining the euro during the course of the next Parliament, I believe that all those investments would have gone elsewhere. They would not have come to Wales. That is the significance of the euro decision. Joining the euro is subject to a referendum. It is

economi yng Nghymru a Phrydain yng nghanol y 1970au yn sgîl codiadau prisiau olew 1973. Yr wyf yn siŵr y gwelir y buddsoddiad hwn, yn y dyfodol agos, yn union yr un ffordd.

Janet Davies: Ar ran Plaid Cymru—The Party of Wales, ac fel Aelod rhanbarthol o'r Cynulliad ar gyfer yr ardal, croesawaf ddatganiad y Prif Weinidog a phenderfyniad Ford i fuddsoddi £240 miliwn ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Croesewir y 600 o swyddi newydd, yn enwedig o ystyried y gyfres ddiweddar o golledion mewn gweithgynhyrchu yng Nghymru. Yn ôl cynrychiolydd Ford ar y radio y bore yma, gwnaethpwyd y penderfyniad i fuddsoddi yn ffatri Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr gan gymryd y bydd y Deyrnas Unedig yn ymuno â'r ewro. A esboniwyd hyn i'r Prif Weinidog? O dderbyn na allwch ddweud wrthym pryd y byddwn yn ymuno â'r ewro, a ydych yn ymrwymedig i ymuno, ac a eglurwch rôl y Cynulliad mewn cydweithrediad â'i gynnig o gymorth dewisol rhanbarthol o £16 miliwn, wrth ddiogelu'r buddsoddiad hwn?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae pwnc yr ewro yn berthnasol i lawer o benderfyniadau diweddar. Ymysg y rhain ceir penderfyniad Vauxhall ddoe mewn perthynas ag Ellesmere Port, penderfyniad Nissan i gynyddu cynhyrchiant ceir yn Sunderland o 30 y cant, a phenderfyniad Toyota i gynyddu cynhyrchiant injan yng Nghymru, yn ogystal â chynhyrchiant ceir yn Burnaston ger Derby, o 30 y cant. Daeth yr holl gyhoeddiadau hyn ers Rhagfyr 5—y diwrnod y cyhoeddodd Corus ei benderfyniad i adolygu ei weithrediadau a'i gynigion ailstrwythuro, a arweiniodd yn y pen draw at y cyhoeddiad ofnadwy hwnnw ddydd Iau diwethaf.

Pwnc yr ewro iddynt hwy oedd nad oeddynt am weld ymuno â'r ewro yn cael ei eithrio yn ystod y Senedd nesaf. Ni roddaf fwy o bwys iddo na hynny. Os dywedodd y Llywodraeth wrthynt nad oedd unrhyw siawns y byddai Prydain yn ymuno â'r ewro yn ystod y Senedd nesaf, credaf y byddai'r holl fuddsoddiadau hynny wedi mynd rywle arall. Ni fyddent wedi dod i Gymru. Dyna bwysigrwydd y penderfyniad ar yr ewro. Mae ymuno â'r ewro yn ddibynnol ar

subject to the date that you hold the referendum and at what rate you set the joining rate, if the referendum on joining the euro is successful. Those are other issues that must be considered closer to the date when a referendum becomes a viable political option. If it had been ruled out for the next Parliament, those investments would probably have been ruled out as well.

Janice Gregory: As the Assembly Member whose constituency is adjacent to the Ford plant in Bridgend, I welcome Ford's announcement. You compared it to last week's announcement by Corus. We must make this comparison. The Ford management handled this professionally. They worked well with the workers and the trade unions, while Corus drip-fed the media, its workers and us. I join you in paying tribute to the Ford workers. They should be justifiably proud that this project has come to Bridgend.

2:50 p.m.

The First Minister: I would not say that it is all down to them, but it is 90 per cent down to them. It is 90 per cent down to the system that Ford introduced of working closely with the unions—in terms of full-time union officers—and everybody at the plant. How Ford dealt with yesterday's announcement was symptomatic of that. It stopped all the production lines and got everybody who was on the current shift into a room so that they could hear the news for themselves. It used both the stick and the carrot. They were given the decision and told that it would possibly lead to well-paid jobs for their friends. Ford jobs tend to be at the top of the tree; the average pay is certainly higher than that in Corus. They were told that, if they wanted their mates to have jobs with Ford, they would have to produce, and they have.

Ford workers have a good track record on quality. You do not make Jaguar engines that will cause problems or there will soon be

refferendwm. Mae'n ddibynol ar y dyddiad y cynhelir y refferendwm ac ar ba gyfradd y gosodir y gyfradd ymuno, os bydd y refferendwm ar ymuno â'r ewro yn llwyddiannus. Mae'r rheiny yn faterion eraill sydd yn rhaid eu hystyried yn agosach at y dyddiad pan fydd refferendwm yn opsiwn gwleidyddol ymarferol. Os byddai wedi ei ddiystyru ar gyfer y Senedd nesaf, mae'n debyg y câi'r buddsoddiadau hynny eu diystyru hefyd.

Janice Gregory: Fel Aelod o'r Cynulliad â'm hetholaeth gerllaw ffatri Ford ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr, croesawaf gyhoeddiad Ford. Buoch yn ei gymharu â chyhoeddiad Corus yr wythnos diwethaf. Rhaid inni wneud y gymhariaeth hon. Aeth tîm rheoli Ford i'r afael â hyn yn broffesiynol. Yr oeddent yn gweithio'n dda â'r gweithwyr a'r undebau llafur, tra yr oedd Corus yn rhoi gwybodaeth fesul tipyn i'r cyfryngau, ei weithwyr a ninnau. Ymunaf â chi wrth dalu teyrnged i weithwyr Ford. Dylent fod yn falch yn haeddiannol bod y prosiect hwn wedi dod i Ben-y-bont ar Ogwr.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ni ddywedwn mai hwy oedd yn gyfan gwbl gyfrifol am hyn, ond maent 90 y cant yn gyfrifol am hyn. Y system a gyflwynodd Ford o weithio'n agos â'r undebau—o ran swyddogion undeb llawn amser—a phawb yn y ffatri sydd 90 y cant yn gyfrifol am hyn. Yr oedd y ffordd yr aeth Ford i'r afael â chyhoeddiad ddoe yn nodweddiadol o hynny. Daeth y llinellau cynhyrchu i ben a symudwyd pawb a oedd ar y shifft honno i ystafell fel y gallent glywed y newyddion eu hunain. Defnyddiodd fygythiadau ac addewidion. Rhoddwyd y penderfyniad iddynt a dywedwyd y gallai arwain at swyddi fyddai'n talu'n dda i'w ffrindiau. Mae swyddi Ford yn dueddol o fod ar y brig; mae'r cyfartaledd tâl yn bendant yn uwch na Corus. Dywedwyd wrthynt, os oeddent am i'w ffrindiau gael swyddi gyda Ford, byddai'n rhaid iddynt ddangos cynhyrchiant, a gwnaethant hynny.

Mae record da gan weithwyr Ford o safbwynt ansawdd. Ni allwch gwneud injanau Jaguar fydd yn achosi problemau neu cyn hir bydd

problems with the Jaguar contract. However, they have done extremely well and Jaguar is incredibly impressed with how the Ford engine plant has dealt with its contract. That is not implying that it has not dealt well with its other contracts. However, Jaguar is an up-market saloon car, and the company hopes to produce 200,000 or 300,000 Jaguars a year in the UK. With the prestige that Jaguar has, large numbers of Jaguars will be produced if the plans of the Premier Automotive Group within Ford are carried out. All those engines will be produced in Bridgend. That plant will then possibly go on to produce for Land Rover and other parts of the Premier Automotive Group sweep of Ford cars that do not bear the Ford badge, which are not supplied with V6 or V8 engines at present.

Alun Cairns: The Welsh Conservative Party welcomes the news. Attracting the V6 and V8 engines contract is a tribute to the Bridgend workforce, particularly after failing to gain the I4 and I5 engines contract not so many months ago. Having witnessed the productivity of that workforce during a recent visit, I endorse many of your comments.

You mentioned the partnership that was formed. I am sure that that was a contributory factor, but I cannot help recalling the words of David Jenkins at last week's Economic Development Committee meeting, when he commented that the true partnerships in his experience were formed in the 1980s during the period of the last Conservative Government. [*Interruption.*] Those were his words, not mine.

I do not want the First Minister to lose perspective following yesterday's announcement. In the last 10 days, 5,000 job losses have been announced in this Chamber. Whereas 600 are welcome, there is a vast difference between the two figures.

The First Minister: I could not agree more. I do not have a roseate glow in front of my eyes that causes me to forget the difference between 600 well-paid jobs at Ford and 3,800 job losses at Corus, and the others at Dewhirst and Dairy Crest announced since January. The four weeks between our return

problemau â chontract Jaguar. Fodd bynnag, gwnaethant yn arbennig o dda a chreodd y modd y mae ffatri injan Ford wedi delio â'i gontract argraff dda iawn ar Jaguar. Nid yw hynny'n awgrymu nad yw wedi delio'n dda â'i gontractau eraill. Fodd bynnag, mae Jaguar yn gar salŵn drud, ac mae'r cwmni'n gobeithio cynhyrchu 200,000 neu 300,000 o Jaguars y flwyddyn yn y DU. Gyda'r bri sydd yn perthyn i Jaguar, cynhyrchir nifer fawr o geir Jaguar os rhoddir cynlluniau'r Premier Automotive Group o fewn Ford ar waith. Cynhyrchir yr holl injanau hyn ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Yna gallai'r ffatri honno o bosibl fynd ymlaen i gynhyrchu ar gyfer Land Rover a rhannau eraill o gadwyn ceir Premier Automotive Group Ford nad ydynt yn cario bathodyn Ford, na chânt eu cyflenwi ag injanau V6 neu V8 ar hyn o bryd.

Alun Cairns: Mae Plaid Geidwadol Cymru yn croesawu'r newyddion. Mae denu contract injan V6 a V8 yn deyrnged i weithlu Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, yn enwedig ar ôl methu ennill contract injan I4 ac I5 ychydig fisoedd yn ôl. Wedi gweld cynhyrchiant y gweithlu hwnnw yn ystod ymweliad diweddar, ategaf lawer o'ch sylwadau.

Crybwyllasoch y bartneriaeth a ffurfiwyd. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod hynny'n ffactor cyfrannol, ond ni allaf beidio â chofio geiriau David Jenkins yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd wythnos diwethaf, pan wnaeth sylwadau mai yn yr 1980au y ffurfiwyd y gwir bartneriaethau yn ei brofiad ef a hynny yn ystod cyfnod y Llywodraeth Geidwadol ddiwethaf. [*Torri ar draws.*] Ei eiriau ef oedd y rheiny, nid fy rhai i.

Nid wyf am i'r Prif Weinidog gollu persbectif yn dilyn cyhoeddiad ddoe. Yn ystod y 10 diwrnod diwethaf, cyhoeddwyd 5,000 o golledion swyddi yn y Siambr hon. Tra croesewir 600, mae gwahaniaeth mawr rhwng y ddau ffigur.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Cytunaf yn llwyr. Nid oes gennyf olwg gwridog ar hyn sydd yn peri imi anghofio'r gwahaniaeth rhwng 600 o swyddi â chyflog uchel yn Ford a 3,800 o golledion swyddi yn Corus, a'r lleill yn Dewhirst a Dairy Crest a gyhoeddwyd ers mis Ionawr. Yr oedd y pedair wythnos rhwng

from the Christmas and new year break and the Ford decision were appalling in terms of job losses. On the other hand, there was an exceptionally good period in November and December, when we had almost no bad news and a heavy concentration of new inward investment announcements. I do not know why such announcements tend to come in flows, where we have much good news and no bad news and then vice versa. We need to do much work to ensure that new jobs come in to Wales at the level of the Ford plant announcement before we will have counteracted the effects of the jobs lost in the announcements made by Corus last Thursday morning.

Tom Middlehurst: I also welcome the Ford decision. The confidence that Ford has demonstrated in the Welsh workforce is also reflected in Deeside. I was present at the launch of the new Toyota engine last Thursday. Unfortunately, that event was overshadowed by the Corus announcement. Nevertheless, it cannot diminish the confidence that Toyota has demonstrated in workers in north-east Wales by being prepared to invest so heavily in the Deeside plant. Do you agree that the Deeside Industrial Park is an important industrial base, serving north Wales and that the daily migration of workers both ways across the border is an important recognition of the economic engine that exists cross border in north-east Wales and north-west England? Do you also agree that it is important that the Assembly continues to service the development of that relationship for the mutual benefit of all?

The First Minister: That connection is interesting. At the time when Corus was making its devastating announcement, you and Mike German were pressing the button to get the Toyota engine assembly line moving in Deeside. Toyota and Optical Fibres are the largest companies in the Deeside Industrial Park, and Toyota recently announced that it will soon employ a total of 520 people.

y cyfnod wedi inni ddychwelyd o'r toriad dros y Nadolig a'r flwyddyn newydd a phenderfyniad Ford yn ofnadwy o ran colli swyddi. Ar y llaw arall, cafwyd cyfnod arbennig o dda ym mis Tachwedd a Rhagfyr, pan na chawsom unrhyw newyddion drwg bron a chawsom grynhoad sylweddol o gyhoeddiadau mewnfuddsoddi newydd. Ni wn pam bod cyhoeddiadau o'r fath yn dueddol o ddod gyda'i gilydd, pryd byddwn yn cael llawer o newyddion da a dim newyddion drwg ac i'r gwrthwyneb. Mae angen inni wneud mwy o waith i sicrhau y daw swyddi newydd i Gymru ar lefel cyhoeddiad ffatri Ford cyn y byddwn wedi gwrthbwysio effeithiau'r swyddi a gollwyd yn y cyhoeddiadau a wnaeth Corus fore dydd Iau diwethaf.

Tom Middlehurst: Croesawaf hefyd benderfyniad Ford. Adlewyrchir yr hyder a ddangosodd Ford yn y gweithlu yng Nghymru yng Nglannau Dyfrdwy hefyd. Yr oeddwn yn bresennol yn lansiad injan newydd Toyota ddydd Iau diwethaf. Yn anffodus, rhoddwyd y digwyddiad hwnnw yn y cysgod oherwydd cyhoeddiad Corus. Serch hynny, ni all leihau'r hyder a ddangosodd Toyota mewn gweithwyr yng ngogledd-ddwyrain Cymru drwy fod yn barod i fuddsoddi cymaint yn ffatri Glannau Dyfrdwy. A gytunwch fod Parc Diwydiannol Glannau Dyfrdwy yn sail ddiwydiannol bwysig, yn gwasanaethu gogledd Cymru a bod gweithwyr yn mudo bob dydd dros y ffin i'r ddau gyfeiriad yn bwysig wrth nodi'r peiriant economaidd sydd yn bodoli ar draws y ffin yng ngogledd-ddwyrain Cymru a gogledd-orllewin Lloegr? A gytunwch hefyd ei bod yn bwysig bod y Cynulliad yn parhau i wasanaethu datblygiad y berthynas honno er lles pawb ohonom?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae'r cysylltiad hwnnw'n ddiddorol. Pan oedd Corus yn gwneud ei gyhoeddiad dinistriol, yr oeddech chi a Mike German yn gwasgu'r botwm i gael llinell gydosod injan Toyota yn symud yng Nglannau Dyfrdwy. Toyota ac Optical Fibres yw'r cwmnïau mwyaf ym Mharc Diwydiannol Glannau Dyfrdwy, ac yn ddiweddar cyhoeddodd Toyota y bydd yn cyflogi cyfanswm o 520 o bobl cyn hir.

Tom mentioned the Merseyside-Deeside-Wrexham industrial belt. There was no motor manufacturing tradition in that area in the 1950s, as the industry was located in the Midlands, Dagenham and Luton. As a result of Jaguar investing at Halewood in north Merseyside, Vauxhall investing at Ellesmere Port—I believe that people from north-east Wales work at both plants, although it is easier to travel to Ellesmere Port than to Speke—and the Toyota investment at Deeside, the Merseyside-Deeside belt will be of huge significance to the motor manufacturing industry by 2003. It could even be as significant as the West Midlands. That is an amazing transformation over 30 to 40 years.

David Davies: Like all Members, I welcome this announcement, and I am sure that there is no-one anywhere who does not welcome it. It is, therefore, surprising that we should spend so much time discussing it. Has the First Minister received an e-mail from Mike German, as Ministers seem to like sending e-mails at the moment, telling him to develop a programme of positive news stories? Perhaps he has been urged to give good news stories the hard sell and control any leaks of bad news stories. This is no more than an attempt to put a glossy spin on a black week for industry in Wales. We should get on with the serious business of discussing the thousands of job losses, rather than patting ourselves on the back because a few hundred jobs have been created, although this is welcome news.

The First Minister: If David would like to see Dr Brian Gibbons or Dr Dai Lloyd after Plenary, I am sure that he could be treated for the condition from which he suffers of having an aversion to good news about Wales. Your views will not be shared in Bridgend or within a 20-mile radius of the town. People in that area will regard this, and the Assembly's involvement in it, as being completely appropriate to be considered in Plenary, in the same way as it would if 600 jobs were lost at the Ford engine plant in Bridgend. If

Soniodd Tom am ardal ddiwydiannol Glannau Merswy-Glannau Dyfrdwy-Wrecsam. Nid oedd traddodiad gweithgynhyrchu moduron yn yr ardal honno yn y 1950au, gan fod y diwydiant wedi'i leoli yng Nghanolbarth Lloegr, Dagenham a Luton. O ganlyniad i fuddsoddiad Jaguar yn Halewood yng ngogledd Glannau Merswy, buddsoddiad Vauxhall yn Ellesmere Port—credaf fod pobl o ogledd-ddwyrain Cymru yn gweithio yn y ddwy ffatri, er ei bod yn haws teithio i Ellesmere Port nag i Speke—a buddsoddiad Toyota yng Nglannau Dyfrdwy, bydd ardal Glannau Merswy-Glannau Dyfrdwy o bwys mawr i'r diwydiant gweithgynhyrchu moduron erbyn 2003. Gallai hyd yn oed fod mor bwysig â Gorllewin Canolbarth Lloegr. Mae hynny'n drawsnewidiad anhygoel dros 30 i 40 blynedd.

David Davies: Fel pob Aelod, croesawaf y cyhoeddiad hwn, ac yr wyf yn siŵr nad oes unrhyw un sydd ddim yn ei groesawu. Felly, mae'n syndod ein bod yn treulio cymaint o amser yn ei drafod. A dderbyniodd y Prif Weinidog e-bost gan Mike German, gan yr ymddengys fod Gweinidogion yn hoffi anfon negeseuon e-bost ar hyn o bryd, yn dweud wrtho am ddatblygu rhaglen o straeon newyddion cadarnhaol? Efallai yr anogwyd ef i ddsbarthu straeon newyddion da a rheoli unrhyw straeon newyddion drwg a gaiff eu gollwng. Nid yw hyn yn ddim ond ymdrech i roi sbin loyw ar wythnos ddu i ddiwydiant yng Nghymru. Dylem ganolbwyntio ar y busnes difrifol o drafod y miloedd o golledion swyddi, yn hytrach na llongyfarch ein hunain oherwydd bod ychydig gannoedd o swyddi wedi eu creu, er bod hyn yn newyddion da.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Os hoffai David weld Dr Brian Gibbons neu Dr Dai Lloyd wedi'r Cyfarfod Llawn, yr wyf yn siŵr y gellir trin y salwch sydd ganddo o atgasedd yn erbyn newyddion da am Gymru. Ni rennir eich barn ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr nag o fewn ardal o 20 milltir o amgylch y dref. Bydd pobl yn yr ardal honno yn ystyried bod hyn, a rhan y Cynulliad ynddo, yn hollol briodol i'w ystyried mewn Cyfarfod Llawn, yn yr un modd ag y digwyddai os collwyd 600 o swyddi yn y ffatri injan Ford ym

that happened, David would be the first to leap to his feet demanding statements and debates. Why do you only want to consider bad news and never good news? We must have a balanced consideration of news. Even when good news is received, it has implications for, for example, regional selective assistance policy and training. Do we have the supply of skilled workers? From where will they come? Are the schools in the area aware of the opportunities in the local factory? What do they need to do to feed into the jobs being offered at Ford? What about the sub-contract opportunities? Who will be supplying the machinery? What are the implications of building a large industrial park next door on the Brocastle site? There are many strategic implications that are completely appropriate and proper for the Assembly to consider, provided you are not a die-hard Member from an opposition party that cannot cope with the arrival of any good news in Wales.

Val Feld: As we hear this news, we are mindful of the contrast between what we discussed last week and will discuss again in a few minutes and the First Minister's announcement today. An important aspect of that contrast is the role of the trade unions and the way in which management works with them. Last week, many Members discussed the cavalier way in which Corus treated the trade unions. That will probably be raised again today. I attended the meeting of the Economic Development Committee last week when David Jenkins raised—

The Presiding Officer: Order. Will you please ask your question?

Val Feld: Yes. It involves the role of the trade unions. David Jenkins stressed the importance of developing a programme for social partnership in Wales. He did not imply that life was much better under a Tory Government than it is under a Labour Government. That is in your dreams, Alun. In view of what has happened with Corus, will you consider, with your colleagues Mike German and Edwina Hart, a programme to promote social partnership through the

Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Pe digwyddai hynny, David fyddai'n cyntaf i lamu ar ei draed yn mynnu cael datganiadau a thrafodaethau. Pam mai dim ond newyddion drwg yr ydych am ei ystyried a byth newyddion da? Rhaid inni gael ystyriaeth gytbwys o newyddion. Hyd yn oed pan dderbynnir newyddion da, ceir goblygiadau, er enghraifft, ar gyfer polisïau a hyfforddiant cymorth dewisol rhanbarthol. A oes gennym y cyflenwad o weithwyr â sgiliau? O ble y dônt? A yw'r ysgolion yn yr ardal yn ymwybodol o'r cyfleoedd yn y ffatri leol? Beth sydd angen iddynt ei wneud i fwydo i'r swyddi a gynigir yn Ford? Beth am y cyfleoedd is-contractio? Pwy fydd yn cyflenwi'r peirianwaith? Beth yw goblygiadau adeiladu parc diwydiannol mawr drws nesaf ar safle Brocastle? A geir llawer o oblygiadau strategol sydd yn hollol briodol a chywir i'r Cynulliad eu hystyried, ar yr amod nad ydych yn Aelod disyfyd o wrthblaid na all ymdopi â chlywed unrhyw newyddion da yng Nghymru.

Val Feld: Wrth inni glywed y newyddion hwn, yr ydym yn ofalus o'r gwahaniaeth rhwng yr hyn a drafodasom yr wythnos diwethaf ac y byddwn yn ei drafod eto mewn ychydig funudau a chyhoeddiad y Prif Weinidog heddiw. Agwedd bwysig ar y gwahaniaeth hwnnw yw rôl yr undebau llafur a'r modd y mae'r tîm rheoli yn cydweithio â hwy. Wythnos diwethaf, trafododd sawl Aelod y ffordd ddiseremoni y cafodd yr undebau llafur eu trin gan Corus. Mae'n debyg y caiff hynny ei godi eto heddiw. Mynychais gyfarfod y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd yr wythnos diwethaf pan gododd David Jenkins—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. A fyddechystal â gofyn eich cwestiwn?

Val Feld: O'r gorau. Mae'n ymwneud â rôl yr undebau llafur. Nododd David Jenkins bwysigrwydd datblygu rhaglen ar gyfer partneriaeth gymdeithasol yng Nghymru. Nid awgrymodd bod bywyd yn llawer gwell o dan Lywodraeth Doriaidd nag y mae o dan Lywodraeth Lafur. Yn eich dychymyg chi y mae hynny, Alun. O ystyried yr hyn a ddigwyddodd gyda Corus, a ystyriwch, gyda'ch cyd-Aelodau Mike German ac Edwina Hart, raglen i hybu partneriaeth

WDA's work with inward investors in our approach to business development? Would you see that as a priority for how we work to bring new businesses to Wales and retain them here?

3:00 p.m.

The First Minister: I would. We cannot make it a condition of investing in Wales. However, you could commend it as a method and show where it has proven to be successful. The decision regarding the plant which lost jobs yesterday in Cleveland, Ohio was provisionally made by Ford in November. However, they then agreed with the United Auto Workers in America that if there was a decision to disinvest in Cleveland, Ohio in order to invest in Bridgend, the plant in Cleveland, Ohio would be given 90 days before the decision was set in concrete to enable it to table counter proposals. The management and trade unions in Cleveland, Ohio tabled counter proposals, but they were not good enough to match what was on offer in Bridgend. However, that demonstrates social partnership by global multinationals, which happens sometimes as a result of law, sometimes as a result of the choice of work with the trade unions, and sometimes with the local community. Ford gave Corus an object lesson in how to do it on both sides of the Atlantic, for the winning and losing plant.

Peter Black: As one of the Assembly Members who represents Bridgend, I make clear that this announcement is welcome in that area, contrary to what David Davies previously said. Any good news such as this is welcome. It is important that we celebrate our successes although we are also mindful of the tragedy facing many communities as a result of Corus's announcement.

I wanted to endorse the previous comments about how welcome this is in terms of the partnership working which has led to this success; the contrast which you made in how that works for Bridgend and Ford and how it

gymdeithasol drwy waith y WDA gyda mewnfuddsoddwyr yn ein hymagwedd at ddatblygu busnes? A fydddech yn gweld hynny fel blaenoriaeth ar gyfer y ffordd y gweithiwn i ddod â busnesau newydd i Gymru a'u cadw yma?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Byddwn. Ni allwn ei wneud yn amod o fuddsoddi yng Nghymru. Fodd bynnag, gallech ei gymeradwyo fel dull a dangos lle y bu'n llwyddiannus. Gwnaethpwyd y penderfyniad ynghylch y ffatri a gollodd swyddi ddoe yn Cleveland, Ohio dros dro gan Ford ym mis Tachwedd. Fodd bynnag, wedyn cytunasant â'r United Auto Workers yn America os oedd penderfyniad i ddadfuddsoddi yn Cleveland, Ohio er mwyn buddsoddi ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr, rhoddir 90 diwrnod i'r ffatri yn Cleveland, Ohio cyn cadarnhau'r penderfyniad i'w alluogi i gyflwyno gwrthgynigion. Cyflwynodd y tîm rheoli a'r undebau llafur yn Cleveland, Ohio wrthgynigion, ond nid oeddent yn ddigon da i gystadlu â'r hyn oedd yn cael ei gynnig ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Fodd bynnag, dengys hynny bartneriaeth gymdeithasol gan gwmnïau amlgenedl byd-eang, sydd yn digwydd weithiau o ganlyniad i gyfraith, weithiau o ganlyniad i ddewis gwaith â'r undebau llafur, ac weithiau gyda'r gymuned leol. Rhoddodd Ford wers ddangos i Corus ar sut i wneud hynny ar bob ochr i Fôr yr Iwerydd, i'r ffatri sydd yn ennill a'r ffatri sydd yn colli.

Peter Black: Fel un Aelod o'r Cynulliad sydd yn cynrychioli Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, egluraf y croesewir y cyhoeddiad hwn yn yr ardal honno, yn wahanol i'r hyn ddywedodd David Davies yn flaenorol. Croesewir unrhyw newyddion da o'r fath. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn dathlu ein llwyddiannau er ein bod yn ofalus o'r drychineb sydd yn wynebu sawl cymuned o ganlyniad i gyhoeddiad Corus.

Yr oeddwn am gymeradwyo'r sylwadau blaenorol ar faint y croesewir hyn o ran y bartneriaeth yn gweithio a arweiniodd at y llwyddiant hwn; y gwahaniaeth a wnaethoch o ran sut y mae hynny'n gweithio i Ben-y-

did not work in terms of Corus; and how this should be an object lesson to many companies throughout Wales and the United Kingdom on how they should work together with their workforce and with the Government to start bringing benefits to the areas in which they work and to try to create jobs in partnership with all those agencies.

The First Minister: There are two elements to the partnership: it is between the management and workforce at the plant, but it is also between the management and the workforce and the public bodies involved, such as the local council, the Welsh Assembly, the Department of Trade and Industry, and in this case, the European Commission from which permission will be sought to pay the regional selective assistance grant.

bont ar Ogwr a Ford a'r ffordd na weithiodd o ran Corus; a sut y byddai hyn yn wers ddangos i sawl cwmni ledled Cymru a'r Deyrnas Unedig ar y ffordd y dylent gydweithio gyda'u gweithlu a gyda'r Llywodraeth i ddechrau dod â buddiannau i'r ardal y maent yn gweithio ynddi a cheisio creu swyddi mewn partneriaeth â'r holl asiantaethau hynny.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ceir dwy elfen i'r bartneriaeth: mae rhwng y tîm rheoli a'r gweithlu yn y ffatri, ond hefyd rhwng y tîm rheoli a'r gweithlu a'r cyrff cyhoeddus dan sylw, fel y cyngor lleol, Cynulliad Cymru, yr Adran Masnach a Diwydiant, ac yn yr achos hwn, y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd lle ceisir cael caniatâd i dalu'r grant cymorth dewisol rhanbarthol.

Datganiad ar Gyfarfodydd gyda Buddiannwyr Allweddol ar Corus Statement on Meetings with Key Interests on Corus

The Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economic Development (Michael German): Last Thursday we had the dreadful announcement from Corus of the loss of steel jobs throughout Wales and England. The initial response of the Assembly has rightly been one of indignation. This major business, built in Wales refused to work in partnership with Government in any part of the United Kingdom. The contrast with others, such as Ford and other major companies, that have recently demonstrated their faith in the Welsh and UK economy, could not be starker.

I do not want anything I say now to be construed as us giving up the fight to save the 10,000 or so jobs which might be lost as a consequence of the decision Corus so short-sightedly announced last Thursday. Corus has agreed to 'stop the clock' until a meeting with the unions on 14 February. I know that the unions will be using this time to best effect to find ways of persuading Corus to think again in a proper, strategic, long-term way. We will do whatever we can to help them in this campaign and I know that almost all in the Assembly wish the unions well in

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd (Michael German): Gwnaethpwyd y cyhoeddiad ofnadwy gan Corus ddydd Iau diwethaf am y colledion swyddi dur ar draws Cymru a Lloegr. Ymateb cychwynnol haeddiannol y Cynulliad oedd un o ddicter. Gwrthododd y busnes mawr hwn, a sefydlwyd yng Nghymru i weithio mewn partneriaeth â'r Llywodraeth mewn unrhyw ran o'r Deyrnas Unedig. Ni allai'r cyferbyniad gyda chwmnïau fel Ford a chwmnïau mawr eraill, sydd wedi ddangos eu ffydd yn economi Cymru a'r DU yn ddiweddar, fod yn amlycach.

Nid wyf am ddweud unrhyw beth ar hyn o bryd a allai roi'r argraff ein bod yn anobeithio ynghylch ceisio achub y 10,000 o swyddi y gellir eu colli o ganlyniad i benderfyniad Corus a gyhoeddwyd mor anystyriol ddydd Iau diwethaf. Cytunodd Corus i 'stopio'r cloc' hyd nes y cynhelir cyfarfod gyda'r undebau ar 14 Chwefror. Gwn y bydd yr undebau'n defnyddio'r amser hwn yn effeithiol i ganfod ffyrdd i geisio darbwyllo Corus i ailystyried y sefyllfa mewn ffordd briodol, strategol a thymor hir. Gwnawn bopeth y gallwn i'w helpu yn yr

these entrepreneurial efforts.

The UK Government and the Assembly will give soundly based proposals from the unions a fair wind. However, we would not be exercising prudent government if we were not also preparing for the worst, bearing in mind Corus's track record and lack of engagement. For many months the Assembly has been putting in place the processes to respond if Corus continued dramatically to favour its overseas operations while seeking to downsize its UK plants. These processes are now in top gear.

An all-Wales steel taskforce has been in place since the last round of large-scale Corus redundancies in July. This will meet again on Friday to take stock of the current situation and to consider, on a contingency basis, a strategy for managing any response to major job losses in Wales. This strategy and its related action plan were informed by the meeting I called yesterday afternoon with all the key agencies, local authorities and academics.

This was a constructive meeting that considered a wide range of options on the possible ways forward. We agreed that our approach should be to focus any help and support on steel communities, and not solely on Corus personnel who may be affected directly by job losses. We also agreed that any package should be a combination of economic and social programmes, which should also bear in mind the effects of other major recent closures. We again agreed that it was necessary for any response to be more than simply a list of disconnected projects, and that we needed a strategic framework for the areas affected to maximise the benefits of the Team Wales effort that would swing into action, if it were clear that we really were facing the worst case scenario.

Therefore, yesterday afternoon, we agreed

ymgyrch hon a gwn fod y rhan fwyaf ohonom yn y Cynulliad yn dymuno'r gorau i'r undebau yn yr ymdrechion entrepreneuriaidd hyn.

Bydd Llywodraeth y DU a'r Cynulliad yn rhoi ystyriaeth deg i gynigion ymarferol gan yr undebau. Fodd bynnag, ni fyddem yn gweithredu llywodraeth bwyllog pe na byddem hefyd yn paratoi ar gyfer y gwaethaf, gan gadw hanes a diffyg ymrwymiad Corus mewn cof. Mae'r Cynulliad wedi bod yn rhoi prosesau ymateb ar waith ers misoedd lawer petai Corus yn parhau'n ddramatig i ffafrio ei weithrediadau dramor tra'n ceisio lleihau nifer y gweithwyr yn ei weithfeydd yn y DU. Mae'r prosesau hyn yn mynd rhagddynt ar fyrder.

Mae tasglu dur Cymru gyfan wedi bodoli ers y rownd diwethaf o ddiswyddiadau ar raddfa fawr gan Corus ym mis Gorffennaf. Bydd yn cyfarfod eto ddydd Gwener i ystyried y sefyllfa bresenol ac ystyried strategaeth ar gyfer rheoli unrhyw ymateb i golledion swyddi ar raddfa fawr yng Nghymru, rhag ofn. Cafodd y strategaeth hon a'i chynllun gweithredu cysylltiedig eu llywio gan y cyfarfod a drefnais ddoe gyda'r asiantaethau, awdurdodau lleol ac academyddion allweddol.

Bu'n gyfarfod adeiladol a ystyriodd amrywiaeth eang o opsiynau posibl ar y ffyrdd ymlaen. Cytunwyd y dylai ein hymagwedd ganolbwyntio unrhyw gymorth a chefnogaeth ar gymunedau dur, ac nid ar weithwyr Corus y gallai'r colledion swyddi effeithio'n uniongyrchol arnynt yn unig. Cytunwyd hefyd y dylai unrhyw becyn fod yn gyfuniad o raglenni economaidd a chymdeithasol, a fyddai hefyd yn cadw mewn cof effeithiau achosion eraill amlwg o ddiwydiannau'n cau. Cytunwyd eto y dylai unrhyw ymateb fod yn fwy na rhestr o brosiectau digyswllt yn unig, a bod angen fframwaith strategol arnom ar gyfer yr ardaloedd yr effeithwyd arnynt er mwyn sicrhau'r buddiannau gorau posibl o ymdrech Tîm Cymru a fyddai'n cael ei weithredu, pe bai'n amlwg y byddem yn wynebu'r sefyllfa waethaf bosibl.

Felly, cytunwyd brynhawn ddoe, ar

the broad outline of a contingency plan dealing with employment, training, infrastructure, new business development and supporting social measures. First, we would ensure that the best services possible are available immediately to meet any redeployment and short-term retraining needs of those who might be affected, not only those who are directly employed by Corus, but also any employees of displaced contractors and suppliers.

The Employment Service and TECs are already working with their partners to develop a package of rapid response measures to assist all those affected by the redundancies. Each Corus plant has an on-site job shop, the latest being established at Bryngwyn this week. The range of measures available will include information on local vacancies, advice on job search activities and curriculum vitae preparation, interview techniques and access to retraining and upskilling programmes specifically tailored to each person's requirements to enable him or her to access new jobs through Assembly-funded training programmes managed by TECs. The careers companies, which will become Careers Wales from April, will also be involved by providing guidance and advice on career options.

Some communities already experience higher than average unemployment, and tragic situations such as these proposed redundancies make matters worse. It is ironic, however, that vacancies exist and remain unfilled for all sorts of reasons. I have asked the Employment Service to work closely with the TECs to ensure that the skills and experience of those being laid off are marketed to local employers. Some are already expressing an interest, including those who will have significant recruitment needs over the next year or so. Upskilling will play an important role in helping people make the transition from working in steel production to other sectors, but we must also introduce an element of creativity in dealing with the barriers that could prevent people accessing alternative employment. Issues such as poor transport facilities and a lack of

amlinelliad cyffredinol o gynllun wrth gefn fydd yn ymdrin â chyflogaeth, hyfforddiant, isadeiledd, datblygiad busnes newydd a mesurau cymdeithasol ategol. Yn gyntaf, hoffem sicrhau bod y gwasanaethau gorau posibl ar gael ar unwaith i fodloni unrhyw anghenion adleoli ac ailhyfforddi tymor byr y rhai yr effeithir arnynt, nid yn unig y rhai a oedd wedi'u cyflogi'n uniongyrchol gan Corus, ond hefyd unrhyw weithwyr contractwyr neu gyflenwyr a gollodd waith.

Mae'r Gwasanaeth Cyflogi a'r CHMau eisoes yn gweithio gyda'u partneriaid i ddatblygu pecyn o fesurau ymateb cyflym i gynorthwyo'r rhai yr effeithir arnynt gan y diswyddiadau. Mae siop swyddi ym mhob un o leoliadau Corus, gyda'r diweddaraf yn cael ei sefydlu ym Mryngwyn yr wythnos hon. Ymhlith yr amrywiaeth o fesurau fydd ar gael bydd gwybodaeth ar swyddi gwag lleol, cyngor ar weithgareddau chwiliad gwaith a pharatoi curriculum vitae, technegau cyfweld a mynediad i raglenni ailhyfforddi a diweddarau sgiliau wedi'u teilwra'n benodol ar gyfer gofynion pob person er mwyn eu galluogi i gael mynediad i swyddi newydd drwy raglenni hyfforddiant wedi'u hariannu gan y Cynulliad ac sydd dan reolaeth y CHMau. Bydd y cwmnïau gyrfaedd a adwaenir fel Gyrfaedd Cymru o fis Ebrill, hefyd yn cyfrannu drwy ddarparu arweiniad a chynghor ar opsiynau gyrfa.

Mae rhai cymunedau eisoes yn dioddef o lefelau uwch na'r cyffredin o ddiweithdra, ac mae sefyllfaoedd trasig fel y diswyddiadau arfaethedig hyn yn gwneud pethau'n waeth. Fodd bynnag, mae'n eironig bod swyddi gwag yn bodoli ac yn parhau heb eu llenwi am bob math o resymau. Gofynnais i'r Gwasanaeth Cyflogi gydweithio'n agos â'r CHMau er mwyn sicrhau y caiff sgiliau a phrofiad y rhai sydd yn cael eu gwneud yn ddi-waith eu marchnata i gyflogwyr lleol. Mae rhai ohonynt eisoes wedi mynegi diddordeb, yn cynnwys y rhai fydd ag anghenion recriwtio sylweddol yn ystod y flwyddyn neu ddwy nesaf. Bydd diweddarau sgiliau yn chwarae rôl bwysig wrth geisio helpu pobl i drosglwyddo o weithio ym maes cynhyrchu dur i sectorau eraill, ond rhaid inni hefyd gyflwyno elfen o greadigrwydd wrth geisio mynd i'r afael â'r rhwystrau a allai atal

basic skills may need to be addressed.

Secondly, we agreed yesterday that, on the basis of the best possible available information on the long-term needs of the affected communities, we would mobilise all the tools at our disposal in a co-ordinated and managed way to address those needs. We recognised the need to diversify the economies of areas such as Ebbw Vale. It would make no sense to leave the economies of these areas, as vulnerable as they are now, to the challenges facing our manufacturing sector.

In moving ahead we would expect the Programme Monitoring Committees to review and refocus European structural fund resources to give early priority to the areas most affected; the European Commission has indicated that it would be willing for us to do this. With the Team Wales partnership we are considering medium to long-term measures such as boosting local training skills provision, strengthening business development activity and ratcheting up international marketing of the areas and their first rate skills bases, which Corus appears to be spurning. We would then deploy the imaginative and ambitious property, land reclamation, town and community redevelopment measures that our agencies are so proficient at undertaking.

Given the moratorium until 14 February, it would not be appropriate to announce a specific set of projects today. That would undermine the efforts of the workers to change the mind of Corus's senior management and would not make sense. It is also important that projects are well planned and add to the overall economic strategies at a local and regional level. For that reason we are also commissioning impact research studies, which should be available within a few weeks, to inform the choices that will be made in the medium term. We need an agreed and highly effective Team Wales approach, with a Wales-wide strategic

pobl rhag sicrhau cyflogaeth amgen. Efallai y bydd angen mynd i'r afael â materion fel cyfleusterau trafnidiaeth gwael a diffyg sgiliau sylfaenol.

Yn ail, cytunwyd ddoe, ar sail yr wybodaeth orau bosibl a oedd ar gael ar anghenion tymor hir y cymunedau yr effeithir arnynt, y byddem yn rhoi'r holl gyfleusterau sydd ar gael inni ar waith mewn dull cydlynus wedi'i reoli er mwyn mynd i'r afael â'r anghenion hynny. Cydnabuom yr angen i amrywio economïau ardaloedd fel Glynebwy. Ni fyddai'n gwneud unrhyw synnwyr gadael i economïau'r ardaloedd hyn, sydd yn ddiamddiffyn ar hyn o bryd, wynebu'r sialensau sydd yn wynebu ein sector gweithgynhyrchu.

Wrth symud ymlaen, byddem yn disgwyl i'r Pwyllgorau Monitro Rhaglen arolygu ac ailffocysu adnoddau'r gronfa strwythuro Ewropeaidd er mwyn rhoi blaenoriaeth gynnar i'r ardaloedd yr effeithir arnynt fwyaf; dywedodd y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd y byddai'n barod inni wneud hynny. O ran y bartneriaeth Tîm Cymru, yr ydym yn ystyried mesurau tymor canolig a hir dymor fel rhoi hwb i'r ddarpariaeth sgiliau hyfforddi yn lleol, yn atgyfnerthu gweithgaredd datblygu busnes ac yn dwysáu'r ymdrech ryngwladol i farchnata'r ardaloedd a'u sail sgiliau rhagorol, y mae Corus yn ymddangos fel petai yn eu diystyru. Yna byddem yn cyflwyno'r mesurau eiddo, adfer tir, ailddatblygu trefi a chymunedau uchelgeisiol, llawn dychymyg y mae ein hasiantaethau ymgymeryd â hwy mor fedrus.

O ystyried y moratoriwm tan 14 Chwefror, ni fyddai'n briodol cyhoeddi cyfres benodol o brosiectau heddiw. Byddai hynny'n tansilio ymdrechion y gweithwyr i newid meddwl uwch-reolwyr Corus ac ni fyddai'n gwneud synnwyr. Mae hefyd yn bwysig cynllunio prosiectau yn dda ac ychwanegu at strategaethau economaidd cyffredinol ar lefel leol a rhanbarthol. Am y rheswm hwnnw, yr ydym hefyd yn comisiynu astudiaethau ymchwil i effaith, a ddylai fod ar gael ymhen ychydig wythnosau, i lywio'r dewisiadau a wneir yn y tymor canolig. Mae angen ymagwedd Tîm Cymru cytûn ac effeithiol arnom, gydag ymagwedd strategol Cymru

approach, locally delivered. Our agencies have considerable professional expertise that will assist us to cope with this blow if Corus insists on delivering it.

As to the need for co-ordinated action and support across the United Kingdom, the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities will make a separate statement this afternoon on yesterday's meetings in Whitehall. However, I give you an assurance that we will, at the right time, share information on the resources that we would apply. I also assure the Assembly, and those affected, that action is being taken and that plans are firmly in place for a rapid start.

3:10 p.m.

I conclude by assuring the workers at Corus, their families and all others who will be affected by the fall-out if Corus will not listen to good sense, that the Assembly and its partners will ensure that, if the worst comes to the worst, Team Wales stands ready and willing to swing into action immediately with an effective package to help you and your communities emerge from this with a prosperous future. We will not allow your talents, skills and commitment to go to waste.

Phil Williams: I welcome Mike's statement and the fact that he has not given up the fight to maintain steel jobs in Wales. I hope that you can assure us that *The Western Mail* misreported the First Minister in reporting that he said yesterday that he was drawing a line under Corus.

The First Minister: A letter is on its way.

Phil Williams: Good. In that context, I am sure that you are aware, Mike, that world demand for steel is rising rapidly and the UK is the only major steel making country allowing such a strategic industry to contract. In your discussions with the UK Government, have you asked whether it is prepared, in the case of continued steel making not being available through Corus, to

gyfan a weithredir yn lleol. Mae gan ein hasiantaethau arbenigedd proffesiynol sylweddol a fydd yn ein cynorthwyo i ymdopi â'r ergyd hon os bydd Corus yn mynnu mai dyma fydd yn digwydd.

O ran yr angen am gamau gweithredu cydlynus a chymorth ledled y Deyrnas Unedig, gwneir datganiad ar wahân y prynhawn yma gan y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau ar y cyfarfodydd a gynhaliwyd ddoe yn Whitehall. Fodd bynnag, rhoddaf sicrwydd i chi y byddwn yn rhannu'r wybodaeth, ar adeg briodol, ar yr adnoddau y byddem yn eu defnyddio. Sicrhaf y Cynulliad hefyd, a'r rhai yr effeithir arnynt, bod camau'n cael eu cymryd a bod cynlluniau ar waith er mwyn ymateb yn gyflym.

Yr wyf am orffen drwy sicrhau'r gweithwyr yn Corus, eu teuluoedd ac eraill yr effeithir arnynt gan y penderfyniad os na fydd Corus yn gwrandao ar synnwyr, y bydd y Cynulliad a'i bartneriaid yn sicrhau, os daw'r sefyllfa waethaf yn ffaith, bod Tîm Cymru yn barod i weithredu ar unwaith gyda phecyn effeithiol i'ch helpu chi a'ch cymunedau oroesi gyda dyfodol ffyniannus. Ni chaniatawn i'ch talentau, eich sgiliau a'ch ymrwymiad gael eu gwastraffu.

Phil Williams: Croesawaf ddatganiad Mike a'r ffaith nad yw wedi rhoi'r gorau i frwydro i gadw swyddi dur yng Nghymru. Gobeithiaf y gallwch ein sicrhau bod *The Western Mail* wedi camadrodd Prif Weinidog Cymru drwy son iddo ddweud ddoe ei fod wedi cau pen y mwdwl ar hanes Corus.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae llythyr ar ei ffordd.

Phil Williams: Da iawn. Yn y cyd-destun hwnnw, yr wyf yn sicr eich bod yn ymwybodol, Mike, bod y galw byd-eang am ddur yn cynyddu'n gyflym ac mai'r DU yw'r unig un o'r prif wledydd sydd yn cynhyrchu dur sydd yn caniatáu i ddiwydiant mor strategol leihau. Yn eich trafodaethau gyda Llywodraeth y DU, a ydych wedi gofyn pa un a yw'n barod, yn y cyd-destun na ellir

take the industry back into popular ownership through providing the necessary legislative and financial support for a takeover by management and unions, as proposed by the consortium of trade unions? In order to safeguard whatever steel industry we have in the future and the whole range of manufacturing industries, do you still agree with your statement of 8 June 1999, when you said that the steel industry

parhau i gynhyrchu dur drwy Corus, i adfer y diwydiant i berchnogaeth gyhoeddus drwy ddarparu'r ddeddfwriaeth a'r cymorth ariannol angenrheidiol i'r rheolwyr a'r undebau sicrhau rheolaeth, fel y cynigiwyd gan y consortiwm o undebau llafur? Er mwyn diogelu pa ddiwydiant dur bynnag fydd gennym yn y dyfodol a'r amrywiaeth gyfan o ddiwydiannau gweithgynhyrchu, a gytunwch â'ch datganiad ar 8 Mehefin 1999 o hyd, pan ddywedasoich bod y diwydiant dur

'had its hand tied behind its back by the over-valued pound and the lack of progress on joining the European currency'?

'wedi ei lesteirio drwy orbrisiad y bunt a'r diffyg cynnydd ynghylch ymuno â'r arian cyfredol Ewropeaidd'?

Do you still agree with a statement made by our First Minister made on 9 May 2000 when you agreed that the strength of the pound was the key issue and you stated that

A ydych yn parhau i gytuno â'r datganiad a wnaeth ein Prif Weinidog ar 9 Mai 2000 pan gytunasoch mai cryfder y bunt oedd y mater allweddol a dywedasoich

'it does not take a mathematician to work out that if a company's goods now cost 25 to 30 per cent more than they did a couple of years ago, and its other plants, in the Netherlands or wherever, make the product 25 to 30 per cent cheaper, what the company will do'.

'nid oes angen mathemategydd i gyfrifo, os yw nwyddau cwmni'n costio rhwng 25 a 30 y cant yn fwy yn awr nag yr oeddent ychydig flynyddoedd yn ôl, a'i weithfeydd eraill, yn yr Iseldiroedd neu ble bynnag, yn gwneud y cynnyrch rhwng 25 a 30 y cant yn rhatach, pa beth y bydd y cwmni'n ei wneud'.

As the exchange rate now is almost equal to what it was when you made that statement, is that still the company's position? Last year, you asked the First Minister what serious steps was the Government was taking to address the problem of the pound. However deplorable the behaviour of Corus over the past two months since its change of chief executive, it had given warning after warning previously, including one in the Neuadd outside this Chamber, of the problems it faced with the over-valued pound. Throughout that period the Government did nothing to bring the pound to a competitive level or to end the uncertainty over the membership of the euro. Do you still agree that we, as Assembly Members,

Gan fod y gyfradd gyfnwid bron yn gyfwerth â'r hyn ydoedd pan wnaethoch y datganiad hwnnw, ai dyna sefyllfa'r cwmni o hyd? Y llynedd, gofynasoch i'r Prif Weinidog pa gamau gwirioneddol yr oedd y Llywodraeth yn eu cymryd i fynd i'r afael â phroblem y bunt. Waeth pa mor drychinebus fu ymddygiad Corus yn ystod y deufis diwethaf ers newid ei brif weithredwr, yr oedd wedi rhoi sawl rhybudd, yn cynnwys un yn y Neuadd y tu allan i'r Siambr hon, o'r problemau a wynebai gyda gorbrisió'r bunt. Drwy gydol y cyfnod hwnnw, ni wnaeth y Llywodraeth unrhyw beth i ddod â'r bunt i lefel gystadleuol neu ddod â'r ansicrwydd ynghylch ymuno â'r ewro i ben. A ydych yn dal i gredu bod angen inni, fel Aelodau'r Cynulliad,

'need to put the interests of the Welsh steel and manufacturing industries first, and that we need to tackle the Chancellor's *laissez-faire* approach head on'?

'roi buddiannau'r diwydiannau dur a gweithgynhyrchu yng Nghymru'n gyntaf, a bod angen inni fynd i'r afael ag ymagwedd *laissez-faire* y Canghellor'?

Are you still prepared to tackle the

A ydych yn barod o hyd i fynd i'r afael â'r

Chancellor head on, when the misdirected e-mail last week said that the Chancellor's letter to the First Minister offered nothing and that the message is that the Government is unwilling to offer any help to Wales at this bleak time?

Will you and your colleagues ensure that if any package is announced it is 100 per cent additional to the Barnett block allocation that we have already been given? You mentioned, as we discussed in the Objective 1 Programme Monitoring Committee yesterday, the possibility of refocusing Objective 1 funds.

The Presiding Officer: Order. That is a series of questions, which is fine from the chief opposition spokesperson on economic development, but I would like you to draw to a close.

Phil Williams: Refocusing would mean, under the present arrangements, taking money from existing impoverished areas. According to the advice from the European Commission's representative, the way to avoid that is to ensure that the Government's contribution of match funding is equal to the European grant, as it is in the three Objective 1 regions in England. That would mean another £40 million a year. If that is allowed, and the indications are that the European Commission would consider that favourably, will you guarantee that it will be given to us in its entirety and in addition to the existing allocation?

Michael German: You asked about six questions there. I welcome the support in your first point, that we should not give up trying to get Corus to change its mind before 14 February. Your second question was on the issue of the Assembly supporting the steelworkers in trying to purchase the plants from Corus. I assure you that that is important to us, and we are continuing to give active consideration to whatever help we can give.

I note what you said about the euro, and my views on the euro are the same as they have always been. I expect that you and I, and all

Canghellor am y mater, pan nodwyd yn yr e-bost a gamgyfeiriwyd yr wythnos diwethaf nad oedd llythyr y Canghellor at Brif Weinidog Cymru yn cynnig unrhyw beth ac mai'r neges yw nad yw'r Llywodraeth yn barod i gynnig unrhyw gymorth i Gymru yn ystod y cyfnod tywyll hwn?

A wnewch chi a'ch cyd-Aelodau sicrhau y bydd unrhyw becyn a gyhoeddir 100 y cant yn ychwanegol at ddyraniad bloc Barnett a dderbyniwyd eisoes? Soniasoch, fel y trafodwyd ym Mhwyllgor Monitro Rhaglen Amcan 1 ddoe, am y posibilrwydd o ailffocysu arian Amcan 1?

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae hynny'n gyfres o gwestiynau, sydd yn dderbyniol gan brif lefarydd yr wrthblaid ar ddatblygu economaidd, ond hoffwn i chi ddirwyn eich cyfraniad i ben.

Phil Williams: Byddai ailffocysu o dan y trefniadau presennol yn golygu cymryd arian oddi ar ardaloedd difreintiedig eraill. Yn ôl y cyngor a gafwyd gan gynrychiolydd y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd, y ffordd o osgoi hynny fyddai sicrhau bod cyfraniad arian cyfatebol y Llywodraeth gyfwerth â'r grant Ewropeaidd, fel y mae yn y tri rhanbarth Amcan 1 yn Lloegr. Golyga hynny £40 miliwn ychwanegol y flwyddyn. Os caniateir hynny, ac awgrymir y byddai'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd yn ystyried hynny'n ffafriol, a wnewch chi warantu y caiff ei roi yn ei gyfanrwydd inni yn ychwanegol at y dyraniad presennol?

Michael German: Gofynnwyd tua chwe chwestiwn bryd hynny. Croesawaf y cymorth yn eich pwynt cyntaf, na ddylem anobeithio wrth geisio cael Corus i newid ei feddwl cyn 14 Chwefror. Yr oedd eich ail gwestiwn yn ymwneud â'r mater o'r Cynulliad yn cefnogi'r gweithwyr dur yn eu hymgais i geisio prynu'r gweithfeydd gan Corus. Fe'ch sicrhaf bod hyn yn bwysig inni, a'n bod yn parhau i roi ystyriaeth weithredol i ba bynnag gymorth y gallwn ei gynnig.

Nodais yr hyn a ddywedasoch am yr ewro, ac mae fy marn am yr ewro'n parhau i fod yn ddigyfnewid. Byddaf yn disgwyl i chi a

sensible Assembly Members, will be on the streets together during the referendum campaign for the euro. After all, we understand what will happen; the vast majority of the political persuasions in Wales will be working in one direction, and only the extremists will be working in the other.

The third question that you asked concerned the e-mail. This concerns the money that the Assembly would get. I would suggest that you re-address that question to Edwina Hart who had discussions with the various ministries yesterday. I am sure that she will be happy to answer that question.

Regarding what the First Minister said yesterday, which was misreported in *The Western Mail*—a not infrequent occurrence—he actually talked about drawing a line under the last four weeks, not under Corus. It was a complete misquote that altered the nature of the story, and I am sure that *The Western Mail* will publish an apology.

You made a point about the European Commission; Commissioner Barnier gives some hope for the way in which we look at our programmes. He says that the acceleration of particular focuses of the programme in the wake of job losses would be acceptable to the Commission. That must be taken on board in the coming weeks, should we fail to change Corus's mind. I think that that covers all your points.

Tom Middlehurst: I referred earlier to my visit to Toyota last Thursday. On that fateful day we heard the dreadful announcement that ravaged steel communities throughout Wales. I spent the last few days trying to digest the consequences of that news. The anger in steel communities throughout Wales, not least in my constituency, is manifest. That anger is widely expressed in principled and unprincipled language.

Today, we need to throw our full weight behind the trade union movement's

minnau, a holl Aelodau synhwyrol y Cynulliad, fod ar y strydoedd yn ystod yr ymgyrch refferendwm ar yr ewro. Wedi'r cyfan, yr ydym yn deall beth fydd yn digwydd; bydd y mwyafrif helaeth o'r pleidiau gwleidyddol yng Nghymru yn gweithio mewn un cyfeiriad, a dim ond yr eithafwyr fydd yn gweithio yn y cyfeiriad arall.

Y trydydd cwestiwn a ofynnwyd oedd ynghylch yr e-bost. Mae hyn yn ymwneud â'r arian y byddai'r Cynulliad yn ei gael. Awgrymaf y dylech ailgyfeirio'r cwestiwn hwnnw i Edwina Hart a gafodd drafodaethau gyda'r gweinyddiaethau amrywiol ddoe. Yr wyf yn sicr y bydd yn fwy na pharod i ateb y cwestiwn hwnnw.

Mewn perthynas â'r hyn a ddywedod y Prif Weinidog ddoe, a gamadroddwyd yn *The Western Mail*—rhywbeth sydd yn digwydd yn eithaf aml—yr hyn a ddywedodd oedd cau pen y mwdwl ar y pedair wythnos diwethaf, nid ar Corus. Yr oedd yn gamddyfyniad llwyr a newidiodd natur y stori, ac yr wyf yn sicr y bydd *The Western Mail* yn cyhoeddi ymddiheuriad.

Soniasoch am y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd; rhoddodd Comisiynydd Barnier rywfaint o obaith inni am y ffordd yr edrychwn ar ein rhaglenni. Dywedodd y byddai cyflymu ar gyflwyniad rhai o'r pwyntiau ffocws yn y rhaglen yn sgîl y colledion swyddi yn dderbyniol i'r Comisiwn. Rhaid cadw hyn mewn cof yn ystod yr wythnosau nesaf, os na lwyddwn i newid meddwl Corus. Credaf fod hyn yn cwmpasu eich holl bwyntiau.

Tom Middlehurst: Cyfeiriais yn gynharach at fy ymweliad â Toyota ddydd Iau diwethaf. Clywsom y datganiad ofnadwy a ddinistriodd gymunedau dur ledled Cymru ar y diwrnod hwnnw. Treuliais yr ychydig ddyddiau diwethaf yn ceisio dirnad canlyniadau'r newyddion hwnnw. Ceir dicter amlwg yn y cymunedau dur ledled Cymru, ac yn fy etholaeth i yn arbennig. Mynegir y dicter hwn yn helaeth mewn iaith egwyddorol ac anegwyddorol.

Heddiw, rhaid cefnogi cynigion mudiad yr undebau llafur gant y cant. Mae'r

proposals. Through the moratorium they have an opportunity that was hitherto denied to them. Perhaps Corus has come to terms at last with its responsibilities and is responding to the trade unions' justified request for discussions on their proposals. We need to demonstrate our unanimous support for the trade unions' initiative. We should welcome, as I do, the declaration of international solidarity from trade unions in Holland in the face of unbridled international capitalism. Now we must prepare for 'plan B' if the strong pressure now being exerted by trade unions and the industry fails.

3:20 p.m.

Do you agree that the casualties of Corus's decisions, wherever the axe may fall, must be treated fairly and equitably, and that every effort will be made to put a support package into place that would reflect what was available previously under ISERB? Will you consider, in other words, a sum of ISERBs to deal with a mass redundancy if the worst comes to the worst? The magnitude of this announcement has sent communities reeling. The first hurt will be felt by those given their notices first. The Corus announcement was accompanied by a programme and a timetable. Will you assure me that that will be taken into account in prioritising the programme of action that we put into place? I am acutely conscious that Shotton is early in that programme of savage cuts. There is a young workforce in Shotton, which is a disadvantage and an advantage. It is an advantage in that mainly young men—and they are men—will have an opportunity to perhaps find work and take their skills elsewhere. It is a disadvantage in that they carry considerable financial burdens. The trade unions are looking for measures that will assist those people to make a transition from redundancy to new work opportunities. I hope that you will consider those issues seriously.

Michael German: I can give you an absolute assurance on behalf of the National Assembly for Wales and the Cabinet that we are putting our full weight into supporting the trade unions in their campaign to reverse Corus's

moratorium wedi rhoi cyfle a wrthodwyd iddynt hyd yma. Efallai bod Corus wedi derbyn ei gyfrifoldebau o'r diwedd ac yn ymateb i gais teg yr undebau llafur i gynnal trafodaethau ar eu cynigion. Mae angen inni arddangos ein cefnogaeth unfrydol tuag at fenter yr undebau llafur. Dylem groesawu, fel yr wyf i, y datganiad o undod rhyngwladol gan yr undebau llafur yn yr Iseldiroedd yn wyneb cyfalafiaeth rhyngwladol amlwg. Rhaid paratoi yn awr ar gyfer 'cynllun B' os na fydd y pwysau cryf a roddir gan yr undebau llafur a'r diwydiant yn llwyddo.

A gytunwch y bydd yn rhaid trin y rhai fydd yn dioddef yn sgil penderfyniad Corus, lle bynnag y digwydd y diswyddiadau, yn deg ac y gwneir pob ymdrech i lunio pecyn cymorth a fydd yn adlewyrchu'r hyn a oedd ar gael ynghynt o dan ISERB? A wnewch chi ystyried, mewn geiriau eraill, swm o ISERB i ymdrin â diswyddiadau ar raddfa fawr os daw'r sefyllfa waethaf yn wir? Mae maint y cyhoeddiad hwn wedi brawychu cymunedau. Y rhai fydd yn dioddef gyntaf fydd y rhai sydd yn cael eu diswyddo gyntaf. Cyhoeddwyd rhaglen ac amserlen yr un pryd â chyhoeddiad Corus. A wnewch chi fy sicrhau yr ystyrir hyn wrth flaenoriaethu'r rhaglen weithredu a sefydlwyd gennym? Yr wyf yn gwbl ymwybodol y bydd Shotton yn profi'r rhaglen o doriadau creulon yn fuan. Gweithlu ifanc sydd yn Shotton, sydd yn anfantais ac yn fantais. Mae'n fantais oherwydd y caiff y mwyafrif ohonynt sydd yn ddynion ifanc—ac maent yn ddynion—gyfle efallai i ddod o hyd i waith a defnyddio eu sgiliau rywle arall. Mae'n anfantais oherwydd bod ganddynt oll feichiau ariannol sylweddol. Mae'r undebau llafur yn ceisio canfod mesurau a fydd yn cynorthwyo'r bobl hynny i wneud y trosglwyddiad o gael eu diswyddo i gyfleoedd gwaith newydd. Gobeithiaf y byddwch yn ystyried y materion hynny o ddifrif.

Michael German: Gallaf roi sicrwydd pendant ar ran Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru a'r Cabinet ein bod yn cefnogi'r undebau llafur yn llwyr yn eu hymgyrch i wrthdroi penderfyniadau Corus. Byddwn yn

decisions. We will support them, as I said earlier in reply to Phil's question, in whatever they might want to do to progress their purchase by workers of certain plants in Wales. You refer to plan B. Everyone must be treated fairly and equitably, as well as quickly. You referred to a sum of ISERB's, that is the support that people want for themselves and their families while they are in training. We must address that issue head on, because if the skills do not match the skills that are needed in other industries, people will need to retrain, and will have family commitments that they have to maintain.

What is shocking, and we ought to recognise this, is that the steel workforce in Wales is young. There are not many people over the age of 50 still working in our steelworks in Wales. The average age is between 35 and 45 years old. They are people with young families, whose children are in school and for whom the first essential question is about their home and family. I can understand that. The action that we are about to take and the timetable that we have put in place must recognise that. I also recognise the timetable. Hidden behind the detail of Corus's announcement last week was a staged timetable. For many plants, this will not happen next year or the year after, but will be put into train rapidly. In Shotton, for example, there are 200 workers whose notice comes out at the end of February. Yet, on 1 March, according to their timetable, everyone else who will be made redundant will receive their notice. The process goes on almost inexorably. We must recognise that the redundancies already announced must be rolled into redundancies that are about to be announced if the unions fail in their objectives. You have my absolute assurance that the four pillars of help that I announced earlier will be in place and will be ready as soon as the buttons have to be pushed. I sincerely hope, however, that we will not have to push those buttons.

Alun Cairns: The Minister's comments in relation to the euro a little earlier were quite outrageous. It is widely accepted that Corus management has been critical of the

eu cefnogi, fel y dywedais yn gynharach wrth ateb cwestiwn Phil, beth bynnag y dymunant ei wneud wrth i weithwyr geisio prynu rhai gweithfeydd yng Nghymru. Cyfeiriwch at gynllun B. Rhaid trin pawb yn deg, yn ogystal â chyflym. Soniasoch am y swm o ISERB, sef y gefnogaeth sydd ei hangen ar bobl ar eu cyfer hwy eu hunain a'u teuluoedd tra byddant yn hyfforddi. Rhaid mynd i'r afael â'r mater hwnnw yn gadarn, oherwydd os na fydd y sgiliau'n cyd-fynd â'r sgiliau sydd eu hangen mewn diwydiannau eraill, bydd angen ailhyfforddi pobl a bydd ganddynt ymrwymadau teuluol i'w cynnal.

Yr hyn sydd yn frawychus, a dylem gydnabod hyn, yw bod y gweithlu dur yng Nghymru yn ifanc. Nid oes llawer o bobl dros 50 oed sydd yn dal i weithio yng ngweithfeydd dur Cymru. Yr oedran ar gyfartaledd yw rhwng 35 a 45 oed. Maent yn bobl â theuluoedd ifanc, y mae eu plant yn yr ysgol a'r peth pwysicaf iddynt hwy yw eu cartref a'u teulu. Gallaf ddeall hynny. Rhaid i'r camau gweithredu a gymerwn a'r amserlen a drefnwn gydnabod hynny. Cydnabyddaf hefyd yr amserlen. Yr oedd amserlen benodol y tu ôl i gyhoeddiad Corus yr wythnos diwethaf. I nifer o'r lleoliadau, ni ddigwydd hyn y flwyddyn nesaf na'r flwyddyn ganlynol, ond caiff ei weithredu'n gyflym. Yn Shotton, er enghraifft, caiff 200 o weithwyr rybudd diswyddo ar ddiwedd mis Chwefror. Er hynny, ar 1 Mawrth, yn ôl yr amserlen, bydd pawb arall sydd yn colli eu swyddi yn derbyn eu rhybudd. Â'r broses yn ei blaen yn ddi-ildio bron. Rhaid inni gydnabod bod yn rhaid i'r diswyddiadau a gyhoeddwyd eisoes yn ychwanegol at y diswyddiadau sydd ar fin cael eu cyhoeddi os bydd yr undebau yn methu â chyflawni eu hamcanion. Rhoddaf fy sicrwydd llwyr ichi y bydd y cymorth a gyhoeddais yn gynharach wedi'i sefydlu ac yn barod i'w roi ar waith cyn gynted ag y bydd angen pwyso'r botymau. Fodd bynnag, gobeithiaf o waelod calon na fydd yn rhaid inni bwysu'r botymau hynny.

Alun Cairns: Yr oedd sylwadau'r Gweinidog am yr ewro yn gynharach yn warthus. Gwyddom fod rheolwyr Corus wedi beirniadu'r ansicrwydd a grëwyd gan y

uncertainty that has been fostered by this Government over the euro. When the Conservative Party wins the next general election, industry will know where we stand on this issue, but it is not at all clear where this Government stands. One minute Gordon is saying yes, and the other minute Tony is saying no, and the following day it is vice versa. That is the uncertainty that has partly led—

The Presiding Officer: Order. This statement is about steel. It is not about Westminster politics.

Alun Cairns: I will now move on to the Minister's statement. He stated that the Government is preparing for the worst and that yesterday afternoon, it agreed a broad outline of contingency plans. Is that not rather late? You agree on a contingency plan after the announcements were made. The First Minister demonstrated on a television programme last week that he had no contingency plan. You are now scraping together soft policies and spin. The people of Wales demand action immediately. They do not want a contingency plan for the long-term future. They need an economic development strategy with specific policies, not broad questions asking people what you should do. I do not know why you do not send out a blank piece of paper saying that you are in Government, but you are looking for ideas and what can people offer.

Michael German: The blank piece of paper is the Conservative party manifesto, is it not? First, Alun, if you want to know what the situation is in respect of currency, listen to what Ian McAllister said yesterday and reflect upon it quietly at home where you can come to a sensible decision. You have chosen to misrepresent the use of the word contingency. I regret that. The reason for the word contingency is that it is a contingency against the workers and their work not being successful. I wonder whether you support what the trade unions are saying? If you do, you will want me to put the word contingency in this document and not take it out. I would be grateful if the Conservative party could tell us whether it supports this

Llywodraeth hon mewn perthynas â'r ewro. Pan fydd y Blaid Geidwadol yn ennill yr etholiad cyffredinol nesaf, bydd diwydiant yn gwybod beth fydd ein barn am hyn, ond nid yw'n glir beth yw barn y Llywodraeth hon. Un funud mae Gordon yn dweud ie, a'r funud wedyn mae Tony yn dweud na, ac yna mae'r ddau'n gwrthddweud eu hunain y diwrnod wedyn. Dyna'r ansicrwydd sydd wedi arwain yn rhannol at—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Dur yw pwnc y datganiad hwn. Nid yw'n ymwneud â gwleidyddiaeth San Steffan.

Alun Cairns: Soniaf yn awr am ddatganiad y Gweinidog. Dywedodd fod y Llywodraeth yn cytuno ar gyfer y gwaethaf a'i fod wedi cytuno ar amlinelliad cyffredinol o gynlluniau wrth gefn brynhawn ddoe? Onid yw hyn braidd yn hwyr? Yr ydych yn cytuno ar gynllun wrth gefn ar ôl i'r cyhoeddiadau gael eu gwneud. Profodd y Prif Weinidog ar raglen deledu yr wythnos diwethaf nad oedd ganddo gynllun wrth gefn. Yn awr, yr ydych yn crafu polisiau meddal a sbin at ei gilydd. Mae pobl Cymru yn mynnu i chi weithredu ar unwaith. Nid ydynt am gael cynllun wrth gefn ar gyfer y dyfodol tymor hir. Mae angen strategaeth datblygu economaidd arnynt gyda pholisiau penodol, nid cwestiynau cyffredinol yn gofyn i bobl beth ddylech ei wneud. Ni wn pam na wnewch chi anfon darn gwag o bapur yn dweud mai chi sydd yn llywodraethu, ond eich bod yn chwilio am syniadau a'r hyn y gall pobl ei gynnig.

Michael German: Onid maniffesto'r blaid Geidwadol yw'r darn gwag o bapur? Yn gyntaf, Alun, os ydych am wybod beth yw'r sefyllfa o ran arian, gwrandewch ar yr hyn a ddywedodd Ian McAllister ddoe ac ysytyried hyn yn ofalus gartref lle gallwch lunio penderfyniad synhwyrol. Yr ydych wedi penderfynu camddehongli'r defnydd o'r geiriau wrth gefn. Mae'n edifar gennyf am hynny. Y rheswm dros ddefnyddio'r geiriau wrth gefn yw ei fod yn gynllun wrth gefn os na fydd y gweithwyr a'u gwaith yn llwyddo. A ydych yn cefnogi'r hyn a ddywed yr undebau llafur? Os ydych, byddwch am imi roi'r geiriau wrth gefn yn y ddogfen hon yn hytrach na'u dileu. Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallai'r blaid Geidwadol ddweud pa un ai a

vital work that the trade unions are undertaking to try and protect work in Wales. We know that Corus only took short-term decisions and did not look at the medium to long-term. I said that, and I have given you the headlines of that programme. You must take it from me that the programme will be ready if we have to push the red button. I do not want to push it.

Peter Law: I regret that it has been necessary to trivialise this debate because of the wild banter from the Muppet show on the Conservative side of the Chamber. This is a serious subject for these affected communities and we should all concentrate on it.

Alun Cairns: It needs action.

Peter Law: I have seen your type of action before. I fully agree with the Minister on his strategy this afternoon, and I welcome his commitment to fight. We must do that at present. I hope that after 14 February the Minister for Assembly Business will arrange an early opportunity for a debate on the outcome of those discussions. That is vital. Without a shadow of a doubt, there must be a contingency plan. Nobody is accepting any closures at present. In an isolated area such as Ebbw Vale—which I represent—a taskforce has been in place since 1975. Despite good work by the Government, the Welsh Development Agency and local authorities, we have never achieved the amount of jobs that we once had. Diversification is welcome, but large companies are needed. Few, sadly, have come to Ebbw Vale in 25 years. That calls for a radical approach. Does the Minister agree? Bearing in mind the high value of these Corus jobs to a depressed community, would he be prepared, when appropriate, to meet with Corus and the trade unions to discuss providing some financial resources to retain these quality jobs at a plant with a full order book and a skilled and loyal workforce? The loss of such a plant would be a terrible psychological blow and an economic disaster to an already poor community.

dynt yn cenfogi'r gwaith holl bwysig hwn a wna'r undebau llafur i geisio diogelu gwaith yng Nghymru. Gwyddom mai penderfyniadau tymor byr yn unig oedd rhai Corus ac na wnaethant ystyried y tymor canolig a'r tymor hir. Dywedais hynny, a rhoddais benawdau'r rhaglen honno i chi. Rhaid i chi gymryd fy ngair y bydd y rhaglen yn barod os bydd yn rhaid inni bwysio'r botwm coch. Nid wyf yn dymuno ei bwysio.

Peter Law: Mae'n anffodus y bu'n rhaid bychanu'r ddadl hon oherwydd y cellwair gwyllt gan y 'Muppet show' ar ochr y Ceidwadwyr o'r Siambr. Mae hwn yn bwnc difrifol iawn i'r cymunedau yr effeithir arnynt a dylem oll ganolbwyntio ar hynny.

Alun Cairns: Mae angen gweithredu ar hyn.

Peter Law: Yr wyf wedi gweld eich math chi o weithredu o'r blaen. Cytunaf yn llwyr â'r Gweinidog ar ei strategaeth y prynhawn yma, a chroesawaf ei ymrwymiad i frwydro. Rhaid inni wneud hyn ar hyn o bryd. Gobeithiaf y bydd y Trefnydd, ar ôl 14 Chwefror, yn trefnu cyfle cynnar i gynnal dadl ar ganlyniad y trafodaethau hynny. Mae hynny'n holl bwysig. Nid oes amheuaeth y dylem gael cynllun wrth gefn. Nid oes unrhyw un yn derbyn unrhyw ddiswyddiadau ar hyn o bryd. Mewn ardal anghysbell fel Glynebwy—ardal a gynrychiolaf—mae tasglu wedi bod mewn grym ers 1975. Er gwaethaf y gwaith da a wnaethpwyd gan y Llywodraeth, Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru ac awdurdodau lleol, nid ydym erioed wedi llwyddo i sicrhau nifer y swyddi ag a fu yn y gorffennol. Mae arallgyfeirio yn beth i'w groesawu, ond mae angen cwmnïau mawr. Yn anffodus, nid oes llawer ohonynt wedi dod i Lynebwy mewn 25 mlynedd. Mae hyn yn gofyn am ymagwedd radical. Oni chytuna'r Gweinidog? Gan gadw mewn cof werth pwysig swyddi Corus i gymuned ddirwasgedig, a fyddai ef yn barod, pan fydd yn briodol, i gwrdd â Corus a'r undebau llafur i drafod darparu rhywfaint o adnoddau ariannol er mwyn cadw'r swyddi da hyn mewn safle sydd â llyfr archebion llawn a gweithlu crefftus a theyrngar? Byddai colli safle o'r fath yn ergyd seicolegol drom ac yn drychineb economaidd i gymuned sydd

eisoes yn un dlawd.

Michael German: You spoke much truth. First, the Minister for Assembly Business is nodding agreement that a debate after 14 February would be appropriate if we fail to retain the jobs. It is a matter of great regret that Ebbw Vale must face what this company intends—a death wish for a community. I agree that it will need a radical approach. I am happy to meet with union representatives and the company management. One of the examples to which we can look—and I know that this Assembly will always do that—is Tower Colliery. On the other end of the heads of the Valleys, we saw a company that management said was unprofitable. The workers bought it out and turned it around. That is an example of a successful company working hard and expanding daily against the odds. We must leave no stone unturned in this task of looking at alternative arrangements, to retain those vital skills of one of the most productive workforces in the world and the most productive workforce in Europe.

3:30 p.m.

William Graham: Will the Minister give an absolute commitment that nationalisation will not form any part of your plans for the future? That is a blind alley and it is about time that this shibboleth was nailed to the wall. It is an unquestioned economic judgment, that the nationalisation of steel was an unmitigated disaster. After 14 privately-owned firms were nationalised, a bloated dinosaur with 152,000 employees was created. It was then necessary for the Labour Government to undertake major reductions in steel production. Those reductions hit our communities in Wales as hard as those that are planned now. During the slim down of the 1980s there was a considerable economic downturn in south-east Wales. The people of south-east Wales rose to that challenge and created what can only be described as a success. Among steel men you will hear the name of Ian McGregor. He is not exactly a folk hero in south-east Wales, but steel men recognise that his expertise was able to make the British Steel Corporation a highly-competitive, well-funded, world-beating

Michael German: Siaradasoch lawer o wirionedd. Yn gyntaf, mae'r Trefnydd yn amneidio y byddai dadl ar ôl 14 Chwefror yn briodol os na lwyddwn i gadw'r swyddi. Mae'n drueni bod yn rhaid i Lynebwy wynebu bwriad y cwmni hwn—tranc cymuned. Cytunaf y bydd angen ymagwedd radical. Yr wyf yn fwy na pharod i gwrdd â chynrychiolwyr o'r undebau a rheolwyr y cwmni. Un o'r enghreifftiau y gallwn edrych arni—gwn fod y Cynulliad hwn yn barod i wneud hyn bob amser—yw Glofa'r Tŵr. Ar ben arall blaenau'r Cymoedd, gwelsom gwmni a oedd yn ôl y rheolwyr yn amhroffidiol. Prynwyd y cwmni gan y gweithwyr a gwnaethant iddo lwyddo. Mae hon yn enghraifft o gwmni llwyddiannus yn gweithio'n galed ac yn ehangu'n ddyddiol er gwaethaf popeth. Ni ddylem ddiystyru unrhyw beth yn y dasg hon o geisio trefniadau amgen, er mwyn cadw sgiliau hanfodol un o'r gweithluoedd mwyaf cynhyrchiol yn y byd ac un o'r gweithluoedd mwyaf cynhyrchiol yn Ewrop.

William Graham: A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi sicrwydd llwyr na fydd gwladoli'n ffurfio unrhyw ran o'ch cynlluniau ar gyfer y dyfodol? Llwybr pencaead yw hyn ac mae'n hen bryd anwybyddu'r sibolet hwn. Y farn economaidd bendant yngylch hyn yw y bu gwladoli'r diwydiant dur yn drychineb llwyr. Ar ôl gwladoli 14 o gwmnïau preifat, crëwyd deinasor chwyddedig gyda 152,000 o weithwyr. Yna bu'n rhaid i'r Llywodraeth Lafur leihau cynhyrchiant dur ar raddfa fawr. Bu'r gostyngiadau hynny yn ergyd yr un mor drom i'n cymunedau yng Nghymru ag y bydd y rhai a fwriedir yn awr. Yn ystod y broses o leihau yn yr 1980au gwelwyd dirywiad economaidd sylweddol yn ne ddwyrain Cymru. Esgynodd pobl de ddwyrain Cymru i'r sialens hon a chreu rhywbeth y gellir ond ei ddisgrifio fel llwyddiant. Ymhlith y dynion dur fe glywch enw Ian McGregor. Nid yw'n arwr yn ne ddwyrain Cymru fel y cyfryw, ond cydnabu dynion dur y llwyddodd ei arbenigedd i sicrhau bod y Gorfforaeth Ddur Brydeinig yn gwmni cystadleuol iawn, wedi'i ariannu'n dda, ac ymhlith y gorau yn y byd.

company. It exported Welsh steel and expertise. It created a modernised and well-funded industry with a well-equipped, skilled and dedicated workforce. Does the Minister agree that nationalisation should not form any part of your plans? It does not ensure job security—quite the reverse. What more of an example do we need than the socialist paradise of the former Soviet Union?

Michael German: Neither the National Assembly nor I have powers to nationalise and therefore it is unlikely to feature strongly in any proposals that I will bring before the Assembly. However, I do not believe that nationalisation is a contender. That is not for any emotional or philosophical reason, but because of the problems of financing it. We estimate that it would probably cost over £3 billion to purchase the company. However, Peter Law and others quite properly raised the issue of the workforce having the opportunity to take over a company and run it for itself, in the way that Tower Colliery's workforce did. That is an acceptable approach, and the National Assembly can support it in every way possible.

The Presiding Officer: A further statement on steel will follow. I will take two more questions on this statement. Any Members whom I have not been able to call to ask questions on this statement, I will call on the following statement. I am sure their questions will be equally relevant, as the answers will certainly be.

Ron Davies: I support the strategy that you are following Mike, which I consider to be hoping for the best but preparing for the worst. If we are faced with the worst option, do you accept that we will face a bill running into tens if not hundreds of millions of pounds? It will place unprecedented and extreme pressure on the budgets of the local authorities involved, bodies such as the Welsh Development Agency and the TECs, and on the National Assembly's own programmes. Bearing in mind that two thirds of Wales qualifies for Objective 1 status and that it is among the poorest parts of Europe, with less than 75 per cent of the European average of gross domestic product per capita,

Yr oedd yn allforio dur ac arbenigedd o Gymru. Creodd ddiwydiant modern wedi'i ariannu'n dda gyda gweithlu cymwys, crefftus ac ymrwymedig. Onid yw'r Gweinidog yn cytuno na ddylai gwladoli ffurfio unrhyw ran o'n cynlluniau? Nid yw'n sicrhau sicrwydd swyddi—i'r gwrthwyneb. Pa well enghraifft sydd ei hangen arnom na pharadwys sosialaidd yr hen Undeb Sofietaidd?

Michael German: Nid oes gennyf i na'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol y pwerau i wladoli ac felly mae'n annhebygol y bydd yn nodwedd amlwg mewn unrhyw gynigion a gyflwynaf gerbron y Cynulliad. Fodd bynnag, ni chredaf bod gwladoli'n gystadleuwr. Nid yw hyn am unrhyw reswm emosïynol neu athronyddol, ond oherwydd y broblem o'i ariannu. Amcangyfrifwn y byddai'n debygol o gostio dros £3 biliwn i brynu'r cwmni. Fodd bynnag, yr oedd yn briodol i Peter Law ac eraill godi'r mater o'r gweithlu yn cael cyfle i brynu'r cwmni a'i redeg eu hunain, yn yr un ffordd ag y gwnaeth gweithlu Glofa'r Tŵr. Mae hon yn ymagwedd dderbyniol, a gall y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol gefnogi hyn ym mhob ffordd bosibl.

Y Llywydd: Bydd datganiad pellach ar ddur i ddilyn. Derbyniaf ddau gwestiwn arall ar y datganiad hwn. Galwaf ar unrhyw Aelodau na chawsant gyfle i ofyn cwestiynau ar y datganiad hwn i wneud hynny ar y datganiad canlynol. Yr wyf yn sicr y bydd eu cwestiynau yr un mor berthnasol, oherwydd bydd yr atebion yn sicr o fod.

Ron Davies: Cefnogaf y strategaeth yr ydych yn ei dilyn Mike, sef gobeithio'r gorau ond paratoi ar gyfer y gwaethaf. Pe byddem yn wynebu'r opsiwn gwaethaf, a fyddech yn derbyn y byddwn yn wynebu bil a allai fod yn gannoedd o filiynau o bunnoedd? Rhydd bwysau digyffelyb a difrifol ar gyllidebau'r holl awdurdodau lleol dan sylw, cyrff fel Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru a'r CHMau, ac ar raglenni'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ei hun. Gan gofio bod dwy ran o dair o Gymru'n gymwys ar gyfer statws Amcan 1 a'i bod ymhlith y rhannau tlotaf yn Ewrop, gyda llai na 75 y cant o gyfartaledd Ewrop o'r cynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth y pen, oni fyddech yn cytuno y byddai gosod costau

do you agree that it would be wrong were the additional costs of the remedial programmes to fall on people who are among the poorest in Europe? Do you accept that if we are to face these additional costs, they can only be met fairly by an additional contribution from the Exchequer? The suggestion in Saturday's *The Western Mail* that we should be prepared to forgo those items of expenditure out of income—which are already our agreed entitlements—as a quid pro quo for receiving additional help should be dismissed with absolute contempt as the unscrupulous blackmail that it is.

Michael German: Pressure on the budgets and whether additional costs should be claimed from the UK Government are matters that the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities will deal with in the statement that follows. If she fails to address the points that you have raised, you could take them up with her afterwards.

Rod Richards: I would be grateful if the Deputy First Minister would take out his blank sheet of paper. It would match the blank look on his face and the blankness of the ideas that we have heard so far. On his blank sheet of paper perhaps he would like to write the following: speak to the Chancellor about the proposed energy tax; speak to the Chancellor about bringing down fuel tax; speak to his own Government about getting rid of the working time Directive; speak to his own Government about unravelling all of the red tape that this Government has imposed on businesses; and finally, end the uncertainty over the euro. He may describe those of us who do not approve of joining the euro as extremists. I find that word offensive. If this Government were to end the uncertainty, I am sure business in this country would flourish as a consequence.

Michael German: I note your bid to get back into the Conservative Party in the National Assembly. I would urge caution in this matter because this is an issue of great seriousness. The National Assembly must take hard action, if we have no option after 14 February. I have no qualms whatsoever about

ychwanegol rhaglenni adfer ar y bobl hynny sydd ymhlith y tlotaf yn Ewrop yn anghywir? A dderbyniwch os bydd yn rhaid inni wynebu'r costau ychwanegol hyn, mai dim ond drwy gael cyfraniad ychwanegol gan y Trysorlys y gellir ymdrin â hwy yn deg? Dylid diystyru gyda dirmyg yr awgrymiad yn rhifyn dydd Sadwrn o *The Western Mail* y dylem fod yn barod i hepgor yr eitemau hynny o wariant o'r incwm—sef ein hawliau y cytunwyd arnynt eisoes—fel *quid pro quo* am dderbyn cymorth ychwanegol fel blacmel diegwyddor llwyr.

Michael German: Mae'r pwysau ar gyllidebau a ph un ai a ddylid gwneud cais am gostau ychwanegol gan Lywodraeth y DU yn faterion y bydd y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau yn ymdrin â hwy yn y datganiad i ddilyn. Os na fydd yn llwyddo i fynd i'r afael â'r pwyntiau a godwyd gennyh, gallech ei holi wedyn.

Rod Richards: Byddwn yn ddiolchgar petai'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn tynnu'i ddarn gwag o bapur allan. Byddai'n cyfateb â'r olwg wag sydd ar ei wyneb a gwacter y syniadau a glywsom hyd yma. Ar ei ddarn gwag o bapur efallai yr hoffai ysgrifennu'r canlynol: siarad â'r Canghellor ynghylch y treth ynni arfathedig; siarad â'r Canghellor ynghylch lleihau treth tanwydd; siarad â'i Lywodraeth ei hun ynghylch diddymu'r Gyfarwydddeb amser gweithio; siarad â'i Lywodraeth ei hun ynghylch cael gwared ar yr holl fiwrocratiaeth y mae'r Llywodraeth hon wedi'i osod ar fusnesau; ac yn olaf, cael gwared ar yr ansicrwydd ynghylch yr ewro. Efallai y bydd yn disgrifio'r rhai hynny ohonom nad ydym yn cytuno i ymuno â'r ewro fel eithafwyr. Mae'r gair hwnnw'n sarhaus. Petai'r Llywodraeth hon yn cael gwared ar yr ansicrwydd, yr wyf yn sicr y byddai busnes yn y wlad hon yn ffynnu o ganlyniad.

Michael German: Sylwais ar eich ymgais i ddychwelyd i'r Blaid Geidwadol yn y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Byddwn yn arfer pwyll ar y mater hwn am ei fod yn fater mor ddifrifol. Rhaid i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol weithredu'n gadarn, os na fydd gennym opsiwn ar ôl 14 Chwefror. Nid oes gennyf

the programme that is before us and the programme of amelioration that was put before the company, which reflected many of the issues about which you are complaining.

unrhyw amheumon am y rhaglen ger ein bron a'r rhaglen o wellhad a gyflwynwyd gerbron y cwmni, a adlewyrchodd lawer o'r materion yr ydych yn cwyno yn eu cylch.

Datganiad ar Drafodaethau gyda Gweinidogion y DU ar Corus Statement on Discussions with UK Ministers on Corus

The Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities (Edwina Hart): The First Minister, the Secretary of State for Wales and I had a positive and constructive series of discussions in London yesterday with the Prime Minister, Andrew Smith, Stephen Byers, David Blunkett and Tessa Jowell on the overall shape and possible component parts of a remedial package. There was a most encouraging recognition of the seriousness of the current situation for Wales, but a strong resolve to support the trade unions' strategy of engaging with Corus to find alternatives to last week's appalling decisions.

It is vital that the company engages with the unions during the remainder of the 14-day consultation period—having failed to do so up to this point—as no genuine and viable options for saving jobs should be excluded. I am aware from my discussions today with Tom Middlehurst, Peter Law and other Assembly Members, that the unions are actively engaged at plant level—as in my own constituency—to look at every possible means, including workers buy-outs, to try to protect their jobs. As an Assembly, we must ensure that we give them maximum support.

Against this background, the trade unions have asked that no package of measures be finalised and announced until they have had the opportunity to put their case. The First Minister received a letter asking for that intention to be made known to Assembly Members. I intend to fully respect their wishes. Assembly Ministers will visit the plants affected to lend their support to the unions' approach. It is essential that we are seen to support the unions in what is a difficult time for them and their members. The Assembly should be in no doubt that we

Y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau (Edwina Hart): Cafodd Prif Weinidog Cymru, Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru a minnau gyfres gadarnhaol ac adeiladol o drafodaethau yn Llundain ddoe gyda'r Prif Weinidog, Andrew Smith, Stephen Byers, David Blunkett a Tessa Jowell ar ffurf gyffredinol a chydannau posibl o becyn adferol. Cydnabuwyd mewn ffordd galonogol iawn ddifrifoldeb y sefyllfa bresennol i Gymru, ond penderfynwyd yn gryf gefnogi strategaeth yr undebau llafur i drafod â Corus er mwyn dod o hyd i ddewisiadau amgen i'r penderfyniadau ofnadwy a gyhoeddwyd yr wythnos diwethaf.

Mae'n hanfodol bod y cwmni yn trafod â'r undebau llafur yn ystod gweddill y cyfnod ymgynghorol 14 diwrnod—gan ei fod wedi methu â gwneud hynny hyd yma—oherwydd na ddylid anwybyddu unrhyw opsiynau dilys ac ymarferol i achub swyddi. Yr wyf yn ymwybodol yn sgîl fy nhrafodaethau heddiw â Tom Middlehurst, Peter Law ac Aelodau eraill o'r Cynulliad, bod yr undebau yn cymryd rhan frwd yn y gweithfeydd—fel yn fy etholaeth i fy hun—gan geisio edrych ar bob ffordd bosibl, gan gynnwys y posibilrwydd y gallai'r gweithwyr brynu'r gweithfeydd, er mwyn ceisio diogelu eu swyddi. Fel Cynulliad, rhaid inni sicrhau y rhoddwn y gefnogaeth fwyaf iddynt.

Yn erbyn y cefndir hwn, gofynnodd yr undebau llafur iddynt ohirio cwblhau a chyhoeddi unrhyw becyn o fesurau hyd nes iddynt gael y cyfle i ddweud eu dweud. Derbyniodd Prif Weinidog Cymru lythyr yn gofyn i Aelodau'r Cynulliad gael gwybod am y bwriad hwnnw. Bwriadaf barchu eu dymuniadau yn llwyr. Bydd Gweinidogion y Cynulliad yn ymweld â'r gweithfeydd yr effeithir arnynt er mwyn dangos eu cefnogaeth i ymagwedd yr undebau. Mae'n hanfodol y gwelir ein bod yn cefnogi'r undebau yn ystod y cyfnod anodd hwn iddynt

are working on detailed contingency plans in the event that unions' efforts prove unsuccessful. These have been alluded to by the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economic Development in all the discussions that he undertook yesterday to get those component parts together.

It will be a package tailored to meet the immediate needs of the people—because, first and foremost, the Corus announcement is a human tragedy—but also to meet the regeneration and economic development needs of each area of Wales affected by the announcement. The needs are different in each area. We must recognise those differences and have a strategy to deal with them. To this end, we are working in close consultation with the local authorities, the Welsh Development Agency, training and enterprise councils, the Employment Service and others. I stress again that I shall not be drawn this afternoon on the details of the proposed package. That would be premature and undermine the efforts to save jobs. Work is ongoing. We have already had helpful indications of what can be done. Commissioner Barnier has announced that he is prepared to refocus structural funds programmes within existing boundaries in Wales to address the situation should the job losses be confirmed.

I will return to London on 8 February for further discussions with ministerial colleagues in Whitehall, and I shall report again to the Assembly at the earliest opportunity thereafter.

Dafydd Wigley: I thank Edwina for that statement, but there are several questions that arise from it, including some that were put to Mike German, which he deftly passed on for Edwina to answer. First, if Edwina, this Government and the Westminster Government are seriously considering the alternative of an employee and trade union management buy-out—a Tower colliery-type solution, to which Mike German referred—or any such proposal within a 14-day programme, will she confirm that indications are being given to the trade unions of the

hwy a'u haelodau. Ni ddylai'r Cynulliad amau ein bod yn gweithio ar gynlluniau manwl wrth gefn rhag ofn na fydd ymdrechion yr undebau yn llwyddo. Crybwyllwyd y rhain gan Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog Cymru a Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd ym mhob un o'r trafodaethau yr ymgwymerodd â hwy ddoe er mwyn cael y cydrannau hynny ynghyd.

Caiff y pecyn ei deilwra i fodloni anghenion cyntaf y bobl—oherwydd, yn gyntaf oll, trychineb ddynol yw cyhoeddiad Corus—ond hefyd i fodloni anghenion adfywio a datblygu economaidd pob ardal yng Nghymru yr effeithir arni gan y cyhoeddiad. Mae'r anghenion yn wahanol ym mhob ardal. Rhaid inni gydnabod y gwahaniaethau hynny a llunio strategaeth i ddelio â hwy. At y diben hwn, cydweithiwn yn agos â'r awdurdodau lleol, Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru, cynghorau hyfforddi a menter, y Gwasanaeth Cyflogi ac eraill. Pwysleisiaf unwaith eto na thrafodaf fanylion y pecyn arfaethedig y prynhawn yma. Byddai hynny'n gynamserol a byddai'n tanseilio'r ymdrechion i achub swyddi. Parha'r gwaith. Cawsom arwyddion defnyddiol eisoes o'r hyn y gellir ei wneud. Cyhoeddodd Comisiynydd Barnier ei fod yn fodlon ailffocysu rhaglenni cronfeydd strwythurol o fewn y ffiniau presennol yng Nghymru er mwyn rhoi sylw i'r sefyllfa os cadarnheir y diswyddiadau.

Dychwelaf i Lundain ar 8 Chwefror i drafod ymhellach â chyd-Weinidogion yn Whitehall, a chyflwynaf adroddiad arall i'r Cynulliad mor fuan â phosibl ar ôl hynny.

Dafydd Wigley: Diolchaf i Edwina am y datganiad hwnnw, ond mae nifer o gwestiynau sydd yn deillio ohono, gan gynnwys rhai a ofynnwyd i Mike German, a drosglwyddodd yn ddeheuig i Edwina er mwyn iddi hi eu hateb. Yn gyntaf, os yw Edwina, y Llywodraeth hon a Llywodraeth San Steffan yn ystyried o ddifrif yr opsiwn y gallai'r gweithwyr a'r undebau llafur brynu'r gwaith oddi wrth y rheolwyr—ateb fel Glofa'r Tŵr, y cyfeiriodd Mike German ato—neu unrhyw gynnig o'r fath o fewn rhaglen 14 diwrnod, a wnaiff hi gadarnhau y

amount of money available to the Government to make that option a runner? Without giving that information, the trade unions cannot be in a position to put forward a proposal to Corus or anyone else to take over responsibility. Will she give details of the exact figure that will be made available?

rhoddir arwyddion i'r undebau llafur ynghylch faint o arian sydd ar gael i'r Llywodraeth er mwyn gwneud yr opsiwn hwnnw'n bosibilrwydd? Heb roi'r wybodaeth honno, ni all yr undebau llafur fod mewn sefyllfa i gyflwyno cynnig i Corus nac unrhyw un arall i ymgymryd â'r cyfrifoldeb. A rydd fanylion am yr union swm a fydd ar gael?

3:40 p.m.

Secondly, in the event of such proposals coming forward, will Edwina give an assurance, as far as she can, on behalf of the Assembly's Government that support will be given to ensure that these jobs are maintained and that the fight for securing these jobs will not be abandoned until every possible alternative has been exhausted?

Yn ail, os cyflwynir cynigion o'r fath, a wnaiff Edwina roi sicrwydd, cyhyd ag y gall, ar ran Llywodraeth y Cynulliad y rhoddir cymorth i sicrhau y cedwir y swyddi hyn ac na roddir y gorau i'r frwydr i ddiogelu'r swyddi hyn hyd nes yr ymchwilir i bob opsiwn posibl?

Thirdly, if we come to the point where those alternatives have been exhausted and we face the real devastation that will befall communities such as Shotton, Gorseinon, Llanwern and particularly Ebbw Vale, where the effects are so devastating, will she give a categorical answer to the question that Phil Williams, Ron Davies and others raised earlier, namely that any money that will be used to meet this contingency will be over and above our existing budget and the Barnett formula allocation for the next three years? On refocusing structural funds, does Edwina think that it is unacceptable that unemployed people in Deiniolen, Blaenau Ffestiniog or Rhondda must sacrifice the opportunity to find work because a Government with so much money in the Treasury in London is unwilling to make additional resources available? Whichever option will be followed, it will cost hundreds of millions of pounds to solve this problem. That must be new money, which is over and above our existing budgets or there is no chance of finding a suitable solution to this tragic problem.

Yn drydydd, os cyrhaeddwn sefyllfa lle yr ymchwiliwyd i bob un o'r opsiynau hynny a lle y wynebwn y chwalfa wirioneddol a ddaw i gymunedau megis Shotton, Gorseinon, Llanwern ac yn enwedig Glynwby, lle y mae'r effaith mor dorcalonnus, a rydd ateb pendant i'r cwestiwn a godwyd gan Phil Williams, Ron Davies ac eraill yn gynharach, sef y rhoddir unrhyw arian a ddefnyddir i ddelio â'r sefyllfa annisgwyl hon yn ychwanegol at ein cyllideb bresennol a'r dyraniad fformwla Barnett dros y tair blynedd nesaf? O ran ailffocysu cronfeydd strwythurol, a gred Edwina ei bod yn annerbyniol bod yn rhaid i bobl ddi-waith yn Neiniolen, Blaenau Ffestiniog neu'r Rhondda aberthu'r cyfle i ddod o hyd i waith am fod Llywodraeth sydd â chymaint o arian yn y Trysorlys yn Llundain yn anfodlon rhoi adnoddau ychwanegol? Pa bynnag opsiwn a ddilynir, bydd yn costio cannoedd o filiynau o bunnoedd i ddatrys y broblem hon. Rhaid i'r arian hwnnw fod yn arian newydd, a gaiff ei roi yn ogystal â'n cyllidebau presennol neu nid oes gobaith dod o hyd i ateb addas i'r broblem drasig hon.

Edwina Hart: I am in the middle of a series of meetings and negotiations. I am too long in the tooth as a former trade union official to start talking about the deal that will be made. We must recognise that this is about negotiation and about getting the clear

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf yng nghanol cyfres o gyfarfodydd a negodiadau. Yr wyf yn rhy brofiadol fel cyn swyddog undeb llafur i ddechrau siarad am y fargen a wneir. Rhaid inni gydnabod bod hyn yn ymwneud â negodi a chael y darlun clir. Rhaid inni gydnabod

picture. We must also recognise that the job losses in Wales are great but that there has also been equity. If a job goes in Teeside, it is as devastating to the individual as a job lost in Ebbw Vale. These issues of equity and also how the situation is different in Wales must be addressed. Funds are a key area in terms of what would be required if the worst came to the worst and I am discussing this.

On your first point, the unions are aware of our position and that of the UK Government. There were discussions on what could have been done for Corus as a company prior to the announcement. We would be prepared to offer trade unions what we would have been prepared to offer Corus if they were looking at any buy-out arrangements. We must also recognise that it is for the unions themselves to decide what are viable options. No trade union would want to lead its workers in an unsustainable situation. When they come to us with a proposal we will be able to tell them how we can assist. We can assist them in the interim if they need technical help and advice through the WDA, for example. The Deputy First Minister has made clear the type of help that he is prepared to give in that area. We must also look at viable options at the end of it. The viability issue will be key in this.

I cannot comment on the speculation about nationalisation and our national need for steel, Dafydd, as that would be inappropriate. That is a matter for the Westminster Government and we must take it in that context. I can only assure you that, as Ron Davies mentioned, we must prepare for the worst. I hope that I will not have to put this package into operation in any shape or form and I am sure that we all agree on that. In preparing for the worst, every issue is up for grabs in terms of what is needed to regain sustainable development in some of these communities if these plants close.

John Griffiths: I also welcome the constructive discussions with UK Ministers. I strongly support the trade union's initiatives

hefyd bod nifer helaeth o ddiswyddiadau yng Nghymru ond y bu tegwch hefyd. Os collir swydd yn Teeside, mae yr un mor dorcalonnus i'r unigolyn â swydd a gollir yng Nglynebwy. Rhaid ymdrin â'r materion hyn o ran tegwch a hefyd sut y mae'r sefyllfa yn wahanol yng Nghymru. Mae cronfeydd yn faes allweddol o ran yr hyn y byddai ei angen pe deuai'r gwaethaf ac yr wyf yn trafod hyn.

Ynglŷn â'ch pwynt cyntaf, mae'r undebau yn ymwybodol o'n safbwynt ni a safbwynt Llywodraeth y DU. Cynhaliwyd trafodaethau am yr hyn y gellid bod wedi'i wneud ar gyfer Corus fel cwmni cyn y cyhoeddiad. Byddem yn fodlon cynnig i'r undebau llafur yr hyn y byddem wedi bod yn fodlon cynnig i Corus pe byddent yn ystyried unrhyw drefniadau i brynu gweithfeydd. Rhaid inni gydnabod hefyd mai'r undebau eu hunain a ddylai benderfynu beth yw'r opsiynau ymarferol. Ni fyddai unrhyw undeb llafur am arwain ei weithwyr i sefyllfa anghynaliadwy. Pan ddônt atom â chynnig, gallwn ddweud wrthynt sut y gallwn eu cynorthwyo. Gallwn eu cynorthwyo yn y cyfamser os bydd angen cymorth a chyingor technegol arnynt drwy'r WDA, er enghraifft. Esboniodd y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog y math o gymorth y mae'n fodlon ei roi yn y maes hwnnw. Rhaid inni edrych ar opsiynau ymarferol ar ddiwedd hyn hefyd. Bydd mater ymarferoldeb yn allweddol yn hyn o beth.

Ni allaf ddweud unrhyw beth am y damcaniaethu am wladoli a'n hangen cenedlaethol am ddur, Dafydd, am na fyddai hynny'n briodol. Mater i Lywodraeth San Steffan yw hwnnw a rhaid inni ymateb iddo yn y cyd-destun hwnnw. Ni allaf ond eich sicrhau, fel y crybwyllodd Ron Davies, bod yn rhaid inni baratoi am y gwaethaf. Gobeithiaf na fydd yn rhaid imi weithredu'r pecyn hwn ar unrhyw ffurf ac yr wyf yn siŵr bod pob un ohonom yn cytuno ar hynny. Wrth baratoi am y gwaethaf, mae pob mater i'w ystyried o ran yr hyn sydd ei angen i adennill datblygiad cynaliadwy mewn rhai o'r cymunedau hyn os bydd y gweithfeydd hyn yn cau.

John Griffiths: Croesawaf innau hefyd y trafodaethau adeiladol â Gweinidogion y DU. Cefnogaf yn gryf fentrau'r undebau llafur ac

and urge Corus to finally engage with the unions. If the worst occurs, do you agree that the need for new UK Government money will be great, given that around 2,000 jobs will be lost at Llanwern, including those of contractors and managers, in addition to last year's 450 jobs, 350 of which are yet to go? The lowest estimate of dependent jobs is 1:1, giving an overall figure approaching 5,000. The average disposable income involved is £20,000 per annum, which means that it would be a huge blow for the local economy and that the effects will spread far and wide into the Gwent Valleys and surrounding area. Throughout Wales, 750 suppliers provide £339 million worth of supplies and services to Corus, sometimes representing 50 per cent or more of its total turnover. In Newport East, the large Ringland council estate exists cheek by jowl with Llanwern and relies heavily on it for employment. It was already included in the 100 most deprived wards in Wales before this closure, which will lead to further deprivation.

Do you further agree that the Assembly's response to the situation in the worst affected areas will be a litmus test of devolution, by far the greatest test for the Assembly to date? There are considerable difficulties for a fledgling institution to try to respond to such a grave situation. Our constituents sometimes question what the Assembly has done. We know that it is the bread and butter issues that count with the people—primarily the economy and jobs. The people of Newport East, and its surrounding areas, as well as those of the other badly hit areas, want to know that the Assembly is with them in their fight to recover from the desperate situation that Corus has created. Do you agree that by our actions we must clearly and powerfully demonstrate that we will provide all the support, resources and commitment that these communities have every right to expect and demand?

Edwina Hart: When you consider the roll-call of job losses across Wales and England, you realise that these housing estates have

anogaf Corus i drafod â'r undebau o'r diwedd. Os digwydd y gwaethaf, a gytunwch y bydd yr angen am arian newydd o Lywodraeth y DU yn fawr, o ystyried y collir tua 2,000 o swyddi yn Llanwern, gan gynnwys swyddi contractwyr a rheolwyr, yn ogystal â'r 450 o ddiswyddiadau a gyhoeddwyd y llynedd, a 350 ohonynt heb fynd eto? Mae'r amcangyfrif isaf o swyddi sydd yn dibynnu ar y gwaith yn 1:1, gan roi ffigur cyfan sydd yn agos at 5,000. Mae'r incwm sydd ar gael i'w wario ar gyfartaledd yn £20,000 y flwyddyn, sydd yn golygu y byddai'n ergyd enfawr i'r economi leol ac y byddai'r effeithiau yn lledaenu'n eang i Gymoedd Gwent a'r cyffiniau. Ledled Cymru, rhydd 750 o gyflenwyr werth £339 miliwn o gyflenwadau a gwasanaethau i Corus, sydd ar adegau yn cynrychioli 50 y cant neu fwy o gyfanswm ei drosiant. Yn Nwyrain Casnewydd, mae ystad tai cyngor fawr Ringland yn bodoli foch ym moch â Llanwern a dibynna'n drwm arno am gyflogaeth. Cafodd ei chynnwys eisoes yn y 100 o wardiau mwyaf difreintiedig yng Nghymru cyn i'r gwaith hwn gau, a fydd yn arwain at ragor o amddifadedd.

A gytunwch ymhellach y bydd ymateb y Cynulliad i'r sefyllfa yn yr ardaloedd yr effeithir arnynt waethaf yn brawf litmws o ddatganoli, sef prawf mwyaf y Cynulliad hyd yma o bell ffordd? Ceir anawsterau sylweddol wrth i sefydliad newydd geisio ymateb i sefyllfa mor ddifrifol. Mae ein hetholwyr yn gofyn weithiau beth mae'r Cynulliad wedi'i wneud. Gwyddom mai'r materion bara menyn sydd yn cyfrif gyda'r bobl—yr economi a swyddi yn bennaf. Mae pobl Dwyrain Casnewydd, a'r cyffiniau, ynghyd â'r bobl o'r ardaloedd eraill yr effeithir arnynt yn wael, yn awyddus i wybod bod y Cynulliad yn cydweithio â hwy yn eu brwydr i godi ar eu traed ar ôl y sefyllfa enbyd a greodd Corus. A gytunwch fod yn rhaid inni ddangos yn glir ac yn rymus drwy'r camau a gymerwn y rhoddwn yr holl gymorth, adnoddau a'r ymrwymiad y mae gan y cymunedau hyn bob hawl i'w disgwyl a'u mynnu?

Edwina Hart: Pan ystyriwch y rhestr o ddiswyddiadau ledled Cymru a Lloegr, sylweddolwch fod gan yr ystadau tai hyn

close links with these large businesses, and what their closure will mean in terms of human tragedy. In the final analysis, the Assembly will be judged on what it can do. The UK Government will also be judged on the package that it will provide.

One feels a little like Don Quixote in the Assembly, tilting at the windmills of global capitalism. The realisation is that, in terms of what nation states are in the context of international companies, there is little room for manoeuvre if you consider how international business works. That is the most frustrating thing for us as politicians. You want to go in a certain direction, but the world has moved on since the day when you could send in gunboats to deal with certain issues. We will be judged by our commitments not just to the short-term solutions, which are important in terms of individuals and their training needs, but to the long-term solutions in terms of what we do to regenerate those communities by attracting new investment. The Assembly is in a difficult position at the moment as the trade unions try to get packages together. We want to be as supportive and upbeat as possible, but in our heart of hearts we know how difficult it is. We have to start talking about plan B. In some ways, we do not want to discuss plan B, but we have to get the deal right.

Nick Bourne: First, what surprises us greatly—and it is no reflection on the Finance Minister's abilities—is that, following the meeting yesterday between the First Minister and the Prime Minister, the First Minister did not inform us of what happened regarding the most important issue to face the Assembly for a long time. It is a matter of great surprise to us that he is not presenting this statement nor saying something about the other story in *The Western Mail* that only he can refute first hand.

We welcome any progress that can be made in reversing these decisions, but at the same time, I am sure that you would wish to join me in recognising that, while Edwina was tilting at international capitalism, we were welcoming jobs created by international

gysylltiadau agos â'r busnesau mawr hyn, a'r hyn a olyga o ran trychineb ddynol os cânt eu cau. Yn y pen draw, caiff y Cynulliad ei farnu ar yr hyn y gall ei wneud. Caiff Llywodraeth y DU ei barnu hefyd ar y pecyn a ddarpara.

Teimlwch ychydig fel Don Quixote yn y Cynulliad, gan anelu at felinau gwynt cyfalafiaeth fyd-eang. Sylweddolwch, o ran beth yw cenedl-wladwriaeth yng nghydestun cwmnïau rhyngwladol, nad oes llawer o le i symud, os ystyriwch sut y mae busnesau rhyngwladol yn gweithio. Dyna'r peth mwyaf rhwystredig inni fel gwleidyddion. Hoffech fynd i un cyfeiriad, ond mae'r byd wedi symud ymlaen ers y cyfnod pan allech ddefnyddio llong ryfel i ddelio â rhai materion. Cawn ein barnu yn ôl ein hymrwymiaadau nid yn unig i'r atebion tymor byr, sydd yn bwysig o ran unigolion a'u hanghenion hyfforddiant, ond i'r atebion tymor hir o ran yr hyn a wnawn i adfer y cymunedau hynny drwy ddenu buddsoddiad newydd. Mae'r Cynulliad mewn sefyllfa anodd ar hyn o bryd wrth i'r undebau llafur geisio sefydlu pecynnau. Dymunwn fod mor gefnogol ac optimistaidd â phosibl, ond yng ngwaelod ein calonau, gwyddom pa mor anodd ydyw. Rhaid inni ddechrau siarad am gynllun B. Mewn rhai ffyrdd, ni ddymunwn drafod cynllun B, ond rhaid inni gael y fargen yn iawn.

Nick Bourne: Yn gyntaf, yr hyn sydd yn ein synnu'n fawr—ac ni adlewyrcha allu'r Gweinidog dros Gyllid—yw na ddywedodd Prif Weinidog Cymru wrthym yr hyn a ddigwyddodd mewn perthynas â'r mater pwysicaf i wynebu'r Cynulliad ers amser maith, yn sgîl y cyfarfod ddoe rhyngddo a'r Prif Weinidog. Mae'n ein synnu'n fawr nad yw ef yn cyflwyno'r datganiad hwn ac na ddywed unrhyw beth am y stori arall a gafwyd yn *The Western Mail*, ac un na all unrhyw un ond ef ei gwrthbrofi'n uniongyrchol.

Croesawu unrhyw gynnydd y gellir ei wneud i wrthdroi'r penderfyniadau hyn, ond ar yr un pryd, yr wyf yn sicr yr hoffech ymuno â mi wrth gydnabod, tra bod Edwina yn anelu at gyfalafiaeth ryngwladol, yr oeddem yn croesawu swyddi a grëwyd gan gyfalafiaeth

capitalism in Wales in the shape of Ford and Toyota—

The First Minister: David Davies did not welcome them.

Nick Bourne: If you wanted to present this statement, First Minister, I am surprised that you did not do so, rather than sit there—

The Presiding Officer: Order. This is a statement by the Finance Minister to whom, I believe the Leader of the Welsh Conservatives is addressing questions. We are not taking supplementary questions from the First Minister or anyone else.

3:50 p.m.

Nick Bourne: Within the 14-day period, can she tell us what assistance the Government will make available to Corus and whether that offer is the same as the earlier one in terms of rate relief and help with research and development? I see her looking at the First Minister, which is another indication that he should be making this statement—

The First Minister: Grow up, Nick.

The Presiding Officer: Order. Let us get on with the statement. It would be helpful if the First Minister did not interrupt.

Nick Bourne: It would be helpful if he behaved less like a spoilt child whose lollipop had been taken away—

The Presiding Officer: Order. It is not helpful if the Leader of the Welsh Conservatives taunts the First Minister in these matters.

Nick Bourne: He should not be so easily taunted.

Secondly, I ask the understudy, what help will be made available by Westminster in terms of a general package? I recognise that she may not want to give the details, but, generally, what help will be available, because we should not be expected to finance

ryngwladol yng Nghymru ar ffurf Ford a Toyota—

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Nis croesawyd gan David Davies.

Nick Bourne: Os oeddech yn awyddus i gyflwyno'r datganiad hwn, Brif Weinidog, yr wyf yn synnu na wnaethoch hynny, yn lle eistedd yno—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Datganiad gan y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, y credaf fod Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru yn gofyn cwestiynau iddi, yw hwn. Ni dderbyniwn gwestiynau atodol gan y Prif Weinidog nac unrhyw un arall.

Nick Bourne: O fewn y cyfnod 14 diwrnod, a all ddweud wrthym pa gymorth a roddir gan y Llywodraeth i Corus ac a yw'r cynnig hwnnw yr un cynnig â'r un cynharach o ran cymorth ardrethi a chymorth gydag ymchwil a datblygu? Gwelaf ei bod yn edrych ar y Prif Weinidog, sydd yn arwydd arall mai ef a ddylai fod yn gwneud y datganiad hwn—

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Peidiwch â bod yn blentynnaidd, Nick.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Gadewch inni barhau â'r datganiad. Byddai o gymorth pe na byddai'r Prif Weinidog yn torri ar ei draws.

Nick Bourne: Byddai o gymorth pe byddai'n ymddwyn yn llai fel plentyn wedi ei ddifetha y tynnwyd ei losin oddi wrtho—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid yw o gymorth os yw Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru yn edliw'r materion hyn i'r Prif Weinidog.

Nick Bourne: Ni ddylai gael ei edliw mor hawdd.

Yn ail, gofynnaf i'r dirprwy, pa gymorth a roddir gan San Steffan o ran pecyn cyffredinol? Cydnabyddaf na fydd o bosibl yn dymuno rhoi'r manylion, ond, ar y cyfan, pa gymorth fydd ar gael, oherwydd na ddylid disgwyl inni ariannu'r cymorth hwnnw o

that help through the Assembly budget? Thirdly, I welcome the fact that the need to help these stricken communities is being underlined, in terms of the contingency package, because, as we know, there was no such plan last week, which was confirmed to me many times, and people will be aware of that fact. Fourthly, will you investigate the possibility mentioned by a spokesman for the Labour Party in the House of Lords, Lord Wedderburn of Charlton, that Corus has been acting illegally by failing to consult with the trade unions? If that is the case, I trust that action will be forthcoming. I am surprised that that has not been investigated. Fifthly, I would like an answer to a question that William Graham asked to the Deputy First Minister some time ago on the dumping of cheap steel in Wales and the UK, which I think, unsurprisingly, has not been answered so far. Clearly, that is a serious issue at a time when Welsh jobs are under threat.

However, above all, the underlying impression during this crisis—and it is a crisis for Welsh jobs, I agree with the First Minister on that, at least—is not knowing who is in charge of it in Westminster and here. Is it the First Minister, the Secretary of State for Wales, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry or the Prime Minister? In this Assembly, are you taking the lead or is the Deputy First Minister or the First Minister? We need to know who is putting this package together. We hope for the best in this consultation period, but clearly, as has been said, we have to be prepared for the worst. Who is taking the lead on this? Is it the First Minister?

Edwina Hart: I can tell you one thing, I am not the understudy, and I think that I am the Oscar winner and not the First Minister. The decision to make this statement today—although I do not know why I should dignify your question with an answer—was mine because it was on a financial package. It is important to recognise that this is a collective administration. The Deputy First Minister was engaged in discussion yesterday with the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning

gyllideb y Cynulliad? Yn drydydd, croesawaf y ffaith y tanlinellir yr angen i helpu'r cymunedau hyn sydd yn dioddef, o ran y pecyn wrth gefn, oherwydd, fel y gwyddom, nid oedd cynllun o'r fath yn bodoli yr wythnos diwethaf, a gadarnhawyd imi lawer gwaith, a bydd pobl yn ymwybodol o'r ffaith honno. Yn bedwerydd, a ymchwiliwch i'r posibilrwydd a grybwyllwyd gan lefarydd o'r Blaid Lafur yn Nhŷ'r Arglwyddi, Arglwydd Wedderburn o Charlton, y gweithredodd Corus yn anghyfreithlon wrth fethu ag ymgynghori â'r undebau llafur? Os yw hynny'n wir, hyderaf y cymerir camau. Synnaf nad ymchwiliwyd i'r mater hwnnw. Yn bumed, hoffwn gael ateb i gwestiwn a ofynnodd William Graham i'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog beth amser yn ôl ynglŷn â dympio dur rhad yng Nghymru a'r DU, na chredaf y cafodd ei ateb hyd yma, er nad yw'n syndod. Yn amlwg, mae hwnnw'n fater difrifol ar adeg pan fo swyddi yng Nghymru yn y fantol.

Fodd bynnag, yn anad dim, yr argraff waelodol yn ystod yr argyfwng hwn—ac argyfwng ydyw i swyddi yng Nghymru, cytunaf â'r Prif Weinidog ar hynny, o leiaf—yw peidio â gwybod pwy sydd yn gyfrifol amdano yn San Steffan ac yma. Ai Prif Weinidog Cymru, Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru, yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Fasnach a Diwydiant neu'r Prif Weinidog sydd yn gyfrifol? Yn y Cynulliad hwn, ai chi sydd yn arwain neu'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog neu'r Prif Weinidog? Mae angen inni wybod pwy sydd yn llunio'r pecyn hwn. Gobeithiwn am y gorau yn y cyfnod ymgynghorol hwn, ond mae'n amlwg, fel y dywedwyd, bod yn rhaid inni fod yn barod am y gwaethaf. Pwy sydd yn arwain o ran hyn? Ai Prif Weinidog Cymru sydd yn gwneud hynny?

Edwina Hart: Gallaf ddweud un peth wrthyech, nid y dirprwy ydwyf, a chredaf mai fi a enillodd yr Oscar, nid Prif Weinidog Cymru. Fy mhenderfyniad i oedd gwneud y datganiad hwn heddiw—er na wn pam y dylwn anrhydeddu eich cwestiwn drwy ei ateb—oherwydd ei fod yn ymwneud â phecyn ariannol. Mae'n bwysig cydnabod mai cydweinyddiaeth yw hon. Ddoe, cafodd y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog drafodaethau â'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes

on all aspects of training and what could be done in Wales. The First Minister and I represented the Assembly in a series of national meetings yesterday. We were delighted that the Secretary of State for Wales could join us because of his role and the fact that he is a member of the UK Cabinet, so that he could add weight to the discussions. That is the reality of Government. You might not like it, Nick, but that is the reality.

Your asking a question about whether Corus is acting illegally is rather rich when you consider the employment law framework that the Conservatives left behind, which made it much easier and cheaper for UK companies to bow out for the rest of Europe. I have not heard you speak before on the importance of ensuring more rights for the workers. There was even a Conservative contribution on how you do not want European directives. Therefore, we can put the point on Corus acting illegally firmly in its place and put the lid back on the box.

Importing cheap steel has bothered the trade unions and I will try to find more up-to-date information about inquiries on that, and will let you know. However, we are discussing what deal will be available, and, as you will recall, the original package containing the proposed measure offered to Corus consisted of improving the business environment, reductions in business rates, training aids alongside research and development and environmental protection. There were also projects involving surplus land transactions. We need to have ongoing discussion on these subjects. I envisage that the issues that were originally a matter for Corus, would now be a matter for us to consider with the Corus trade unions, if they were interested in doing anything to protect jobs. It would be unfair to offer assistance to one side and not to the other.

In Westminster, we have links with the Department for Education and Employment on the Employment Service strands and we are looking at how it can deliver on that and what resources would be deliverable in Wales. Some matters are not devolved to us

ar bob agwedd ar hyfforddiant a'r hyn y gellid ei wneud yng Nghymru. Cynrychiolwyd y Cynulliad gan y Prif Weinidog a minnau mewn cyfres o gyfarfodydd cenedlaethol ddoe. Yr oeddem wrth ein bodd y gallai Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ymuno â ni oherwydd ei rôl a'r ffaith ei fod yn aelod o Gabinet y DU, fel y gallai ychwanegu at bwysigrwydd y trafodaethau. Dyna realiti Llywodraeth. Efallai nad ydych yn hoffi hynny, Nick, ond dyna'r realiti.

Mae eich cwestiwn ynghylch a yw Corus yn gweithredu mewn ffordd anghyfreithlon braidd yn eironig pan ystyriwch y fframwaith cyfraith cyflogaeth a adawyd ar ôl gan y Ceidwadwyr, a'i gwnaeth yn llawer haws a llawer rhatach i gwmnïau'r DU adael gweddill Ewrop. Ni'ch clywais yn siarad o'r blaen am bwysigrwydd sicrhau mwy o hawliau i'r gweithwyr. Yr oedd cyfraniad gan y Ceidwadwyr hyd yn oed ar sut na ddymunwch weld cyfarwydddebau Ewropeaidd. Felly, gallwn roi'r pwynt am Corus yn gweithredu'n anghyfreithlon yn ei le a rhoi terfyn ar y mater.

Mae mewnforio dur rhad wedi poeni'r undebau llafur a cheisiaf ddod o hyd i'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am yr ymchwiliadau i hynny, a rhoddaf wybod ichi. Fodd bynnag, trafodwn pa fargen a fydd ar gael, ac, fel y cofiwch, yr oedd y pecyn gwreiddiol yn cynnwys y mesur arfaethedig a gynigiwyd i Corus yn cynnwys gwella'r amgylchedd busnes, gostwng ardrethi busnes, cymorth hyfforddiant ynghyd ag ymchwil a datblygu a diogelu'r amgylchedd. Cafwyd prosiectau yn ymwneud â thrafodion tir dros ben hefyd. Mae angen inni drafod y pynciau hyn yn barhaus. Rhagwelaf y byddai'r materion a oedd yn fater i Corus yn wreiddiol bellach yn fater inni ei ystyried gydag undebau llafur Corus, os oedd diddordeb ganddynt mewn gwneud unrhyw beth i ddiogelu swyddi. Byddai'n annheg cynnig cymorth i un ochr ac nid i'r ochr arall.

Yn San Steffan, mae cysylltiadau gennym â'r Adran Addysg a Chyflogaeth ar linyddau'r Gwasanaeth Cyflogi ac ystyriwn sut y gall gyflwyno o ran hynny a pha adnoddau y gellid eu cyflwyno yng Nghymru. Ni ddatganolwyd rhai materion inni ac felly

and we must therefore consider and discuss them with UK Ministries. It is a case of bringing a contingency package together across those various strands. It is difficult to discuss creating a package until you know what you will face. We have seen that happening with Corus all the time. It has upped the ante at certain stages. We all thought that Port Talbot was going to close, and then Corus suddenly came in with its normal salami slicing and everybody thought it is not as bad as we thought it would be, but it is pretty bad. You cannot make contingency plans on the basis of what that company will do when you do not know what it will do. We have tackled this correctly. We are now giving the trade unions time to discuss and we are creating a package that will be available if those discussions fail. We will keep our fingers crossed that following the involvement of the trade unions, at least some people will keep their jobs.

Peter Law: First, I clarify a point that I made to the Deputy First Minister for Economic Development earlier. I was not focusing on a workers buy-out for Ebbw Vale. I was talking about financial incentives being made available to the company to help to keep overheads down. However, either way, I am pleased that that option is being considered. I will tell you the logic behind that. You could spend tens of millions in a community to develop industrial sites and build advance factories. We have had that, and I welcome that if that is the contingency; it is necessary. However, my people would say that they would rather put the money into the plant and keep those 780 jobs and be assured that those jobs will be in place for a minimum of 10 years or so. Those jobs are well paid and that is important to our economy.

I support what the Minister said, which will meet with the general approval of the people of Wales. Her positive approach is appreciated. I know that she agrees that we must work with the trade unions and wait to see the outcome of their discussions as workforce representatives. However, if a contingency plan has to be employed, it is reasonable, bearing in mind what the Prime

rheid inni eu hystyried a'u trafod â Gweinyddiaethau'r DU. Mae'n ymwneud â dod â phecyn wrth gefn ynghyd ar draws y llinynnau gwahanol hynny. Mae'n anodd trafod creu pecyn hyd nes y gwyddoch yr hyn a wynebwich. Digwyddodd hynny gyda Corus drwy'r amser. Cynyddodd yr ernes yn ystod rhai camau. Credai pob un ohonom fod Port Talbot yn mynd i gau, ac wedyn dechreuodd Corus yn sydyn leihau'n raddol fel arfer a chredai pawb nad oedd y sefyllfa mor wael ag y credem y byddai, ond mae'n eithaf gwael. Ni allwch lunio cynlluniau wrth gefn ar sail yr hyn y bydd y cwmni hwnnw yn ei wneud pan na wyddoch beth fydd yn ei wneud. Aethom i'r afael â hyn yn gywir. Rhoddwn amser i'r undebau llafur drafod yn awr a lluniwn becyn a fydd ar gael os bydd y trafodaethau hynny yn methu. Parhawn i obeithio y bydd rhai pobl o leiaf yn cadw eu swyddi, yn sgîl gwaith yr undebau llafur.

Peter Law: Yn gyntaf, esboniaf bwynt a wneuthum i Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog Cymru a Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd yn gynharach. Nid oeddwn yn canolbwyntio ar y gweithwyr yn prynu gwaith Glynebwy. Siaradwn am roi cymhellion ariannol i'r cwmni i'w helpu i gadw ei gostau cyffredinol i lawr. Fodd bynnag, y naill ffordd neu'r llall, yr wyf yn falch y caiff yr opsiwn hwnnw ei ystyried. Dywedaf wrthyich y rhesymeg y tu ôl i hynny. Gallech wario miliynau mewn cymuned yn datblygu safleoedd diwydiannol ac yn adeiladu ffatrioedd arloesol. Cawsom hynny, a chroesawaf hynny os dyna'r cynllun wrth gefn; mae'n hanfodol. Fodd bynnag, byddai fy mhobl yn dweud y byddai'n well ganddynt roi arian i'r gwaith a chadw'r 780 o swyddi hynny a bod yn siŵr y bydd y swyddi hynny ar gael ar gyfer tua 10 mlynedd o leiaf. Mae'r swyddi hynny'n talu'n dda ac mae hynny'n bwysig i'n heconomi.

Cefnogaf yr hyn a ddywedodd y Gweinidog, a gaiff gymeradwyaeth gyffredinol pobl Cymru. Gwerthfawrogir ei hymagwedd gadarnhaol. Gwn ei bod yn cytuno bod yn rhaid inni gydweithio â'r undebau llafur ac aros i weld canlyniadau eu trafodaethau fel cynrychiolwyr y gweithlu. Fodd bynnag, os oes rhaid defnyddio cynllun wrth gefn, mae'n rhesymol, o ystyried yr hyn a ddywedodd y

Minister said recently, to expect some extra funding from Whitehall to help with community costs. It is reasonable for this Assembly to consider that. I know that she will pursue that strongly on our behalf, as she has already made clear.

I thank the Welsh press for the positive support that it has given Corus workers, particularly *The Welsh Mirror* editorials that supported Ebbw Vale. Will you deplore the junketing of the Corus senior management at the weekend? I consider that insensitive and it is in contrast to the mortgage and debt counselling that occurred in Ebbw Vale to help our people—the dedicated, but alarmed and worried workers of the Ebbw Vale steelworks facing the consequences of last Thursday's announcement. We read today that those people could face the prospect of their jobs being stolen by the Dutch Corus plant. That, if true, is unforgivable. As I understand, the one line cannot be absorbed into Trostre, and that workforce, in fairness to it, is asking how it is supposed to meet a capacity increase of over 50 per cent. That would be even worse. Do you agree that that, if true, is deplorable bearing in mind the support that communities throughout Wales wish to give the Ebbw Vale workers to ensure that these important works remain open in the Valleys?

Edwina Hart: I understand that Corus had a hospitality box at the match on Saturday, and I am sure that if I were a member of the Ebbw Vale Corus workforce, I would be concerned that Corus could enjoy such an event when it had to make such swingeing, devastating job cuts in Wales. Peter put across the community's position well, and that is essential. We should never forget that we are talking about debt counselling and people's futures. We need only consider the fact that Ebbw Vale did not recover from the last closures. We must consider the deprivation index in Blaenau Gwent, surrounding Ebbw Vale, and how deprivation will be even more prevalent when those jobs go. We must recognise the full extent of the problems that will occur in Blaenau Gwent as a result of this closure. I was told last week

Prif Weinidog yn ddiweddar, disgwyl rhywfaint o arian ychwanegol gan Whitehall i helpu gyda chostau cymunedol. Mae'n rhesymol i'r Cynulliad ystyried hynny. Gwn yr aiff ar drywydd hynny yn gryf ar ein rhan, fel yr esboniodd eisoes.

Diolchaf i'r wasg Gymreig am y gefnogaeth gadarnhaol a roddodd i weithwyr Corus, yn enwedig colofnau golygyddol *The Welsh Mirror* a gefnogodd Glynebwy. A resynwch wrth loddesta uwch reolwyr Corus ar y penwythnos? Ystyriaf fod hynny'n ddideimlad ac yn gwrthgyferbynnu â'r cynghori o ran morgaeisi a dyled a ddigwyddodd yng Nglynebwy i helpu ein pobl—y gweithwyr ymroddedig, ond sydd yn dychryn ac yn poeni, o waith dur Glynebwy, sydd yn wynebu canlyniadau'r cyhoeddiad a wnaethpwyd ddydd Iau diwethaf. Darllenwn heddiw y gallai'r bobl hynny wynebu'r posibilrwydd y caiff eu swyddi eu dwyn gan waith Corus yn yr Iseldiroedd. Ni ellir maddau hynny, os yw'n wir. Hyd y deallaf, ni ellir ymgorffori un llinell yn Nhrostre, ac mae'r gweithlu hwnnw, chwarae teg iddo, yn gofyn sut y gall fodloni cynnydd o ran cynhwysedd o dros 50 y cant. Byddai hynny hyd yn oed yn waeth. A gytunwch fod hynny'n alaethus, os yw'n wir, o gofio'r gefnogaeth y dymuna cymunedau ledled Cymru ei rhoi i weithwyr Glynebwy er mwyn sicrhau bod y gwaith pwysig hwn yn aros ar agor yn y Cymoedd?

Edwina Hart: Deallaf fod gan Corus focs lletygarwch yn y gêm ddydd Sadwrn, ac yr wyf yn siŵr pe byddwn yn aelod o weithlu Corus yng Nglynebwy, y byddwn yn pryderu y gallai Corus fwynhau digwyddiad o'r fath ar ôl iddo orfod cyhoeddi cymaint o ddiswyddiadau llym a thorcalonnus yng Nghymru. Eglurodd Peter sefyllfa'r gymuned yn dda, ac mae hynny'n hanfodol. Ni ddylem fyth anghofio ein bod yn siarad am gynghori o ran dyled a dyfodol pobl. Dim ond ystyried y ffaith na adferodd Glynebwy o'r diswyddiadau diwethaf y mae angen inni ei wneud. Rhaid inni ystyried y mynegai amddifadedd ym Mlaenau Gwent, o amgylch Glynebwy, a sut y bydd amddifadedd yn fwy helaeth byth pan gollir y swyddi hynny. Rhaid inni gydnabod graddau llawn y problemau a geir ym Mlaenau Gwent o

that—and I am not certain about the figures—we do not produce enough tinplate for UK consumption, yet we are thinking of getting rid of the Ebbw Vale works. It beggars belief for the majority of us in the Chamber.

ganlyniad i'r gwaith hwn yn cau. Rhoddwyd gwybod imi yr wythnos diwethaf—ac nid wyf yn siŵr am y ffigurau—na chynhyrchwn ddigon o dunplat at ddefnydd y DU, ac eto ystyriwn gael gwared o waith Glynebwy. Ni all y mwyafrif ohonom yn y Siambr gredu hynny.

4:00 p.m.

Cynog Dafis: A yw Edwina Hart yn cytuno â sylwadau Will Hutton, un o gyn-gyfeillion Llafur Newydd, yn *The Observer* ddydd Sul fod ymddygiad Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig a Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar y mater hwn yn drewi o ragrith? Defnyddiodd yr ymadrodd '*reeks of hypocrisy*'. Yr oedd yn cyfeirio at y broses a lwyr drefnwyd yn fwriadus dros yr wythnosau diwethaf o roi'r holl fai ar Corus—ac yr ydym wedi clywed hynny yma heddiw eto—er mwyn gwarchod y gwir ddihiryn, sef Llywodraeth Lafur y Deyrnas Unedig. Clywsom Mike German a Peter Black yn ymuno yn y gytgan honno heddiw.

Cynog Dafis: Does Edwina Hart agree with Will Hutton, a former friend of New Labour, who said in *The Observer* on Sunday that the behaviour of the United Kingdom Government and the Assembly Government on this matter reeks of hypocrisy? He used that phrase. He was referring to the wholly orchestrated process over the past few weeks of putting all the blame on Corus—and we have heard that again here today—to protect the real villain, namely the United Kingdom Labour Government. We heard Mike German and Peter Black join in that chorus today.

A yw Edwina yn cytuno â golygyddol *The Guardian*—un o'r papurau mwyaf cefnogol i Lafur, ar wahân i'r *Welsh Mirror* yr oedd Peter Law yn canu ei glodydd—ddydd Gwener, a oedd yn datgan,

Does Edwina agree with the editorial of *The Guardian*—one of the papers most supportive of Labour apart from the *Welsh Mirror*, which Peter Law praised—on Friday, which stated,

'...Corus is not the real villain. It is a Labour government which by acquiescing in an overvalued exchange rate has accelerated the decline of manufacturing industry...the overvalued pound makes sales unprofitable abroad while its home market shrinks. And why is it shrinking?...because the whole of British industry is now buying components...from abroad. The strong pound has forced it to desert UK suppliers. It is a vicious circle, from which the only escape is a root change in Labour's attitude to manufacturing.'

Yn y trafodaethau y cymerodd ran ynddynt, a fu Edwina Hart, ar ran y Cynulliad, pobl Cymru a'r cymunedau dur, yn pwyso am y '*root change*' hwnnw? Gan ei bod yn glir mai'r dihiryn mawr yn yr achos hwn yw Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig, gan gynnwys y Trysorlys, a fydd hi a gweddill Llywodraeth Cymru yn pwyso ar y Trysorlys i sicrhau bod pecyn cymesur â'r angen ariannol yn cael ei ddarparu, a bod hwnnw'n arian ychwanegol? Gofynnodd Dafydd Wigley y cwestiwn hwnnw ac mae Ron Davies wedi sôn amdano, ond nid ydym wedi cael unrhyw fath o addewid i'r perwyl hwnnw. Yr oedd David Hanson yn y Senedd

In the discussions in which she participated, did Edwina Hart, on behalf of the Assembly, the people of Wales and the steel communities, press for that '*root change*'? As it is clear that the great villain in this case is the United Kingdom Government, including the Treasury, will she and the rest of the Government of Wales press the Treasury to ensure that a package that matches the financial need is provided, and that that funding is additional? Dafydd Wigley asked that question and Ron Davies has mentioned it, but we have not received any kind of pledge to that end. David Hanson in Parliament yesterday also refused to give a

ddoe hefyd yn gwrthod rhoi ymrwymiad y byddai arian ychwanegol ar gael o'r Trysorlys ar gyfer yr argyfwng difrifol hwn.

commitment that additional money would be available from the Treasury for this serious crisis.

Yr ydym yn byw mewn gobaith o hyd y bydd yr undebau llafur yn llwyddiannus yn eu hymdrechion, ond os yw'r ymdrechion hyn i lwyddo, golyga hynny gymorth ariannol digonol. Mae hefyd yn golygu creu hinsawdd ar gyfer diwydiant gweithgynhrychu a fydd yn galluogi'r busnes hwnnw i lwyddo yn ogystal. Mae'r cwestiynau mawr yn aros.

We still live in hope that the trade unions will be successful in their endeavours, but if those endeavours are to succeed, that means adequate financial assistance. It also means creating a climate for a manufacturing industry that will enable that business to succeed as well. Major questions remain.

Ynglŷn ag ailffocysu arian strwythurol Ewropeaidd, a all Edwina awgrymu pa ardal yng Nghymru a ddylai golli arian er mwyn i Flaenau Gwent elwa ohono? Yn bendant, mae angen cymorth ychwanegol ar Flaenau Gwent, ond pa ardal a ddylai golli arian? Atgoffaf Edwina o'r ergydion ledled Cymru yn ystod yr wythnosau diwethaf ym maes gweithgynhrychu.

As regards refocusing European structural funding, can Edwina suggest which area of Wales should lose funding so that Blaenau Gwent might gain from it? Blaenau Gwent definitely needs additional assistance, but which area should lose funding? I remind Edwina of the blows throughout Wales during the past few weeks in the manufacturing sector.

A yw Edwina Hart wedi mesur beth fydd yr anghenion ariannol gwirioneddol, ac a yw'r weinyddiaeth hon wedi gwneud hynny? Clywais y ffigur £100 miliwn. Mae hynny'n rhy ychydig. Soniodd Ron Davies am gannoedd o filiynau o bunnoedd. A yw gweinyddiaeth Cymru wedi mesur beth fydd yn angenrheidiol os daw i'r gwaethaf? Mae'n iawn inni wybod hynny.

Has Edwina Hart gauged what the true financial needs will be, and has this administration done so? I have heard the figure of £100 million. That is too little. Ron Davies mentioned hundreds of millions of pounds. Has the administration of Wales gauged what will be necessary if the worst comes to the worst? It is right that we should know that.

A yw Edwina Hart, ynghyd â gweddill Llywodraeth Cymru, yn fodlon rhoi Cymru yn gyntaf? 'Rhoi Cymru'n Gyntaf' yw ei hymadrodd. A yw'n fodlon gwneud hynny? Wrth gwrs bod gennym gonsŷrn am weithwyr yn Lloegr ac ati, ond busnes y Cynulliad yw canolbwyntio ar anghenion Cymru yn y sefyllfa hon ac ymladd ein cornel ni. A yw hi'n derbyn mai cyfrifoldeb y Cynulliad yn y sefyllfa hon yw bod yn llais i Gymru ac arwain y genedl yn yr ymgyrch am gyfiawnder? Nid cardod ond cyfiawnder sydd ei angen arnom. A yw gweinyddiaeth y Cynulliad yn barod i ddangos yn glir ei bod yn fodlon gwneud hynny a rhoi lles ei gwlad o flaen lles ei phlaid?

Is Edwina Hart, along with the rest of the Government of Wales, willing to put Wales first? 'Putting Wales First' is its phrase. Is it willing to do that? Of course we are concerned about workers in England and so on, but the business of the Assembly is to concentrate on the needs of Wales in this situation and to fight our corner. Does she accept that the Assembly's responsibility in this situation is to be a voice for Wales and to lead the nation in the campaign for justice? We need justice, not charity. Is the Assembly administration prepared to show clearly that it is willing to do that and put the good of its country before the good of its party?

Edwina Hart: That is the difference between us—you speak like a nationalist and I speak like an internationalist. Whether you lose a job in Teeside or Blaenau Gwent you are just

Edwina Hart: Dyna'r gwahaniaeth rhyngom—siaradwch chi fel cenedlaetholwr a siaradaf innau fel rhyng-genedlaetholwr. Effeithir arnoch yn yr un ffordd pa un a

as affected. I want what is best for Wales and I will fight for Wales and for the right package for Wales. However, at the end of the day, wherever people work, if they lose their jobs they will suffer because of mortgage arrears, because their children cannot go on school trips and from the fact that they may never find another job. We must get this into perspective.

On Will Hutton, I am not sure about his politics these days. When I read his articles I sometimes wonder whether he is on the right or the left. As for *The Guardian*, sometimes I agree with its views and sometimes I do not. Sometimes I can do the crossword and sometimes I cannot. That is my general attitude towards opinions expressed in the press.

We must be clear. I can only give a commitment on the Assembly's package to which I can commit the Assembly. I cannot and I will not give a commitment on what the UK Treasury or the Prime Minister will do. I can only give a commitment to negotiate as best as I can, within that framework, to get what we can and to make all the arguments possible to ensure that we get the best deal. There is recognition that we need extra resources. That is important. It would not be helpful for me to be drawn on the nature and content of the discussions that I may or may not have had yesterday. Nothing irritates Whitehall departments more than them thinking that a matter is being discussed that has not been discussed with them first. My job is to try to get what I can and not to be drawn into some of the issues that have been raised today.

We are talking about justice. However, we can only ask for money because we have this devolution settlement. If we had what you wanted, Cynog, we could not go to the UK Treasury. We could not ask the Government in Whitehall for anything, because it would not be part and parcel of our Government. You support Europe, so do I. You support the expansion of the European Union, so do I. However, by implication, globalisation will affect Welsh manufacturing jobs. That causes

gollwch swydd yn Teeside neu ym Mlaenau Gwent. Yr wyf am yr hyn sydd orau i Gymru a byddaf yn ymladd dros Gymru a thros y pecyn cywir i Gymru. Fodd bynnag, yn y pen draw, ble bynnag y mae pobl yn gweithio, os collant eu swyddi, dioddefant oherwydd ôl-daliadau morgeisi, am na all eu plant fynd ar deithiau ysgol ac oherwydd y ffaith na ddônt fyth o hyd i swydd arall o bosibl. Rhaid inni weld hyn yn ei gyd-destun.

Ynglŷn â Will Hutton, nid wyf yn siŵr am ei wleidyddiaeth y dyddiau hyn. Pan ddarllenaf ei erthyglau, ni wn weithiau a yw ar y dde neu'r chwith. O ran *The Guardian*, weithiau cytunaf â'i farn ac weithiau ni chytunaf ag ef. Weithia gallaf gwblhau'r croesair ac weithiau ni allaf ei gwblhau. Dyna fy ymagwedd gyffredinol tuag at y sylwadau a fynegwyd yn y wasg.

Rhaid inni fod yn glir. Gallaf ond rhoi ymrwymiad ar becyn y Cynulliad y gallaf roi ymrwymiad y Cynulliad iddo. Ni allaf roi ymrwymiad ar yr hyn a wna Trysorlys y DU na'r Prif Weinidog ac ni wna hynny. Gallaf ond rhoi ymrwymiad i negodi cystal ag y gallaf, o fewn y fframwaith hwnnw, i gael yr hyn y gallwn ei gael ac i wneud pob un o'r dadleuon yn bosibl er mwyn sicrhau y cawn y fargen orau. Cydnabyddir bod angen adnoddau ychwanegol arnom. Mae hynny'n bwysig. Ni fyddai'n ddefnyddiol imi drafod natur a chynnwys y trafodaethau a gefais neu na chefais o bosibl ddoe. Nid oes dim yn gwylltio adrannau yn Whitehall yn fwy na phan gredant y trafodir mater na thrafodwyd gyda hwy yn gyntaf. Fy swydd i yw ceisio cael yr hyn a allaf a pheidio â chael fy nhynnu i mewn i rai o'r materion a godwyd heddiw.

Siaradwn am gyfiawnder. Fodd bynnag, gallwn ond gofyn am arian gan fod y setliad datganoli hwn gennym. Os byddai gennym yr hyn yr oeddech chi am ei gael, Cynog, ni allem fynd at Drysorlys y DU. Ni allem ofyn i'r Llywodraeth yn Whitehall am unrhyw beth, oherwydd na fyddai'n rhan annatod o'n Llywodraeth ni. Cefnogwch Ewrop, ac fe'i cefnogaf innau hefyd. Cefnogwch ehangu'r Undeb Ewropeaidd, ac fe'i cefnogaf innau hefyd. Fodd bynnag, drwy oblygiad, caiff

problems. It is not a matter of the economic problems of this Government. When we look at what is happening in the UK, there is good news and bad news. Strategic changes are occurring in industry. We see changes that are devastating people's lives. We must deal with that. That is our challenge and we will be judged on how we meet it. There should not be idle banter about what we may not get, what we may negotiate, or what is wrong in Westminster. We can put right what we can put right here and we can discuss issues with our colleagues in Westminster. It is fortunate that the Labour/Liberal Democrat administration here and the Labour administration in Westminster can at least talk. I would hate it if it went the other way.

cystadlu yn y farchnad fyd-eang effaith ar swyddi gweithgynhyrchu Cymru. Achosa hynny broblemau. Nid yw'n fater o broblemau economaidd y Llywodraeth hon. Pan ystyriwn yr hyn sydd yn digwydd yn y DU, ceir newyddion da a newyddion drwg. Mae newidiadau strategol yn digwydd ym maes diwydiant. Gwelwn newidiadau sydd yn dinistrio bywydau pobl. Rhaid inni ddelio â hynny. Dyna'r her a wynebwn a chawn ein barnu ar sut yr ydym yn ei bodloni. Ni ddylid malu awyr am yr hyn y gallem ei gael, yr hyn y gallem ei negodi, neu yr hyn sydd o'i le yn San Steffan. Gallwn unioni'r hyn y gallwn ei unioni yma a gallwn drafod materion â'n cydweithwyr yn San Steffan. Mae'n ffodus y gall y weinyddiaeth Lafur/Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yma a'r weinyddiaeth Lafur yn San Steffan siarad â'i gilydd o leiaf. Byddai'n gas gennyf pe newidiai hynny.

Pwynt o Drefn Point of Order

Alison Halford: Point of order. Much verbal water has gone under the bridge since I asked you, Presiding Officer, if I could raise this point. However, it is still relevant and pertinent. Unfortunately, it involves Alun Cairns, who is absent from the Chamber. It is loosely linked to Standing Order No. 7.2. Alun wrongly and misleadingly used the word 'condemned' when he referred to the Economic Development Committee's decision. The Committee did not condemn the strategy that it was considering. That is simply untrue. There was a spirited discussion and there were opposing views. However, the final decision was not to condemn the report. It is hurtful and unhelpful to attempt to undermine the status of this important Committee by making misleading comments. I wonder, Presiding Officer, whether you would look into the matter?

Alison Halford: Pwynt o drefn. Dywedwyd llawer ers imi ofyn ichi, Lywydd, a allwn godi'r pwynt hwn. Fodd bynnag, parha i fod yn berthnasol. Yn anffodus, mae'n ymwneud ag Alun Cairns, nad yw yn y Siambr. Mae'n gysylltiedig yn llac â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.2. Defnyddiwyd y gair 'condemnio' mewn ffordd anghywir a chamarweiniol gan Alun pan gyfeiriodd at benderfyniad y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd. Ni chondemniodd y Pwyllgor y strategaeth a ystyriai. Mae hynny'n hollol anghywir. Cafwyd trafodaeth fywiog a barnau gwrthgyferbyniol. Fodd bynnag, y penderfyniad terfynol oedd peidio â chondemnio'r adroddiad. Mae'n niweidiol ac yn annefyddiol ceisio tanseilio statws y Pwyllgor pwysig hwn drwy wneud sylwadau camarweiniol. Tybed, Lywydd, a allech ymchwilio i'r mater?

The Presiding Officer: I take points of order at this stage of our proceedings so that they do not interrupt statements and questions. I appreciate that that sometimes means that water has flowed under the bridge.

Y Llywydd: Derbyniaf bwyntiau o drefn ar yr adeg hon yn ystod ein trafodion fel na thorrant ar draws datganiadau a chwestiynau. Gwerthfawrogaf y golyga hynny weithiau y dywedwyd llawer ers codi'r pwynt.

Alison Halford: That was not a criticism of you, Presiding Officer, in any shape or form.

Alison Halford: Nid oeddwn yn eich beirniadu, Lywydd, mewn unrhyw ffordd.

The Presiding Officer: Thank you. My immediate response is, that as regards Standing Order No. 7.2, which refers to ‘disorderly, discriminatory or offensive’ language, the use of the word ‘condemn’, in this context, does not fall within that definition. If it inaccurately reflected the Committee’s views, I am sure that Committee members—the Committee Chair and others—might wish to raise the matter in debate, but not, perhaps, now. I am grateful to you for raising that point.

Y Llywydd: Diolch. Fy ymateb cyntaf yw, o ran Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 7.2, sydd yn cyfeirio at iaith ‘sydd yn groes i’r drefn, yn camwahaniaethu neu’n peri tramgwydd’, na syrthia’r defnydd o’r gair ‘condemnio’, yn y cyd-destun hwn, o fewn y diffiniad hwnnw. Os adlewyrchodd farnau’r Pwyllgor yn anghywir, yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai aelodau’r Pwyllgor—Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor ac eraill—yn dymuno codi’r mater mewn dadl o bosibl, ond ddim yn awr, efallai. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar ichi am godi’r pwynt hwnnw.

Datganiad Busnes Business Statement

The Minister for Assembly Business (Andrew Davies): I thank colleagues on the Business Committee for their support in the handling of this afternoon’s business. We have a full session. I am grateful to Members for agreeing to vote on certain items on today’s agenda without debate.

Y Trefnydd (Andrew Davies): Diolchaf i’r cyd-Aelodau ar y Pwyllgor Busnes am eu cymorth wrth ymdrin â busnes y prynhawn yma. Mae gennym Gyfarfod Llawn prysur. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i’r Aelodau am gytuno i bleidleisio ar rai eitemau sydd ar yr agenda heddiw heb ddadl.

Business on Tuesday 13 February is as I reported last week. On Thursday 15 February, business will now include the debate on the diversity of public appointments that was deferred on last Thursday, 1 February. The Assembly will be in recess between 19 and 23 February. Business on Tuesday 27 February will include motions to approve the road safety and the bus subsidy special grant reports, a debate on the basic skills strategy and a debate on the sustainable development plan, which has been rescheduled to accommodate the changes made to last week’s business. As a consequence, the debate on the Queen’s Speech has been moved to Thursday 1 March—St David’s Day. The other main debate for that day has yet to be agreed by the Business Committee and this will be discussed in more detail when we meet next Tuesday.

Mae’r busnes ar gyfer dydd Mawrth 13 Chwefror fel y nodais yr wythnos diwethaf. Ddydd Iau 15 Chwefror, bydd y busnes yn awr yn cynnwys dadl ar amrywiaeth penodiadau cyhoeddus a ohiriwyd ddydd Iau diwethaf, 1 Chwefror. Bydd y Cynulliad ar doriad rhwng 19 a 23 Chwefror. Bydd busnes dydd Mawrth 27 Chwefror yn cynnwys cynigion i gymeradwyo adroddiadau grant arbennig diogelwch y ffyrdd a chymhorthdal bysiau, dadl ar y strategaeth sgiliau sylfaenol a dadl ar y cynllun datblygu cynaliadwy, a aildrefnwyd i ddygymod â’r newidiadau a wnaethpwyd i fusnes yr wythnos diwethaf. O ganlyniad, symudwyd y ddadl ar Araith y Frenhines i ddydd Iau 1 Mawrth—Dydd Gŵyl Dewi. Ni chytunwyd hyd yma ar y brif ddadl arall ar gyfer y diwrnod hwnnw gan y Pwyllgor Busnes a chaiff hyn ei drafod yn fanylach pan gyfarfyddwn ddydd Mawrth nesaf.

4:10 p.m.

Business on 6 March will include a motion to approve the National Health Service (General Medical Services) Amendment (Wales) Regulations 2001, a motion to approve the special grant report on junior school class

Bydd busnes 6 Mawrth yn cynnwys cynnig i gymeradwyo Rheoliadau Gwasanaeth Iechyd Gwladol (Gwasanaethau Meddygol Cyffredinol) Diwygio (Cymru) 2001, cynnig i gymeradwyo’r adroddiad grant arbennig ar

sizes, a debate on the Pre-16 Education, Schools and Early Learning Committee's report on early years' provision for three-year olds and a debate on the NHS human resource strategy.

As soon as we know the outcome of the moratorium, the debate on the steel industry in Wales will take place. I will need to rejig business over the next three weeks to accommodate that debate. I will, of course, discuss any changes that need to be made with the Business Committee and party business managers. With that proviso, I present this week's statement to you.

Finally, on the advice of the Business Committee, the Deputy Presiding Officer has determined, in accordance with Standing Order No. 22.5, that the following items of subordinate legislation need not be referred to a Subject Committee: the Plastic Materials and Articles in Contact with Food (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2001, the Homeless Persons (Priority Need) (Wales) Order 2001 and the Community Charges, Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rating (Enforcement) (Magistrates' Courts) (Wales) Regulations 2001. As usual, I will arrange for the business statement to be posted on the internet and intranet.

Y Llywydd: A oes unrhyw wrthwynebiadau i'r datganiad busnes?

I see that there are none. Are there any comments on the business statement?

William Graham: Minister, you will recall our discussion in Business Committee this morning. You told us then that you would bring forward these statements. We appreciate that the steel industry's situation is fluid. I welcome your commitment to having a debate on the steel industry and I appreciate that it would be difficult for you to give an exact date for that. However, we regret the trend towards making statements and would prefer debates, which can be properly tabled, on which accurate research can be undertaken and which have motions that can be amended. I ask you to consider, therefore, a reduction in the number of statements, except

faint dosbarthiadau mewn ysgolion iau, dadl ar adroddiad y Pwyllgor Addysg Cyn-16, Ysgolion ac Addysg Gynnar ar y ddarpariaeth blynnyddoedd cynnar ar gyfer plant tair blwydd oed a dadl ar strategaeth adnoddau dynol yr NHS.

Cyn gynted ag y gwyddom ganlyniad y moratoriwm, caiff y ddadl ar y diwydiant dur yng Nghymru ei chynnal. Bydd angen imi newid y busnes dros y tair wythnos nesaf i ddarparu amser i'r ddadl honno. Trafodaf unrhyw newidiadau y bydd angen eu gwneud â'r Pwyllgor Busnes a rheolwyr busnes y pleidiau, wrth gwrs. Ar yr amod honno, cyflwynaf ddatganiad yr wythnos yma ichi.

Yn olaf, ar gyngor y Pwyllgor Busnes, penderfynodd y Dirprwy Lywydd, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 22.5, nad oes angen cyfeirio'r eitemau canlynol o is-ddeddfwriaeth at Bwyllgor Pwnc: Rheoliadau Deunyddiau ac Eitemau Plastig mewn Cysylltiad â Bwyd (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2001, Gorchymyn Personau Digartref (Angen Blaenoriaethol) (Cymru) 2001 a Rheoliadau Taliadau Cymunedol, y Dreth Gyngor ac Ardrethu Annomestig (Gorfodi) (Llysoedd Ynadon) (Cymru) 2001. Fel arfer, trefnaff i'r datganiad busnes gael ei roi ar y rhyngwyd a'r fewnwyd.

The Presiding Officer: Are there any objections to the business statement?

Gwelaf nad oes unrhyw wrthwynebiadau. A oes unrhyw sylwadau ar y datganiad busnes?

William Graham: Weinidog, fe gofiwch ein trafodaeth yn y Pwyllgor Busnes y bore yma. Dywedasoeh wrthym bryd hynny y byddech yn cyflwyno'r datganiadau hyn. Gwerthfawrogwn fod y sefyllfa yn y diwydiant dur yn ansefydlog. Croesawaf eich ymrwymiad i gael dadl ar y diwydiant dur a gwerthfawrogaf y byddai'n anodd ichi roi dyddiad pendant ar gyfer hynny. Fodd bynnag, gresynwn y tueddiad tuag at wneud datganiadau a byddai'n well gennym gael dadleuon, y gellir eu cyflwyno yn briodol, y gellir ymgymryd ag ymchwil gywir iddynt ac sydd â chynigion y gellir eu diwygio. Gofynnaf ichi, felly, ystyried lleihau nifer y

on urgent matters or matters of national concern, where an issue has been directly raised with you or your fellow Ministers.

Andrew Davies: As I reported to Committee this morning—and I am grateful for your and other colleagues' support on this—with a fast-moving situation such as that in the steel industry, we are unable to observe the normal procedures in terms of timetabling debates. That is why we have made two statements today in response to the situation. We have made a commitment that we will make statements to the Assembly in Plenary before we make statements outside this Chamber. We abide by that. We could not have tabled a motion for debate within the normal timetable. However, we hope to have a full debate once the moratorium has ended and we know how the situation in the steel industry has been resolved. I give you that commitment.

Jocelyn Davies: The Plaid Cymru group understands the Conservative group's preference for a full debate rather than statements. However, I accepted the Minister for Assembly Business's explanation to the Business Committee this morning and I am glad that he has repeated his assurance that we will soon have a full and proper debate on the steel industry, based on an amendable Government motion.

*Derbyniwyd y datganiad busnes.
Business statement adopted.*

Pwyllgor Penderfyniadau Cynllunio Planning Decision Committee

The Minister for Assembly Business (Andrew Davies): I propose that

the National Assembly resolves:

1. That a committee, to be known as Planning Decision Committee 2001/1, be established, in accordance with Standing Order No. 35, to discharge the functions of the Assembly in determining two applications under Section 77 of the Town and Country Planning Act

datganiadau, heblaw ar faterion brys neu faterion o bryder cenedlaethol, lle y codwyd mater gyda chi neu'ch cyd-Weinidogion yn uniongyrchol.

Andrew Davies: Fel y nodais yn y Pwyllgor y bore yma—ac yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am eich cefnogaeth chi a chefnogaeth cyd-Aelodau eraill yn hyn o beth—pan fydd sefyllfa yn newid yn gyflym fel y mae yn y diwydiant dur, ni allwn gadw at y gweithdrefnau arferol o ran amserlennu dadleuon. Dyna pam y gwnaethom ddau ddatganiad heddiw mewn ymateb i'r sefyllfa. Gwnaethom ymrwymiad y gwnawn ddatganiadau i'r Cynulliad mewn Cyfarfodydd Llawn cyn inni wneud datganiadau y tu allan i'r Siambr hon. Cadwn at hynny. Ni allem fod wedi cyflwyno cynnig am ddadl o fewn yr amserlen arferol. Fodd bynnag, gobeithiwn gael dadl lawn unwaith y bydd y moratoriwm wedi dod i ben ac y gwyddom sut y datryswyd y sefyllfa yn y diwydiant dur. Rhoddaf yr ymrwymiad hwnnw ichi.

Jocelyn Davies: Dealla grŵp Plaid Cymru pam y byddai'n well gan grŵp y Ceidwadwyr gael dadl lawn yn hytrach na datganiadau. Fodd bynnag, derbyniais esboniad y Trefnydd i'r Pwyllgor Busnes y bore yma ac yr wyf yn falch ei fod wedi ailadrodd ei sicrhad y cawn ddadl lawn a phriodol ar y diwydiant dur cyn bo hir, yn seiliedig ar gynnig gan y Llywodraeth y gellir ei ddiwygio.

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn penderfynu:

1. Bod pwyllgor, i'w adnabod fel Pwyllgor Penderfyniadau Cynllunio 2001/1, yn cael ei sefydlu, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 35, i gyflawni swyddogaethau'r Cynulliad wrth benderfynu ar ddau gais o dan adran 77 o Ddeddf Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref 1990 mewn

1990 in respect of the matters identified in the Schedule to this motion, and that the Assembly's functions in that respect be delegated to that Committee;

2. That the members of that Committee be:

Richard Edwards
Karen Sinclair
Geraint Davies
David Davies

3. That the Committee shall cease to exist when the Chair of the Committee signs the decision letters in accordance with Standing Order No. 35.16 or on the 28 February 2001 whichever is the earlier.

4. That if the Committee shall cease to exist without the Chair having signed decision letters in respect of the matters identified in the Schedule to this motion then in that event the functions identified in paragraph 1 above are, in relation to such matter, delegated to the First Minister.

Schedule

Application by Williams Humphreys Partnership for proposed residential development and installation of sewage treatment plant on land at Neuaddfraith, Aberbechan, Newtown, Powys.

Application by Mr T A E Price and Mrs G M Price for proposed residential development (erection of 67 dwellings, play area, estate roads, widening of the adjoining highway and drainage works) on land at Pt OS 2949 Llandyssil, Montgomery (Renewal of Planning Permission M18097).

Y Llywydd: O dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 35.7, byddwn yn pleidleiso ar y cynnig hwn heb gynnal dadl.

perthynas â'r materion a nodir yn yr atodlen i'r cynnig hwn, a bod swyddogaethau'r Cynulliad yn y cyswllt hwnnw yn cael eu dirprwyo i'r Pwyllgor hwnnw;

2. Mai aelodau'r Pwyllgor fydd:

Richard Edwards
Karen Sinclair
Geraint Davies
David Davies

3. Bod y Pwyllgor yn peidio â bod pan fydd Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor yn llofnodi'r llythyrau penderfynu yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 35.16 neu ar 28 Chwefror 2001 p'un bynnag sy'n dod gyntaf.

4. Os yw'r Pwyllgor yn peidio â bod heb i'r Cadeirydd lofnodi'r llythyrau penderfynu mewn perthynas â'r materion a nodir yn yr Atodlen i'r cynnig hwn yna yn yr achos hwnnw dirprwyir y swyddogaethau a nodir ym mharagraff 1 uchod, mewn perthynas â mater o'r fath, i Brif Weinidog Cymru.

Atodlen

Cais gan Bartneriaeth Williams Humphreys i godi datblygiad preswyl a gwaith trin carthion ar dir Neuaddfraith, Aberbechan, y Drenewydd, Powys.

Cais gan Mr T A E Price a Mrs G M Price ar gyfer datblygiad preswyl arfaethedig (codi 67 o dai annedd, man chwarae, ffyrdd ystad, lledu'r briffordd gyffiniol a'r gwaith draenio) ar dir ym Mhwynt AO 2949 Llandysul, Trefaldwyn (Adnewyddu Caniatâd Cynllunio M18097).

The Presiding Officer: Under Standing Order No. 35.7, we will put this motion to a vote without debate.

*Cynnig: O blaid 37, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 37, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Black, Peter
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew

Davies, David
 Davies, Janet
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Davies, Ron
 Essex, Sue
 Feld, Val
 German, Michael
 Gibbons, Brian
 Graham, William
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Halford, Alison
 Hancock, Brian
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Jarman, Pauline
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Law, Peter
 Lloyd, David
 Melding, David
 Middlehurst, Tom
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Richards, Rod
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Wigley, Dafydd
 Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion adopted.*

Cymeradwyo Rheoliadau Porthiant (Cymru) 2001 Approval of the Feeding Stuffs (Wales) Regulations 2001

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Jane Hutt): I propose that	Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Jane Hutt): Cynigiaf fod
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the National Assembly:

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol:

considers the principle of the Feeding Stuffs (Wales) Regulations 2001 laid in the Table Office on 14 December 2000.

yn ystyried egwyddor Rheoliadau Porthiant (Cymru) 2001 a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 14 Rhagfyr 2000.

I propose that

Cynigiaf fod

the National Assembly:

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol

(a) considers the report of the Legislation Committee which has not identified under Standing Order No. 11.5 any matters for concern in the draft Order, the Feeding Stuffs (Wales) Regulations 2001, laid in the Table Office on 20 December 2000;

(a) yn ystyried Adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau sydd heb nodi o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 11.5 unrhyw faterion sy'n destun pryder yn y Gorchymyn drafft, Rheoliadau Porthiant (Cymru) 2001, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 20 Rhagfyr 2000;

(b) approves that the Order is made in

(b) yn cymeradwyo bod y Gorchymyn yn cael

accordance with the draft laid in the Table Office on 14 December 2000 and the memorandum of corrections pursuant to Standing Order No. 22.13 (i) laid in the Table Office on 29 January 2001.

ei wneud yn unol â'r drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 14 Rhagfyr 2000 a'r memorandwm cywiriadau yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 22.13 (i) a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 29 Ionawr 2001.

The Presiding Officer: This motion may be debated, but I understand that no-one wishes to do so.

Y Llywydd: Gellir trafod y cynnig hwn, ond deallaf na ddymuna neb wneud hynny.

Felly, pleidleisiwn yn awr ar egwyddor y Gorchymyn.

Therefore, we will now vote on the principle of the Order.

*Cynnig: O blaid 41, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 41, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Black, Peter
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Ron
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
Feld, Val
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hancock, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Law, Peter
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Richards, Rod
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Kirsty

Derbyniwyd y cynnig.

Motion adopted.

Y Llywydd: Pleidleisiwn yn awr ar **The Presiding Officer:** We will now vote on the approval of the Order.

Cynnig: O blaid 41, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.

Motion: For 41, Abstain 0, Against 0.

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Black, Peter
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Ron
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
Feld, Val
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hancock, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Law, Peter
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Richards, Rod
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Kirsty

Derbyniwyd y cynnig.

Motion adopted.

Cymeradwyo'r Newidiadau i Reolau Sefydlog Rhifau 3 a 6
Approval of Revisions to Standing Orders Nos. 3 and 6

The Minister for Assembly Business Y Trefnydd (Andrew Davies): Cynigiau fod
(Andrew Davies): I propose that

the National Assembly, acting under section 46(6) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, and Standing Order No. 34:

i. considers the report of the Business Committee laid in the Table Office on 23 January 2001;

ii. approves the following revisions to the Standing Orders;

iii. resolves that the revisions shall take effect immediately.

Standing Order No. 3

1. In paragraph 3.1 delete 'an Assembly Secretary' and replace with 'a member of the House Committee'.

2. Insert a new paragraph 3.4 as follows:

'The Assembly shall elect Trustees to the National Assembly for Wales Members' Pension Scheme in accordance with the Scheme Rules at that time in place on a motion proposed by a member of the House Committee'.

3. Renumber the remaining paragraphs in Standing Order No. 3.

Standing Order No. 6 (Consequential changes)

1. In paragraph 6.26A, delete 'Standing Order 28' and replace with 'Standing Order 36'.

2. In paragraph 6.34A, delete 'Standing Order 28' and replace with 'Standing Order 36'.

3. In paragraph 6.29(i), delete 'received between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm' and replace with 'accepted before 4 pm'.

4. In paragraph 6.29(ii), delete 'received after 5 pm' and replace with 'accepted after 4 pm'.

Y Llywydd: Byddwn yn pleidleisio ar y cynnig hwn heb gynnal dadl. Atgoffaf

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, yn gweithredu o dan adran 46(6) Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998, a Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 34:

i. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Busnes a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 23 Ionawr 2001;

ii. yn cymeradwyo'r gwelliannau canlynol i'r Rheolau Sefydlog;

iii. yn penderfynu bod y gwelliannau'n dod i rym ar unwaith.

Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 3

1. Ym mharagraff 3.1 dileu 'Ysgrifennydd Cynulliad' ac yn ei le rhoi 'aelod o Bwyllgor y Tŷ'.

2. Mewnosod paragraff 3.4 newydd fel a ganlyn:

'Bydd y Cynulliad yn ethol Ymddiriedolwyr i Gynllun Pensiwn Aelodau Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn unol â Rheolau'r Cynllun ar y pryd hwnnw yn dilyn cynnig a gynigir gan aelod o Bwyllgor y Tŷ.'

3. Ailrifo gweddill y paragraffau yn Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 3.

Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 6 (Newidiadau canlyniadol)

1. Ym mharagraff 6.26A, dileu 'Rheol Sefydlog 28' a rhoi yn ei le 'Rheol Sefydlog 36'.

2. Ym mharagraff 6.34A, dileu 'Rheol Sefydlog 28' a rhoi yn ei le 'Rheol Sefydlog 36'.

3. Ym mharagraff 6.29(i), dileu 'a dderbynnir rhwng 9 am and 5 pm' a rhoi yn ei le 'a dderbynnir cyn 4 pm'.

4. Ym mharagraff 6.29(ii), dileu 'a dderbynnir ar ôl 5 pm' a rhoi yn ei le 'a dderbynnir ar ôl 4 pm'.

The Presiding Officer: We will put this motion to a vote without debate. I remind

Aelodau fod yn rhaid cael mwyafrif o ddwy Members that we must have a two-thirds
ran o dair i gymeradwyo'r newidiadau i'r majority to approve changes to Standing
Rheolau Sefydlog. Orders.

*Cynnig: O blaid 41, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 41, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Black, Peter
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
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Davies, Jocelyn
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Lloyd, David
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Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Richards, Rod
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion adopted.*

**Dirprwyo Swyddogaethau Rheoliadau Ymbelydredd Ïoneiddiol (Datguddiadau
Meddygol) 2000 i Brif Weinidog Cymru
Delegation of the Functions of the Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure)
Regulations 2000 to the First Minister**

The Minister for Assembly Business Y Trefnydd (Andrew Davies): Cynigiaf fod
(Andrew Davies): I propose that

the National Assembly, acting under section 62(1)(b) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, resolves to delegate all the functions of the National Assembly contained in the Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations 2000 (available on the HMSO website: <http://www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/si/si2000/20001059.htm>) to the Assembly First Minister, save those which by law cannot be so delegated.

Nothing in this resolution will have the effect of either reducing the pre-eminence of the authority of the full Assembly, or reducing the role of Assembly Committees in reviewing the effectiveness of policies and in developing new policies, as described in Standing Order No. 9.7(i), in contributing to the development of the Assembly's policies.

Alun Pugh: I will vote in favour of these regulations. However, we all need to be aware that there is no such thing as good radiation. Exposure to radiation is justified where there are clear medical benefits and I am glad to see that these safeguards are retained in the regulations. However, the act of eating seafood or going for a walk on a north Wales beach should not result in someone being exposed to radiation, be it from technetium or from any other toxic and radioactive metal that has been dumped into the Irish Sea by British Nuclear Fuels Limited. These regulations are good and I will support them. However, we still need tighter regulations on dumping waste.

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Jane Hutt): It is important to note that these regulations cover different matters to the discharges to which Alun Pugh referred, which are covered by the Environment Agency Wales. It is important today that we seek agreement to ensure that we delegate functions in the interests of efficiency and safety to the Assembly in relation to these important Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations 2000.

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, gan weithredu o dan adran 62(1)(b) Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998, yn penderfynu dirprwyo holl swyddogaethau'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn Rheoliadau Ymbelydredd Ïoneiddio (Datguddiadau Meddygol) 2000 (sydd ar gael ar wefan HMSO: <http://www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/si/si2000/20001059.htm>) i Brif Weinidog Cymru, ac eithrio'r rhai hynny nad yw'r gyfraith yn caniatáu eu dirprwyo.

Ni fydd dim yn y penderfyniad hwn yn lleihau goruchafiaeth awdurdod y Cynulliad llawn, nac yn lleihau swyddogaeth Pwyllgorau'r Cynulliad o ran adolygu effeithiolrwydd polisiau a datblygu polisiau newydd, fel y disgrifiwyd yn Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 9.7 (i), wrth gyfrannu at ddatblygu polisiau'r Cynulliad.

Alun Pugh: Pleidleisiaf o blaid y rheoliadau hyn. Fodd bynnag, mae angen i bob un ohonom fod yn ymwybodol nad oes y fath beth ag ymbelydredd da. Cyfiawnheir datguddiadau i ymbelydredd lle y ceir manteision meddygol clir ac yr wyf yn falch o weld y cedwir yr amddiffyniadau hyn yn y rheoliadau. Fodd bynnag, ni ddylai rhywun gael ei ddatguddio i ymbelydredd o ganlyniad i fwyta bwyd môr neu fynd am dro ar draeth yng ngogledd Cymru, boed yn ymbelydredd o dechnetiwm neu unrhyw fetel gwenwynig ac ymbelydrol arall a ollyngwyd i Fôr Iwerddon gan British Nuclear Fuels Limited. Mae'r rheoliadau hyn yn dda ac fe'u cefnogaf. Fodd bynnag, parha'r angen am reoliadau tynnach o ran gwaredu gwastraff.

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Jane Hutt): Mae'n bwysig nodi bod y rheoliadau hyn yn ymwneud â materion gwahanol i'r gollyngiadau y cyfeiriodd Alun Pugh atynt, a gwmpesir gan waith Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd Cymru. Mae'n bwysig heddiw y ceisiwn gytuno i sicrhau y dirprwywn swyddogaethau o ran effeithlonrwydd a diogelwch i'r Cynulliad mewn perthynas â'r Rheoliadau Ymbelydredd Ïoneiddiol (Datguddiadau Meddygol) 2000 pwysig hyn.

Cynnig: O blaid 41, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.

Motion: For 41, Abstain 0, Against 0.

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Black, Peter
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Ron
Essex, Sue
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German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
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Hart, Edwina
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Law, Peter
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
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Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Richards, Rod
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion adopted.*

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd i'r Gadair am 4:17 p.m.
The Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair at 4:17 p.m.*

4:20 p.m.

Setliad Llywodraeth Leol The Local Government Settlement

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Twelve Members have indicated that they wish to speak. Therefore, the Minister proposing the motion will have 10 minutes, and another 10

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Mynegodd 12 o'r Aelodau eu bod yn dymuno siarad. Felly, bydd gan y Gweinidog sydd yn cynnig y cynnig 10 munud, a 10 munud arall i ymateb

minutes to reply to the debate. Other contributions should be limited to five minutes each.

The Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities (Edwina Hart): I propose that

the National Assembly,

in accordance with Standing Order No. 19.9, approves the Local Government Finance Report for the financial year 2001-02, distributed to Members by e-mail and laid in the Table Office on 30 January 2001 by the Assembly Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities; and

in accordance with Standing Order No. 19.8, approves the Special Grant Report (No.2) (Wales) 2001, distributed to Members by e-mail and laid in the Table Office on 30 January 2001 by the Assembly Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities to enable payment to relevant local authorities of transitional grant to moderate the impact on those authorities of the new standard spending assessment formula.

Last November, the Assembly approved my provisional proposals for next year's local government settlement as the basis for consultation. I now ask the Assembly to approve the local government finance report for the next financial year and to approve an Order for the special grant. I ask for the Assembly's approval in the confident knowledge that the responses to the consultation have been overwhelmingly positive.

There is wide recognition that this year's settlement represents a positive transformation in the financing of local government. I look forward to local authorities being able to achieve sustainable improvements in the wide range of services needed in local communities in every part of Wales; better education, better social care, better support for the local economy and the environment. This settlement provides for

i'r ddadl. Dylid cyfyngu'r cyfraniadau eraill i bum munud yr un.

Y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau (Edwina Hart): Cynigiau fod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol,

yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 19.9, yn cymeradwyo'r Adroddiad Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol 2001-02, a gafodd ei ddosbarthu i'r Aelodau drwy'r e-bost ac a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 30 Ionawr 2001 gan Weinidog y Cynulliad dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau; ac

yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 19.8, yn cymeradwyo'r Adroddiad Grant Arbennig (Rhif 2) (Cymru) 2001, a gafodd ei ddosbarthu i'r Aelodau drwy'r e-bost ac a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 30 Ionawr 2001 gan Weinidog y Cynulliad dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau fel y bo modd talu i'r awdurdodau lleol perthnasol y grant trosiannol ar gyfer lliniaru effeithiau'r fformwla newydd ar gyfer asesiadau gwariant safonol ar yr awdurdodau hynny.

Fis Tachwedd diwethaf, cymeradwyodd y Cynulliad fy nghynigion dros dro ar gyfer setliad llywodraeth leol y flwyddyn nesaf fel sail ar gyfer ymgynghori. Gofynnaf yn awr i'r Cynulliad gymeradwyo'r adroddiad cyllid llywodraeth leol ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol nesaf ac i gymeradwyo Gorchymyn ar gyfer y grant arbennig. Gofynnaf am gymeradwyaeth y Cynulliad gan wybod gyda sicrwydd y bu'r ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad yn gadarnhaol dros ben.

Cydnabyddir yn eang bod setliad eleni wedi trawsnewid y ffordd yr ariennir llywodraeth leol mewn modd cadarnhaol. Edrychaf ymlaen at awdurdodau lleol yn gallu cyflawni gwelliannau cynaliadwy yn yr ystod eang o wasanaethau sydd eu hangen mewn cymunedau lleol ym mhob rhan o Gymru; gwell addysg, gwell gofal cymdeithasol, gwell cymorth i'r economi leol a'r amgylchedd. Darpara'r setliad hwn ar gyfer

substantial real growth in local services for the first time in a quarter of a century. The new distribution formula will achieve a rational and predictable allocation of money to local authorities for the first time in the history of the reorganised local authorities. The new regime of policy agreements and best value will ensure that the resources we provide are used efficiently to respond to the needs of local people and to achieve goals that have been agreed by the Assembly and local government.

I know that all Members will have been fascinated by the report's detail. For legal reasons it reads like the most obscure branch of statistical and mathematical theory. However, behind the language of algebra and weighted variables, real achievements are being shared between the Assembly and Welsh local government, such as enhanced service provision, redistribution in response to local needs and local choices in a framework of national goals. Together, we are pioneering an approach that is new to Wales and unique in the United Kingdom.

Local government will receive an 8 per cent increase in grant support for spending on local services in the next financial year. On any sensible estimate of cost inflation, this represents 4-5 per cent real growth. On 30 January, I announced that the block support is to increase by £186 million, including the increases in revenue support grant, redistributed non-domestic rates and, in the case of three authorities, transitional grant. The total revenue settlement is just under £3.3 billion. In addition about 2.5 per cent of the support to local authorities will be in the form of specific grants.

This settlement is different from the provisional proposals of last autumn. I have listened to Assembly Members, the Local Government and Housing Committee and local authorities. The settlement and the distribution have changed at the margin in response to new data. The sum of £3 million has been added to reflect the extra costs of the new arrangements for long-term care of the elderly. A further £2 million has been added to the total for headteachers' early

twf sylweddol gwirioneddol mewn gwasanaethau lleol am y tro cyntaf mewn chwarter canrif. Bydd y fformwla dosbarthu newydd yn cyflawni dyraniad rhesymegol a rhagweladwy o arian i awdurdodau lleol am y tro cyntaf ers iddynt gael eu had-drefnu. Bydd y gyfundrefn newydd o gytundebau polisi a gwerth gorau yn sicrhau y defnyddir yr adnoddau a ddarparwn yn effeithlon i ymateb i anghenion pobl lleol a chyflawni nodau y cytunwyd arnynt gan y Cynulliad a llywodraeth leol.

Gwn y bydd yr holl Aelodau wedi eu synnu gan fanylion yr adroddiad. Am resymau cyfreithiol mae ef megis y darn cymhlethaf o ddamcaniaeth ystadegol a mathemategol. Fodd bynnag, y tu ôl i iaith algebra a'r amrywiolion pwysoledig, rhennir llwyddiannau gwirioneddol rhwng y Cynulliad a llywodraeth leol Cymru megis darparu gwell gwasanaeth, ailddyrranu mewn ymateb i anghenion lleol a dewisiadau lleol mewn fframwaith o nodau cenedlaethol. Gyda'n gilydd, arloeswn mewn dull o weithio sydd yn newydd i Gymru ac yn unigryw yn y Deyrnas Unedig.

Caiff llywodraeth leol gynydd o 8 y cant mewn cymorth grant i'w wario ar wasanaethau lleol yn y flwyddyn ariannol nesaf. Wrth amcangyfrif chwyddiant cost yn synhwyrol, mae hyn yn 4-5 y cant o dwf gwirioneddol. Ar 30 Ionawr, cyhoeddais y caiff y cymhorthdal bloc ei gynyddu £186 miliwn, gan gynnwys y cynnydd mewn grant cynnal refeniw, ardrethi annomestig wedi eu hailddyrranu ac, yn achos tri awdurdod, grant trosiannol. Mae cyfanswm y setliad refeniw ychydig o dan £3.3 biliwn. Yn ogystal bydd tua 2.5 y cant o'r cymorth i awdurdodau lleol ar ffurf grantiau penodol.

Mae'r setliad hwn yn wahanol i gynigion dros dro yr hydref diwethaf. Gwrandewais ar Aelodau'r Cynulliad, y Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Thai a'r awdurdodau lleol. Addaswyd y setliad a'r dosbarthiad rywfaint mewn ymateb i ddata newydd. Ychwanegwyd y swm o £3 miliwn i adlewyrchu costau ychwanegol y trefniadau newydd ar gyfer gofalu am yr henoed yn y tymor hir. Ychwanegwyd £2 filiwn arall at gyfanswm costau ymddeol yn gynnar i

retirement costs. The distribution of the revenue support grant has been calculated on the basis of the new standard spending assessment formula, which the Assembly and the Welsh Local Government Association agreed last autumn.

Redistribution is never easy and, in this case, I fully acknowledge the support and responsible attitude of the WLGA in getting us through the transition. As I reported in the autumn, there are data gaps, which have prevented us from implementing all the recommendations for the new formula. Many respondents to the consultation reminded us of the need to fill those gaps. Work is ongoing, and as the data becomes available we will incorporate it into the formula.

The effect of the new formula has been directed entirely at the variation in projected council tax increases. The settlement allows for every local authority, if it chooses, to increase its budget by 5.9 per cent even without specific grants. In order to achieve this assumed standard budget increase, council tax changes will vary between minus 11 per cent and plus 9 per cent. The stability that I am aiming for will be achieved after just one year of the new formula, after which I anticipate that 21 of the 22 local authorities will broadly be able to achieve the same rate of growth of expenditure for the same rate of growth of council tax. In order to achieve this stability I have agreed to invest £4 million in a transitional grant for next year. This will be distributed to only three local authorities and will ensure that, as I was requested to ensure by the WLGA, in transition, no local authority need increase its council tax by more than 9 per cent. I ask the Assembly to give specific approval to the Order that provides for this transitional grant.

The partnership agreement's reference to council tax has been much misrepresented. We said that, in implementing the new formula, we would ensure that every local authority could maintain its existing services in the context of an average 3 per cent increase in council tax. We have more than delivered on that commitment. However, we

brifathrawon. Cyfrifwyd dosbarthiad y grant cynnal refeniw ar sail y fformwla asesu gwariant safonol newydd, y cytunodd y Cynulliad a Chymdeithas Lywodraeth Leol Cymru arni yr hydref diwethaf.

Nid yw ailddosbarthu fyth yn hawdd ac, yn yr achos hwn, cydnabyddaf yn llwyr y gefnogaeth ac agwedd gyfrifol y CLILC wrth ein tywys drwy'r cyfnod trosiannol. Fel y nodais yn yr hydref, mae bylchau data, sydd wedi ein hatal rhag gweithredu'r holl argymhellion ar gyfer y fformwla newydd. Fe'n hatgoffwyd gan lawer o'r ymatebwyr i'r ymgynghoriad o'r angen i lenwi'r bylchau hynny. Mae'r gwaith yn mynd rhagddo, ac wrth i'r data fod ar gael ymgorfforwn ef yn y fformwla.

Cyfeiriwyd effaith y fformwla newydd yn uniongyrchol at yr amrywiad yn y codiadau arfaethedig yn y dreth gyngor. Caniatâ'r setliad i bob awdurdod lleol, os dymuna, gynyddu ei gyllideb 5.9 y cant hyd yn oed heb grantiau penodol. Er mwyn cyflawni'r cynnydd tybiedig yn y gyllideb safonol, bydd newidiadau i'r dreth gyngor yn amrywio rhwng minws 11 y cant a phlws 9 y cant. Cyflawnir y sefydlogrwydd yr anelaf ato ar ôl blwyddyn yn unig o'r fformwla newydd, ac ar ôl hynny rhagwelaif y gall 21 o'r 22 o awdurdodau lleol yn fras gyflawni'r un gyfradd twf o wariant ar gyfer yr un gyfradd twf o dreth gyngor. Er mwyn cyflawni'r sefydlogrwydd hwn cytunais i fuddsoddi £4 miliwn mewn grant trosiannol ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf. Dosberthir hwn i dri awdurdod lleol yn unig a sicrhaf, fel y gofynnwyd imi sicrhau gan y CLILC, wrth drosglwyddo, na fydd angen i'r un awdurdod lleol gynyddu ei dreth gyngor fwy na 9 y cant. Gofynnaf i'r Cynulliad roi cymeradwyaeth benodol i'r Gorchymyn sydd yn darparu ar gyfer y grant trosiannol hwn.

Camliwiwyd cyfeiriad y cytundeb partneriaeth at y dreth gyngor yn fawr. Dywedasom y byddem yn sicrhau, wrth roi'r fformwla newydd ar waith, y gallai pob awdurdod lleol gynnal ei wasanaethau presennol yng nghyd-destun cynnydd o 3 y cant ar gyfartaledd yn y dreth gyngor. Yr ydym wedi mwy na chyflawni'r ymrwymiad

also said that local authorities should set their own council tax levels, not the Assembly. We recognised that implementing the new formula would result in different increases in different local authorities. It is mischievous if any Assembly Member, or any political party in local government, has claimed that their local council tax should be 3 per cent. That was never my commitment, or the commitment of any part of this Chamber. When local authorities set their council tax levels, in a responsible and accountable manner—justifying their balance of tax and expenditure to their local electorate—those local authorities will have my support and, I hope, the support of every Assembly Member.

Over the last few months, I have visited local authorities throughout Wales, and have so far visited about half the total number. The response to this settlement has been consistently positive. The picture they have painted is of the Assembly now providing a light at the end of a dark tunnel. Time and again, I am told of the anguish of the last years of the Tory administration. Council leaders from areas as diverse as Bridgend and Gwynedd recalled the years following 1993, when millions of pounds were cut from local authority budgets. They all recognise this as a good settlement. The statisticians tell me that, between 1993 and 1998, local authorities just managed to protect the value of education expenditure. However, there was a 10 per cent real cut in all other services; cuts in children's services, cuts in care of the elderly, cuts in leisure and cultural services, cuts in street cleaning and road maintenance, and cuts in capital expenditure. The memory of those who previously governed Wales is not fading and the scars in our communities remain, as Peter Law often alludes to in this Chamber.

Almost all council leaders told me of the irresponsibility of the Tory Government in re-organising local government, as it did not provide a financial framework to fit the new authorities. The leader of Neath Port Talbot

hwynnw. Fodd bynnag, dywedasom hefyd y dylai awdurdodau lleol bennu eu lefelau treth gyngor eu hunain, nid y Cynulliad. Cydnabuom y byddai gweithredu'r fformwla newydd yn arwain at gynnydd gwahanol mewn awdurdodau lleol gwahanol. Mae'n ddrygionus os bydd unrhyw Aelod o'r Cynulliad, neu unrhyw blaid mewn llywodraeth leol, wedi honni y dylai eu treth gyngor leol fod yn 3 y cant. Nid dyna oedd fy ymrwymiad, nac ymrwymiad unrhyw ran o'r Siambr hon. Pan fydd awdurdodau lleol yn pennu eu lefelau treth gyngor eu hunain, mewn ffordd gyfrifol ac atebol—gan gyfiawnhau eu mantoli rhwng treth a gwariant i'w hetholaeth leol—caiff yr awdurdodau lleol hynny fy nghefnogaeth a, gobeithio, cefnogaeth pob Aelod o'r Cynulliad.

Dros yr ychydig fisoedd diwethaf, ymwelais ag awdurdodau lleol ledled Cymru, a hyd yma ymwelais â thua hanner ohonynt. Bu'r ymateb i'r setliad hwn bob amser yn gadarnhaol. Yr argraff a roesant yw bod y Cynulliad yn rhoi golau ar ddiwedd twnnel tywyll. Dro ar ôl tro, dywedir wrthyf am ofid blynyddoedd olaf gweinyddiaeth y Torïaid. Cofiai arweinwyr cynghorau o ardaloedd mor wahanol â Phen-y-bont ar Ogwr a Gwynedd am y blynyddoedd ar ôl 1993, pan dorrwyd miliynau o bunnoedd oddi ar gyllidebau awdurdodau lleol. Maent oll yn cydnabod bod hyn yn setliad da. Dywed yr ystadegwyr wrthyf y bu ond i dim i'r awdurdodau lleol, rhwng 1993 a 1998, fethu â diogelu gwerth y gwariant ar addysg. Fodd bynnag, bu toriad gwirioneddol o 10 y cant yn yr holl wasanaethau eraill; toriadau mewn gwasanaethau plant, toriadau mewn gofal i'r henoed, toriadau mewn gwasanaethau hamdden a diwylliant, toriadau yn y gwasanaeth glanhau strydoedd a chynnal ffyrdd, a thoriadau mewn gwariant cyfalaf. Nid yw cof y sawl a lywodraethai Cymru gynt yn pylu, ac erys y creithiau yn ein cymunedau, fel y cyfeiria Peter Law atynt yn aml yn y Siambr hon.

Dywedodd bron pob un o arweinwyr y cynghorau wrthyf pa mor anghyfrifol oedd y Llywodraeth Doriâidd wrth ad-drefnu llywodraeth leol, gan na ddarparodd fframwaith ariannol i weddu â'r awdurdodau

County Borough Council will tell all within earshot, which amounts to a large number of people, what it is like to double council tax and cut services at the same time, inheriting spending commitments that bear no relationship to the SSA and relying on an arbitrary damping grant just to remain solvent.

David Davies *rose—*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. The Minister will not give way. Calm down, David, and let her finish her speech.

Edwina Hart: When you are asked what difference this Assembly is making, it is more relevant to ask what difference the administration is making. Compare the growth and stability of this year's local government settlement with those dark Tory years and just compare our partnership with local government with the days when it was a battleground.

To move on, we all agree on the importance of the police service. The Assembly is responsible for police standard spending assessments, while the Home Office supports the police through police grant. The Assembly support to police authorities will ensure that the police service shares the same sort of real growth as other local services in Wales. The Assembly has a real interest in ensuring that local authorities use the large and increasing amounts of money that we provide to them efficiently and effectively. We must ensure that policies developed in local areas, in response to local needs, are complementary to our goals. Each local authority will agree targets of what they intend to achieve in education, social care, transport and the environment. I have provided a potential £10 million in extra grants next year, in anticipation that all local authorities will successfully make their agreements with the Assembly. There is a projection of a further grant in 2003-04 for authorities that achieve the targets agreed.

newydd. Bydd arweinydd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Castell-nedd Port Talbot yn dweud wrth bawb o fewn clyw, sef nifer fawr o bobl, sut deimlad yw dyblu'r dreth gyngor a thorri gwasanaethau ar yr un pryd, gan etifeddu ymrwymadau gwario na wnelo ddim â'r asesiad gwariant safonol a dibynnu ar grant dampio mwypwyol er mwyn aros yn ddidyled.

David Davies *a gododd—*

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Nid yw'r Gweinidog yn ildio. Ymdawelwch, David, a gadewch iddi orffen ei haraith.

Edwina Hart: Pan ofynnir ichi pa wahaniaeth y mae'r Cynulliad hwn yn ei wneud, mae'n fwy perthnasol gofyn pa wahaniaeth y mae'r weinyddiaeth yn ei wneud. Cymharwch dwf a sefydlogrwydd setliad llywodraeth leol eleni â blynyddoedd tywyll y Toriaid a chymharwch ein partneriaeth gyda llywodraeth leol â'r dyddiau pan oedd yn faes y gad.

A symud ymlaen, cytuna pob un ohonom ar bwysigrwydd gwasanaeth yr heddlu. Mae'r Cynulliad yn gyfrifol am asesiadau gwariant safonol yr heddlu, tra bod y Swyddfa Gartref yn cefnogi'r heddlu drwy grant yr heddlu. Bydd cymorth y Cynulliad i awdurdodau'r heddlu yn sicrhau bod gwasanaeth yr heddlu yn rhannu'r un math o dwf gwirioneddol â gwasanaethau lleol eraill yng Nghymru. Mae gan y Cynulliad ddiddordeb gwirioneddol mewn sicrhau bod awdurdodau lleol yn defnyddio'r symiau mawr a chynyddol o arian a ddarparwn iddynt yn effeithlon ac effeithiol. Rhaid inni sicrhau bod polisïau a ddatblygir mewn ardaloedd lleol, mewn ymateb i anghenion lleol, yn gweddu i'n nodau. Bydd pob awdurdod lleol yn cytuno ar dargedau o'r hyn y maent yn bwriadu eu cyflawni mewn addysg, gofal cymdeithasol, trafndiaeth a'r amgylchedd. Darperais £10 miliwn bosibl mewn grantiau ychwanegol y flwyddyn nesaf, wrth ragweld y bydd pob awdurdod lleol yn llunio cytundebau llwyddiannus â'r Cynulliad. Rhagwelir y bydd grant pellach yn 2003-04 ar gyfer awdurdodau sydd yn cyrraedd y targedau y cytunwyd arnynt.

In addition to introducing the policy agreement approach, we must consider the best value requirements. I have announced about 80 performance indicators in this area. I am keen that we can, through policy agreements and best value checks, give real confidence to people about how money is spent. Hypothecation, in my opinion, is a thing of the past. I hope that that message hits home.

I want to continue the improvement in our relationship with local government by ensuring that the settlement announcement is, in future, made earlier in the financial year, and by seeking to tie in announcements on special grants with announcements on the general block. To achieve this, we will require earlier submission of data from local authorities, but we will allow them to undertake more considered financial planning.

The Assembly can take pride in this settlement and the development of a mature relationship with local government. The settlement will lead to real growth in local services, sustainable growth over three years, an end to large scale imposed council tax increases, a stable and rational formula, robust agreements between the Assembly and local government, and incentives to achieve the continuous improvements in performance that we require from local government. This is a good settlement and I commend it to the National Assembly

4:30 p.m.

Janet Ryder: I declare an interest as a member of a town council.

The revenue support grant under discussion today was announced to the press before it appeared on the internet or intranet. A press release announcing the settlement as a done deal appeared on the internet hours before the final documents. This settlement, in its final form, has not been discussed by the Local Government and Housing Committee. There has been no provision for other parties to amend the motion, which would allow them to increase areas of spending if they so

Yn ogystal â chyflwyno cytundebau polisi, rhaid inni ystyried y gofynion gwerth gorau. Cyhoeddais tua 80 o ddangosyddion perfformiad yn y maes hwn. Yr wyf yn awyddus ein bod yn gallu, drwy gytundebau polisi a gwiriadau gwerth gorau, rhoi hyder gwirioneddol i bobl ynglŷn â sut y gwerir arian. Mae pridiannu, yn fy marn i, yn perthyn i'r gorffennol. Gobeithiaf y bydd pawb yn deall y neges honno.

Yr wyf am barhau i wella ein perthynas gyda llywodraeth leol drwy sicrhau, yn y dyfodol, y gwneir y cyhoeddiad setliad yn gynharach yn y flwyddyn ariannol, a thrwy geisio cysylltu cyhoeddiadau ar grantiau arbennig â chyhoeddiadau ar y bloc cyffredinol. Er mwyn cyflawni hyn, byddwn yn gofyn i awdurdodau lleol gyflwyno data yn gynharach, ond byddwn yn caniatáu iddynt ymgymryd â chynllunio ariannol fwy pwylllog.

Gall y Cynulliad ymfalchïo yn y setliad hwn a'r ffaith ei fod yn datblygu perthynas aeddfed gyda llywodraeth leol. Bydd y setliad yn arwain at dwf gwirioneddol mewn gwasanaethau lleol, twf cynaliadwy dros dair blynedd, cael gwared ar godiadau mawr gorfodol yn y dreth gyngor, fformwla sefydlog a rhesymegol, cytundebau cadarn rhwng y Cynulliad a llywodraeth leol, a chymelliadau i wneud y gwelliannau parhaus mewn perfformiad yr ydym yn gofyn i lywodraeth leol eu sicrhau. Mae hwn yn setliad da ac fe'i cymeradwyaf i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol.

Janet Ryder: Datganaf fuddiant fel aelod o gyngor tref.

Cyhoeddwyd y grant cymorth refeniw a drafodir heddiw i'r wasg cyn iddo ymddangos ar y rhyngwrwyd neu'r fewnwrwyd. Ymddangosodd datganiad i'r wasg yn cyhoeddi'r setliad fel setliad terfynol ar y rhyngwrwyd oriau cyn y dogfennau terfynol. Ni thrafodwyd y setliad hwn, ar ei ffurf derfynol, gan y Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Thai. Ni fu unrhyw ddarpariaeth i bartion eraill ddiwygio'r cynnig, a fyddai'n caniatáu iddynt gynyddu gwariant mewn rhai

wished. There is little time left for us to air our views. This is not a debate. Even Westgate, in *The Western Mail* on Saturday, spoke about the revenue support grant that had already been announced. This is not democracy; it is government by press release.

This is a major section of the Assembly's budget. I accept the Minister's points that this settlement provides more money for local government, and it will allow for an increase in spending on frontline services. However, all councils will need substantial increases for a number of years to repair the damage caused by years of inflation when they received below inflation increases. There was no clear table on the internet showing the overall amount that each county would receive. Last year, this was clearly shown as part of the report, and I ask the Minister to ensure that it is included in future.

A transitional grant has been awarded to enable counties to adjust to the new funding formula. However, only three counties will receive that grant. Other councils face similar increases, but will not receive any relief. Some councils think that an overall transitional grant of £17 million would have been fairer, to provide the necessary scale of relief. Will the Minister explain why some counties have received the transitional grant while others have not?

There is a contradiction in this budget. In November, I pointed out that there has been a substantial increase in the use of specific grants, some of which were announced late. That has caused problems to councils seeking to set their own budgets. Specific grants could be perceived as a form of hypothecation. However, the Minister says that she is committed to allowing councils the freedom to spend and allocate their money as they see fit. In her press statement on 30 January she said

'I want to make it absolutely clear that revenue settlement resources are not earmarked by the Assembly for any particular purpose; local authorities are best placed to gauge what local council tax payers are able

meysydd, os dymunant. Nid oes llawer o amser ar ôl inni leisio ein barn. Nid dadl mo hon. Yr oedd hyd yn oed Westgate, yn *The Western Mail* ddydd Sadwrn, yn siarad am y grant cymorth refeniw a gyhoeddwyd eisoes. Nid democratiaeth ydyw ond llywodraeth drwy ddatganiadau i'r wasg.

Mae hon yn rhan sylweddol o gyllideb y Cynulliad. Derbyniaf bwyntiau'r Gweinidog bod y setliad hwn yn rhoi mwy o arian i lywodraeth leol, ac y bydd yn caniatáu mwy o wariant ar wasanaethau'r rheng flaen. Fodd bynnag, bydd angen i bob cyngor gael cynnydd sylweddol am nifer o flynyddoedd er mwyn unioni'r niwed a achoswyd gan flynyddoedd o chwyddiant pan oeddent yn cael cynnydd yn is na chwyddiant. Nid oedd tabl clir ar y rhyngwyd yn dangos y cyfanswm y byddai pob sir yn ei gael. Y llynedd, dangoswyd hyn yn eglur fel rhan o'r adroddiad, a gofynnaf i'r Gweinidog sicrhau y caiff ei gynnwys yn y dyfodol.

Dyfarnwyd grant trosiannol er mwyn i'r siroedd ymaddasu i'r fformwla ariannu newydd. Fodd bynnag, dim ond tair sir a gaiff y grant hwnnw. Mae cyngorau eraill yn wynebu cynnydd cyffelyb, ond ni fyddant yn cael unrhyw gymorth. Cred rhai cyngorau y byddai grant trosiannol o £17 miliwn wedi bod yn decach, er mwyn rhoi'r cymorth sydd ei angen. A wnaiff y Gweinidog egluro pam mae rhai siroedd wedi cael y grant trosiannol tra bod eraill heb ei gael?

Mae gwrth-ddweud yn y gyllideb hon. Ym mis Tachwedd, nodais fod cynnydd sylweddol yn y defnydd o grantiau penodol, y cyhoeddwyd rhai ohonynt yn hwyr. Parodd hynny broblemau i'r cyngorau a oedd yn ceisio pennu eu cyllidebau eu hunain. Gellid ystyried grantiau penodol yn fath o bridianu. Fodd bynnag, dywed y Gweinidog ei bod yn ymrwymedig i ganiatáu i gynghorau wario a dyrannu eu harian fel y mynnont. Yn ei datganiad i'r wasg ar 30 Ionawr dywedodd

'Yr wyf am ei gwneud yn berffaith glir nad yw adnoddau'r setliad refeniw yn cael eu clustnodi gan y Cynulliad at unrhyw ddiben penodol; mater i'r awdurdodau lleol yw barnu faint y mae talwyr y dreth gyngor yn

to pay and to determine spending priorities.’

gallu’i dalu a phenderfynu ar flaenoriaethau o ran gwariant.’

That surely is in stark contrast to the letter issued by Jane Davidson in December, which appeared to tell schools in minute detail exactly how much ‘new’ money they could expect to receive. The effect on local authorities was profound, with many of them feeling that they had been told, once again, how to allocate their budgets. It seemed to them to be yet another form of hypothecation.

Mae hynny yn sicr yn gwrth-ddweud y llythyr a gyhoeddwyd gan Jane Davidson ym mis Rhagfyr, a oedd fel pe bai’n dweud yn fanwl gywir wrth ysgolion faint o arian ‘newydd’ y gallant ddisgwyl ei gael. Effeithiodd hynny yn ddwfn ar yr awdurdodau lleol, a theimlai llawer ohonynt y dywedwyd wrthynt, unwaith eto, sut y dylent ddyrannu eu cyllidebau. Ymddengys iddynt hwy fod hyn yn fath arall eto o bridianu.

If local government is denied the freedom to decide how to spend its money, it becomes nothing more than an agency through which money is passed on to other bodies. Plaid Cymru believes that local government is elected to govern locally. To do that, it must have the freedom to allocate its budget, as it judges appropriate for its area. The Assembly does not like to be told by Westminster how to allocate its budgets, and we should give the same freedom to local government.

Os na chaniateir i lywodraeth leol benderfynu sut i wario ei harian, bydd ond megis asiantaeth y trosglwyddir arian drwyddi i gyrff eraill. Cred Plaid Cymru yr etholir llywodraeth leol i lywodraethu’n lleol. Er mwyn gwneud hynny, rhaid iddi gael rhyddid i ddyrannu ei chyllideb ar gyfer ei hardal fel y gwêl yn dda. Nid yw’r Cynulliad yn hoffi San Steffan yn dweud wrtho sut i ddyrannu ei gyllidebau, a dylem roi’r un rhyddid i lywodraeth leol.

There is concern about differing levels of spending on services in different local authority areas, on education in particular. Perhaps the answer is to ensure clarity, so that people can see how much money their local authority is allocating to different services. However, the Assembly must also produce clear budgets, to show that any new money announced by Westminster is clearly identifiable in our budget.

Mae pryder ynghylch y gwahanol lefelau o wariant ar wasanaethau mewn ardaloedd awdurdodau lleol gwahanol, ar addysg yn arbennig. Efallai mai’r ateb yw sicrhau eglurder, fel y gall pobl weld sut mae eu hawdurdod lleol yn dyrannu arian i wahanol wasanaethau. Fodd bynnag, rhaid i’r Cynulliad hefyd lunio cyllidebau eglur, a fydd yn dangos y gellid nodi unrhyw arian newydd a gyhoeddir gan San Steffan yn glir yn ein cyllideb.

Another area of concern is the provision of services to groups such as people with learning disabilities. The all-Wales strategy was introduced to overcome such a perceived problem. This hypothecated money was intended to provide services to a vulnerable group. With the demise of that strategy, there has been a consequential demise in services. This area of concern will need special attention as policy agreements are reached.

Maes arall sydd yn achosi pryder yw darpariaeth gwasanaethau i grwpiau fel pobl ag anableddau dysgu. Cyflwynwyd y strategaeth Cymru gyfan i oresgyn problem ymddangosiadol o’r fath. Bwriad yr arian hwn a bridianwyd oedd darparu gwasanaethau i grŵp diamddiffyn. Ar ôl i’r strategaeth honno ddiflannu, darfu’r gwasanaethau hefyd. Bydd angen rhoi sylw arbennig i’r maes hwn wrth lunio cytundebau polisi.

I return to the settlement’s presentation. We must ask why we are having this debate today. This is not the revenue support grant

Dychwelaf at gyflwyniad y setliad. Rhaid inni ofyn pam yr ydym yn cael y ddadl hon heddiw. Dim ond grant cymorth refeniw y

of the National Assembly, but only of the Minister. As Minister for Finance, she has agreed her own budget, for herself, as Minister for Local Government. Today's debate smacks of the old smoke-filled rooms and deals done behind closed doors, not the open, inclusive government that the Assembly was supposed to provide. Last week, Nick Bourne, I think, raised a point of order relating to the announcement to the press of the health strategy, before it was made available to Assembly Members. Today's debate is being held to give political legitimacy to a *fait accompli*.

Therefore, we have a motion that cannot be amended as it is a finance motion, and a settlement that has changed since it was last debated, which has been announced to the press as a certainty before the Assembly is allowed to discuss it. What will happen next year? The partnership agreement contained a pledge to keep the council tax increase to 5 per cent. I suppose that we will have to wait for the press release.

Lorraine Barrett: I have been asked by the Vale of Glamorgan Council, which is Conservative led and supported by Plaid Cymru, to ask the Minister for Finance to allocate transitional grants to the council. At this point, I will make a political observation. It is astounding when Conservatives accuse Labour of a poor settlement. I apologise for repeating some of what Edwina said, but I did not know what she would say. What did Mrs Thatcher or Mr Hague as Secretary of State for Wales do for local government or public services in Wales? Nothing, as I recall, other than try to demolish them.

Everyone agreed that the inadequacies of the previous standard spending assessment formula had to be redressed. For the first time we have had a government, the Government of Wales, working with local government to come up with a fairer formula. No formula can be perfect, and I would love to be able to say to the people of Cardiff South and Penarth, that they will never have to pay any more council tax. I would love the Minister for Finance to say to me, 'Here you are

Gweinidog ydyw, nid un y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Fel y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, cytunodd ar ei chyllideb ei hun, drosti hi ei hun, fel y Gweinidog dros Lywodraeth Leol. Mae'r ddadl heddiw yn dwyn i'r cof yr hen ystafelloedd cyfrin a'r bargeinion a drawyd y tu ôl i ddrysau caeedig, nid y llywodraeth agored, gynhwysol yr oedd Cynulliad i fod i'w rhoi. Yr wythnos diwethaf, cododd Nick Bourne, fe gredaf, bwynt o drefn yn ymwneud â'r cyhoeddiad yn y wasg am y strategaeth iechyd, cyn iddi fod ar gael i Aelodau'r Cynulliad. Cynhelir y ddadl heddiw er mwyn cael cyfiawnhad gwleidyddol dros *fait accompli*.

Felly, cawn gynnig na ellir ei ddiwygio am ei fod yn gynnig am gyllid, a setliad sydd wedi newid ers y tro diwethaf y cafwyd dadl arno ac a gyhoeddwyd yn y wasg fel setliad terfynol cyn i'r Cynulliad gael cyfle i'w drafod. Beth fydd yn digwydd y flwyddyn nesaf? Yr oedd addewid yn y cytundeb partneriaeth i gadw cynnydd yn y dreth gyngor i 5 y cant. Cymeraf y bydd yn rhaid inni aros am y datganiad i'r wasg.

Lorraine Barrett: Gofynnodd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, sef cyngor a arweinir gan y Ceidwadwyr ac a gefnogir gan Blaid Cymru, imi ofyn i'r Gweinidog dros Gyllid ddyrannu grantiau trosiannol iddo. Gwnaf sylw gwleidyddol yn awr. Rhyfeddaf pan fydd y Ceidwadwyr yn cyhuddo Llafur o roi setliad gwael. Ymddiheuraf am ailadrodd ychydig o'r hyn a ddywedodd Edwina, ond ni wn beth fyddai'n ei ddweud. Beth wnaeth Mrs Thatcher neu Mr Hague fel Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru, dros lywodraeth leol neu'r gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru? Dim yw dim, fel y cofiaf, heblaw am geisio eu dinistrio.

Cytunodd pawb fod rhaid cywiro diffygion yr hen fformwla asesiad gwariant safonol. Am y tro cyntaf mae gennym lywodraeth, Llywodraeth Cymru, sydd yn gweithio gyda llywodraeth leol i lunio fformwla decach. Ni all unrhyw fformwla fod yn berffaith, a byddai'n dda gennyf pe gallwn ddweud wrth bobl De Caerdydd a Phenarth, na fydd yn rhaid iddynt dalu treth gyngor byth eto. Hoffwn pe bai'r Gweinidog dros Gyllid yn dweud wrthyf, 'Dyma chi Lorraine, dyma

Lorraine, here is as much money as the Tories in the Vale of Glamorgan want’.

There are pockets of deprivation in the Vale of Glamorgan. The only part of it which I represent is in Penarth where there are areas with economic and social problems. One such area is the town council ward of St Augustine’s, which is subsumed into the more affluent Vale council ward of Alexandra. The Tories on the Vale of Glamorgan Council tried to stop the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales dividing this ward into two, so that the true deprivation levels in St Augustine’s can be properly measured. The words ‘crocodile tears’ come to mind. These funding proposals have been welcomed by the Welsh Local Government Association and the Vale of Glamorgan Council will be able to increase its expenditure on existing services by 5.9 per cent and will receive further funding for new services.

The settlement will allow for growth in education, social services and many other essential services. However, I remain concerned about the viability of the Vale of Glamorgan Council because local government reorganisation in 1996—again this was alluded to by the Minister for Finance—was done hurriedly and on the cheap. Many of us said then that 22 district councils would not be able to deliver full and proper education or social services provision.

Finally, while I will do all that I can to get the best settlement possible for those whom I represent, I still have to be able to look my colleague Peter Law in the eye, when he tells me that his constituents live in deprivation surrounded by deprivation. What hope do they have now? For goodness’ sake, let us all get behind these proposals to deliver the best services for Wales. It is the best settlement that Wales has ever had.

William Graham: I declare an interest as a member of Newport County Borough Council. Although we acknowledge that this is an important settlement for local government in Wales, and, as always, we

gymaint o arian ag y dymunai Torïaid Bro Morgannwg ei gael’.

Mae ardaloedd o amddifadedd ym Mro Morgannwg. Yr unig ran ohoni a gynrychiolaf yw’r rhan ym Mhenarth lle y mae ardaloedd â phroblemau economaidd a chymdeithasol. Un ardal o’r fath yw ward cyngor tref St Augustine, sydd yn rhan o ward cyngor tref fwy llewyrchus yn y Fro sef ward Alexandra. Ceisiodd y Torïaid ar Gyngor Bro Morgannwg atal Comisiwn Ffiniau Llywodraeth Leol i Gymru rhag rhannu’r ward hon yn ddwy, fel y gellir mesur gwir lefelau amddifadedd yn ward St Augustine yn gywir. Daw’r geiriau ‘ffugwylofain’ i’r cof. Croesawyd y cynigion ariannu hwn gan Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru a bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn gallu cynyddu ei wariant ar ei wasanaethau presennol 5.9 y cant ac yn cael arian pellach ar gyfer gwasanaethau newydd.

Bydd y setliad yn caniatáu twf ym maes addysg, gwasanaethau cymdeithasol a llawer o wasanaethau hanfodol eraill. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn parhau i bryderu ynghylch ymarferoldeb Cyngor Bro Morgannwg am fod llywodraeth leol yn 1996—unwaith eto lledgyfeiriwyd at hyn gan y Gweinidog dros Gyllid—wedi ei hadrefnu ar frys ac am geiniog a dimau. Dywedodd llawer ohonom ar y pryd na fyddai 22 cyngor dosbarth yn gallu cyflwyno darpariaeth addysg a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol lawn a phriodol.

I gloi, er y gwnaf bopeth o fewn fy ngallu i sicrhau’r setliad gorau posibl i’r rhai a gynrychiolaf, rhaid imi edrych ym myw llygad fy nghyd-Aelod, Peter Law, pan ddywed wrthyf am ei etholwyr yntau sydd yn byw mewn môr o amddifadedd. Pa obaith sydd ganddynt yn awr? Er mwyn dyn, gadewch inni oll gefnogi’r cynigion hyn i ddarparu’r gwasanaethau gorau ar gyfer Cymru. Dyma’r setliad gorau a gafodd Cymru erioed.

William Graham: Datganaf fuddiant fel aelod o Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Casnewydd. Er ein bod yn cydnabod y ffaith bod hwn yn setliad pwysig i lywodraeth leol yng Nghymru, ac, fel arfer, cawsom

have had a competent presentation by Edwina, it is still disappointing news for council tax payers in all Welsh local authorities.

The main flaws in this financial settlement, which we have brought to the attention of the Assembly on many occasions, may be summarised as follows. The formula continues to allow inefficient local authorities that provide services at high cost to receive grants to pay for their inefficiencies. The formula incorporates an increased reliance upon deprivation indicators that predominantly relate to our urban communities and it fails to reflect the sparsity and rurality of so many of our communities in Wales.

The Welsh Conservatives welcome the rejection of hypothecation and the freedom given to local authorities to determine their expenditure priorities for principal service provision. However, this freedom requires total transparency at local government level, so that everyone can clearly see who decides how much of their money is being spent and on which services emphasis is being placed.

4:40 p.m.

Last week, the Minister announced that extra money was available for councils to spend on an early retirement scheme for headteachers and to reduce the pressures on elderly people to sell their homes to pay for care. However, unless this extra money is ringfenced, councils may spend it on different services and we may find that it will yet again be absorbed to pay for the inefficiencies of some high-spending local authorities. You need look no further than my local council, Newport County Borough Council, where vital education and social services were supposedly underspent by £1 million and £600,000 respectively, and where £1.5 million was transferred to Newport Housing Trust. Those figures attracted the interest of the district auditor. How many more council officials have to come to the Assembly to account for district auditor reports concerning their lack of integrity, openness and propriety?

gyflwyniad cymwys gan Edwina, mae'n newyddion siomedig o hyd i dalwyr y dreth gyngor ym mhob awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru.

Gellir crynhoi prif wendidau'r datganiad ariannol hwn, yr ydym wedi tynnu sylw'r Cynulliad atynt droeon, fel a ganlyn. Mae'r fformwla yn parhau i ganiatáu i awdurdodau lleol aneffeithlon sydd yn darparu gwasanaethau am gost uchel gael grantiau i dalu am eu haneffeithlonrwydd. Mae'r fformwla hon yn cynnwys mwy o ddibyniaeth ar ddangosyddion amddifadedd sydd yn bennaf yn berthnasol i'n cymunedau trefol ac nid yw'n adlewyrchu teneurwydd a natur wledig cymaint o'n cymunedau yng Nghymru.

Mae Ceidwadwyr Cymru yn croesawu'r penderfyniad i wrthod pridiannu a'r ffaith bod awdurdodau lleol yn rhydd i benderfynu ar eu blaenoriaethau gwariant ar gyfer y prif wasanaethau a ddarperir. Fodd bynnag, mae rhyddid yn gofyn am dryloywder llwyr mewn llywodraeth leol, fel y gall pawb weld yn glir pwy sydd yn penderfynu faint o'u harian a werir ac ar ba wasanaethau y rhoddir y pwyslais.

Yr wythnos diwethaf, cyhoeddodd y Gweinidog fod arian ychwanegol ar gael i gynghorau ei wario ar gynllun ymddeol yn gynnar ar gyfer penaethiaid ysgolion ac er mwyn lleihau'r pwysau ar yr henoed i werthu eu cartrefi er mwyn talu am ofal. Fodd bynnag, oni chaiff yr arian ychwanegol hwn ei glustnodi, gall cynghorau ei wario ar wasanaethau gwahanol ac efallai y'i gwelwn unwaith eto yn cael ei lyncu i dalu am aneffeithlonrwydd rhai o'r awdurdodau lleol afradlon. Nid oes angen ichi edrych ymhellach na'm cyngor lleol i, Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Casnewydd, lle y bu tanwariant honedig o £1 miliwn a £600,000 ym meysydd holl bwysig addysg a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, yn y drefn honno, a lle y trosglwyddwyd £1.5 miliwn i Ymddiriedolaeth Tai Casnewydd. Enynnodd y ffigurau hynny ddiddordeb yr archwiliwr dosbarth. Faint rhagor o swyddogion cyngor a fydd yn gorfod dod i'r Cynulliad i egluro

adroddiadau gan yr archwiliwr dosbarth am eu diffyg cywirdeb, gonestrwydd a gwedduster?

What example can the Assembly provide for Wales? Last October, in its partnership agreement, the Labour/Liberal Democrat administration committed itself to providing the funding to allow local authorities to maintain their service provision levels and keep their council tax increases to, allegedly, an average increase of 3 per cent. As council after council indicates that it will levy council tax increases well above that figure, extra money suddenly becomes available. Why are the people of Wales subjected to their services being maintained at their current level? Why suggest, however vaguely, a figure of 3 per cent, when, in reality, additional money is required to fund service improvements?

Peter Black: I cannot believe that a man of your education cannot understand the meaning of the word 'average'. Clearly, if we aim for an average increase of 3 per cent, some councils will levy a higher council tax while others will levy a lower council tax. Do you not accept that the document referred to an average of 3 per cent, and that was the inevitable outcome?

William Graham: If you spin a number long enough, people will come to respect it. In this case, we know that it is not true.

Why are people in rural Wales being penalised by a formula for determining local government funding that incorporates an increased reliance on deprivation indicators that are predominantly related to our urban communities and fail to reflect the sparsity and rurality of many of our communities in Wales? We know that it costs more to provide a service in a sparsely populated rural area than to provide the same service in a densely populated urban area. We all know that, in real terms, the value of farm workers' incomes is falling. We are disturbed that this settlement fails to take full and proper account of these issues.

The scrutiny of local government expenditure

Pa esiampl all y Cynulliad ei rhoi i Gymru? Fis Hydref diwethaf, yn ei chytundeb partneriaeth, ymrwymodd y weinyddiaeth Lafur/Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol i roi arian i ganiatáu i awdurdodau lleol gadw lefel y gwasanaethau a ddarperir ganddynt a sicrhau na fyddent, fel yr honnwyd, yn cynyddu eu treth gyngor yn uwch na 3 y cant ar gyfartaledd. Wrth i'r naill gyngor ar ôl y llall nodi y bydd yn cynyddu'r dreth gyngor yn uwch o dipyn na'r ffigur hwnnw, mae arian ychwanegol yn sydyn yn ymddangos. Pam bod pobl Cymru yn gorfod dioddef eu gwasanaethau yn cael eu cadw ar eu lefel bresennol? Pam yr awgrymwyd ffigur o 3 y cant, pa mor amwys bynnag, pan fo angen arian ychwanegol i ariannu'r gwelliannau yn y gwasanaethau mewn gwirionedd?

Peter Black: Ni allaf gredu na all dyn mor hyddysg â chi ddeall ystyr y gair 'cyfartalog'. Yn amlwg, os anelwn at gynnydd cyfartalog o 3 y cant, bydd rhai cynghorau'n codi treth gyngor uwch tra bod eraill yn codi treth gyngor is. Oni dderbyniwch fod y ddogfen yn cyfeirio at 3 y cant ar gyfartaledd, ac mai hynny oedd y canlyniad anochel?

William Graham: Os troellwch rif yn ddigon hir, daw pobl i'w barchu. Yn yr achos hwn, gwyddom nad yw'n wir.

Pam y caiff pobl Cymru wledig eu cosbi drwy fformwla ar gyfer pennu arian llywodraeth leol ac iddi ddibyniaeth fwy ar ddangosyddion amddifadedd sydd yn berthnasol yn bennaf i'n cymunedau trefol ac nad ydyw'n adlewyrchu teneurwydd a natur wledig cymaint o'n cymunedau yng Nghymru? Gwyddom ei bod yn fwy costus i ddarparu gwasanaeth mewn ardal wledig, amhoblog na darparu'r un gwasanaeth mewn ardal drefol, boblog iawn. Gwyddom oll fod gwerth incwm gweithwyr fferm yn gostwng mewn termau real. Yr ydym yn pryderu nad yw'r setliad hwn yn rhoi ystyriaeth lawn a phriodol i'r materion hyn.

Erbyn hyn cynhwysir y broses o archwilio

and its quality of service provision is now contained within Best Value—

Brian Gibbons: In view of your statement that rural Wales has been hammered by this settlement, can you explain why the majority of council tax cuts will probably be in rural Wales, whereas in my constituency, Aberavon, and in Rhondda, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney and Blaenau Gwent they face the opposite situation?

William Graham: Brian well knows that that is to do with how figures are worked out.

Brian Gibbons: Yes, but you cannot say that it is an increase.

William Graham: It is up to individual local authorities to come up with their final figures, which have yet to be announced.

The scrutiny of local government expenditure and its quality of service provision is now contained within Best Value. This

‘requires authorities to deliver services by the most economic, efficient and effective means’.

That is a quotation from a letter that I received from the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities. Although it is dated 31 January, it was delivered to my office five days later, and not via the internal mail system. It had been delivered back to this building by the Post Office. At least the Minister followed Best Value practice by sending it by second class mail.

After four years under a Labour Government, the average household is paying £200 more per annum in council tax. This is the ultimate stealth tax, and although it is levied by Gordon Brown, the National Assembly for Wales has to take the blame.

Best Value requires councils to be monitored against almost 150 specific performance indicators, at a total estimated cost to UK taxpayers of £600 million a year. In replacing compulsory competitive tendering, Best Value offers no guarantee of competition,

gwariant llywodraeth leol ac ansawdd y gwasanaethau a ddarperir yn graff o fewn Gwerth Gorau—

Brian Gibbons: O ystyried eich datganiad bod Cymru wledig o dan y lach oherwydd y setliad hwn, a allwch egluro pam mai yng Nghymru wledig y bydd y rhan fwyaf o doriadau i'r dreth gyngor, tra bod y sefyllfa i'r gwrthwyneb mewn ardaloedd yn fy etholaeth i, Aberafan, ac yn Rhondda, Merthyr Tudful a Rhymni a Blaenau Gwent.

William Graham: Gŵyr Brian yn iawn fod hynny'n ymwneud â'r ffordd y cyfrifir ffigurau.

Brian Gibbons: Gwn, ond ni allwch ddweud mai cynnydd ydyw.

William Graham: Yr awdurdodau lleol unigol sydd yn gyfrifol am gyfrifo eu ffigurau terfynol, nad ydynt wedi'u cyhoeddi eto.

Cynhwysir y broses o archwilio gwariant llywodraeth leol ac ansawdd y gwasanaethau a ddarperir o fewn Gwerth Gorau. Mae hyn

Dyna ddyfyniad o lythyr a anfonodd y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau. Er y'i dyddiwyd 31 Ionawr, fe'i dosbarthwyd i'm swyddfa bum niwrnod wedi hynny, ac nid drwy'r system post mewanol. Fe'i dosbarthwyd yn ôl i'r adeilad hwn gan Swyddfa'r Post. O leiaf dilynodd y Gweinidog arfer Gwerth Gorau drwy ei anfon drwy'r post ail ddsbarth.

Ar ôl pedair blynedd o dan Lywodraeth Lafur, mae'r cartref cyffredin yn talu £200 yn fwy o dreth gyngor y flwyddyn. Dyma dreth lechwraidd heb ei hail, ac er mai Gordon Brown sydd yn ei chodi, rhaid i Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru ysgwyddo'r bai.

Mae Gwerth Gorau yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i gynghorau gael eu monitro yn erbyn 150 o ddangosyddion perfformiad penodol, ar gost amcangyfrifedig o £600 miliwn y flwyddyn i drethdalwyr y DU. Wrth ddisodli tendro cystadleuol gorfodol, ni rydd Gwerth Gorau

which has been shown to be the major force behind more efficient and cost-effective service provision. It defies common sense to set vast numbers of targets that have more to do with news management than service provision.

The Welsh Conservatives are committed to an equitable settlement for all council tax and non-domestic ratepayers throughout the principality.

I will comment quickly on the issue raised by Lorraine Barrett. The figures for council tax increases bear remarkable comparison. In 1995-96, there was an increase of 10.5 per cent, 10.4 per cent in 1996-97, 10.2 per cent in 1997-98, 10.4 per cent in 1998-99 and 10.9 per cent in 1999-2000. You must also remember that gross domestic product per capita has increased during that period.

This settlement is bad news for council tax payers in Wales. They will be grateful for the extra money that the Minister has found to keep their council tax increase to an average of only 6 per cent. However, they will not be grateful for an administration that continues to find funds to prop up inefficient local authorities. Even if there is now an uncertainty over the date of council elections, people will not forgive excessive demands for rates throughout Wales.

Peter Black: We must accept that what we have in front of us today is the most generous settlement for many years. It allows local government to put behind it difficult years in terms of funding. Edwina referred earlier to the problems between 1993 and 1998 when there was a real cut in central services, in particular social services, street cleaning and road maintenance. The consequences of those cuts and the backlog of work that built up as a result are still with us and will take many years to put right. I was a councillor during that period, and I declare an interest as a member of the City and County of Swansea.

The settlement that we debate today fully

unrhyw sicrwydd o gystadleuaeth, y profwyd ei bod yn bwerus iawn o ran sicrhau gwasanaethau mwy effeithlon a chost effeithiol. Mae pennu llu o dargedau sydd yn ymwneud â rheoli newyddion yn hytrach na darparu gwasanaethau yn mynd yn groes i synnwyr cyffredin.

Mae Ceidwadwyr Cymru yn ymrwymedig i sicrhau setliad teg i dalwyr y dreth gyngor a'r rhai sydd yn talu ardrethi busnes ym mhob rhan o Gymru.

Rhoddaf sylwadau yn gyflym ar y mater a gododd Lorraine Barrett. Mae'r ffigurau ar gyfer y cynnydd yn y dreth gyngor yn debyg iawn. Yn 1995-96, bu cynnydd o 10.5 y cant, 10.4 y cant yn 1996-97, 10.2 y cant yn 1997-98, 10.4 y cant yn 1998-99 a 10.9 y cant yn 1999-2000. Rhaid ichi gofio hefyd fod cynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth y pen wedi cynyddu yn ystod y cyfnod hwnnw.

Mae'r setliad hwn yn newyddion drwg i dalwyr y dreth gyngor yng Nghymru. Byddant yn ddiolchgar am yr arian ychwanegol a gafodd y Gweinidog i sicrhau cynnydd o 6 y cant yn unig ar gyfartaledd yn eu treth gyngor. Fodd bynnag, ni fyddant yn diolch i weinyddiaeth sydd yn parhau i roi arian i gynnal awdurdodau lleol aneffeithlon. Hyd yn oed os oes ansicrwydd bellach ynglŷn â dyddiad etholiadau'r cyngor, ni fydd pobl yn maddau am y trethi gormodol a godwyd ledled Cymru.

Peter Black: Rhaid inni dderbyn y ffaith mai'r setliad sydd ger ein bron heddiw yw'r setliad mwyaf hael ers blynyddoedd lawer. Caniatâ i lywodraeth leol oresgyn y blynyddoedd caled o ran ariannu. Cyfeiriodd Edwina yn gynharach at y problemau rhwng 1993 a 1998 pan fu cwtogi gwirioneddol ar wasanaethau canolog, yn enwedig gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, glanhau'r strydoedd a chynnal ffyrdd. Mae canlyniadau'r toriadau hynny a'r ôl-groniad o waith o ganlyniad gyda ni o hyd a bydd yn cymryd blynyddoedd i'w cywiro. Yr oeddwn yn gynghorydd yn ystod y cyfnod hwnnw a datganaf fuddiant fel aelod o Gyngor Dinas a Sir Abertawe.

Mae'r setliad yr ydym yn dadlau yn ei gyloch

meets the partnership agreement's commitment to provide local councils with sufficient finance to achieve an average 3 per cent council tax rise across Wales. Inevitably, in any average rise there will be some who exceed that average, and some who have lower rises. The changes in the SSA formula have presented some councils with difficult decisions. However, without exception, every council now has substantial extra resources to spend and, due to the judicious use of a fully funded transitional grant, they need not have an increase of more than 9 per cent if that is their wish. This compares favourably with previous years. Last year, the average council tax increase across Wales was 11.1 per cent, with rises ranging from 23.1 per cent at their highest to 5.8 per cent at their lowest. The previous year, the average increase was 8.5 per cent and the year before that it was 11.9 per cent.

Glyn Davies: The figures that you have just mentioned are increases over the last three years—they are virtually double figures for three years. You and other speakers have been critical of previous Conservative Governments. Do you accept that any increase in resources has been paid for by massive increases by the Labour Government since it came to power over the last three years? It is local council tax payers who have paid for any increase over the last three years.

Peter Black: I am talking about the present settlement and the partnership government that we are in at the moment. I am not in a position to comment on a previous Government of which I was not a part. Local government, certainly in the first three years since 1997, has had difficult decisions to make and has had difficult times in putting right the years of neglect under previous Conservative Governments.

The present settlement is a major improvement on that trend. This is the Liberal Democrat Labour partnership government in action: lower council taxes and more money for services. We must wait

heddiw yn llawn gyflawni ymrwymiad y cytundeb partneriaeth i roi digon o arian i gynghorau lleol sicrhau cynnydd cyfartalog o 3 y cant yn y dreth gyngor ar draws Cymru. Yn anochel, mewn unrhyw gynnydd cyfartalog, bydd rhai'n mynd dros y ganran gyfartalog honno, a bydd rhai â chynnydd is. Mae'r newidiadau i'r fformwla asesiad gwariant safonol wedi gorfodi rhai cynghorau i wneud penderfyniadau anodd. Fodd bynnag, erbyn hyn mae pob cyngor, yn ddieithriad, wedi cael adnoddau ychwanegol sylweddol i'w gwario ac, oherwydd y defnydd doeth o grant trosiannol a ariannwyd yn llawn, nid oes angen iddynt wneud cynnydd o fwy na 9 y cant os dymunant. Mae hyn yn cymharu'n dda â'r blynyddoedd blaenorol. Y llynedd, 11.1 y cant oedd y cynnydd cyfartalog yn y dreth gyngor ledled Cymru, gyda'r cynnydd yn amrywio o 23.1 y cant ar ei uchaf i 5.8 y cant ar ei isaf. Y flwyddyn flaenorol, 8.5 y cant oedd y cynnydd cyfartalog a'r flwyddyn cyn hynny bu cynnydd o 11.9 y cant.

Glyn Davies: Mae'r ffigurau yr ydych newydd eu crybwyll yn nodi'r cynnydd yn ystod y tair blynedd diwethaf—maent yn ffigurau dwbl bron am dair blynedd. Buoch chi a siaradwyr eraill yn feirniadol o Lywodraethau Ceidwadol blaenorol. A dderbyniwch y talwyd am unrhyw gynnydd mewn adnoddau gan godiadau enfawr y Llywodraeth Lafur ers iddi fod mewn grym yn ystod y tair blynedd diwethaf? Talwyr y dreth gyngor yn lleol sydd wedi gorfod talu am unrhyw gynnydd yn ystod y tair blynedd diwethaf.

Peter Black: Yr wyf yn sôn am y setliad presennol a'r llywodraeth bartneriaeth sydd gennym ar hyn o bryd. Nid wyf mewn sefyllfa i roi sylwadau ar Lywodraeth flaenorol nad oeddwn yn rhan ohoni. Bu'n rhaid i lywodraeth leol, yn sicr yn y tair blynedd cyntaf ers 1997, wneud penderfyniadau anodd a chafodd amser caled o ran unioni'r blynyddoedd o esgeulustod o dan Lywodraethau Ceidwadol blaenorol.

Mae'r setliad presennol yn gryn welliant o ran y duedd honno. Dyma lywodraeth bartneriaeth y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol a Llafur ar waith: trethi cyngor is a rhagor o arian ar gyfer gwasanaethau. Rhaid inni aros i

to see what councils do with this money and with their council tax. However, we in Wales are bucking a trend and are showing that we can do our own thing despite the Treasury wanting us to aim at an average of 10 per cent for next year. Transitional grants are an important part of this settlement, but they must be sustainable. We cannot return to the days before the change in the formula when damping was an institutional part of the settlement year on year. It distorts the proper distribution of resources and leads to the sort of top-slicing that we are trying to avoid. I am surprised, therefore, that Janet Ryder, speaking for Plaid Cymru, wants us to go down this road.

William Graham alleged that the formula on which this settlement is based does not take account of rurality. If he were to read the document on which the change in the funding formula was made, he would know that this was not so and that rural councils such as Powys gain money in this formula because of its needs from being so sparsely populated. This formula tries to distribute money according to need, giving resources to those councils that have the greatest need, but taking the rural factors into account as well. On balance, that is what it achieves, although, as Edwina has previously said, there are gaps in the statistics, which need to be addressed in the coming years. Like Edwina, I am pleased that this partnership government can deliver such a good settlement with sustainable benefits for all the people of Wales. These are benefits on which we can build in the next three years as we strengthen our partnership with local councils.

4:50 p.m.

Janet Davies: I do not believe that anybody can fail to welcome an increase for local government spending that is above inflation. Nevertheless, that must be put into context, particularly in the field of housing. There have been cuts year on year since 1997 for local authority housing and we are only now getting back to how it was in 1996-97. I will flag up two problems for local government spending. One is the loss of business rates, which is bound to happen after the events of

weld beth a wna'r cynghorau gyda'r arian hwnnw a'u treth gyngor. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym ni yng Nghymru yn gwrthsefyll tuedd ac yn dangos y gallwn ddilyn ein llwybr ein hun er gwaethaf y ffaith bod y Trysorlys am inni anelu at gynnydd cyfartalog o 10 y cant ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf. Mae grantiau trosiannol yn rhan bwysig o'r setliad hwn, ond rhaid iddynt fod yn gynaliadwy. Ni allwn ddychwelyd at y dyddiau cyn y newid yn y fformwla pan oedd dampio yn rhan annatod o'r setliad flwyddyn ar ôl blwyddyn. Mae'n ystumio'r ffordd y darperir adnoddau yn briodol gan arwain at y math o frigdorri yr ydym yn ceisio ei osgoi. Synnaf, felly, fod Janet Ryder, yn siarad dros Blaid Cymru, am inni fynd ar y trywydd hwn.

Honnodd William Graham nad yw'r fformwla y seilir y setliad hwn arni yn ystyried natur wledig. Pe bai'n darllen y ddogfen lle y newidiwyd y fformwla ariannu, byddai'n gwybod nad yw hynny'n wir a bod cynghorau gwledig fel Powys ar eu hennill drwy'r fformwla hon oherwydd eu hanghenion fel ardaloedd mor amhoblog. Ceisia'r fformwla hon ddyrannu arian yn ôl angen, gan roi adnoddau i'r cynghorau hynny â'r angen mwyaf, ond hefyd yn ystyried y ffactorau gwledig. Ar y cyfan, cyflawna hynny, er, fel y dywedodd Edwina eisoes, fod bylchau yn yr ystadegau, y mae angen mynd i'r afael â hwy yn y dyfodol. Fel Edwina, mae'n dda gennyf nodi y gall y llywodraeth bartneriaeth hon gyflwyno setliad mor dda ac iddo fanteision cynaliadwy i holl bobl Cymru. Dyma'r buddiannau y gallwn adeiladu arnynt yn ystod y tair blynedd nesaf wrth inni atgyfnerthu ein partneriaeth â'r cynghorau lleol.

Janet Davies: Ni chredaf y gall unrhyw un beidio â chrosawu cynnydd mewn gwariant llywodraeth leol sydd yn uwch na chwyddiant. Eto i gyd, rhaid ei roi mewn cyd-destun, yn enwedig ym maes tai. Bu cwtogi flwyddyn ar ôl blwyddyn ers 1997 o ran tai llywodraeth leol a dim ond yn awr yr ydym yn ceisio dychwelyd at y sefyllfa a fu yn 1996-97. Nodaf ddwy broblem o ran gwariant llywodraeth leol. Y naill broblem yw colli ardrethi busnes, a fydd yn digwydd

recent weeks, and the other is possible refocusing of Objective 1 money, which may cause huge problems for certain councils.

I turn to the press release that the Minister issued on 30 January. I note that an extra £2 million specific grant has been given for headteachers' early retirement. I presume that this is related to accurate information, and is not a finger in the wind calculation. It may well be a priority for the Cabinet and the Finance Minister for extra education spending. It has certainly not been discussed by the Local Government and Housing Committee or the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee. I wonder whether parents and teachers in general, or even the Assembly Committees, regard it as such high priority as to receive specific funding.

However, as the Minister made clear, local authorities are free to spend money as they choose, and while they are often criticised for using money other than as central Government advises, perhaps this time their common sense will recognise greater educational needs, such as repair of school buildings.

Turning to the repair and renovation needs of local authority housing, extra money has been put in the budget with a £15 million increase over the present year. Much of it is described as general capital funding, although I assume that means approval to borrow, not real money from the Assembly for housing authorities. It is clearly inadequate, or the pressure to bring in private funding—an expensive option in the long term—would not exist. Private finance initiatives are the early twenty-first century version of short-sightedness in social housing. The mid twentieth century version was factory-built housing that needed huge investment after 20 years. That is causing many of the financial difficulties that we now face.

I want to raise the issue of town and community councils. I declare an interest as a Llanharry community councillor. They are outside the settlement although they are part of Welsh local government. Many—but not

heb os ar ôl digwyddiadau'r wythnosau diwethaf, a'r llall yw ailganolbwyntio arian Amcan 1 o bosibl, a all beri problemau enfawr i rai cynghorau.

Trof at ddatganiad i'r wasg a gyhoeddwyd gan y Gweinidog ar 30 Ionawr. Nodaf fod grant ychwanegol penodol o £2 filiwn wedi ei roi i benaethiaid ysgolion ymddeol yn gynnar. Cymeraf fod hon yn wybodaeth gywir, ac nid brasamcan. Efallai ei bod yn flaenoriaeth i'r Cabinet a'r Gweinidog dros Gyllid ar gyfer gwariant addysg ychwanegol. Yn sicr nis trafodwyd gan y Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Thai na'r Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes. Tybed a yw rhieni ac athrawon yn gyffredinol, neu hyd yn oed Pwyllgorau'r Cynulliad, o'r farn ei bod yn flaenoriaeth mor uchel fel ei bod yn haeddu arian penodol.

Fodd bynnag, fel yr eglurodd y Gweinidog, mae awdurdodau lleol yn rhydd i wario'r arian fel y mynnont, ac er y'u beirniedir yn aml am ddefnyddio arian mewn ffordd wahanol i gyngor Llywodraeth ganolog, efallai y tro hwn y bydd eu synnwyr cyffredin yn cydnabod anghenion addysgol pwysicach, fel trwsio adeiladau ysgolion.

Gan droi at anghenion trwsio ac adnewyddu tai awdurdodau lleol, rhoddwyd arian ychwanegol yn y gyllideb gan gynnwys cynnydd o £15 miliwn yn ystod y flwyddyn gyfredol. Disgrifiwyd llawer ohono fel ariannu cyfalaf cyffredinol, er y cymeraf fod hynny'n golygu caniatâd i fenthyca, nid arian gwirioneddol gan y Cynulliad i awdurdodau tai. Mae'n amlwg yn annigonol, neu ni fyddai'r pwysau i sicrhau ariannu preifat—opsiwn costus iawn yn y tymor hir—yn bodoli. Mentrau cyllid preifat yw fersiwn dechrau'r unfed ganrif ar hugain ar ddiffyg gweledigaeth ym maes tai cymdeithasol. Fersiwn canol yr ugeinfed ganrif oedd tai ffatri yr oedd angen buddsoddi enfawr arnynt ar ôl 20 mlynedd. Mae hynny'n achosi llawer o'r anawsterau ariannol a wynebwn yn awr.

Hoffwn godi'r mater o gynghorau tref a chymuned. Datganaf fuddiant fel cynghorydd cymuned Llanhari. Maent y tu allan i'r setliad er eu bod yn rhan o lywodraeth leol Cymru. Mae llawer o gynghorau cymuned—ond nid

mine—have received a letter from your deputy Minister making suggestions that have been interpreted as rate capping. I remind the Government that it has no such powers over town and community councils and it is perhaps unwise to send out what has been perceived by many as a threatening message.

I have been critical, but I recognise the difficulty that the Finance Minister has in dealing with a block grant based on an unfair formula. I recognise her difficulties in dealing with her two roles as Minister for Finance and Minister for Local Government. I also recognise that her difficulties are of her own party's making, and that it takes Wales for granted. Minister, you said earlier that you did not know whether Will Hutton is on the left or right of politics. Many of us feel like that about New Labour.

Janice Gregory: I do not think that I will respond to that last comment. However, I say to Janet, I do not know about taking Wales for granted. Every local council leader has said that this is the best local government settlement for a generation. I do not know how that fits in with taking Wales for granted. Perhaps Janet will tell me later.

David Davies: Will the Member give way?

Janice Gregory: No I will not.

David Davies: It is factually incorrect.

Janice Gregory: It is not factually incorrect. I am not going to argue with you, David Davies. I do not want to repeat what other people have said this afternoon, but we all know that there has been much debate and speculation about this latest local government settlement, not least in my own county borough of Bridgend. However, now that the dust has settled to a certain extent, I am pleased to note that this is a good local government settlement. I am glad to see that the Welsh Local Government Association has agreed so. In a press release that it issued earlier this week, it mentioned three things. First, that it allowed a real increase on

fy un i—wedi cael llythyr gan eich dirprwy Weinidog sydd yn gwneud awgrymiadau a ddehonglwyd fel capio trethi. Atgoffaf y Llywodraeth nad oes ganddi bwerau o'r fath dros gynghorau tref a chymuned ac efallai mai annoeth oedd anfon yr hyn y mae llawer yn ei ganfod yn neges fygythiol.

Bûm yn feirniadol, ond cydnabyddaf yr anhawster sydd gan y Gweinidog dros Gyllid o ran delio â grant bloc sydd yn seiliedig ar fformwla annheg. Cydnabyddaf ei hanawsterau o ran delio â'i dwy rôl fel y Gweinidog dros Gyllid a'r Gweinidog dros Lywodraeth Leol. Cydnabyddaf hefyd yr achoswyd yr anawsterau hyn iddi gan ei phlaid ei hun, sydd yn cymryd Cymru yn ganiataol. Weinidog, dywedasoch yn gynharach na wyddech a oedd Will Hutton ar y chwith neu ar y dde o ran gwleidyddiaeth. Teimla llawer ohonom hynny am Lafur Newydd.

Janice Gregory: Ni chredaf y gwnaf ymateb i'r sylw olaf hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, dywedaf wrth Janet, ni wn am gymryd Cymru yn ganiataol. Dywedodd pob arweinydd cyngor lleol mai hwn yw'r setliad llywodraeth leol gorau ers cenhedlaeth. Ni wn sut y mae'n cyfateb â chymryd Cymru yn ganiataol. Efallai y dywed Janet wrthyf yn nes ymlaen.

David Davies: A wnaiff yr Aelod ildio?

Janice Gregory: Na wnaif.

David Davies: Mae'n anghywir yn ffeithiol.

Janice Gregory: Nid yw'n anghywir yn ffeithiol. Ni ddadleuaf â chi, David Davies. Nid wyf am ailadrodd yr hyn a ddywedodd pobl eraill y prynhawn yma, ond gwyddom oll y bu cryn ddadl a dyfalu ynglŷn â'r setliad diweddaraf hwn ar gyfer llywodraeth leol, yn bennaf yn fy nghyngor bwrdeistref fy hun sef Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Fodd bynnag, a phethau wedi tawelu i raddau erbyn hyn, mae'n dda gennyf nodi bod hwn yn setliad llywodraeth leol da. Yr wyf yn falch o weld bod Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru wedi cytuno â hynny. Mewn datganiad i'r wasg a gyhoeddodd yn gynharach yr wythnos hon, soniwyd am dri pheth. Yn gyntaf, y ffaith ei

spending for frontline services, David. Secondly, that it keeps the average council tax increase in single percentage figures, if the local authority so chooses, and thirdly, that the hypothecation within the general settlement has come to an end. Our Finance Minister should be congratulated on that because it was something dear to her heart. She does not like hypothecation and ensured that it was not in the settlement. Fourthly, that this settlement delivers an overall spending increase of over 6 per cent for councillors. We could all argue about the figures but this is what the Welsh Local Government Association is saying in black and white.

We all know what has happened. There was a need for a review of the old standard spending assessment formula. In 1996 all the local authorities wanted it, the WLGA demanded it, and they had it. Unfortunately there are winners and losers. The most obvious mismatches of the old formula were in the north of the industrialised south Wales valleys. We heard the old chestnut again from the Conservatives. William Graham referred to inefficient, spendthrift councils when discussing the four local authorities that I regard as the most deprived in Wales. There is no ward in my constituency that can compare with the deprivation in parts of Blaenau Gwent, Rhondda Cynon Taff—part of which is in my constituency—Merthyr Tydfil and Neath Port Talbot. I cannot compare the deprivation in the Ogmores constituency to parts of those constituencies.

Janet Ryder: One of the badly-hit councils is Flintshire County Council, which will suffer job losses because of Corus. You cannot simply say that this is a rural issue. You must look at the transitional grant formula.

Janice Gregory: I understand what Janet is saying, but the Corus job losses came after the decision on the SSA formula. I do not want to labour on about the deprivation that is suffered in these areas, but it is difficult to understand why so many people want to rake up the issue of spendthrift authorities again.

fod yn caniatáu cynnydd gwirioneddol mewn gwariant ar wasanaethau'r rheng flaen, David. Yn ail, mae'n sicrhau y bydd cynnydd cyfartalog yn y dreth gyngor yn ffigurau canran sengl, os dymuna'r awdurdod lleol, ac yn drydydd, mae pridiannu o fewn y setliad cyffredinol wedi dod i ben. Dylid llongyfarch ein Gweinidog dros Gyllid am hynny am ei fod yn bwnc a oedd yn agos at ei chalon. Nid yw'n hoffi pridiannu ac mae wedi sicrhau na chafwyd hynny yn y setliad hwn. Yn bedwerydd, mae'r setliad hwn yn sicrhau cynnydd o dros 6 y cant mewn gwariant cyffredinol i gynghorwyr. Gallem oll ddadlau ynglŷn â'r ffigurau ond dyma'r hyn a ddywed Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru mewn du a gwyn.

Gwyddom oll am yr hyn a ddigwyddodd. Yr oedd angen adolygu'r hen fformwla asesiad gwariant safonol. Yn 1996 yr oedd pob un o'r awdurdodau lleol am i hynny ddigwydd, yr oedd CLILC yn galw amdano, ac fe'i gwnaethpwyd. Yn anffodus mae rhai ar eu hennill a rhai ar eu colled. Yr oedd anghysonderau amlycaf yr hen fformwla i'w gweld yng ngogledd cymoedd diwydiannol de Cymru. Clywsom yr hen chwedl eto gan y Ceidwadwyr. Cyfeiriodd William Graham at gynghorau aneffeithlon, afradlon wrth drafod y pedwar awdurdod lleol sydd gyda'r rhai mwyaf difreintiedig yng Nghymru, yn fy marn i. Nid oes unrhyw ward yn fy etholaeth i a all gymharu â'r amddifadedd mewn rhannau o Flaenau Gwent, Rhondda Cynon Taf—y mae rhan ohono yn fy etholaeth i—Merthyr Tudful a Chastell-nedd Port Talbot. Ni allaf gymharu'r amddifadedd yn etholaeth Ogrwr â rhannau o'r etholaethau hynny.

Janet Ryder: Un o'r cynghorau yr effeithiwyd arno fwyaf yw Cyngor Sir y Fflint, a fydd yn colli swyddi oherwydd Corus. Ni allwch ddweud mai dim ond mater gwledig yw hwn. Rhaid ichi edrych ar fformwla'r grant trosiannol.

Janice Gregory: Deallaf yr hyn a ddywed Janet, ond digwyddodd diswyddiadau Corus ar ôl y penderfyniad ar y fformwla asesiad gwariant safonol. Nid wyf am rygnu ar yr amddifadedd sydd yn yr ardaloedd hyn, ond mae'n anodd deall pam bod cymaint o bobl am godi crachen eto ynglŷn ag awdurdodau

Bridgend County Borough Council was a loser in this settlement. I am sorry about that, I would have liked it to have more but the figures are determined by the index of multiple deprivation.

Alun Cairns *rose*—

Janice Gregory: I have given way twice, I will not do so again. You can speak to me later, Alun, but I know what you will say.

I have spoken to the Finance Minister and I explained the problems that Bridgend would suffer under the new formula. I am grateful that she agreed to meet the leader and officials of Bridgend County Borough Council last Tuesday. The final figures had been established before they came to the National Assembly. I am sorry that Bridgend County Borough Council did not wait for the figures before it announced publicly in a local newspaper that there would be cuts of £2.6 million, which frightened most people in the area. The leader and officials of the Council were told, when they came to the Assembly, that the Finance Minister, because of new data that had come in, had found an extra £1.1 million for Bridgend County Borough Council. I thank the Finance Minister for that, and I am sure that Bridgend council would like to thank her. I make it clear that the money was there before the meeting on Tuesday night.

Alun Cairns *rose*—

Janice Gregory: I will not give way. I am about to conclude because I have had my five minutes. I say to the Finance Minister that all local authorities will welcome the settlement being announced earlier than ever before.

David Davies: I apologise for trying to interrupt the Minister earlier. I had assumed foolishly that she was in sufficient command of her brief to deviate from her statement for a minute or two. I should have known better.

afradlon. Yr oedd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr ar ei golled oherwydd y setliad hwn. Mae'n ddrwg gennyf am hynny, hoffwn pe bai wedi cael mwy o arian ond pennir y ffigurau gan y mynegrif amddifadedd lluosog.

Alun Cairns *a gododd*—

Janice Gregory: Yr wyf wedi ildio ddwywaith, ni wnaf eto. Cewch siarad â mi yn nes ymlaen, Alun, ond gwn beth a ddywedwch.

Siaradais â'r Gweinidog dros Gyllid ac eglurais y problemau a gâi Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr o dan y fformwla newydd. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar iddi am gytuno i gyfarfod ag arweinydd a swyddogion Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr ddydd Mawrth diwethaf. Penderfynwyd ar y ffigurau terfynol cyn iddynt gael eu rhoi gerbron y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Mae'n ddrwg gennyf nad arhosodd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr am y ffigurau cyn iddo gyhoeddi mewn papur newydd lleol y byddai toriadau o £2.6 miliwn, a oedd wedi dychryn y rhan fwyaf o bobl yr ardal. Dywedwyd wrth arweinydd a swyddogion y Cyngor, pan ddaethant i'r Cynulliad, fod y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, oherwydd y data newydd a ddaeth i law, wedi dod o hyd i £1.1 miliwn yn ychwanegol ar gyfer Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Diolchaf i'r Gweinidog dros Gyllid am hynny, ac yr wyf yn siŵr yr hoffai cyngor Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr ddiolch iddi hefyd. Egluraf fod yr arian ar gael cyn y cyfarfod nos Fawrth.

Alun Cairns *a gododd*—

Janice Gregory: Nid ildiaf. Yr wyf ar fin cloi gan fy mod wedi cael fy mhun munud. Dywedaf wrth y Gweinidog dros Gyllid y bydd pob awdurdod lleol yn croesawu'r ffaith y caiff y setliad ei gyhoeddi'n gynt nag erioed o'r blaen.

David Davies: Ymddiheuraf am geisio ymyrryd pan oedd y Gweinidog yn siarad yn gynharach. Cymerais, er yn ffôl mae'n debyg, fod ganddi ddigon o feistrolaeth dros ei chylch gorchwyl i wyro oddi wrth ei

I apologise for putting her off and trying to drag her away from the word for word brief that she was reading out. I am here to speak out against this settlement. This is not a good settlement, and I represent a constituency that has been sold down the river because of it. Janice Gregory said that every local government leader had applauded this. Let her come to Monmouth and ask Colin White, the leader of Monmouthshire County Council if he applauds it. Let her come to the partnership committee or the local government committees, and hear what even Labour councillors say about this settlement behind closed doors.

5:00 p.m.

Janice Gregory *rose*—

David Davies: I am not prepared to give way; I only have a few minutes.

I say to her that if she had attended the meetings that I attended, and which the Minister attended, she would know that even her own local government leaders have been critical of this report. Do not talk to me either about the Welsh Local Government Association, the mouthpiece of the Labour Party in Wales. In the previous financial year, the WLGA's members tried to vote down the report. Harry Jones came in and whipped the Labour members and told them that they had to support it. They did. This year Harry Jones and Noel Crowley managed to stitch up the WLGA, putting in their own man, Sandy Blair, as its chief executive, after an interview where four of the seven councillors who interviewed him came from England. It is not so much the Welsh as the English Local Government Association. So much for devolution.

We heard about 'data gaps'. Even the Minister and the Liberal Democrats' local government spokesman mentioned them. They are not data gaps; the whole report is fundamentally flawed. Last year we were promised a formula that would protect rural areas. When that report came out we saw that the amount of weighting given to sparsity had been greatly decreased. So much for looking

datganiad am funud neu ddwy. Dylaswn fod wedi gwybod yn well. Ymddiheuraf am dynnu ei sylw a'i llusgo oddi wrth y briff gair am air yr oedd yn ei ddarllen. Yr wyf yma i siarad yn erbyn y setliad hwn. Nid yw'n setliad da, a chynrychiolaf etholaeth sydd wedi ei bradychu o'r herwydd. Dywedodd Janice Gregory i bob arweinydd llywodraeth leol ei gymeradwyo. Gadewch iddi ddod i Sir Fynwy a gofyn i Colin White, arweinydd Cyngor Sir Fynwy a yw'n ei gymeradwyo ai peidio. Gadewch iddi ddod i'r pwyllgor partneriaeth neu'r pwyllgorau llywodraeth leol, a gwranddo ar yr hyn y mae hyd yn oed cynghorwyr Llafur yn ei ddweud am y setliad hwn y tu ôl i ddrysau caeedig.

Janice Gregory *a gododd*—

David Davies: Nid wyf yn fodlon ildio; dim ond ychydig o funudau sydd gennyf.

Dywedaf wrthi y byddai'n gwybod, pe bai wedi mynychu'r cyfarfodydd a fynychais innau, a'r Gweinidog, fod hyd yn oed ei harweinwyr llywodraeth leol ei hun wedi bod yn feirniadol o'r adroddiad hwn. Wiw ichi siarad ychwaith am Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, sef llefarydd y Blaid Lafur yng Nghymru. Yn y flwyddyn ariannol flaenorol, ceisiodd aelodau CLILC wrthod yr adroddiad hwn. Daeth Harry Jones i mewn a rhoi chwip ar yr aelodau Llafur gan ddweud fod yn rhaid iddynt ei gefnogi. Hynny a wnaethant. Eleni llwyddodd Harry Jones a Noel Crowley i glymu dwylo CLILC drwy benodi eu dyn eu hunain, sef Sandy Blair, fel ei brif weithredwr, ar ôl cyfweliad lle yr oedd pedwar o'r saith cynghorydd a fu'n ei gyfsweld yn dod o Loegr. Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Lloegr ydyw yn hytrach na Chymru. Ai datganoli yw hyn?

Clywsom am 'fylchau data'. Cyfeiriodd hyd yn oed y Gweinidog a llefarydd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol dros lywodraeth leol atynt. Nid bylchau data ydynt; mae i'r adroddiad cyfan ddiffygion sylfaenol. Y llynedd addawyd y caem fformwla a fyddai'n diogelu ardaloedd gwledig. Pan gyhoeddwyd yr adroddiad gwelsom fod y pwysoliad a roddwyd i deneurwydd wedi gostwng yn

after rural areas. The methods used to calculate sparsity were also deeply flawed.

Tom Middlehurst *rose—*

David Davies: I will give way in a minute.

Instead of examining the geographical distance between settlements, the report calculated the distance as the crow flies. Are the people of Monmouthshire going to sprout wings to get from one isolated settlement to another? That is the idea behind this report. It underplays rurality.

Tom Middlehurst: Do you recall the decision taken by the former Welsh Office, in agreement with the Welsh Local Government Association, that there should be a fundamental review of the distribution formula? That was taken in 1996. I give some credit to the then Secretary of State for Wales for recognising that there were serious flaws in the existing formula. Do you agree that William Hague agreed to a fundamental review of that formula?

David Davies: If William Hague, who was an excellent Secretary of State for Wales, was still Secretary of State we would not have a formula full of what the Minister laughingly calls 'data gaps'.

I mentioned rurality. What about the fact that the new formula does not consider the age of inhabitants? It does not consider the average incomes, which have fallen in rural areas. As William Graham pointed out, it does not examine the relative efficiencies of different local authorities. It does not begin to explain why it costs £34.38 per household to deal with refuse collection in Neath Port Talbot, in Blaenau Gwent it costs £27.03 per household, whereas it costs about £22 per household in rural Monmouthshire, where it should cost more to collect rubbish. Is it not time that, instead of penalising the hard-pressed council tax payers of Monmouthshire, Powys and other local authorities, we asked these Labour-run rotten boroughs in the Valleys why they are unable to keep their books in order in successive years?

sylweddol. Felly wiw ichi sôn am ofalu am ardaloedd gwledig. Yr oedd y dulliau a ddefnyddiwyd i gyfrifo teneurwydd hefyd yn ddiffygiol iawn.

Tom Middlehurst *a gododd—*

David Davies: Ildiaf mewn munud.

Yn hytrach nag archwilio'r pellter daearyddol rhwng aneddiadau, cyfrifodd yr adroddiad y pellter uniongyrchol. A fydd pobl Sir Fynwy yn tyfu adenydd a hedfan o'r naill anheddiad anghysbell i'r llall? Dyna'r syniad sydd yn sail i'r adroddiad hwn. Mae'n tanbrisio natur wledig.

Tom Middlehurst: A gofiwch y penderfyniad a wnaeth y Swyddfa Gymreig gynt, mewn cytundeb â Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, y dylid cynnal adolygiad sylfaenol o'r fformwla ddyrranu? Fe'i gwnaethpwyd yn 1996. Rhaid canmol Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ar y pryd i raddau am gydnabod y ffaith bod diffygion difrifol gan y fformwla gyfredol. A gytunwch fod William Hague wedi cytuno i adolygu'r fformwla honno?

David Davies: Pe bai William Hague, a fu'n Ysgrifennydd Gwladol rhagorol i Gymru, yn parhau i fod yn y swydd, ni fyddai gennym fformwla lawn o'r hyn a elwir yn 'fylchau data' gan y Gweinidog.

Cyfeiriais at natur wledig. Beth am y ffaith nad yw'r fformwla newydd yn ystyried oedran trigolion? Nid yw'n ystyried yr incwm cyfartalog, sydd wedi gostwng mewn ardaloedd gwledig. Fel y nododd William Graham, nid yw'n archwilio effeithlonrwydd cymharol y gwahanol awdurdodau lleol. Nid yw'n dechrau egluro pam y mae'n costio £34.38 fesul cartref i gasglu sbwriel yng Nghastell-nedd Port Talbot, £27.03 fesul cartref ym Mlaenau Gwent, ond yn Sir Fynwy wledig, lle y dylid costio mwy i gasglu sbwriel, y mae'n costio tua £22 fesul cartref. Onid yw'n bryd inni ofyn i'r bwrdeistrefi pwr Llafur hyn yn y Cymoedd pam na allant fantoli'r cyfrifon o flwyddyn i flwyddyn yn hytrach na chosbi talwyr y dreth gyngor sydd eisoes dan bwysau ariannol yn Sir Fynwy, Powys ac awdurdodau eraill?

Christine Chapman *rose*—

David Davies: I will not take any more interventions.

We will vote against this whitewash of a report today. In the previous report we actually had the figures showing the standard spending assessments for each local authority area, but this time the so-called open Government of Wales is not prepared to do that. The Minister would not take the intervention; I ask her now, will she allow all local authorities to spend at the SSA, the supposed minimum that each local authority needs? Last year, as she knows, that did not happen.

Finally I say to the Plaid Cymru Members, and some of the Liberal Democrat Members, remember your obligations to your constituents. To the regional Members for South Wales East, I say that I have stood on public platforms with the Deputy First Minister who has shed crocodile tears over what has happened in Monmouth. Where is he now? Why is he not present in the Chamber to vote against this settlement? I will take one more intervention.

Kirsty Williams: Thank you for reminding Members about their responsibilities to their constituents. I am sure that all Members present will think carefully about that. Does that include your Members who represent South Wales Central, who will be looking to ensure that the needs of the severely-deprived areas that they represent in the Valleys will also be addressed today, David? Or will your party only be looking to the needs of one particular county?

David Davies: I can assure you that Conservative Party Members will always put their obligations to their constituents first and foremost. I look forward to the Members of all parties doing the same and joining us in rejecting this outrageous settlement today.

Pauline Jarman: I declare an interest as leader of Rhondda Cynon Taff County

Christine Chapman *a gododd*—

David Davies: Ni chymeraf ragor o ymyriadau.

Byddwn yn pleidleisio yn erbyn yr adroddiad diffygiol hwn heddiw. Yn yr adroddiad blaenorol cawsom ffigurau ar gyfer asesiadau gwariant safonol i bob ardal awdurdod lleol, ond y tro hwn, nid yw Llywodraeth agored honedig Cymru yn barod i wneud hynny. Ni fyddai'r Gweinidog yn cymryd ymyriad. Gofynnaf iddi yn awr, a fydd yn caniatáu i bob awdurdod lleol wario ar yr asesiad gwariant safonol, sef yr isafswm tybiedig sydd ei angen ar bob awdurdod? Y llynedd, fel y gŵyr, ni ddigwyddodd hynny.

I gloi, dywedaf wrth Aelodau Plaid Cymru a rhai Aelodau'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, cofiwch eich ymrwymadau i'ch etholwyr. I Aelodau rhanbarthol De Ddwyrain Cymru, nodaf fy mod wedi sefyll ar lwyfan cyhoeddus sawl tro gyda'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac yntau yn ffug-wylofain dros yr hyn a ddigwyddodd yn Sir Fynwy. Ble mae yn awr? Pam nad yw'n bresennol yn y Siambr i bleidleisio yn erbyn y setliad hwn? Cymeraf un ymyriad arall?

Kirsty Williams: Diolch ichi am atgoffa'r Aelodau am eu cyfrifoldebau dros eu hetholwyr. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd pob Aelod sydd yn bresennol yn ystyried hynny'n ddwys. A yw hynny'n cynnwys eich Aelodau chi a gynrychiola Ganol De Cymru, a fydd yn ceisio sicrhau heddiw yr eir i'r afael ag anghenion yr ardaloedd a gynrychiolant yn y Cymoedd sydd yn ddifreintiedig iawn, David? Neu a fydd eich plaid ond yn gofalu am anghenion un sir yn benodol?

David Davies: Gallaf eich sicrhau y bydd Aelodau'r Blaid Geidwadol bob amser yn rhoi'r flaenoriaeth uchaf i'w hymrwymadau i'w hetholwyr. Edrychaf ymlaen at weld Aelodau o bob plaid yn gwneud yr un peth gan ymuno â ni i wrthod y setliad gwarthus hwn heddiw.

Pauline Jarman: Datganaf fuddiant fel arweinydd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Rhondda

Borough Council. I want to discuss three issues. Firstly, the Vale of Glamorgan is part of the constituency that I represent in this Assembly. I have been approached by Jeffrey James, the leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council about the authority being allocated transitional relief. [ASSEMBLY MEMBERS: 'Not Jeffrey Jones?'] No. Jeffrey James, not Jones. The other Jeffrey has already had transitional relief.

Councillor James wrote to tell me that because of changes to the standard spending assessment formula the council tax payers of the Vale, not the National Assembly for Wales, would provide money for additional service development. I ask on his behalf if the Minister will consider the Vale's request, even at this late stage, for inclusion in the transitional grant arrangements.

My second point relates to the billing and collection of council tax following the claim at the time of local government reorganisation that unitary authorities will be more accountable in their spending and performance than the previous county and district structure—one council, one council tax bill is what we were told. However, the bottom line on the council tax bill, which is what matters most to council tax payers, is that that is not the case. It is distorted by the fact that the local authority is a billing authority, which means that it not only collects council tax for its own services but for the police authority and community council services. Where the precept has been received from a major precepting authority like the police or a community council, it has a duty to bill and collect on their behalf. This throws the accountability aspect of billing for council tax into disarray.

The present regulations for billing can only be changed by statutes. It is tied up under the Council Tax (Demand Notice) (Wales) Regulations on a prescribed form. It is important to understand that the council tax bill does not just pay for local authority services but for police and community council services. The Minister should consider whether she has the authority to re-examine that regulation to see whether

Cynon Taf. Hoffwn drafod tri mater. Yn gyntaf, mae Bro Morgannwg yn rhan o'r etholaeth a gynrychiolaf yn y Cynulliad hwn. Mae Jeffrey James, Arweinydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg wedi cysylltu â mi i drafod y posibilrwydd o'r awdurdod yn cael cymorth trosiannol. [AELODAU'R CYNULLIAD: Onid Jeffrey Jones?'] Nage, Jeffrey James, nid Jones. Mae'r Jeffrey arall eisoes wedi cael cymorth trosiannol.

Ysgrifennodd y Cyngorydd James i'm hysbysu mai talwyr y dreth gyngor yn y Fro, nid Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, a fyddai'n darparu arian ar gyfer datblygu gwasanaethau ychwanegol, oherwydd y newidiadau i'r fformwla asesiad gwariant safonol. Gofynnaf, ar ei ran ef a fydd y Gweinidog yn ystyried cais cyngor y Fro, hyd yn oed mor hwyr â hyn, am gael ei gynnwys yn y trefniadau ar gyfer grantiau trosiannol.

Mae fy ail bwynt yn ymwneud â bilio a chasglu'r dreth gyngor yn dilyn yr honiad a wnaethpwyd ar adeg ad-drefnu llywodraeth leol y bydd awdurdodau unedol yn fwy atebol o ran eu gwariant a'u perfformiad na'r hen strwythur sir a dosbarth—un cyngor, un bil treth gyngor a ddywedwyd wrthym. Fodd bynnag, y gwir amdani o ran llinell waelod y dreth gyngor, sef yr hyn sydd o'r pwys mwyaf i dalwyr y dreth gyngor, yw nad yw hynny'n gywir. Mae wedi ei gwyrddroi gan y ffaith mai awdurdod bilio yw'r awdurdod lleol, a olyga ei fod nid yn unig yn casglu'r dreth gyngor ar gyfer ei wasanaethau ei hun ond hefyd ar gyfer yr heddlu a gwasanaethau cynghorau cymuned. Lle y mae'r archebiant wedi ei dderbyn gan brif awdurdod archebiant fel yr heddlu neu'r cyngor cymunedol, mae dyletswydd arno i filio a chasglu ar ei ran. Mae hynny'n chwalu'r syniad o atebolrwydd ar filio'r dreth gyngor.

Ni ellir newid y rheoliadau newydd ar filio ond drwy statudau. Fe'i rheolwyd gan Reoliadau Treth Gyngor (Hysbysiad Tâl) (Cymru) ar ffurflen ddynodedig. Mae'n bwysig deall bod bil y dreth gyngor yn talu nid yn unig am wasanaethau awdurdodau lleol ond am yr heddlu a gwasanaethau cynghorau cymuned. Dylai'r Gweinidog ystyried a oes ganddi awdurdod i edrych eto ar y rheoliad hwnnw er mwyn canfod a ellir

council tax by local government can be separated from those other precepting authorities. The council tax should be properly understood and not be distorted by the spending of others.

Thirdly, the announcement of the settlement, the late announcement of grants affect the budget-setting programme of local authorities throughout Wales. It is not exclusive to one more than the other. The supplementary credit approval on housing will not be announced until the end of February. The general capital announcement was made on 30 January, the transport grants, which used to be announced in mid December were announced on 11 January this year and the performance incentive grant will not be announced until May 2001.

I remind Members that the lead-in time for major capital projects can be considerable and there are staffing level issues associated with progressing them within timescales: you may have to recruit or reduce staffing numbers depending on your capital resources. This can have a major impact on your revenue budget. Can the Minister, therefore, confirm that the local government settlement for 2002-03 will be announced before the summer recess this year and that it will follow proper scrutiny of the draft proposals by the National Assembly? Is that programme and timetable available yet bearing in mind that we have about 13 weeks recess following the July date?

I remind Members who think that the Welsh Local Government Association is autonomous in its dealings with this Assembly that it is a loose association of local government in Wales. It does not mean that every local authority in Wales sacrifices its sovereignty to the WLGA. It is the unitary authorities throughout Wales that do the business and are accountable for local government services. Those authorities will now have to use the budgets announced today to provide the best possible services for local people.

5:10 p.m.

gwahanu treth gyngor llywodraeth leol oddi wrth yr awdurdodau archebiant eraill hynny. Dylai'r dreth gyngor fod wedi ei ddeall ac ni ddylai gael ei hystumio gan wariant pobl eraill.

Yn drydydd, mae cyhoeddi'r setliad, cyhoeddi grantiau yn hwyr yn effeithio ar raglen pennu cyllideb awdurdodau lleol ledled Cymru. Nid yw'n berthnasol i'r naill yn fwy na'r llall. Ni chaiff y caniatâd credyd atodol ar gyfer tai ei gyhoeddi tan ddiwedd Chwefror. Gwnaethpwyd y cyhoeddiad cyfalaf cyffredinol ar 30 Ionawr, cyhoeddwyd y grantiau cludo yr arferid eu cyhoeddi ganol Rhagfyr ar 11 Ionawr eleni ac ni chyhoeddir y grant cymhelliad perfformiad tan Fai 2001.

Atgoffaf yr Aelodau fod angen cyfnod rhagbaratoawl hir o bosibl ar brosiectau cyfalaf mawr a bod materion o ran lefelau staffio yn gysylltiedig â datblygu prosiectau o'r fath o fewn amserlen: efallai bod angen recriwtio staff neu leihau nifer y staff gan ddibynnu ar eich adnoddau cyfalaf. Gall hyn gael cryn effaith ar eich cyllideb refeniw. A all y Gweinidog, felly, gadarnhau y caiff setliad llywodraeth leol ar gyfer 2002-03 ei gyhoeddi cyn toriad yr haf eleni ac y caiff ei gyhoeddi ar ôl i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol archwilio'r cynigion drafft mewn modd priodol? A yw'r rhaglen a'r amserlen honno ar gael eto o gofio bod gennym doriad o tua 13 wythnos yn dilyn y dyddiad ym mis Gorffennaf?

Atgoffaf yr Aelodau a gred fod Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru yn gweithredu'n annibynnol yn ei pherthynas â'r Cynulliad hwn, mai uniad llac o lywodraeth leol yng Nghymru ydyw. Ni olyga fod pob awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru yn ildio ei unbeniaeth i CLILC. Yr awdurdodau unedol ledled Cymru sydd yn cyflawni pethau ac sydd yn atebol dros wasanaethau llywodraeth leol. Yn awr bydd yn rhaid i'r awdurdodau hynny ddefnyddio'r cyllidebau a gyhoeddwyd heddiw er mwyn rhoi'r gwasanaethau gorau posibl i bobl leol.

I take issue with the presumption that all leaders in Wales supported this settlement. That is not the case. Although I will not identify individuals, they cross parties. Many leaders in Wales wanted the Assembly to hand over the settlement that Gordon Brown announced in the comprehensive spending review. This settlement falls somewhat short of that.

Unlike Flintshire County Council, the district auditor's management letter for Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council was extremely complimentary. I resent the claim in an internal Labour newsletter that Labour Ministers and other Labour Assembly Members are plotting to undermine the Plaid Cymru administration in Rhondda Cynon Taff because of its success. One Assembly Member headed a working group entitled 'Taking the Credit'. The movers and shakers of the Labour Party need not think that the Plaid Cymru administration is either for moving or shaking.

In the same internal newsletter, I am told that, unfortunately, Edwina Hart met with Labour opposition councillors from Caerphilly County Borough Council and Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council and at that meeting agreed the date of the next local government elections. I am further told that Lynne Neagle chaired that meeting. Would both Members like the opportunity to deny that claim?

Huw Lewis: Point of order. I think that it is under Standing Order No. 7.9. I will not provide an alibi for Lynne Neagle, although I would probably be in the best position to do so. I want to ask whether this Member is speaking as a Member of the National Assembly for Wales or as the leader of Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council? In which chamber are we at the moment?

The Deputy Presiding Officer: In this Chamber, Pauline Jarman speaks as a Member of the National Assembly. However, I must call Pauline's comments to an end, as they have already lasted six and a half minutes. You can have 10 seconds to wind up, Pauline.

Anghytunaf â'r rhagdybiaeth fod pob arweinydd yng Nghymru yn cefnogi'r setliad hwn. Nid yw hyn yn wir. Er na fyddaf yn enwi unigolion, maent yn drawsbleidiol. Yr oedd nifer o arweinwyr yng Nghymru am i'r Cynulliad drosglwyddo'r setliad a gyhoeddodd Gordon Brown yn yr adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant. Ymddengys nad yw'r setliad hwn yn cyflawni hynny.

Yn wahanol i Gyngor Sir y Fflint, yr oedd llythyr rheoli'r archwiliwr dosbarth ar gyfer Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf yn ganmoliaethus iawn. Digiaf wrth yr honiad mewn newyddlen fewnol y blaid Lafur bod Gweinidogion Llafur ac Aelodau Llafur eraill y Cynulliad yn cynllwynio i danseilio gweinyddiaeth Plaid Cymru yn Rhondda Cynon Taf oherwydd ei lwyddiant. Arweiniodd un Aelod o'r Cynulliad weithgor o'r enw 'Cymryd y Clod'. Ni ddylai'r rhai sy'n cynhyrfu'r dyfroedd yn y Blaid Lafur gredu y byddant yn llwyddo i gynhyrfu gweinyddiaeth Plaid Cymru.

Yn yr un newyddlen fewnol, fe'm hysbysir, yn anffodus, y cyfarfu Edwina Hart â chynghorwyr yr wrthblaid o Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili a Chyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf ac yn y cyfarfod hwnnw cytunwyd ar ddyddiad yr etholiadau llywodraeth leol nesaf. Fe'm hysbysir ymhellach mai Lynne Neagle oedd cadeirydd y cyfarfod hwnnw. A hoffai'r ddau Aelod gael cyfle i wadu'r honiad hwnnw?

Huw Lewis: Pwynt o drefn. Credaf y daw hyn o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 7.9. Nid wyf am ddarparu alibi i Lynne Neagle, er mai fi fyddai yn y sefyllfa orau i wneud hynny. Hoffwn ofyn pa un a yw'r Aelod hwn yn siarad fel Aelod o Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru neu fel arweinydd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf? Ym mha siambr yr ydym ar hyn o bryd?

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yn y Siambr hon, mae Pauline Jarman yn llefaru fel Aelod o'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Fodd bynnag, rhaid imi ddirwyn sylwadau Pauline i ben, am eu bod eisoes wedi para am chwe munud a hanner. Cewch 10 eiliad i gloi eich cyfraniad, Pauline.

Pauline Jarman: At the meeting that I mentioned, my two positions were discussed and it was said that I claimed expenses for both. I do not claim a farthing from local government. Also, when in the Assembly, I speak as an Assembly Member.

David Melding: I must conclude, sadly, that this is a bad settlement for the Vale of Glamorgan. It is bad for the people of Barry, Cowbridge, Llantwit Major and Penarth, and for all the people of the rural Vale. If the Vale budget was set at the Assembly assumptions, council tax would rise by 8.5 per cent. That is a high increase and, as my colleague Glyn Davies alluded to earlier, it is in addition to earlier increases in years gone by. However, under the new formula, which is prejudicial against the Vale of Glamorgan, there will be a spending gap of nearly £3 million. It is not fair to hit the people of the Vale of Glamorgan with that kind of gap in potential spending. Such a settlement undermines the right of all people in Wales to have public services of a similar standard. Many people have referred to poorer communities—or those that are in some form of social deprivation, as we must now say—and have used them as a stick to beat the more affluent areas.

Brian Gibbons *rose—*

David Melding: I will not give way as we are running out of time.

Those deprived communities have a good case for increased central government expenditure. In the past I have raised arguments in Regional Committee meetings on programmes such as Communities First, because they were not designed well enough at the time to meet the needs of deprived communities. Some, for instance, had a limit of only five projects. That has now been changed as a result of a suggestion made by myself and others. It is, therefore, fair for these communities to consider the settlement that they receive. However, why is the bill placed on the taxpayers of the Vale of Glamorgan, when it could be paid by the

Pauline Jarman: Yn y cyfarfod hwnnw a grybwyllais, trafodwyd fy nwy swydd a dywedwyd fy mod wedi gwneud cais am dreuliau ar gyfer y naill a'r llall. Ni wnaif gais am geiniog gan lywodraeth leol. Hefyd, pan fyddaf yn y Cynulliad, llefaraf fel Aelod o'r Cynulliad.

David Melding: Rhaid imi gydnabod, yn anffodus, bod hyn yn setliad gwael i Fro Morgannwg. Mae'n wael i bobl y Barri, y Bont-faen, Llanilltud Fawr a Phenarth, ac i bawb yn y Fro wledig. Pe bai cyllideb y Fro'n cael ei phennu yn ôl rhagdybiaethau'r Cynulliad, byddai'r dreth gyngor yn cynyddu 8.5 y cant. Mae hyn yn gynnydd uchel ac, fel y dywedodd fy nghyd-Aelod Glyn Davies yn gynharach, mae'n ychwanegol at godiadau cynharach yn ystod blynyddoedd blaenorol. Fodd bynnag, o dan y fformwla newydd, sydd yn niweidiol i Fro Morgannwg, bydd bwlch gwariant o bron i £3 miliwn. Nid yw'n deg cosbi pobl Bro Morgannwg gyda'r fath fwlch mewn gwariant posibl. Mae setliad o'r fath yn tansilio hawl pawb yng Nghymru i gael gwasanaethau cyhoeddus o safon gyffelyb. Cyfeiriodd llawer o bobl at gymunedau tlotach—neu'r rhai sydd yn wynebu rhyw fath o amddifadedd cymdeithasol, fel y mae'n rhaid inni ddweud erbyn hyn—ac wedi'u defnyddio fel ffon i guro'r ardaloedd mwy ffyniannus.

Brian Gibbons *a gododd—*

David Melding: Nid wyf am ildio am fod amser yn brin.

Mae gan y cymunedau difreintiedig hynny achos da dros gael mwy o arian gan y llywodraeth ganolog. Yn y gorffennol, yr wyf wedi dadlau yng nghyfarfodydd y Pwyllgor Rhanbarthol ynghylch rhaglenni fel Cymunedau'n Gyntaf, am na chawsant eu cynllunio'n ddigon da ar y pryd i gwrdd ag anghenion cymunedau difreintiedig. Er enghraifft, dim ond pum prosiect oedd y terfyn i rai ohonynt. Mae hynny wedi newid erbyn hyn o ganlyniad i awgrym a wnaethpwyd gennyf fi ac eraill. Felly, mae'n deg i'r cymunedau hyn ystyried y setliad a gânt. Fodd bynnag, pam mai trethdalwyr Bro Morgannwg sydd yn gorfod talu'r bil, tra

country's taxpayers via income tax, which is a much more progressive and accountable form of taxation?

Kirsty Williams *rose*—

David Melding: I said that I will not give way. That is clearly how these central objectives should be met. They should not be met through the local taxpayer, which undermines the accountability of local government. The people of the Vale of Glamorgan get poor services in some areas. For instance, road maintenance and road building in the Vale is underdeveloped because of the settlement that we had in 1996. I am no fan of local government reorganisation. Some critical points about that are valid. However, we must deal with the current system. The Vale does not have the required level of expenditure to maintain roads at best standard. A joint report on social services was severe. One of its many points—I am not saying that this was the most important point—was that more resources had to be spent on social services and the Vale was still struggling with a poor settlement after the 1996 reorganisation. Do not come to the Chamber with a convenient assumption that because it is the Vale of Glamorgan it can afford whatever system with which it is left.

To give you an illustration of what would happen if the Vale did spend up to its standard spending assessment, the council tax in the Vale would increase by an average of over 20 per cent. That is only to take us up to the level of service that the people can expect throughout Wales from their local councils. The Vale will not receive any transitional grant. I challenge the Minister to reconsider this because, at the moment, the settlement that the Vale of Glamorgan will get is the worst settlement of any local authority in Wales. It is not good enough. If it stands in its present form it will be another example of Labour failing the Vale of Glamorgan.

David Lloyd: Datganaf fuddiant fel aelod o Gyngor Dinas a Sir Abertawe.

gallai trethdalwyr y wlad ei dalu drwy dreth incwm, sydd yn ffurf llawer mwy graddol ac atebol o drethu?

Kirsty Williams *a gododd*—

David Melding: Dywedais na fyddaf yn ildio. Dyna yn union sut y dylid bodloni'r amcanion canolog hyn. Nid y trethdalwr lleol ddylai dalu amdanynt, sydd yn tanseilio atebolrwydd llywodraeth leol. Caiff pobl Bro Morgannwg wasanaethau gwael mewn rhai ardaloedd. Er enghraifft, nid yw'r gwaith o gynnal a chadw ffyrdd ac adeiladu ffyrdd yn y Fro wedi'i ddatblygu'n ddigonol oherwydd y setliad a gawsom yn 1996. Nid wyf yn un o gefnogwyr ad-drefnu llywodraeth leol. Mae rhai pwyntiau hanfodol am hynny yn ddilys. Fodd bynnag, rhaid inni ddelio â'r system bresennol. Nid yw'r Fro yn derbyn y lefel angenrheidiol o wariant er mwyn cynnal a chadw ffyrdd i'r safon orau. Yr oedd adroddiad ar y cyd am wasanaethau cymdeithesaol yn feirniadol iawn. Un o'i bwyntiau niferus—ni ddywedaf mai dyma'r pwynt pwysicaf—oedd bod yn rhaid gwario mwy o adnoddau ar wasanaethau cymdeithasol a bod y Fro yn dal i geisio ymdopi gyda setliad gwael ers yr ad-drefnu yn 1996. Peidiwch â dod i'r Siambr gyda rhagdybiaeth gyfleus y gall y Fro fforddio pa system bynnag a roddir iddi am mai'r Fro ydyw.

Er mwyn dangos ichi beth fyddai'n digwydd pe bai'r Fro yn gwario hyd at ei asesiad gwariant safonol, byddai treth gyngor yn y Fro yn cynyddu dros 20 y cant ar gyfartaledd. Byddai hynny ond yn sicrhau'r lefel o wasanaeth y gall pobl ei disgwyl drwy Gymru gyfan gan eu cynghorau lleol. Ni fydd y Fro yn derbyn unrhyw grant trosiannol. Heriaf y Gweinidog i ailystyried hyn oherwydd, ar hyn o bryd, y setliad a gaiff Bro Morgannwg fydd y setliad gwaethaf a gaiff unrhyw awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru. Nid yw'n ddigon da. Os parha ar ei ffurf bresennol bydd yn enghraifft arall o'r Blaid Lafur yn siomi Bro Morgannwg.

David Lloyd: I declare an interest as a member of Swansea City and County Council.

Mae'r trefniadau ynghylch y cymhorthdal trosiannol yn annigonol. Cynigiwyd y cymhorthdal i dri chynghor yn unig, er bod gan un arall yr un lefel o amddifadedd. Mae angen cymhorthdal trosiannol ar nifer o awdurdodau lleol. Mae arweinydd Cynghor Bro Morgannwg wedi bod yn brysur yn gohebu â nifer ohonom, ac mae'n cyflwyno ei achos yn ddigon teg.

Nid yw'r setliad yn bodloni anghenion gwasanaethau craidd, megis addysg. Mae pwysau ar bob awdurdod lleol i gynyddu gwariant ar feysydd megis addysg a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol. Y trethdalwr fydd yn gorfod cario'r baich mewn nifer o gynghorau. Mae angen cymhorthdal trosiannol ar fwy o awdurdodau lleol er mwyn iddynt wella gwasanaethau heb roi gormod o faich ar y trethdalwr. Mae angen hefyd i weld lle mae'r arian yn mynd ym maes addysg.

Mae'r Llywodraeth hon yn gosod targedau i awdurdodau lleol heb ddarparu'r cyllid sydd ei angen i wireddu'r targedau hynny. Er enghraifft, o ran strategaeth wastraff, mae disgwyliadau ar yr awdurdodau lleol ond ni chlustnodwyd arian ar gyfer hyrwyddo ailgylchu o fewn awdurdodau lleol yng nghyllideb 2001-02. Beth yw'r pwynt o roi targedau pum mlynedd i gynghorau os nad ydynt yn cael eu hariannu drwy gydol y pum mlynedd? Mae'n bwysig trafod ag awdurdodau lleol fel bod cysyniad partneriarth rhwng y Cynulliad a llywodraeth leol yn endid real ac yn fwy na siarad gwag.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Peter Law, I can give you three minutes.

Peter Law: I e-mailed the Llywydd an hour and a half ago.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: You did not get his assent.

5:20 p.m.

Peter Law: This is an excellent settlement, as the Minister said today. Eight per cent overall, 5.9 per cent increase in revenue budget, hypothecation abolished, which we never really had when compared with

The transitional grant arrangements are insufficient. The grants were offered to only three councils, although another one has the same level of deprivation. Transitional grants are needed by several local authorities. The leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council has been busy corresponding with a number of us, and he presents a fair case.

The settlement does not meet the needs of core services, such as education. There is pressure on every local authority to increase expenditure on sectors such as education and social services. The taxpayer will have to shoulder the burden in a number of councils. More local authorities need transitional grants to improve services without placing too great a burden on the taxpayer. We also need to see where this money goes in the education sector.

This Government sets targets for local authorities but does not provide the funding needed to implement those improvements. For example, the waste strategy is one that places expectations on local authorities but no funding has been earmarked to promote recycling within the 2001-02 budget. What is the point of giving five-year targets to councils if they are not funded throughout that five-year period? It is important to talk to local authorities so that the concept of partnership between the Assembly and local government is a real entity and more than empty talk.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Peter Law, caniatâf dri munud ichi.

Peter Law: Anfonais e-bost at y Llywydd awr a hanner yn ôl.

Y Ddirprwy Lywydd: Ni chawsoch ei ganiatâd.

Peter Law: Mae hyn yn setliad gwych, fel y dywedodd y Gweinidog heddiw. Wyth y cant yn gyffredinol, cynnydd o 5.9 y cant yn y gyllideb refeniw, diddymu pridiannu, nad oedd gennym mewn gwirionedd o'i gymharu

England. We have these targets and outcomes with policy agreements. That is working in partnership and working with the Welsh Local Government Association. The Tory group would never understand that because partnership was never part of its vocabulary. It was interesting to hear some of Plaid Cymru's comments. It ought to know better. Janet—who is normally astute—knows why a transitional grant is not available in a number of places. It is because we have addressed a great deal of that through the new formula. That is why the increase is minus 9 per cent in Ynys Môn. No-one has mentioned that. That is the result of this new formula. Remember that, because some of us, in places such as Blaenau Gwent are still carrying the large burdens.

The Tories should know better. William Graham may adopt his Pontius Pilot approach, but Kirsty Williams is correct. The Tories are representatives of all the people in South Wales East, or South Wales West, or wherever their regional constituencies are. They are supposed to represent deprived areas also. They do not understand that because they have a rag-bag group made up mostly of people elected through a list system who do not understand from where they come, what they are going to do or what they are supposed to do. They voted against the damping scheme last year. Do not forget that. We do not forget because Blaenau Gwent, like Merthyr and Rhondda Cynon Taff had big council tax burdens as a result. You are supposed to represent us. William Graham should hang his head in shame. Somewhere along the line, he is supposed to represent Blaenau Gwent, but he does not recognise that. He is guilty of having no compassion or understanding and he has given no help and is generally of no use to Blaenau Gwent. That is how Blaenau Gwent views the Conservatives. When you hear about Blaenau Gwent, remember this about high-spending councils. Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council runs its own cinema because if it did not run it, there would not be one. That is how bad it is. It runs a training centre that serves the whole of the heads of the Valleys from Swansea to Abergavenny. Yes, David Davies, Blaenau Gwent runs the one remaining training centre. It also runs the

â Lloegr. Mae gennym y targedau a'r canlyniadau hyn gyda chytundebau polisi, sef gweithio mewn partneriaeth a gweithio gyda Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru. Ni fyddai'r grŵp Torïaidd byth yn deall hyn am na fu partneriaeth erioed yn rhan o'i eirfa. Yr oedd yn ddiddorol clywed rhai o sylwadau Plaid Cymru. Dylai wybod yn well. Gŵyr Janet—sydd fel arfer yn graff—pam nad yw grant trosiannol ar gael mewn nifer o leoedd. Digwydd hyn am ein bod wedi mynd i'r afael â llawer o hynny drwy'r fformwla newydd. Dyna pam bod y cynnydd yn minws 9 y cant yn Ynys Môn. Ni soniodd neb am hynny. Dyma ganlyniad y fformwla newydd hon. Cofiwch hynny, oherwydd mae rhai ohonom, mewn lleoedd fel Blaenau Gwent yn parhau i ysgwyddo beichiau mawr.

Dylai'r Torïaid wybod yn well. Gall William Graham fabwysiadu ymagwedd Pontiws Peilat, ond Kirsty Williams sydd yn iawn. Mae'r Torïaid yn cynrychioli'r holl bobl yn Nwyrain De Cymru neu yng Ngorllewin De Cymru, neu lle bynnag y bo eu hetholaethau rhanbarthol. Dylent gynrychioli ardaloedd difreintiedig hefyd. Ni ddeallant am mai cymysgedd o bobl ydynt a etholwyd drwy system restru nad ydynt yn deall o ble y dônt, beth maent am ei wneud na beth y dylent ei wneud. Pleidleisiasant yn erbyn y cynllun dampio y llynedd. Peidiwch ag anghofio hynny. Ni fyddwn ni'n anghofio oherwydd mae gan Flaenau Gwent, fel Merthyr a Rhondda Cynon Taf feichiau treth gyngor o ganlyniad. Dylech ein cynrychioli ni. Dylai William Graham gywilyddio. Ar ryw gam o'r ffordd dylai gynrychioli Blaenau Gwent, ond nid yw'n cydnabod hynny. Mae'n euog o fod yn ddirugaredd ac am beidio â deall ac ni roddodd unrhyw gymorth ac nid yw o ddefnydd i Flaenau Gwent yn gyffredinol. Dyna yw barn Blaenau Gwent am y Ceidwadwyr. Pan glywch am Flaenau Gwent, cofiwch hyn am y cynghorau sydd â gwariant uchel. Mae Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent yn rhedeg ei sinema ei hun oherwydd pe na byddai'n ei rhedeg, ni fyddai sinema'n bodoli. Dyna yw difrifoldeb y sefyllfa. Mae'n rhedeg canolfan hyfforddi sydd yn gwasanaethu ardal blaenau'r Cymoedd yn ei chyfanrwydd o Abertawe i'r Fenni. Ie, David Davies, Blaenau Gwent sydd yn rhedeg yr unig ganolfan hyfforddi sydd ar ôl. Mae

Bryn Bach Country Park. It now does that on its own because unfortunately, the Plaid Cymru controlled Caerphilly County Borough Council pulled out of running the park. That is why Blaenau Gwent has difficulties.

This formula is not ideal. [ASSEMBLY MEMBERS: 'Oh.'] It is not ideal for us because we face a 9 per cent increase in council tax because we have problems. The Tories re-organised local government. Remember that also. However, the Minister is addressing the formula because there are difficulties as far as the standard spending assessment per capita is concerned. She has said today that she will address that. That is what I meant when I said that the formula is not ideal for us in Blaenau Gwent. However, we will not whinge, because we know that this formula is in the interest of council tax payers and for Wales as a whole. I support it fully. It has the approval of the Welsh Local Government Association, which includes Monmouthshire County Council and its leader, David. I am positive that the Minister's work has gone a long way to making council tax levels much lower in the future and has secured the end of the transitional grant. I am grateful for the transitional arrangement that she has proposed for Blaenau Gwent, which helps poor people. I feel like an orderly on a battleground today after the weekend's experiences and dealing with this also. You will understand the problems in Blaenau Gwent.

The Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities (Edwina Hart): First, I will deal with the general points that have been made. I am aware of the Vale of Glamorgan Council issue. I accepted a petition from its leader with many signatures on it, indicating its concern. I am considering the position regarding the transitional grant, which is to help eligible authorities limit their council tax increases. Unfortunately, that does not apply to the Vale of Glamorgan Council. The Welsh Local Government Association asked me to provide additional resources to moderate some of the

hefyd yn rhedeg Parc Gwledig Bryn Bach. Gwna hynny ar ei ben ei hun bellach oherwydd, yn anffodus, penderfynodd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili, sydd o dan reolaeth Plaid Cymru, yn erbyn rhedeg y parc. Dyna pam bod Blaenau Gwent yn profi anawsterau.

Nid yw'r fformwla hon yn ddelfrydol [AELODAU O'R CYNULLIAD: 'O.'] Nid yw'n ddelfrydol i ni am ein bod yn wynebu cynnydd o 9 y cant mewn treth gyngor am fod problemau gennym. Y Toriaid a adrefnodd lywodraeth leol. Cofiwch hynny hefyd. Fodd bynnag, mae'r Gweinidog yn mynd i'r afael â'r fformwla oherwydd bod anawsterau o ran yr asesiad gwariant safonol y pen. Dywedodd heddiw y byddai'n mynd i'r afael â hynny. Dyna yr oeddwn yn ei olygu pan ddywedais nad yw'r fformwla yn ddelfrydol inni ym Mlaenau Gwent. Fodd bynnag, ni fyddwn yn cwyno, oherwydd gwyddom fod y fformwla hon er budd talwyr y dreth gyngor a Chymru gyfan. Cefnogaf hyn yn llwyr. Cafodd gymeradwyaeth Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, sydd yn cynnwys Cyngor Sir Fynwy a'i arweinydd, David. Yr wyf yn sicr y cyfrannodd gwaith y Gweinidog lawer at sicrhau y bydd lefelau treth gyngor yn llawer is yn y dyfodol a'i fod wedi sicrhau diddymiad y grant trosiannol. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar o gael y trefniant trosiannol a gynigiodd ar gyfer Blaenau Gwent, sydd yn helpu pobl dlawd. Teimlaf fel swyddog negesau ar faes y gad heddiw ar ôl profiadau'r penwythnos a gorfod delio â hyn hefyd. Fe ddeallwch y problemau sydd yn bodoli ym Mlaenau Gwent.

Y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau (Edwina Hart): Yn gyntaf, byddaf yn delio â'r pwyntiau cyffredinol a wnaethpwyd. Yr wyf yn ymwybodol o sefyllfa Cyngor Bro Morgannwg. Derbyniais ddeiseb gan ei arweinydd gyda llawer o lofnodion arni, yn nodi ei bryderon. Yr wyf yn ystyried y sefyllfa mewn perthynas â'r grant trosiannol, a fydd yn helpu awdurdodau cymwys i gyfyngu codiadau yn y dreth gyngor. Yn anffodus nid yw hynny yn berthnasol i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg. Gofynnodd Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru imi

impact and I have tried to do that. They are genuine additional resources and have not been top-sliced from elsewhere.

Points were made about changes to the provisional settlement. The main changes arose from the re-calculations of the amount to transfer to the settlement in respect of the responsibility for adult education, which is £8 million less, and the additional amounts to support reductions in pressure on people to sell their homes to pay for care services and to support an early retirement scheme for all teachers, which is £2 million and £3 million respectively. I note your comments regarding early retirement schemes, Janet, but that was based on the information that we received during the consultation process. Pressure was brought to bear for us to take action on that issue.

I will consider the timetable issues that Pauline raised. I will do that with the Welsh Local Government Association during 2002-03. Local government is aware that specific grants are subject to separate legislative administrative arrangements in the general revenue settlement. There has always been a difference in timetables, but I am considering how we can deal with that in a more regulated approach.

Hypothecation has also been raised today. There will not be hypothecation. The emphasis must be on outcomes and not on financial inputs. That is what the policy agreement is about. I am not blind to people's aspirations and expectations. However, in terms of the general settlement, there will be no hypothecation. I have made it clear, as my Cabinet colleagues are aware, that this is the administration's line. It is important that we recognise that this is the way forward. The grant's terms are 2 per cent of £3.5 billion, which is a small amount in terms of specific grant and what we must do. Some of the amounts in the settlement are for new duties and new initiatives. They are not earmarked or ring-fenced. The Welsh Local Government Association asked for transparency, which it has received. If councils wish to have greater decision-making flexibility, they must accept that it means taking difficult decisions about

ddarparu adnoddau i leddfu rhywfaint ar yr effaith a cheisiais wneud hynny. Maent yn adnoddau ychwanegol gwirioneddol ac nid ydynt wedi'u brig-dorri o unrhyw le arall.

Gwnaethpwyd pwyntiau ynglŷn â newidiadau i'r setliad dros dro. Cododd y prif newidiadau yn sgîl yr ail-gyfrifiadau o'r swm i'w drosglwyddo i'r setliad mewn perthynas â'r cyfrifoldeb dros addysg i oedolion, a oedd £8 miliwn yn llai, a'r symiau ychwanegol i gefnogi llai o bwysau ar bobl i werthu eu cartrefi i dalu am wasanaethau gofal a chefnogi cynllun ymddeol yn gynnar i bob athro, sydd yn £2 miliwn a £3 miliwn yn eu tro. Deallaf eich sylwadau ynglŷn â chynlluniau ymddeol yn gynnar, Janet, ond yr oedd hynny yn seiliedig ar yr wybodaeth a dderbyniasom yn ystod y broses ymgynghori. Rhoddwyd pwysau arnom i gymryd camau gweithredu ar y mater hwnnw.

Ystyriaf y materion ynglŷn â'r amserlen a gododd Pauline. Gwnaf hynny gyda Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru yn ystod 2002-03. Mae llywodraeth leol yn ymwybodol bod grantiau penodol yn destun trefniadau deddfwriaethol gweinyddol ar wahân yn y setliad refeniw cyffredinol. Bu gwahaniaeth mewn amserlenni erioed, ond ystyriaf sut y gallwn ymdrin â hyn mewn ffordd fwy rheoledig.

Soniwyd heddiw hefyd am bridiannu. Ni fydd unrhyw bridiannu. Dylai'r pwyslais fod ar ganlyniadau ac nid ar fewnbwn ariannol. Dyna yw hanfod y cytundeb polisi. Deallaf ddyheadau a disgwyliadau pobl. Fodd bynnag, yn nhermau'r setliad cyffredinol, ni fydd unrhyw bridiannu. Yr wyf wedi pwysleisio, fel y gŵyr fy nghyd-Aelodau yn y Cabinet, mai dyma yw polisi'r weinyddiaeth. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn cydnabod mai dyma yw'r ffordd ymlaen. Termâu'r grant yw 2 y cant o £3.5 biliwn, sydd yn swm bach yn nhermau grant penodol a'r hyn sydd rhaid inni ei wneud. Mae rhai o'r symiau yn y setliad ar gyfer dyletswyddau newydd a mentrau newydd. Nid ydynt wedi'u clustnodi na'u neilltuo'n benodol. Gofynnodd Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru am eglurder, a chafodd hynny. Os dymuna'r cynghorau gael mwy o hyblygrwydd i wneud penderfyniadau, rhaid iddynt dderbyn bod

spending priorities, because they are accountable to the people whom they serve. We recognise that how local government spends its money is a matter for local government.

I apologise, Janet, because it has never been my intention, to inform the press before the Assembly and I have never done so. I have, during this Plenary, made the necessary inquiries as to why this happened, and have been told that it was because the system was down in this building. I can only apologise and assure Members that my department will ensure that it will not happen again. It is not in my nature to inform the press before Assembly Members, and I think that you will find that that has never happened before. That is a matter of concern.

When you mentioned whether I should increase the settlement or should do something else, Janet, it reflected a spend spend mentality with which I cannot live. At the end of the day, I must ensure a balanced budget and provide a good settlement to local government, which is balanced against the needs of health and education and all of our other economic priorities that have become apparent since the recent announcements of job losses at Corus and other companies.

I do not accept your point, William, about inefficient local authorities. I think that Peter answered the point well. Some local authority areas are very poor. Their geography and the nature of the service that they must provide causes difficulty; they are not inefficient. We should consider ourselves lucky that not all local authority areas face the same difficulties.

I was pleased to hear the announcement about Bridgend, Janice, and it is important that we consider the positive responses. I was surprised to see the positive nature of the e-mail from the WLGA indicating its pleasure at this announcement. I am relieved that it has understood that we are trying to do our best by local government, in partnership.

hynny'n golygu gwneud penderfyniadau anodd ynglŷn â blaenoriaethau gwario, am eu bod yn atebol i'r bobl a wasanaethant. Cydnabyddwn mai mater i lywodraeth leol yw sut mae llywodraeth leol yn gwario ei harian.

Ymddiheuraf, Janet, oherwydd nid fy mwriad oedd hysbysu'r wasg cyn y Cynulliad, ac nid wyf erioed wedi gwneud hynny. Yr wyf, yn ystod y Cyfarfod Llawn hwn, wedi gwneud yr ymholiadau angenrheidiol i ganfod pam y digwyddodd hyn, ac fe'm hysbyswyd mai'r ffaith fod y system wedi methu yn yr adeilad hwn a arweiniodd at hynny. Ni allaf ond ymddiheuro a sicrhau'r Aelodau y bydd fy adran yn sicrhau na fydd yn digwydd eto. Nid yw yn fy natur i hysbysu'r wasg cyn Aelodau'r Cynulliad, ac fe welwch na ddigwyddodd hynny erioed o'r blaen. Mae hynny yn achos pryder.

Janet, pan soniasoch a ddylwn gynyddu'r setliad neu wneud rhywbeth arall, yr oedd yn adlewyrchu meddylfryd o wario a gwario a gwario na allaf mo'i oddef. Ar ddiwedd y dydd, rhaid i mi sicrhau cyllideb gytbwys a darparu setliad da i lywodraeth leol, wedi'i wrthbwyso yn erbyn anghenion iechyd ac addysg a'n holl flaenoriaethau economaidd eraill sydd wedi dod i'r amlwg ers y cyhoeddiadau diweddar am y swyddi a gollwyd yn Corus a chwmmiau eraill.

Ni dderbyniaf eich pwynt, William, ynglŷn ag awdurdodau lleol aneffeithlon. Credaf fod Peter wedi ateb y pwynt yn dda. Mae rhai awdurdodau lleol yn dlawd iawn. Mae eu daearyddiaeth a natur y gwasanaeth y mae'n rhaid iddynt ei ddarparu yn achosi anhawster; nid ydynt yn aneffeithlon. Dylem ystyried ein hunain yn ffodus nad yw pob awdurdod lleol yn wynebu'r un anawsterau.

Yr oeddwn yn falch o glywed y cyhoeddiad am Ben-y-bont ar Ogwr, Janice, ac mae'n bwysig ein bod yn ystyried yr ymatebion cadarnhaol. Fe'm synnwyd gan natur gadarnhaol yr e-bost gan Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru yn nodi eu boddhad â'r cyhoeddiad hwn. Yr wyf yn falch ei fod wedi deall ein bod yn ceisio gwneud ein gorau dros lywodraeth leol, mewn

partneriaeth.

I am sorry that you would prefer William Hague, as you seemed to indicate in your contribution, to be Secretary of State for Wales rather than your leader, David. However, I thought that you were a party loyalist in that respect. It would have been nice if you had thanked me for the transitional grant that Monmouthshire has received. As to the rest of your points, David, I will move swiftly on to more serious issues, such as those raised by Pauline Jarman about billing and collection. That is a statutory issue, and I appreciate your points about transparency, to help people understand the role of their local authority. That is something that I will consider.

We must recognise that this settlement is about giving local government the tools with which they can work. It is not for me to tell local government what to do and what to deliver. I have offered a partnership agreement and it is important that it has an opportunity to flow through. This is year one of the settlement. We must look at what will happen in years two and three, for which there is also a good settlement. We will see an averaging out in terms of council tax, and it is important that we also recognise that this is an entire financial package, not only for one year. I am concerned, like everyone else, about council tax increases. I can only repeat the word 'average', which has been used frequently in this context. I have provided sufficient funds to allow local authorities to ensure growth in services and to keep their council tax within certain parameters. However, I will have no hesitation in using my powers if I see any authority stepping out of line. I commend the motion to the Assembly.

Mae'n ddrwg gennyf y byddai'n well gennych weld William Hague, fel yr awgrymwyd yn eich cyfraniad, fel Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru yn hytrach na fel eich arweinydd, David. Fodd bynnag, credais eich bod yn deyrngar i'ch plaid yn hynny o beth. Byddai wedi bod yn ddymunol pe baech wedi diolch i mi am y grant trosiannol a dderbyniodd Sir Fynwy. O ran gweddill eich pwyntiau David, trof at faterion pwysicach, fel y rhai a godwyd gan Pauline Jarman ynglŷn â bilio a chasglu. Mae hynny'n fater statudol a gwerthfawrogaf eich pwyntiau ynglŷn ag eglurder, i helpu pobl i ddeall rôl eu hawdurdod lleol. Mae hynny yn rhywbeth y byddaf yn ei ystyried.

Rhaid inni gydnabod mai hanfod y setliad hwn yw rhoi'r adnoddau sydd eu hangen ar lywodraeth leol iddi weithio. Nid fy nyletswydd yw dweud wrth lywodraeth leol beth i'w wneud a beth i'w ddarparu. Cynigais gytundeb partneriaeth ac mae'n bwysig y caiff gyfle i ddatblygu. Blwyddyn gyntaf y setliad yw hon. Rhaid inni edrych ar beth fydd yn digwydd yn ystod blynyddoedd dau a thri, ac mae setliad boddhaol ar gael ar gyfer y blynyddoedd hynny hefyd. Gwelwn gysoni o ran y dreth gyngor, ac mae'n bwysig ein bod hefyd yn cydnabod bod hyn yn becyn ariannol cyflawn, nid un ar gyfer blwyddyn yn unig. Mae codiadau yn y dreth gyngor yn peri pryder i mi, fel pawb arall. Gallaf ond ailadrodd y gair 'cyfartaledd' a ddefnyddiwyd yn aml yn y cyd-destun hwn. Darparais arian digonol i alluogi awdurdodau lleol i sicrhau twf mewn gwasanaethau a chadw eu treth gyngor o fewn terfynau penodol. Fodd bynnag, ni fyddaf yn oedi cyn defnyddio fy mhwerau os gwelaf unrhyw awdurdod yn methu â chydymffurfio â hyn. Cymeradwyaf y cynnig i'r Cynulliad.

Cynnig: O blaid 28, Ymatal 13, Yn erbyn 5.

Motion: For 28, Abstain 13, Against 5.

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Black, Peter
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Davidson, Jane

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

Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Graham, William
Melding, David

Davies, Andrew
Davies, Ron
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
Feld, Val
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jones, Carwyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Williams, Kirsty

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Dafis, Cynog
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Hancock, Brian
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Lloyd, David
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion adopted.*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: That brings today's proceeding to a close. **Y Llywydd:** Daw hynny â chyfarfod heddiw i ben.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5.27 p.m.
The session ended at 5.27 p.m.*