



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

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

Dydd Mawrth 27 Mawrth 2001

Tuesday 27 March 2001

Cynnwys Contents

- 3 Cwestiynau i Brif Weinidog Cymru
Questions to the First Minister
- 22 Cwestiwn Brys: Y Setliad Ariannol i Sefydliadau Addysg Uwch Cymru
Urgent Question: The Financial Settlement to Higher Education Institutions in Wales
- 29 Datganiad ar Gymorth i Fusnesau mewn Ardaloedd yr Effeithiwyd arnynt gan
Glwy'r Traed a'r Genau
Statement on Support for Businesses in Areas Affected by Foot and Mouth Disease
- 39 Datganiad Busnes
Business Statement
- 42 Pwyntiau o Drefn
Points of Order
- 44 Cynnig Cyfansawdd: Cymeradwyo Gorchmynion
Composite Motion: Approval of Orders
- 46 Cymeradwyo Rheoliadau'r NHS (Taliadau gan Awdurdodau Lleol i Awdurdodau
Iechyd) (Swyddogaethau Rhagnodedig) (Cymru) 2001
*Approval of the NHS (Payments by Local Authorities to Health Authorities)
(Prescribed Functions) (Wales) Regulations 2001*
- 52 Cymeradwyo Rheoliadau'r NHS (Taliadau Cosb) (Cymru) 2001
Approval of the NHS (Penalty Charges) (Wales) Regulations 2001
- 58 Cymeradwyo Rheoliadau Cig (Hylendid ac Archwilio) (Ffioedd) (Diwygio) (Cymru)
2001
*Approval of the Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) (Charges) (Amendment) (Wales)
Regulations 2001*
- 69 Cymeradwyo Gorchymyn Llywodraeth Leol (Dangosyddion Perfformiad Gwerth
Gorau) (Cymru) 2001
*Approval of the Local Government (Best Value Performance Indicators) (Wales)
Order 2001*
- 81 Dirprwyo Swyddogaeth Gweinyddu Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop i Brif Weinidog
Cymru
*Delegation of the Function of Administering the European Social Fund to the First
Minister*

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

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

*Cyfarfu'r Cynulliad am 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

Rhaglen Fusnes Flynyddol y Llywodraeth Annual Government Business Programme

Q1 David Melding: When will the next annual Government business programme be announced? (OAQ10572)

The First Minister: The next annual Government business programme will be announced during the autumn session later this year.

David Melding: Can we be assured that the next annual Government business programme will support the independent and private nursing home sector, which is facing crisis as a result of the lack of effective placements, the level of fees and, probably, the increase in standards required of these homes?

The First Minister: I am sure that your representations on behalf of the sector will be taken into account in the preparation of the annual Government business programme.

The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives (Nick Bourne): When the next annual Government business programme is presented, I hope that proper attention will be paid to the necessary co-ordination of Government action and that lessons will be learned. I refer particularly to the lack of firm leadership from you in this foot and mouth disease crisis. Today we hear of confusion about the cull in anglesey. There is no proper position on the disposal of carcasses and tourism is losing money hand over foot. Even at this eleventh hour, following the belated example of the Prime Minister, will you show some leadership in co-ordinating action against the foot and mouth disease?

The First Minister: It is a matter of making practical progress and not a matter of who is personally chairing meetings or, as Nick Bourne would put it, taking charge of the issue. I understand that the cull is proceeding

C1 David Melding: Pryd y cyhoeddir rhaglen fusnes flynyddol nesaf y Llywodraeth? (OAQ10572)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Cyhoeddir rhaglen fusnes flynyddol nesaf y Llywodraeth yn ystod sesiwn yr hydref yn ddiweddarach eleni.

David Melding: A ellir ein sicrhau y bydd rhaglen fusnes flynyddol nesaf y Llywodraeth yn cynorthwyo'r sector cartrefi nyrsio annibynnol a phreifat, sydd yn wynebu argyfwng o ganlyniad i ddiffyg lleoliadau effeithiol, lefel y ffioedd ac, mae'n debyg, y cynnydd yn y safonau sydd yn ofynnol gan y cartrefi hyn?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yr wyf yn siŵr yr ystyrir eich sylwadau ar ran y sector wrth baratoi rhaglen fusnes flynyddol y Llywodraeth.

Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru (Nick Bourne): Pan gyflwynir rhaglen fusnes flynyddol nesaf y Llywodraeth, gobeithiaf y rhoddir sylw priodol i'r gwaith angenrheidiol o gydlynu gweithrediadau'r Llywodraeth ac y caiff gwersi eu dysgu. Cyfeiriaf yn benodol at y diffyg arweiniad cadarn gennych yn ystod yr argyfwng clwy'r traed a'r genau hwn. Heddiw clywn am ddryswch ynghylch y difa yn Ynys Môn. Nid oes safbwynt pendant ar waredu carcassau ac mae twristiaeth yn colli arian yn gyson o ddydd i ddydd. Hyd yn oed ar yr unfed awr ar ddeg fel hyn, gan ddilyn enghraifft hwyr y Prif Weinidog, a ddangoswch arweiniad wrth gydlynu'r camau yn erbyn clwy'r traed a'r genau?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae'n fater o wneud cynnydd ymarferol ac nid yn fater o pwy yn bersonol sydd yn cadeirio cyfarfodydd neu, fel y byddai Nick Bourne yn ei ddweud, yn mynd i'r afael â'r mater. Deallaf fod y difa'n

in Anglesey this afternoon, as intended. It may be a small, lead-in programme this afternoon, as intended. The cull will proceed fully tomorrow. That was always expected. Nick Bourne says that there is confusion about where the culled animals will be disposed of. I understand that there is no such confusion. Provision has been made for them to be incinerated at the disused airfield at Mona and there is also a reserve location available. Nick Bourne has exposed his desperate desire to create some sense of uncertainty when we are making great progress. Everyone is in agreement, including the two farming unions. They agreed last Saturday at the meeting between Carwyn Jones, Bob Parry and Peredur Hughes. When you get that level of co-operation, it is not sensible politics for the leader of the Welsh Conservatives to disturb the level of co-operation and the progress that has been made since last Saturday morning.

Nick Bourne: You must be the only person not to realise that foot and mouth disease is spiralling out of control. The information that we have from Anglesey is that animals were loaded on vehicles and then taken off again. There is no proper control of the cull in Anglesey, which should have been in full swing today. At this eleventh hour, will the First Minister at last take charge of the greatest national crisis we have faced in the Assembly or will he as usual just stand on the sidelines?

The First Minister: None of those things are true. The cull is proceeding this afternoon. You have been reading too many of Peter Rogers' somewhat hysterical press releases. The situation is not as Peter describes it. The cull was always expected to begin this afternoon and I understand that that is happening. It is starting on a small scale, as expected, in order to try out the systems. The cull is proceeding this afternoon and we also know exactly where the carcasses will be disposed of. There is no point in trying to disturb an arrangement that has the agreement of vets and farming unions and to create a sense of crisis and make out that things are not working when they are ongoing. They are proceeding because Carwyn Jones has arranged that, in co-operation with the two farming unions. Why

parhau yn Ynys Môn y prynhawn yma, yn ôl y bwriad. Efallai mai rhaglen fach, gychwynnol a welwn y prynhawn yma, yn ôl y bwriad. Bydd y difa'n parhau yn llawn yfory. Disgwylwyd hynny ers y cychwyn. Dywedodd Nick Bourne fod cymhlethdod ynghylch lle y gwaredir yr anifeiliaid wedi'u difa. Deallaf nad oes cymhlethdod o'r fath yn bodoli. Gwnaethpwyd darpariaeth i'w llosgi yn y maes awyr segur yn Mona ac mae lleoliad wrth gefn ar gael. Dangosodd Nick Bourne ei ddyhead taer i greu rhyw ymdeimlad o ansicrwydd er ein bod yn camu ymlaen yn dda. Mae pawb yn gytûn, yn cynnwys y ddau undeb ffermio. Daethpwyd i gytundeb ddydd Sadwrn diwethaf yn y cyfarfod rhwng Carwyn Jones, Bob Parry a Peredur Hughes. Pan fydd cydweithredu ar lefel o'r fath, nid yw'n wleidyddiaeth synhwyrol i arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru amharu ar lefel y cydweithredu a'r cynnydd a wnaethpwyd ers bore Sadwrn diwethaf.

Nick Bourne: Rhaid mai chi yw'r unig berson nad yw'n sylweddoli fod clwy'r traed a'r genau yn prysur fynd allan o reolaeth. Yr wybodaeth sydd gennym o Ynys Môn yw y llwythwyd anifeiliaid ar gerbydau ac yna'u dadlwytho. Ni chaiff y difa ei reoli'n briodol yn Ynys Môn. Dylai fod yn ei anterth heddiw. Ar yr unfed awr ar ddeg hon, a fydd Prif Weinidog Cymru o'r diwedd yn dechrau rheoli'r argyfwng cenedlaethol mwyaf inni ei wynebu yn y Cynulliad neu a fydd yn sefyll ar y cyrion fer arfer?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Nid yw yr un o'r pethau hynny yn wir. Mae'r difa'n parhau y prynhawn yma. Buoch yn darllen gormod o ddatganiadau i'r wasg gorffwyll Peter Rogers. Nid yw'r sefyllfa fel y'i disgrifir gan Peter. Disgwylwyd ers y cychwyn cyntaf y byddai'r difa'n dechrau y prynhawn yma a deallaf fod hynny'n digwydd. Mae'n dechrau ar raddfa fach, fel y'i disgwylwyd, er mwyn profi'r systemau. Mae'r difa'n parhau y prynhawn yma a gwyddom hefyd yn union pa garcasau gaiff eu gwaredu. Nid oes unrhyw bwynt ceisio amharu ar drefniant y mae milfeddygon ac undebau ffermio wedi cytuno arno a chreu ymdeimlad o argyfwng a rhoi'r argraff nad yw pethau'n gweithio pan fônt ar waith. Maent ar waith oherwydd i Carwyn Jones drefnu hynny, mewn cydweithrediad â'r ddau undeb ffermio. Pam

try to make this situation more difficult than it already is, Nick? It is not good politics.

Nick Bourne *rose*—

The Presiding Officer: Order. The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives has had one supplementary question. In fact, he has had two.

ceisio gwneud y sefyllfa'n anos nag ydyw eisoes, Nick? Nid yw'n wleidyddiaeth dda.

Nick Bourne *a gododd*—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru wedi cael un cwestiwn atodol. Yn wir, cafodd ddau.

Digolledu Pob Sector am Glwy'r Traed a'r Genau All Sector Compensation for Foot and Mouth Disease

C2 David Lloyd: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog Cymru ddatganiad ar ei drafodaethau diweddar gyda Paul Murphy ynghylch digolledu pob sector o'r economi Gymreig yr effeithiwyd arno'n ddiweddar gan glwy'r traed a'r genau? (OAQ10565)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yr wyf yn cynnal trafodaethau rheolaidd ag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ar nifer o faterion, gan gynnwys effaith ehangach clwy'r traed a'r genau. Amlinellodd Dirprwy Brif Weinidog Cymru amryw o gamau yn ei ddatganiad i'r Cyfarfod Llawn ar 22 Mawrth.

David Lloyd: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog Cymru fynnu mwy o arian gan y Trysorlys yn ychwanegol at y bloc i weithredu cynllun Cymru gyfan ar sut i ddelio â'r ceisiadau dilys am gymorth ariannol oddi wrth fusnesau bach fel cyfrwywyr a marchfeddygon ac yn y blaen? A yw'n fodlon cymryd arweiniad ar fater clwy'r traed a'r genau, fel y galwodd Plaid Cymru amdano ddoe, a sefydlu pwyllgor argyfwng brys?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: O ran arian ychwanegol, o'r hyn y deallaf, mae trefniadau wedi'u gwneud i ohirio taliadau TAW a threth incwm arferol am ryw dri mis. Yr ydym hefyd yn sefydlu system lle y gall pobl ofyn am ohirio'r diwrnod olaf y maent yn gallu gofyn am ailwerthusiad ar eu treth gyngor. Gellir gohirio hwnnw am dri mis hefyd. Bydd Edwina Hart yn rhoi mwy o fanylion y prynhawn yma ynglŷn â sut y byddwn yn darparu iawndal i bobl nad ydynt yn gallu talu'r dreth gyngor.

Mick Bates: Do you agree that the use of the word 'anarchy' by a Welsh Conservative in

Q2 David Lloyd: Will the First Minister make a statement on his recent conversations with Paul Murphy regarding compensation to all sectors of the Welsh economy recently affected by foot and mouth disease? (OAQ10565)

The First Minister: I hold regular discussions on many issues with the Secretary of State for Wales, including the wider impact of foot and mouth disease. The Deputy First Minister outlined a range of actions in his statement to Plenary on 22 March.

David Lloyd: Will the First Minister insist on extra funding from the Treasury in addition to the block to implement an all-Wales scheme on how to deal with the legitimate applications for compensation from small businesses such as saddlers and farriers and so on? Is he willing to take guidance on the foot and mouth disease issue, as Plaid Cymru called for yesterday, and establish an urgent crisis committee?

The First Minister: With regard to additional funding, as far as I understand it, plans are in place to delay the routine income tax and VAT payments for some three months. We are also establishing a system to enable people to ask for the last day on which they are able to request a revaluation of their council tax to be delayed. That can also be delayed for three months. Edwina Hart will give more details later this afternoon on how we will compensate those who are unable to pay their council tax.

Mick Bates: A gytunwch fod defnyddio'r gair 'anarchiaeth' gan un o Geidwadwyr

the context of this national foot and mouth disease crisis is totally unhelpful? To disintegrate our consensus on this issue, as the Leader of the Welsh Conservatives is trying to do, is back biting. Farmers will be the only losers in this.

The Presiding Officer: Order. This question is not about the Welsh Conservatives. The First Minister need not answer it. I called Mick Bates on a supplementary relating to the issue in question two.

Alun Pugh: Does the First Minister share my concern about some of the grotesque reporting of foot and mouth disease in the foreign media? Will you confirm that the Welsh countryside is not locked and barred to visitors and that you do not need to wipe your mobile phone in bleach or disinfect your wristwatch after visiting north Wales?

The First Minister: I can confirm all of those things. Subject to the provision of special temporary electric fencing you can now return to mountaineering, which I know, Alun, is one of your great hobbies and long may you continue to do it—during the recess, of course. It is important that we give a lead in establishing where it is safe to go and where there are no restrictions in order to get money back into the tourist industry in rural Wales.

Tourism is the other backbone of cashflow which comes into the Welsh countryside. It is important that we all try to assist to get the tourist industry going again throughout rural Wales, before the Easter weekend. If we cannot regain full Easter trade, then we should get it going as soon as possible after that. We all have a part to play in this. Alun's remarks are helpful in trying to dissuade the more extreme versions of the situation that have been painted of not being able to buy food that is safe or go anywhere in this country, and so on. The American media particularly, perhaps because they tend to go overboard on safety issues, have been painting a picture of a country that is closed down. That is why the remarks of the Leader of the Welsh Conservatives are unhelpful.

Cymru yng nghyd-destun argyfwng cenedlaethol clwy'r traed a'r genau yn hollol ddi-fudd? Mae chwalu ein consensws ar y mater hwn, fel y ceisia Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru ei wneud, yn sen. Y ffermwyr fydd yr unig rai ar eu colled.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid yw'r cwestiwn hwn yn ymwneud â Cheidwadwyr Cymru. Nid oes angen i'r Prif Weinidog ei ateb. Galwais Mick Bates ar gwestiwn atodol yn ymwneud â'r mater yng nghwestiwn dau.

Alun Pugh: A yw'r Prif Weinidog yn rhannu fy mhryder ynghylch rhai o'r adroddiadau gwrthun o glwy'r traed a'r genau yn y cyfryngau dramor? A gadarnhewch nad yw cefn gwlad Cymru wedi ei gau i ymwelwyr ac nad oes angen cannu eich ffôn symudol neu ddiheintio eich oriawr ar ôl ymweld â gogledd Cymru?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Gallaf gadarnhau'r holl bethau hynny. Yn amodol ar ddarparu ffensys trydanol arbennig dros dro gallwch bellach ddychwelyd i fynydda. Gwn, Alun, fod hwn yn un o'ch prif ddiddordebau a gobeithio y byddwch yn parhau i wneud hynny—yn ystod y toriad, wrth gwrs. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn rhoi arweiniad wrth benderfynu ble y mae'n ddiogel i fynd a ble nad oes unrhyw gyfyngiadau mewn grym i roi arian yn ôl i'r diwydiant twristiaeth yng Nghymru wledig.

Twristiaeth yw asgwrn cefn arall y llif arian i gefn gwlad Cymru. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn ceisio cynorthwyo i roi'r diwydiant twristiaeth ar ben y ffordd unwaith eto drwy Gymru wledig, cyn penwythnos y Pasg. Os na allwn adennill masnach llawn dros y Pasg, yna dylem ei roi ar waith cyn gynted â phosibl wedi hynny. Mae gan bob un ohonom ran i'w chwarae yn hyn. Mae sylwadau Alun yn ddefnyddiol wrth geisio rhoi taw ar y fersiynau mwy eithafol o'r sefyllfa a ddarluniwyd, sef methu â phrynu bwyd diogel neu fethu â mynd i unrhyw le yn y wlad hon, ac ati. Mae'r cyfryngau yn America yn enwedig, efallai oherwydd eu bod yn dueddol o orymateb i faterion diogelwch, wedi bod yn creu darlun o wlad sydd ar gau. Dyna pam bod sylwadau Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru yn ddi-fudd.

Cynhwysiant Cymdeithasol a Materion Economaidd
Social Inclusion and Employment Issues

Q3 Janet Ryder: How will the Assembly, through the development and co-ordination of social inclusion, economic development and education and lifelong learning issues, encourage people of Wales who are considered economically inactive to re-enter the workforce? (OAQ10560)

C3 Janet Ryder: Sut y gwnaiff y Cynulliad, drwy ddatblygu a chydlynu materion cynhwysiant cymdeithasol, datblygu economaidd ac addysg a dysgu gydol oes, annog pobl yng Nghymru yr ystyrir hwy'n economaidd anweithgar i ddychwelyd i fyfwr gwaith? (OAQ10560)

2:10 p.m.

The First Minister: The most important factor is that we have the lowest level of unemployment in Wales for 25 years. Opportunities now exist for people who have not previously been in the workforce or have been out of the workforce for a long time to re-enter it because the jobs are there. Beyond the basic healthy underlying state of the economy, if the labour market must be reactivated to give people the self-confidence to enter it, or to assist with family commitments, we share responsibility in a number of ways with central Government. We provide the childcare and central Government provides the amendments to the tax or benefit system. We co-operate over the New Deal, the welfare to work programme, the new deal for lone parents and for disabled people and so on.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Y ffactor pwysicaf yw bod gennym y lefel isaf o ddiweithdra yng Nghymru am 25 mlynedd. Mae cyfleoedd bellach yn bodoli ar gyfer pobl na fuont yn y gweithlu o'r blaen neu sydd wedi bod allan o'r gweithlu ers peth amser i ddychwelyd iddo oherwydd bod swyddi yno. Y tu hwnt i gyflwr sylfaenol iach yr economi, os oes rhaid ailfywiogi'r farchnad lafur i roi'r hunan hyder i bobl fynd i mewn iddi, neu i gynorthwyo gydag ymrwymadau teulu, rhannwn gyfrifoldeb mewn nifer o ffyrdd gyda'r Llywodraeth ganolog. Ni sydd yn darparu'r gofal plant a'r Llywodraeth ganolog sydd yn darparu'r diwygiadau i'r system dreth neu fudd-daliadau. Cydweithiwn ar y Fargen Newydd, y rhaglen o fudd-dâl i waith, y fargen newydd ar gyfer rhieni unigol ac ar gyfer pobl anabl ac ati.

Janet Ryder: You mentioned the benefit system, which is not a devolved issue, but is important in this situation. The current benefit system does not always offer incentives for people to re-enter the workforce. Will you use the appropriate channels to call for the implementation of the recommendation of the Welsh Affairs Select Committee report on social exclusion? The report proposes a system of tapering benefits as a means of getting people into jobs or self-employment.

Janet Ryder: Soniasoch am y system fudd-daliadau, nad yw'n fater a ddatganolwyd, ond sydd yn bwysig yn y sefyllfa hon. Nid yw'r system budd-daliadau bresennol bob amser yn cynnig anogaeth i bobl ddychwelyd i'r gweithlu. A ddefnyddiwyd y sianelau priodol i alw am weithredu argymhelliad adroddiad y Pwyllgor Dethol ar Faterion Cymreig ar allgáu cymdeithasol? Mae'r adroddiad yn cynnig system o dapro budd-daliadau fel modd o gael pobl i swyddi neu hunan-gyflogaeth.

The First Minister: You are correct in saying that the Welsh Affairs Select Committee report emphasised changes to the benefit system. However, we are working with the present benefit system, which provides a rollover benefit. That means that if a person is already receiving benefit, he or she does not lose it all on the first day of

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yr ydych yn gywir pan ddywedwch fod y Pwyllgor Dethol ar Faterion Cymreig wedi pwysleisio newidiadau i'r system budd-daliadau. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym yn gweithio gyda'r system budd-daliadau bresennol, sydd yn darparu budd-daliadau treigl. Golyga hynny os bydd person yn derbyn budd-dâl eisoes, nad yw ef

work. They still receive council tax benefit and housing benefit for three months and so on. People can then become accustomed to wage packets without a 100 per cent cut-off of the housing or council tax benefits. Together with the childcare that we and our local authorities and voluntary organisations provide, a proactive labour market is established that enables everybody to participate when the jobs are there.

Christine Chapman: When you consider policies to assist those who are economically inactive to re-enter the workforce, do you agree that Objective 1 has a definite and substantial impact on economic inactivity in our most deprived communities? It does so by engaging the voluntary, business and public sectors, and by creating strategy partnerships for business, rural, human and community assets. This is all being done despite recent scaremongering by the Welsh Conservatives.

The First Minister: I agree entirely, and defer to Christine's greater knowledge of this matter as chair of the Objective 1 Programme Monitoring Committee. The record of the Objective 1 programme in Wales—as I had to explain to the leader of the Welsh Conservatives as if to a five-year old child—is well ahead of that of the other three Objective 1 regions. As he did not raise that point this week, the lesson must have hit home.

neu hi yn ei golli i gyd ar ei ddiwrnod gwaith cyntaf. Maent yn dal i dderbyn budd-dâl treth gyngor a budd-dâl tai am dri mis ac ati. Yna gall pobl ddod i arfer â chyflogau heb doriad o 100 y cant mewn budd-dâl tai neu fudd-dâl treth gyngor. Ynghyd â'r gofal plant a ddarperir gennym ni a'n hawdurdodau lleol a sefydliadau gwirfoddol, sefydlir marchnad lafur ragweithiol sydd yn galluogi pawb i gymryd rhan pan fydd y swyddi yno.

Christine Chapman: Pan fyddwch yn ystyried polisiau i gynorthwyo'r rhai hynny sydd yn economaidd anweithgar i ddychwelyd i'r gweithlu, a gytunwch fod Amcan 1 yn cael effaith bendant a sylweddol ar anweithgaredd economaidd yn ein cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig? Gwna hynny drwy gynnwys sectorau gwirfoddol, busnes a chyhoeddus, a thrwy greu partneriaethau strategaeth ar gyfer asedau busnes, gwledig, dynol a chymunedol. Gwneir hyn oll er i Geidwadwyr Cymru godi bwganod yn ddiweddar.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Cytunaf yn llwyr, ac ildiaf i wybodaeth helaethach Christine ar y mater hwn fel cadeirydd Pwyllgor Monitro Rhaglen Amcan 1. Mae record y rhaglen Amcan 1 yng Nghymru—fel y bu'n rhaid imi esbonio i Geidwadwyr Cymru fel pe bawn yn esbonio i blentyn pum mlwydd oed—ymhell o flaen y tri rhanbarth Amcan 1 arall. Gan na chododd y pwynt hwnnw yr wythnos hon, rhaid bod y wers wedi'i dysgu.

Y Cyfrifiad The Census

C4 Owen John Thomas: Pa drafodaethau sydd wedi bod rhwng Prif Weinidog Cymru a gweinidogion Llywodraeth San Steffan ynghylch y posibilrwydd o ohirio'r Cyfrifiad oherwydd problemau clwy'r traed a'r genau? (OAQ10561)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ni fu trafodaethau ar y pwnc hwn.

Owen John Thomas: Pe bai'r Cyfrifiad yn cael ei ohirio, a fyddai'n rhaid ailargraffu'r ffurflenni i gywiro'r dyddiad? Os felly, a fydddech yn sicrhau bod blwch tic i Gymru yn cael ei gynnwys?

Q4 Owen John Thomas: What discussions has the First Minister held with Westminster Government ministers regarding the possibility of postponing the Census due to the problems arising from foot and mouth disease? (OAQ10561)

The First Minister: No discussions have been held on this subject.

Owen John Thomas: If the Census were postponed, would the forms have to be reprinted to correct the date? If so, would you ensure that a Welsh tick box is included?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Pe bai'r Cyfrifiad yn cael ei ohirio, byddai cyfle i wneud hynny. Ceisiais gyfleu yn fy ateb byr cyntaf nad oes trafodaethau wedi eu cynnal ynglŷn â gohirio'r Cyfrifiad. Nid wyf yn credu y bydd hynny yn berthnasol.

Glyn Davies: I acknowledge that I have been, and remain, an extremist in terms of what should or should not go ahead because of the foot and mouth disease crisis. However, do you believe that a national event such as the Census, in which we want everybody in Britain to participate, can possibly go ahead when we are faced with a national crisis? The country is not in a position for everybody to participate in that national event. Are you in favour of continuing with that?

The First Minister: Yes, it is possible, and I believe the National Farmers Union also accepts that view. The Farmers Union of Wales has not been so keen to endorse it. However, I understand that the NFU in Wales has endorsed the Census proceeding, on condition, of course, that special precautions are taken that Census enumerators do not, wander from thoroughfares or pass warning signs. Specific guidance for Census enumerators is being prepared in consultation with this administration, MAFF and the NFU. The Census will be taken on April 29. It is too early to say whether the crisis in the countryside will make it impossible for this to be carried out without the risk of transmitting the infection. One of the farming unions in Wales endorses that view. The other one has been reluctant to do so.

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn ymwybodol bod nifer o deuluoedd heddiw yn Ynys Môn yn dioddef loes ddifrifol wrth iddynt wynebu colli eu hanifeiliaid. Maent yn wynebu difa 40,000 o ddefaid ar dros 450 o ddaliadau. Mae'n bwysig inni ddangos ein bod yn meddwl amdanynt yn eu loes. A ydych yn cytuno hefyd fod angen inni roi gwybodaeth glir a phendant ynglŷn â'r cynllun difa? Gwyddom eisoes y bydd yr

The First Minister: If the Census were postponed, there would be an opportunity to do that. I tried to convey in my first short answer that there have been no discussions regarding the postponement of the Census. I do not believe that that will be relevant.

Glyn Davies: Cydnabyddaf imi fod yn eithafol, ac yr wyf yn parhau i fod yn eithafol, o ran yr hyn a ddylai fynd yn ei flaen a'r hyn y dylid ei ohirio oherwydd argyfwng clwy'r traed a'r genau. Fodd bynnag, a gredwch y gall digwyddiad cenedlaethol fel y Cyfrifiad, lle yr ydym am i bawb ym Mhrydain gymryd rhan, fynd yn ei flaen pan fyddwn yn wynebu argyfwng cenedlaethol? Nid yw'r wlad mewn sefyllfa i bawb gymryd rhan mewn digwyddiad cenedlaethol o'r fath. A ydych o blaid parhau â hynny?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ydw, mae'n bosibl, a chredaf fod Undeb Cenedlaethol y Ffermwyr hefyd yn derbyn y farn honno. Ni fu Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru mor awyddus i'w gymeradwyo. Fodd bynnag, deallaf fod yr NFU yng Nghymru wedi cymeradwyo'r penderfyniad i barhau â'r Cyfrifiad, ar yr amod, wrth gwrs, y cymerir rhagofalon arbennig na fydd cyfrifwyr y Cyfrifiad yn crwydro o dramwyfeydd neu'n mynd heibio i arwyddion rhybuddio. Darperir canllaw arbennig ar gyfer cyfrifwyr y Cyfrifiad drwy ymgynghori â'r weinyddiaeth hon, y Weinyddiaeth Amaethyddiaeth, Pysgodfeydd a Bwyd a'r NFU. Cynhelir y Cyfrifiad ar Ebrill 29. Mae'n rhy gynnar i ddweud a fydd yr argyfwng yng nghefn gwlad yn ei gwneud yn amhosibl cynnal hyn heb y risg o drosglwyddo'r haint. Mae un o'r undebau ffermio yng Nghymru'n ategu'r farn honno. Bu'r llall yn gyndyn o wneud hynny.

The Leader of the Opposition (Ieuan Wyn Jones): I am sure that you are aware that many families in Anglesey are suffering severe anguish today as they face losing their animals. They face the destruction of 40,000 sheep on over 450 holdings. It is important that we show that we are thinking about them in their suffering. Do you also agree that we need to give clear and unambiguous information about the slaughter plan? We already know that the animals will be

anifeiliad yn cael eu lladd yn lladd-dy'r Gaerwen. Fodd bynnag, a allwch roi datganiad clir i'r Cynulliad ynghylch lle y cymerir y cyrff ar ôl iddynt gael eu lladd? Beth yn union fydd yn digwydd iddynt? Pa safleoedd fydd yn cael eu defnyddio ac a fyddant yn cael eu claddu neu eu llosgi?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar bod Ieuan wedi fy rhybuddio ynglŷn â'i gwestiynau y prynhawn yma. Dyma'r wybodaeth yr wyf wedi ei chasglu hyd yn hyn oddi wrth Carwyn a'i swyddogion. Bydd y cyrff yn cael eu cludo i hen safle maes awyr Mona lle y byddant yn cael eu llosgi yn lle eu claddu. Bydd defaid yn cael eu lladd yn y lladd-dy. Bydd ŵyn, oherwydd rhesymau technegol, yn cael eu lladd ar y fferm. Ar wahân i safle'r hen faes awyr, mae hefyd chwarel yn yr ardal y gellid ei defnyddio fel lleoliad wrth gefn i gael gwared ar y cyrff hyn.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Diolch i chi am yr wybodaeth honno. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd hynny'n rhoi terfyn ar lawer o'r straeon sydd yn bodoli yn Ynys Môn. Gan ein bod yn sôn am fater logistaidd, a oes bwriad i gynnwys y fyddin? Os yw hynny'n fwriad, beth fydd y fyddin yn ei wneud?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Dylwn i fod wedi dweud mai'r fyddin sydd yn gyfrifol am symud y cyrff er mwyn eu llosgi a chael gwared arnynt. Mae'n bwysig bod y fyddin yn gofalu am yr agwedd hon a'i bod yn parhau i gydweithio'n agos â'r ddau undeb ffermio yng Nghymru. Ynghylch y lefel o gydweithrediad y maent wedi'i dangos, nid yn unig at ei gilydd, ond hefyd gyda'r Cynulliad a'r milfeddygon, mae'n rhaid inni longyfarch Bob Parry a Peredur Hughes yn Ynys Môn ac aelodau eraill o'r undebau hynny ledled Cymru. Yr wyf yn eu llongyfarch a diolchaf iddynt am eu gwasanaeth. Er gwaethaf y straeon, yr emosiwn a'r pwyso gan eu haelodau, yr oedd yn amlwg eu bod yn erbyn gofyn am iawndal neu ohiriad. Nid oeddynt am weld un yn cystadlu yn erbyn y llall. Nid yw hynny wedi digwydd. Maent wedi ymdrin â'r materion hyn yn gwrtais a chan gydweithio, gan feddwl am ganlyniad diweddedd y clwyf hwn a sut y gallem ddechrau cael gwared arno ac ailadeiladu'r diwydiant amaethyddiaeth yn yr

slaughtered in Gaerwen abattoir. However, can you make a clear statement to the Assembly as to where the carcasses will be taken after slaughter? What exactly will happen to them? What sites will be used and will they be buried or burnt?

The First Minister: I am grateful that Ieuan gave me notice of his questions this afternoon. This is the information that I have gathered so far from Carwyn and his officials. The carcasses will be taken to the former Mona airfield site, where they will be burnt rather than buried. Sheep will be slaughtered in the abattoir. For technical reasons, lambs will be slaughtered on the farm. As well as the former airfield site, there is also a quarry in the area, which could be used as back-up for disposal of these carcasses.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Thank you for that information. I am sure that that will put a stop to many of the stories that are circulating in Anglesey. Since we are talking about a logistical matter, is there any intention to bring in the army? If that is the intention, what will the army's role be?

The First Minister: I should have said that the army is responsible for moving carcasses in order to burn and dispose of them. It is important that the army is in charge of this aspect and that it continues to work closely with the two farming unions in Wales. On the level of co-operation that they have shown, not only with each other, but also with the Assembly and the vets, we must congratulate Bob Parry and Peredur Hughes in Anglesey and other members of those unions throughout Wales. I congratulate and thank them for their service. Despite the strain, emotion and pressure from their members, it was clear that they were against asking for compensation or postponement. They did not want to see one competing with the other. That has not happened. They have dealt with these matters politely and in a spirit of co-operation, considering the end result of this disease and how we could start to eradicate it and rebuild the agricultural industry in the affected areas. They were also sympathetic to the anguish to which Ieuan referred.

ardaloedd yr effeithiwyd arnynt. Yr oeddynt hefyd yn meddwl am y loes y cyfeiriodd Ieuan ati. Mae pawb yn y Cynulliad hwn yn teimlo dros y teuluoedd a'r plant sydd yn gweld ŵyn y maent wedi eu mabwysiadu fel anifeilaid anwes, a defaid eraill, yn cael eu cymryd oddi ar y teuluoedd hynny. Mae'n anodd i unrhyw un a fu'n gysylltiedig â'r diwydiant. Mynegwn ein cydymdeimlad â phob un ohonynt.

Everyone in this Assembly feels for the families and children who face the loss of lambs that they adopted as pets, and other sheep. It is difficult for anyone who has been associated with the industry. We express our sympathies to all of them.

2:20 p.m.

Clwy'r Traed a'r Genau yng Ngogledd Cymru Foot and Mouth Disease in North Wales

Q5 Alison Halford: Will the Minister make a statement on how he will co-ordinate economic, agricultural and tourism policies to combat the effects of foot and mouth disease in areas of north Wales? (OAQ10581)

C5 Alison Halford: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog Cymru ddatganiad ar sut y bydd yn cydlynu polisi economaidd, polisi amaethyddol a pholisi twristiaeth er mwyn mynd i'r afael ag effeithiau clwy'r traed a'r genau mewn rhannau o ogledd Cymru? (OAQ10581)

The First Minister: The Cabinet, and the Deputy First Minister and the Minister for Rural Affairs in particular, has day-to-day responsibility for the co-ordination of the National Assembly's response to the impact of foot and mouth disease on agriculture and tourism. We are attempting to relaunch the tourism industry. There are resorts in north Wales that are a long way from the nearest outbreak, such as Llandudno, Rhyl and Prestatyn. There are also such areas along the Cardigan Bay coast, such as Portmeirion, where the Welsh Affairs Select Committee launched its report, 'Wales in the World: the Role of the UK Government in Promoting Wales Abroad', this morning. Parts of Snowdonia have been fenced off to allow some mountaineering and hillwalking to resume. Even in Anglesey, some attractions such as Pili Palas, the butterfly farm and exhibition centre, are open. There are many places to visit and things to do in north Wales. We must relaunch the tourism industry before Easter if possible. If not, it must be done as soon thereafter as possible.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Y Cabinet, a Dirprwy Brif Weinidog Cymru a'r Gweinidog dros Faterion Gwledig yn arbennig, sydd yn gyfrifol o ddydd i ddydd am gydlynu ymateb y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol i effaith clwy'r traed a'r genau ar amaethyddiaeth a thwristiaeth. Yr ydym yn ceisio ail-lansio'r diwydiant twristiaeth. Ceir rhai cyrchfannau yng ngogledd Cymru sydd gryn bellter o'r achos agosaf, fel Llandudno, y Rhyl a Phrestatyn. Hefyd ceir ardaloedd ar hyd arfordir Bae Ceredigion, fel Portmeirion, lle lansiodd y Pwyllgor Dethol ar Faterion Cymreig ei adroddiad, 'Wales in the World: the Role of the UK Government in Promoting Wales Abroad', y bore yma. Gosodwyd ffensys o amgylch rhai rhannau o Eryri i alluogi pobl i barhau i fynydda a cherdded. Hyd yn oed yn Ynys Môn, mae rhai atyniadau fel Pili Palas, y fferm gloynnod byw a chanolfan arddangos, ar agor. Mae sawl lle i ymweld ag ef a phethau i'w gwneud yng ngogledd Cymru. Rhaid inni ail-lansio'r diwydiant twristiaeth cyn y Pasg os yw'n bosibl. Os nad yw'n bosibl, rhaid gwneud hynny cyn gynted â phosibl wedi hynny.

Alison Halford: Do you agree that the time has come to work together as a united Assembly in a balanced and sensitive way, rather than some of our colleagues mounting

Alison Halford: A gytunwch fod yr amser wedi dod i gydweithio fel Cynulliad unedig mewn modd cytbwys a sensitif, yn hytrach na bod rhai o'n cyd-Aelodau'n ymosod yn

unhelpful and unconstructive attacks that do not help anyone?

The First Minister: I agree. People want to hear objective facts. Media coverage of the disease has been overdone. That is partly because of the nature of the media, as television pictures are terribly dramatic. Pictures of burning pyres of sheep and pig carcasses have been transmitted across the world and are now imprinted on people's minds. It takes a long time to rebuild confidence. In the United States, it is said that it can sometimes take five years to rebuild an image once people have seen those kinds of pictures on television. It will take the devil's own job to regain people's interest in the UK and, in particular, in Wales. When the time is right, we will start to do that. The Wales Tourist Board's budget has been doubled this year. We have increased its budget from £14.5 million to £30 million for the new financial year that starts next week. It is just a matter of when to relaunch the tourism industry. We must hit the industry in a united way to persuade tourists—within Wales, the rest of the UK, Europe and the United States of America—to return to Wales.

Dafydd Wigley: Ategaf sylwadau cynharach Prif Weinidog Cymru. Yr ydym yn gwerthfawrogi arweiniad yr undebau ffermio a phobl yn y sector twristiaeth sydd dan bwysau aruthrol yn sgîl yr argyfwng hwn. Diolchaf hefyd i'r milfeddygon a fu'n gweithio oriau hir. A yw Prif Weinidog Cymru yn derbyn bod angen hysbysebu ar fyrder er mwyn denu ymwelwyr yn ôl ar gyfer y Pasg i'r atyniadau sydd eisoes ar agor ac i eraill a allai fod ar agor erbyn hynny? A wnaiff astudio'r hyn a ddigwyddodd yn Llydaw wedi i olew gael ei ollwng i'r môr yno y llynedd? Darparodd y Llywodraeth ym Mharis ddegau o filiynau o bunnoedd yn ychwanegol ar gyfer hysbysebu ar y teledu i ddenu pobl yn ôl i Lydaw. A allwn gael arian yn ychwanegol at gyllideb sylfaenol Bwrdd Croeso Cymru i'w alluogi i arwain ymgyrch o'r fath?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae cymhariaeth ddiddorol rhwng yr argyfwng hwn a'r hyn a ddigwyddodd wedi trychineb y *Sea Empress* yn Sir Benfro neu wedi i long ollwng

ddi-fudd ac yn anadeiladol heb helpu unrhyw un?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Cytunaf. Mae pobl am glywed ffeithiau gwrthrychol. Aethpwyd yn rhy bell â darllediadau yn y cyfryngau am y clwyf. Mae hynny'n rhannol oherwydd natur y cyfryngau, oherwydd mae'r lluniau ar y teledu yn ddramatig ofnadwy. Darlledwyd darluniau ar draws y byd o goelcerthi o garcasau defaid a moch ac maent wedi aros ym meddyliau pobl. Cymer amser hir i adfer hyder. Yn yr Unol Daleithiau, dywedir y gall weithiau gymryd pum mlynedd i ailadeiladu delwedd unwaith y bydd pobl wedi gweld y mathau hynny o ddarluniau ar y teledu. Bydd yn waith hynod o galed i ailennyn diddordeb pobl yn y DU ac, yn arbennig, yng Nghymru. Pan ddaw'r amser, byddwn yn dechrau gwneud hynny. Dyblwyd cyllideb Bwrdd Croeso Cymru eleni. Yr ydym wedi cynyddu ei gyllideb o £14.5 miliwn i £30 miliwn ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol newydd sydd yn dechrau yr wythnos nesaf. Pryd i ail-lansio'r diwydiant twristiaeth yw'r cwestiwn yn awr. Rhaid inni daro'r diwydiant mewn modd unedig i ddarbwylllo twristiaid—o fewn Cymru, gweddill y DU, Ewrop ac Unol Daleithiau America—i ddychwelyd i Gymru.

Dafydd Wigley: I endorse the First Minister's earlier comments. We appreciate the leadership given by the farming unions and people in the tourism sector who are under tremendous pressure as a result of this crisis. I also thank the veterinarians who have been working long hours. Does the First Minister accept that we must advertise urgently to attract visitors back for Easter to the attractions that are already open and to others that could be open by then? Will he examine what happened in Brittany after the oil-spill there last year? The Government in Paris provided tens of millions of pounds in additional money for television adverts to attract people back to Brittany. Can we have money in addition to the Wales Tourist Board's basic budget to enable it to lead such a campaign?

The First Minister: There is an interesting comparison between this crisis and what happened after the *Sea Empress* disaster in Pembrokeshire or after a ship spilled so

cymaint o olew ar hyd arfordir a thraethau Llydaw. Yr hyn sydd yn anos gyda'r argyfwng hwn yw nad oes modd gweld y glendid yn dychwelyd wedi'r glanhau. Mewn ystyr ddiriaethol, mae'n haws gweld hynny wedi argyfwng megis colli olew ar draethau. Gyda'r argyfwng hwn, ni ellir gweld bod pethau wedi'u glanhau.

Mae'n bwysig inni aros hyd bod yr amser yn iawn i ail-lansio ein diwydiant twristiaeth. Efallai y gallwn wneud hynny cyn y Pasg ond, os nad yw hynny'n bosibl, fe'i gwnawn yn syth ar ôl y Pasg. Rhaid inni sicrhau y gallwn ddenu ymwelwyr ac ail-adeiladu'r ddelwedd o Gymru fel gwlad lân, werdd a deniadol. Pan ddaw'r adeg, byddwn yn ail-lansio'r diwydiant twristiaeth gan ddefnyddio'r arian ychwanegol sydd gennym. Cyfrifoldeb Awdurdod Twristiaeth Prydain yw hysbysebu atyniadau Cymru yn yr Unol Daleithiau. Nid wyf yn siŵr o'r manylion ar hyn o bryd, felly fe ysgrifennaf at Dafydd. Hyd y deallaf, caiff yr awdurdod adnoddau ychwanegol er mwyn ail-lansio diwydiant twristiaeth Prydain Fawr er mwyn denu twristiaid yn ôl i Gymru, yr Alban a Lloegr pan fydd yr amser yn iawn a phan fydd gennym y sail i wario'r arian ychwanegol ar hysbysebu.

much oil along Brittany's coast and beaches. What is more difficult with this crisis is that the results of the clean-up are not tangible. In a physical sense, a successful clean-up is more obvious following a crisis such as oil spilling onto beaches. With this crisis, you cannot see that things have been cleaned up.

It is important that we wait for the right moment to relaunch our tourism industry. Perhaps we can do so before Easter but, if that is not possible, we will do so straight after Easter. We must ensure that we can attract visitors and rebuild Wales's image as a clean, green and attractive country. When the time comes, we will relaunch the tourism industry using the additional money that we have. It is the British Tourist Authority's responsibility to advertise Wales's attractions in the United States. I am not sure of the details at the moment, so I will write to Dafydd. As I understand things, the authority will have additional resources to relaunch Great Britain's tourism industry in order to attract tourists back to Wales, Scotland and England when the time is right and when we have the basis for spending the additional money on advertising.

Llywodraeth Ewropeaidd European Governance

Q6 Jocelyn Davies: Will the First Minister make a brief statement on the role the National Assembly for Wales will play in proposing, developing, and implementing European Community rules in the context of the forthcoming White Paper on European governance? (OAQ10566)

The First Minister: I understand that the European Commission is scheduled to publish its White Paper on governance in July. In the first instance, the Assembly's Committee on European Affairs will want to consider the White Paper and its implications for the Assembly. In the longer term, when the Assembly conducts its review of powers around 2003, we should do so in the wider European Union governance context. I shall also discuss this matter with President Pujol of Catalonia, when he arrives in Wales in a couple of weeks' time.

C6 Jocelyn Davies: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog Cymru ddatganiad byr ar swyddogaeth Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru o ran cynnig, datblygu a gweithredu rheolau'r Gymuned Ewropeaidd yng nghyd-destun y Papur Gwyn ar lywodraeth Ewropeaidd sydd ar fin ei gyhoeddi? (OAQ10566)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Deallaf y trefnwyd i'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd gyhoeddi ei Bapur Gwyn ar lywodraeth ym mis Gorffennaf. Yn y lle cyntaf, bydd Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd y Cynulliad am ystyried y Papur Gwyn a'i oblygiadau i'r Cynulliad. Yn y tymor hwy, pan fydd y Cynulliad yn cynnal ei adolygiad o bwerau oddeutu 2003, dylem wneud hynny o fewn cyd-destun ehangach llywodraeth yr Undeb Ewropeaidd. Dylem hefyd drafod y mater hwn ag Arlywydd Pujol o Gatalonia, pan ddaw i Gymru ymhen wythnos neu ddwy.

Jocelyn Davies: Is the Assembly making its voice heard in all corners of the EU? For example, why was the Assembly not involved in discussions leading up to the Nice summit? Will you support a call for a Plenary debate on this White Paper so that the Assembly can formulate a response?

The First Minister: I cannot comment on the Nice summit, because it is a few months too long ago for me to remember whether we were involved or not. However, we were involved in the run-up to the Stockholm summit. I took part in an inter-ministerial committee a few days before the summit, with our counterparts from Scotland and Northern Ireland, chaired by Robin Cook MP. Although I was unable to be there in person, I was there in voice and in spirit, through the videoconferencing facility. Such meetings will become part of the norm before an European summit. Therefore, the voice of the Assembly will be heard consistently from now on in the run-up to the key meetings in 2003-04.

Jonathan Morgan: If the Assembly is to have a meaningful input at the European level, we must share the concerns of Jocelyn Davies about the lack of input into the Nice summit. What representations have been made to the European Commission, and to the structures of Europe in particular, about the rumoured reduction in the number of members that Wales will have in the European Parliament once enlargement is completed?

The First Minister: Changes will be made to the structure of the European Parliament after enlargement so that it does not become unmanageable in size. If I remember rightly, the British Government has managed to secure a concession so that the Parliament is not reduced to less than 700 members. That gives us an opportunity—I am not saying that we could definitely win—to try to retain our five seats. It is a tall order, but we will try to do so.

Jocelyn Davies: A yw'r Cynulliad yn lleisio ei farn ym mhob cwr o'r UE? Er enghraifft, pam na chafodd y Cynulliad ei gynnwys mewn trafodaethau yn arwain at uwchgynhadledd Nice? A gefnogwch alwad ar gyfer dadl mewn Cyfarfod Llawn ar y Papur Gwyn hwn fel y gall y Cynulliad lunio ymateb?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ni allaf roi sylwadau ar uwchgynhadledd Nice, oherwydd ei fod ychydig fisoedd yn rhy bell yn ôl imi gofio a oeddem yn cymryd rhan a'i peidio. Fodd bynnag, yr oeddem yn cymryd rhan wrth ddynesu at uwchgynhadledd Stockholm. Cymerais ran mewn pwyllgor rhyngweinigol ychydig ddyddiau cyn yr uwchgynhadledd, gyda'r gweinidogion cyfatebol o'r Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon, a gadeiriwyd gan Robin Cook AS. Er na allwn fod yno yn gorfforol, yr oeddwn yno o ran llais ac ysbryd drwy'r cyfleuster fideogynadledda. Daw cyfarfodydd o'r fath yn gyffredin cyn uwchgynhadledd Ewropeaidd. Felly, clywir llais y Cynulliad yn gyson o hyn ymlaen wrth ddynesu at y cyfarfodydd allweddol yn 2003-04.

Jonathan Morgan: Os yw'r Cynulliad am gael mewnbwn ystyrion ar y lefel Ewropeaidd, rhaid inni rannu pryderon Jocelyn Davies am y diffyg mewnbwn i uwchgynhadledd Nice. Pa sylwadau a wnaethpwyd i'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd, ac i strwythurau Ewrop yn arbennig, am y gostyngiad honedig yn nifer yr aelodau y bydd gan Gymru yn y Senedd Ewropeaidd unwaith y bydd yr ehangu wedi'i gwblhau?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Gwneir newidiadau i strwythur Senedd Ewrop wedi'r ehangu fel na fydd yn anhydrin o ran maint. Os cofiaf yn iawn, mae Llywodraeth Prydain wedi llwyddo i sicrhau consesiwn fel na chaiff y Senedd ei lleihau i lai na 700 o aelodau. Rhydd hyn gyfle inni geisio adennill ein pum sedd—nid wyf yn dweud y gallem ennill yn bendant. Mae'n llawer i'w ofyn, ond byddwn yn ceisio gwneud hynny.

Cymorth Cymdeithasol ac Economaidd Social and Economic Assistance

C7 Cynog Dafis: Yn rhinwedd ei swydd fel cydlynnydd datblygu polisi, beth y mae Prif Weinidog Cymru yn ei wneud i sicrhau bod y cymunedau y mae arnynt fwyaf o angen cymorth cymdeithasol ac economaidd, yn ei dderbyn? (OAQ10556)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Bydd rhaglen arloesol y Cynulliad, Rhoi Cymunedau'n Gyntaf, yn sicrhau bod y cyllid yn cael ei gyfeirio at y cymunedau hynny sydd â'r anghenion cymdeithasol ac economaidd mwyaf. Unwaith y bydd y cymunedau wedi'u nodi ymysg y rhai mwyaf difreinitiedig yng Nghymru, byddant yn derbyn cyllid wedi'i dargedu o nifer o raglenni'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, yn ogystal â Rhoi Cymunedau'n Gyntaf.

Cynog Dafis: Bydd y sefyllfa yn y diwydiant dur yn creu mwy o gymunedau difreintiedig. Deallaf fod argymhellion yr undebau ynglŷn ag arbed swyddi yn debygol o fethu. A oes gennych chi gynllun arbennig i ddelio â'r fath sefyllfa, ac a oes gennych ffigur i ddangos beth fyddai cost cynllun o'r fath? Yn ôl ein ffigurau ni, byddai'n costio tua £200 miliwn. A wnewch chi ymrwymo i wneud cais i'r Trysorlys—os nad ydych wedi gwneud hynny eisoes—am gyllid yn ychwanegol at floc Barnett ac wedi'i seilio ar y math hwn o raddfa, i sicrhau bod y gwaith yn cael ei wneud, heb orfod dibynnu ar gyllidebau craidd eraill megis iechyd ac addysg?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Derbyniaf yr egwyddor. Fodd bynnag, mae'r cyfarfod rhwng Corus a'r undebau llafur yn parhau— aethant am ginio am 1 p.m. ac ailddechrau am 2 p.m.—ac felly nid wyf yn gwybod beth fydd canlyniad y cyfarfod. Cyn gynted ag y byddaf yn gwybod, a'r niwl yn dechrau codi, gallwn weithio ar fanylion terfynol y rhaglen i ail-greu swyddi a llewyrch yn y cymunedau yr effeithir arnynt. Yr oeddem wedi rhoi ymrwymiad i'r undebau na fyddem yn dweud unrhyw beth i dorri ar draws eu hymdrechion i arbed swyddi.

2:30 p.m.

Q7 Cynog Dafis: In his role as policy development co-ordinator, what is the First Minister doing to ensure that communities which need the greatest social and economic assistance are receiving it? (OAQ10556)

The First Minister: The Assembly's ground-breaking programme, Communities First, will ensure that funding is directed at those communities in greatest social and economic need. Once identified as the most deprived communities in Wales, these areas will receive targeted funding from the various National Assembly programmes, as well as under Communities First.

Cynog Dafis: The situation in the steel industry will create more disadvantaged communities. I understand that the unions' recommendations to save jobs are likely to fail. Do you have a scheme in place to deal with such a situation, and how much would such a scheme would cost? According to our figures, it would cost about £200 million. Will you make a commitment to apply for additional funding from the Treasury—if you have not already done so—over and above the Barnett block and based on this kind of scale, to ensure that the work is done, without having to draw on other core budgets such as education and health?

The First Minister: I accept the principle. However, the meeting between Corus and the trade unions is ongoing—they broke for lunch at 1 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m.—and therefore I do not know what the result will be. As soon as I know, and the fog begins to lift, we can work on the final details of the programme to recreate jobs and prosperity in those communities affected. We have given an undertaking to the unions not to say anything that would prejudice their efforts to save jobs.

Tom Middlehurst: We await with trepidation the announcement from Corus, and I want an assurance that an even-handed approach will be taken in dealing with the consequences of the announcement. Do you agree that it is important that we recognise that if the ambitious growth targets contained in the national economic development strategy are to be achieved, it is essential that there is sustained investment in all parts of Wales, not least the north-east, which suffered major closures in the 1970s and 1980s in the steel, deep-mining and textiles industries? There is a continued need for further investment if we are going to maintain our progress.

The First Minister: One of the purposes and great benefits of the Communities First programme is that it is precise, working on a ward-by-ward and community-by-community basis. You can break Wales up into two or three different categories. Objective 1 is the poorest two thirds of Wales, but within the less-poor, or richer, third of Wales there are many poor communities. Communities First enables you to pinpoint those and direct attention at them. That is why the URBAN programme chose the western part of Wrexham, a few months ago, as an example of an ailing community within an area that overall has higher GDP per head, and lower unemployment than areas further to the west.

Tom Middlehurst: Yr ydym yn aros yn anesmwyth am y cyhoeddiad gan Corus, ac yr wyf am gael sicrwydd yr ymdrinnir â chanlyniadau'r cyhoeddiad yn ddiuedd. A gytnwch ei bod yn bwysig ein bod yn nodi os yw'r targedau twf uchelgeisiol a geir yn y strategaeth datblygu economaidd genedlaethol i gael eu cyflawni, mae'n hanfodol y ceir buddsoddiad cynaliadwy ym mhob rhan o Gymru, yn enwedig y gogledd-ddwyrain, a welodd lawer o weithfeydd yn y diwydiannau dur, cloddio dwfn a thecstilau yn cau yn y 1970au a'r 1980au? Mae angen parhaus am fuddsoddiad pellach os ydym am gynnal ein cynnydd.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Un o ddibenion a buddiannau mawr y rhaglen Rhoi Cymunedau'n Gyntaf yw ei bod yn fanwl, yn gweithio ar sail ward wrth ward a chymuned wrth gymuned. Gallwch rannu Cymru'n ddau neu dri categori. Amcan 1 yw'r ddwy ran o dair dlotaf yng Nghymru, ond o fewn y traean llai tlawd, neu gyfoethocach, yng Nghymru, ceir sawl cymuned dlawd. Mae Rhoi Cymunedau'n Gyntaf yn eich galluogi i nodi'r rheini'n fanwl a rhoi sylw iddynt. Dyna pam y dewisodd y rhaglen URBAN ran orllewinol Wrecsam, ychydig fisoedd yn ôl, fel enghraifft o gymuned wael o fewn ardal sydd, yn gyffredinol, â CMC uwch y pen a diweithdra is nag ardaloedd ymhellach i'r gorllewin.

Cyfrifoldebau Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru Responsibilities of the National Assembly for Wales

Q8 Geraint Davies: Can the First Minister make a brief statement on his recent discussions with Paul Murphy regarding the National Assembly for Wales taking responsibility for the police and emergency services in Wales? (OAQ10562)

The First Minister: I have had no such discussions. You will be aware that we are responsible for one emergency service, namely the ambulance service. However, responsibility for the police, the fire service, the coastguards and so forth is still a matter for the Home Office, and are therefore reserved.

Geraint Davies: I am disappointed that you

C8 Geraint Davies: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog Cymru ddatganiad byr ar ei drafodaethau diweddar gyda Paul Murphy ynghylch rhoi'r cyfrifoldeb dros yr heddlu a'r gwasanaethau brys yng Nghymru i Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru? (OAQ10562)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ni chefais drafodaethau o'r fath. Gwyddoch ein bod yn gyfrifol am un gwasanaeth brys, sef y gwasanaeth ambiwlans. Fodd bynnag, mae cyfrifoldeb dros yr heddlu, y gwasanaeth tân, gwylwyr y glannau ac ati yn fater i'r Swyddfa Gartref o hyd, ac felly cânt eu cadw.

Geraint Davies: Yr wyf yn siomedig na

have had no such discussions. If you were to have them, would you take the opportunity to mention the fact that 27 police stations have closed in south Wales since the Labour party came to power? Do you agree that the closure of police stations in communities has the double effect of weakening relations between the police and those communities, and undermining the fight against crime?

The First Minister: I do not have enough expertise in this field to be able to confirm the point about undermining the fight against crime. Everybody involved in democratic politics—whether a councillor, an Assembly Member, an MP or an MEP—is aware of how strongly communities feel when there is a suggestion of closing a police station. It is the same as closing a magistrates' court, or any other public facility, such as a local community hospital. People always fight to keep something that they already have, because it is a symbol of the importance of their community. Change always happens in public services, for which there is sometimes a reason. It would be ostrich-like to put your head in the sand and say that there should never be change in the provision of these facilities. Sometimes it is right, sometimes it is wrong. Usually, it is a sound principle for a democratically elected politician to at least run the case for retaining these facilities, because a police station has an effect on a local community's sense of security.

Alun Cairns: Yr oedd ateb Prif Weinidog Cymru i gwestiwn cyntaf Geraint Davies yn gwbl afresymol. A yw'n barod i gondemnio'r cwtogi yn nifer yr heddwision sydd yn cerdded strydoedd Prydain Fawr? Mae hynny yn naturiol yn dylanwadu ar y cynnydd mewn troseddau difrifol sydd yn digwydd yn y wlad hon ar hyn o bryd.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Nid wyf yn siŵr a yw hynny'n gywir. Deallaf fod y lefel droseddau yn cwmpo, ac felly dylem ymdrin â'r ffigurau ac nid â'r chwedlau a ddaw o ochr Alun o'r Siambr.

Hefyd, dylem longyfarch y Swyddfa Gartref am gyhoeddi ddoe ei bod am roi arian i sawl rhaglen a gyflwynwyd y llynedd er mwyn

chawsoch drafodaethau o'r fath. Pe baech yn eu cael, a fyddech yn manteisio ar y cyfle i nodi'r ffaith fod 27 o orsafoedd yr heddlu wedi cau yn ne Cymru ers i'r blaidd Lafur ddod i rym? A gytunwch y caiff cau gorsafoedd heddlu mewn cymunedau yr effaith ddwbl o wanhau cysylltiadau rhwng yr heddlu a'r cymunedau hynny, a thanseilio'r frwydr yn erbyn troseddau?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Nid wyf yn ddigon o arbenigwr yn y maes hwn i allu cadarnhau'r pwynt ynglŷn â thanseilio'r frwydr yn erbyn troseddau. Mae pawb sydd yn cymryd rhan mewn gwleidyddiaeth ddemocrataidd—pa un ai'n gynghorydd, yn Aelod o'r Cynulliad, yn AS neu'n ASE—yn ymwybodol pa mor gryf y mae cymunedau'n teimlo pan geir awgrym o gau gorsaf heddlu. Mae fel cau llys ynadon, neu unrhyw gyfleuster cyhoeddus arall, fel ysbyty cymuned lleol. Mae pobl bob amser yn brwydro i gadw rhywbeth sydd ganddynt eisoes, oherwydd ei fod yn symbol o bwysigrwydd eu cymuned. Mae newid wastad yn digwydd o fewn gwasanaethau cyhoeddus, ac weithiau ceir rheswm dros hyn. Byddech fel estrys yn cuddio eich pen yn y tywod wrth ddweud na ddylid cael unrhyw newid yn narpariaeth y cyfleusterau hyn. Weithiau mae'n gywir, weithiau'n mae'n anghywir. Fel arfer, mae'n egwyddor gadarn i wleidydd a etholwyd yn ddemocrataidd i ddadlau'r achos dros gadw'r cyfleusterau hyn o leiaf, oherwydd gall gorsaf heddlu effeithio ar ymdeimlad cymuned leol o ddiogelwch.

Alun Cairns: The First Minister's answer to Geraint Davies's first question was totally unreasonable. Is he willing to condemn the reduction in the number of policemen on the beat in Great Britain? That naturally has an influence on the increase in serious crime committed in this country.

The First Minister: I am not sure if that is correct. I understand that the crime level is falling and therefore we should deal with figures, and not with the myths that come from Alun's side of the Chamber.

Also, we should congratulate the Home Office on its announcement yesterday that it is to fund several schemes introduced last

darparu adnoddau i ymdrin â'r problemau sydd yn rhan o gategori trais yn y cartref.

year in order to provide resources to deal with problems categorised as domestic violence.

Y Llywydd: Mae cwestiynau 9 a 10 wedi eu tynnu yn ôl.

The Presiding Officer: Questions 9 and 10 have been withdrawn.

'Variable Geometry UK'

Q11 Pauline Jarman: Will the First Minister make a statement further to his speech 'Variable Geometry UK' made on 14 February 2000? (OAQ10551)

C11 Pauline Jarman: A wnaiff Prif Weinidog Cymru ddatganiad i ddilyn yr araith 'Variable Geometry UK' a draddodwyd ganddo ar 14 Chwefror 2000. (OAQ10551)

The First Minister: My views on devolution have not changed since my speech of 14 February 2000. That speech was consistent in its approach, although variable in its geometry.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Nid yw fy marn ar ddatganioli wedi newid ers fy araith ar 14 Chwefror 2000. Yr oedd yr araith honno'n gyson o ran ei hymagwedd, er ei bod yn amrywiol o ran ei geometreg.

Pauline Jarman: I remind the First Minister that, in that speech, he floated the idea of a change to First Minister's question time. He wondered why we do not have open questions in this session. Are there any plans to change the present format or would you prefer to continue with the present arrangements, whereby civil servants attempt to double-guess the motives behind the questions tabled and brief you on a series of likely supplementaries and how you should respond to them?

Pauline Jarman: Atgoffaf y Prif Weinidog iddo gyflwyno'r syniad o newid i gwestiynau i Brif Weinidog Cymru yn yr araith honno. Yr oedd yn gofyn pam nad oes gennym gwestiynau agored yn y cyfarfod hwn. A oes unrhyw gynlluniau i newid y fformat presennol neu a fyddai'n well gennych barhau â'r trefniadau presennol, lle mae gweision sifil yn ceisio dehongli'r cymhelliad y tu ôl i'r cwestiynau a gyflwynwyd a rhoi briff ichi ar gyfres o gwestiynau atodol tebygol a sut y byddech yn ymateb iddynt?

The First Minister: If this is a contest between what proportion of the briefing that I receive I follow faithfully and the proportion of what Pauline is given by the Plaid Cymru central research department that she follows faithfully, I have a feeling that she would finish runner up.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Os mai cystadleuaeth yw hyn rhwng pa gyfran o'r briff a dderbyniaf y byddaf yn ei ddilyn yn ffyddlon a pha gyfran o'r hyn mae Pauline yn ei dderbyn gan adran ymchwil ganolog Plaid Cymru y mae hi'n ei ddilyn yn ffyddlon, teimlaf mai ail orau fyddai hi.

Y Llywydd: Nid yw Elin Jones yn y Siambr, felly caiff cwestiwn 12 ei drosglwyddo ar gyfer ateb ysgrifenedig. Mae cwestiynau 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 a 19 wedi eu tynnu yn ôl.

The Presiding Officer: Elin Jones is not in the Chamber, so question 12 will be transferred for written answer. Questions 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 have been withdrawn.

Cydlynu Polisiâu ar Glwy'r Traed a'r Genau Policy Co-ordination against Foot and Mouth Disease

Q20 Mick Bates: What steps are being taken to ensure the co-ordination of Assembly policies to combat the current outbreak of foot and mouth disease? (OAQ10580)

C20 Mick Bates: Pa gamau a gymerir i sicrhau bod polisiâu'r Cynulliad yn cael eu cydlynu i helpu i fynd i'r afael â'r achosion presennol o glwy'r traed a'r genau?

(OAQ10580)

The First Minister: We are making progress in Anglesey this afternoon and I have made various announcements about details of the disposal of carcasses of lambs, sheep and so forth. Mick will know only too well that the Powys outbreak is much more complex. It is not possible to have a firebreak cordon sanitaire sort of pre-emptive culling there because the outbreaks in that area are much more dispersed. Therefore, the policy in Powys is to try to target the contiguous farms.

There is support for that among the farming unions, namely the National Farmers' Union and the Farmers Union of Wales, and the local community generally supports this approach based on contiguity. However, the emotional stress on the farmers concerned cannot be underestimated, especially where they have pedigree herds and cows as well. In such cases, they are concerned about whether they will lose the cows as well as the sheep.

The army has been brought in. Mick will be aware that, in the southern tip of Powys and north-eastern Gwent, the army is involved in trying to ensure that, where there are sheep that need to be pre-emptively culled, but where they are moving onto common land—and we are talking about sheep that could be anywhere within a 20-mile radius—they are rounded up and accounted for.

Mick Bates: Will you follow the Prime Minister's example and visit areas such as Powys? Do you understand that, because of the lack of information, a visit would help to alleviate many of the anxieties that surround the cull in Powys? Will you make that commitment today?

The First Minister: If I were to be invited, I am sure that I would visit. It is the flow of information that is important, not responding to demands such as, 'The crisis is so bad, you must make a gesture and visit.' I always have the time to drop everything if a visit would be useful. If you, as the local representative, believe that a visit would be useful, I am happy to try to make such arrangements.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yr ydym yn gwneud cynnydd yn Sir Fôn y prynhawn yma ac yr wyf wedi gwneud amryw gyhoeddiadau ynglŷn â chael gwared ar garcasau wŷn bach, defaid ac yn y blaen. Gŵyr Mick yn dda bod argyfwng Powys yn llawer mwy cymhleth. Nid yw'n bosibl gweithredu math o ddifa rhagataliol drwy gyfrwng mur o dân yno gan fod yr achosion yn yr ardal honno yn llawer mwy gwasgaredig. Felly, ein polisi ym Mhowys yw ceisio targedu'r ffermydd mwyaf cydgyffwrddol.

Mae'r undebau ffermio, sef Undeb Cenedlaethol y Ffermwyr ac Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru, yn cefnogi hynny ac mae'r gymunedol leol yn gyffredinol yn cefnogi'r drefn hon sydd yn seiliedig ar gydgyffwrdd. Fodd bynnag, ni ellir tanbwysleisio'r straen emosiynol sydd ar y ffermwyr dan sylw, yn enwedig pan fo ganddynt yrr a gwartheg pedigri yn ogystal. Mewn achosion o'r fath, maent yn bryderus a fyddant yn colli'r gwartheg yn ogystal â'r defaid.

Mae'r fyddin wedi ei galw i mewn. Fel y gŵyr Mick, yn ne Powys a gogledd-ddwyrain Gwent, mae'r fyddin yn ceisio sicrhau, mewn achosion lle y tybir bod yn rhaid difa'r defaid, ond lle y maent yn symud i dir comin—ac yr ydym yn sôn am ddefaid a allai fod unrhyw le o fewn cylch 20 milltir—eu bod yn cael eu casglu a bod cyfrif amdanynt.

Mick Bates: A fyddwch yn dilyn esiampl y Prif Weinidog ac yn ymweld ag ardaloedd megis Powys? A ydych yn deall y byddai ymweliad, oherwydd y diffyg gwybodaeth, yn cynorthwyo i liniaru llawer o'r pryderon ynglŷn â'r difa ym Mhowys? A wnewch yr ymrwymiad hwnnw heddiw?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Pe byddwn yn cael gwahoddiad, mae'n siŵr y byddwn yn ymweld. Llif yr wybodaeth sydd yn bwysig, nid ymateb i alwadau megis, 'Mae'r argyfwng mor ddrwg, rhaid i chi ymweld.' Mae gennyf amser i adael popeth pe byddai ymweliad yn ddefnyddiol. Os credwch chi, fel y cynrychiolydd lleol, y byddai ymweliad yn ddefnyddiol, yna yr wyf yn fodlon ceisio

On the flow of information, it is my understanding—but I am happy to be corrected on this by Ieuan or any other Member who has knowledge of the Anglesey area—that every farmer affected in Anglesey received a letter this morning. When a firebreak is arranged in Church Stoke, where there is talk of a mini ‘firebreak’ cull because of the clutch of cases around that area, farmers there will also receive information. If Mick believes that a visit is appropriate, I am always happy to drop everything and come.

David Davies: What is the First Minister doing to ensure that the times from discovery to slaughter to burial are reduced? What are you doing to ensure that senior police officers do not find out about outbreaks through the media, which has been happening? Can you tell us about the compensation packages? I assure you that it would be useful, if you are going to Powys, to come to Monmouthshire as well. I spent a long time with the NFU yesterday, which I found useful. I would be happy to arrange it for you as well.

2:40 p.m.

The First Minister: I would be pleased to do that because I am familiar with the area about which you are talking, David, around Grosmont and Skenfrith. That area has been affected by the Herefordshire outbreak from Llancloudy, just across the border, and abuts all the Hay bluffs area. There are dangers of dispersal in that area, which is why the army have been brought in.

On the other points you made about the flow of information and the speeding up of the diagnosis to slaughter to disposal periods, you refer to a UK and not a Welsh problem. Wales’s record on diagnosis to slaughter to disposal is among the best in the UK, if not the best.

gwneud trefniadau o’r fath.

O ran llif gwybodaeth—yr wyf ar ddeall—ond yr wyf yn fodlon cael fy nghywiro ar hyn gan Ieuan neu unrhyw Aelod arall sydd â gwybodaeth am ardal Ynys Môn—bod pob ffermwr yr effeithiwyd arno yn Ynys Môn wedi derbyn llythyr y bore yma. Pan drefnir cynnau mur o dân yn Church Stoke, ble mae sôn am ddifa ‘mur tân’ bychan oherwydd y nifer o achosion o amgylch yr ardal honno, bydd ffermwyr yno yn derbyn gwybodaeth hefyd. Os cred Mick y byddai ymweliad yn addas, yr wyf bob amser yn barod i adael popeth a mynd ar ymweliad.

David Davies: Beth y mae’r Prif Weinidog yn ei wneud er mwyn sicrhau bod yr amseroedd rhwng darganfod a lladd a chladdu yn cael eu lleihau? Beth yr ydych yn ei wneud i sicrhau na fydd uwch swyddogion yr heddlu yn cael clywed am achosion drwy’r cyfryngau, fel ag sydd wedi bod yn digwydd? A allwch ddweud wrthym am y pecynnau iawndal? Fe’ch sicrhaf, os byddwch yn mynd i Bowys, y byddai’n ddefnyddiol pe baech yn dod i Sir Fynwy hefyd. Treuliais lawer o amser gydag Undeb Cenedlaethol y Ffermwyr ddoe, a oedd yn ddefnyddiol i mi. Byddwn yn fodlon trefnu ymweliad ar eich cyfer yn ogystal.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Byddwn yn falch o wneud hynny gan fy mod yn gyfarwydd â’r ardal yr ydych yn sôn amdani, David, o gwmpas Y Grysmwnt ac Ynysgynwraidd. Mae’r ardal honno wedi ei heffeithio gan yr achosion yn Sir Henffordd o Lancloudy, dros y ffin, ac sydd yn ffinio ardal gyfan clogwyni’r Gelli. Mae perygl gwasgaru yn yr ardal honno, a dyna paham bod y fyddin wedi ei galw i mewn.

O ran y pwyntiau eraill a wnaethoch ynglŷn â llif gwybodaeth a chyflymu’r broses rhwng y cyfnodau darganfod a lladd a gwaredu, yr ydych yn sôn am broblem yn y DU ac nid problem yng Nghymru. Mae record Cymru o ran y cyfnod o ddarganfod i ladd i waredu ymysg y gorau yn y DU, os nad y gorau un.

Y Berthynas rhwng Cymru ac Iwerddon Welsh-Irish Relations

Q21 John Griffiths: What discussions has the First Minister had with the Taoiseach on his recent visit about developing relations between Wales and Ireland? (OAQ10571)

The First Minister: We discussed several issues, some of which were planned and some of which were overtaken by the fact that the outbreak of the foot and mouth disease had already occurred by 1 March and was at the top of both our agendas. We therefore discussed that, and the cancelled rugby match. It was impossible to hold the rugby match between Wales and Ireland at the Millennium Stadium because of the impact of foot and mouth on the A5 and A55 roads that come through the Gaerwen area. We hope that the match can be re-scheduled. I am beginning to doubt it, but I hope it will take place on 29 April.

The other issue was the opening of the additional ferry port at Mostyn, giving a total of five ferry ports serving Wales and Ireland. The euro will impact on those areas. In nine months' time, the euro will be in regular use in Ireland as coinage, not merely as a concept in peoples' minds. That will have an impact on the five Welsh ferry ports, Swansea, Pembroke Dock, Fishguard, Holyhead and Mostyn.

John Griffiths: Do you agree that the developing relations between Ireland and ourselves have been one of the most pleasing aspects of the Assembly's history to date, with the full-time Consul General in Cardiff and all the other developments that have taken place. We have much to gain and benefit, economically and socially, from continuing to develop those relations.

The First Minister: I pay tribute to Bertie Aherne, the Taoiseach, but also to Conor O'Riordan, the Consul General of Ireland whose presence in Wales has added to our public life. We would not have had such an attendance at the launch of our Wales. World Nation information package on the afternoon and evening of 1 March had Bertie Aherne

C21 John Griffiths: Pa drafodaethau a gafodd Prif Weinidog Cymru gyda'r Taoiseach yn ystod ei ymweliad diweddar ynghylch datblygu'r berthynas rhwng Cymru ac Iwerddon? (OAQ10571)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Trafodwyd nifer o faterion, rhai a gynlluniwyd a rhai a roddwyd o'r neilltu oherwydd bod achosion o glwy'r traed a'r genau wedi dechrau ymddangos erbyn 1 Mawrth ac yr oedd ar frig agendâu y ddau ohonom. Felly trafodwyd hynny, a'r gêm rygbi a ohirwyd. Yr oedd yn amhosibl cynnal y gêm rygbi rhwng Cymru ac Iwerddon yn Stadiwm y Mileniwm oherwydd effaith clwy'r traed a'r genau ar ffyrdd yr A5 ac A55 sydd yn mynd drwy ardal Gaerwen. Gobeithiwn y gellir ail-drefnu'r gêm. Yr wyf yn dechrau amau hynny, ond gobeithiaf y caiff ei chynnal ar 29 Ebrill.

Y mater arall oedd agor porthladd fferi ychwanegol ym Mostyn, gan roi cyfanswm o bum porthladd fferi i wasanaethu Cymru ac Iwerddon. Bydd yr ewro yn effeithio ar yr ardaloedd hynny. Ymhen naw mis, caiff yr ewro ei ddefnyddio'n rheolaidd yn Iwerddon fel arian bath, ac nid fel cysyniad ym meddyliau pobl yn unig. Caiff hynny effaith ar bum porthladd fferi Cymru, sef Abertawe, Doc Penfro, Abergwaun, Caergybi a Mostyn.

John Griffiths: A gytunwch fod y cysylltiadau sydd yn datblygu rhwng Iwerddon a ninnau wedi bod yn un o'r agweddau mwyaf dymunol yn hanes y Cynulliad hyd yma, gyda'r Prif Gonswl llawn amser yng Nghaedydd a'r holl ddatblygiadau eraill a ddigwyddodd. Mae gennym lawer i'w ennill ac elwa ohono, yn economaidd a chymdeithasol, o barhau i ddatblygu'r cysylltiadau hynny.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Talaf deyrnged i Bertie Aherne, y Taoiseach, ond hefyd i Conor O'Riordan, Prif Gonswl Iwerddon, y mae ei bresenoldeb yng Nghymru wedi ychwanegu at ein bywyd cyhoeddus. Ni fyddem wedi cael cystal presenoldeb yn achlysur lansio ein pecyn gwybodaeth Wales. World Nation ar brynhawn a noson 1

not agreed to give an address. If a head of government is present at such an occasion, it helps to give the diplomatic corps in London a reason to recognise that Wales has an improved place in the diplomatic pecking order. That is why they attended in large numbers in a way that had not happened before. I am grateful to Bertie Aherne and the Consul General for their assistance in arranging a successful launch.

David Lloyd: A yw Prif Weinidog Cymru yn ymwybodol bod y Cynulliad yn aelod llawn o'r corff rhyng-seneddol Prydeinig-Wyddelig ac felly a allai gydnabod yr angen i adeiladu ar y fath sylfaen ar gyfer y dyfodol?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae ein hagwedd, fel Cynulliad ac fel cenedl, tuag at Iwerddon wedi cael ei drawsnewid yn ystod y 10 mlynedd diwethaf. Yr oeddent yn arfer bod yn dlotach na ni ac edrychent am syniadau oddi wrthym. Ddeng mlynedd yn ddiweddarach, erbyn 2000, trawsnewidiwyd eu heconomi gymaint fel y tueddwn edrych, nid yn unig at y dwyrain ond hefyd at y gorllewin am ysbrydoliaeth. Mae unrhyw gyrff o'r math hwn yn gyfle i gael syniadau am sut y gweithredodd pobl eraill dros y 10 mlynedd ddiwethaf. Os gweithredwn hanner cystal â hynny dros y 10 mlynedd nesaf, byddwn yn hapus dros ben a chredaf y byddai pawb yng Nghymru yn hapus hefyd.

Mawrth oni bai bod Bertie Aherne wedi cytuno i roi anerchiad. Os yw pennaeth llywodraeth yn bresennol ar achlysur o'r fath, yna mae'n helpu i roi rheswm i'r corfflu llysgenhadol yn Llundain sylweddoli bod gan Cymru safle gwell yn y drefn flaenoriaeth ddiplomyddol. Dyna pam yr oedd cymaint ohonynt yn bresennol mewn modd na ddigwyddodd o'r blaen. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i Bertie Aherne a'r Prif Gonswl am eu cymorth wrth drefnu achlysur lansio llwyddiannus.

David Lloyd: Is the First Minister aware that the Assembly is a full member of the British-Irish inter-parliamentary body and will he accept the need to build on such a basis for the future?

The First Minister: Our attitude as an Assembly and a nation towards Ireland has been transformed over the past 10 years. They used to be poorer than us and looked to us for ideas. Ten years on, in 2000, their economy has been transformed to such an extent that we tend to look not only east but also west for inspiration. Such bodies provide an opportunity to exchange ideas about how other nations have done things over the past 10 years. If we could do half as well as that over the next 10 years then I would be happy and I am sure that everyone in Wales would be happy.

Cwestiwn Brys Urgent Question

Y Setliad Ariannol i Sefydliadau Addysg Uwch Cymru The Financial Settlement to Higher Education Institutions in Wales

Cynog Dafis: A wnaiff y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes ddatganiad yn esbonio'r setliad ariannol i sefydliadau addysg uwch Cymru, a'r cysylltiad rhwng hynny a'r ffigurau y cytunwyd arnynt yng nghyllideb y Cynulliad? (EAQ10954)

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (Jane Davidson): The Assembly gives a high priority to the quality of its higher education. This is evident in the

Cynog Dafis: Will the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning make a statement explaining the financial settlement to higher education institutions in Wales, and the connection between that and the figure agreed in the Assembly's budget? (EAQ10954)

Y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes (Jane Davidson): Mae'r Cynulliad yn rhoi blaenoriaeth uchel i ansawdd ei addysg uwch. Amlygir hyn yn y dyraniadau ariannol

financial allocations that it has provided for the sector in the 2000-01 and 2001-02 financial years. Including capital grant and income from tuition fees, the increases in funding available to higher education in Wales, in both these years, is around 8 per cent. Taking into account increased student numbers and inflation, this represents real growth of nearly 5 per cent, designed to ensure that we develop the higher education that we need, which is at least comparable with other parts of the United Kingdom.

The Education and Lifelong Learning Committee is currently undertaking a review of higher education in Wales. The Executive is committed to participating in and giving full consideration to that review. For that reason, we entered a provisional figure for higher education in the Assembly's financial plan for 2002-03. I have made clear on several occasions, as has the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities, that this is only a provisional figure, which will be adjusted in the context of the review outcome.

The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales has just announced its recurrent grant allocations for August 2001 to August 2002. The council has used the Assembly's provisional allocation for 2002-03 in making this allocation. It is primarily for this reason that the council has assumed an overall increase of expenditure of only 0.65 per cent, excluding capital. I have previously made clear in writing that the Assembly's provisional figure for 2002-03 was only provisional. I will write again to HEFCW today to confirm this position. I will state that, for planning purposes, the council should assume that there will be an appropriate rate of growth in the Assembly's budget for higher education in 2002-03. I will continue discussions with the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities to achieve an early resolution to this matter.

We are fully committed to the continued success of higher education in Wales. Our commitment has been shown in the Assembly's financial allocations to date, and it is reasonable for HEFCW to adjust its plans

a ddarparodd i'r sector ym mlynnyddoedd ariannol 2000-01 a 2001-02. Gan gynnwys grant cyfalaf ac incwm o ffioedd dysgu, mae'r codiadau yn yr arian sydd ar gael i addysg uwch yng Nghymru, yn y ddwy flynedd hyn, tua 8 y cant. O ystyried y cynnydd yn y niferoedd o fyfyrwyr a chwyddiant, mae hyn yn dwf gwirioneddol o bron i 5 y cant, a gynlluniwyd er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn datblygu'r addysg uwch sydd ei hangen arnom, sydd o leiaf yn cymharu â rhannau eraill o'r Deyrnas Unedig.

Mae'r Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes yn cynnal adolygiad o addysg uwch yng Nghymru ar hyn o bryd. Mae'r Weithrediaeth wedi ymrwymo i gymryd rhan a rhoi ystyriaeth lawn i'r adolygiad hwnnw. Am y rheswm hwnnw, rhoesom ffigur dros dro ar gyfer addysg uwch yng nghynllun ariannol y Cynulliad ar gyfer 2002-03. Yr wyf wedi egluro ar sawl achlysur, fel y gwnaeth y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau, mai dim ond ffigur dros dro yw hwn, a fydd yn cael ei addasu yng nghydestun canlyniad yr adolygiad.

Mae Cyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch Cymru newydd gyhoeddi ei ddyraniadau grant rheolaidd ar gyfer Awst 2001 i Awst 2002. Defnyddiodd y cyngor ddyraniad dros dro y Cynulliad ar gyfer 2002-03 wrth wneud y dyraniad hwn. Oherwydd y rheswm hwn yn bennaf y mae'r cyngor wedi rhagdybio cynnydd cyffredinol o ddim ond 0.65 y cant mewn gwariant, ag eithrio cyfalaf. Yr wyf eisoes wedi egluro yn ysgrifenedig mai dros dro yn unig oedd ffigur dros dro y Cynulliad ar gyfer 2002-03. Byddaf yn ysgrifennu eto at y cyngor heddiw i gadarnhau'r sefyllfa hon. Byddaf yn nodi, at ddibenion cynllunio, y dylai'r cyngor dybio y bydd cyfradd twf priodol yng nghyllideb y Cynulliad ar gyfer addysg uwch yn 2002-03. Byddaf yn parhau â'r trafodaethau â'r Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau er mwyn datrys y mater hwn yn gynnar.

Yr ydym yn gwbl ymroddedig i lwyddiant parhaus addysg uwch yng Nghymru. Dangoswyd ein hymrwymiad yn nyraniadau ariannol y Cynulliad hyd yma, ac mae'n rhesymol i'r cyngor addasu ei gynlluniau ar

on the basis of the continuation of that commitment.

Cynog Dafis: Mae gennyf nifer o gwestiynau. A gytunwch fod y gyllideb yn rhoi cynnydd o 5.4 y cant mewn arian parod yn y llinell gyllideb ar gyfer gwariant cyfredol i addysg uwch yn 2001-02? A dderbyniwch mai ar y ddealltwriaeth y byddai cynnydd ar y lefel honno ar gael i'r sefydliadau ar gyfer eu gwariant craidd—ar wahân i gyfalaf—y cytunwyd y gyllideb, er bod anfodlonrwydd na fyddai hynny'n ddigon i gau'r bwlch cyllido â Lloegr?

A ddeallwch y dicter yn y sector addysg uwch mai cynnydd o 0.6 y cant sydd wedi ei roi mewn gwirionedd? Golyga hyn doriad nid ansylweddol mewn termau real, sydd yn cymharu â chodiad o 4.9 y cant yn setliad cyfatebol y llynedd, o gymharu tebyg â thebyg. A dderbyniwch fod y cronfeydd mynediad i fyfyrwyr, sydd yn dangos cynnydd o £2.8 miliwn, mewn llinell gyllideb wahanol, ac na fydd y gyllideb honno ar gael i sefydliadau i gwrdd â chost dysgu ac ymchwil?

Yn yr un modd, a dderbyniwch mai mewn llinell gyllideb wahanol y ceir y cynnydd sylweddol yn y gronfa defnyddio gwybodaeth ac na fydd yr arian hwnnw ychwaith ar gael i gwrdd â chost craidd dysgu ac ymchwil? A ddywedwch wrthym beth fydd y cynnydd mewn gwariant yn Lloegr, yr Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon, sydd yn cyfateb â'r 0.6 y cant y cafodd sefydliadau Cymru wybod amdano dros y dyddiau diwethaf?

2:50 p.m.

Yn ail, faint o swyddi y mae'n rhagweld fydd yn cael eu colli yn sefydliadau addysg uwch Cymru o ganlyniad i'r setliad hwn? Yn ei barn hi, beth fydd yr effaith ar hyfywedd y gwahanol sefydliadau?

A wnaiff ysgrifennu at y sefydliadau, naill ai yn uniongyrchol neu drwy Gyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch Cymru, i esbonio iddynt y cysylltiad rhwng y setliad a'r 5.4 y cant o gynnydd yr oeddent yn ei ddisgwyl? A wnaiff roi gwybod iddynt yn fanwl pa gyllid ychwanegol y gallent ei ddisgwyl ac i ba

sail parhad yr ymrwymiad hwnnw.

Cynog Dafis: I have several questions. Do you agree that the budget provides for an increase of 5.4 per cent in cash in the budget line for current expenditure on higher education in 2001-02? Do you accept that it was on the understanding that an increase on that level would be available to the institutions for their core expenditure—excluding capital—that the budget was agreed, although there was dissatisfaction that that would not be enough to close the funding gap with England?

Do you understand the anger in the higher education sector that in reality the increase is 0.6 per cent? This means a substantial cut in real terms, which compares with an increase of 4.9 per cent in last year's corresponding settlement, comparing like with like. Do you accept that student access funds, which show an increase of £2.8 million, appear in a different budget line, and that that budget will not be available to organisations to meet the cost of teaching and research?

Similarly, do you accept that the substantial increase in the knowledge exploitation fund is included in a different budget line and that this funding will not be available either to meet the core cost of teaching and research? Will you tell us what the corresponding increase in expenditure in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland will be, as compared to the 0.6 per cent that institutions in Wales heard about over recent days?

Secondly, how many jobs does she foresee will be lost in higher education institutions in Wales as a result of this settlement? What effect does she foresee on the viability of the various institutions?

Will she write to the institutions, either directly or through the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, to explain the link between the settlement and the 5.4 per cent increase that they were all expecting? Will she let them know in detail what additional funding they can expect and for

bwrpasau?

Cyfeiriodd yn ei datganiad at ffioedd dysgu. Faint o incwm a ddaw o ffioedd dysgu? Sut mae'r swm hwnnw'n cymharu â'r llynedd a sut y mae'n effeithio ar y gymhariaeth gyda setliad y llynedd?

Jane Davidson: I will respond to your points one by one. The 8 per cent cash growth for 2000-01 was made up of 5.3 per cent growth in recurrent funding and 181 per cent growth in capital. We are going from £5.4 million to £15.2 million and a 5.3 per cent growth in fee income. This financial year, 2001-02, there is a 5.4 per cent growth in recurrent funding, as agreed in the budget. Remember that our figure of 5.4 per cent runs from April to April, which is the main reason why there is now incorrect information about the management of this funding. There is a 69.7 per cent growth in capital funding, which is an increase to £25 million. The capital funding has been included in the settlement in both England and Scotland but has not been included in the settlement in Wales. I need to talk to the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales about why we are not using like with like in comparing figures. The higher education sector would have been far more reassured if we had those comparisons.

We are looking at 4.7 per cent growth in tuition fee income. Our ambition is to cut the funding gap with England. We were £126 per student adrift in 1999. The Assembly's commitment has meant that this year we are only £19 per student adrift. That has been a massive commitment, with two years of an 8 per cent increase in funding. That is why we are making the increased commitment for the future. I accept that because we operate across the financial years and the universities operate across the academic years, we need to have urgent dialogue with the universities to ensure that they feel more confident about the figures.

I accept that the student access fund and the knowledge exploitation fund are in different budgets, as is the extra science research money that we have added, and the European

what purposes?

She referred in her statement to tuition fees. How much income will tuition fees generate? How does that sum compare with last year and how does it affect the comparison with last year's settlement?

Jane Davidson: Ymatebaf i'ch pwyntiau yn unigol. Yr oedd y twf arian o 8 y cant ar gyfer 2000-01 yn cynnwys twf o 5.3 y cant mewn arian rheolaidd a thwf o 181 y cant mewn cyfalaf. Yr ydym yn mynd o £5.4 miliwn i £15.2 miliwn a thwf o 5.3 y cant mewn incwm ffioedd. Yn y flwyddyn ariannol hon, 2001-02, mae twf o 5.4 y cant mewn arian rheolaidd, fel y cytunwyd yn y gyllideb. Cofiwch bod ein ffigur o 5.4 y cant yn rhedeg o fis Ebrill i fis Ebrill, sef y prif reswm pam bod yna wybodaeth anghywir am reolaeth yr arian hwn bellach. Mae twf o 69.7 y cant mewn arian cyfalaf, sydd yn gynydd hyd at £25 miliwn. Cynhwyswyd yr arian cyfalaf yn y setliad yn Lloegr a'r Alban ond nid yw wedi ei gynnwys yn y setliad yng Nghymru. Mae angen imi siarad â Chyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch Cymru ynglŷn â pham nad ydym yn defnyddio dulliau tebyg at ei debyg wrth gymharu ffigurau. Byddai'r sector addysg uwch yn llawer mwy tawel eu meddwl pe bai'r cymariaethau hynny gennym.

Yr ydym yn edrych ar dwf o 4.7 y cant mewn incwm ffioedd dysgu. Ein huchelgais yw cwtogi'r bwlch ariannu gyda Lloegr. Yr oedd gwahaniaeth o £126 fesul myfyriwr rhyngom yn 1999. Mae ymrwymiad y Cynulliad wedi sicrhau nad oedd ond gwahaniaeth o £19 fesul myfyriwr rhyngom eleni. Bu hynny'n ymrwymiad anferth, gyda chynnydd o 8 y cant yn yr ariannu am ddwy flynedd. Dyna pam y gwnaethom ymrwymiad pellach ar gyfer y dyfodol. Derbyniaf oherwydd ein bod yn gweithredu ar draws blynnyddoedd ariannol a bod prifysgolion yn gweithredu ar draws blynnyddoedd academaidd, bod angen inni gael trafodaethau brys gyda'r prifysgolion er mwyn iddynt deimlo'n fwy hyderus ynglŷn â'r ffigurau.

Derbyniaf fod y gronfa mynediad myfyrwyr a'r gronfa defnyddio gwybodaeth mewn cyllidebau gwahanol, fel y mae'r arian ymchwil gwyddoniaeth ychwanegol yr ydym

money. There is a great deal of additional money over and above the settlement that the Assembly has given. I do not anticipate job losses due to the settlement because we have given so much extra money. However, through the review, we are also looking at the sector being more effective in its use of money, which is a different agenda. I will write to the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales today, with a copy to all the higher education institutions. It is important that we talk up this sector in Wales. Every member of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee knows that we have a good sector. We want students and academics to come to Wales and we want to tell a good story about the sector. The story to date has been exemplary, with two years of 8 per cent increases. The Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities and I have made a commitment to Plenary, in writing to HEFCW and to the sector itself. I hope that we will move on from today and accept that commitment. We now need to look at the financial detail to ensure that Members have the information as soon as it is available.

The Presiding Officer: Before I call Alun Pugh to ask the next supplementary question, I point out that this is an urgent question, not a statement. Therefore, its duration is not half an hour.

Alun Pugh: Would the Minister agree that talking about Welsh higher education getting a third-rate deal is not only untrue but it has a damaging and destabilising effect on recruitment in Welsh universities and a knock-on impact in university towns? How many jobs, Jane, are at risk from the Plaid Cymru spin if universities fail to recruit in a competitive market?

Jane Davidson: The key point is that the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee has recognised that Welsh higher education brings £1 billion into the Welsh economy. Our ambition is to increase the amount of money coming into the Welsh economy because of our commitment to the higher education institutions. It is also important that

wedi ei ychwanegu, a'r arian Ewropeaidd. Mae llawer mwy o arian ychwanegol ar ben y setliad a roddwyd gan y Cynulliad. Nid wyf yn rhagweld y bydd swyddi yn cael eu colli o ganlyniad i'r setliad gan ein bod wedi rhoi cymaint o arian ychwanegol. Fodd bynnag, drwy gyfrwng yr adolygiad, yr ydym hefyd yn edrych ar ffyrdd y gall y sector fod yn fwy effeithiol wrth ddefnyddio ei arian, sydd yn agenda wahanol. Byddaf yn ysgrifennu at Gyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch Cymru heddiw, gan anfon copi at bob sefydliad addysg uwch. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn creu sôn am y sector hwn yng Nghymru. Gŵyr pob aelod o'r Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes bod gennym sector dda. Yr ydym am i fyfyrwyr ac academyddion ddod i Gymru a chlywed hanesion da am y sector. Bu'r stori hyd yma yn ganmoladwy, gyda dwy flynedd o godiadau o 8 y cant. Yr wyf fi Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau wedi gwneud ymrwymiad i'r Cyfarfod Llawn, drwy ysgrifennu at y cyngor a'r sector ei hun. Gobeithiaf y byddwn yn symud ymlaen o heddiw a derbyn yr ymrwymiad hwnnw. Mae angen inni yn awr edrych ar y manylion ariannol er mwyn sicrhau bod yr Aelodau yn cael yr wybodaeth cyn gynted ag y bydd ar gael.

Y Llywydd: Cyn imi alw ar Alun Pugh i ofyn y cwestiwn atodol nesaf, pwysleisiaf mai cwestiwn brys yw hwn, nid datganiad. Felly, ni fydd yn para am hanner awr.

Alun Pugh: A gytuna'r Gweinidog nad yw sôn am addysg uwch Cymru yn cael bargaen wael nid yn unig yn anghywir ond hefyd yn cael effaith niweidiol ac ansefydlog ar recriwtio ym mhrifysgolion Cymru, ac mae hynny, yn ei dro, yn effeithio ar drefi prifysgol? Faint o swyddi, Jane, sydd mewn perygl oherwydd sbin Plaid Cymru pe bai prifysgolion yn methu â recriwtio mewn marchnad gystadleuol?

Jane Davidson: Y pwynt allweddol yw bod y Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes wedi cydnabod bod addysg uwch yng Nghymru yn cyfrannu £1 biliwn i economi Cymru. Ein huchelgais yw cynyddu'r arian a ddaw i mewn i economi Cymru oherwydd ein hymrwymiad i sefydliadau addysg uwch. Mae hefyd yn bwysig bod Addysg Uwch

Higher Education Wales acknowledged in its press release today that the recurrent funding does not include the capital figure. That figure is included in England and Scotland. It has also acknowledged that part of the problem is the profiling of the increase for this year in the absence of the figures for years two and three. That is why we must address timetabling issues, and not the commitment.

Jonathan Morgan: I was surprised to receive this statement this afternoon. I expected to see some policy announcement rather than a policy of defending the indefensible. It is clear from last week's Education and Lifelong Learning Committee that Higher Education Wales believes that there is a huge funding gap. At best, there is a gap of at least 4 per cent between England and Wales. Those figures were released by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales. How on earth can we expect Wales to maintain and succeed with first-rate research when this gap will worsen? You say that you want to cut the funding gap, but your only suggestion on how to do that is by cutting student funds. How can you reconcile being fully committed to the continued success of higher education in Wales when we know—as Professor Steve Smith pointed out to the Committee last week—that upfront tuition fees and the abolition of the maintenance grant, which were pursued by your party when elected in 1997, have led to recruitment difficulties? We know, from the later statistics, that the number of students who are staying at home during their university lifetime is up by 40 per cent for the period of 1997-99. Twenty per cent of students are now staying at home during their university career. You say that you are committed to the success of higher education in Wales, but it is a complete flop.

Jane Davidson: It is extraordinary that a budget that has had two year-on-year increases of 8 per cent is apparently a flop. We are considering expenditure for 2002-03 and have talked about working with the review's outcome. I have talked to the sector about getting robust financial information to

Cymru wedi cydnabod heddiw mewn datganiad i'r wasg nad yw'r arian rheolaidd yn cynnwys y ffigur cyfalaf. Mae'r ffigur hwnnw wedi ei gynnwys yn Lloegr a'r Alban. Cydnabu hefyd mai rhan o'r broblem yw proffilio'r cynnydd ar gyfer eleni yn absenoldeb ffigurau ar gyfer blynyddoedd dau a thri. Dyna pam bod yn rhaid inni fynd i'r afael â materion amserlennu, ac nid yr ymrwymiad.

Jonathan Morgan: Fe'm synnwyd gan y datganiad hwn y prynhawn yma. Disgwyliais weld rhyw fath o gyhoeddiad polisi yn hytrach na pholisi o amddiffyn yr hyn na ellir ei amddiffyn. Mae'n amlwg o'r Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes yr wythnos diwethaf bod Addysg Uwch Cymru o'r farn fod bwlch enfawr o ran ariannu. Ar y gorau, mae bwlch o tua 4 y cant rhwng Cymru a Lloegr. Cafodd y ffigurau hynny eu cyhoeddi gan Gyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch Cymru. Sut ar y ddaear y gallwn ddisgwyl i Gymru lwyddo a chynnal ymchwil o'r radd flaenaf pan fydd y bwlch hwn yn gwaethygu? Dywedwch eich bod am leihau'r bwlch ariannu, ond eich unig awgrym am y modd i wneud hynny yw cwtogi ar arian i fyfyrwyr. Sut y gallwch gysoni bod yn llwyr ymroddedig i lwyddiant parhaus addysg uwch yng Nghymru pan wyddom—fel y nodwyd gan yr Athro Steve Smith yn y Pwyllgor yr wythnos diwethaf—fod ffioedd dysgu uniongyrchol a diddymu'r grantiau cynnal, yr aethpwyd ar eu trywydd gan eich plaid pan gawsoch eich ethol yn 1997, wedi arwain at anawsterau recriwtio? Gwyddom, o'r ystadegau diweddarach, bod y nifer o fyfyrwyr sydd yn aros gartref yn ystod eu cyfnod yn y brifysgol wedi cynyddu 40 y cant ar gyfer y cyfnod rhwng 1997-99. Bellach mae 20 y cant o fyfyrwyr yn aros gartref yn ystod eu gyrfa yn y brifysgol. Honnwch eich bod yn ymrwymedig i lwyddiant addysg uwch yng Nghymru, ond mae'n fethiant llwyr.

Jane Davidson: Mae'n rhyfeddol sut y gall cyllideb gyda chynnydd o 8 y cant am ddwy flynedd yn olynol ymddangos yn fethiant. Yr ydym yn ystyried y gwariant ar gyfer 2002-03 ac yr ydym wedi siarad am weithio gyda chanlyniadau'r adolygiad. Yr wyf wedi siarad â'r sector am y modd y gallwn gael

inform the budget process from July of this year. It is vital that we continue to focus on the quality of the institutions and their ability to deliver high quality higher education. The gap will not worsen because we are committed to closing it. If you listened to my statement, you will have heard that I said that we are committed not only to closing the gap, but to developing the higher education that we need and that is at least comparable with other parts of the UK.

In Ireland, students stay at home as a matter of course. They go to their local institutions and their skills benefit the local economy. We have an attractive proposition in Wales in terms of the quality of our institutions. We need to consider ways of encouraging more Welsh students, as well as more English students, to utilise our provision. We have been successful on the widening participation agenda. It has been better than anywhere in the UK and we have seen the 21 to 24 age group rise by 7.2 per cent. Those figures are supported by HEFCW.

Mick Bates: Can you assure us that the higher education review currently being undertaken by the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee will not be allowed to delay the announcement of funding for higher education for 2002-03? When do you plan to implement the recommendations of the Bett report on staff salaries in higher education?

Jane Davidson: I can give you a commitment that the review will not delay the funding. This concern has focused on the fact that we must have urgent discussions with the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales and the sector about their planning needs. I am working with the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities and will send a letter to HEFCW and the higher education institutions today.

The Bett report was not a Committee report. It is for the sector to implement the Bett recommendations. We strongly encourage it to do so and we are committed to ensuring that there is funding in the system to enable

gwybodaeth ariannol gadarn er mwyn llywio proses y gyllideb o fis Gorffennaf eleni ymlaen. Mae'n hanfodol ein bod yn parhau i ganolbwyntio ar ansawdd y sefydliadau a'u gallu i gyflwyno addysg uwch o ansawdd uchel. Ni fydd y bwlch yn gwaethygu gan ein bod wedi ymrwymo i'w gau. Pe baech wedi gwranddo ar fy natganiad, byddech wedi fy nghlywed yn dweud ein bod nid yn unig yn ymrwymedig i gau'r bwlch, ond hefyd i ddatblygu'r addysg uwch sydd ei hangen arnom ac sydd o leiaf yn cymharu â rhannau eraill o'r DU.

Yn Iwerddon, mae'n arferiad i fyfyrwyr aros gartref. Maent yn mynd i'w sefydliadau lleol ac mae'r economi leol yn elwa o'u sgiliau. Mae gennym gynigion deniadol yng Nghymru o ran ansawdd ein sefydliadau. Mae angen inni ystyried ffyrdd o annog mwy o fyfyrwyr o Gymru, yn ogystal â mwy o fyfyrwyr o Loegr, i ddefnyddio ein darpariaeth. Buom yn llwyddiannus gyda'n hagenda ehangu cyfranogiad. Bu'n well nag yn unman arall yn y DU a gwelsom y grŵp rhwng 21 a 24 oed yn cynyddu 7.2 y cant. Ategir y ffigurau hyn gan Gyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch Cymru.

Mick Bates: A allwch roi sicrwydd inni na fydd yr adolygiad addysg uwch a gynhelir gan y Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes ar hyn o bryd yn gohirio'r cyhoeddiad am arian ar gyfer addysg uwch yn 2002-03? Pryd y bwriadwch weithredu argymhellion adroddiad Bett ar gyflogau staff mewn addysg uwch?

Jane Davidson: Gallaf roi ymrwymiad na fydd yr adolygiad yn gohirio'r arian. Mae'r pryder hwn wedi ei ganolbwyntio ar y ffaith bod yn rhaid inni gael trafodaethau brys gyda Chyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch Cymru ynglŷn â'u hanghenion cynllunio. Yr wyf yn cydweithio â'r Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau a byddaf yn anfon llythyr heddiw at y cyngor a'r sefydliadau addysg uwch.

Nid adroddiad Pwyllgor oedd adroddiad Bett. Cyfrifoldeb y sector yw gweithredu argymhellion Bett. Yr ydym yn ei annog yn gryf i wneud hynny ac yr ydym wedi ymrwymo i sicrhau bod arian yn y system er

the sector to respond positively.

mwyn galluogi'r sector i ymateb yn gadarnhaol.

3:00 p.m.

**Datganiad ar Gymorth i Fusnesau mewn Ardaloedd yr Effeithiwyd arnynt gan
Glwy'r Traed a'r Genau**
**Statement on Support for Businesses in Areas Affected by Foot and Mouth
Disease**

The Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities (Edwina Hart): The National Assembly will be aware of the statement made by Michael Meacher MP, Minister for the Environment at the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, last week on measures to reduce rates bills for small businesses in England that are badly affected by foot and mouth disease. The scheme applies only to businesses with a rateable value of £12,000 or less in rural authority districts. It works by increasing DETR's contribution to the cost of hardship relief granted by local authorities from 75 per cent to 95 per cent. In England, that could mean a saving of around £1,300 for a business with a rateable value of £12,000.

Y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau (Edwina Hart): Bydd y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn ymwybodol o'r datganiad a wnaeth Michael Meacher AS, Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd yn Adran yr Amgylchedd, Trafnidiaeth a'r Rhanbarthau, yr wythnos diwethaf ar fesurau i ostwng biliau trethi i fusnesau bach yn Lloegr yr effeithiwyd yn wael arnynt gan glwy'r traed a'r genau. Dim ond i fusnesau â gwerth trethadwy o £12,000 neu lai mewn dosbarthau awdurdodau gwledig y mae'r cynllun yn berthnasol. Mae'n gweithio drwy gynyddu cyfraniad Adran yr Amgylchedd, Trafnidiaeth a'r Rhanbarthau tuag at gost lleddfau caledi a ganiateir gan awdurdodau lleol o 75 y cant i 95 y cant. Yn Lloegr, gallai hyn arbed tua £1,300 i fusnes â gwerth trethadwy o £12,000.

Following Mr Meacher's announcement, I have been carefully considering the options for helping businesses in Wales. I announce today that I am making £12 million available to local authorities in 2001-02 to enable them to make extensive use of their powers to grant rate relief to businesses whose trade has been adversely affected by foot and mouth disease. I am also exploring what other options local authorities might have for making effective use of this money to support businesses in their areas that have been stricken by the effects of the outbreak. We all appreciate the seriousness of the situation in Wales, particularly for small rural businesses in the tourism industry. The sudden drop in visitor numbers has plunged many of them into serious financial difficulty and they need our help if they are to survive.

Yn dilyn cyhoeddiad Mr Meacher, bûm yn ystyried yn ofalus yr opsiynau i helpu busnesau yng Nghymru. Cyhoeddaf heddiw fy mod yn rhoi £12 miliwn i awdurdodau lleol yn 2001-02 i'w galluogi i wneud defnydd helaeth o'u pwerau i ganiatáu rhyddhad trethi i fusnesau yr effeithiwyd yn andwyol ar eu masnach gan glwy'r traed a'r genau. Ymchwiliad hefyd i weld pa opsiynau eraill a allai fod gan awdurdodau lleol i wneud defnydd effeithiol o'r arian hwn i gefnogi busnesau yn eu hardaloedd a drawyd gan effeithiau'r clwyf. Mae pob un ohonom yn gwerthfawrogi difrifoldeb y sefyllfa yng Nghymru, yn arbennig i fusnesau gwledig bach yn y diwydiant twristiaeth. Mae'r gostyngiad sydyn yn nifer yr ymwelwyr wedi hyrddio llawer ohonynt i anhawster ariannol difrifol ac er mwyn iddynt oroesi, mae angen ein help ni arnynt.

The money that I am making available will enable councils to go much further than if I had decided to implement the proposals

Bydd yr arian a fydd ar gael yn galluogi cynghorau i fynd llawer ymhellach na phe bawn i wedi penderfynu gweithredu'r

announced for England last week. I have developed a made-in-Wales solution that will allow Welsh councils to adopt a more flexible approach to getting this money to where it is needed most, as quickly as possible. The £12 million will help around 20,000 of the hardest hit businesses. For a typical small hotel or guest house, the relief could be worth up to £5,000 over the next three months. The money will be allocated to all local authorities in Wales and further work is being done on achieving a fair distribution that reflects the impact of the disease on individual local economies. I will shortly come back to the Assembly with details of the allocations.

It will be for councils to decide which businesses to support in light of the knowledge that they gather about the economic impact of the disease in their locality. My intention is that relief should be targeted at smaller businesses with rateable values below £50,000 in the agricultural or tourism-related sectors, or at those forced to close because of statutory action by councils. However, that is not to say that other needy businesses should not benefit from this assistance. All businesses will still be able to apply for relief or deferred payment terms under the normal arrangements. I will issue detailed guidance to local authorities shortly.

I am also making legislation to extend by three months the deadline by which businesses can appeal against their rateable values. The Valuation Office Agency has helpfully indicated that it will look favourably on appeals arising from the outbreak of the disease. Details of how to make an appeal have been posted to the Assembly's website.

Looking ahead, I will introduce longer-term measures to reduce the rates burden on businesses that provide vital services to rural communities. I will make an announcement to the Local Government and Housing Committee tomorrow.

Janet Ryder: I welcome the £12 million that will be made available to help businesses. We are all aware of the businesses that are

cynigion a gyhoeddwyd ar gyfer Lloegr yr wythnos diwethaf. Datblygais ateb Cymreig a fydd yn caniatáu i gynghorau Cymru fabwysiadu ymagwedd fwy hyblyg tuag at gael yr arian hwn i'r mannau lle y mae ei angen fwyaf, cyn gynted â phosibl. Bydd y £12 miliwn yn helpu tua 20,000 o'r busnesau yr effeithiwyd arnynt fwyaf. I westy bach nodweddiadol, gallai'r rhyddhad fod yn werth hyd at £5,000 dros y tri mis nesaf. Dyrennir yr arian i bob awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru a gwneir gwaith pellach ar ei ddosbarthu'n deg mewn ffordd sydd yn adlewyrchu effaith y clwyf ar economïau lleol unigol. Siaradaf â'r Cynulliad yn fuan eto gyda manylion am y dyraniadau.

Cyfrifoldeb y cynghorau fydd penderfynu pa fusnesau i'w cefnogi yng ngoleuni'r wybodaeth a gasglant am effaith economaidd y clwyf ar eu cymdogaeth. Fy mwriad i yw y dylai'r rhyddhad gael ei dargedu tuag at fusnesau bach â gwerth trethadwy o lai na £50,000 yn y sector amaethyddol neu'r sector sydd yn gysylltiedig â thwristiaeth, neu at y sectorau hynny sydd yn gorfod cau oherwydd y camau statudol a gymerwyd gan gynghorau. Fodd bynnag, nid dweud yr ydwyf na ddylai busnesau anghenus eraill elwa ar y cymorth hwn. Gall pob busnes wneud cais am ryddhad neu delerau talu gohiriedig hefyd o dan y trefniadau arferol. Anfonaf arweiniad manwl at awdurdodau lleol yn fuan.

Yr wyf hefyd yn llunio deddfwriaeth i ymestyn y dyddiad cau i fusnesau apelio yn erbyn eu gwerthoedd trethadwy o dri mis. Mae Asiantaeth y Swyddfa Brisio wedi datgan y bydd yn edrych yn ffafriol ar apelïadau sydd yn deillio o achosion o'r clwyf. Rhoddwyd manylion am sut i wneud apêl ar wefan y Cynulliad.

Gan edrych i'r dyfodol, byddaf yn cyflwyno mesurau tymor hwy i leddfu'r baich trethi ar fusnesau sydd yn darparu gwasanaethau holl bwysig i gymunedau gwledig. Gwnaf gyhoeddiad i'r Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Thai yfory.

Janet Ryder: Croesawaf y £12 miliwn a fydd ar gael i helpu busnesau. Mae pob un ohonom yn ymwybodol o'r busnesau sydd yn

suffering in rural areas because of the present crisis.

You are using the hardship relief fund, so why have we had to wait so long for this statement? We in Wales could have come forward with this ourselves. It is within your power to do this; it does not need primary or secondary legislation, so we could have had this in place already instead of it being announced today. We are pleased that the money has been announced, but now we must wait for the mechanisms to evolve. How will you distribute the money to councils? How will councils decide how to distribute it? How will businesses know how to apply for it? What kind of hardship will they have to prove? What kind of proof will they have to present?

We are pleased to hear this statement today but we would have liked to hear it a few weeks ago so that, by this week, we would have been able to implement it properly. You are making £12 million available, which is pleasing, but is it coming from your coffers or will it be provided over and above the block grant?

Edwina Hart: The seriousness of the foot and mouth disease outbreak, in the main, has meant that there has been cross-party consensus on the damage that it is doing to the economy of Wales, to tourism and to the agricultural industry. The cheap jibes that you are making at the administration do not serve anybody well. This is a properly-thought-out scheme. I asked officials to consider all the details so that I could have a proper scheme. I was interested in what happens in England but I wanted a better scheme in Wales. The Assembly has made clear the impact of farming and tourism on the Welsh economy and how that impacts upon us in Wales. This scheme reflects that. There was much preparatory work but, not having been in government, you would not know anything about that. Much preparatory work must be done to agree the rules and regulations.

The Welsh Local Government Association

dioddef mewn ardaloedd gwledig oherwydd yr argyfwng presennol.

Yr ydych yn defnyddio'r gronfa lleddfu caledi, felly pam y bu'n rhaid inni aros mor hir am y datganiad hwn? Gallem ninnau yng Nghymru fod wedi cyflwyno hyn ein hunain. Mae o fewn eich pŵer i wneud hynny; nid oes angen deddfwriaeth sylfaenol nac eilaidd arnoch, felly gallem fod wedi rhoi hyn ar waith eisoes yn lle ei gyhoeddi heddiw. Yr ydym yn falch bod yr arian wedi ei gyhoeddi, ond rhaid inni aros yn awr i'r dulliau ddatblygu. Sut y dosbarthwch yr arian i'r cynghorau? Sut y bydd y cynghorau yn penderfynu ei ddsbarthu? Sut y gŵyr busnesau sut i wneud cais amdano? Pa fath o galedi y bydd yn rhaid iddynt ei brofi? Pa fath o dystiolaeth y bydd yn rhaid iddynt ei chyflwyno?

Yr ydym yn falch o glywed y datganiad hwn heddiw ond byddem wedi hoffi ei glywed rai wythnosau yn ôl fel y byddem, erbyn yr wythnos hon, wedi gallu ei weithredu'n gywir. Yr ydych yn sicrhau bod £12 miliwn ar gael, sydd yn newyddion da, ond a ddaw o'ch coffrau chi neu a gaiff ei ddarparu yn ychwanegol at y grant bloc?

Edwina Hart: Yn y bôn, mae difrifoldeb yr achosion o glwy'r traed a'r genau wedi golygu y bu consensws trawsbleidiol ar y difrod a wna i economi Cymru, i dwristiaeth ac i'r diwydiant amaethyddol. Nid yw gwawdio'r weinyddiaeth fel y gwnewch chi yn fanteisiol i unrhyw un. Mae hwn yn gynllun a gynlluniwyd yn ofalus. Gofynnais i'r swyddogion ystyried yr holl fanylion fel y gallwn gael cynllun priodol. Yr oedd diddordeb gennyf wybod beth sydd yn digwydd yn Lloegr ond yr oeddwn am gael cynllun gwell yng Nghymru. Mae'r Cynulliad wedi egluro effaith ffermio a thwristiaeth ar economi Cymru a sut mae hynny'n effeithio arnom ni yng Nghymru. Adlewyrcha'r cynllun hynny. Gwnaethpwyd llawer o waith ymlaen llaw, ond gan na fuoch mewn grym, ni fyddech yn gwybod unrhyw beth am hynny. Rhaid gwneud llawer o waith ymlaen llaw i gytuno ar y rheolau a'r rheoliadau.

Bydd Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru

will welcome this additional money. It will be delighted to work with us on all the rules and regulations that are needed. This gripe is not good enough. Farmers are suffering desperately, tourist businesses are going to the wall and all you want to do is use cheap party politics. I have made the money available, I have looked at our resources. People in rural Wales will think well of the administration and the other parties in the Assembly will support us on this positive move.

Karen Sinclair: I welcome this statement. My constituency depends almost totally on tourism. The town where I live is at implosion stage at the moment. You have to go there on a Sunday to see the impact that it is having. It is normally buzzing and vibrant but, at the moment, it is a ghost town. Do you intend to establish a Bellwin scheme to provide financial assistance to local authorities so that they can deal with the situation? What format do you envisage being taken forward?

Edwina Hart: I have not yet been formally asked by any authority to activate a Bellwin scheme to assist with the foot and mouth disease emergency. Several authorities have indicated that they may request Bellwin assistance. Once I receive a formal request, with the details and type of expenditure incurred, I will consider it. Bellwin is for emergencies in general.

Nick Bourne: I welcome the statement. It is good news that we have a specifically Welsh solution to the problems encountered by business. There have been problems across the tourist sector throughout Wales. Some questions arise from that. First, the £12 million is welcome but we are not yet certain how long the foot and mouth disease crisis will continue. Elements in your statement indicate that it might go on for three months from beginning to end. I wonder if you anticipate returning with another statement if it continues beyond that time. While £12 million will help, it will not go all the way if we expect the foot and mouth disease situation to continue much beyond the end of the summer.

yn croesawu'r arian ychwanegol hwn. Bydd yn falch iawn o gydweithio â ni ar yr holl reolau a rheoliadau sydd eu hangen. Nid yw'r cwyno hyn yn ddigon da. Mae ffermwyr yn dioddef yn enbyd, mae busnesau twristiaeth yn methu a'r cyfan yr ydych chi am ei wneud yw arddel gwleidyddiaeth bleidiol ddiwerth. Yr wyf wedi sicrhau bod yr arian ar gael, yr wyf wedi edrych ar ein hadnoddau. Bydd pobl yng Nghymru wledig yn meddwl llawer o'r weinyddiaeth a bydd y pleidiau eraill yn y Cynulliad yn ein cefnogi ar y cam cadarnhaol hwn.

Karen Sinclair: Croesawaf y datganiad hwn. Mae fy etholaeth yn dibynnu bron yn gyfan gwbl ar dwristiaeth. Mae'r dref lle yr wyf fi yn byw yn mewdffrwydro ar hyn o bryd. Rhaid ichi fynd yno ar ddydd Sul i weld yr effaith a gaiff. Fel arfer mae'n llawn bywyd ond, ar hyn o bryd, mae'n dref anghyfannedd. A fwriadwch sefydlu cynllun Bellwin i ddarparu cymorth ariannol i awdurdodau lleol fel y gallant ddelio â'r sefyllfa? Pa fformat a ragwelwch a gaiff ei ddatblygu?

Edwina Hart: Ni ofynnwyd imi'n ffurfiol eto gan unrhyw awdurdod i weithredu cynllun Bellwin i helpu gydag argyfwng clwy'r traed a'r genau. Nododd sawl awdurdod y byddant yn gofyn am gymorth Bellwin efallai. Unwaith y caf gais ffurfiol, gyda'r manylion a'r math o wariant a wariwyd, byddaf yn ei ystyried. Mae Bellwin ar gyfer argyfwng yn gyffredinol.

Nick Bourne: Croesawaf y datganiad. Mae'r ffaith bod gennym ateb penodol Cymreig i'r problemau a wynebir gan fusnesau yn newyddion da. Bu problemau ar draws y sector twristiaeth ledled Cymru. Deillia rhai cwestiynau o hynny. Yn gyntaf, croesewir y £12 miliwn ond nid ydym eto yn sicr am ba hyd y bydd argyfwng clwy'r traed a'r genau yn para. Noda elfennau o'ch datganiad y gallai barhau am dri mis o'r dechrau i'r diwedd. Tybed a ragwelwch ddychwelyd gyda datganiad arall os bydd yn parhau y tu hwnt i'r amser hwnnw. Er y bydd £12 miliwn yn helpu, ni fydd yn ddigon os disgwyliwn i glwy'r traed a'r genau barhau y tu hwnt i'r haf.

My second question relates to the allocation. You mentioned that you would come forward with proposals about how money will be allocated to local authorities. Clearly, some local authorities will suffer much more than others and those in rural Wales will suffer disproportionately. Will you give us an indication of when you expect those figures to be published because local authorities will have to plan how much they can make available to their tourist businesses, if I can characterise them in that way.

We welcome the extension of the three-month deadline for businesses to appeal against rateable values. Based on what we have heard today, we warmly welcome the statement and look forward to further details being forthcoming.

Edwina Hart: The special grant will be available from 1 April for an initial period of three months, which I will review. Obviously, we are not sure what will happen in terms of the outbreak or what its continuing impact will be. This is the situation, as it will stand for three months from 1 April. I will make a further statement on that.

I do not want this scheme to be bureaucratic and time consuming. My officials will work closely with the WLGA on a fast track solution for processing these applications. That is essential. We do not want bureaucracy to grind the system to a halt. We want the money to go straight out of the door.

On the specific allocations for each authority, the purpose of the special grant will be set out in the report. I will consult with councils and have further discussions with officials today. I will return to update the Assembly on when I am likely to put that grant before you. I will then show the indicative amounts to local governments.

Delyth Evans: I warmly welcome this excellent news for rural business throughout mid and west Wales. I congratulate you on taking this made in Wales approach to our problems and that we are doing so much

Mae fy ail gwestiwn yn ymwneud â'r dyraniad. Soniasoch y byddech yn cyflwyno cynigion ynglŷn â sut y dyrennir yr arian i awdurdodau lleol. Yn amlwg, bydd rhai awdurdodau lleol yn dioddef llawer mwy nag eraill a bydd y rheini yng Nghymru wledig yn dioddef yn anghyfartal. A wnewch chi awgrymu pryd y disgwylwch i'r ffigurau hynny gael eu cyhoeddi oherwydd bydd yn rhaid i awdurdodau lleol gynllunio faint y gallant ei roi i'w busnesau twristiaeth, os gallaf eu disgrifio felly.

Croesawn ymestyn y dyddiad cau o dri mis i fusnesau apelio yn erbyn gwerthoedd trethadwy. Yn seiliedig ar yr hyn a glywsom heddiw, croesawn y datganiad hwnnw'n gynnes ac edrychwn ymlaen at gael manylion pellach.

Edwina Hart: Bydd y grant arbennig ar gael o 1 Ebrill am gyfnod cychwynnol o dri mis, ac fe'i adolygaf. Yn amlwg, nid ydym yn siŵr beth fydd yn digwydd o ran y clwyf na beth fydd ei effaith barhaus. Dyma'r sefyllfa, fel y bydd am dri mis o 1 Ebrill. Gwnaf ddatganiad pellach ar hynny.

Nid wyf am i'r cynllun hwn fod yn un biwrocraidd nac yn un sydd yn mynd ag amser. Bydd fy swyddogion yn cydweithio'n agos â Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru i ddod o hyd i ateb dull carlam ar gyfer prosesu'r ceisiadau hyn. Mae hynny'n hanfodol. Nid ydym am i fiwrocraeth arafu'r system nes y daw i stop. Yr ydym am i'r arian fynd yn syth allan o'r drws.

O ran y dyraniadau penodol ar gyfer pob awdurdod, nodir pwrpas y grant arbennig yn yr adroddiad. Ymgynghoraf â chynghorau a chaf drafodaethau pellach â swyddogion heddiw. Dychwelaf i roi'r newyddion diweddaraf i'r Cynulliad ar pryd yr wyf yn debygol o gyflwyno'r grant hwnnw ichi. Yna dangosaf y symiau dangosol i lywodraethau lleol.

Delyth Evans: Croesawaf y newyddion rhagorol hwn i fusnesau gwledig ar draws canolbarth a gorllewin Cymru yn gynnes. Hoffwn eich llongyfarch ar fabwysiadu'r ymagwedd Gymreig hon tuag at ein

better and dealing with the situation far more effectively and quickly than England. Will you give me advice, which I can relay to the small businesses from mid and west Wales that have contacted me, on how they can access more information on the management of this scheme?

Edwina Hart: They will have to apply to their local council. I am in the process of writing guidelines for local authorities to enable them to rush forward on this. I hope that the administrative arrangements will be in place by the end of the week in terms of the information local authorities can give to small businesses.

3:10 p.m.

Dafydd Wigley: I am grateful to the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities for her statement. As always, the devil is in the detail and I am sure that she has been wrestling with that. Will the Minister indicate whether it will be in order for businesses in the tourist sector and in the agriculture-related sector, which anticipate receiving assistance through this scheme, to hold back on the payment of their rates until they know whether or not they will receive it? The cashflow for that purpose is what is hitting them now. If £5,000 will be allocated over three months in a typical case, as she quoted, and that is extended over 20,000 businesses, it adds up to £100 million. Does the Minister anticipate that a larger sum of money will be available? Can she confirm that this money will be reimbursed from the Treasury's contingency reserve, over and above the Barnett block?

Edwina Hart: With regard to the financial arrangements for this, in the first instance, the proposal has been formulated with money from within the block. I have undertaken an extensive assessment of carry forward money and the position of our budgets. I can assure you that I am not raiding any budget. This £12 million is genuinely available. Claiming the reserve is not a matter for me under the funding rules and I am not aware whether a claim has been made by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions in that respect or whether there would be

problemau a'n bod yn gwneud cymaint yn well ac yn delio â'r sefyllfa yn llawer mwy effeithiol a chyflym na Lloegr. A roddwch gyngor imi, y gallaf ei drosglwyddo i'r busnesau bach o ganolbarth a gorllewin Cymru sydd wedi cysylltu â mi, ar sut y gallant ganfod mwy o wybodaeth am reoli'r cynllun hwn?

Edwina Hart: Bydd yn rhaid iddynt wneud cais i'w cyngor lleol. Yr wyf wrthi'n ysgrifennu canllawiau i awdurdodau lleol i'w galluogi i weithredu ar hyn yn gyflym. Gobeithiaf y bydd y trefniadau gweinyddol ar waith erbyn diwedd yr wythnos o ran yr wybodaeth y gall awdurdodau lleol ei rhoi i fusnesau bach.

Dafydd Wigley: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau am ei datganiad. Fel bob amser, rhaid edrych yn fanwl ar y manylion ac yr wyf yn siŵr y bu'n ceisio ymgodymu â hynny. A wnaiff y Gweinidog nodi a fydd yn iawn i fusnesau yn y sector twristiaeth ac yn y sector sydd yn gysylltiedig ag amaethyddiaeth, sydd yn rhagweld cael cymorth drwy'r cynllun hwn, ddal yn ôl cyn talu eu trethi hyd nes y gwyddant a fyddant yn ei dderbyn ai peidio? Y llif arian at y diben hwnnw yw'r hyn sydd yn eu bwrw yn awr. Os dyrennir £5,000 dros dri mis mewn achos nodweddiadol, fel y dyfynnodd hi, ac ymestynnir hynny i dros 20,000 o fusnesau, mae'n gwneud cyfanswm o £100 miliwn. A yw'r Gweinidog yn rhagweld y bydd swm mwy o arian ar gael? A all gadarnhau y caiff yr arian hwn ei ad-dalu o gronfa wrth gefn y Trysorlys, yn ychwanegol at floc Barnett?

Edwina Hart: O ran y trefniadau ariannol ar gyfer hyn, yn y lle cyntaf, lluniwyd y cynnig gydag arian o'r tu mewn i'r bloc hwn. Cynhaliais asesiad helaeth o'r arian sydd i'w gario ymlaen a sefyllfa ein cyllidebau. Gallaf eich sicrhau nad wyf yn ysbeilio unrhyw gyllideb. Mae'r £12 miliwn hwn ar gael yn wirioneddol. Nid yw hawlio'r arian wrth gefn yn fater imi o dan y rheolau ariannu ac nid wyf yn ymwybodol a wnaethpwyd cais gan Adran yr Amgylchedd, Trafnidiaeth a'r Rhanbarthau yn hynny o beth neu a fyddai unrhyw ganlyniadau yn deillio o hynny. Yn

consequential from that. Any money is obviously gratefully received into the Welsh block in that context. My officials have made some initial calculations in terms of how it will pan off businesses across Wales and that is where this figure comes from. We have undertaken detailed work on where the businesses are and their numbers, and so on. That is why the preparation has taken so long. I did not want to make an announcement without the necessary work having been undertaken.

On your first point, which was a very good one about whether people should anticipate receiving assistance, I would not like to say in public. I will make inquiries with my officials and the WLGA about the best way of dealing with that issue and I will report back to the Assembly or write to you, Dafydd.

Kirsty Williams: While Janet Ryder on behalf of Plaid Cymru may complain that the scheme did not come forward earlier, I congratulate you and your officials on your approach. I know that you have been working hard with our partners in local government and the chief executive of my county council appreciates that very much. You have been able to take on board the concerns of local government because they will have to administer the scheme on the National Assembly's behalf. Rather than slagging you off for not having introduced the scheme sooner, local governments have been appreciative of your approaches in working out the devil in the detail with them.

Like Nick Bourne, I also want to press you on the distribution of the money. All Welsh counties, both urban and rural, have been badly affected. However, rural constituencies are even more reliant on tourism and the effects on that sector have been particularly harsh. In some constituencies it will be more difficult to open up the countryside due to the number of confirmed cases of foot and mouth and the measures that we must take to control the disease. Those counties are particularly badly affected and will need help.

Can you also confirm that you will give local authorities as much flexibility as possible?

amlwg, caiff unrhyw arian a roddir i'r bloc Cymreig ei dderbyn yn ddiolchgar yn y cydestun hwnnw. Gwnaeth fy swyddogion rai cyfrifiadau cychwynnol o ran sut y caiff ei rannu rhwng y busnesau ledled Cymru a dyna o ble y daw'r ffigur hwn. Gwnaethom waith manwl ar leoliad y busnesau a'u niferoedd ac yn y blaen. Dyna pam y cymerodd y gwaith paratoi gymaint o amser. Nid oeddwn am wneud cyhoeddiad nes bod y gwaith angenrheidiol wedi ei wneud.

Mewn perthynas â'ch pwynt cyntaf, a oedd yn un da iawn, sef a ddylai pobl ragweld cael cymorth, ni hoffwn ddweud yn gyhoeddus. Gwnaf ymholiadau â'm swyddogion a Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru ynglŷn â'r ffordd orau o ddelio â'r mater hwnnw a chyflwynaf adroddiad i'r Cynulliad neu ysgrifennaf atoch, Dafydd.

Kirsty Williams: Er bod Janet Ryder ar ran Plaid Cymru yn cwyno efallai na chyflwynwyd y cynllun yn gynharach, hoffwn eich llongyfarch a'ch swyddogion ar eich ymagwedd. Gwn y buoch yn gweithio'n galed gyda'n partneriaid mewn llywodraeth leol ac mae prif weithredwr fy nghyngor sir yn gwerthfawrogi hynny'n fawr. Yr oeddech yn gallu ystyried pryderon llywodraeth leol oherwydd bydd yn rhaid iddynt weinyddu'r cynllun ar ran y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Yn hytrach na'ch beirniadu am beidio â chyflwyno'r cynllun yn gynt, bu llywodraethau lleol yn werthfawrogol o'ch ymagweddau wrth edrych yn fanwl am y manylion ynddynt.

Fel Nick Bourne, yr wyf am bwysu arnoch hefyd o ran mater dosbarthu'r arian. Effeithiwyd yn wael ar bob sir yng Nghymru, yn drefol ac yn wledig. Fodd bynnag, mae etholaethau gwledig hyd yn oed yn fwy dibynnol ar dwristiaeth a bu'r effeithiau ar y sector hwnnw yn arw iawn. Mewn rhai etholaethau bydd yn anos agor cefn gwlad oherwydd nifer yr achosion o glwy'r traed a'r genau a gadarnhawyd a'r mesurau y mae'n rhaid inni eu cymryd i reoli'r clwyf. Effeithiwyd yn arbennig o wael ar y siroedd hynny, a bydd angen help arnynt.

A allwch gadarnhau hefyd y rhoddwch gymaint o hyblygrwydd â phosibl i

We want to target small businesses but other businesses with larger rateable values—I am thinking of the larger hotels and successful pubs and restaurants in my constituency—will also need help. Will you guarantee that councils have the flexibility to support all kinds of businesses that are suffering as a result of this crisis? The lasting effects of this disease could go on for many months. It will be difficult to rebuild the businesses in mid Wales following the crisis. What medium to long-term plans do you have to increase access to business rate relief for rural businesses?

Edwina Hart: I am also concerned that the impact will not just last another six months and that it could last 12 months or even two years. If this runs for a long time, the impact on some businesses will be horrendous. They will have to start from the beginning and build up their businesses all over again. This is the initial response. There will be flexibility for local authorities within the terms of this scheme as long as they stay within its terms.

On your other point about money, that is exactly the point of the specification allocation to each authority. The purpose of the grant will be put in a report. Councils are the best judges to consider the seriousness of the outbreak in their areas in light of their knowledge and to take into account the concerns that you have raised about how that affects individual businesses. On that basis, the necessary allocation can be made. It will not be easy because if I were to take a straightforward rural approach, Powys and Ceredigion would receive assistance but areas like Gower, my own constituency, would not receive anything. There are Members who represent other constituencies that are tourist areas that have not received anything. It is important that this scheme is an all-Wales one to recognise how dependent we are, in gross domestic product terms, on the tourism industry.

Glyn Davies: I am sure that you agree that it is still too early to appreciate the full scale of this crisis generally, and specifically on the small business sector of which tourism is a

awdurdodau lleol? Yr ydym am dargeddu busnesau bach ond bydd angen help hefyd ar fusnesau eraill â gwerthoedd trethadwy uwch—yr wyf yn meddwl am y gwestai mwy a'r tafarndai a'r tai bwyta llwyddiannus yn fy etholaeth. A warantwch fod gan gynghorau yr hyblygrwydd i gefnogi pob math o fusnes sydd yn dioddef o ganlyniad i'r argyfwng hwn? Gallai effeithiau parhaol y clwyf hwn barhau am fisoedd lawer. Bydd yn anodd ailadeiladu'r busnesau yng nghanolbarth Cymru yn dilyn yr argyfwng. Pa gynlluniau sydd gennych yn y tymor canolig i'r tymor hir i gynyddu mynediad i ryddhad trethi busnes ar gyfer busnesau gwledig?

Edwina Hart: Pryderaf hefyd nad am chwe mis arall yn unig y bydd yr effaith yn parhau ond y gallai barhau am 12 mis neu hyd yn oed ddwy flynedd. Os bydd yn parhau am amser hir, bydd yr effaith ar rai busnesau yn ofnadwy. Bydd yn rhaid iddynt ddechrau o'r dechrau, ac adeiladu eu busnesau unwaith eto. Dyma'r ymateb cychwynnol. Bydd gan awdurdodau lleol hyblygrwydd o fewn telerau'r cynllun hwn gyhyd ag yr arhosant o fewn ei delerau.

Ar eich pwynt arall ynglŷn ag arian, dyna union bwynt y dyraniad penodol i bob awdurdod. Nodir diben y grant mewn adroddiad. Cynghorau yw'r rhai gorau i ystyried difrifoldeb yr achosion yn eu hardaloedd yng ngoleuni eu gwybodaeth ac i ystyried y pryderon a godwyd gennych ynglŷn â sut yr effeithia hynny ar fusnesau unigol. Ar y sail honno, gellir gwneud y dyraniad angenrheidiol. Ni fydd yn hawdd oherwydd pe bawn yn mabwysiadu ymagwedd wledig uniongyrchol, byddai Powys a Cheredigion yn cael cymorth ond ni fyddai ardaloedd fel Gŵyr, fy etholaeth i, yn cael unrhyw beth. Mae rhai o'r Aelodau yn cynrychioli etholaethau eraill sydd yn ardaloedd twristiaeth ac ni chawsant unrhyw beth. Mae'n bwysig bod y cynllun hwn yn un ar gyfer Cymru gyfan er mwyn cydnabod pa mor ddibynnol yr ydym, yn nhermau cynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth, ar y diwydiant twristiaeth.

Glyn Davies: Yr wyf yn siŵr y cytunwch ei bod yn rhy gynnar o hyd i werthfawrogi maint llawn yr argyfwng hwn yn gyffredinol, ac yn benodol ar y sector busnesau bach y

significant part in Wales. However, we know that phones are only ringing now to make cancellations and that thousands of small businesses across Wales are in serious trouble, and are faced with going out of business. Therefore, your announcement that there will be £12 million available is welcome. I also welcome your commitment to the Leader of the Welsh Conservatives to return to this at a later date, if required.

It is important that you get your message out to the people who are affected by this, namely the small businesses. Next Monday, a group in Powys, which is part of the Mid and West Wales constituency—

The Presiding Officer: Order. This is supposed to be a question on a statement, Glyn, so could you please ask your question?

Glyn Davies: Will you ensure that you, the First Minister or the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economic Development will do all that you possibly can to attend that meeting so that the message that you gave us today goes out to the people that matter?

Edwina Hart: I hope that all the information on this scheme goes out to those people who attend that meeting. If it is helpful to Members, I will circulate any further information that I send to local authorities to you so that you can be aware of the position, if you get any inquiries.

Alun Pugh: Clwyd West earns its living from agriculture and tourism, so your statement will be welcomed in my constituency today. It is an important part of the package along with deferment of inland revenue payments and the Welsh Tourist Board campaign. Are there any plans to allow businesses to defer their VAT payments? Will you take that up with the Treasury? Finally, you have not addressed the main concern of the Plaid Cymru spokesperson, who called for this statement weeks ago. Why did you not announce these measures before the outbreak? [*Laughter.*]

mae twristiaeth yn rhan sylweddol ohono yng Nghymru. Fodd bynnag, gwyddom fod y ffonau ond yn canu yn awr i ganslo a bod miloedd o fusnesau bach ledled Cymru mewn trafferth difrifol a'u bod yn wynebu'r posibilrwydd y bydd eu busnesau'n methu. Felly, mae eich cyhoeddiad y bydd £12 miliwn ar gael yn newydd i'w groesawu. Croesawaf hefyd eich ymrwymiad i Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru i ddychwelyd at hyn yn ddiweddarach, os bydd angen.

Mae'n bwysig eich bod yn cyfleu eich neges i'r bobl y mae hyn yn effeithio arnynt, sef y busnesau bach. Ddydd Llun nesaf, bydd grŵp ym Mhowys, sydd yn rhan o etholaeth Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae hwn i fod yn gwestiwn ar ddatganiad, Glyn, felly a fydddech cystal â gofyn eich cwestiwn?

Glyn Davies: A sicrhewch y gwnewch chi, Brif Weinidog neu'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd, bopeth o fewn eich gallu i fod yn bresennol yn y cyfarfod hwnnw fel y caiff y neges a roddasoch inni heddiw ei chyfleu i'r bobl sydd yn cyfrif?

Edwina Hart: Gobeithio y caiff yr holl wybodaeth am y cynllun hwn ei throsglwyddo i'r bobl hynny sydd yn mynychu'r cyfarfod hwnnw. Os byddai'n ddefnyddiol i'r Aelodau, cylchlythyraf unrhyw wybodaeth bellach a anfonaf i'r awdurdodau lleol atoch chi fel y gallwch fod yn ymwybodol o'r sefyllfa, os cewch unrhyw ymholiadau.

Alun Pugh: Mae Gorllewin Clwyd yn ennill ei bywoliaeth o amaethyddiaeth a thwristiaeth, felly bydd eich datganiad yn newyddion i'w groesawu yn fy etholaeth i heddiw. Mae'n rhan bwysig o'r pecyn ynghyd ag oedi taliadau cyllid y wlad ac ymgyrch Bwrdd Croeso Cymru. A oes unrhyw gynlluniau i ganiatáu i fusnesau oedi eu taliadau TAW? A wnewch chi drafod hynny gyda'r Trysorlys? Yn olaf, nid ydych wedi ymdrin â phrif bryder llefarydd Plaid Cymru, a ofynnodd am y datganiad hwn wythnosau yn ôl. Pam na chyhoeddasoch y mesurau hyn cyn yr argyfwng? [*Chwerthin.*]

Edwina Hart: Sometimes, it would be wonderful to be able to gaze into a crystal ball to see the future, if that future is good. However, I would not have wanted to gaze into a crystal ball on this to see what happened to the rural economy and tourism in Wales, because it is a nightmare for all of us. The Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economic Development is having discussions on the deferment of VAT payments, and will hopefully be in a position to update you on that on Thursday.

Rod Richards: The Minister said that the scheme applies to rural authority districts. Will she define what she means by that? If necessary, can she tell us to which local authorities the scheme will not apply?

Edwina Hart: I think that you misunderstood my south-Walian accent. I said that it would apply to all local authorities in Wales. It was rural authorities in England. Had I restricted the scheme, it would have applied to nine out of 22 authorities, for example Ceredigion, Powys, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, I cannot name all of them. I do not have the information at hand, but I will write to you on that.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Do you agree that it is still difficult to understand what is available, and what can be done on this crisis in rural areas? There needs to be clarity of information. Do you also agree that local newspapers are important small businesses in terms of ensuring that information gets to people in rural areas? When sending out information, will you ensure that you use local newspapers and not only national newspapers, like the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economic Development?

Edwina Hart: We need to draw together all the strands of the business rates issue. I will try to draft a statement illustrating what has and can be done on this, which will be of use to Members. I accept your point that people read their local newspapers, such as *The Llŵchwr Star*. We should consider sending

Edwina Hart: Weithiau, byddai'n wych pe bawn yn gallu syllu ar belen grisial i weld y dyfodol, os yw'r dyfodol hwnnw'n dda. Fodd bynnag, ni fyddwn wedi dymuno syllu ar belen grisial i weld beth sydd wedi digwydd i'r economi wledig ac i dwristiaeth yng Nghymru oherwydd mae'n hunllef i bob un ohonom. Mae'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd yn cael trafodaethau ar oedi taliadau TAW a gobeithio y byddant mewn sefyllfa i roi'r newyddion diweddaraf ichi am hynny ddydd Mawrth.

Rod Richards: Dywedodd y Gweinidog fod y cynllun yn berthnasol i ddosbarthau awdurdodau gwledig. A wnaiff hi ddiffinio'r hyn a olyga wrth hynny? Os bydd angen, a all ddweud wrthym pa awdurdodau lleol na fydd y cynllun yn berthnasol iddynt?

Edwina Hart: Credaf ichi gamdeall fy acen ddeheuol. Dywedais y byddai'n berthnasol i bob awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru. Yn Lloegr, yr oedd yn berthnasol i awdurdodau gwledig yn unig. Pe bawn wedi cyfyngu'r cynllun, byddai wedi bod yn berthnasol i naw allan o 22 o awdurdodau, er enghraifft, Ceredigion, Powys, Sir Benfro, Sir Gaerfyrddin, ni allaf eu henwi i gyd. Nid yw'r wybodaeth gennyf wrth law, ond ysgrifennaf atoch ynglŷn â hynny.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A gytunwch ei bod yn anodd deall beth sydd ar gael o hyd, a beth y gellir ei wneud ynglŷn â'r argyfwng hwn mewn ardaloedd gwledig? Mae angen egluro'r wybodaeth. A gytunwch hefyd fod papurau newydd lleol yn fusnesau bach pwysig o ran sicrhau bod yr wybodaeth yn cyrraedd pobl mewn ardaloedd gwledig? Wrth anfon gwybodaeth, a sicrhewch eich bod yn defnyddio papurau newydd lleol ac nid papurau newydd cenedlaethol yn unig fel y gwnaeth y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd?

Edwina Hart: Mae angen inni dynnu ynghyd holl linyddau'r mater trethi busnes. Ceisiaf lunio datganiad drafft yn dangos yr hyn a wnaethpwyd a'r hyn y gellir ei wneud ynglŷn â hyn, a fydd yn ddefnyddiol i'r Aelodau. Derbyniaf eich pwynt fod pobl yn darllen eu papurau newydd lleol, fel *The*

information on small businesses to these local newspapers, which could, perhaps, publish an article on the matter to heighten people's awareness.

Richard Edwards: I endorse Rhodri Glyn Thomas's comments. In Pembrokeshire, *The Western Mail* enjoys less than 15 per cent of the readership of *The Western Telegraph*. It is ridiculous that adverts about the accessibility of the countryside are placed in *The Western Mail* but not in local newspapers.

3:20 p.m.

Edwina Hart: I concur with that.

Alun Cairns: I am grateful to the Minister for announcing that £12 million will be available for local authorities to grant rate relief to businesses. That is welcome news for businesses across Wales. The Minister stated that that money would relate to businesses whose trade has been adversely affected by foot and mouth disease. What further details can she give us? If she cannot give me any further details now, I would welcome written correspondence in due course, as would other Assembly Members. Finally, will the Minister use this opportunity to abandon any plans to introduce a local business rate tax?

Edwina Hart: I will not abandon anything today as I am concentrating on the problems within the rural economy and the tourism industry. I will obtain more details on what types of businesses this will relate to and send those details to Assembly Members. That will give Members a clearer picture and may be useful if Members want to give the necessary information to people visiting their surgeries.

Llwchwr Star. Efallai y dylem ystyried anfon gwybodaeth am fusnesau bach i'r papurau newydd lleol hyn, a gallent, efallai, gyhoeddi erthygl ar y mater i godi ymwybyddiaeth pobl.

Richard Edwards: Ategaf sylwadau Rhodri Glyn Thomas. Yn Sir Benfro, mae cylchrediad *The Western Mail* yn llai na 15 y cant o gylchrediad *The Western Telegraph*. Mae'n wirion bod hysbysebion ynglŷn â hygyrchedd cefn gwlad yn cael eu gosod yn *The Western Mail* ond nid mewn papurau newydd lleol.

Edwina Hart: Cytunaf â hynny.

Alun Cairns: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r Gweinidog am gyhoeddi y bydd £12 miliwn ar gael i awdurdodau lleol i ganiatáu rhyddhad trethi i fusnesau. Mae hynny'n newyddion i'w groesawu i fusnesau ledled Cymru. Nododd y Gweinidog y byddai'r arian yn gysylltiedig â busnesau yr effeithiwyd yn andwyol ar eu masnach gan glwy'r traed a'r genau. Pa fanylion pellach sydd ganddi ar ein cyfer? Os na all roi unrhyw fanylion pellach yn awr, byddwn yn croesawu gohebiaeth ysgrifenedig maes o law, fel y byddai Aelodau eraill y Cynulliad. Yn olaf, a wnaiff y Gweinidog ddefnyddio'r cyfle hwn i roi'r gorau i unrhyw gynlluniau i gyflwyno treth busnes leol?

Edwina Hart: Ni wnaiff roi'r gorau i unrhyw beth heddiw gan fy mod yn canolbwyntio ar y problemau o fewn yr economi wledig a'r diwydiant twristiaeth. Caf fwy o fanylion am ba fath o fusnesau y bydd hyn yn ymwneud â hwy ac anfonaf y manylion hynny at Aelodau'r Cynulliad. Rhydd hynny ddarlun cliriach i'r Aelodau a gall fod yn ddefnyddiol os bydd yr Aelodau am roi'r wybodaeth angenrheidiol i bobl sydd yn ymweld â'u cynghorfeydd.

Datganiad Busnes Business Statement

The Minister for Assembly Business (Andrew Davies): In order to accommodate Thursday's urgent debate on the effects of the

Y Trefnydd (Andrew Davies): Er mwyn cynnwys dadl frys dydd Iau ar effeithiau clwy'r traed a'r genau, gwnaethpwyd y

foot and mouth disease, the following changes have been made to this week's business. I am grateful to the Presiding Officer and my colleagues in the Business Committee for their support. I am particularly grateful to Kirsty Williams for agreeing to move the debate on the Health and Social Services Committee's report, 'The Implications to Wales of the Phillips (BSE) Inquiry Report' from Thursday to a later date. I have rescheduled that debate for 1 May, which is the first session after the Easter recess. I hope that Kirsty and other members of the Health and Social Services Committee are happy with this.

I tabled a no-named day motion for the urgent debate yesterday afternoon and will be seeking to move a procedural motion to bring that motion forward on Thursday. It is also likely that there will be a statement on Corus in Plenary on Thursday. I am grateful to the parties' business managers for their help this morning in seeking to accommodate both these items and the remaining items of business scheduled within the time available.

I move on to the next three weeks' business statement. On Tuesday 3 April there will be a debate on the mental health strategies. I have also scheduled time to reconvene the Plaid Cymru minority party debate on transport, which was postponed from Tuesday 20 March. On Thursday 5 April, in addition to what I reported last week, business will include a motion to approve the next three months' business statement, a motion to delegate the functions contained in or under regulations made by the National Assembly under Section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 and a motion to approve changes to Standing Order No. 23 section 3 and Standing Order No. 34. It will also include a motion to approve the General Teaching Council for Wales (Disciplinary Functions) Regulations 2001 and a composite motion to approve four items of subordinate legislation.

The Assembly will be in recess between 9 and 29 April. In the summer session, on Tuesday 1 May, business will now include the debate on the Health and Social Services

newidiadau canlynol i fusnes yr wythnos hon. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r Llywydd a'm cyd-Aelodau yn y Pwyllgor Busnes am eu cefnogaeth. Yr wyf yn arbennig o ddiolchgar i Kirsty Williams am gytuno i symud y ddadl ar adroddiad y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, 'Goblygiadau Adroddiad Ymchwiliad Phillips (BSE) i Gymru' o ddydd Iau tan ddyddiad diweddarach. Yr wyf wedi ad-drefnu'r ddadl honno ar gyfer 1 Mai, sef y sesiwn cyntaf ar ôl toriad y Pasg. Gobeithiaf fod Kirsty ac aelodau eraill o'r Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yn fodlon ar hyn.

Cyflwynais gynnig heb ddyddiad trafod ar gyfer y ddadl frys brynhawn ddoe a byddaf yn ceisio cyflwyno cynnig trefniadol i gyflwyno'r cynnig hwnnw ddydd Iau. Mae'n debygol hefyd y bydd datganiad ar Corus yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ddydd Iau. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i reolwyr busnes y pleidiau am eu cymorth y bore yma wrth geisio cynnwys y ddwy eitem hon a'r eitemau busnes sydd yn weddill a drefnwyd o fewn yr amser sydd ar gael.

Symudaf ymlaen i ddatganiad busnes y tair wythnos nesaf. Ar ddydd Mawrth 3 Ebrill bydd dadl ar y strategaethau iechyd meddwl. Trefnais amser hefyd i ailgynnull dadl plaid leiafrifol Plaid Cymru ar drafnidiaeth, a ohirwyd o ddydd Mawrth 20 Mawrth. Ar ddydd Iau 5 Ebrill, yn ogystal â'r hyn a nodais yr wythnos diwethaf, bydd y busnes yn cynnwys cynnig i gymeradwyo datganiad busnes y tri mis nesaf, cynnig i ddirprwyo'r swyddogaethau a gynhwysir yn y rheoliadau neu yn ôl y rheoliadau a wneir gan y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol o dan Adran 2(2) Deddf Cymunedau Ewropeaidd 1972 a chynnig i gymeradwyo newidiadau i Reol Sefydlog Rhif 23 adran 3 a Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 34. Bydd hefyd yn cynnwys cynnig i gymeradwyo Rheoliadau Cyngor Addysgu Cyffredinol Cymru (Swyddogaethau Disgyblu) 2001 a chynnig cyfansawdd i gymeradwyo pedair eitem o is-ddeddfwriaeth.

Bydd y Cynulliad ar doriad rhwng 9 a 29 Ebrill. Yn sesiwn yr haf, ar ddydd Mawrth 1 Mai, bydd busnes yn awr yn cynnwys y ddadl ar adroddiad y Pwyllgor Iechyd a

Committee report on the Phillips inquiry into BSE and a debate on the private Members' Bill motion, the draw for which was won by Tom Middlehurst in accordance with part 7 of Standing Order No. 22. That motion must be tabled before the end of this session. Business on that day will also include Janice Gregory's short debate on crime. Business on 3 May is as I reported last week. On Tuesday 8 May there will be a debate on the Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales's report on training and development and on Thursday 10 May there will be a debate on the Welsh Development Agency's quinquennial review.

On the Business Committee's advice this morning, 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. These are the Undersized Whiting (Revocation) (Wales) Order 2001, the Crab Claws (Prohibition of Landing) (Revocation) (Wales) Order 2001 and the Miscellaneous Food Additives (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2001. As in previous weeks, I will make arrangements to post this statement to the intranet and the internet.

The Presiding Officer: Are there any objections to the business statement? I see that there are none. I therefore invite comments on the business statement.

William Graham: In welcoming Thursday's urgent debate, will you convey to your colleague, the First Minister, how much we would like to hear from him on that occasion?

The Presiding Officer: As there are no further comments on the business statement, I invite the Minister for Assembly Business to respond to William Graham's comment.

Andrew Davies: I will pass on the comments to the First Minister.

Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ar ymchwiliad Phillips i BSE a dadl ar gynnig y Mesur Aelodau Preifat, a enillwyd gan Tom Middlehurst ac a ddewiswyd ar hap yn unol â rhan 7 o Reol Sefydlog Rhif 22. Rhaid cyflwyno'r cynnig hwnnw cyn diwedd y sesiwn hwn. Bydd busnes ar y diwrnod hwnnw yn cynnwys dadl fer Janice Gregory ar droseddu hefyd. Bydd busnes ar 3 Mai fel y cofnodais yr wythnos diwethaf. Ar ddydd Mawrth 8 Mai bydd dadl ar adroddiad y Prif Arolygydd Addysg a Hyfforddiant yng Nghymru ar hyfforddiant a datblygiad ac ar ddydd Iau 10 Mai bydd dadl ar arolwg bob pum mlynedd Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru.

Ar gyngor y Pwyllgor Busnes y bore yma, mae'r Dirprwy Lywydd wedi penderfynu, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 22.5, nad oes angen cyfeirio'r eitemau canlynol o is-ddeddfwriaeth at Bwyllgor Pwnc, sef Gorchymyn Gwyniaid Rhy Fach (Diddymu) (Cymru) 2001, Gorchymyn Crafangau Crancod (Gwahardd eu Glanio) (Diddymu) (Cymru) 2001 a Rheoliadau Ychwanegion Bwyd Amrywiol (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2001. Fel mewn wythnosau blaenorol, gwnaf drefniadau i roi'r datganiad hwn ar y fewnwyd a'r rhyngwyd.

Y Llywydd: A oes unrhyw wrthwynebiadau i'r datganiad busnes? Gwelaf nad oes. Felly gwahoddaf sylwadau ar y datganiad busnes.

William Graham: Wrth groesawu dadl frys dydd Iau, a wnewch chi gyfleu i'ch cyd-Aelod, Prif Weinidog Cymru, gymaint yr hoffem glywed ganddo ar yr achlysur hwnnw?

Y Llywydd: Gan nad oes unrhyw sylwadau pellach ar y datganiad busnes, gwahoddaf y Trefnydd i ymateb i sylw William Graham.

Andrew Davies: Trosglwyddaf y sylwadau i Brif Weinidog Cymru.

Pwyntiau o Drefn Points of Order

The Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economic Development (Michael German): Point of order. I would like to clarify my response to the point of order raised by Nick Bourne on 13 March 2001. He asked me in what capacity I had recently visited Ceredigion. A report of a visit appeared in the *Cambrian News*. I had not read the article when I responded to that point of order and, having seen it, I now realise that it refers to a visit I made earlier that day to the Aber Recycling Centre and Biognosis. I thought that Nick Bourne was referring to my meeting in the University of Wales, Aberystwyth with the local Liberal Democrat prospective parliamentary candidate for Ceredigion later in the afternoon of 20 February. I wish to correct the record, and I have done so in a written answer to Nick Bourne.

Nick Bourne: Further to that point of order, I drew attention to the photograph in the *Cambrian News*, in which the Liberal Democrat prospective parliamentary candidate for Ceredigion was to be seen. The local Assembly Members and Member of Parliament were not invited, and I understand from the Deputy First Minister, that he used a ministerial car to travel to Aberystwyth with his personal secretary. That was not in order and I have written to Jon Shortridge about the matter.

The Presiding Officer: It may not appear to you, or others, to be in order. However, it is not a matter for me. Any complaints are a matter for the Audit Committee, and I am sure that it would be interested in any such suggestions.

Janet Davies: Further to that point of order, it is a matter for the Committee on Standards of Conduct, rather than the Audit Committee.

The Presiding Officer: I would believe that the use of an Assembly car for purposes other than Assembly business would be a matter for the Audit Committee.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd (Michael German): Pwynt o drefn. Hoffwn egluro fy ymateb i bwynt o drefn a godwyd gan Nick Bourne ar 13 Mawrth 2001. Gofynnodd imi yn rhinwedd pa swydd yr ymwelais â Cheredigion yn ddiweddar. Cafwyd adroddiad am ymweliad yn y *Cambrian News*. Nid oeddwn wedi darllen yr erthygl pan ymatebais i'r pwynt hwnnw o drefn ac, ar ôl ei darllen, sylweddolaf bellach y cyfeiria at ymweliad yn gynharach y diwrnod hwnnw â Chanolfan Ailgylchu Aber a Biognosis. Credwn fod Nick Bourne yn cyfeirio at fy nghyfarfod yng Ngholeg Prifysgol Cymru, Aberystwyth â darpar ymgeisydd seneddol lleol y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol dros Geredigion yn nes ymlaen yn y prynhawn ar 20 Chwefror. Dymunaf gywiro'r cofnod, ac yr wyf wedi gwneud hynny mewn ateb ysgrifenedig i Nick Bourne.

Nick Bourne: Ymhellach i'r pwynt hwnnw o drefn, tynnais sylw at y llun yn y *Cambrian News*, lle y gwelwyd darpar ymgeisydd seneddol y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol dros Geredigion. Ni wahoddwyd Aelodau lleol o'r Cynulliad na'r Aelod Seneddol lleol, a deallaf gan y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog iddo ddefnyddio car gweinidogol i deithio i Aberystwyth gyda'i ysgrifennydd personol. Nid oedd hynny'n dderbyniol ac ysgrifennais at Jon Shortridge ynglŷn â'r mater.

Y Llywydd: Efallai nad yw'n dderbyniol yn eich barn chi, nag ym marn pobl eraill. Fodd bynnag, nid mater i mi ydyw. Mae unrhyw gŵynion yn fater i'r Pwyllgor Archwilio, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai diddordeb ganddo mewn unrhyw awgrymiadau o'r fath.

Janet Davies: Ymhellach i'r pwynt hwnnw o drefn, mater i'r Pwyllgor Safonau Ymddygiad, yn hytrach na'r Pwyllgor Archwilio, ydyw.

Y Llywydd: Credwn y byddai defnyddio car y Cynulliad at ddibenion eraill heblaw busnes y Cynulliad yn fater i'r Pwyllgor Archwilio.

Michael German: Further to that point of order, I would like to make it clear that only people who were entitled to be there travelled in the ministerial car. That was made clear in my written answer to Nick Bourne. Any suggestion otherwise would be spurious.

Michael German: Ymhellach i'r pwynt hwnnw o drefn, hoffwn ei gwneud yn glir mai dim ond y bobl oedd â'r hawl i fod yno a deithiodd yn y car gweinidogol. Esboniwyd hynny yn glir yn fy ateb ysgrifenedig i Nick Bourne. Byddai unrhyw awgrym gwahanol yn ffug.

Cynog Dafis: Ymhellach i'r pwynt hwnnw o drefn, mae'n bwysig gwybod pa ran o'r ymweliad ag Aberystwyth a oedd yn ymweliad gweinidogol. Mae'n debyg mai'r ymweliad â'r ganolfan ailgylchu a Biognosis oedd hynny. Mae'n bwysig gwybod hefyd a oedd darpar ymgeisydd seneddol y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yng Ngheredigion yn bresennol yn ystod yr ymweliad hwnnw. Os felly, onid oedd hynny'n ddefnydd amlwg o amser Gweinidog at ddiben ymgyrchu seneddol?

Cynog Dafis: Further to that point of order, it is important to know what part of the visit to Aberystwyth was a ministerial visit. It seems that it was the visit to the recycling centre and Biognosis. It is also important to know whether the Liberal Democrat prospective parliamentary candidate for Ceredigion was present during that visit. If so, was that not the blatant use of a Minister's time for the purposes of electioneering?

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Yr ydym wedi gwyntyllu'r mater hwn yn helaeth. Yr wyf wedi ei gwneud yn glir bod hyn yn fater i'r Pwyllgor Archwilio neu'r Pwyllgor Safonau Ymddygiad. Nid yw'n fater i mi, yn enwedig yn ystod Cyfarfod Llawn, ac nid wyf am dreulio rhagor o amser ar hyn yn awr.

The Presiding Officer: Order. We have discussed this matter for long enough. I have made it clear that this is a matter for the Audit Committee or the Committee on Standards of Conduct. It is not a matter for me, particularly during Plenary, and I do not want to spend more time on this now.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Pwynt o drefn o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 18. Yng Nghyfarfod Llawn 22 Mawrth 2001, cafwyd cwynion ynglŷn â'r anallu i gael atebion gan Weinidogion. Awgrymasoch bryd hynny, Lywydd, inni ddefnyddio dulliau electronig o gysylltu â Gweinidogion i gael gwybodaeth. Yr wyf, ers dau ddiwrnod, wedi bod yn ceisio cael gwybodaeth holl bwysig ar gyfer nifer o'm hetholwyr sydd eisiau gwybod beth fydd yn digwydd i ddefaid sydd yn wyna ar dir fferm sydd yn ymylu ar dir comin. Mae hyn yn holl bwysig oherwydd bydd yn rhaid difa'r defaid hyn os na chawn ni'r wybodaeth. Yr wyf wedi defnyddio dulliau electronig o gysylltu ac wedi ffonio'n gyson, ond yr wyf yn dal heb dderbyn yr wybodaeth. Nid wyf yn gallu cyflawni fy swyddogaeth fel Aelod o'r Cynulliad gan nad oes modd imi drosglwyddo'r wybodaeth angenrheidiol i'm hetholwyr er mwyn iddynt wybod beth i'w wneud â'r defaid, a hynny ar adeg o argyfwng. Hoffwn glywed eich barn ar sut y gallwn weithredu, fel Aelodau, o dan amgylchiadau o'r fath.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Point of order under Standing Order No. 18. In Plenary on 22 March 2001, complaints were made about difficulties in getting answers from Assembly Ministers. You suggested at that time, Presiding Officer, that we use electronic means of contacting Ministers to secure information. For the past two days, I have tried to get vital information for a number of my constituents who want to know what will happen to sheep that are lambing on farmland close to common land. This is vital because the sheep will have to be slaughtered if we do not receive the information. I have tried to use electronic means of communicating and have telephoned repeatedly, but I have still not received the information. I cannot carry out my duties as an Assembly Member as I am unable to pass on the necessary information to my constituents in order for them to know what to do with the sheep at what is a time of crisis. I would like your ruling on how we can function, as Members, under such circumstances.

Y Llywydd: Nodais fy marn yr wythnos diwethaf, sef bod disgwyl i aelodau o'r cyhoedd yr effeithir arnynt, ynghyd ag Aelodau o'r Cynulliad, gysylltu â swyddfeydd rhanbarthol Adran Amaethyddiaeth y Cynulliad i sicrhau gwybodaeth. Gall Aelodau'r Cynulliad hefyd gysylltu â'r Gweinidog dros Faterion Gwledig yn uniongyrchol. Yr wyf wedi gwneud hynny sawl gwaith ac wedi derbyn ymatebion.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A gaf i wneud pwynt o drefn arall?

Y Llywydd: Dim ond os ydyw'n ymwneud â rhywbeth newydd.

3:30 p.m.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Mae hyn yn newydd yn yr ystyr bod fy etholwyr wedi cysylltu â'u swyddfa ranbarthol a ddywedodd yn eglur iddi gael cyfarwyddyd o Gaerdydd, a hyd nes iddi gael cyfarwyddyd newydd o Gaerdydd, ni allai weithredu. Cysylltais â Chaerdydd i geisio cael y cyfarwyddyd hwnnw—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Yr ydych wedi cael cyfle i wneud eich pwynt ar ran eich etholwr. Nid yw'n bwynt o drefn i mi.

The Presiding Officer: I gave my ruling last week, namely that members of the public who are affected, as well as Members of the Assembly, are expected to contact the regional offices of the Assembly's Agriculture Department for information. Assembly Members can also contact the Minister for Rural Affairs directly. I have done so on a number of occasions and have received replies.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: May I make another point of order?

The Presiding Officer: Only if it concerns something new.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: This is new in the sense that my constituents contacted their divisional office which stated clearly that it had received instruction from Cardiff, and until it received new instruction from Cardiff, it could not act. I contacted Cardiff to try to get those instructions—

The Presiding Officer: Order. You have had an opportunity to make your point on your constituent's behalf. It is not a point of order for me.

Cynnig Cyfansawdd: Cymeradwyo Gorchmynion Composite Motion: Approval of Orders

Y Llywydd: Cynigir y cynnig hwn o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 22.25, ac felly ni chynhelir dadl arno.

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

the National Assembly, acting under Standing Order No. 22.25 approves the Spreadable Fats (Marketing Standards) (Wales) Regulations 2001 laid in the Table Office on 14 February 2001;

considers the report of the Legislation Committee which has not identified any matters for concern in the draft Order the Spreadable Fats (Marketing Standards)

The Presiding Officer: This motion is proposed under Standing Order No. 22.25, and therefore it is not subject to debate.

Y Trefnydd (Andrew Davies): Cynigiau fod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, gan weithredu o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 22.25 yn cymeradwyo Rheoliadau Brasterau Taenadwy (Safonau Marchnata) (Cymru) 2001 a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 14 Chwefror 2001;

yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau nad yw wedi nodi unrhyw fater sy'n peri pryder yn y Gorchymyn drafft, Rheoliadau Brasterau Taenadwy (Safonau Marchnata)

<i>(Wales) Regulations 2001, laid in the Table Office on 27 February 2001 and the Memorandum of Corrections laid in the Table Office on 20 March 2001;</i>	<i>(Cymru) 2001, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 27 Chwefror 2001, a'r Memorandwm Cywiriadau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 20 Mawrth 2001;</i>
<i>approves the Slaughter Premium Regulations (Wales) 2001 laid in the Table Office on 14 February 2001;</i>	<i>yn cymeradwyo Rheoliadau'r Premiwm Cigydda (Cymru) 2001 a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 14 Chwefror 2001;</i>
<i>considers the report of the Legislation Committee which has not identified any matters for concern in the draft Order the Slaughter Premium Regulations (Wales) 2001, laid in the Table Office on 27 February 2001 and the Memorandum of Corrections laid in the Table Office on 20 March 2001;</i>	<i>yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau nad yw wedi nodi unrhyw fater sy'n peri pryder yn y Gorchymyn drafft, Rheoliadau'r Premiwm Cigydda (Cymru) 2001, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 27 Chwefror 2001, a'r Memorandwm Cywiriadau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 20 Mawrth 2001;</i>
<i>approves the Housing (Preservation of Right to Buy) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2001 laid in the Table Office on 27 February 2001; and</i>	<i>yn cymeradwyo Rheoliadau Tai (Cadw'r Hawl i Brynu) (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2001 a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 27 Chwefror 2001; ac</i>
<i>considers the report of the Legislation Committee which has not identified any matters for concern in the draft Order the Housing (Preservation of Right to Buy) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2001, laid in the Table Office on 6 March 2001.</i>	<i>yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau nad yw wedi nodi unrhyw fater sy'n peri pryder yn y Gorchymyn drafft, Rheoliadau Tai (Cadw'r Hawl i Brynu) (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2001, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 6 Mawrth 2001.</i>

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
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Jocelyn
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Jones, Ann
Law, Peter
Lloyd, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan

Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Richards, Rod
 Ryder, Janet
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Wigley, Dafydd
 Williams, Kirsty
 Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion adopted.*

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd i'r Gadair am 3:30 p.m.
 The Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair at 3:30 p.m*

**Cymeradwyo Rheoliadau'r NHS (Taliadau gan Awdurdodau Lleol i
 Awdurdodau Iechyd) (Swyddogaethau Rhagnodedig) (Cymru) 2001
 Approval of the NHS (Payments by Local Authorities to Health Authorities)
 (Prescribed Functions) (Wales) Regulations 2001**

**The Deputy Minister for Health (Brian
 Gibbons):** I propose that

the National Assembly

*considers the principle of the NHS (Payments
 by Local Authorities to Health Authorities)
 (Prescribed Functions) (Wales) Regulations
 2001 laid in the Table Office on 27 February
 2001.*

I also propose that

the National Assembly

*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 NHS
 (Payments by Local Authorities to Health
 Authorities) (Prescribed Functions) (Wales)
 Regulations 2001, laid in the Table Office on
 6 March 2001;*

*approves that the Order is made in
 accordance with the draft laid in the Table
 Office on 27 February 2001.*

These regulations will enable the transfer of
 funds from a local authority to a health
 authority and will prescribe those health

**Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Iechyd (Brian
 Gibbons):** Cynigiau fod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol

*yn ystyried egwyddor Rheoliadau'r
 Gwasanaeth Iechyd Gwladol (Taliadau gan
 Awdurdodau Lleol i Awdurdodau Iechyd)
 (Swyddogaethau Rhagnodedig) (Cymru)
 2001, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar
 27 Chwefror 2001.*

Cynigiau hefyd fod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol

*yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau
 nad yw wedi nodi unrhyw fater sy'n peri
 pryder o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 11.5 yn y
 Gorchymyn drafft, Rheoliadau'r Gwasanaeth
 Iechyd Gwladol (Taliadau gan Awdurdodau
 Lleol i Awdurdodau Iechyd) (Swyddogaethau
 Rhagnodedig) (Cymru) 2001, a osodwyd yn y
 Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 6 Mawrth 2001;*

*yn cymeradwyo bod y Gorchymyn yn cael ei
 wneud yn unol â'r drafft a osodwyd yn y
 Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 27 Chwefror 2001.*

Bydd y rheoliadau hyn yn galluogi i arian
 gael ei drosglwyddo o awdurdod lleol i
 awdurdod iechyd a bydd yn rhagnodi

authority functions that can be funded by such a transfer. The reciprocal arrangements that allow the transfer of money from a health authority already exist. Enabling the transfer of funds in both directions will provide local government and health authorities with greater flexibility to deliver joined-up services for carers and users.

That is the key to our aim of achieving more integrated health and social services in Wales. The regulations supplement the National Health Service Bodies and Local Authorities Partnership Arrangements (Wales) Regulations 2000, which the Assembly approved on 7 November and which came into force on 1 December 2000. These provisions introduce new mechanisms to promote joint working at the boundaries between health and social services, and between the NHS and wider local government.

The regulations and guidance on joined-up and flexible working were developed in close collaboration with health bodies, local government and the voluntary sector. Their continuing support was evident when Jane Hutt launched the framework at a conference in Llandrindod Wells on 29 November 2000.

The regulations before us underpin the Assembly's commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of people in Wales in new ways that tackle social disadvantage, address inequalities and promote sustainability. Joint working is central to that. The improvements in operational arrangements will promote innovation in the provision of services, which will ultimately improve local wellbeing and health.

Closer integration of health and social care services through effective joint working between the NHS and local government is key to implement successfully 'Improving Health in Wales', an NHS strategy for Wales that was launched by Jane Hutt on 2 February. That strategy places the flexibilities of the Health Act 1999 at the centre of successful joint working. There is already

swyddogaethau'r awdurdod iechyd y gellir eu hariannu drwy drosglwyddo arian yn y fath fodd. Mae'r trefniadau cytbwys sydd yn caniatáu i arian gael ei drosglwyddo o awdurdod iechyd eisoes yn bodoli. Bydd galluogi arian i gael ei drosglwyddo yn y ddau gyfeiriad yn rhoi mwy o hyblygrwydd i lywodraeth leol ac awdurdodau iechyd gyflwyno gwasanaethau cydlynus ar gyfer cynhalwyr a defnyddwyr.

Mae hynny'n rhan allweddol o'n nod o gyflawni iechyd a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol mwy integredig yng Nghymru. Mae'r rheoliadau yn ategu Rheoliadau Trefniadau Partneriaeth Cyrrff Gwasanaeth Iechyd Gwladol ac Awdurdodau Lleol (Cymru) 2000, a gymeradwywyd gan y Cynulliad ar 7 Tachwedd ac a ddaeth i rym ar 1 Rhagfyr 2000. Cyflwyno'r darpariaethau hyn ddulliau newydd i hyrwyddo cydweithio ar y ffiniau rhwng iechyd a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, a rhwng yr NHS a llywodraeth leol ehangach.

Datblygwyd y rheoliadau a'r arweiniad ar weithio cydlynus a hyblyg mewn cydweithrediad agos â chyrrff iechyd, llywodraeth leol a'r sector gwirfoddol. Bu eu cefnogaeth barhaus yn amlwg pan lanswyd y fframwaith gan Jane Hutt mewn cynhadledd yn Llandrindod ar 29 Tachwedd 2000.

Mae'r rheoliadau sydd ger ein bron yn sail i ymrwymiad y Cynulliad i wella iechyd a lles pobl Cymru mewn ffyrdd newydd sydd yn mynd i'r afael ag anfantais gymdeithasol, yn ymdrin ag anghydraddoldebau ac yn hyrwyddo cynaliadwyedd. Mae cydweithio yn rhan ganolog o hynny. Bydd y gwelliannau i'r trefniadau gweithredol yn hyrwyddo arloesedd wrth ddarparu gwasanaethau, a fydd yn y pen draw yn gwella lles a iechyd lleol.

Mae integreiddio gwasanaethau iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol yn agosach drwy gydweithio effeithiol rhwng yr NHS a llywodraeth leol yn allweddol wrth weithredu 'Gwella Iechyd yng Nghymru', sef strategaeth gan yr NHS a lanswyd gan Jane Hutt ar 2 Chwefror, yn llwyddiannus. Rhydd y strategaeth honno hyblygrwydd Deddf Iechyd 1999 yng nghanol cydweithio

much good joint working and innovation in designing and providing services that span health and local authority boundaries in Wales. Together with the statutory partners, the voluntary and independent sectors make a significant contribution to successful joint working.

The NHS and local authority colleagues, with the voluntary and independent sectors, have worked together successfully across Wales this winter to tackle emergency pressures. [*Interruption.*]

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. This is the Deputy Minister's first time; you should listen to what he has to say.

Brian Gibbons: Many of the schemes that operate locally avoid hospital admissions and support the appropriate transfer of care. The regulations before us today would facilitate further collaborative working in these important areas by allowing local authorities to transfer money to health authorities, which would make it operationally easier to provide the services which people need when and where they require them.

To help local authorities develop and enter into joint working arrangements, we have allocated an extra £17 million over the next three years. This money will go as a special grant specifically to promote joint working. Consultation on the terms of the special grant is already underway.

A task group of health, local government, voluntary and independent sector and professional colleagues will start work shortly on implementing the joint working objectives of the NHS strategy in Wales. The task group will consider all aspects of joint working including the implementation of the Health Act 1999 and the partnership arrangements arising from that. It will assist with the development of centralising resources to spread good practice, consider the need for any further guidance and promote monitoring and evaluation.

llwyddiannus. Mae llawer o gydweithio ac arloesedd da eisoes yn bodoli wrth lunio a darparu gwasanaethau sydd yn rhychwantu ffiniau awdurdodau iechyd ac awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru. Ar y cyd â'r partneriaid statudol, gwna'r sectorau gwirfoddol ac annibynnol gyfraniad sylweddol tuag at gydweithio llwyddiannus.

Mae'r NHS a chydweithwyr yn yr awdurdodau lleol, ar y cyd â'r sectorau gwirfoddol ac annibynnol, wedi cydweithio'n llwyddiannus ledled Cymru y gaeaf hwn i fynd i'r afael â'r pwysau brys. [*Torri ar draws.*]

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Dyma'r tro cyntaf i'r Dirprwy Weinidog wneud datganiad; dylech wrando ar yr hyn sydd ganddo i'w ddweud.

Brian Gibbons: Mae llawer o'r cynlluniau sydd yn gweithredu'n lleol yn osgoi derbyn pobl i'r ysbyty ac yn cefnogi'r broses o drosglwyddo gofal yn briodol. Byddai'r rheoliadau sydd ger ein bron heddiw yn hwyluso cydweithio ymhellach yn y tri maes pwysig hwn drwy ganiatáu i awdurdodau lleol drosglwyddo arian i awdurdodau iechyd, a fyddai'n ei gwneud yn haws yn weithredol i ddarparu'r gwasanaethau sydd eu hangen ar bobl, pryd a ble y mae eu hangen arnynt.

Er mwyn helpu awdurdodau lleol i ddatblygu a llunio trefniadau cydweithio, yr ydym wedi dyrannu £17 miliwn ychwanegol dros y tair blynedd nesaf. Aiff yr arian hwn fel grant arbennig i hyrwyddo cydweithio yn benodol. Mae gwaith ymgynghori ar delerau'r grant arbennig eisoes ar y gweill.

Bydd grwp gorchwyl o gydweithwyr iechyd, llywodraeth leol, y sector gwirfoddol a'r sector annibynnol, a chydweithwyr proffesiynol yn dechrau ymgymryd yn fuan â gweithredu amcanion cydweithio strategaeth yr NHS yng Nghymru. Bydd y grwp gorchwyl yn ystyried pob agwedd ar gydweithio gan gynnwys gweithredu Deddf Iechyd 1999 a'r trefniadau partneriaeth sydd yn deillio o hynny. Bydd yn cynorthwyo i ddatblygu adnoddau sydd yn canoli i ledaenu arfer da, ystyried yr amgen am arweiniad pellach a hyrwyddo gwaith monitro a gwerthuso.

I am confident that, taking all these measures together, the Assembly will be able to support these regulations.

David Lloyd: Yn amlwg, mae cyffro ei ddatganiad cyntaf yn dechrau mynd yn drech na Brian. Fodd bynnag, diolchaf iddo am ei ddatganiad. Datganaf fuddiant fel meddyg teulu a chynghorydd sir.

Croesawaf y mesur hwn y mae Brian wedi ei gynnig y prynhawn yma. Hoffwn godi dau bwynt. Yr ydym yn sôn am awdurdodau lleol ac awdurdodau iechyd. Sut bydd y cydweithredu rhyngddynt yn cael mynegiant i ddatblygu gofal canolraddol yn y gwasanaeth iechyd yng Nghymru yn hytrach na'i breifateiddio?

Fy ail bwynt yw bod nifer o swyddogaethau statudol yn cael eu cyflawni ar hyn o bryd gan awdurdodau iechyd. Beth fydd yn digwydd i'r swyddogaethau hyn pan fo awdurdodau iechyd yn cael eu diddymu o fewn dwy flynedd? Fodd bynnag, bydd Plaid Cymru yn cefnogi'r mesur hwn.

Kirsty Williams: The Liberal Democrats believe that closer working between health authorities and local health groups—which will replace those statutory functions—and social services departments is key to solving some of the issues facing the NHS. There are still high levels of delayed discharge. That is one obvious example of the need for close working. We thank Brian for bringing forward this measure as we believe that these are practical measures which will enable the breakdown of the silos that have existed for too long between those who provide care in health or social services.

David Melding: I congratulate Brian on his rookie performance at the dispatch box. We look forward to many more performances in his usual robust style. He will not need much defending.

We hope that these measures will successfully encourage joint working. We have no objections to the technical measures before us this afternoon. However, I note that

Yr wyf yn hyderus y gall y Cynulliad, gan ystyried pob un o'r mesurau hyn, gefnogi'r rheoliadau hyn.

David Lloyd: The excitement of making his first statement is obviously too much for Brian. However, I thank him for his statement. I declare an interest as a GP and county councillor.

I welcome this measure, which Brian has proposed today. I wish to raise two points. We are referring to local authorities and health authorities. How will the co-operation between them be expressed to develop intermediate care in the health service in Wales rather than privatise it?

My second point is that health authorities are currently undertaking a number of statutory functions. What will happen to these functions when health authorities are abolished in two years time? However, Plaid Cymru will support this measure.

Kirsty Williams: Cred y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol fod cydweithio agosach rhwng awdurdodau iechyd a grwpiau iechyd lleol—a fydd yn disodli'r swyddogaethau statudol hynny—ac adrannau gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yn allweddol wrth ddatrys rhai o'r materion sydd yn wynebu'r NHS. Mae lefelau uchel o ryddhau hwyr o hyd. Mae hynny'n enghraifft amlwg o'r angen am gydweithio agos. Diolchwn i Brian am gyflwyno'r mesur hwn gan y credwn eu bod yn fesurau ymarferol a fydd yn galluogi i'r 'seilos' sydd wedi bodoli am gyfnod rhy hir rhwng y rheini sydd yn darparu gofal mewn iechyd neu wasanaethau cymdeithasol gael eu dymchwel.

David Melding: Llongyfarchaf Brian ar ei berfformiad di-brofiad. Edrychwn ymlaen at lawer mwy o berfformiadau yn ei ffordd gadarn arferol. Ni fydd angen ei amddiffyn rhyw lawer.

Gobeithiwn y llwydda'r mesurau hyn i annog cydweithio. Nid oes unrhyw wrthwynebiadau gennym i'r mesurau technegol sydd ger ein bron y prynhawn yma. Fodd bynnag, nodaf

the Government in England has made it clear that if health authorities and local authorities do not take up joint working, it will force them to work effectively together. We would expect that in Wales. If these measures are not used they must be sanctioned and there must be compulsion on bodies to use them. We can have a critical debate on this when we review these arrangements in the light of experience.

Brian Gibbons: I thank everybody for their gracious remarks. David Lloyd made a crucial point about intermediate care. For those groups involved in developing and delivering innovative care, it is an exciting and challenging period. The fact that we are providing these flexibilities will make it easier for them to achieve their objectives.

The task groups involved in implementing the NHS plan, 'Improving Health in Wales', will consider the various statutory functions of the health authorities. They are just beginning their work. The details about how this will work out in practice will be subject to recommendations from these task groups relating to implementation. The issue of discharge is important and this is why we must develop intermediate care in the NHS and local government in Wales.

On David's point, one of the strengths of the NHS in Wales is that we have local health groups that bring local government and health authorities together in a way that is different to England. The fact that we have given extra millions as a special grant to local government to encourage them to undertake this work, is not only a stick, as David would suggest, but a juicy carrot. I commend these regulations to you.

3:40 p.m.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I call for a vote on the principle of the Order.

*Cynnig: O blaid 43, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 1.
Motion: For 43, Abstain 0, Against 1.*

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

fod Llywodraeth Lloegr wedi ei gwneud yn glir, os na fydd awdurdodau iechyd ac awdurdodau lleol yn cydweithio, y bydd yn eu gorfodi i gydweithio'n effeithiol. Disgwylwn hynny yng Nghymru. Os na ddefnyddir y mesurau hyn, rhaid eu sancsiynu a gorfodi cyrff i'w defnyddio. Gallwn gael dadl feirniadol ar hyn pan adolygwn y trefniadau hyn yng ngoleuni profiad.

Brian Gibbons: Diolchaf i bawb am eu sylwadau caredig. Gwnaeth David Lloyd bwynt hanfodol am ofal canolradd. Mae'n gyfnod cyffrous a heriol i'r grwpiau hynny sydd yn ymwneud â datblygu a chyflwyno gofal arloesol. Drwy ddarparu'r hyblygrwydd hwn bydd yn haws iddynt gyflawni eu hamcanion.

Bydd y grwpiau gorchwyl sydd yn ymwneud â gweithredu cynllun yr NHS, 'Gwella Iechyd yng Nghymru', yn ystyried swyddogaethau statudol amrywiol yr awdurdodau iechyd. Megis dechrau mae eu gwaith. Bydd manylion y ffordd y bydd hyn yn gweithio yn ymarferol yn amodol ar argymhellion gan y grwpiau gorchwyl hyn ynglyn â'u gweithredu. Mae mater rhyddhau yn bwysig a dyna pam bod rhaid inni ddatblygu gofal canolradd yn yr NHS a llywodraeth leol yng Nghymru.

Ynglyn â phwynt David, un o gryfderau'r NHS yng Nghymru yw bod gennym grwpiau iechyd lleol sydd yn dod â llywodraeth leol ac awdurdodau iechyd at ei gilydd mewn ffordd wahanol i Loegr. Nid dim ond ysgogiad, fel yr awgryma David, yw'r ffaith y rhoddasom filiynau o bunnoedd ychwanegol fel grant arbennig i lywodraeth leol i'w hannog i ymgymryd â'r gwaith hwn, ond mae hefyd yn abwyd mawr. Cymeradwyaf y rheoliadau hyn ichi.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Galwaf am bleidlais ar egwyddor y Gorchymyn.

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelod canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Member voted against:

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Ron
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Ann
Law, Peter
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Richards, Rod
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Phil

Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion adopted.*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I call for a **Y Dirprwy Lywydd:** Galwaf am bleidlais ar vote on the motion to approve the Order. y cynnig i gymeradwyo'r Gorchymyn.

*Cynnig: O blaid 44, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 44, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Davies, Andrew

Davies, David
 Davies, Geraint
 Davies, Glyn
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Davies, Ron
 Edwards, Richard
 Essex, Sue
 German, Michael
 Gibbons, Brian
 Graham, William
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Halford, Alison
 Hancock, Brian
 Hart, Edwina
 Jarman, Pauline
 Jones, Ann
 Law, Peter
 Lloyd, David
 Melding, David
 Middlehurst, Tom
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Richards, Rod
 Ryder, Janet
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Wigley, Dafydd
 Williams, Kirsty
 Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion adopted.*

Cymeradwyo Rheoliadau'r NHS (Taliadau Cosb) (Cymru) 2001
Approval of the NHS (Penalty Charges) (Wales) Regulations 2001

The Deputy Minister for Health (Brian Gibbons): I propose that
 Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Iechyd (Brian Gibbons): Cynigiau fod

the National Assembly

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol

considers the principle of the NHS (Penalty Charges) (Wales) Regulations 2001 laid in the Table Office on 27 February 2001.

yn ystyried egwyddor Rheoliadau'r Gwasanaeth Iechyd Gwladol (Tâl Cosb) (Cymru) 2001, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 27 Chwefror 2001.

I also propose that

Cynigiau hefyd fod

the National Assembly

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol

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 NHS (Penalty

yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau nad yw wedi nodi unrhyw fater sydd yn peri pryder o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 11.5 yn y Gorchymyn drafft, Rheoliadau'r Gwasanaeth

Charges) (Wales) Regulations 2001, laid in the Table Office on 6 March 2001;

approves that the Order is made in accordance with the draft laid in the Table Office on 27 February 2001.

The intended effect of this instrument is to introduce a system of penalty charges to deter evasion of NHS charges. Similar legislation is already in place in the other countries of the United Kingdom. The purpose of these regulations is to impose a civil penalty when a person wrongly fails to pay an NHS charge in respect of provision of drugs and medicine, dental treatment and appliances, optical services or any other appliances, or receiving payments towards the cost of an NHS charter service, to which he or she is not entitled, such as spectacle vouchers or free NHS sight tests.

These regulations provide for a penalty notice to be issued requiring the person to pay the amount he or she failed to pay, together with an additional penalty charge. The regulations set out the period in which these amounts must be paid and the information that the penalty notice must contain. It also details how the penalty charge payments amount is to be calculated. If the amount due under the penalty is not paid within the period required, a further sum, by way of a penalty charge, may be levied. If the regulations were not in force by 1 April 2001, Wales would be unable to deter evasion from NHS charges. We will be considering an appropriate publicity campaign to inform the public of the implications of these regulations before the system becomes operational on 1 April.

The powers enabling this instrument to be made, are contained in sections 122B (1), (2) and (4), 126(4) and 127(a) of the National Health Service Act 1977, transferred to the National Assembly under article 2 Schedule 1 of the National Assembly for Wales (Transfer of Functions) Order 1999.

The Assembly expects that the gross expenditure in Wales in 2000-01 for prescribed drugs and appliances will amount to more than £380 million, a figure equivalent to 13 per cent of the total estimated

Iechyd Gwladol (Tâl Cosb) (Cymru) 2001, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 6 Mawrth 2001;

yn cymeradwyo bod y Gorchymyn yn cael ei wneud yn unol â'r drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 27 Chwefror 2001.

Effaith fwriadedig yr offeryn hwn yw cyflwyno system o daliadau cosb i rwystro pobl rhag osgoi taliadau'r NHS. Mae deddfwriaeth debyg eisoes yng ngwledydd eraill y Deyrnas Unedig. Diben y rheoliadau hyn yw gosod cosb sifil pan fydd person yn methu â thalu tâl yr NHS ar gam mewn perthynas â darparu cyffuriau a meddyginiaeth, triniaeth ac offer deintyddol, gwasanaethau optegol neu unrhyw offer eraill, neu yn cael taliadau tuag at gost gwasanaeth siarter yr NHS, nad oes hawl ganddo neu ganddi iddo, megis talebau sbectol neu brawf llygaid yr NHS am ddim.

Caniatâ'r rheoliadau hyn i rybudd o gosb gael ei gyhoeddi yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i'r person dalu'r swm na thalodd, ynghyd â thâl cosb ychwanegol. Noda'r rheoliadau y cyfnod y bydd yn rhaid talu'r symiau hyn o'i fewn a'r wybodaeth sydd yn rhaid i'r rhybudd o gosb ei chynnwys. Rhydd fanylion hefyd ar y ffordd y cyfrifir swm y taliadau cosb. Os na thelir y swm dyledus o dan y gosb o fewn y cyfnod angenrheidiol, gellir codi swm arall, fel tâl cosb. Os na fydd y rheoliadau mewn grym erbyn 1 Ebrill 2001, ni allai Cymru rwystro pobl rhag osgoi talu taliadau'r NHS. Ystyriwn ymgyrch cyhoeddusrwydd briodol i hysbysu'r cyhoedd o oblygiadau'r rheoliadau hyn cyn gweithredu'r system ar 1 Ebrill.

Cynhwysir y pwerau ar gyfer y gorchymyn hwn yn adrannau 122B (1), (2) a (4), 126(4) a 127(a) Deddf Gwasanaeth Iechyd Gwladol 1977, a drosglwyddwyd i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol o dan erthygl 2 Atodlen 1 Gorchymyn Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru (Trosglwyddo Swyddogaethau) 1999.

Disgwylia'r Cynulliad y bydd cyfanswm y gwariant crynswth yng Nghymru yn 2000-01 ar gyffuriau ac offer a ragnodir yn fwy na £380 miliwn, ffigur sydd yn gyfwerth â 13 y cant o gyfanswm y gwariant amcangyfrifedig

expenditure on the national health service in Wales. We estimate that the net patient charge income will increase by approximately £2 million per year at 1999-2000 rates, as a direct result of introducing point of dispensing checks for prescriptions. That National Audit Office in Wales examined the arrangements in place in Wales for securing income from prescription charges. It found that 9 per cent of cases where an individual had claimed an exemption from prescription charges were on a prima facie basis and no entitlement existed. On that basis, the National Audit Office Wales estimated that the potential income forgone as a result of allowing exemption from prescription charges to individuals who do not meet relevant criteria is approximately £15 million per year.

The introduction of a penalty charge will coincide with the establishment of a new all-Wales anti-fraud unit, as part of the counter-fraud operational service structure in operation in England. Fraudulent claims leading to penalty charges are being treated as civil debts, although there is provision for criminal charges to be brought in extreme or persisting cases. There are no issues affecting the Assembly's obligation under community law or the Human Rights Act 1998 as regards this regulation.

Brian Hancock: First, I congratulate Brian on his first time at the lectern.

I am concerned about how this will be aimed. There are several databases available; perhaps we should get them to talk to each other. That could increase efficiency in terms of not only distributing medicines and other equipment and services, but using them effectively.

If you agree that central information technology system communications is a good idea and that it might achieve savings and efficiency of distribution, perhaps we should consider drawing such ideas together. What steps will you take to do so?

Alun Pugh: I will vote in favour of these regulations. Nobody would want to defend people who defraud the NHS or the

ar y gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol yng Nghymru. Amcangyfrifwn y bydd yr incwm taliadau cleifion clir yn codi tua £2 filiwn y flwyddyn yn ôl cyfraddau 1999-2000, o ganlyniad uniongyrchol i gyflwyno gwiriadau prescripsiynau wrth eu gweinyddu. Archwiliodd y Swyddfa Archwilio Genedlaethol yng Nghymru y trefniadau sydd ar waith yng Nghymru ar gyfer diogelu incwm o daliadau presgripsiwn. Canfu y gwnaethpwyd 9 y cant o'r achosion lle yr oedd unigolyn wedi honni bod ganddo hawl i gael ei eithrio rhag talu am bresgripsiwn ar sail prima facie ac nad oedd hawl ganddo. Ar y sail honno, amcangyfrifodd Swyddfa Archwilio Genedlaethol Cymru y collir tua £15 miliwn y flwyddyn o incwm posibl o ganlyniad i ganiatáu i unigolion, na fodlonant y meini prawf perthnasol, gael eu heithrio rhag talu am bresgripsiwn.

Cyflwynir y taliadau cosb ar yr un pryd ag y sefydlir uned gwrth-dwyll Cymru-gyfan newydd, fel rhan o strwythur gwasanaeth gweithredol gwrth-dwyll sydd ar waith yn Lloegr. Caiff ceisiadau twyllodrus fydd yn arwain at daliadau cosb eu trin fel dyledion sifil, er bod darpariaeth i ddwyn achos troseddol mewn achosion eithafol neu barhaus. Nid oes unrhyw faterion sydd yn effeithio ar ddyletswydd y Cynulliad o dan gyfraith gymunedol neu Ddeddf Hawliau Dynol 1998 o ran y rheoliad hwn.

Brian Hancock: Yn gyntaf, llongyfarchaf Brian ar ei ddatganiad cyntaf.

Pryderaf am y ffordd y caiff hyn ei dargedu. Mae nifer o gronfeydd data ar gael; efallai y dylem sicrhau eu bod yn siarad â'i gilydd. Gallai hynny wella effeithlonrwydd nid yn unig o ran dosbarthu meddyginiaeth ac offer a gwasanaethau eraill, ond hefyd o ran eu defnyddio'n effeithiol.

Os cytunwch fod cyfathrebu drwy system technoleg gwybodaeth ganolog yn syniad da ac y gallai arwain at arbedion a dosbarthu mwy effeithlon, efallai y dylem ystyried ddod â syniadau o'r fath at ei gilydd. Pa gamau a gymerwch i wneud hynny?

Alun Pugh: Pleidleisiaf o blaid y rheoliadau hyn. Ni fyddai neb am adddiffyn y bobl sydd yn twyllo'r NHS neu'r Adran Iechyd a

Department of Health and Social Security. However, a much larger sum is lost through people who cheat the Treasury of income and corporation tax. We are not talking about a couple of pounds here and there, but billions. We are talking about tax cheats who live in Belize and parasites who count their days in the UK before scuttling off to their tax havens and refuse to pay their whack towards the health service and schools. I hope that we will see a television campaign to shop tax dodgers soon because, while no-one likes paying tax and charges—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I do not mind the occasional reference to tax dodgers elsewhere but we are talking about penalty payments in the NHS.

Alun Pugh: While nobody likes paying tax and prescription charges, they are our contribution to the maintenance of a civilised society.

Geraint Davies: I declare an interest as a pharmacist. I would like Brian to examine a problem that arises when people fill in the rear of prescription forms incorrectly. Although it is obvious that the person is exempt—their date of birth may be on the front of the form—the pharmacist is penalised £6 for every item. That costs pharmacists thousands of pounds. I hope that Brian will look into this.

David Melding: I welcome these measures on behalf of the Welsh Conservative group. It is important to deter fraud. There is a positive message here that we will get extra revenue to fund a much-needed increase in the drugs budget and, especially, the innovations in pharmaceutical treatment. Many of them relate to rare conditions, where there is not a large market because there are few sufferers. Such people are sometimes denied access to medical advance. One way of ensuring that we spend our drugs budget well is to ensure that we have an effective system that gets the revenue that is due to us.

Brian Gibbons: Brian Hancock's point is

Nawdd Cymdeithasol. Fodd bynnag, collir llawer mwy o arian drwy bobl sydd yn twyllo'r Trysorlys o dreth incwm a threth gorfforaeth. Ni siaradwn am ychydig o bunnoedd yma ac acw, ond biliynau o bunnoedd. Siaradwn am y twyllwyr treth sydd yn byw yn Belize a'r parasitiaid sydd yn cyfrif eu diwrnodau yn y DU cyn mynd i'w hafanau trethi gan wrthod talu eu cyfraniad tuag at y gwasanaeth iechyd ac ysgolion. Gobeithiaf y gwelwn ymgyrch deledu i ddal pobl sydd yn osgoi talu trethi yn fuan oherwydd, er nad oes neb yn hoffi talu treth a thaliadau—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Nid oes gwahaniaeth gennyf am y cyfeiriadau achlysurol at y bobl sydd yn osgoi talu trethi mewn mannau eraill, ond am daliadau cosb yn yr NHS yr ydym yn siarad.

Alun Pugh: Er nad oes neb yn hoffi talu treth a thaliadau am bresgripsiynau, ein cyfraniad ni ydynt tuag at gynnal cymdeithas wâr.

Geraint Davies: Datganaf fuddiant fel fferyllydd. Hoffwn i Brian archwilio problem sydd yn codi pan fydd pobl yn llenwi cefn y ffurflenni presgripsiwn yn anghywir. Er ei bod yn amlwg bod y person wedi'i eithrio—mae'n bosibl bod eu dyddiad geni ar flaen y ffurflen—caiff y fferyllydd gosb o £6 yr eitem. Mae'n costio miloedd o bunnoedd i fferyllyddion. Gobeithiaf y bydd Brian yn ymchwilio i hyn.

David Melding: Croesawaf y mesurau hyn ar ran grwp Ceidwadwyr Cymru. Mae'n bwysig atal twyll. Ceir neges gadarnhaol yma y cawn refeniw ychwanegol i ariannu cynnydd sydd ei angen yn fawr yn y gyllideb gyffuriau ac, yn enwedig, y camau arloesol ym maes triniaeth fferyllol. Mae llawer ohonynt yn ymwneud â chlefydau prin, lle nad oes marchnad fawr oherwydd dim ond ychydig o bobl sydd yn dioddef ohonynt. Ni chaiff pobl o'r fath fanteisio ar ddatblygiadau meddygol newydd ar adegau. Un ffordd o sicrhau y gwariwn ein cyllideb gyffuriau yn dda yw sicrhau bod gennym system effeithiol sydd yn cael gafael ar yr arian sydd yn ddyledus inni.

Brian Gibbons: Mae pwynt Brian Hancock

true. We did not introduce these regulations earlier because of problems with getting the IT systems to speak to each other. The fact that we are bringing these regulations forward now means that we are on the verge of getting the various IT systems to speak to each other more effectively. There is still a long way to go to improve the clinical delivery of services through improved information technology. The NHS is starting down that road, but there is a long road ahead.

3:50 p.m.

On Alun Pugh's and David Melding's points, the money collected here goes back to the relevant health authorities, so it is not returned to the Treasury. Money collected through this scheme will go back into the health authorities and direct patient care. Geraint Davies made an important point, which I will discuss with Jane Hutt and I will try to get back to him on how that is being addressed.

yn wir. Ni chyflwynasom y rheoliadau hyn yn gynharach oherwydd problemau i sicrhau bod y systemau TG yn siarad â'i gilydd. Golyga'r ffaith ein bod yn cyflwyno'r rheoliadau hyn yn awr ein bod ar fin sicrhau bod y systemau TG gwahanol yn siarad â'i gilydd yn fwy effeithiol. Mae llawer i'w wneud eto i wella'r ffordd y cyflwynir gwasanaethau yn glinigol drwy dechnoleg gwybodaeth well. Mae'r NHS wedi dechrau gwneud hyn, ond mae ffordd bell i fynd.

Ynglyn â phwyntiau Alun Pugh a David Melding, aiff yr arian a gesglir yma yn ôl i'r awdurdodau iechyd perthnasol, ac felly nis dychwelir i'r Trysorlys. Aiff yr arian a gesglir drwy'r cynllun hwn i'r awdurdodau iechyd a gofal cleifion uniongyrchol. Gwnaeth Geraint Davies bwynt pwysig, a thrafodaf hynny â Jane Hutt a cheisiaf ddychwelyd ato i ddweud wrtho sut yr ymdrinnir ag ef.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I call for a vote on the principle of the Order.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Galwaf am bleidlais ar egwyddor y Gorchymyn.

*Cynnig: O blaid 44, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 44, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Ron
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Hart, Edwina

Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Ann
Law, Peter
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Richards, Rod
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Kirsty
Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion adopted.*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I call for a vote on the motion to approve the Order.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Galwaf am bleidlais ar y cynnig i gymeradwyo'r Gorchymyn.

*Cynnig: O blaid 43, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 43, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Ron
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Ann
Law, Peter
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne

Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Richards, Rod
 Ryder, Janet
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Wigley, Dafydd
 Williams, Kirsty
 Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion adopted.*

**Cymeradwyo Rheoliadau Cig (Hylendid ac Archwilio) (Ffioedd) (Diwygio)
 (Cymru) 2001**
**Approval of the Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) (Charges) (Amendment) (Wales)
 Regulations 2001**

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

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliant 1 yn enw William Graham a Glyn Davies.

The Deputy Minister for Health (Brian Gibbons): I propose that

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Iechyd (Brian Gibbons): Cynigiau fod

the National Assembly

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol

considers the principle of the Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) (Charges) (Wales) Regulations 2001, laid in the Table Office on 14 March 2001.

yn ystyried egwyddor Rheoliadau Cig (Hylendid ac Archwilio) (Ffioedd) (Cymru) 2001, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 14 Mawrth 2001.

I propose that

Cynigiau fod

the National Assembly

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol

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 Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) (Charges) (Wales) Regulations 2001, laid in the Table Office on 20 March 2001 and e-mailed to Members on 20 March 2001;

yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau nad yw wedi nodi unrhyw fater sy'n peri pryder o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 11.5 yn y Gorchymyn drafft, Rheoliadau Cig (Hylendid ac Archwilio) (Ffioedd) (Cymru) 2001, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 20 Mawrth 2001 ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau ar 20 Mawrth 2001;

approves that the Order is made in accordance with the draft laid in the Table Office on 14 March 2001.

yn cymeradwyo bod y Gorchymyn yn cael ei wneud yn unol â'r drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 14 Mawrth 2001.

You never propose any of these motions, and then suddenly three come along all at once. [*Laughter.*]

Nid ydych byth yn cynnig yr un o'r cynigion hyn, ac yna yn sydyn daw tri ar yr un pryd. [*Chwerthin.*]

The purpose of this Order is to consider the

Diben y Gorchymyn hwn yw ystyried

principle of the Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) (Charges) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2001. These regulations will introduce the new system for charging abattoirs and cutting plants for the supervision and inspection provided by the Meat Hygiene Service. We shall welcome the new system as it will reduce the burden of charges significantly on almost all small and medium-sized meat plants that form such a vital part of the rural economy in Wales. I hope that, having discussed the principles behind these regulations, the Assembly will then proceed to approve that the Order is made in accordance with the draft laid in the Table Office on 14 March 2001.

An amendment to the motion considering the principle of these regulations has been tabled. I therefore, ask the Assembly to reject this amendment and approve the motion as originally drafted. We cannot accept the amendment because it states that the current controls are unduly burdensome. There is always a balance to be struck between the cost to business and the protection of public health. Our BSE controls were examined and endorsed by the Phillips inquiry and the Food Standards Agency's review of BSE controls. There is no doubt that our strict BSE controls, which are rigorously enforced, have played a vital part in restoring confidence in Welsh and British beef and in maintaining confidence during the recent upsurge in BSE incidence in Europe.

It should be noted that when inspections were considered at the Health and Social Services and Agriculture and Rural Development Committees, there were no objections to the statement by Joy Whinney, who said that the level of regulation was appropriate. Therefore, it is slightly surprising that this amendment is before us today. Although, I ask you not to approve the amended motion, it is generally recognised that the meat inspection system is in need of modernisation. The earliest EU food hygiene rule covering red meat is now more than 35-years-old, and the European Commission has proposed to consolidate and simplify all food hygiene legislation, not only that which relates to meat. These proposals have been welcomed by the Food Standards Agency as an opportunity to provide an effective,

egwyddor Rheoliadau Cig (Hylendid ac Archwilio) (Ffioedd) (Cymru) 2001. Bydd y rheoliadau hyn yn cyflwyno'r system newydd o godi ffioedd ar ladd-dai a gweithfeydd torri ar gyfer y gwasanaethau goruchwylio ac archwilio a ddarperir gan y Gwasanaeth Hylendid Cig. Croesawn y system newydd gan y bydd yn lleihau baich y ffioedd yn sylweddol ar bron pob ffatri gig bach a chanolig eu maint a rheini yn rhan hanfodol o economi wledig Cymru. Gobeithiaf, ar ôl trafod egwyddorion y rheoliadau hyn, y bydd y Cynulliad wedyn yn mynd ymlaen i gymeradwyo bod y Gorchymyn yn cael ei wneud yn unol â'r drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 14 Mawrth 2001.

Cyflwynwyd gwelliant i'r cynnig sydd yn ystyried egwyddor y rheoliadau hyn. Felly gofynnaf i'r Cynulliad wrthod y gwelliant hwn a chymeradwyo'r cynnig fel y'i drafftiwyd yn wreiddiol. Ni allwn dderbyn y gwelliant am iddo nodi bod y rheolaethau cyfredol yn afresymol o feichus. Mae angen cydbwysedd bob amser rhwng y gost i fusnesau a diogelu iechyd cyhoeddus. Archwiliwyd ein rheolaethau BSE gan ymchwiliad Phillips ac adolygiad yr Asiantaeth Safonau Bwyd o reolaethau BSE ac fe'u cymeradwywyd. Nid oes amheuaeth bod ein rheolaethau BSE llym, a orfodwyd yn gadarn, wedi chwarae rhan holl bwysig wrth adfer hyder yng nghig Cymru a Phrydain a chynnal hyder yn ystod y cynnydd diweddar mewn achosion newydd o BSE yn Ewrop.

Dylid nodi nad oedd dim gwrthwynebiad i ddatganiad Joy Whinney, a ddywedodd fod lefel y rheoleiddio yn briodol pan ystyriwyd yr arolygiadau yn y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a'r Pwyllgor Amaethyddiaeth a Datblygu Gwledig. Felly synnaf braidd fod y gwelliant hwn ger ein bron heddiw. Er imi ofyn ichi beidio â chymeradwyo'r cynnig diwygiedig, mae cydnabyddiaeth gyffredinol bod angen moderneiddio'r system archwilio cig. Cyflwynodd yr UE ei reol hylendid bwyd gyntaf yn ymwneud â chig coch dros 35 mlynedd yn ôl, ac mae'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd wedi cynnig cryfhau a symleiddio'r holl ddeddfwriaeth sydd yn ymwneud â hylendid bwyd, ac nid y ddeddfwriaeth sydd yn ymwneud â chig yn unig. Croesawyd y cynigion hyn gan yr

proportionate and risk-based system of which I am sure William and Glyn would approve.

These regulations are based on the report of the meat industry red tape working group, chaired by Robin Pooley, which was established to address various issues of red tape in the meat inspection system. The group suggested that further work was needed on the issue of charges. As a result, the meat inspection charges taskforce was established in March 2000 under the chairmanship of Colin Maclean. The taskforce's main recommendation was that further consideration should be given to how charges are levied.

Because of the need to introduce these charges by 1 April 2001, the consultation period was short. In the initial consultation period there was a suggestion that some concern existed about the requirements for dealing with inefficiencies and the lack of an arbitration system. Further consultation took place, and while there was not complete unanimity, there was a high level of agreement with the proposals that are before the Assembly today.

These proposals will ensure, for example, that a small slaughterhouse with 100 livestock units throughput per year will see a reduction in charges from £3,500 to just £200. A slightly larger slaughterhouse with a throughput of 300 livestock units per year will see its charges drop from £2,500 to £1,000.

These regulations therefore address a major area of concern for the meat industry, including the charges that have been levied. The Government is directing extra money towards these particular charges and it is paying directly for the meat hygiene service, rather than plants having to pay the charges. The National Assembly for Wales has supplemented this help from the UK Government with an additional allocation of about £600,000.

Glyn Davies: I propose amendment 1 in the name of William Graham and myself. After '14 March 2001' add:

Asiantaeth Safonau Bwyd fel cyfle i ddarparu system effeithiol, gymesur ac un sydd yn seiliedig ar risg, a gâi ei chymeradwyo gan William a Glyn, mae'n siwr gennyf.

Mae'r rheoliadau hyn yn seiliedig ar adroddiad y gweithgor ar fiwrocratiaeth yn y diwydiant cig, o dan gadeiryddiaeth Robin Pooley, a sefydlwyd i fynd i'r afael ag amryw o faterion yn ymwneud â biwrocratiaeth yn y system archwilio cig. Awgrymodd y grwp fod angen gwneud gwaith pellach ar fater ffioedd. O ganlyniad, sefydlwyd y tasglu ffioedd archwilio cig ym mis Mawrth 2000 o dan gadeiryddiaeth Colin Maclean. Prif argymhelliad y tasglu oedd y dylid ystyried ymhellach sut y codir ffioedd.

Oherwydd bod angen cyflwyno'r ffioedd hyn erbyn 1 Ebrill 2001, yr oedd y cyfnod ymgynghorol yn fyr. Awgrymwyd yn y cyfnod ymgynghorol cyntaf fod rhywfaint o bryder ynglyn â'r gofynion ar gyfer ymdrin ag aneffeithlonrwydd a'r ffaith nad oedd system gyflafareddu. Ymgynghorwyd ymhellach, ac er nad oedd yn gwbl unfrydol, bu cryn gytundeb ynghylch y cynigion sydd gerbron y Cynulliad heddiw.

Bydd y cynigion hyn yn sicrhau, er enghraifft, y bydd y ffioedd a godir ar ladd-dy bach sydd yn ymdrin â 100 uned o anifeiliaid y flwyddyn yn gostwng o £3,500 i ychydig o dan £200. Bydd y ffioedd a godir ar ladd-dy ychydig yn fwy sydd yn ymdrin â 300 uned o anifeiliaid y flwyddyn yn gostwng o £2,500 i £1,000.

Felly mae'r rheoliadau hyn yn ymdrin â maes sydd wedi achosi cryn bryder i'r diwydiant cig, gan gynnwys y ffioedd a godwyd arno. Mae'r Llywodraeth yn cyfeirio arian ychwanegol i'r ffioedd penodol hyn ac yn talu am y gwasanaeth hylendid cig yn uniongyrchol, yn hytrach na gofyn i weithfeydd dalu'r ffioedd. Mae Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru wedi rhoi dyraniad ychwanegol o tua £600,000 ar ben y cymorth hwn gan Lywodraeth y DU.

Glyn Davies: Cynigiau welliant 1 yn fy enw i a William Graham. Ar ôl '14 Mawrth 2001' ychwaneger:

and calls upon the Government to bring forward proposals to end burdensome regulation on Wales's abattoirs and ensure progress toward a system of inspection proportionate to risk.

In general, the Welsh Conservatives support the principle of this motion. However, we have tabled an amendment that we hoped would attract the Government's support. I am disappointed that it will not support it as I sought to word the amendment as reasonably as possible and it has widespread support throughout much of rural Wales.

Like most people, I welcomed the conclusions of the Maclean report, in particular that we should move away from a charging system based on actual cost to a system based on throughput. Most people think that that is sensible. The Welsh Conservatives believed it to be sensible as it helps the smaller abattoir. The situation of smaller abattoirs has been highlighted as a result of the foot and mouth disease outbreak. It has become obvious to the whole country that there has been a great reduction in the number of small abattoirs. When Edward Hamer International Abattoir Limited in mid Wales was closed down because foot and mouth disease was confirmed there, we realised that a huge part of Wales did not have an abattoir, or not one of any significance. That is the problem that we face.

I am not making a political point about this. Over recent years, going back way beyond when the Labour Government came into power, we have seen an accelerated closure rate of small abattoirs. That is largely due to the introduction of European Union regulations. I accept that small abattoirs closed in part because of a natural movement towards larger units in every sector of the British economy. However, to a large extent, they closed because of the imposition of EU regulations. I also accept that the main purpose of those regulations is to support welfare and hygiene. However, we must have a balance.

I draw the Deputy Minister's attention to the need for balance and a law of unintended

ac yn galw ar y Llywodraeth i gyflwyno cynigion a fydd yn rhoi diwedd ar y rheolaeth feichus sydd ar ladd-dai Cymru ac yn sicrhau y symudir tuag at system archwilio sy'n gymesur â'r risg.

Yn gyffredinol mae Ceidwadwyr Cymru yn cefnogi egwyddor y cynnig hwn. Fodd bynnag, cyflwynwyd gwelliant gennym gan obeithio y byddai'r Llywodraeth yn ei gefnogi. Yr wyf yn siomedig na fydd yn ei gefnogi gan imi geisio geirio'r gwelliant mor rhesymol â phosib ac mae cefnogaeth eang iddo drwy rannau helaeth o Gymru wledig.

Fel y rhan fwyaf o bobl, croesawais gasgliadau adroddiad Maclean, yn enwedig yr argymhelliad y dylem symud oddi wrth system o godi ffioedd sydd yn seiliedig ar gost wirioneddol i system sydd yn seiliedig ar nifer yr anifeiliaid yr ymdrinnir â hwy. Cred y rhan fwyaf o bobl fod hynny'n synhwyrol. Credai Ceidwadwyr Cymru ei bod yn synhwyrol am ei fod yn helpu lladd-dai llai. Tynnwyd sylw i sefyllfa'r lladd-dai llai o ganlyniad i argyfwng clwy'r traed a'r genau. Mae'n amlwg i'r wlad gyfan bellach bod nifer y lladd-dai bach wedi gostwng yn sylweddol. Pan gaewyd Edward Hamer International Abattoir Limited yng Nghanolbarth Cymru ar ôl cadarnhad bod clwy'r traed a'r genau yno, sylweddol bod fod rhan helaeth o Gymru heb ladd-dy, neu nid un o unrhyw arwyddocâd. Dyna'r broblem a wynebwn.

Ni wnaif bwynt gwleidyddol am hyn. Yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf, ymhell cyn i'r Llywodraeth Lafur ddod i rym, gwelwyd lladd-dai bach yn cau'n gyflym. Digwyddodd hyn yn bennaf yn sgîl cyflwyno rheoliadau'r Undeb Ewropeaidd. Derbyniaf fod lladd-dai bach wedi cau fel rhan o symud naturiol tuag at unedau mwy ym mhob sector o economi Prydain. Fodd bynnag, fe'u caewyd, i raddau helaeth, yn sgîl gorfodi rheoliadau'r UE. Derbyniaf hefyd mai prif ddiben y rheoliadau hynny yw cynnal lles a hylendid. Fodd bynnag, rhaid inni gael cydbwysedd.

Tynnaf sylw'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog at yr angen am gydbwysedd ac ystyriaeth i

consequences. By going to the nth degree on some issues, we create massive issues in other areas that are not being addressed. For example, the Assembly recently approved new regulations on pithing. I could not challenge the regulations as they were right and sensible. However, there is no doubt that the introduction of those regulations again drives the demand to close down smaller abattoirs because of the extra cost entailed. I hope that the Deputy Minister will change his mind after hearing the logic of my comments, and that he asks his group to support my amendment.

4:00 p.m.

We need a strategy from the Government to recreate the small abattoir network that we have lost, or, at least, move some way towards recreating it. Everybody agrees on that. A strategy should be presented to the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee or to the Health and Social Services Committee. I hope that you will endorse that, change your mind and support my amendment.

Mick Bates: I fear that this amendment is another example of sloppy Welsh Conservative thinking. It does not specify which government to lobby. It talks about the closure of small abattoirs when it was the Conservative UK Government which, despite the industry's pleas to provide support, failed to listen. At this stage—

Alun Cairns *rose*—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The Member is not giving way.

Mick Bates: At this stage, how can we talk of burdensome regulations when public health is critical to re-establish the credibility of our industry in the face of this foot and mouth disease crisis? Regulations were introduced to protect public health at the time of the BSE crisis. Goodness knows what burdensome means anyway. Following the Pooley report and the Maclean report, this legislation implements the reduction in costs that we want to see. It is incredible that you cannot offer your full support to this

ganlyniadau nas bwriedir. Drwy or-fanylu ar rai materion, yr ydym yn creu problemau enfawr mewn meysydd eraill nad eir i'r afael â hwy. Er enghraifft, cymeradwywyd rheoliadau newydd ar bithio gan y Cynulliad yn ddiweddar. Ni allwn herio'r rheoliadau am eu bod yn briodol ac yn synhwyrol. Fodd bynnag, nid oes amheuaeth y bydd cyflwyno'r rheoliadau hynny eto yn cynyddu'r pwysau i gau lladd-dai llai oherwydd y gost ychwanegol. Gobeithiaf y bydd y Dirprwy Weinidog yn newid ei feddwl ar ôl clywed rhesymeg fy sylwadau, ac y bydd yn gofyn i'w grwp gefnogi fy ngwelliant.

Mae angen strategaeth gan y Llywodraeth arnom er mwyn ail-greu'r rhwydwaith o ladd-dai bach a gollwyd, neu, o leiaf gymryd camau tuag at ei ail-greu. Mae pawb yn gytûn ar hynny o beth. Dylid cyflwyno strategaeth i'r Pwyllgor Amaethyddiaeth a Datblygu Gwledig neu'r Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol. Gobeithiaf y gwnewch gymeradwyo hynny, newid eich meddwl a chefnogi fy ngwelliant.

Mike Bates: Ofnaf fod y gwelliant hwn yn enghraifft arall o feddwl blêr Ceidwadwyr Cymru. Ni noda pa lywodraeth y dylid ei lobio. Sonia am gau lladd-dai bach pan mai Llywodraeth Geidwadol y DU, er gwaethaf apelïadau'r diwydiant i roi cefnogaeth, oedd wedi methu â gwrando. Yn y sefyllfa sydd ohoni—

Alun Cairns *a gododd*—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Nid yw'r Aelod am ildio.

Mike Bates: Yn y sefyllfa sydd ohoni, sut y gallwn siarad am reoliadau beichus pan fo iechyd cyhoeddus yn hanfodol i adfer hygrededd ein diwydiant yn wyneb argyfwng clwy'r traed a'r genau? Cyflwynwyd rheoliadau i ddiogelu iechyd cyhoeddus ar adeg argyfwng BSE. Pwy a wyr beth yw ystyr beichus fodd bynnag. Yn dilyn adroddiad Pooley ac adroddiad Maclean, mae'r ddeddfwriaeth hon yn gweithredu'r gostyngiad mewn costau yr ydym am ei weld. Mae'n anhygoel na allwch roi eich

legislation. By accepting it, we are implementing the reduction of costs to abattoirs. I hope that we will go further and find ways of introducing more small abattoirs into areas where they are needed. This is a long-term commitment to the industry and I would like to hear from the Deputy Minister in his summing up that the money is a long-term commitment. The Tories shut the abattoirs, increased the costs and ignored the pleas. Now, we need to ensure that rural development proceeds on a broad base and, at the same time, we look after public health.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Croesawaf y rheoliadau hyn. Maent yn bwysig o ran lleihau'r costau enfawr ar ein lladd-dai bach, sydd wedi arwain at gau nifer o'r lladd-dai hynny. Gobeithiaf mai un o'r gwersi a ddysgwyd o'r argyfwng BSE, ond yn sicr o'r argyfwng presennol hwn o glwy'r traed a'r genau, yw bod yn rhaid atal yr arfer o gludo anifeiliaid dros bellter maith. Mae hynny'n creu problemau ac yn lledaenu afiechydon, fel clwy'r traed a'r genau.

Gobeithiaf mai dechrau yn unig yw hyn. Dyna pam yr wyf yn barod i gefnogi gwelliant Glyn Davies oherwydd bod yn rhaid gwneud llawer mwy, nid yn unig i ysgafnhau'r pwysau sydd ar ladd-dai bach ar hyn o bryd, ond i annog lladd-dai bach i ailagor a gwasanaethu ffermydd lleol. Gallwn wedyn ychwanegu gwerth at gynnyrch lleol drwy sicrhau ein bod yn marchnata cynnyrch a gynhyrchwyd yn y ffordd fwyaf diogel posibl. Hefyd, rhaid pwysleisio'r cysyniad o gynnyrch gwyrdd, glân, lleol a naturiol. Mae hynny'n allweddol er mwyn sicrhau bod y diwydiant amaethyddiaeth yn gallu ailsefydlu'i hunan wedi'r clwyf presennol hwn.

Croesawn y cynnig, yr ydym yn falch o'i gael, ond cam cyntaf ydyw. Anogwn y Llywodraeth i wneud llawer mwy i gefnogi'r lladd-dai bach hyn a'u gweld fel rhan ganolog o'i strategaeth ar gyfer y diwydiant amaethyddiaeth a'r economi wledig. Oherwydd hynny, cefnogwn welliant y Torïaid. Yr ydym yn falch gweld bod y Torïaid yn cefnogi lladd-dai bach. Ar ôl bod yn gyfrifol am eu cau, maent wedi gweld y goleuni. Croesawn bechaduriaid sydd yn

cefnogaeth lawn i'r ddeddfwriaeth hon. Drwy ei derbyn, yr ydym yn gweithredu'r cynnig i ostwng costau i ladd-dai. Gobeithiaf yr awn ymhellach a dod o hyd i ffyrdd o gyflwyno mwy o ladd-dai bach mewn ardaloedd lle y mae eu hangen. Mae hwn yn ymrwymiad tymor hir i'r diwydiant a hoffwn glywed gan y Dirprwy Weinidog wrth gloi fod yr arian yn ymrwymiad tymor hir. Caeodd y Torïaid y lladd-dai, cynyddasant y costau ac anwybyddu'r apeliadau. Bellach, mae angen inni sicrhau bod datblygu gwledig yn mynd rhagddo ar sail gyffredinol ac, ar yr un pryd, ein bod yn gofalu am iechedd cyhoeddus.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I welcome these regulations. They are important with regard to reducing the enormous costs on our small abattoirs' costs that have forced the closure of several of those abattoirs. I hope that one of the lessons learned not only from the BSE crisis, but, also from the present foot and mouth crisis is that we must ensure an end to the practice of transporting animals over great distances. It creates problems and spreads disease, such as foot and mouth disease.

I hope that this is just a start. That is why I am willing to support Glyn Davies's amendment. We must do a great deal more, not only to lessen the burden on small abattoirs, but also to encourage small abattoirs to reopen and serve local farms. We can then add value to local produce by ensuring that we market produce produced in the safest possible way. We must also emphasise the concept of produce that is green, clean, local and natural. That is vital to ensure that the agriculture industry can get back on its feet after this present disease.

We welcome the motion, we are pleased to have it, but it is a first step. We encourage the Government to do a great deal more to support these small abattoirs and to see them as a central part of its strategy for the agriculture industry and the rural economy. For that reason, we support the Tory amendment. We are pleased to see that they support small abattoirs. Having been responsible for closing them, they have seen the light. We welcome sinners who repent

edifarhau a gweld y goleuni fel Cristnogion da. Yr ydym yn llawen am hynny ac yn falch o gefnogi'ch gwelliant ar y sail hwnnw.

Alun Cairns: I did not intend to speak in this debate but I must respond to comments by Mick Bates and, I am sorry to say, Rhodri Glyn Thomas. I was outraged by their comments. When rural Wales is in crisis and after so many small abattoirs have closed, this is a positive step to try to prevent this sort of crisis happening again.

Mick Bates *rose*—

Alun Cairns: I will not give way, Mick. Abattoirs are businesses, many of which are small.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas *rose*—

Alun Cairns: I will give way shortly. The Minister for Economic Development, who praised his colleague Mick Bates and supported everything he said, is seeking to preside over an administration that is introducing an initiative to cut red tape, thereby following a Welsh Conservative initiative that was launched some time ago. How can the Minister for Economic Development reject this amendment, yet seek to introduce policies to cut red tape?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Gobeithiaf ichi sylwi imi ddweud ein bod yn barod i gefnogi'r gwelliant, oherwydd ein bod yn croesawu pechaduriaid sydd yn edifarhau. Yn anffodus, nid oedd eich geiriau yn edifeiriol. Yr ydych yn ymddangos yn bechadur hunangyfiawn. Nid oes dim byd gwaeth na phechadur hunangyfiawn. Ymddiheurwch am fod y Llywodraeth Doriaidd wedi cau y lladd-dai, nodwch eich bod wedi gweld y goleuni a'ch bod bellach yn eu cefnogi.

Alun Cairns: I am grateful to Rhodri Glyn Thomas for making those points but he is missing the mark. Up until 1997, many small abattoirs were unfortunately closed only because the Conservative Government was forced to implement European policy with which the Labour Party and more so the Liberal Democrats are so obsessed. If they were given the opportunity, they would sign

and see the light like good Christians. We are happy about that and are pleased to support their amendment on that basis.

Alun Cairns: Ni fwriedais siarad yn y ddadl hon, ond rhaid imi ymateb i sylwadau Mike Bates, ac, mae'n ddrwg gennyf ddweud, Rhodri Glyn Thomas. Fe'm gwylltiwyd gan eu sylwadau. Pan fo Cymru wledig mewn argyfwng ac ar ôl i gymaint o ladd-dai bach gau, mae hwn yn gam cadarnhaol tuag at geisio atal argyfwng o'r fath rhag digwydd eto.

Mick Bates *a gododd*—

Alun Cairns: Nid ildiaf, Mick. Busnesau yw lladd-dai, ac mae llawer ohonynt yn fach.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas *a gododd*—

Alun Cairns: Ildiaf yn y man. Mae'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd, a fu'n canmol ei gyd-Aelod Mick Bates ac yn cefnogi popeth a ddywedodd, yn ceisio bod yn ben ar weinyddiaeth sydd yn cyflwyno menter i ddileu biwrocratiaeth, ac felly yn dilyn menter gan Geidwadwyr Cymru a lansiwyd beth amser yn ôl. Sut y gall y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd wrthod y gwelliant hwn, ac eto geisio cyflwyno polisiau i ddileu biwrocratiaeth?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I hope you noticed that I said that we are willing to support the amendment, because we welcome sinners who repent. Unfortunately, your words were not repentant. You appear to be a self-righteous sinner. There is nothing worse than a self-righteous sinner. Apologise for the Conservative Government's closure of the abattoirs, let it be known that you have seen the light and that you now support them.

Alun Cairns: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i Rhodri Glyn Thomas am wneud y sylwadau hynny ond mae'n colli'r pwynt. Hyd at 1997, yn anffodus caewyd lladd-dai bach am fod yn rhaid i'r Llywodraeth Geidwadol weithredu polisi Ewropeaidd y mae'r Blaid Lafur a'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, yn fwy byth, yn gwirioni arno gymaint. Pe bai'r cyfle ganddynt, byddent yn ymuno ag Ewrop

up to a federal Europe in which we would be forced to implement all European regulations in this regard. I ask the nationalists and the Liberal Democrats to reconsider what they said and to support this positive policy, which will make a difference to small abattoirs and small businesses in Wales.

The Deputy Minister for Health (Brian Gibbons): The arguments put forward in support of the amendment have not been convincing. The set of regulations that we have were approved by the Phillips report and the Food Standards Agency. If we were to accept the line of argument taken by Glyn and, to an extent, Rhodri Glyn in supporting the amendment, we would be saying that the Food Standards Agency's perceptions and decisions regarding food safety were incorrect. I do not think that any Member would make that case. As I said in my opening contribution, Glyn, in particular, had the opportunity when the Health and Social Services Committee and the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee met Joy Whinney, Director for Wales, Food Standards Agency, to discuss the Phillips report. You had the opportunity to question her on the Food Standards Agency's attitude towards regulation in this area. You both failed dismally to raise any concern. You were asked if you wanted to raise a concern and you failed to do so.

Alun Cairns: Will the Deputy Minister for Health agree that circumstances have changed since that joint-Committee meeting because of the outbreak of foot and mouth disease?

Brian Gibbons: The outbreak of foot and mouth disease emphasises the importance of having strong and proper regulation to maintain public confidence. If we had deregulation along the lines that you suggest and then had an outbreak of foot and mouth disease, it would completely undermine the credibility of our food safety standards. The fact that we have been consistent argues against your case rather than for it.

The case was made about burdensome regulations. As I said, we recognise that while we need to maintain rigorous standards—and nobody is arguing that we

ffederal lle y byddai'n rhaid inni weithredu pob un o'r rheoliadau Ewropeaidd yn hynny o beth. Gofynnaf i'r cenedlaetholwyr a'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol ailystyried beth a ddywedant a chefnogi'r polisi cadarnhaol hwn, a fydd yn gwneud gwahaniaeth i ladd-dai bach a busnesau bach yng Nghymru.

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Iechyd (Brian Gibbons): Ni fu'r dadleuon a gyflwynwyd o blaid y gwelliant yn argyhoeddi. Cymeradwywyd y rheoliadau sydd gennym gan adroddiad Phillips a'r Asiantaeth Safonau Bwyd. Pe baem yn derbyn dadl Glyn, a Rhodri Glyn, i raddau, wrth iddo gefnogi'r gwelliant, byddem yn dweud bod amgyffrediad a phenderfyniadau'r Asiantaeth Safonau Bwyd o ran diogelwch bwyd yn anghywir. Ni chredaf y byddai'r Aelod yn dadlau dros hynny. Fel y dywedais yn fy nghyfraniad agoriadol, cafodd Glyn, yn arbennig, gyfle i drafod adroddiad Phillips pan gyfarfu'r Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a'r Pwyllgor Amaethyddiaeth a Materion Gwledig â Joy Whinney, Cyfarwyddwraig Cymru, yr Asiantaeth Safonau Bwyd. Cawsoch gyfle i'w holi ar agwedd yr Asiantaeth Safonau Bwyd at reoleiddio yn y maes hwn. Methodd y ddau ohonoch yn druenus â chodi yr un pryder. Gofynnwyd ichi a oeddech am godi pryder ond ni wnaethoch hynny.

Alun Cairns: A wnaiff y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Iechyd gytuno bod amgylchiadau wedi newid ers cyfarfod y cyd-Bwyllgor hwnnw oherwydd argyfwng clwy'r traed a'r genau.

Brian Gibbons: Mae argyfwng clwy'r traed a'r genau yn pwysleisio pa mor bwysig yw rheoleiddio cryf a phriodol i gadw hyder y cyhoedd. Pe baem wedi dadreoleiddio fel yr awgrymwch ac yna wedi dioddef argyfwng clwy'r traed a'r genau, byddai'n tanseilio hygrdedd ein safonau diogelwch bwyd yn llwyr. Mae'r ffaith inni fod yn gyson yn ddadl yn erbyn eich achos chi yn hytrach nac o'i blaid.

Rhoddyd dadl gerbron ynghylch rheoliadau beichus. Fel y dywedais, cydnabyddwn er bod angen inni gynnal safonau cadarn—ac nid oes unrhyw un yn dadlau bod gennym

have the perfect system at the moment—

system berffaith ar hyn o bryd—

Glyn Davies: I am interested in your comments. You are not arguing that it is a perfect system. That was my opinion also. I simply raised the possibility that we could consider the regulations and simplify them so that we could help our small abattoirs. You tried to rubbish my point and now you seem to admit it in your comments.

Glyn Davies: Yr wyf yn ymddiddori yn eich sylwadau. Nid ydych yn dadlau ei bod yn berffaith. Dyna fy marn innau. Dim ond codi'r posibilrwydd y gallwn ystyried y rheoliadau a'u symleiddio er mwyn helpu ein lladd-dai bach a wneuthum. Ceisiasoch fychanu fy mhwynt ond bellach ymddengys eich bod yn ei gydnabod yn eich sylwadau.

4:10 p.m.

Brian Gibbons: If your amendment 1 stated 'imperfect regulations' you may have had a case, but, your amendment specifically states, 'burdensome'. That is the issue. As someone said, if you had drafted a more accurate amendment, we might be able to deal with it. However, you specifically stated 'burdensome' and in the present context that is incorrect. Moving towards the hazard analysis at critical control points changes could create an improved situation. However, these regulations will not lead to any diminution of the vigour with which food safety measures are enforced. It will be a new and different way of doing it. We have no grounds for supporting your amendment 1. I urge you to support the regulations as they stand.

Brian Gibbons: Pe bai eich gwelliant 1 wedi nodi 'rheoliadau diffygiol', efallai y byddai dadl gennych, ond, nodir 'beichus' yn benodol yn eich gwelliant. Dyna graidd y mater. Fel y dywedodd rhywun, pe baech wedi drafftio gwelliant cywirach, efallai y gallem fod wedi ei drafod. Fodd bynnag, nodasoch 'beichus' yn benodol, ac yn y cyddestun presennol mae hynny'n anghywir. Gellid gwella'r sefyllfa o bosibl drwy symud tuag at ddadansoddiad o beryglon o ran newidiadau wrth fannau rheoli allweddol. Fodd bynnag, ni fydd y rheoliadau hyn yn arwain at wanhau'r ffordd y gorfodir mesurau diogelwch bwyd mewn unrhyw fodd. Bydd yn ffordd newydd a gwahanol o wneud hynny. Nid oes gennym unrhyw sail dros gefnogi eich gwelliant 1. Fe'ch anogaf i gefnogi'r rheoliadau fel y maent yn sefyll.

Gwelliant 1: O blaid 12, Ymatal 3, Yn erbyn 28.

Amendment 1: For 12, Abstain 3, Against 28.

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

Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun
Davies, Glyn
Graham, William
Jarman, Pauline
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Richards, Rod
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Phil

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Ron
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hart, Edwina
Jones, Ann
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw

Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Williams, Kirsty

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Davies, Jocelyn
Hancock, Brian
Davies, Geraint

Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment rejected.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I call for a vote on the principle of the Order. **Y Dirprwy Lywydd:** Galwaf am bleidlais ar egwyddor y Gorchymyn.

Cynnig: O blaid 43, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.

Motion: For 43, Abstain 0, Against 0.

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Ron
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
Feld, Val
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Ann
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny

Richards, Rod
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty
Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion adopted.*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I call for a vote on the motion to approve the Order. **Y Dirprwy Lywydd:** Galwaf ar bleidlais ar y cynnig i gymeradwyo'r Gorchymyn.

*Cynnig: O blaid 42, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 1.
Motion: For 42, Abstain 0, Against 1.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Ron
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Ann
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Richards, Rod
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty
Williams, Phil

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelod canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Member voted against:

Randerson, Jenny

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion adopted.*

**Cymeradwyo Gorchymyn Llywodraeth Leol (Dangosyddion Perfformiad
Gwerth Gorau) (Cymru) 2001**
**Approval of the Local Government (Best Value Performance Indicators) (Wales)
Order 2001**

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

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliant 1 yn enw William Graham.

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

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

the National Assembly

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol

considers the principle of the Local Government (Best Value Performance Indicators) (Wales) Order 2001, laid in the Table Office on 14 March 2001.

yn ystyried egwyddor Gorchymyn Llywodraeth Leol (Dangosyddion Perfformiad Gwerth Gorau) (Cymru) 2001, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 14 Mawrth 2001.

I propose that

Cynigiau fod

the National Assembly

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol

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 Local Government (Best Value Performance Indicators) (Wales) Order 2001, laid in the Table Office on 20 March 2001 and e-mailed to Members on 20 March 2001;

yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau nad yw wedi nodi unrhyw fater sy'n peri pryder o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 11.5 yn y Gorchymyn drafft, Gorchymyn Llywodraeth Leol (Dangosyddion Perfformiad Gwerth Gorau) (Cymru) 2001, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 20 Mawrth 2001 ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau ar 20 Mawrth 2001;

approves that the Order is made in accordance with the draft laid in the Table Office on 14 March 2001 and the Memorandum of Corrections laid in the Table Office on 20 March 2001.

yn cymeradwyo bod y Gorchymyn yn cael ei wneud yn unol â'r drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 14 Mawrth 2001 a'r Memorandwm Cywiriadau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 20 Mawrth 2001.

This is an important motion in that it shows again the new relationship that exists in Wales between the Assembly and local government. Under Best Value, authorities report past performance and set targets for the future year against performance indicators. They then publish this information in their Best Value performance plans. The performance indicators help us to assess quality and improvement in the services provided. They also give us a basis for comparison with similar authorities throughout Wales.

Mae hwn yn gynnig pwysig am ei fod yn dangos unwaith eto y berthynas newydd sydd yn bodoli yng Nghymru rhwng y Cynulliad a llywodraeth leol. O dan Werth Gorau, mae awdurdodau yn nodi eu perfformiad yn y gorffennol ac yn gosod targedau ar gyfer y dyfodol yn erbyn dangosyddion perfformiad. Yna maent yn cyhoeddi'r wybodaeth hon yn eu cynlluniau perfformiad Gwerth Gorau. Mae'r dangosyddion perfformiad yn ein helpu i asesu ansawdd y gwasanaethau a ddarperir a'r gwelliannau iddynt. Maent hefyd yn rhoi sail dros gymharu awdurdodau cyffelyb ledled Cymru.

This Order will replace the Local Government (Best Value Performance Indicators) (Wales) Order 2000, which set indicators for the year 2000-01. At that time, the Assembly committed itself to reviewing performance indicators in Wales. The 2000-01 performance indicators were set for Wales by two organisations, namely the National Assembly and the Audit Commission. This duplication did not help anyone, least of all local government.

We have done what we were charged to do. The process has been streamlined. The Audit Commission will still have the vital role of assessing cost effectiveness and efficiency, but we will set the performance indicators. We want them to improve the delivery of services, not just to become another bureaucratic burden for local authorities. I must stress that this is why we have streamlined the number of indicators. In 2000 there were 172 indicators. The Order for 2001 specifies 86, which includes 12 non-devolved functions. This means that the process will be more focused, more efficient and less of a burden for all concerned.

This motion is the result of a wide-ranging consultation that showed strong support for a single set of indicators put in place by the National Assembly. This we have done. During the consultation there was a concerted campaign for two areas to be included in the Order: training standards enforcement and public rights of way. Indicators covering these service areas have been included in direct response to these arguments.

The performance indicators in this motion will not necessarily be the only ones that a local authority will use. Good local management will mean that additional indicators appropriate to local circumstances will often be put in place. That is how it should be. However, the performance indicators included in the motion mean that the Assembly will have a better means of comparing and contrasting services throughout Wales.

Cyflwynir y Gorchymyn hwn yn lle Gorchymyn Llywodraeth Leol (Dangosyddion Perfformiad Gwerth Gorau) (Cymru) 2000, a osododd ddangosyddion ar gyfer 2000-01. Bryd hynny, ymrwymodd y Cynulliad i adolygu dangosyddion perfformiad yng Nghymru. Pennwyd dangosyddion perfformiad Cymru ar gyfer 2000-01 gan ddau sefydliad, sef y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol a'r Comisiwn Archwilio. Nid oedd y dyblygu hwn o fudd i unrhyw un, yn enwedig llywodraeth leol.

Yr ydym wedi gwneud yr hyn y gofynnwyd inni ei wneud. Symleiddwyd y broses. Bydd rôl holl bwysig i'r Comisiwn Archwilio o hyd o ran asesu cost effeithiolrwydd ac effeithlonrwydd, ond y Cynulliad fydd yn pennu'r dangosyddion perfformiad. Yr ydym am iddynt wella'r ffordd y caiff gwasanaethau eu darparu, nid dod yn faich fiwrocataidd arall ar awdurdodau lleol. Rhaid imi bwysleisio mai dyna'r rheswm inni leihau nifer y dangosyddion. Yn 2000 cafwyd 172 o ddangosyddion. Nodir 86 yn y Gorchymyn ar gyfer 2001, sydd yn cynnwys 12 o swyddogaethau nas datganolwyd. Golyga hynny y bydd mwy o ffocws i'r broses ac y bydd yn fwy effeithlon ac yn llai o faich ar bawb dan sylw.

Mae'r cynnig hwn yn deillio o ymgynghoriad eang a ddangosodd fod cefnogaeth gref dros sefydlu un set o ddangosyddion wedi eu pennu gan y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Hyn a wnaethom. Yn ystod yr ymgynghoriad, bu ymgyrch daer dros gynnwys dau faes yn y Gorchymyn: gorfodi safonau hyfforddiant a hawliau tramwy. Cynhwyswyd dangosyddion sydd yn cwmpasu'r gwasanaethau hyn yn ymateb uniongyrchol i'r dadleuon hyn.

Nid dangosyddion perfformiad y cynnig hwn fydd yr unig rai a ddefnyddir gan lywodraeth leol o reidrwydd. Bydd rheoli lleol da yn golygu y caiff dangosyddion ychwanegol sydd yn briodol i amgylchiadau lleol yn aml eu rhoi ar waith. Dyna sut y dylai fod. Fodd bynnag, mae'r dangosyddion perfformiad yn y cynnig yn golygu y bydd gan y Cynulliad well ffordd o gymharu a gwrthgyferbynnu gwasanaethau ledled Cymru.

Comments on the wording of the indicators were considered when drafting the Order, and will be considered in the accompanying statutory guidance that will be issued soon.

The Local Government and Housing Committee met on 28 February, and cross-party agreement was given to the streamlining, and to the inclusion of the two previously mentioned indicators.

We all want stability but we will still need to assess the indicators each year so that they are sensitive to Wales's needs. For example, various projects are currently being undertaken by equality organisations in Wales and the findings of that work may be incorporated into the set of performance indicators for 2002-03. This Order shows how the partnership between the Assembly and its key partner organisations can work together to develop policy that reflects Welsh circumstances.

William Graham has tabled an amendment to today's motion. Its practical effect would be to reduce the number of best value indicators to a level that would render them absolutely meaningless. That is not the wish of the administration here, or of the Welsh Local Government Association.

This Assembly Government always learns from experience. We implemented a set of indicators last year and we learned from that. We worked with our partners to take the framework forward. There is a wide consensus that this set of indicators is fit for its purpose. We will continue to learn from experience, and in due course we will propose, with our partners, further changes, if necessary.

The amendment represents the Tory way of doing things, William. You never learn from experience, you always know the answer before you ask the question, and you will never understand our partnership arrangement. I ask everybody to reject William's amendment.

William Graham: I propose amendment 1. Place all the text of the motion after

Ystyriwyd y sylwadau ar eiriad y dangosyddion wrth ddrafftio'r Gorchymyn, a chânt eu hystyried yn y canllawiau statudol cysylltiedig a gyhoeddir cyn bo hir.

Cyfarfu'r Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Thai ar 28 Chwefror, a chafwyd cytundeb trawsbleidiol ar symleiddio, ac ar gynnwys y ddau ddangosydd y cyfeiriwyd atynt yn gynharach.

Yr ydym oll am gael sefydlogrwydd ond bydd angen inni asesu'r dangosyddion bob blwyddyn o hyd er mwyn sicrhau eu bod yn sensitif i anghenion Cymru. Er enghraifft, ymgymerir ag amryw o brosiectau ar hyn o bryd gan sefydliadau cydraddoldeb yng Nghymru ac mae'n bosibl y caiff canfyddiadau'r gwaith hwnnw eu hymgorffori yn y dangosyddion perfformiad ar gyfer 2002-03. Dengys y Gorchymyn hwn sut y gall y Cynulliad a'i sefydliadau partner allweddol gydweithio i ddatblygu polisi sydd yn adlewyrchu amgylchiadau yng Nghymru.

Cyflwynodd William Graham welliant i'r cynnig heddiw. Gostwng nifer y dangosyddion gwerth gorau i lefel lle y byddant yn gwbl ddiystyr fyddai effaith ymarferol y cynnig hwnnw. Nid dyna ddymuniad y weinyddiaeth yma, na dymuniad Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru.

Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad bob amser yn dysgu o brofiad. Gweithredwyd set o ddangosyddion gennym y llynedd a dysgasom oddi wrth hynny. Cydweithiasom â'n partneriaid i ddatblygu'r fframwaith. Mae cytundeb cyffredinol bod y set hon o ddangosyddion yn addas at eu diben. Parhawn i ddysgu o brofiad, a maes o law, cynigiwn newidiadau pellach, ar y cyd â'n partneriaid, lle y bo angen.

Mae'r gwelliant yn cynrychioli'r ffordd Doriaidd o wneud pethau, William. Nid ydych yn dysgu o brofiad byth, yr ydych bob amser yn gwybod yr ateb cyn ichi ofyn y cwestiwn, ac ni fyddwch byth yn deall ein cytundeb partneriaeth. Gofynnaf i bawb wrthod gwelliant William.

William Graham: Cynigiau welliant 1. Rhoi'r holl destun yn y cynnig ar ôl

'National Assembly' into a clause, then add a second clause that reads:

welcomes the reduction in statutory indicators from 172 in 2000-01 to 84 in 2001-02, and seeks a commitment from this Assembly to pursue further reductions of this magnitude in 2002-03.

The Welsh Conservatives broadly welcome the Minister's commitment this afternoon to reduce the number of these indicators. One of the major flaws in the scheme was exposed by the Audit Commission last October. It reported on the 22 unitary authorities and three national parks in Wales, and the commission qualified 28 per cent of these 25 reports because they had significant concerns about their failure to meet statutory requirements.

The Audit Commission, in its latest report, which was published this month, expressed concern in the

'significant variation in performance in authorities'

and that the

'worst performing authorities will need to accelerate their efforts if they are to achieve step change.'

It also states that:

'the experience of the Best Value Inspection Service to date reinforces the concerns that overall, review programmes in Wales are behind schedule, with many authorities focusing their review efforts on the process, rather than on outcomes.'

Once again the ratepayer is being done down. It is a well-intended idea that is distorted into an instrument of bureaucracy, inspection and central control, instead of sensible guidelines on outsourcing and efficiency. In other words it means more tick-boxes and audits, which have already contributed to a huge increase in paperwork, red tape, statutory plans and politically-correct procedures, with controls cascading down from local government. In 1997, 4 per cent of total central support came in the form of specific grants. By 2001, this has risen to 10 per cent. Local government studies show that compulsory competitive tendering has led to average savings of 7 per cent, with average savings of only 2 per cent

'Cynulliad Cenedlaethol' mewn cymal, ac ychwanegu ail gymal fel a ganlyn:

yn croesawu'r lleihad mewn dangosyddion statudol o 172 yn 2000-01 i 84 yn 2001-02, ac yn gofyn am ymrwymiad gan y Cynulliad hwn i geisio cymaint â hyn o leihad eto yn 2002-03.

Yn gyffredinol mae Ceidwadwyr Cymru yn croesawu ymrwymiad y Gweinidog y prynhawn yma i leihau nifer y dangosyddion hyn. Amlygwyd un o brif ddiffygion y cynllun gan y Comisiwn Archwilio fis Hydref diwethaf. Cyflwynodd adroddiadau ar y 22 o awdurdodau unedol a'r tri pharc cenedlaethol yng Nghymru. Rhoddodd y Comisiwn farn amodol ar 28 y cant o'r 25 adroddiad hyn am fod ganddo bryderon mawr ynglyn â'u methiant i gyflawni'r gofynion statudol.

Mynegwyd pryder mawr gan y Comisiwn Archwilio yn ei adroddiad diweddaraf, a gyhoeddwyd y mis hwn, ynghylch

ac y bydd y

Noda hefyd fod:

Unwaith eto mae'r trethdalwr ar ei golled. Mae'n syniad clodwiw a aflunnir yn offeryn o fiwrocratiaeth, arolygiaeth a rheolaeth ganolog, yn hytrach na chanllawiau synhwyrol ar gontractio allanol ac effeithlonrwydd. Hynny yw mae'n golygu rhagor o flychau ticio ac archwiliadau, sydd eisoes wedi cyfrannu at gynnydd enfawr o ran gwaith papur, biwrocratiaeth, cynlluniau statudol a gweithdrefnau gwleidyddol-gywir, a rheolaethau yn rhaeadru o lywodraeth leol. Yn 1997, daeth 4 y cant o gyfanswm y cymorth canolog drwy grantiau penodol. Erbyn 2001, mae hyn wedi cynyddu i 10 y cant. Dengys astudiaethau llywodraeth leol fod tendro cystadleuol gorfodol wedi arwain

from Best Value. In January 2000, the Audit Commission published a consultation paper estimating that Best Value audit and inspection fees will cost councils in England and Wales a total of £56 million. Under Best Value, there are no general compulsory competitive tendering requirements for councils.

at arbedion o 7 y cant ar gyfartaledd. Dim ond arbedion o 2 y cant ar gyfartaledd a gafwyd drwy Werth Gorau. Ym mis Ionawr 2000, cyhoeddodd y Comisiwn Archwilio bapur ymgynghorol a oedd yn amcangyfrif y bydd y ffioedd ar gyfer archwiliadau Gwerth Gorau ac arolygiadau yn costio cyfanswm o £56 miliwn i gynghorau yng Nghymru a Lloegr. O dan Werth Gorau, nid oes unrhyw ofynion tendro cystadleuol gorfodol ar gynghorau.

4:20 p.m.

I note the comments of David Jenkins, the General Secretary of Wales TUC. He believes that 'better value Wales' appears to be

Nodaf sylwadau David Jenkins, Ysgrifenydd Cyffredinol TUC Cymru. Yn ei farn ef, ymddengys fod 'Cymru gwerth gwell' yn

'an attempt to quietly sneak something through without a proper debate'.

I would ask where has David Jenkins been since May 1999?

Hoffwn ofyn ble mae David Jenkins wedi bod ers Mai 1999?

You will recall that Peter Law has said, on several occasions, that the council tax burden on his constituents is so high because Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council runs the local theatre and training centre. If those services had been offered out to tender, the overall council tax burden would perhaps have been reduced. I draw your attention, Peter, to Torfaen County Borough Council, which released the Congress Theatre at Cwmbran into the care of a theatre trust, which continues to attract local, national and international artists, financed almost entirely by ticket sales. Many other services would continue to deliver effectively, if freed from local authority control. Many local authority services would also continue to deliver effectively if freed from bureaucratic regulations and Best Value performance indicators. That is why the Assembly must commit to a further reduction of these indicators for the next financial year.

Fe gofiwch i Peter Law ddweud, ar sawl achlysur, fod baich y dreth gyngor ar ei etholwyr mor uchel am fod Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent yn rhedeg y theatr a'r ganolfan hyfforddiant leol. Pe bai'r gwasanaethau hynny wedi eu rhoi i dendr, efallai y gellid bod wedi gostwng baich y dreth gyngor. Tynnaf eich sylw, Peter, at Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Tor-faen, a ryddhaodd Theatr Congress yng Nghwmbân i ofal ymddiriedolaeth theatr, sydd yn parhau i ddenu artistiaid lleol, cenedlaethol a rhyngwladol, wedi ei hariannu'n gyfan gwbl bron drwy werthu tocynnau. Byddai llawer o wasanaethau eraill yn parhau i ddarparu'n effeithiol, pe baent yn rhydd o reolaeth yr awdurdod lleol. Byddai llawer o wasanaethau awdurdodau lleol hefyd yn parhau i ddarparu'n effeithiol pe baent yn rhydd o reoliadau biwrocraidaidd a dangosyddion perfformiad Gwerth Gorau. Dyna pam bod yn rhaid i'r Cynulliad ymrwymo i leihau nifer y dangosyddion hyn ymhellach ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol nesaf.

Peter Black: The Liberal Democrats fully support the proposal to reduce the number of Best Value performance indicators for several reasons. First, it removes several indicators that, important as they were, did not add value to the evaluation of a local

Peter Black: Mae'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn rhoi cefnogaeth lawn i'r cynnig i leihau nifer y dangosyddion perfformiad Gwerth Gorau am nifer o resymau. Yn gyntaf, mae'n dileu nifer o ddangosyddion, nad oeddent, er eu bod yn

council's performance by the public or by politicians. Secondly, it reduces the burden on local councils in terms of the collection and publication of information and allows them to focus on their own performance and how it is enhancing the quality of life of their citizens. Thirdly, the proposal encourages local authorities to think in a cross-cutting way about the services that they are providing. This will support their new community planning responsibilities. Fourthly, the smaller number of indicators will enable councillors and the public to have a clearer view of progress being made. Finally, together with the development of local performance indicators, these changes will aid the development of policy agreements based on outcomes and enable the Assembly and local councils to work in partnership to improve services.

William Graham's amendment 1 is, of course, very much tongue-in-cheek. No matter how much the Tories detest Best Value, they would not wish us to reduce the number of indicators next year to minus 4, which is the actual effect of the amendment. After all, it was the previous Conservative Government that first oversaw a huge increase in the number of indicators published by local councils, and introduced the requirement to publish them in local newspapers. The Local Government Act 1992 introduced 77 main indicators, comprising 202 secondary indicators, which were a huge burden on local councils and which we are in the process of putting right with this Order. The increase introduced new burdens on councils without any real focus on the quality of services or their improvement and which, with compulsory competitive tendering, added significant and artificial costs to the administration of the regime.

The previous Government's obsession with compulsory competitive tendering, taken with the squeeze exerted on local government finance, saw an emphasis on cost, while the quality of services declined. Smaller class sizes, crumbling schools and cuts in home-help provision were accompanied by less frequent grasscutting, backlogs of council

bwysig, yn ychwanegu gwerth i werthusiad perfformiad cyngor lleol gan y cyhoedd na'r gwleidyddion. Yn ail, mae'n gostwng y baich ar gynghorau lleol o ran casglu a chyhoeddi gwybodaeth ac yn rhoi cyfle iddynt ganolbwyntio ar eu perfformiad eu hunain a sut y mae'n gwella ansawdd bywyd eu dinasyddion. Yn drydydd, mae'r cynnig yn annog awdurdodau lleol i feddwl mewn ffordd drawsbynciol am y gwasanaethau a ddarperir ganddynt. Bydd hyn yn ategu eu cyfrifoldebau cynllunio cymunedol newydd. Yn bedwerydd, bydd llai o ddangosyddion yn galluogi'r cynghorwyr a'r cyhoedd i gael gwell darlun o'r cynnydd a wneir. Yn olaf, yn ogystal â datblygu dangosyddion perfformiad lleol, bydd y newidiadau hyn yn helpu i ddatblygu cytundebau polisi sydd yn seiliedig ar ganlyniadau ac yn galluogi'r Cynulliad a'r cynghorau lleol i weithio mewn partneriaeth i wella gwasanaethau.

Mae gwelliant 1 William Graham yn un cellweirus, wrth gwrs. Ni waeth faint y mae'r Toriaid yn casáu Gwerth Gorau, ni fyddent am inni leihau nifer y dangosyddion y flwyddyn nesaf i finws 4, sef effaith wirioneddol y gwelliant. Wedi'r cyfan, y Llywodraeth Geidwadol flaenorol oedd mewn grym pan fu cynnydd enfawr yn nifer y dangosyddion a gyhoeddwyd gan gynghorau lleol, a hi a gyflwynodd y gofyniad i'w cyhoeddi mewn papurau newydd lleol. Cyflwynwyd 77 o brif ddangosyddion gan Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 1992, gan gynnwys 202 o ddangosyddion eilaidd, a fu'n faich enfawr ar gynghorau lleol. Yr ydym wrthi'n unioni hynny drwy'r Gorchymyn hwn. Rhoddwyd beichiau newydd ar gynghorau yn sgîl y cynnydd ond ni chyflwynwyd unrhyw ffocws gwirioneddol ar ansawdd gwasanaethau a gwella gwasanaethau, a lwyddodd, ynghyd â thendro cystadleuol gorfodol, i ychwanegu costau sylweddol ac artiffisial at weinyddu'r gyfundrefn.

Yn sgîl obsesiwn y Llywodraeth flaenorol dros dendro cystadleuol gorfodol, ynghyd â'r wasgfa ar gyllid llywodraeth leol, bu pwyslais ar gost, tra bod ansawdd gwasanaethau yn gostwng. Yn ogystal â dosbarthiadau llai, adeiladau ysgolion yn dirywio a darpariaeth cymorth yn y cartref yn cael ei chwtogi, gwelwyd torri glaswellt llai

house maintenance, potholed roads, dangerous pavements and refuse collection services and street cleansing working to meet impossible targets. The Tory policy was very much 'never mind the quality, look at the price'.

The fact that we are moving away from that is to be welcomed. Best Value should be about value for money and continuous improvement. To achieve that, we must get the balance right between local control and the regulation and inspection regime. This Order is the first step in achieving that, which I welcome.

Janet Ryder: Plaid Cymru also welcomes the proposal to reduce the number of Best Value performance indicators but, like Peter Black, we need clarification as to whether or not this amendment seeks to move to a minus number of indicators next year. Does the Tory Party intend to get rid of all the indicators? While the Minister said that she would reconsider them, we are pleased that she has been able to reduce them this year, and that she will keep them under review and, perhaps reduce them if necessary. We would support a further reduction, if that were necessary, but not the total reduction that this amendment seems to indicate.

It is important that these indicators are presented to the public in a way that they will understand. There is no point using them simply to produce a league table of councils—setting council against council. Councils must be able to measure how well they are doing and how they need to improve, and not be measured against each other. Therefore, as we have mentioned on many occasions, we would not welcome any kind of move to compare Welsh counties with English ones. Comparing Welsh counties with each other is acceptable, but comparing Welsh counties with English ones is not.

When these indicators are reviewed next year, as the Minister promised, we would also like to see a change in how they are drawn, moving away from measuring quantity and output. We would like to see whether there is a way of encouraging

aml, ôl-groniadau o waith cynnal a chadw ar dai cyngor, heolydd â thyllau, palmentydd peryglus a gwasanaethau casglu sbwriel a glanhau strydoedd yn ymdrechu i gyrraedd targedau amhosibl. Polisi'r Toriaid yn y bôn oedd 'na hidwch am yr ansawdd, edrychwch ar y pris.'

Rhaid croesawu'r ffaith ein bod yn symud o'r sefyllfa honno. Gwerth am arian a gwella parhaus yw nod Gwerth Gorau. Er mwyn cyflawni hynny, rhaid inni gael y cydbwysedd cywir rhwng rheolaeth leol a'r weithdrefn reoleiddio ac arolygu. Y Gorchymyn hwn yw'r cam cyntaf tuag at gyflawni hynny, ac fe'i croesawaf.

Janet Ryder: Mae Plaid Cymru hefyd yn croesawu'r cynnig i leihau nifer y dangosyddion perfformiad Gwerth Gorau ond, fel Peter Black, hoffem gael eglurhad a yw'r gwelliant hwn yn ceisio symud i nifer finws o welliannau ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf, ai peidio. A yw'r Plaid Doriaidd yn bwriadu cael gwared ar bob dangosydd? Er i'r Gweinidog ddweud y byddai'n eu hailystyried, yr ydym yn falch ei bod yn gallu eu lleihau eleni, ac y bydd yn parhau i'w hadolygu ac, efallai eu lleihau os bydd angen. Byddem yn cefnogi gostyngiad pellach, pe bai angen hynny, ond nid y gostyngiad llwyr fel y noda'r gwelliant hwn yn ôl pob golwg.

Mae'n bwysig bod y dangosyddion hyn yn cael eu cyflwyno i'r cyhoedd mewn ffordd y byddant yn ei deall. Nid oes unrhyw ddiben eu defnyddio i lunio tabl cynghrair o gynghorau yn unig—gan osod un cyngor yn erbyn y llall. Rhaid bod cynghorau'n gallu mesur pa mor dda y gwnânt ac ym mha ffordd y mae angen iddynt wella, ac nid cael eu mesur yn eu herbryn ei gilydd. Felly, fel yr ydym wedi sôn lawer gwaith, ni fyddem yn croesawu unrhyw fath o ymgais i gymharu siroedd yng Nghymru â siroedd yn Lloegr. Mae cymharu siroedd Cymru â'i gilydd yn dderbyniol, ond nid cymharu siroedd Cymru â siroedd Lloegr.

Pan adolygir y dangosyddion hyn y flwyddyn nesaf, fel yr addawodd y Gweinidog, hoffem hefyd weld newid yn y ffordd y cânt eu llunio, gan symud oddi wrth fesur ansawdd ac allbwn. Hoffem weld a oes ffordd o annog cynghorau—am y bydd y dangosyddion hyn

councils—because these indicators will inevitably drive budgets in some areas—to use them to produce quality work. The easy example is homelessness. It is easy to count the number of homeless people that are placed in a home, but it may be better to count the number of people who are maintained, over a period of time, in that placement. That would encourage councils not only to put the money into providing homeless accommodation, but also to provide the support that those placements need to be maintained. That could be used in many different ways.

Plaid Cymru would also like to see—and we have always said this—whether there is any way of using these indicators to measure the best value that is produced for the local community, in terms of using local firms and sourcing materials locally. Can the indicators be developed to measure that? We will support the Order, but we would like clarification on the amendment.

Peter Law: I am pleased to welcome this Order. It fulfils a promise that I made last year that these performance indicators would be reduced. I remember that debate, and the Minister has fulfilled that promise following the productive debates and discussions that she has had with our partners in the Welsh Local Government Association over the last year. We now have a much more reasonable number of performance indicators, which are in the interest of the council tax payers of Wales who want efficient services of the best quality standards. That is what we, and the WLGA, stand for, which is why this Order should be welcomed today.

If it were not so sad, the Conservative amendment would be laughable. As Peter Black indicated—and I do not quote him lightly—it equates to minus four, which shows how much thought William Graham put into drafting that amendment. It is a bit rich for Tories to talk of rate payers being hard done by, and of increases in paper work and red tape when they were not satisfied with having one health trust when two would do. They also invented the poll tax. Do we all remember the poll tax? They seem to have forgotten about it—[*Interruption.*] Yes, I know you are proud of that.

wrth reswm yn llywio cyllidebau mewn rhai meysydd—i'w defnyddio i gynhyrchu gwaith o safon. Yr enghraifft hawdd yw digartrefedd. Mae'n hawdd cyfrif nifer y bobl ddigartref a leolir mewn cartref, ond gallai fod yn well cyfrif nifer y bobl a gynhelir, dros gyfnod, yn y lleoliad hwnnw. Byddai hynny'n annog cynghorau nid yn unig i roi arian i ddarparu llety i'r digartref, ond hefyd i roi'r gefnogaeth sydd ei hangen i gynnal y lleoliadau hynny. Gallai hynny gael ei ddefnyddio mewn llawer o wahanol ffyrdd.

Hoffai Plaid Cymru hefyd weld—ac yr ydym bob amser wedi dweud hyn—a oes unrhyw fodd o ddefnyddio'r dangosyddion hyn i fesur y gwerth gorau a gynhyrchir ar gyfer y gymuned leol, o safbwynt defnyddio cwmnïau lleol a chael defnyddiau lleol. A ellir datblygu'r dangosyddion i fesur hynny? Cefnogwn y Gorchymyn, ond hoffem gael eglurhad ar y gwelliant.

Peter Law: Mae'n dda gennyf groesawu'r Gorchymyn hwn. Mae'n cyflawni addewid a wneuthum y llynedd i leihau'r dangosyddion perfformiad hyn. Cofiaf y ddadl, ac mae'r Gweinidog wedi cyflawni'r addewid honno yn dilyn y dadleuon a'r trafodaethau cynhyrchiol a gafodd gyda'n partneriaid yng Nghymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf. Erbyn hyn mae gennym nifer llawer mwy rhesymol o ddangosyddion perfformiad, sydd er budd talwyr treth gyngor Cymru sydd am gael gwasanaethau effeithlon o'r safon uchaf. Dyna ein safbwynt ni a CLILC a dyna pam y dylid croesawu'r Gorchymyn hwn heddiw.

Byddai gwelliant y Ceidwadwyr yn chwethinllyd pe na bai mor druenus. Fel y nododd Peter Black—ac ni ddyfynnaf ef yn ysgafn—mae'n cyfateb â minws pedwar, sydd yn dangos faint o ystyriaeth y rhoddodd William Graham i ddrafftio'r gwelliant hwnnw. Mae braidd yn wirion i'r Torïaid sôn am drethdalwyr ar eu colled, a'r gwaith papur a'r fiwrocratiaeth ychwanegol pan oeddent hwythau yn anfodlon ar un ymddiriedolaeth iechyd lle y gellid cael dwy. Hwy hefyd a ddyfeisiodd dreth y pen. A ydym ni i gyd yn cofio treth y pen? Ymddengys eu bod hwy wedi anghofio amdani—[*Torri ar draws.*] Ie,

gwn eich bod yn falch ohoni.

When we listen to them, and refer to those days of compulsory competitive tendering that Peter Black mentioned, and think of how divisive that was, how on earth can their comments have any credibility this afternoon? Talking of CCT, in Blaenau Gwent there were two men and a dog in an ex-post office van running the parks. There was no image, service nor hope, which probably sums up the current Tory Party. When Uncle Mott spoke earlier, Brian Gibbons referred to the Tory amendments as 'inappropriate and unworkable' and you could apply those words to the entire party. They know that; they are the CCT of this Assembly—the Tory seats won by proportional representation are not best value by any means. They resemble seven men and a dog. That is the effect of PR for the Tory group. I note William Graham's comment about the Market Hall Cinema in Brynmawr being run by a theatre trust. I am proud that Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council runs that cinema, or we would not have a cinema or theatre at all. However, I do not think that we are in the same league as the Congress Theatre in Cwmbran.

4:30 p.m.

Glyn Davies: Will you give way?

Peter Law: Yes, I would be delighted. I wondered where you were.

Glyn Davies: I only wanted to share one comment with Peter. My Uncle Mott was strikingly similar to him. I think we need to remember that. [*Laughter.*]

Peter Law: I cannot comment on that. However, before you came in, I was commenting about your earlier submission to the Deputy Minister for Health, which was unworkable and inappropriate and which I said was similar to the party you represent. We have an opportunity to work with the WLGA and the Audit Commission to ensure that we are giving even better value for

Pan fyddwn yn gwranddo arnynt, a chyfeirio at y dyddiau hynny o dendro cystadleuol gorfodol a grybwyllodd Peter Black, ac ystyried pa mor gynhennus ydoedd, sut ar y ddaear y gall eu sylwadau feddu ar unrhyw hygredd o gwbl y prynhawn yma? A sôn am dendro cystadleuol gorfodol, ym Mlaenau Gwent yr oedd dau ddyn a chi mewn hen fan swyddfa'r post yn rhedeg y parciau. Nid oedd unrhyw ddelwedd, gwasanaeth na gobaith, sydd yn crynhoi'r Blaid Doriaidd bresennol mae'n debyg. Pan siaradodd Ewythr Mott yn gynharach, cyfeiriodd Brian Gibbons at y gwelliannau Toriaidd fel 'amhriodol ac anymarferol' a gallech ddefnyddio'r geiriau hynny am y blaid gyfan. Gwyddant hynny; hwy yw tendro cystadleuol gorfodol y Cynulliad hwn—nid yw'r seddau Toriaidd a enillwyd drwy gynrychiolaeth gyfrannol yn rhoi gwerth gorau o bell ffordd. Maent megis saith dyn a chi. Dyna effaith cynrychiolaeth gyfrannol ar gyfer y grwp Toriaidd. Nodaf sylw William Graham am sinema Market Hall ym Brynmawr yn cael ei rhedeg gan ymddiriedolaeth theatr. Yr wyf yn falch mai Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent sydd yn rhedeg y sinema honno, neu ni fyddai unrhyw sinema na theatr o gwbl gennym. Fodd bynnag, ni chredaf ein bod yn yr un gynghrair â Theatr Congress Cwmbrân.

Glyn Davies: A wnewch chi ildio?

Peter Law: Gwnaf, byddwn yn falch o wneud. Yr oeddwn yn meddwl tybed lle yr oeddech.

Glyn Davies: Yr oeddwn am rannu un sylw gyda Peter. Yr oedd fy Ewythr Mott i yn hynod o debyg iddo ef. Credaf fod angen inni gofio hynny. [*Chwerthin.*]

Peter Law: Ni allaf wneud sylwadau ar hynny. Fodd bynnag, cyn ichi ddod i mewn, yr oeddwn yn sôn am eich cyflwyniad cynharach i'r Dirprwy Weinidog dros Iechyd, a oedd yn anymarferol ac yn amhriodol, gan ddweud ei fod yn debyg i'r blaid a gynrychiolwch. Mae cyfle gennym i gydweithio â CLILC a'r Comisiwn Archwilio er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn rhoi hyd yn oed

money and better service to our council tax payers. The Order presented by the Minister today enables that. I am pleased to support it.

The Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities (Edwina Hart): In considering William's contribution, it is important to acknowledge that when we look at Best Value in the narrow context of what the Audit Commission may or may not have said about local government, we must realise that it is a new concept. Local authorities must get used to it, and, more importantly, they must respond to it. They must respond to its outcomes, which was Janet's point. We need to see what services have been delivered in terms of Best Value. We must ensure that Best Value inspections are carried out on larger service areas as well as the tiny ones that require much work. We can, then, see how the Assembly and social services departments deal with bed-blocking, education and other larger areas that are required in terms of Best Value.

William also talked about CCT as if it were some golden era. Best Value is a far better service and delivery framework. It looks for the four Cs—challenge, compare, consult and competition—when reviewing authorities' delivery of service. It has a wider service focus and allows for consideration of the quality of authorities' services rather than cost. That is relevant to some of Peter Law's points about how Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council has had to provide quality areas of service in a socially deprived area.

Following on from Peter Black's point on policy agreement, Best Value supports the high-level outcomes in the agreement. This allows for annual assessment of progress in the majority of high-level policy agreement targets. Policy agreements are part and parcel of the Best Value approach. The fact that we are not propagating the local government settlement this year is a sign of the maturity

well gwerth am arian a gwell gwasanaeth byth i'n talwyr treth gyngor. Mae'r Gorchymyn a gyflwynodd y Gweinidog heddiw yn galluogi hynny. Yr wyf yn falch i'w gefnogi.

Y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau (Edwina Hart): Wrth ystyried cyfraniad William, mae'n bwysig cydnabod, wrth edrych ar Werth Gorau yng nghyd-destun cul yr hyn y mae'r Comisiwn Archwilio wedi ei ddweud neu heb ei ddweud o bosibl am lywodraeth leol, bod yn rhaid sylweddoli mai cysyniad newydd ydyw. Rhaid i awdurdodau lleol ymglyfarwyddo ag ef, ac, yn bwysicach oll, rhaid iddynt ymateb iddo. Rhaid iddynt ymateb i'w ganlyniadau, sef y pwynt a wnaeth Janet. Mae angen inni weld pa wasanaethau a ddarparwyd o ran Gwerth Gorau. Rhaid inni sicrhau y caiff adolygiadau Gwerth Gorau eu cynnal ar feysydd gwasanaeth mwy yn ogystal â'r rhai bach iawn sydd yn gofyn am lawer o waith. Yna gallwn weld sut y bydd y Cynulliad a'r adrannau gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yn mynd i'r afael â blocio gwelyau, addysg a'r meysydd mwy sydd yn ofynnol o ran Gwerth Gorau eraill.

Soniodd William hefyd am dendro cystadleuol gorfodol fel pe bai'n rhyw oes euraid. Mae Gwerth Gorau yn fframwaith gwell o lawer ar gyfer gwasanaethau a'u darparu. Maent yn edrych am y pedair elfen—herio, cymharu, ymgynghori a chystadlu—wrth adolygu'r ffordd y mae awdurdodau yn darparu gwasanaeth. Mae'n canolbwyntio'n fwy ar wasanaethau ac yn ystyried ansawdd gwasanaethau awdurdodau yn hytrach na chost. Mae hynny'n berthnasol i rai o bwyntiau Peter Law am y ffordd y bu'n rhaid i Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent ddarparu meysydd o wasanaeth safonol mewn ardal gymdeithasol-difreintiedig

Yn dilyn pwynt Peter Black ar y cytundeb polisi, mae Gwerth Gorau yn ategu'r canlyniadau lefel uchel yn y cytundeb. Caniatâ hyn asesu cynnydd ar y rhan fwyaf o'r targedau cytundeb polisi lefel uchel bob blwyddyn. Mae cytundebau polisi yn rhan annatod o ymagwedd Gwerth Gorau. Mae'r ffaith nad ydym yn cyhoeddi'r setliad llywodraeth leol yn arwydd o aeddfedrydd

of the arrangements with Welsh local government, so that we can move forward in partnership. I ask Members not to support William Graham's amendment 1 and to support the regulations.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I call for a vote on the amendment to the motion on the principle of the Order.

y trefniadau â llywodraeth leol yng Nghymru, fel y gallwn symud ymlaen mewn partneriaeth. Gofynnaf i'r Aelodau beidio â chefnogi gwelliant 1 William Graham ac i gefnogi'r rheoliadau.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Galwaf am bleidlais ar y gwelliant i'r cynnig ar egwyddor y Gorchymyn.

*Gwelliant 1: O blaid 6, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 30.
Amendment 1: For 6, Abstain 0, Against 30.*

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

Bourne, Nick
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Graham, William
Melding, David
Cairns, Alun

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Jocelyn
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hart, Edwina
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Ann
Law, Peter
Lloyd, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Phil

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment rejected.*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I call for a vote on the principle of the Order.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Galwaf am bleidlais ar egwyddor y Gorchymyn.

*Cynnig: O blaid 36, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 36, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Bourne, Nick
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Jocelyn
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hart, Edwina
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Ann
Law, Peter
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion adopted.*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I now call **Y Dirprwy Lywydd:** Galwaf yn awr am for a vote on the motion to approve the bleidlais ar y cynnig i gymeradwyo'r Order. Gorchymyn.

*Cynnig: O blaid 36, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 36, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Jocelyn
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William

Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hart, Edwina
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Ann
Law, Peter
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion adopted.*

**Dirprwyo Swyddogaeth Gweinyddu Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop i Brif
Weinidog Cymru
Delegation of the Function of Administering the European Social Fund to the
First Minister**

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendment 1 in the name of Jocelyn Davies.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliant 1 yn enw Jocelyn Davies.

The Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economic Development (Michael German): I propose that

Dirprwy Brif Weinidog Cymru a'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd (Michael German): Cynigiad fod

the National Assembly for Wales,

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru,

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 or under the European Social Fund (National Assembly for Wales) Regulations 2001, laid in the Table Office on 19 March 2001, to the Assembly First Minister, save those which by law cannot be so delegated.

gan weithredu o dan adran 62(1)(b) Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998, yn penderfynu dirprwyo holl swyddogaethau'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol sydd wedi eu cynnwys yn Rheoliadau'r Gronfa Gymdeithasol Ewropeaidd (Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru) 2001, neu yn unol â'r Rheoliadau hynny, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 19 Mawrth 2001, i Brif Weinidog y Cynulliad, heblaw am y rhai hynny na ellir trwy ddeddf eu dirprwyo yn y modd hwn.

Nothing in this motion will have the effect of reducing the pre-eminence of the authority of the full Assembly or of reducing the role of the Assembly Committees in the exercise of the above functions.

Ni fydd dim yn y cynnig hwn yn lleihau goruchafiaeth awdurdod y Cynulliad llawn nac yn lleihau rôl Pwyllgorau'r Cynulliad wrth weithredu'r swyddogaethau uchod.

The Secretary of State for Education and Employment made the regulations on 9 March 2001 and they will come into force on

Gwnaeth yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Addysg a Chyflogaeth y rheoliadau ar 9 Mawrth 2001 a ddônt i rym ar 1 Ebrill 2001.

1 April 2001. These regulations enable the National Assembly to exercise, in relation to Wales, functions relating to the administration of the European social fund. Those functions could be summed up as managing the programme, approving projects, authorising payments, monitoring and auditing. The purpose of the motion is to seek the Assembly's agreement to the functions being delegated to the First Minister. This delegation will be made in the knowledge that those functions will be further delegated to myself and onward to staff.

The European social fund is an important element of structural funds programmes in Wales. It funds a third of the west Wales and Valleys Objective 1 programme and all of the east Wales Objective 3 programme. ESF is an important tool in raising skill levels and getting unemployed people back into work. It is important for the Assembly to complete its powers of responsibility for the administration of the European structural funds. Responsibility for certain functions in relation to the European regional development fund, the financial instrument for fisheries guidance and the guidance section of the European agricultural guidance and guarantee fund was transferred in May 2000. Therefore, the transfer of the European social fund completes this process.

Administratively and presentationally, it will be important for the Wales European Funding Office to be able to issue project approval letters to project promoters in Wales on behalf of the National Assembly for Wales. To date, the Department for Education and Employment have issued such letters.

Delegation, therefore, should be a routine matter. The Government of Wales Act 1998 recognises that the Assembly may need to delegate its functions in the interests of administrative efficiency. This motion is no different from many considered and adopted previously.

I ask the Assembly to reject the amendment, on the grounds that it is impossible and redundant.

Mae'r rheoliadau hyn yn galluogi'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol i weithredu, mewn perthynas â Chymru, swyddogaethau sydd yn ymwneud â gweinyddu'r gronfa gymdeithasol Ewropeaidd. Y prif swyddogaethau hynny yw rheoli'r rhaglen, cymeradwyo prosiectau, awdurdodi taliadau, monitro ac archwilio. Diben y cynnig yw ceisio cytundeb y Cynulliad ar y swyddogaethau i'w dirprwyo i'r Prif Weinidog. Caiff y swyddogaethau hyn eu dirprwyo gan wybod y cânt eu dirprwyo ymhellach imi ac i'r staff.

Mae'r gronfa gymdeithasol Ewropeaidd yn rhan bwysig o raglenni'r cronfeydd strwythurol yng Nghymru. Mae'n ariannu traean o raglen Amcan 1 gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd a'r rhaglen Amcan 3 gyfan yn nwyrain Cymru. Mae'r gronfa yn fodd pwysig o godi lefelau sgiliau a helpu pobl ddi-waith i gael gwaith. Mae'n bwysig i'r Cynulliad gwblhau ei bwerau cyfrifoldeb dros weinyddu'r cronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd. Trosglwyddwyd y cyfrifoldeb dros swyddogaethau penodol mewn perthynas â'r gronfa datblygu rhanbarthol Ewropeaidd, yr offeryn ariannol ar gyfer arweiniad ar bysgodfeydd a'r adran ar arweiniad o'r arweiniad amaethyddol Ewropeaidd a'r gronfa warantu ym mis Mai 2000. Felly, mae trosglwyddo'r gronfa gymdeithasol Ewropeaidd yn cwblhau'r broses hon.

O safbwynt gweinyddu a chyflwyno, bydd yn bwysig i Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru allu anfon llythyrau cymeradwyo at hyrwyddwyr prosiectau yng Nghymru ar ran Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru. Hyd yn hyn, yr Adran Addysg a Chyflogaeth sydd wedi anfon llythyrau o'r fath.

Felly, dylai dirprwyo fod yn fater cyffredin. Mae Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998 yn cydnabod y bydd angen i'r Cynulliad o bosibl ddirprwyo ei swyddogaethau er budd effeithlonrwydd gweinyddol. Nid yw'r cynnig hwn yn wahanol i lawer o'r cynigion a ystyriwyd ac a fabwysiadwyd o'r blaen.

Gofynnaf i'r Cynulliad wrthod y gwelliant, ar y sail ei bod yn amhosibl ac yn ofer.

Jocelyn Davies: I have noticed a difference between the last two or three delegation of functions Orders and those considered previously, namely the additional sentence,

‘Nothing in this motion will have the effect of reducing the pre-eminence of the authority of the full Assembly or of reducing the role of the Assembly Committees in the exercise of the above functions.’

Will you explain why the words ‘Assembly Committees in the exercise of the above functions’ are needed in this motion?

Michael German: I proposed that change when we discussed the delegation of functions for the first time. The reason for the reference to Committees and to the Assembly is that the Committees have a policy-making role—clearly undefined, as you know—and this is about policy making that relates to training and skills matters that come before the Assembly.

Jocelyn Davies: This is about the exercise of functions that are being delegated, not policy development. Those are two different matters.

Michael German: The functions that arise from the European social fund relate to National Assembly policies, as the ESF relates to training and skills development. The Education and Lifelong Learning Committee and the Economic Development Committee can, rightly, comment and act upon such issues. One of the key areas of Future Skills Wales relates closely to the European social fund and its functions, so that connecting the two is important.

I ask you to reject the amendment because it is impossible and redundant. Plaid Cymru’s amendment skilfully rewrites the partnership agreement. I ask you to have the amendment in front of you while I read the partnership agreement, so that you can compare one with the other. That will help you to understand why the amendment is impossible. The

Jocelyn Davies: Nodais wahaniaeth rhwng y ddau neu dri Gorchmyn diwethaf yn dirprwyo swyddogaethau a’r rhai a ystyriwyd o’r blaen, sef y frawddeg ychwanegol,

‘Ni fydd dim yn y cynnig hwn yn lleihau goruchafiaeth awdurdod y Cynulliad llawn nac yn lleihau rôl Pwyllgorau’r Cynulliad wrth weithredu’r swyddogaethau uchod.’

A wnewch chi egluro pam bod angen y geiriau ‘Pwyllgorau’r Cynulliad wrth weithredu’r swyddogaethau uchod’ yn y cynnig hwn?

Michael German: Cynigiais y newid hwnnw pan drafodasom ddirprwyo swyddogaethau am y tro cyntaf. Y rheswm dros y cyfeiriad at Bwyllgorau a’r Cynulliad yw bod rôl gwneud polisi i’r Pwyllgorau—nas diffinnir yn glir, fel y gwyddoch—ac mae hyn yn ymwneud â gwneud polisi mewn perthynas â materion hyfforddiant a sgiliau a ddaw gerbron y Cynulliad.

Jocelyn Davies: Mae hyn yn ymwneud â gweithredu swyddogaethau sydd yn cael eu dirprwyo, nid datblygu polisi. Mae’r rheini yn ddau fater gwahanol.

Michael German: Mae’r swyddogaethau sydd yn deillio o’r gronfa gymdeithasol Ewropeaidd yn ymwneud â pholisïau’r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, fel y mae’r gronfa gymdeithasol Ewropeaidd yn ymwneud â hyfforddiant a datblygu sgiliau. Gall y Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes a’r Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd wneud sylwadau a gweithredu ar faterion o’r fath, a hynny’n gwbl briodol. Mae un o feysydd allweddol Sgiliau Dyfodol Cymru yn cysylltu’n agos â’r gronfa gymdeithasol Ewropeaidd a’i swyddogaethau, felly mae cysylltu’r ddau yn bwysig.

Gofynnaf ichi wrthod y gwelliant am ei fod yn amhosibl ac yn ofer. Mae gwelliant Plaid Cymru yn ailysgrifennu’r cytundeb partneriaeth yn gelfydd. Gofynnaf ichi edrych ar y gwelliant wrth imi ddarllen y cytundeb partneriaeth, fel y gallwch gymharu’r naill â’r llall. Bydd hynny yn eich helpu i ddeall pam bod y gwelliant yn amhosibl. Noda’r

partnership agreement states:

‘We will also seek provision from the UK Government for the appropriate additional resources that may, from time to time, be necessary to ensure that we are able to draw down the full available amount of EU structural funding. In order to ensure clarity about the level of these requirements, we will establish a full ongoing audit of the European funding process. Any significant shortfall identified by the audit could lead to an in-year bid on the Treasury reserve.’

cytundeb partneriaeth:

‘Byddwn hefyd yn ceisio darpariaeth gan Lywodraeth y DU ar gyfer yr adnoddau ychwanegol priodol a allai fod yn ofynnol, o bryd i’w gilydd, i sicrhau ein bod yn gallu tynnu i lawr y swm llawn o gyllid strwythurol sydd ar gael o’r UE. Er mwyn sicrhau eglurder ynglŷn â lefel y gofynion hyn, byddwn yn sefydlu archwiliad llawn parhaus o’r broses Gyllido Ewropeaidd. Gallai unrhyw ddiffyg o bwys a ganfyddir drwy’r archwiliad arwain at fid yn ystod y flwyddyn honno yn erbyn Cronfa Wrth Gefn y Trysorlys.’

4:40 p.m.

A key difference between that quotation and amendment 1 is that Plaid Cymru has added the word ‘successful’. We cannot guarantee that the Treasury will provide funding whenever the Assembly requires it. I hope that Plaid Cymru will withdraw this amendment, as it is redundant in the terms of the agreement that we have reached with the Treasury, which are as follows. The rules for carry-forward of unspent provision into future years is the same for structural funds as for any other element of unspent departmental expenditure limit provision. In addition, and unexceptionally in the case of structural funds payments, if requests for payments exceed forecasts, and thus provision for structural funds in that year, the Assembly may request that up to 20 per cent of the following year’s provision for structural funds be brought forward to meet that need. That is subject to the departmental expenditure limit provision being reduced in the following year by the same amount so that there is no overall increase across the two years. If claims exceeded provision in year one, the Assembly could apply for access to the reserve to draw up to 20 per cent of the year two provision. In that respect, we have completed the requirement in the partnership agreement and secured that agreement, therefore rendering amendment 1 redundant. I hope that Plaid Cymru will withdraw it.

Gwahaniaeth allweddol rhwng y dyfyniad a gwelliant 1 yw bod Plaid Cymru wedi ychwanegu’r gair ‘llwyddiannus’. Ni allwn warantu y bydd y Trysorlys yn rhoi arian pryd bynnag y bydd y Cynulliad yn gofyn amdano. Gobeithiaf y bydd Plaid Cymru yn tynnu’r gwelliant hwn yn ôl, gan ei fod yn ofer yng nghyd-destun y cytundeb a luniwyd rhyngom ni a’r Trysorlys, sydd fel a ganlyn: Dilynir yr un rheolau ar gyfer cario darpariaeth heb ei gwario ymlaen i flynyddoedd yn y dyfodol ar gyfer cronfeydd strwythurol fel ar gyfer unrhyw elfen arall o ddarpariaeth terfyn gwariant adrannol heb ei gwario. Yn ogystal, ac yn ddieithriad yn achos taliadau cronfeydd strwythurol, os bydd ceisiadau am daliadau yn fwy na’r rhagamcanion, ac felly y ddarpariaeth ar gyfer y cronfeydd strwythurol yn y flwyddyn honno, gall y Cynulliad wneud cais i hyd at 20 y cant o ddarpariaeth y flwyddyn ganlynol gael ei dwyn ymlaen i ateb yr angen hwnnw. Mae hynny’n amodol ar leihau darpariaeth terfyn gwariant adrannol yn y flwyddyn ganlynol yn ôl yr un swm fel na fydd unrhyw gynnydd dros y ddwy flynedd. Os oedd ceisiadau yn fwy na’r ddarpariaeth ym mlwyddyn un, gallai’r Cynulliad wneud cais am ddefnyddio’r gronfa wrth gefn er mwyn tynnu hyd at 20 y cant o ddarpariaeth blwyddyn dau. O ran hynny, yr ydym wedi cwblhau’r gofyniad yn y cytundeb partneriaeth, ac felly wedi peri i welliant 1 fod yn ofer. Gobeithiaf y bydd Plaid Cymru yn ei dynnu yn ôl.

Phil Williams: I propose amendment 1 in

Phil Williams: Cynigiaf welliant 1 yn enw

the name of Jocelyn Davies. Insert as new second paragraph:

To further propose that the First Minister implements the provisions outlined in Chapter 4, Paragraph 16 of the Partnership Agreement to ensure any shortfall identified by a full on-going audit of the European funding process will lead to a successful in-year bid on the Treasury reserve.

As the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economic Development acknowledged, the wording of the amendment is based on the wording of the partnership agreement. Wishing for success seems to be the sort of ambition that the Assembly could celebrate. We tabled the motion because it focuses on two flaws in the comprehensive spending review settlement that have an impact on this transfer.

To understand the implications of the transfer, it is useful to review the present situation. Up until this month, all European social funds have been passed on to Wales via the Department for Education and Employment. To be fair, the evidence is that, since 1994, the ESF money drawn down from Europe for projects in Wales was more or less entirely passed on. This was in addition to the Barnett block. The grants were paid according to the year to year expenditure, not according to a fixed pre-set budget. In other words, from Wales's point of view, it was equivalent to an annual managed expenditure not a departmental expenditure limit. That is in stark contrast to the regional development money, which was taken out of the Barnett block. As we now know, not a single extra penny reached Wales as a result of that.

We now have a transfer of responsibility, with a transfer of a fixed sum of £149 million to cover years two, three and four of the ESF programme. We welcome the transfer of responsibility. It would have been completely absurd to administer part of Objective 1 through the National Assembly and another part of it through DfEE. This transfer, which was planned for 1998, is long overdue. However, the transfer of financial

Jocelyn Davies. Cynnwys ail baragraff newydd fel a ganlyn:

Cynnig hefyd bod y Prif Weinidog yn gweithredu'r darpariaethau a amlinellir ym Mhennod 4, Paragraff 16 y Cytundeb Partneriaeth er mwyn sicrhau bod unrhyw brinder a nodir yn ystod archwiliad llawn parhaus o'r broses ariannu Ewropeaidd yn arwain at gais blynyddol llwyddiannus am arian o gronfa wrth-gefn y Trysorlys.

Fel y cydnabu'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd, mae geiriad y gwelliant yn seiliedig ar eiriad y cytundeb partneriaeth. Mae dymuno am lwyddiant yn fath o uchelgais y gallai'r Cynulliad ei ddathlu, mae'n debyg. Cyflwynwyd y cynnig gennym am ei fod yn tynnu sylw at ddau ddiffyg o fewn setliad yr adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant sydd yn effeithio ar drosglwyddo'r cyfrifoldebau hyn.

Er mwyn deall goblygiadau trosglwyddo'r cyfrifoldebau, bydd yn ddefnyddiol adolygu'r sefyllfa bresennol. Tan y mis hwn, trosglwyddwyd pob swm o arian o gronfa gymdeithasol Ewrop i Gymru drwy'r Adran Addysg a Chyflogaeth. A bod yn deg, y dystiolaeth yw bod arian cronfa gymdeithasol Ewrop a dynnwyd o Ewrop ar gyfer prosiectau yng Nghymru ers 1994, wedi ei drosglwyddo'n llawn fwy neu lai. Yr oedd hyn yn ychwanegol at floc Barnett. Talwyd y grantiau yn ôl gwariant o flwyddyn i flwyddyn, nid yn ôl cyllideb a bennwyd ymlaen llaw. Hynny yw, o safbwynt Cymru, yr oedd yn cyfateb i wariant a reolir yn flynyddol yn hytrach na therfyn gwariant adrannol. Mae hynny mewn gwrthgyferbyniad llwyr i'r arian datblygu rhanbarthol, a dynnwyd o floc Barnett. Fel y gwyddom erbyn hyn, ni ddaeth yr un geiniog ychwanegol i Gymru o ganlyniad i hynny.

Yr ydym yn trosglwyddo cyfrifoldebau bellach, gan drosglwyddo swm penodedig o £149 miliwn ar gyfer ail, trydedd a phedwaredd blwyddyn rhaglen cronfa gymdeithasol Ewrop. Croesawn y ffaith bod cyfrifoldeb yn cael ei drosglwyddo. Byddai wedi bod yn hollol hurt i weinyddu rhan o Amcan 1 drwy'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol a rhan arall ohono drwy'r Adran Addysg a Chyflogaeth. Bwriadwyd trosglwyddo'r

responsibility raises two questions. First, is the transferred budget adequate? Secondly, if it is not, what is the appropriate procedure?

When we predicted the likely spending profile of European grants, the disagreement between the Government and Plaid Cymru is on record. The Government predicted a shortage of projects and a slow take-up. Indeed, I was blamed for discouraging valid projects. So, according to Government predictions, even by year four, we would only have reached 74 per cent of the average spend over the whole period. Plaid Cymru predicted a more rapid build-up, so that by the end of year two we would be spending at the average rate. If I can personalise this, either Rhodri's sums were correct or mine were. Despite the delayed start, and despite an acute shortage of public sector match funding, it is clear that hundreds of valid projects have been proposed. It is certain that not all of them will be funded. Some measures in the programme complement are already oversubscribed. On the one occasion when I had the opportunity to chair half a meeting of the Programme Monitoring Committee, the main problem raised was the number of valid applications. I take no pleasure in reporting that Plaid Cymru's sums seem to be closer to the truth than those of the Government. I notice, in answer to the point that the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economic Development made, that the finance department has written to the Treasury rehearsing the existing mechanism for bringing the spend forward by 25 per cent in the first year and 20 per cent in the next. However, over the four-year period it does not provide a single extra penny, because it is all taken out of the fourth year. Therefore, that will not solve the problem.

We have received an allocation, therefore, to fund the European social fund over the first four years of the programme. I estimate—although there is uncertainty in this figure,

cyfrifoldebau hyn yn 1998 ac mae'n hen bryd iddo ddigwydd. Fodd bynnag, cyfydau gwestiwn mewn perthynas â throsglwyddo cyfrifoldeb ariannol. Yn gyntaf, a yw'r gyllideb a drosglwyddwyd yn ddigonol? Yn ail, os nad yw'n ddigonol, beth yw'r weithdrefn briodol?

Pan ragwelsom broffil gwariant tebygol y grantiau Ewropeaidd, mae'r anghytundeb rhwng y Llywodraeth a Phlaid Cymru wedi ei gofnodi. Rhagwelodd y Llywodraeth y byddai prinder prosiectau ac mai araf fyddai'r ceisiadau. Yn wir, fe'm beiwyd am annog prosiectau dilys i beidio â gwneud cais. Felly, yn ôl rhagamcanion y Llywodraeth, hyd yn oed erbyn blwyddyn pedwar, ni fyddem ond wedi cyrraedd 74 y cant o'r gwariant cyfartalog dros y cyfnod cyfan. Rhagwelodd Plaid Cymru y deuai ceisiadau i mewn yn gyflymach, felly erbyn diwedd blwyddyn dau byddem yn gwario yn ôl y gyfradd gyfartalog. Os caf wneud sylwadau personol, yr oedd naill ai symiau Rhodri neu fy symiau i yn anghywir. Er gwaethaf yr oedi cyn cychwyn, ac er gwaethaf y prinder mawr o arian cyfatebol gan y sector cyhoeddus, mae'n amlwg bod cannoedd o brosiectau dilys wedi eu cynnig. Yn sicr ni chaiff pob un ohonynt ei ariannu. Mae rhai mesurau yn nogfen ategol y rhaglen eisoes wedi derbyn gormod o geisiadau. Ar un achlysur pan gefais gyfle i gadeirio hanner cyfarfod o Bwyllgor Monitro'r Rhaglenni, y brif broblem a godwyd oedd nifer y ceisiadau dilys. Nid ymfalchïaf yn y ffaith o gwbl wrth nodi yr ymddengys fod symiau Plaid Cymru yn agosach at y gwirionedd na rhai'r Llywodraeth. Nodaf, mewn ateb i'r pwynt a wnaeth y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd, fod yr adran gyllid wedi ysgrifennu at y Trysorlys i arfer y dull presennol o ddwyn y gwariant ymlaen 25 y cant yn y flwyddyn gyntaf a 20 y cant yn y flwyddyn ganlynol. Fodd bynnag, yn ystod y cyfnod o bedair blynedd, ni fydd yn rhoi'r un geiniog ychwanegol, am y caiff y cyfan ei dynnu o'r bedwaredd flwyddyn. Felly, ni fydd hynny yn datrys y broblem.

Cawsom ddyraniad, felly, i ariannu cronfa gymdeithasol Ewrop dros bedair blynedd gyntaf y rhaglen. Amcangyfrifaf—er bod ansicrwydd ynghylch y ffigur hwn, am fod

because we need to know the breakdown of the overhang commitments—that we have a shortfall of about £80 million. There is not enough to fund the ESF component of the new programme let alone the overhang.

It is ironic that if responsibility had remained with the Department for Education and Employment, we would have received all the valid ESF grants on top of Barnett; about £80 million more than we will receive through this fixed departmental expenditure limit budget. In essence, the actual extra funding that we received in the comprehensive spending review on top of Barnett is much less than it first appeared.

Recently the Government had the audacity to suggest that Plaid Cymru did not understand the difference between AME and DEL. If the Government, as is claimed, intended to pass on all the European grants drawn down for projects in Wales—and that is why it put the word ‘successful’ in the amendment—and if there was uncertainty in the projected spend, why did it not adopt our advice and obtain the European money as an annually managed expenditure as applies to so many others?

Due to the failure to obtain enough money and because of the inappropriate mechanism of funding such an uncertain budget as a department expenditure limit we now need to bail out the shortfall by robbing other budgets, especially education. How can the Government, through the existing mechanisms, remedy the mistakes made at the time of the CSR? It can only be done through the mechanism suggested in the partnership agreement, which is enshrined in our amendment.

Alun Cairns: The principle of administering ESF at a Wales level was adopted by the former Secretary of State for Wales, the Right Honourable William Hague MP, leader of the Conservative party and its general election campaign. He committed to this. However, I regret that it has taken three Secretaries of States, four Welsh Office Ministers, two First Ministers and four years to deliver it. To add insult to injury to the Labour backbenchers, a Liberal Democrat

angen inni gael dadansoddiad o'r ymrwymiadau bargodiad—fod gennym ddiffyg o tua £80 miliwn. Nid oes digon i ariannu elfen cronfa gymdeithasol Ewrop y rhaglen newydd heb sôn am y bargodiad.

Mae'n eironig nodi y byddem wedi cael pob grant dilys o gronfa gymdeithasol Ewrop ar ben arian Barnett pe bai'r Adran Addysg a Chyflogaeth wedi cadw'r cyfrifoldeb: tua £80 miliwn yn fwy nag y cawn drwy'r gyllideb terfyn gwariant adrannol hon. Yn y bôn, mae'r arian ychwanegol gwirioneddol a gawsom yn yr adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant ar ben arian Barnett yn llawer llai nac yn ymddangosai ar y olwg gyntaf.

Yn ddiweddar yr oedd y Llywodraeth mor hyf ag awgrymu nad oedd Plaid Cymru yn deall y gwahaniaeth rhwng AME a DEL. Os oedd y Llywodraeth, fel yr honnodd, yn bwriadu trosglwyddo pob grant Ewropeaidd a dynnwyd ar gyfer prosiectau yng Nghymru—a dyna pam y rhoddwyd y gair 'llwyddiannus' yn y gwelliant—ac os oedd ansicrwydd ynghylch y gwariant a ragwelwyd, pam na dderbyniodd ein cyngor a chael yr arian Ewropeaidd fel gwariant a reolir yn flynyddol fel sydd yn digwydd i gymaint o arian arall?

Yn sgîl y methiant i gael digon o arian ac oherwydd y dull amhriodol o ariannu cyllideb mor ansicr fel terfyn gwariant adrannol, mae angen inni bellach dalu am y diffyg drwy fynd ag arian o gyllidebau eraill, yn enwedig addysg. Sut gall y Llywodraeth, drwy'r dulliau presennol, unioni'r camgymeriadau a wnaethpwyd ar adeg yr adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant? Dim ond drwy'r dull a awgrymwyd yn y cytundeb partneriaeth, a ymgorfforwyd yn ein gwelliant, y gellir gwneud hynny.

Alun Cairns: Derbyniwyd yr egwyddor o weinyddu cronfa gymdeithasol Ewrop ar lefel Cymru gan gyn-Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru, y Gwir Anrhydeddus William Hague AS, arweinydd y blaid Geidwadol a'i hymgyrch etholiad cyffredinol. Ymrwymodd i hynny. Fodd bynnag, gresynaf wrth y ffaith iddo gymryd tri Ysgrifennydd Gwladol, pedwar o Weinidogion y Swyddfa Gymreig, dau Brif Weinidog Cymru a phedair blynedd i'w chyflwyno. Gan rwbio'r halen yn mriw

has been given the opportunity to come before the Assembly to propose the motion.

As the Deputy First Minister pointed out, this makes the ESF an integral part of Objective 1 and other European programmes. I express concern, however, that the quality of the Objective 1 schemes, particularly the ESF schemes, has not been of the highest standard. This is an opportunity for him to correct that. If, as he said, it gives the Wales European Funding Office rights to issue the project approval letters, and if he is depending on its administration, then I do not hold too much hope in that regard.

The purpose of this motion is to delegate functions to the First Minister. Bearing in mind the recent leaked letter, in which the Government thought to abdicate responsibility on Objective 1 to the chairmen of the respective Programming Monitoring Committees, I would like to remind them that the motion clearly reads, 'the delegation of function of ESF to the First Minister.' We may well use this quotation again and remind the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister of this when another crisis occurs in relation to structural funds. We are happy to support the nationalists' amendment. We welcome the delegation of functions, not least because it was the Right Honourable William Hague MP who was originally committed to it; a Secretary of State, some might argue, who truly reflected devolution.

4:50 p.m.

The Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economic Development (Michael German): Alun, your crisis is of your own making, as you rightly admit. I take this opportunity to correct you. The approved ESF projects are of a high quality and you will know that the Objective 3 Monitoring Committee—

Alun Cairns *rose*—

Aelodau Llafur y meinciau cefn, Democrat Rhyddfrydol sydd wedi cael y cyfle i ddod gerbron y Cynulliad i gynnig y cynnig.

Fel y nododd y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog, mae hyn yn sicrhau bod cronfa gymdeithasol Ewrop yn rhan annatod o Amcan 1 a rhaglenni Ewropeaidd eraill. Mynegaf bryder, fodd bynnag, nad yw ansawdd cynlluniau Amcan 1, yn enwedig cynlluniau cronfa gymdeithasol Ewrop wedi bod o'r safon uchaf. Dyma gyfle iddo gywiro hynny. Os bydd yn rhoi'r hawl i Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru, fel y dywedodd, anfon y llythrau cymeradwyo prosiectau, ac os bydd yn dibynnu ar ei gweinyddiaeth, yna nid wyf yn obeithiol iawn yn hynny o beth.

Diben y cynnig hwn yw dirprwyo swyddogaethau i Brif Weinidog Cymru. O gofio'r llythyr a ollyngwyd yn ddiweddar, lle yr oedd y Llywodraeth yn ystyried rhoi'r cyfrifoldeb dros Amcan 1 i gadeiryddion y priod Bwyllgorau Monitro Rhaglenni, hoffwn eu hatgoffa bod y cynnig yn nodi'n glir, 'dirprwyo swyddogaeth cronfa gymdeithasol Ewrop i'r Prif Weinidog.' Mae'n ddigon posibl y defnyddiwn y dyfyniad hwn drachefn ac atgoffa'r Prif Weinidog a'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog am hyn pan ddigwydd argyfwng arall mewn perthynas â chronfeydd strwythurol. Yr ydym yn fodlon cefnogi gwelliant y cenedlaetholwyr. Croesawn ddirprwyo swyddogaethau, yn bennaf am mai'r Gwir Anrhydeddus William Hague AS a ymrwymodd iddo yn wreiddiol; Ysgrifennydd Gwladol, y byddai rhai yn dadlau, sydd yn wir adlewyrchu datganoli.

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd (Michael German): Alun, chi barodd yr argyfwng, fel yr ydych yn cyfaddef. Manteisiaf ar y cyfle hwn i'ch cywiro. Mae'r prosiectau cronfa gymdeithasol Ewrop a gymeradwywyd o safon uchel a gwyddoch fod Pwyllgor Monitro Amcan 3—

Alun Cairns *a gododd*—

Michael German: I am not giving way. You wanted me to correct you, and I am doing so. The Objective 3 Monitoring Committee sent back projects to be revised where they fell below the quality threshold, which they decided to follow through. I also note that you do not like letters to be dealt with by the people to whom they were addressed.

I will deal now with the matter of substance, which is whether Wales will get all its ESF money. As I made clear to the Economic Development Committee on 7 March, if we need more money than was forecasted—and there is money in the budget—and if provision for structural funds in that year exceeds the money in the budget, we have an agreement with the Treasury that we can request up to 20 per cent of the following year's provision for structural funds to be brought forward to meet that need. In other words, if the money is there, and if we need it, we can bring it forward.

Phil Williams: Do you accept that that figure is 25 per cent in the first year taken from the next year, 20 per cent in the second year from the next year, but it does not add to the total available over the entire period, so there would then be a shortfall on the last year? Is that not the case?

Michael German: I do not accept that because the total amount of money will be paid, and as you realise it will be the eighth or perhaps, even the ninth year before we reach the final payments. Therefore, that goes beyond the programme's lifespan. We get the first payment back in the seventh year provided that the Government accepts that from now on, all the European money will be additional to the Barnett block. We currently have the security of knowing that we will have that in future years; the Assembly would take a different view if that were not the case. With that guarantee, I reject Jocelyn Davies's amendment 1.

Karen Sinclair: I request that the bell be rung to call Members to vote.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Three Members need to support that request. I see

Michael German: Nid ildiaf. Yr oeddech am imi eich cywiro, ac yr wyf yn gwneud hynny. Dychwelodd Pwyllgor Monitro Amcan 3 y prosiectau y penderfynodd weithredu arnynt, i'w diwygio lle nad oeddent yn cyrraedd y safon. Nodaf hefyd nad ydych yn hoffi bod llythyrau yn cael eu trin gan y bobl y'u cyfeiriwyd atynt.

Ymdriniaf yn awr â mater sylweddol, sef a fydd Cymru yn cael ei holl arian o gronfa gymdeithasol Ewrop. Fel yr eglurais i'r Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd ar 7 Mawrth, os bydd angen mwy o arian arnom nag y rhagwelwyd—ac mae arian yn y gyllideb—ac os bydd y ddarpariaeth ar gyfer cronfeydd strwythurol yn y flwyddyn honno yn fwy na'r arian yn y gyllideb, mae gennym gytundeb â'r Trysorlys y gallwn wneud cais i hyd at 20 y cant o ddarpariaeth y flwyddyn ganlynol ar gyfer cronfeydd strwythurol gael eu dwyn ymlaen i ateb y gofyn hwnnw. Hynny yw, os oes arian yno, ac os bydd ei angen arnom, gallwn ei ddwyn ymlaen.

Phil Williams: A dderbyniwch fod y ffigur hwnnw o 25 y cant yn y flwyddyn gyntaf yn arian a dynnwyd o'r flwyddyn nesaf, 20 y cant yn yr ail flwyddyn o'r flwyddyn wedyn, ond nad yw'n ychwanegu at y cyfanswm sydd ar gael ar gyfer y cyfnod cyfan, felly byddai diffyg yn y flwyddyn olaf wedyn? Onid yw hynny'n wir?

Michael German: Ni dderbyniaf hynny am y caiff cyfanswm yr arian ei dalu, ac fel y sylweddolwch, ni fyddwn yn cyrraedd y taliadau olaf tan yr wythfed neu hyd yn oed y nawfed flwyddyn. Felly, mae hynny ymhell y tu hwnt i barhad y rhaglen. Cawn y taliad cyntaf yn ôl yn y seithfed blwyddyn ar yr amod bod y Llywodraeth yn derbyn o hyn ymlaen, y bydd holl arian Ewrop yn ychwanegol at floc Barnett. Ar hyn o bryd mae gennym y sicrwydd o wybod y bydd hynny gennym yn y dyfodol; byddai'r Cynulliad yn cymryd safbwynt arall, os nad oedd hynny'n wir. Gyda'r sicrwydd hwnnw, gwrthodaf welliant 1 Jocelyn Davies.

Karen Sinclair: Gofynnaf i'r gloch gael ei chanu i alw'r Aelodau i bleidleisio.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Mae angen i dri Aelod gefnogi'r cais hwnnw. Gwelaf fod tri, felly,

that there are three, therefore, Clerk, please ring the bell. Glerc, a wnewch chi ganu'r gloch.

*Gwelliant 1: O blaid 21, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 29.
Amendment 1: For 21, Abstain 0, Against 29.*

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

Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun
Dafis, Cynog
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Graham, William
Hancock, Brian
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Richards, Rod
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Phil

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hart, Edwina
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Williams, Kirsty

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment rejected.*

*Cynnig: O blaid 50, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 50, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Dafis, Cynog
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Richards, Rod
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Kirsty
Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion adopted.*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: That brings **Y Dirprwy Lywydd:** Daw hynny â
today's proceedings to a close. chyfarfod heddiw i ben.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 4.58 p.m.
The session ended at 4.58 p.m.*