



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

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

Dydd Mawrth 18 Mehefin 2002

Tuesday 18 June 2002

Cynnwys
Contents

- 3 Datganiad gan y Llywydd
Statement by the Presiding Officer
- 3 Ethol Pwyllgor Penderfyniadau Cynllunio
Election of a Planning Decision Committee
- 5 Cwestiynau i Brif Weinidog Cymru
Questions to the First Minister
- 24 Datganiad ar y Newidiadau i'r Cabinet
Statement on Cabinet Changes
- 41 Datganiad ar Gyhoeddiad Adnewyddu Consignia
Statement on the Consignia Renewal Announcement
- 53 Datganiad Busnes
Business Statement
- 55 Symud Cyfarfod Llawn Dydd Iau
Moving Thursday's Plenary Session
- 56 Adroddiad Blynyddol y Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol
The Annual Report of the Committee on European and External Affairs

Cofnodir y trafodion hyn yn yr iaith y llefarwyd hwy ynnddi yn y Siambr. Yn ogystal, cynhwyswyd cyfieithiad Saesneg o eiriau a lefarwyd yn y Gymraeg. Bydd cofnod dwyieithog cyflawn ar gael bum niwrnod gwaith ar ôl cynnal y cyfarfod

These proceedings are reported in the language in which they were spoken in the Chamber. In addition, an English translation of Welsh speeches has been included. A fully bilingual record will be available five working days after the meeting.

*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*

**Datganiad gan y Llywydd
Statement by the Presiding Officer**

Y Llywydd: Llongyfarchaf Syr Jon Shortridge yn swyddogol ar gael ei urddo'n farchog.
The Presiding Officer: I formally congratulate Sir Jon Shortridge on receiving his knighthood.

**Ethol Pwyllgor Penderfyniadau Cynllunio
Election of a Planning Decision Committee**

Y Gweinidog dros Lywodraeth Agored (Carwyn Jones): Cynigiau fod
The Minister for Open Government (Carwyn Jones): I propose that

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn penderfynu: *the National Assembly for Wales resolves:*

1. *bod Pwyllgor, a gaiff ei alw'n Bwyllgor Penderfyniadau Cynllunio 2002-5 yn cael ei sefydlu, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 35, i gyflawni swyddogaethau'r Cynulliad o dan adrannau 77(1) a 78 o Ddeddf Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref 1990 mewn perthynas â'r mater a nodir yn yr atodlen i'r cynnig hwn (ynghyd, yn achos y mater cyntaf a'r trydydd mater yn yr atodlen, â swyddogaethau'r Cynulliad o dan adrannau 8, 12 ac 20 o Ddeddf Cynllunio (Adeiladau Rhestredig ac Ardaloedd Cadwraeth) 1990 a bod swyddogaethau'r Cynulliad yn hynny o beth yn cael eu dirprwyo i'r Pwyllgor;*

1. that a Committee, to be known as the Planning Decision Committee 2002-5, be established, in accordance with Standing Order No. 35, to discharge the functions of the Assembly under sections 77(1) and 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 in respect of the matter identified in the schedule to this motion (together, in the case of the first and third matters identified in the schedule, with the functions of the Assembly under sections 8, 12 and 20 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and that the Assembly's functions in those respects be delegated to that Committee;
2. *mai aelodau'r Pwyllgor hwnnw fydd Tom Middlehurst AC, Val Lloyd AC, David Davies AC, Brian Hancock AC;*

2. that the members of that Committee be Tom Middlehurst AM, Val Lloyd AM, David Davies AM, Brian Hancock AM;
3. *y bydd y Pwyllgor yn dod i ben pan fydd Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor yn llofnodi'r llythyr penderfynu yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 35.16 neu ar 5 Gorffennaf 2002, pa un bynnag a ddaw gyntaf;*

3. that the Committee shall cease to exist when the Chair of the Committee signs the decision letter in accordance with Standing Order No. 35.16 or on 5 July 2002, whichever is the earlier;
4. *os bydd y Pwyllgor yn dod i ben heb i'r Cadeirydd lofnodi'r llythyr penderfynu mewn perthynas â'r mater a nodir yn yr atodlen i'r cynnig hwn, y bydd y swyddogaethau a nodir ym mharagraff 1 uchod, mewn perthynas â'r cyfryw fater, yn cael eu dirprwyo i Brif Weinidog Cymru.*

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

Atodlen

Schedule

Apêl cynllunio ac apêl caniatâd adeilad rhestredig gan Gryphon Corporation Cyf ar gyfer bwlch drws newydd arfaethedig i Apartment 2, y Victorian Wing, Trawsgoed, Aberystwyth. *Planning appeal and listed building consent appeal by Gryphon Corporation Ltd for proposed new doorway to Apartment 2, the Victorian Wing, Trawsgoed, Aberystwyth.*

Cais cynllunio wedi'i alw i mewn gan Mr C. Alford ar gyfer annedd amaethyddol newydd yn Castle Lands, Pencelli, Aberhonddu. *Called-in planning application by Mr C. Alford for new agricultural dwelling at Castle Lands, Pencelli, Brecon.*

Cais cynllunio wedi'i alw i mewn a chais am ganiatâd adeilad rhestredig gan Gyngor Sir Powys ar gyfer cymal III ffordd liniaru fewnol Aberhonddu o'r Struet i Ship Street, Aberhonddu a dymchwel adeiladau rhestredig. (NDM1080) *Called-in planning application and listed building consent application by Powys County Council for phase III of the Brecon inner relief road from the Struet to Ship Street, Brecon and demolition of listed buildings. (NDM1080)*

*Cynnig: O blaid 31, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 31, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Dafis, Cynog
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Edwards, Richard
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Hancock, Brian
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Rogers, Peter
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

Cwestiynau i Brif Weinidog Cymru Questions to the First Minister

Penderfyniadau ar yr Hawl i Fudd-dal Decisions on Benefit Entitlement

Q1 Gwenda Thomas: What discussions has the First Minister had with the Secretary of State for Wales regarding the official Department of Work and Pensions figures on the success rates of appeals against decisions on benefit entitlement, and their significance for claimants in Wales? (OAQ18382)

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): As you know, Gwenda, this is not a devolved matter. However, we take an interest in it through our welfare rights advice initiative, on which we are spending £1.7 million over three years. Of this sum, £300,000 will be spent on training and administration. This is to ensure that people are aware of their rights to invalidity, incapacity and other health-related benefits. We discussed this during my recent visit to the citizens advice bureau in Neath and to the initiative in Skewen in your constituency, and I hope that it will result in more people taking up their full entitlement to these benefits.

Gwenda Thomas: The Department of Work and Pensions figures reveal a success rate of 63.6 per cent in appeals against decisions on benefit entitlement when appellants attend an appeals tribunal with a representative. Do you therefore agree that the representation provided by welfare rights units, citizens advice bureaux, and other organisations, is important in the fight against poverty and in promoting social inclusion in Wales?

The First Minister: Yes. I am sure that you will welcome the fact that the benefits of the welfare rights advice initiative are to be further spread throughout Wales. On 1 July, a further scheme will begin, which will be based in Haverfordwest to serve the whole of the Preseli Pembrokeshire area.

David Melding: To be fair, I think that you

C1 Gwenda Thomas: Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Prif Weinidog wedi'u cael gydag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ynghylch ffigurau swyddogol yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau ar raddfeydd llwyddiant apeliadau yn erbyn penderfyniadau ar yr hawl i fudd-dal, ac arwyddocâd y rheini i hawlwr yng Nghymru? (OAQ18382)

Prif Weinidog Cymru (Rhodri Morgan): Fel y gwyddoch, Gwenda, nid yw hwn yn fater datganoledig. Er hynny, ymddiddorwn ynddo drwy'n menter cyngor hawliau lles, yr ydym yn gwario £1.7 miliwn arno dros dair blynedd. O'r swm hwn, caiff £300,000 ei wario ar hyfforddi a gweinyddu, a hynny er mwyn sicrhau bod pobl yn ymwybodol o'u hawliau i fudd-daliadau analluedd, analluogrwydd ac eraill yn ymwneud â ieched. Bu inni drafod hyn yn ystod fy ymweliad diweddar â'r ganolfan gynghori yng Nghastell-nedd a'r fenter yn Sgiwen yn eich etholaeth chi, a gobeithiaf mai'r canlyniad fydd y bydd mwy o bobl yn manteisio'n llawn ar eu hawl i'r budd-daliadau hyn.

Gwenda Thomas: Mae ffigurau'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau'n datgelu cyfradd lwyddiant o 63.6 y cant mewn apeliadau yn erbyn penderfyniadau ar hawl i fudd-dal pan fydd apelwyr yn mynychu tribiwnlys apêl gyda chynrychiolydd. A ydych yn cytuno felly fod y gynrychiolaeth a ddarperir gan unedau hawliau lles, canolfannau cynghori, a sefydliadau eraill, yn bwysig yn y frwydr yn erbyn tlodi ac er mwyn hyrwyddo cynhwysiant cymdeithasol yng Nghymru?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ydwyf. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwch yn croesawu'r ffaith y caiff manteision y fenter cyngor hawliau lles eu lledaenu ymhellach drwy Gymru gyfan. Bydd cynllun pellach yn dechrau ar 1 Gorffennaf, a gaiff ei leoli yn Hwlfordd i wasanaethu holl ardal Preseli Penfro.

David Melding: A bod yn deg, yr wyf yn

realise that the biggest problem that we face in this respect is that many people do not claim the benefits that they are entitled to receive, for example, the invalid care allowance. It is vital that we ensure that health workers and social workers are trained to tell people what they are entitled to receive.

The First Minister: This is a difficult issue. Where is the join between devolved Government and central Government? It is not always easy to devise the perfect joined-up method to achieve a seamless service for potential claimants. In general, the public, and a certain kind of leader with whom you and I are familiar, will perceive anyone in receipt of benefits as being a welfare state scrounger almost by definition; however, the majority of people entitled to benefits do not claim them when they should do so.

meddwl eich bod yn sylweddoli mai'r broblem fwyaf a wynebwn yn hyn o beth yw bod llawer o bobl nad ydynt yn hawlio'r budd-daliadau y mae ganddynt hawl i'w cael, er enghraifft, y lwfans gofal analluedd. Mae'n hollbwysig ein bod yn sicrhau y caiff gweithwyr iechyd a gweithwyr cymdeithasol eu hyfforddi i ddweud wrth bobl beth y mae ganddynt hawl i'w gael.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae hwn yn fater anodd. Ble mae'r pwynt cyffwrdd rhwng Llywodraeth ddatganoledig a Llywodraeth ganolog? Nid yw bob amser yn hawdd dyfeisio dull cydlynol perffaith i sicrhau gwasanaeth di-fwlch i ddarpar hawl wyr. Yn gyffredinol, bydd y cyhoedd, a math arbennig o awdur erthyglau papur newydd yr ydym ni'n dau'n gyfarwydd ag ef, yn ystyried unrhyw un sy'n derbyn budd-daliadau fel un sy'n byw'n fras ar goffrau'r wlad; fodd bynnag, nid yw'r rhan fwyaf o bobl sydd â hawl i gael budd-daliadau yn eu hawlio pan ddylent wneud hynny.

Cael Gwared ar Anghyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Hiliol Eliminating Social and Racial Injustice

Q2 Helen Mary Jones: Will the First Minister comment on what is being done by the Assembly to eliminate social and racial injustice in Wales? (OAQ18431)

The First Minister: The 'Plan for Wales 2001' identifies social inclusion and equal opportunities as guiding themes for the Welsh Assembly Government, alongside our commitment to sustainable development. The second annual report on social inclusion sets out in detail how the Assembly Government's social inclusion agenda is being taken forward. We are also committed to tackling racism in all its forms. I raised this issue at the Inter-faith Council for Wales, which was set up with the other party leaders over the past 12 months.

Helen Mary Jones: I am grateful to you for reiterating a commitment to fight racism in Wales. I am sure that you will join me in condemning the horrifying racist attack which took place in Llanelli a fortnight ago,

C2 Helen Mary Jones: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddweud beth y mae'r Cynulliad yn ei wneud i gael gwared ar anghyfiawnder cymdeithasol a hiliol yng Nghymru? (OAQ18431)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae'r 'Cynllun i Gymru 2001' yn nodi cynhwysiant cymdeithasol a chyfle cyfartal fel themâu arweiniol i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, ochr yn ochr â'n hymrwymiad i ddatblygu cynaliadwy. Mae'r ail adroddiad blynyddol ar gynhwysiant cymdeithasol yn amlinellu'n fanwl sut yr ydym yn dilyn agenda Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar gynhwysiant cymdeithasol. Yr ydym hefyd wedi ymrwmo i fynd i'r afael â hiliaeth yn ei holl agweddau. Codais y mater hwn yng Nghyngor Rhyng-grefyddol Cymru, a sefydlwyd gydag arweinwyr y pleidiau eraill dros y 12 mis diwethaf.

Helen Mary Jones: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar ichi am ailddatgan ymrwymiad i ymladd hiliaeth yng Nghymru. Yr wyf yn siŵr yr ymunwch â mi i gondemnio'r ymosodiad hiliol erchyll a ddigwyddodd yn Llanelli

and in congratulating the police and local government on their prompt and effective response. Would you be prepared today to commit the Welsh Assembly Government to a sympathetic response should Carmarthenshire County Council seek additional resources to assist with the protection of communities which, before 11 September, did not feel that they were under threat, but have now been subjected to unacceptable behaviour?

The First Minister: I agree with you about the incident that occurred on Sunday 2 June. My information is that the police arrested 13 people and, to date, two have been charged with racially aggravated assault and violent disorder under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. The police have eliminated some of the remaining 11 people from their inquiries, but work is ongoing in respect of others. The two individuals charged are the principal offenders, and were the ones who allegedly punched, spat at and poured beer over the caretaker of the mosque. Those allegations, if proven in court, are of totally unacceptable behaviour; the sooner that we can eliminate that sort of behaviour, the healthier a society we will be.

The Presiding Officer: Order. We must not refer to matters which are sub judice.

John Griffiths: Would you join me in congratulating the Welsh Refugee Council on organising Welsh refugee week? A photographic exhibition in the Assembly neuadd reinforces the reality of the situation—refugees flee terrible conditions at home, face considerable difficulties when they arrive in host countries, and make a positive contribution when they are there.

The First Minister: I have not seen the exhibition, but I will make it my business to do so during any gaps in Plenary business today or following the session. A poll published yesterday showed that most people think that Britain accepts some 25 per cent of the world's refugees; the fact is that it accepts 2 per cent of the world's refugees. Therefore, perception diverges a great deal from reality.

bythefnos yn ôl, ac i longyfarch yr heddlu a llywodraeth leol am eu hymateb buan ac effeithiol. A fyddech yn barod heddiw i ymrwymo Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i ymateb yn ffafriol pe bai Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin yn ceisio adnoddau ychwanegol i gynorthwyo'r gwaith o warchod cymunedau nad oeddent yn teimlo dan fygythiad cyn 11 Medi, ond sydd bellach wedi gorfod dioddef ymddygiad annerbyniol?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Cytunaf â chi ynghylch yr hyn a ddigwyddodd ar ddydd Sul 2 Mehefin. Fy ngwybodaeth i yw yr arestiodd yr heddlu 13 o bobl a bod dau, hyd yma, wedi'u cyhuddo o ymosod ar sail hiliol ac o aflonyddu treisgar dan Ddeddf Cyfiawnder Troseddol a Threfn Gyhoeddus 1994. Mae'r heddlu wedi gorffen eu hymholiadau ynglŷn â rhai o'r 11 sy'n weddill, ond mae gwaith yn parhau ar eraill. Y ddau unigolyn a gyhuddwyd yw'r prif dramgwyddwyr, a dyma'r rhai yr honnir iddynt daro, poeri ar a thywallt cwrw dros ofalwr y mosg. Mae'r honiadau hynny, os y'u profir yn y llys, yn disgrifio ymddygiad cwbl annerbyniol; po gyntaf y gallwn ddileu'r math hwnnw o ymddygiad, byddwn yn fwy iach fel cymdeithas.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Rhaid inni beidio â chyfeirio at faterion sydd yn *sub judice*.

John Griffiths: A wnewch chi ymuno â mi i longyfarch Cyngor Ffoaduriaid Cymru am drefnu wythnos ffoaduriaid Cymru? Mae arddangosfa o ffotograffau yn neuadd y Cynulliad yn tanlinellu realiti'r sefyllfa—bydd ffoaduriaid yn ffoi oddi wrth amodau erchyll gartref, yn wynebu anawsterau sylweddol pan gyrhaeddant eu gwledydd newydd, ac yn gwneud cyfraniad cadarnhaol ar ôl cyrraedd.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Nid wyf wedi gweld yr arddangosfa, ond gwnaf yn siŵr fy mod yn gwneud hynny yn ystod unrhyw gyfnodau rhydd ym musnes y Cyfarfod Llawn heddiw neu yn dilyn y cyfarfod. Dangosodd arolwg a gyhoeddwyd ddoe fod y rhan fwyaf o bobl yn meddwl bod Prydain yn derbyn rhyw 25 y cant o ffoaduriaid y byd; mae'n derbyn 2 y cant o ffoaduriaid y byd. Felly, mae gwahaniaeth mawr rhwng y canfyddiad a'r

gwirionedd.

Glyn Davies: O bryd i'w gilydd, gwelaf esiamplau o hiliaeth yng Nghymru. Yr wyf yn casáu hynny, ond nid wyf wastad yn siŵr beth yw'r ffordd orau o ymateb. A gytunwch y dylid cymryd gofal mawr cyn ymateb, er mwyn peidio ag ychwanegu at y cyhoeddusrwydd y mae'r bobl hiliol yma yn ei geisio?

Glyn Davies: I occasionally encounter examples of racism in Wales. I abhor that, but I am not always sure how best to respond. Do you agree that we should take great care before responding, so as not to add to the publicity that these racists crave?

2:10 p.m.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yr ydych yn iawn yn yr ystyr bod y Ffrynt Cenedlaethol, o dan ei enw newydd, y Blaid Genedlaethol Brydeinig, yn dueddol o gymryd unrhyw gyfle i fanteisio'n wleidyddol ar ddigwyddiad o'r fath. Maent fel clêr mewn cae lle y bu ceffylau, yn disgyn ar yr hyn sydd ar y ddaear. Mae'n anffodus nad yw cyhoeddusrwydd ambell waith yn helpu. Mae angen i bobl flaenllaw yn y byd cyhoeddus fynegi eu barn ar y math hwn o ddigwyddiad.

The First Minister: You are right in the sense that the National Front, under its new guise, the British National Party, tends to take every opportunity to make political capital out of such incidents. They are parasites who feed on the misery of others. It is unfortunate that publicity sometimes does not help. Prominent public figures should voice their opinions on such incidents.

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Cyfeiriaf at ran o'r cwestiwn, sef anghyfiawnder cymdeithasol. Un o bryderon mwyaf pobl yn ein cymunedau gwledig a threfol yw torcyfraith. Yr ydych yn ymwybodol o hynny gan eich bod bellach wedi rhoi cyfrifoldebau yn y maes hwnnw i'r Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau. A rannwch fy mhryder y caiff ffigurau eu cyhoeddi yn ystod y dyddiau nesaf yn dangos bod torcyfraith ar gynnydd yng Nghymru a gweddill gwledydd Prydain? Pa arweiniad a rowch i'r Gweinidog ynglŷn â sut y gall ddelio â hyn?

The Leader of the Opposition (Ieuan Wyn Jones): I refer to one part of the question, namely social injustice. One of the greatest concerns among people in our rural and urban communities is crime. You are aware of that because you have given responsibilities in that regard to the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities. Do you share my concern that figures will be published over the next few days showing that crime is on the increase in Wales and the rest of Britain? What guidance will you give the Minister on how she can tackle this?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae'n bosibl eich bod yn gywir ynglŷn â'r ystadegau hynny. Nid oes syniad gennyf beth fydd y ffigurau ar gyfer y flwyddyn hyd at fis Mawrth 2002, a gyhoeddir fis nesaf. Fodd bynnag, yn y flwyddyn hyd at 31 Mawrth 2001, yr oedd torcyfraith wedi disgyn 6.5 y cant yng Nghymru, o'i gymharu â 2.5 y cant, os y cofiaf yn iawn, yn Lloegr. Felly yr oedd y ffigurau hynny yn iach. Dyna'r unig ffigurau sydd gennyf ar hyn o bryd. Deallaf fod pobl yn petruso llawer mwy yn awr am dorcyfraith nag yr oeddent flwyddyn neu ddwy yn ôl.

The First Minister: You may be right about those statistics. I have no idea what the figures for the year up to March 2002, which will be published next month, will be. However, in the year up to 31 March 2001, crime fell by 6.5 per cent in Wales, compared with 2.5 per cent, if I remember correctly, in England. So those figures were encouraging. Those are the only figures that I have at present. I am aware that people are far more concerned now about crime than they were a year or so ago.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Nid ydych wedi sôn am y

Ieuan Wyn Jones: You have not mentioned

cyfrifoldebau newydd yr ydych wedi eu rhoi i'r Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau. Yr ydych chi a minnau'n gwybod, beth bynnag a ddywed ystadegau, bod torcyfraith bellach ar frig agenda pobl gyffredin. Maent yn pryderu'n fawr am hyn. A allwch chi fanylu ar gyfrifoldebau newydd y Gweinidog yn y maes hwn? Onid yw'n bryd trosglwyddo cyfrifoldeb am yr heddlu yng Nghymru i'r Cynulliad, gan mai dim ond rhan o'r gwaith y gall y Gweinidog ei wneud fel arall? Onid yw'n gwneud synnwyr, gan bod hyn yn codi i frig yr agenda wleidyddol, i'r Cynulliad gymryd cyfrifoldeb llawn dros blismona, cyllid a sut i ddelio â thorcyfraith yn ein cymunedau?

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae cyfrifoldebau Gweinidogion yn destun datganiad yn nes ymlaen, felly gobeithiaf y bydd ateb y Prif Weinidog yn gryno.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Bydd Edwina Hart yn cymryd cyfrifoldeb am bolisi trechu torcyfraith. Golyga hynny, yn dechnegol, y caiff cyfrifoldeb dros y timau sydd yn delio â chyffuriau ac alcohol ei drosglwyddo o'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, Jane Hutt, i Edwina Hart. Bydd cydlynu polisi ar drechu torcyfraith hefyd ymhlith cyfrifoldebau Edwina Hart.

Dod â'r Broses o Wneud Penderfyniadau yn Agosach at Bobl Cymru Bringing Decision Making Closer to the People of Wales

Q3 Janice Gregory: What action is the First Minister's Government taking to bring decision making closer to the people of Wales? (OAQ18403)

The First Minister: Letting the people of Wales know what goes on in the Assembly and learning from them is a vital part of bringing decision making closer to the people and breaking down the barrier between us and them. As part of the changes to the Cabinet, which I will set out more fully this afternoon, I have asked Carwyn Jones to take on additional responsibility for citizenship and participation. As the Minister for Open Government, he will be ideally placed to carry the message about our work to all our citizens and encourage maximum participation in our activities from those groups and individuals affected.

the new responsibilities delegated to the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities. You and I know that, whatever the statistics say, crime is now at the top of people's agendas. They are extremely concerned about this. Can you elaborate on the Minister's new responsibilities in this area? Is it not time to transfer responsibility for the police in Wales to the Assembly, because, without these responsibilities, the Minister will only be able to do part of the job? Does it not make sense now, as this subject is rising to the top of the political agenda, for the Assembly to take full responsibility for policing, finance and how to tackle crime in our communities?

The Presiding Officer: Order. Ministerial responsibilities are the subject of a statement later on, so I hope that the First Minister's answer will be succinct.

The First Minister: Edwina Hart will be responsible for policy on defeating crime. Technically, that involves transferring responsibility for the teams that deal with drugs and alcohol from the Minister for Health and Social Services, Jane Hutt, to Edwina Hart. Co-ordinating policy on defeating crime will also be among Edwina Hart's responsibilities.

C3 Janice Gregory: Pa gamau y mae Llywodraeth y Prif Weinidog yn eu cymryd i ddod â'r broses o wneud penderfyniadau yn agosach at bobl Cymru? (OAQ18403)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae gadael i bobl Cymru wybod beth sydd yn digwydd yn y Cynulliad a dysgu oddi wrthynt yn rhan allweddol o ddod â'r broses o wneud penderfyniadau yn agosach at y bobl a chwalu'r mur rhyngom ni a nhw. Fel rhan o'r newidiadau i'r Cabinet, a amlinellaf yn llawnach y prynhawn yma, yr wyf wedi gofyn i Carwyn Jones ymgymryd â chyfrifoldeb ychwanegol am ddinasyddiaeth a chyfranogiad. Fel Gweinidog dros Lywodraeth Agored, bydd mewn sefyllfa ddelfrydol i ledaenu'r neges am ein gwaith i'n holl ddinasyddion ac annog cymaint o gyfranogiad yn ein gweithgareddau ag sy'n

bosibl gan y grwpiau a'r unigolion hynny yr effeithir arnynt.

Janice Gregory: On decision making in terms of the ballot box, many polling stations in Wales are unsuitable in terms of access for disabled people. Do you agree that local authorities should make every effort to rectify this situation? They should make polling stations accessible or find new locations that are accessible, not simply close stations; that reduces people's ability to participate in decision making.

Janice Gregory: O safbwynt gwneud penderfyniadau drwy bleidlais, mae llawer o orsafoedd pleidleisio yng Nghymru'n anaddas o ran mynediad i bobl anabl. A gytunwch y dylai awdurdodau lleol wneud pob ymdrech i gywiro hyn? Dylent sicrhau bod mynediad i orsafoedd pleidleisio yn bosibl neu ganfod lleoliadau newydd y gellir mynd iddynt, nid dim ond cau gorsafoedd; mae hynny'n lleihau gallu pobl i gyfranogi yn y broses o wneud penderfyniadau.

The First Minister: The right to vote is the ultimate right in a democracy. Closing a polling station without offering an alternative is a retrograde step. It is not enough to say that a polling station does not have proper facilities for disabled persons, and will therefore be closed, without an alternative being offered. The UK Government refunds 50 per cent of the cost of providing disabled access to polling stations, and we would regard a local authority's deciding to close a polling station without offering a replacement venue as an extreme step. Our aim is to improve access to polling stations, not reduce it.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yr hawl i bleidleisio yw'r hawl eithaf mewn democratiaeth. Cam yn ôl yw cau gorsaf bleidleisio heb gynnig dim yn ei lle. Nid yw'n ddigon dweud nad oes gan orsaf bleidleisio gyfleusterau priodol ar gyfer pobl anabl, ac y bydd yn rhaid ei chau felly, heb gynnig dim yn ei lle. Mae Llywodraeth y DU yn ad-dalu 50 y cant o gost darparu mynediad i'r anabl i orsafoedd pleidleisio, a byddem yn ystyried penderfyniad gan awdurdod lleol i gau gorsaf bleidleisio heb gynnig canolfan arall yn ei lle yn gam eithafol. Gwella mynediad i orsafoedd pleidleisio yw ein nod, nid ei leihau.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Wrth sôn am roi gwybod i bobl am benderfyniadau, a fydd y Prif Weinidog yn manteisio ar ei ymweliad â glofa'r Betws ddydd Gwener nesaf i ddweud wrth y gweithwyr ei fod wedi llwyddo i berswadio'r Adran Masnach a Diwydiant i ymestyn cymorth gweithredu tan ddiwedd y flwyddyn?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: In mentioning informing people of decisions, will the First Minister take advantage of his visit to Betws colliery next Friday to tell the workers that he has succeeded in persuading the Department of Trade and Industry to extend operating aids until the end of the year?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae'n gyfarfod pwysig, ond ni allaf siarad o flaen llaw am yr hyn a ddywedaf wrth Martin Cook ac Undeb Cenedlaethol y Glowyr. Mae glofa'r Betws yn bwysig; mae'n cyflogi 70 o bobl yn Rhydaman. Wedi glofa'r Tŵr, dyma'r ail bwll glo mwyaf yng Nghymru. Ni allaf ragweld beth a ddywedaf ymhen tridiau.

The First Minister: It is an important meeting, but I cannot say beforehand what I will tell Martin Cook and the National Union of Mineworkers. Betws colliery is important, employing 70 people in Ammanford. It is the second largest coal mine in Wales, after Tower colliery. I cannot anticipate what I will say in three days' time.

Richard Edwards: Do you share my concern that decision making in Pembrokeshire will become even less open and accountable now that the LGA Independent Group—which is to independence what Stalin was to free

Richard Edwards: A rannwch fy mhryder y bydd y broses o wneud penderfyniadau yn Sir Benfro'n mynd hyd yn oed yn llai agored ac atebol gan fod Grŵp Annibynnol yr awdurdod lleol—sydd i annibyniaeth yr hyn oedd Stalin i ryddid barn—nid yn unig wedi

speech—has not only formed the new cabinet in the Kremlin on the Cleddau but chairs all the scrutiny committees. I understand that this also happens in Cardiff, I am sorry to say. Who guards the guards?

The First Minister: I do not know. I have not heard details of the new arrangements in Pembrokeshire; to some degree, I am more familiar with those in Cardiff. Sometimes, there are not enough people in different parties to occupy all the scrutiny committee posts. However, it is important that scrutiny committees should be sufficiently independent of the executive to strongly exercise their functions. I recently spoke to a member of Cardiff County Council's executive, who was conscious of the extent to which the council's scrutiny committee had given policies, for which he was responsible, a thorough 'going over', in the old-fashioned sense. The idea that somebody will not independently scrutinise the executive because they are in the same political party is not always true; it was not true in that case.

The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives (Nick Bourne): It is good to see Richard Edwards back in the Assembly. [ASSEMBLY MEMBERS: 'Hear, hear.'] One aspect of bringing decisions closer to the people is to listen to what parents, teachers and governors say, particularly on school spending. Last week, we had a deputation from John Beddoes School in Presteigne, which I recently visited, concerning spending differentials. Schools in England receive more money per pupil than schools in Wales. The traditional response to that is that we must take London weighting into account. Even if I accepted that argument—and I do not—it would mean that we spent more per pupil in schools in Wales than in England during the last three years of Conservative government, and during your Government's first year. When will we return to that position?

The First Minister: As Presteigne is on the border, the relevant comparison is probably with the adjoining border counties of England. My understanding is that spending per pupil in schools in Powys is higher than it is in Shropshire, or Hereford and

ffurfio'r cabinet newydd yn y Kremlin ar y Cleddau ond hefyd yn cadeirio'r holl bwyllgorau archwilio. Deallaf fod hyn yn digwydd yng Nghaerdydd hefyd, mae'n flin gennyf ddweud. Pwy sy'n gwyllo'r gwylwyr?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ni wn. Nid wyf wedi clywed manylion y trefniadau newydd yn Sir Benfro; i ryw raddau, yr wyf yn fwy cyfarwydd â threfniadau Caerdydd. Weithiau, nid oes digon o bobl mewn pleidiau gwahanol i lenwi'r holl swyddi archwilio. Er hynny, mae'n bwysig y dylai pwyllgorau archwilio fod yn ddigon annibynnol o'r weithrediaeth i wneud eu gwaith yn ddigonol. Siaradais yn ddiweddar ag aelod o weithrediaeth Cyngor Sir Caerdydd, a oedd yn ymwybodol o'r graddau yr oedd pwyllgor archwilio'r cyngor wedi rhoi archwiliad trwyadl i bolisiau yr oedd ef yn gyfrifol amdanynt. Nid yw'r syniad na wnaiff rhywun archwilio'r weithrediaeth yn annibynnol am ei bod yn perthyn i'r un blaid wleidyddol yn wir bob amser; nid oedd yn wir yn yr achos hwnnw.

Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru (Nick Bourne): Mae'n dda gweld Richard Edwards yn ôl yn y Cynulliad. [AELODAU'R CYNULLIAD: 'Clywch, clywch.'] Un agwedd ar ddod â phenderfyniadau'n nes at y bobl yw gwrandio ar yr hyn a ddywed rhieni, athrawon a llywodraethwyr, yn enwedig ar wariant ysgolion. Yr wythnos diwethaf, cawson ddirprwyaeth o Ysgol John Beddoes yn Llanandras, lle bûm ar ymweliad yn ddiweddar, ynglŷn â gwahaniaethau gwariant. Caiff ysgolion yn Lloegr fwy o arian ar gyfer pob disgybl nag ysgolion yng Nghymru. Yr ymateb traddodiadol i hynny yw bod yn rhaid inni ystyried pwysoliad Llundain. Hyd yn oed pe derbyniwn y ddadl honno—ac nis derbyniaf—byddai'n golygu y gwariwyd mwy fesul disgybl mewn ysgolion yng Nghymru nag yn Lloegr yn ystod tair blynedd olaf y Llywodraeth Geidwadol, ac yn ystod blwyddyn gyntaf eich Llywodraeth chi. Pa bryd y dychwelwn at hynny?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Gan fod Llanandras ar y ffin, mae'n debyg mai gyda siroedd gorau cyfagos Lloegr y mae'r gymhariaeth berthnasol. Hyd y gwn i, mae gwariant fesul disgybl yn ysgolion Powys yn uwch nag yn Swydd Amwythig, neu Swydd Henffordd a

Worcestershire.

Nick Bourne: That is not the case in Presteigne. It compared its situation with that of Kington. Spending is lower per pupil in Presteigne than in Kington. It is fair to say that certain rural counties have other relevant considerations, such as greater expenditure on school transport. However, to return to my question, why is spending in Wales—even according to your figures—only the same as in England, whereas previously, more was spent per pupil in Wales? Should we not return to that position?

The First Minister: You asked me a question, anticipating an answer that I did not give you. Now, you are trying to force me to give you the answer that you wanted initially. However, the statistical fact is plain: the London figures are irrelevant, as we do not have a metropolis that is even one-twentieth the size of London. It is clear that, if you examine the statistics, London is out of line with other parts of England or Wales. Remove the figures for London and the spend per pupil in Wales is higher than in England. I draw to your attention again to the fact that, with the exception of Cheshire and Flintshire, expenditure per pupil in counties along the Welsh border is higher than in the adjoining areas in England.

2:20 p.m.

System Cyfiawnder Troseddol yng Nghymru Criminal Justice System in Wales

Q4 John Griffiths: What discussions has the First Minister had with the Secretary of State for Wales regarding the criminal justice system in Wales? (OAQ18435)

The First Minister: As part of the Cabinet changes, which I will set out more fully later today, I have asked Edwina Hart to assume additional responsibilities in this regard. The Welsh Assembly Government's work on matters such as housing, the environment and community development is vital in tackling the causes of crime and addressing the fear of crime that affects the lives of too many

Chaerwrangon.

Nick Bourne: Nid yw hynny'n wir yn Llanandras. Cymharwyd ei sefyllfa â sefyllfa Ceintun. Mae gwariant fesul disgybl yn is yn Llanandras nag yng Ngheintun. Mae'n deg dweud bod gan rai siroedd gwledig ystyriaethau perthnasol eraill, fel mwy o wariant ar gludiant ysgol. Fodd bynnag, i ddychwelyd at fy nghwestiwn, pam nad yw gwariant yng Nghymru—hyd yn oed yn ôl eich ffigurau chi—ddim ond yr un fath ag yn Lloegr, tra yr arferid gwario mwy fesul disgybl yng Nghymru? Oni ddylem symud yn ôl at y sefyllfa honno?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Gofynasoch gwestiwn imi gan ragweld ateb na roddais i chi. Yn awr, yr ydych yn ceisio fy ngorfodi i roi'r ateb yr oedd arnoch ei eisiau i ddechrau. Fodd bynnag, mae'r ffaith ystadegol yn blaen: mae ffigurau Llundain yn amherthnasol, gan nad oes gennym fetropolis sydd hyd yn oed yn ugeinfed rhan o faint Llundain. Mae'n amlwg, os edrychwch ar yr ystadegau, fod Llundain yn wahanol i rannau eraill o Loegr a Chymru. Tynnwch y ffigurau ar gyfer Llundain i ffwrdd, ac mae'r gwariant fesul disgybl yng Nghymru yn uwch nag yn Lloegr. Tynnaf eich sylw eto at y ffaith bod gwariant fesul disgybl mewn siroedd ar hyd ffin Cymru yn uwch nag yn yr ardaloedd dros y ffin yn Lloegr, ac eithrio Swydd Caer a Sir y Fflint.

people in Wales. I am determined that this administration should utilise fully the opportunities it has to address crime reduction and prevention.

John Griffiths: We have an ever-growing, record prison population in England and Wales. There are, I believe, over 70,000 prisoners. We imprison a far greater percentage of our population than other European countries do. More and more young people are taken into custody, often for a few months or so. That institutions can be universities of crime and that short sentences make rehabilitation and retraining impractical is well documented. People then leave without job opportunities, have difficulty in finding accommodation and have broken family ties. Does not this brutalising and stigmatising of people make re-offending more likely?

The First Minister: We were consulted on the Auld report, which makes all of those points. That is, if you imprison at all, it should be for serious crimes that have a sufficiently lengthy sentence to allow for constructive rehabilitation activities to take place. If the sentence, as is appropriate to the crime, is not long enough for rehabilitation activities to take place in the prison, then it is better to devise a community-based sentence. That is the Auld report's message. This matter is not our responsibility, although we were consulted on the report. However, I commend that particular conclusion of the report to the relevant authorities.

Janet Ryder: The UK Government seizes millions of pounds' worth of assets when drug traffickers are convicted. Should not all of that money be devoted to drug rehabilitation programmes, such as the Dawn project in Colwyn Bay, run by Cais, which does excellent work? All this money should go to such programmes rather going to a general Treasury fund as it does at present.

The First Minister: I am not familiar with the project that you mentioned. However, I accept your word and will make arrangements to visit it if I have a spare hour

torcyfraith a delio â'r ofn torcyfraith sy'n effeithio ar fywydau gormod o bobl yng Nghymru. Yr wyf yn benderfynol y dylai'r weinyddiaeth hon fanteisio'n llawn ar y cyfleoedd sydd ganddi i fynd ati i leihau ac atal torcyfraith.

John Griffiths: Yng ngharchardai Cymru a Lloegr mae gennym boblogaeth fwy nag erioed ac sy'n tyfu o hyd. Credaf fod dros 70,000 o garcharorion. Carcharwn ganran lawer uwch o'n poblogaeth na gwledydd eraill yn Ewrop. Carcharir mwy a mwy o bobl ifanc, yn aml am ychydig fisoedd. Mae digon o dystiolaeth i brofi y gall sefydliadau o'r fath fod yn lleoedd i ddysgu mwy am droseddu a bod dedfrydau byr yn peri bod ailsefydlu ac ailhyfforddi yn anymarferol. Mae pobl yn gadael heb gyfleoedd gwaith, cânt anhawster wrth ddod o hyd i lety a bydd clymau teuluol wedi'u torri. Onid yw'r drefn hon o fwystfileiddio a stigmateiddio pobl yn golygu eu bod yn fwy tebygol o aildroseddu?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ymgynghorwyd â ni ar adroddiad Auld, sy'n gwneud y pwyntiau hynny i gyd. Hynny yw, os carcharu o gwbl, dylid gwneud am droseddau difrifol sy'n cario dedfryd ddigon hir i ganiatáu gweithgareddau ailsefydlu adeiladol. Os nad yw'r ddedfryd sy'n briodol ar gyfer y drosedd yn ddigon maith i ganiatáu gweithgareddau ailsefydlu yn y carchar, mae'n well dyfeisio dedfryd yn y gymuned. Dyna neges adroddiad Auld. Nid ein cyfrifoldeb ni yw hyn, er yr ymgynghorwyd â ni ynghylch yr adroddiad. Fodd bynnag, cymeradwyaf y casgliad arbennig hwnnw yn yr adroddiad i'r awdurdodau perthnasol.

Janet Ryder: Mae Llywodraeth y DU yn cipio gwerth miliynau o bunnoedd o asedau pan gaiff delwyr cyffuriau eu dal. Oni ddylai'r holl arian hwnnw gael ei roi i raglenni ailsefydlu defnyddwyr cyffuriau, fel prosiect Dawn ym Mae Colwyn, a redir gan Cais, sy'n gwneud gwaith ardderchog? Dylai'r holl arian hwn fynd at raglenni o'r fath yn hytrach na mynd i gronfa gyffredinol yn y Trysorlys fel y gwna ar hyn o bryd.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Nid wyf yn gyfarwydd â'r prosiect y sonioch amdano. Fodd bynnag, derbynaf eich gair a gwnaf drefniadau i ymweld ag ef os bydd gennyf

in Colwyn Bay. The proceeds confiscated in this way allow you to consider the option of funding drug rehabilitation work. I am sure that Edwina will want to address that matter with the chief constables, the prison authorities and the Home Office—which has primary responsibility for this issue—now that she has ministerial responsibility for the drug and alcohol teams.

Peter Law: I was pleased to hear that Edwina Hart will continue her good work on crime reduction and community safety, which hitherto was part of the local government and community portfolio in any case. Will the First Minister listen to the Local Government and Housing Committee's unanimous plea for responsibility for youth justice to be given to the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities so that we have a complete approach in this regard?

The First Minister: You have long held that view, Peter. I do not agree. It is a 60:40 issue, but youth justice concerns young people who are defined as children and therefore the matter falls more naturally within Jane Hutt's portfolio, given her responsibility for children as Minister for Health and Social Services.

William Graham: Will you provide an opportunity for the Assembly to consider the forthcoming White Paper on the criminal justice system? Its proposals, which include a formalised system of plea bargaining, allowing retrials when fresh evidence emerges and a reform of the rules of evidence, will have a profound effect on everybody in Wales. We should have an opportunity to consider that.

The First Minister: I will refer your request to those responsible for organising Assembly business, particularly the Minister for Open Government.

Hybu Ffyniant yn Ne Cymru Boosting Prosperity in South Wales

Q5 Brian Hancock: In his role as policy development co-ordinator of cross-cutting issues, what is the First Minister doing to

awr i'w sbario ym Mae Colwyn. Mae'r enillion a atafaelir fel hyn yn caniatáu ichi ystyried opsiwn ariannu gwaith ailsefydlu defnyddwyr cyffuriau. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd Edwina am godi'r mater gyda'r prif gwnstabiliaid, yr awdurdodau carchardai a'r Swyddfa Gartref—sydd yn bennaf cyfrifol am y mater hwn—a hithau bellach â chyfrifoldeb gweinidogol dros y timau cyffuriau ac alcohol.

Peter Law: Yr oedd yn dda gennyf glywed y bydd Edwina Hart yn parhau â'i gwaith da ar leihau torcyfraith a diogelwch cymunedau, a oedd hyd yma'n rhan o'r portffolio llywodraeth leol a chymunedau beth bynnag. A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog wrando ar ble unfrydol y Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Thai i'r cyfrifoldeb dros gyfiawnder ieuenctid gael ei roi i'r Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Lywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau fel ein bod yn ymdrin â hyn mewn modd cyflawn?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yr ydych chi wedi credu hynny ers talwm, Peter. Nid wyf yn cytuno. Mater 60:40 ydyw, ond mae a wnelo cyfiawnder ieuenctid â phobl ifanc, a ddiffinir fel plant, ac felly mae'r mater yn disgyn yn fwy naturiol i bortffolio Jane Hutt, o gofio'i chyfrifoldeb dros blant fel Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol.

William Graham: A wnewch chi ddarparu cyfle i'r Cynulliad ystyried y Papur Gwyn sydd yn yr arfaeth ar y system cyfiawnder troseddol? Caiff ei gynigion, sy'n cynnwys system ffurfiol ar gyfer bargeinio ple, caniatáu ail brawf pan ddaw tystiolaeth newydd i'r fei a diwygio'r rheolau tystiolaeth, effaith ddofn ar bawb yng Nghymru. Dylem gael cyfle i ystyried hynny.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Cyfeiriaf eich cais at y sawl sy'n gyfrifol am drefnu busnes y Cynulliad, yn enwedig y Gweinidog dros Lywodraeth Agored.

C5 Brian Hancock: Yn rhinwedd ei swyddogaeth fel cydlynnydd materion trawsbynciol, beth mae'r Prif Weinidog yn ei

boast—sorry, boost—prosperity in south Wales? (OAQ18429)

The First Minister: I am grateful for your clarification that we do not boast prosperity, but rather boost it. The argument relates to the package we have prepared, which is probably the best in western Europe. It comprises the Objective 1 programme; Finance Wales, the long-awaited bank—although it is not allowed to call itself a bank—for small and medium-sized enterprises; record levels of regional selective assistance; the Assembly investment grant for small and medium-sized firms throughout Wales, not just in the Objective 1 and Objective 2 areas; the doubling of the number of overseas trade missions; and the doubling of the number of people eligible for small firms merit award for research and technology grants for product and process innovation.

Brian Hancock: I am sure that you would agree that prosperity in Wales will be boosted by the recent rise in the value of the euro, as Welsh exporters will become more competitive and the European funds allocated to Wales will have a higher value. What steps will you take to ensure that the benefits of this rise will be used to support high-tech manufacturing industries and safeguard their highly skilled jobs, and to prevent the loss of 90 skilled jobs at Thermomax Ltd in my constituency?

The First Minister: I take a keen interest in Thermomax Ltd since I visited the company some 12 or 18 months ago. I was sorry to hear about the job cuts, which will bring the company back to the level it was at two years ago, just before my visit. This seems to be related to the change in Germany's grant system for individuals or small companies buying energy-efficient heating systems. I do not know how relevant the level of the euro was because, during the period that the company was doing well, the pound was high and the euro was weak. These redundancies occurred as the euro became stronger and the pound weaker. You are right, in general, to say that if the euro returns to its launch rate, which would make it worth 70p, it would be of enormous benefit to a large number of

wneud i roi canmoliaeth—mae'n ddrwg gennyf, cefnogaeth—i ffyniant yn ne Cymru? (OAQ18429)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yr wyf yn falch ichi egluro mai cefnogi ffyniant yr ydym yn ei wneud, yn hytrach na'i ganmol. Mae a wnelo'r ddadl â'r pecyn a baratowyd gennym, y gorau yng ngorllewin Ewrop, mae'n debyg. Mae'n cynnwys y rhaglen Amcan 1; Cyllid Cymru, y banc hirddisgwyliedig—er nad yw'n cael galw'i hun yn fanc—i fentrau bychain a chanolig eu maint; y lefelau uchaf erioed o gymorth dewisol rhanbarthol; grant buddsoddi'r Cynulliad i gwmnïau bach a chanolig ledled Cymru, nid dim ond yn yr ardaloedd Amcan 1 ac Amcan 2; dyblu nifer y teithiau masnachu tramor; a dyblu'r nifer o bobl sy'n gymwys i gael gwobr teilyngdod cwmnïau bychain ar gyfer ymchwil a grantiau thechnoleg i hybu dyfeisgarwch o ran cynnyrch a phroses.

Brian Hancock: Yr wyf yn siŵr y cytunech y caiff ffyniant yng Nghymru ei hybu gan y cynnydd diweddar yng ngwerth yr ewro, gan y bydd allforwyr Cymru'n mynd yn fwy cystadleuol a bydd gwerth uwch i gyllid Ewropeaidd a ddyrennir i Gymru. Pa gamau a gymerwch i sicrhau y defnyddir manteision y cynnydd hwn i gefnogi diwydiannau cynhyrchu uchel-dechnoleg a diogelu eu swyddi hyfedr, ac atal colli 90 o swyddi creffittus yn Thermomax Cyf yn fy etholaeth i?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae gennyf ddi-ddordeb brwd yn Thermomax Cyf ers imi ymweld â'r cwmni ryw 12 neu 18 mis yn ôl. Yr oedd yn flin gennyf glywed am y cwtogi swyddi, a ddaw â'r cwmni'n ôl i lawr i'r lefel lle'r ydoedd ddwy flynedd yn ôl, ychydig cyn fy ymweliad. Mae'n debyg fod cysylltiad rhwng hyn â'r newid yn system grantiau'r Almaen i unigolion neu gwmnïau bach sy'n prynu systemau gwresogi ynni-effeithlon. Ni wn pa mor berthnasol oedd lefel yr ewro, oherwydd, yn ystod y cyfnod yr oedd y cwmni'n gwneud yn dda, yr oedd y bunt yn uchel a'r ewro'n wan. Digwyddodd y diswyddiadau hyn wrth i'r ewro gryfhau a'r bunt wanhau. Yr ydych yn llygad eich lle, yn gyffredinol, wrth ddweud os aiff yr ewro'n ôl i'w gwerth pan gafodd ei lansio, sef 70c, y

manufacturing companies, particularly those which manufacture goods for export primarily to the eurozone. I believe that 90 per cent of Thermomax Ltd's goods were exported to Germany, because of the country's grant system.

Huw Lewis: When considering raising prosperity levels in south Wales, will you give attention to the upper Rhymney valley, particularly the community of New Tredegar in my constituency? You may be aware of the threat to over 70 jobs, mainly those of women, at Bentwood in New Tredegar. This was previously a Bairdwear plant whose future and jobs were secured as a result of your intervention two years ago. Another decision by Marks and Spencer, its sole customer, means that the company's workers are again facing unemployment, which this community cannot afford. Will you look again, two years down the line, at what support the Assembly Government, working with the local authority, the Welsh Development Agency and Education and Learning Wales, can give to the workforce and the company to help safeguard these jobs?

The First Minister: I am grateful to you for drawing this to my attention because I was not aware of a threat to Bentwood, which managed to salvage something from Bairdwear's huge cutbacks some two and a half years ago; it was one of the few good things to come from the closure programme. Most people say that if Marks and Spencer cannot save jobs in the British clothing industry, no-one can, because no other company has the same buying and selling power. It is the wage differential, not the high level of the pound that is making the difference; workers in Morocco receive £30 a week, while British textile workers receive £250 a week. I hope that some good can come of the attempt to establish what future there is for the British clothing industry, despite the enormous wage differential between its workers and those of the alternative supply area in north Africa.

2:30 p.m.

byddai o fudd aruthrol i nifer fawr o gwmnïau cynhyrchu, yn enwedig y rhai sy'n cynhyrchu nwyddau i'w hallforio'n bennaf i wledydd yr ewro. Credaf yr allforid 90 y cant o nwyddau Thermomax Cyf i'r Almaen, oherwydd system grantiau'r wlad.

Huw Lewis: Wrth ystyried lefelau ffyniant yn y De, a roddwch sylw i gwm Rhymni uchaf, yn enwedig gymuned Tredegar Newydd yn fy etholaeth i? Efallai eich bod yn ymwybodol o'r bygythiad i dros 70 o swyddi, i fenywod yn bennaf, yn Bentwood yn Nhredeggar Newydd. Ffatri Bairdwear oedd hon gynt, y sicrhawyd ei dyfodol a'i swyddi o ganlyniad i'ch ymyriad chi ddwy flynedd yn ôl. Mae penderfyniad arall gan Marks and Spencer, ei unig gwsmer, yn golygu bod gweithwyr y cwmni'n wynebu diweithdra eto, rhywbeth na all y gymuned hon ei fforddio. A wnewch chi edrych eto, ddwy flynedd yn ddiweddarach, ar ba gefnogaeth y gall Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, gan weithio gyda'r awdurdod lleol, Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru a Dysgu ac Addysgu Cymru, ei rhoi i'r gweithlu a'r cwmni i helpu i ddiogelu'r swyddi hyn?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar ichi am dynnu fy sylw at hyn oherwydd nad oeddwn yn ymwybodol o fygythiad i Bentwood, a lwyddodd i achub rhywbeth o gwtogi mawr Bairdwear ryw ddwy flynedd a hanner yn ôl; dyna un o'r ychydig bethau da a ddeilliodd o'r rhaglen gau. Dywed y rhan fwyaf o bobl os na all Marks and Spencer achub swyddi yn niwydiant dillad Prydain, na all neb, gan nad oes gan yr un cwmni arall yr un grym prynu a gwerthu. Y gwahaniaeth cyflogau, nid lefel uchel y bunt, sy'n gwneud y gwahaniaeth; caiff gweithwyr ym Moroco £30 yr wythnos, tra bod gweithwyr tecstilïau Prydeinig yn derbyn £250 yr wythnos. Gobeithiaf y gall rhyw ddaioni ddeillio o'r ymgais i sefydlu pa ddyfodol sydd i ddiwydiant dilladau Prydain, er gwaethaf y gwahaniaeth enfawr rhwng cyflogau ei weithwyr a chyflogau'r ardal gyflenwi arall yng ngogledd Affrica.

**Mynd i'r Afael â Phroblemau Amddifadedd yng Nghymru
Tackling Deprivation in Wales**

Q6 Eleanor Burnham: Will the First Minister make a statement on how he is co-ordinating a policy approach to help tackle the problems of deprivation in Wales? (OAQ18437)

The First Minister: We target our efforts on deprivation by attempting to empower and generate the capacity for self-development in the 100 poorest communities in Wales through Communities First. Experience of that programme shows that the key task is to build up the capacity within a community to develop ideas, apply for grants and consider what changes a ward, estate, village or community needs. Such regeneration projects have come on stream quickly when they have replaced previous pilot projects, such as the People in Communities project; it has taken more time than we had hoped in those areas where there were no pilot projects.

Eleanor Burnham: Do you agree that we should grab all opportunities, such as investing in transport, particularly railways—as I mentioned in my short debate on the Dee Valley railway—to bring more revenue into rural communities that need more support?

The First Minister: Railways and other forms of public transport can be important in terms of opening up job opportunities for people living in communities where there is little job variety. Rail transport can enable people to access jobs. That is one reason for concentrating some of the money from the Corus package on linking Ebbw Vale with Cardiff initially, and later with Newport, by reopening the Ebbw Vale railway line.

The line that you mentioned is a long way from Ebbw Vale, but I will look into the matter to see whether it has the same potential for reducing unemployment and expanding the range of jobs available to people in deprived communities in your constituency.

Dafydd Wigley: A gafwyd unrhyw drafodaethau rhwng y Prif Weinidog, y

C6 Eleanor Burnham: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad ar y modd y mae'n cydlynu polisiau i fynd i'r afael â phroblemau amddifadedd yng Nghymru? (OAQ18437)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Anelwn ein hymdrechion at amddifadedd drwy geisio rhoi'r grym a'r gallu i'r 100 cymuned dlotaf yng Nghymru ddatblygu eu hunain drwy raglen Rhoi Cymunedau'n Gyntaf. Dengys profiad o'r rhaglen honno mai'r dasg allweddol yw adeiladu'r gallu o fewn cymuned i ddatblygu syniadau, gwneud ceisiadau am grantiau ac ystyried pa newidiadau sydd eu hangen ar ward, stad, pentref neu gymuned. Mae cynlluniau adfywio o'r fath wedi dod yn weithredol yn gyflym pan oeddent yn cymryd lle prosiectau peilot blaenorol, fel y prosiect Pobl mewn Cymunedau; cymerwyd mwy o amser nag a obeithiem yn yr ardaloedd hynny lle na chafwyd prosiectau peilot.

Eleanor Burnham: A gytunwch y dylem fachu ar bob cyfle, fel buddsoddi mewn trafniadaeth, yn enwedig y rheilffyrdd—fel y soniais yn fy nadl fer ar reilffordd Glyn Dyfrdwy—i ddod â mwy o refeniw i mewn i gymunedau gwledig sydd angen mwy o gefnogaeth?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Gall rheilffyrdd a ffurfiau eraill ar drafniadaeth gyhoeddus fod yn bwysig o ran agor cyfleoedd gwaith i bobl sy'n byw mewn cymunedau lle nad oes llawer o amrywiaeth swyddi. Gall trafniadaeth rheilffyrdd alluogi pobl i fynd i swyddi. Dyna un rheswm dros ganolbwyntio rhywfaint o'r arian o becyn Corus ar gysylltu Glynebwy â Chaerdydd i ddechrau, ac yn ddiweddarach â Chasnewydd, drwy ailagor rheilffordd Glynebwy.

Mae'r rheilffordd y soniasoch chi amdani ymhell o Lynebwy, ond fe edrychaf i mewn i'r mater i weld a oes ganddi'r un potensial i leihau diweithdra ac ehangu'r amrediad o swyddi sydd ar gael i bobl mewn cymunedau difreintiedig yn eich etholaeth.

Dafydd Wigley: Have there been any discussions between the First Minister, the

Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, Chwaraeon a'r Gymraeg ac arweinwyr llywodraeth leol Cymru ynglŷn â'r amddifadedd anhygoel y mae tîm mabolgampau Cymru yn ei ddioddef wrth wynebu Gemau'r Gymanwlad? Sut y byddwch yn sicrhau bod aelodau'r tîm yn cael y gefnogaeth angenrheidiol ar gyfer y gemau hyn?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Darllenais am hyn am y tro cyntaf yr wythnos diwethaf, ac y mae drwgdybiaeth bod cyngor Gemau'r Gymanwlad, o bosib, yn pledio ei achos ei hun. Byddaf yn cymryd cyngor Jenny Randerson ac yn ystyried pryderon Dafydd i weld a yw'r ffeithiau'n cyfiawnhau'r amheuan.

Peter Rogers: Significant problems of rural deprivation are worsened by the fact that agriculture is at such a low ebb. Do you agree that the crisis will not be solved by your playing musical chairs to help the Liberal Democrats at the expense of agriculture?

The First Minister: I do not think that you should view it in that way, Peter; you are taking a party-political view. If you consider the history of appointing ministers for agriculture before and after devolution, it is not uncommon for them to change once every two years or so. That would be regarded as a normal period of serving in a portfolio; sometimes it is longer, sometimes shorter, but that timescale is about average. You should consider why you want to play party politics over this appointment rather than consider history—[*Interruption.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order. A statement on this matter will follow.

Prifysgolion yn Lloegr (Safon Uwch yn y Gymraeg) English Universities (A-Level in Welsh)

C7 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad ar y ffaith bod rhai prifysgolion yn Lloegr yn gwrthod derbyn Safon Uwch yn y Gymraeg fel cymhwyster dilys ar gyfer mynediad? (OAQ18426)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Y cwestiwn mawr yw: ai ffaith neu honiad yw hynny? Yn ôl

Minister for Culture, Sports and the Welsh Language and the leaders of local government in Wales regarding the astonishing privation facing the Wales athletics team as it prepares for the Commonwealth Games? How will you ensure that team members get the necessary support for these games?

The First Minister: I first read about this last week and there is a suspicion that the Commonwealth Games council may be pleading its own case. I will take advice from Jenny Randerson and consider Dafydd's concerns to discover whether the facts bear out those suspicions.

Peter Rogers: Gwaethygir problemau amddifadedd gwledig sylweddol gan y ffaith ei bod hi mor fain ar amaethyddiaeth. A gytunwch na chaiff yr argyfwng ei datrys wrth i chi chwarae newid cadeiriau er mwyn helpu'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol ar draul amaethyddiaeth?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Nid wyf yn meddwl y dylech edrych arno felly, Peter; yr ydych yn cymryd safbwynt pleidiol. Os ystyriwch hanes penodi gweinidogion amaeth cyn datganoli ac wedyn, nid yw'n anghyffredin iddynt newid bob rhyw ddwy flynedd. Gwelid hynny fel cyfnod arferol i wasanaethu mewn portffolio; weithiau mae'n hwy, weithiau'n fyrrach, ond mae'r cyfnod hwnnw oddeutu'r cyfartaledd. Dylech ystyried pam yr ydych chi'n ceisio chwarae gwleidyddiaeth dros y penodiad hwn yn hytrach nag ystyried hanes—[*Torri ar draws.*]

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Ceir datganiad ar y mater hwn wedyn.

Q7 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Will the First Minister make a statement on the fact that some English universities refuse an A-Level in Welsh as a valid qualification for entry? (OAQ18426)

The First Minister: The important question is: is that a fact or an allegation? According

ymchwil ein swyddogion ni, honiad heb sail ydyw. Ni wyddom am esiamplau o'r fath. Yn sgîl ymchwil gyda Gwasanaeth Mynediad Prifysgolion a Cholegau a chyryff eraill, gan gynnwys Cyngor Addysg Uwch Lloegr, nid ydym yn ymwybodol o unrhyw enghreifftiau o'r fath. Os oes gennych enghreifftiau, ysgrifennwch at Jane Davidson neu finnau, ond hyd y gwn i, honiad ydyw, nid ffaith.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Byddaf yn cyflwyno eich ateb i'r etholwr a gododd y mater. Gobeithiaf fod y wybodaeth a roddwyd heddiw yn gywir.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Pe bai'r honiad yn wir, byddwn yn rhannu pryderon Rhodri Glyn a'i etholwr.

Alun Cairns: Os oes awgrym, hyd yn oed, fod prifysgolion yn gwrthod derbyn Safon Uwch yn y Gymraeg fel cymhwyster dilys, a ydych yn cytuno bod perygl y gellid ystyried y fagloriaeth Gymreig fel cymhwyster eilradd?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Peidiwch â lledaenu'r stori hon, er lles pawb yng Nghymru. Os mai honiad di-sail ydyw, ni ddylech wneud ymdrech i lusgo'r fagloriaeth Gymreig i'r mater. Os oes problem yn bodoli ynghylch Safon Uwch yn y Gymraeg, pam dadansoddi o hynny fod amheuon ynglŷn â'r fagloriaeth Gymreig, a ddefnyddir mewn cynllun peilot dros y blynyddoedd nesaf mewn 16 o ysgolion a cholegau addysg bellach? Os nad oes sail ffeithiol i'r cwestiwn gwreiddiol, mae'r cwestiwn atodol hwn yn ceisio corddi'r dyfroedd.

Annog Pobl Ifanc i Gymryd Diddordeb mewn Materion Gwleidyddol (Canol De Cymru) Engaging Young People's Interest in Political Matters (South Wales Central)

Q8 Jonathan Morgan: Will the First Minister make a statement on how the Assembly is engaging young people to become more interested in political matters in South Wales Central? (OAQ18443)

The First Minister: We got you involved, Jonathan. The Welsh Assembly Government is encouraging young people throughout

to research undertaken by our officials, it is an unfounded allegation. We do not know of any such examples. Despite contacting the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service and other bodies, including the Higher Education Council for England, we are not aware of any such examples. If you have examples, please write to Jane Davidson or me, but as far as I know, this is an allegation, rather than a fact.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I will pass on your answer to the constituent who raised the issue. I hope that the information given today is correct.

The First Minister: If the allegation were true, I would share the concerns of Rhodri Glyn and his constituent.

Alun Cairns: If there is even a suggestion that universities refuse to accept A-level Welsh as a valid qualification, do you agree that there is a risk that the Welsh baccalaureate could be viewed as a second-rate qualification?

The First Minister: For the sake of everyone in Wales, do not spread these rumours. If this is an unfounded allegation, you should not attempt to drag the Welsh baccalaureate into the issue. If there is a problem regarding the Welsh A-level, why deduce that reservations exist regarding the Welsh baccalaureate, which will be the subject of a pilot scheme over the next few years in 16 schools and colleges of further education? If there is no factual basis to the original question, this supplementary question is a smear tactic.

C8 Jonathan Morgan: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad ar sut y mae'r Cynulliad yn mynd ati i annog pobl ifanc i gymryd mwy o ddiddordeb mewn materion gwleidyddol yng Nghanol De Cymru? (OAQ18443)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Llwyddasom i'ch cael chi i gyfranogi, Jonathan. Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn annog pobl

Wales to take part in decision making through Llais Ifanc/Young Voice, as the representative body for the whole of Wales. The Welsh baccalaureate curriculum includes a section on citizenship and politics, but not party politics; perhaps, Jonathan, you could educate your Conservative colleague, Alun Cairns, on this matter.

Jonathan Morgan: One way of engaging young people, in addition to those who have already taken interest in the Llais Ifanc/Young Voice initiative, would be to provide them with examples of young people being successfully involved in presenting new ideas and solutions to Wales's problems that may have been used by the Assembly Government. Are there any successes to show young people what has been achieved and that if they get involved they could take part in the same way?

The First Minister: One achievement is the way in which the Children's Commissioner for Wales was appointed. It was the first such appointment in Britain, and children were involved in the process. The Minister for Health and Social Services, Assembly Members from different parties and the young people chosen had an equal amount of votes in appointing the commissioner. That is an example of empowering children. Their votes counted as much as those of the adults.

Kirsty Williams: The youth service has a valuable role to play in helping people to develop skills so that they can engage and participate in the decision-making process. What steps are you taking to ensure that local authorities are implementing the objectives of 'Extending Entitlement: Supporting Young People in Wales' and giving the youth service in their area the necessary resources?

The First Minister: You cannot force local authorities to allocate appropriate funding for the youth service under the 'Extending Entitlement' agenda. However, we encourage them to do so. Local authorities should view investment in the youth service as being beneficial for young people and old people alike as it engages young people in

ifanc ledled Cymru i gymryd rhan yn y broses o wneud penderfyniadau drwy Llais Ifanc/Young Voice, fel y corff cynrychioliadol dros Gymru gyfan. Mae cwricwlwm y fagloriaeth Gymreig yn cynnwys adran ar ddinasyddiaeth a gwleidyddiaeth, ond nid gwleidyddiaeth pleidiau; efallai, Jonathan, y gallech addysgu'ch cyd-Geidwadwr, Alun Cairns, ar y mater hwn.

Jonathan Morgan: Un ffordd o ddenu pobl ifanc, yn ychwanegol at y rhai sydd eisoes wedi ymddiddori ym menter Llais Ifanc/Young Voice, fyddai rhoi enghreifftiau iddynt o bobl ifanc yn ymwneud yn llwyddiannus â chyflwyno syniadau newydd ac atebion newydd i broblemau Cymru a allai fod wedi'u defnyddio gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad. A oes unrhyw lwyddiannau i ddangos i bobl ifanc beth a gyflawnwyd ac i ddangos pe baent hwy'n cyfranogi y gallent hwythau gymryd rhan yn yr un modd?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Un llwyddiant yw'r modd y penodwyd Comisiynydd Plant Cymru. Dyma'r penodiad cyntaf o'i fath ym Mhrydain, a chafodd plant ran yn y broses. Yr oedd gan y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, Aelodau Cynulliad o wahanol bleidiau a'r bobl ifanc a ddewiswyd nifer gyfartal o bleidleisiau wrth benodi'r comisiynydd. Dyna enghraifft o roi grym i blant. Yr oedd eu pleidleisiau hwy'n cyfrif gymaint â rhai'r oedolion.

Kirsty Williams: Mae gan y gwasanaeth ieuencid ran werthfawr i'w chwarae wrth helpu pobl i ddatblygu sgiliau er mwyn iddynt allu cyfrannu a chyfranogi yn y broses o wneud penderfyniadau. Pa gamau yr ydych chi'n eu cymryd i sicrhau bod awdurdodau lleol yn gweithredu amcanion 'Ymestyn Hawliau: Cefnogi Pobl Ifanc yng Nghymru' ac yn rhoi'r adnoddau angenrheidiol i'r gwasanaeth ieuencid yn eu hardal?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ni ellir gorfodi awdurdodau lleol i ddyrannu cyllid priodol i'r gwasanaeth ieuencid dan agenda 'Ymestyn Hawliau'. Er hynny, yr ydym yn eu hannog i wneud hynny. Dylai awdurdodau lleol weld buddsoddiad yn y gwasanaeth ieuencid fel peth buddiol i bobl ifanc a hen bobl fel ei gilydd gan ei fod yn cynnwys pobl ifanc

constructive activities. Areas that benefit from a fully-fledged youth service will not see the old saying that the devil makes work for idle hands become a reality.

Cynog Dafis: Bydd y Mesur Addysg newydd, os y daw'n Ddeddf, yn rhoi'r hawl i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol lunio cwricwlwm cenedlaethol i Gymru. Pryd y rhagwelwch y bydd y Cynulliad yn manteisio ar y cyfle hwnnw? A ydych yn cytuno y dylai dinasyddiaeth weithredol a materion gwleidyddol fod yn rhan allweddol o'r cwricwlwm cenedlaethol, y ddarpariaeth ôl-16 a'r fagloriaeth?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Bydd cynllun peilot y fagloriaeth Gymreig yn parhau am dair blynedd. Wedi hynny, gallwn ystyried a ddylid dilyn llwybr traddodiadol yr arholiadau Safon Uwch neu geisio ehangu'r cynllun peilot, os yw'n llwyddiannus, a chynnwys elfennau am ddinasyddiaeth a gwleidyddiaeth yn y cwricwlwm ar draws Cymru, fel yr awgrymodd Cynog. Mae gan golegau addysg bellach ac ysgolion sydd â chweched dosbarth ryddid i ddewis cymryd rhan yn y cynllun peilot ai peidio. Gallwn wedyn weld a oedd y cynllun peilot yn llwyddiannus.

2:40 p.m.

Mynd i'r Afael ag Amddifadedd Economaidd Tackling Economic Deprivation

Q9 Pauline Jarman: Will the First Minister make a statement on the effect of Assembly policies in tackling economic deprivation? (OAQ18430)

The First Minister: 'A Winning Wales', the Welsh Assembly Government's national economic development strategy, provided the overall framework for achieving a prosperous Welsh economy, which is also dynamic, inclusive and sustainable. The strategy includes targets for raising the gross domestic product per capita relative to the UK average, increasing household disposable income, and increasing employment. We will report on progress to the Economic Development Committee in October and publish an annual report next spring.

mewn gweithgareddau adeiladol. Ni fydd ardaloedd sy'n mwynhau gwasanaeth ieuencid llawn yn gweld gwireddu'r hen ddywediad: gŵr diog, llawffon y diawl.

Cynog Dafis: The new Education Bill, if enacted, will give the National Assembly the right to develop a national curriculum for Wales. When do you anticipate that the Assembly will take advantage of that opportunity? Do you agree that active citizenship and political issues should be a key part of the national curriculum, post-16 provision and the baccalaureate?

The First Minister: The Welsh baccalaureate pilot scheme will last for three years. We can then consider whether we should persist with the traditional A-level examination or try to extend the pilot scheme, if it is successful, to include elements of citizenship and politics in the curriculum across Wales, as Cynog suggested. Further education colleges and schools with sixth forms have the freedom to choose to participate in the pilot scheme. We can then judge the success of the pilot scheme.

C9 Pauline Jarman: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad ar effaith polisïau'r Cynulliad o ran mynd i'r afael ag amddifadedd economaidd? (OAQ18430)

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Darparodd 'Cymru'n Ennill', strategaeth datblygu economaidd genedlaethol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, y fframwaith cyffredinol ar gyfer sicrhau economi ffyniannus i Gymru, sydd hefyd yn ddeinamig, yn gynhwysol ac yn gynaliadwy. Mae'r strategaeth yn cynnwys targedau ar gyfer cynyddu'r cynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth y pen o gymharu â chyfartaledd y DU, cynyddu incwm gwario, a chynyddu cyflogaeth. Byddwn yn rhoi adroddiad ar y datblygiadau i'r Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd ym mis Hydref ac yn cyhoeddi adroddiad blynyddol yn y gwanwyn nesaf.

Pauline Jarman: I declare an interest as a member of Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council. Economic deprivation among students is well documented, and many students cannot get a mortgage. If they manage to become homeowners, you will know that student loans are considered as income when calculating entitlement to house renovation grants, which increases students' contributions towards those renovations. Given that students borrow money to support their continuing education and that most fair-minded people consider that to be a debt, why does your Government not amend the Housing Renewal Grants (Prescribed Forms and Particulars) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2001, to exempt students loans from being treated as household income?

The First Minister: I am not sure whether that is a matter for us. That may be part of the general regulations on housing benefit, which come down from Westminster on a UK-wide basis. I will investigate and write to you. However, I am sure that you will welcome the introduction in September of the Assembly learning grants on a means-tested basis for students following full-time further or higher education courses whose income does not exceed £15,000.

Brian Gibbons: Last Friday, I had the pleasure of visiting Glyncorwg Ponds Co-operative, an Objective 1 supported project into which £1 million has been invested, in one of the most needy communities in Wales. Do you agree that this is a good example of how Welsh Assembly Government policy is delivering on Objective 1? Do you also agree that the other 15 to 20 projects in the Neath Port Talbot area directly funded by Objective 1 are supporting the private sector in that area?

The First Minister: I am glad to hear about the success of the raft of Objective 1 projects to which you referred in the Neath Port Talbot area. I am particularly glad that these projects are not only located in the towns of Neath and Port Talbot but also in upper Valleys communities such as Glyncorwg. If Objective 1 is reaching Glyncorwg, then it is definitely working.

Pauline Jarman: Datganaf fuddiant fel aelod o Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf. Mae digon wedi'i ysgrifennu am amddifadedd economaidd ymhlith myfyrwyr, ac mae llawer o fyfyrwyr yn methu cael morgais. Os llwyddant i brynu tŷ, gwyddoch y caiff benthyciad myfyriwr ei ystyried fel incwm wrth gyfrifo hawl i gael grant adnewyddu tŷ, sy'n cynyddu cyfraniadau myfyrwyr tuag at y gwaith adnewyddu. Gan fod myfyrwyr yn cael benthycio arian i gynnal eu haddysg a bod y rhan fwyaf o bobl deg yn ystyried mai dyled yw hynny, pam na wnaiff eich Llywodraeth ddiwygio'r Rheoliadau Grantiau Adnewyddu Tai (Ffurflenni a Manylion a Ragnodir) (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2001, i eithrio benthyciadau myfyrwyr rhag cael eu trin fel incwm aelwyd?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Nid wyf yn siŵr ai mater i ni yw hynny. Efallai fod hynny'n rhan o'r rheoliadau cyffredinol ar fudd-dal tai, a ddaw i lawr o San Steffan ar gyfer y DU gyfan. Gwnaf ymholiadau ac ysgrifennu atoch. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn siŵr y gwnewch groesawu cyflwyniad grantiau dysgu'r Cynulliad ym Medi ar sail prawf modd i fyfyrwyr sy'n dilyn cyrsiau addysg bellach neu uwch amser llawn a chanddynt incwm heb fod yn fwy na £15,000.

Brian Gibbons: Ddydd Gwener diwethaf, cefais y pleser o ymweld â Chynllun Cydweithredol Pyllau Glyncorwg, prosiect Amcan 1 y mae £1 filiwn eisoes wedi'i fuddsoddi ynddo, yn un o gymunedau mwyaf anghenus Cymru. A gytunwch fod hyn yn enghraifft dda o'r modd y mae polisi Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn llwyddo gydag Amcan 1? A gytunwch hefyd fod y 15 i 20 prosiect arall yn ardal Castell-nedd Port Talbot a ariennir yn uniongyrchol gan Amcan 1 yn cefnogi'r sector preifat yn yr ardal honno?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yr wyf yn falch o glywed am lwyddiant y cyfres o brosiectau Amcan 1 y cyfeiriasoch atynt yn ardal Castell-nedd Port Talbot. Yr wyf yn arbennig o falch bod y prosiectau hyn wedi'u lleoli nid yn unig yn nhrefi Castell-nedd a Phort Talbot ond hefyd yng nghymunedau'r Cymoedd uchaf fel Glyncorwg. Os yw Amcan 1 yn cyrraedd Glyncorwg, yna mae'n bendant yn

gweithio.

Alun Cairns: The acid test of an administration's success or failure is how it manages to regenerate the economy. Is it not the case that Wales is much poorer now, compared with England, than it has been for generations?

Alun Cairns: Prawf pendant llwyddiant neu fethiant gweinyddiaeth yw'r modd y mae'n llwyddo i adfywio'r economi. Onid yw'n wir bod Cymru'n llawer tlotach yn awr, o'i chymharu â Lloegr, nag y bu ers cenedlaethau?

The First Minister: You set that question up in a way that would not make any sense to people on the street. They would ask 'What is the level of unemployment compared to what it was on average during the Tory period?' when you were growing up, Alun. In 1997, when Labour came to power, unemployment in Wales stood at 100,000 and now it is at 47,500, the lowest that it has been— [ASSEMBLY MEMBERS: 'What about GDP?']

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Bu ichi lunio'r cwestiwn hwnnw mewn modd na fyddai'n gwneud dim synnwyr i bobl yn y stryd. Byddent hwy'n gofyn 'Beth yw lefel diweithdra o gymharu â'r hyn ydoedd ar gyfartaledd yn ystod cyfnod y Toriaid?' pan oeddech chi'n fachgen ifanc, Alun. Yn 1997, pan ddaeth Llafur i rym, yr oedd 100,000 yn ddi-waith yng Nghymru, ac erbyn hyn y mae 47,500, yr isaf a fu—[AELODAU'R CYNULLIAD: 'Beth am CMC?']

The Presiding Officer: Order. The First Minister is answering the question.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae'r Prif Weinidog yn ateb y cwestiwn.

The First Minister: They would also say: 'Unemployment is usually connected with inflation, but our mortgages are the cheapest they have been for 30 years'. It is an unusual combination. You do not recognise it because you are wearing your special Tory-coloured glasses.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Byddent hefyd yn dweud: 'Mae diweithdra fel arfer wedi'i gysylltu â chwyddiant, ond mae ein morgeisi yn rhatach nag y buont ers 30 mlynedd'. Mae'n gyfuniad anarferol. Nid ydych yn ei gydnabod oherwydd eich bod yn gwisgo'ch sbectol Doriaidd arbennig.

Cydlynu Polisiâu Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn Effeithiol Effective Co-ordination of Assembly Government Policy

Q10 Nick Bourne: How does the First Minister ensure Assembly Government policy is effectively co-ordinated? (OAQ18408)

C10 Nick Bourne: Sut y mae'r Prif Weinidog yn sicrhau bod polisiâu Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn cael eu cydlynu'n effeithiol? (OAQ18408)

The First Minister: Along with the rest of the Cabinet, I work hard to ensure that Welsh Assembly Government policy is effectively co-ordinated. This is achieved by the three Cabinet sub-committees: children and young people, sustainable development, and Wales in the world. In addition, we are setting up a new sub-committee on the regeneration of rural Wales, chaired by Mike German. We also have a Cabinet working group on Corus, which has been in existence since the steel closure announcement of January 2001, and whose work has not quite come to an end.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ynghyd â gweddill y Cabinet, gweithiaf yn galed i sicrhau y caiff polisi Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ei gydlynu'n effeithiol. Cyflawnir hyn gan dri is-bwyllgor y Cabinet: plant a phobl ifanc, datblygu cynaliadwy, a Chymru yn y byd. Hefyd, yr ydym yn sefydlu is-bwyllgor newydd ar adfywio'r Gymru wledig, dan gadeiryddiaeth Mike German. Mae gennym weithgor Corus dan y Cabinet hefyd, sy'n bodoli ers cyhoeddi cau'r gwaith dur yn Ionawr 2001, ac sydd ag ychydig bach o waith i'w wneud o hyd.

Nick Bourne: How are the policies co-

Nick Bourne: Sut y cydlynir y polisiâu â San

ordinated with Westminster? You had public differences with Paul Murphy when you failed to convey to him a policy that required statutory powers and additional funds for residential care. Have you made arrangements to ensure that this embarrassment for the Government of Wales—and, by extension, for Wales—is not repeated?

The First Minister: You must have been engaged in inter-planetary travel at that time; that nonsense was quickly put to bed by Paul Murphy's office. I do not know why you seek to make Mount Everest out of a molehill. Your question falls; it is not factual, at least not on this planet.

Janet Davies: On co-ordination between the Assembly Government and the UK Government, have you taken action to address the contradiction whereby the Data Protection Act 1998 restricts epidemiologists in Wales gathering the information necessary for the Government to address problems?

The First Minister: If you write to Jane Hutt or me about the impact of the Act on the collection of relevant health statistics, we will supply a full reply. The Data Protection Act 1998 is interesting, but it has unintended and undesirable consequences that make the public health agenda more difficult to implement. I am sure that the data protection registrar will be anxious to help the devolved and central Governments to find a solution to the problem, so that the public health agenda can be properly prosecuted.

Steffan? Cawsoch wahaniaethau barn cyhoeddus gyda Paul Murphy pan fethasoch â chyfleu polisi iddo a oedd yn gofyn am bwerau statudol ac arian ychwanegol ar gyfer gofal preswyl. A ydych wedi gwneud trefniadau i sicrhau nad ailadroddir yr embaras hwn i Lywodraeth Cymru—a, thrwy estyniad, i Gymru?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae'n rhaid eich bod yn teithio rhwng y planedau ar y pryd; rhoddwyd y dwli hwnnw i'w wely'n fuan iawn gan swyddfa Paul Murphy. Ni wn pam y ceisiwch wneud Mynydd Everest o dwmpath morgrug. Mae'ch cwestiwn yn methu; nid yw'n ffeithiol, o leiaf nid ar y blaned hon.

Janet Davies: O ran cydlynid rhwng Llywodraeth y Cynulliad a Llywodraeth y DU, a ydych wedi gweithredu i ddatrys yr amryfusedd lle mae Deddf Diogelu Data 1998 yn atal epidemiolegwyr yng Nghymru rhag casglu'r data angenrheidiol i'r Llywodraeth ddatrys problemau?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Os ysgrifennwch at Jane Hutt neu ataf fi ynglŷn ag effaith y Ddeddf ar y modd y cesglir ystadegau iechyd perthnasol, fe roddwn ateb llawn. Mae Deddf Diogelu Data 1998 yn ddi-ddorol, ond mae iddi ganlyniadau anfwriadol ac annymunol sy'n ei gwneud yn anos gweithredu'r agenda iechyd cyhoeddus. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd y cofrestrydd diogelu data'n awyddus i helpu'r Llywodraethau datganoledig a chanolog i ganfod ateb i'r broblem, fel y gellir gweithredu'r agenda iechyd cyhoeddus yn iawn.

Datganiad ar Newidiadau i'r Cabinet Statement on Cabinet Changes

The First Minister: On 10 July 2001 I made a statement to the Assembly announcing that Mike German had temporarily stepped aside from the Cabinet until police investigations into aspects of his previous role as an employee of the Welsh Joint Education Committee were completed. Following the completion of those investigations, the Crown Prosecution Service issued a statement on 13 June 2002 stating that there

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ar 10 Gorffennaf 2001 gwneuthum ddatganiad i'r Cynulliad yn cyhoeddi bod Mike German wedi camu o'r neilltu dros dro o'r Cabinet hyd nes byddai ymchwiliadau'r heddlu i agweddau ar ei rôl flaenorol yng nghyflogaeth Cyd-Bwyllgor Addysg Cymru wedi'u cwblhau. Ar ôl cwblhau'r ymchwiliadau hynny, cyhoeddodd Gwasanaeth Erlyn y Goron ddatganiad ar 13 Mehefin 2002 yn datgan nad oedd digon o

was insufficient evidence to justify any criminal charges. Accordingly, in the light of this unequivocal statement from the CPS, I took immediate steps to implement the published protocol for partnership Government in the Assembly and confirmed Mike German's return to the Cabinet as Deputy First Minister.

I have now appointed Mike German as Minister for Rural Development and Wales Abroad. He will take over the rural affairs portfolio from Carwyn Jones and responsibility for co-ordinating the development and regeneration of rural Wales, including working with the UK Government on agricultural subsidies. He will also chair a new Cabinet sub-committee on the regeneration of rural Wales, which will include relevant Ministers. Mike German will also assume responsibility for co-ordinating the promotion of Wales abroad. Subject to Assembly approval, it is proposed that he will chair the National Assembly's Committee on European and External Affairs. He will also chair the Cabinet's Wales in the World sub-committee.

Carwyn Jones has been appointed Minister for Open Government. Alongside his responsibilities as Minister for Assembly Business, Carwyn Jones will also be responsible for equal opportunities, freedom of information and human rights. Subject to Assembly approval, it is proposed that he will become Chair of the National Assembly's Committee on Equality of Opportunity, succeeding Edwina Hart. He will also be responsible for matters relating to the structure of commissioners of administration—conventionally known as the ombudsman system—in Wales. He will also have oversight of the procedures for public appointments. This is a new and important portfolio that recognises that the process of government must concern all people in Wales, not just us in the National Assembly.

The Assembly Government gives high priority to its responsibilities in crime reduction and creating safer communities. I have asked Edwina Hart to co-ordinate the relevant activities. She will combine her existing responsibilities for local government

dystiolaeth i gyfiawnhau unrhyw gyhuddiadau troseddol. Felly, yng ngolau'r datganiad diamwys hwn gan Wasanaeth Erlyn y Goron, euthum ati'n syth i weithredu'r protocol cyhoeddiedig ar gyfer Llywodraeth bartneriaeth yn y Cynulliad a chadarnhau dychweliad Mike German i'r Cabinet fel Dirprwy Brif Weinidog.

Yr wyf yn awr wedi penodi Mike German yn Weinidog dros Ddatblygu Gwledig a Chymru Dramor. Bydd yn cymryd y porffolio materion gwledig oddi wrth Carwyn Jones a chyfrifoldeb am am gydlynu datblygiad ac adfywiad y Gymru wledig, gan gynnwys gweithio gyda Llywodraeth y DU ar gymorthdaliadau amaethyddol. Bydd hefyd yn cadeirio is-bwyllgor Cabinet newydd ar adfywio'r Gymru wledig, a fydd yn cynnwys Gweinidogion perthnasol. Bydd Mike German hefyd yn ymgymryd â chyfrifoldeb am gydlynu gwaith hyrwyddo Cymru dramor. Yn amodol ar gymeradwyaeth y Cynulliad, cynigir y bydd yn cadeirio Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Bydd hefyd yn cadeirio is-bwyllgor y Cabinet ar Gymru yn y Byd.

Penodwyd Carwyn Jones yn Weinidog dros Lywodraeth Agored. Ochr yn ochr â'i gyfrifoldebau fel Trefnydd, bydd Carwyn Jones yn gyfrifol hefyd am gyfle cyfartal, rhyddid gwybodaeth a hawliau dynol. Yn amodol ar gymeradwyaeth y Cynulliad, cynigir yr aiff yn Gadeirydd Pwyllgor Cyfle Cyfartal y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, gan olynu Edwina Hart. Bydd yn gyfrifol hefyd am faterion yn ymwneud â strwythur comisiynwyr gweinyddu—neu system yr ombwdsmon fel y'i gelwir yn gonfensiynol—yng Nghymru. Bydd hefyd yn goruchwylio'r gweithdrefnau ar gyfer penodiadau cyhoeddus. Mae hwn yn bortffolio newydd a phwysig sydd yn cydnabod bod yn rhaid i broses lywodraethu fod yn fater i holl bobl Cymru, ac nid i ni yn y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn unig.

Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn rhoi blaenoriaeth uchel i'w chyfrifoldebau o ran lleihau torcyfraith a chreu cymunedau mwy diogel. Yr wyf wedi gofyn i Edwina Hart gydlynu'r gweithgareddau perthnasol. Bydd yn cyfuno'i chyfrifoldebau presennol dros

and communities with the additional responsibility for action on drug and alcohol abuse, previously undertaken by the Minister for Health and Social Services. I have also taken over from Edwina the oversight responsibilities for staffing matters. Functional responsibility for staffing matters continues to reside with the Permanent Secretary, Sir Jon Shortridge; I add my congratulations on his knighthood to those of the Llywydd.

Other portfolios remain unchanged, as do the responsibilities of Deputy Ministers.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Yr wyf fi, a holl Aelodau'r Cynulliad mae'n debyg, yn falch na fydd Mike German yn wynebu cyhuddiadau troseddol yn dilyn yr ymchwiliad i Gyd-bwyllgor Addysg Cymru. Dymunwn yn dda iddo yn hynny o beth.

2:50 p.m.

Gwyddoch, hefyd, Brif Weinidog, ein bod ni, ynghyd â nifer o Aelodau eraill a phobl y tu allan i'r Cynulliad, yn bryderus am ei bod yn ymddangos bod ailbenodi Mike German i'r Cabinet yn gynamserol. Fe gofiwch ein trafodaethau cyn y cyhoeddiad y byddai'r heddlu yn ymchwilio i'r honiadau. Bu i adroddiad Bentley Jennison drafod nifer o honiadau—er i chi ddweud ar y pryd nad oeddech wedi ei ddarllen—ynghylch gweithredoedd yr uned y bu Mike German yn bennaeth arni. Yr oedd yr honiadau hynny'n ddifrifol. Nid wyf fi, na neb arall yma, wedi datgan barn ynghylch cyfrifoldeb Mike German am y materion hynny. Oni fyddai'n gallach, Brif Weinidog, pe na baech yn gwneud unrhyw benodiad nes y bydd ymchwiliad OLAF wedi'i orffen? Os na fydd OLAF yn codi unrhyw broblemau, ni fydd unrhyw gwestiwn ynglŷn â phenodiad Mike German i'r Cabinet. Pam y bu ichi deimlo ei bod yn briodol i wneud y penodiad er bod cymylau uwchben eich Llywodraeth chi a Mike German?

Gwrandewais ar eich datganiad, ac ar eich atebion yn gynharach y prynhawn yma pan ddywedoch ei bod yn arferol i Weinidogion amaeth newid bob rhyw ddwy flynedd. Mae

lywodraeth leol a chymunedau gyda'r cyfrifoldeb ychwanegol dros weithredu ar gamddefnydd cyffuriau ac alcohol, a fu gynt yn gyfrifoldeb y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol. Yr wyf innau wedi cymryd yr awenau oddi wrth Edwina o ran y cyfrifoldebau goruchwyllo materion staffio. Mae'r cyfrifoldeb swyddogaethol dros faterion staffio'n aros gyda'r Ysgrifennydd Parhaol, Syr Jon Shortridge; ychwanegaf fy llongyfarchiadau iddo ar ei urddo'n farchog at gyfarchion y Llywydd.

Mae portffolios eraill yn aros yn ddigyfnewid, a felly hefyd gyfrifoldebau'r Dirprwy Weinidogion.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I, like all Assembly Members I am sure, am pleased that Mike German will not face criminal charges following the inquiry into the Welsh Joint Education Committee. We wish him well in that.

You also know, First Minister, that we, along with many other Members and people outside the Assembly, are concerned because it seems that Mike German's re-appointment to the Cabinet is premature. You will remember our discussions prior to the announcement that the police would be investigating the allegations. The Bentley Jennison report referred to a number of allegations—although you said at the time that you had not read it—regarding the actions of the unit headed by Mike German. Those were serious allegations. Neither I, nor anyone else here, has expressed an opinion on Mike German's culpability on those matters. Would it not have been wiser, First Minister, not to have made an appointment until OLAF's investigation is complete? If OLAF does not identify any problems, there would be no qualms about Mike German's appointment to the Cabinet. Why did you feel that it was appropriate to make the appointment even though your Government and Mike German remain under a cloud?

I listened to your statement and to your answers earlier this afternoon when you said that it is commonplace for agriculture Ministers to change every two years or so.

pryder gwirioneddol yn y diwydiant amaethyddiaeth a chan y rhai sy'n gyfrifol am yr economi wledig, fod gennym y trydydd Gweinidog i ddelio â materion gwledig ers sefydlu'r Cynulliad. Ymddengys i nifer mai oherwydd cyfleustra gwleidyddol y gwnaethpwyd y newid diweddaraf hwn. Nid oedd unrhyw reswm dros ei wneud, heblaw eich bod wedi gorfod dod o hyd i swydd i Mike German yn y Cabinet. Dymunwn yn dda iddo yn ei swydd newydd wrth iddo ymgymryd â phortffolio amaethyddiaeth, ond y mae'r pryder yn parhau.

Cyfeiriais at adroddiad Bentley Jennison: onid yw'r adroddiad hwnnw yn codi cwestiynau ynghylch hygredd Mike German wrth ymdrin â materion Ewropeaidd? Mae ganddo gyfrifoldeb dros faterion Ewropeaidd yn y Cabinet bellach, a chodwyd nifer o gwestiynau ynghylch addasrwydd hynny a'r cyfuniad o'i rolau yn y Cabinet.

Yn olaf, ynghylch cyfrifoldebau Edwina Hart mewn perthynas â lleihau torcyfraith, gwyddoch fod gan bobl bryder cynyddol am lefelau torcyfraith. Beth bynnag fo'r wybodaeth, y dystiolaeth neu'r ystadegau, canfyddiad pobl yw bod hwn yn fater mawr. A wnewch chi amlinellu'n fanylach beth yn union fydd rôl Edwina Hart? A fydd yn trafod ei chynlluniau gyda'r Swyddfa Gartref er mwyn sicrhau y bydd ganddi rôl gydlynol yn y maes y bydd yn gyfrifol amdano?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Dyna'r math o gwestiynau a chwynion y byddwn yn eu disgwyl gennych wrth drafod cyfrifoldebau Gweinidogion. Nid oes unrhyw bwynt mewn llongyfarch Mike German a dweud nad oes cwmwl uwch ei ben, ac yna ceisio ail-greu'r cwmwl drwy lusgo adroddiad Bentley Jennison gerbron y Cynulliad. Mae Mike German wedi cael ei glirio o'r cyhuddiadau yn ei erbyn ar ôl 15 mis o ymholiadau gan Heddlu De Cymru. Os yw dyn wedi ei glirio, mae wedi ei glirio—nid oes rhagor i'w ddweud. Nid yw'r rheswm dros ei wahardd dros dro fis Gorffennaf diwethaf bellach yn berthnasol ac y mae yn ôl yn y Cabinet. Pan ofynnwch i'r heddlu wneud gwaith, fel y gwnaeth Cyd-bwyllgor Addysg Cymru y llynedd, maent yn ymchwilio i'r mater, ynghyd â Gwasanaeth Erlyn y Goron, ac yn

The agriculture industry and those responsible for the rural economy are genuinely concerned that we now have the third Minister to deal with rural affairs since the Assembly's inception. It appears to many that this latest change has been made for political convenience. There was no reason for it, except that you had to find a Cabinet post for Mike German. We wish him well in his new job, in taking on the agriculture portfolio, but the concern persists.

I referred to the Bentley Jennison report: does that report not raise questions about Mike German's credibility in dealing with European affairs? He is now responsible for European affairs in the Cabinet, and a number of questions have been asked about its suitability and the combination of his roles in the Cabinet.

Finally, regarding Edwina Hart's responsibilities for reducing crime, you know that people are increasingly concerned about crime levels. Whatever the information, evidence, or statistics, people perceive that this is a big issue. Will you outline in greater detail exactly what Edwina Hart's role will be? Will she discuss her plans with the Home Office in order to ensure that she has a co-ordinating role in the area for which she will be responsible?

The First Minister: Those are the kind of questions and complaints that I would expect from you when discussing ministerial responsibilities. There is no point congratulating Mike German and saying that he has been cleared while also attempting to besmirch his appointment by dragging the Bentley Jennison report before the Assembly. Mike German has been cleared of the accusations against him after a 15-month investigation by South Wales Police. If a man is cleared, he is cleared—there is nothing more to say. The reason for temporarily suspending him last July is no longer relevant and he is back in the Cabinet. When you ask the police to do a job, as the Welsh Joint Education Committee did last year, they investigate the matter, along with the Crown Prosecution Service, and come to a final

cyflwyno'r casgliad terfynol, a dyna ddiwedd y mater.

Bu ichi ofyn pa mor aml y bydd cyfrifoldebau dros amaeth a materion gwledig ac adfywiad Cymru wledig yn cael eu newid. O bryd i'w gilydd, gwneir newidiadau i gyfrifoldebau Gweinidogion y Cynulliad, fel sydd yn digwydd yn Llundain neu mewn unrhyw wlad. Pan fo cyfrifoldeb Gweinidog yn newid, ni allwch ddweud bob tro bod hynny'n rhy gynnar neu'n rhy hwyr. Mater o farn ydyw, a'm barn i, fel yr un sydd yn gyfrifol am newid cyfrifoldebau'r Gweinidogion, yw hyn. Yr wyf wedi gwneud fy mhenderfyniad, ac nid wyf yn cymryd fawr o sylw o'ch pwyntiau. Maent yn fy atgoffa o sylw Mandy Rice-Davies—'He would say that, wouldn't he?'

Yr ydych yn cwyno er mwyn cwyno. Nid oes llawer o frwdfrydedd y tu ôl i'ch cwestiynau a'ch cwynion. Mae enw Mike German wedi'i glirio, a dylai hynny fod yn ddiwedd y mater. Nid yw creu cymylau, gan wenu ar Mike German a chydymdeimlo ag ef a'i longyfarch ar yr un pryd, yn helpu enw da'r Cynulliad.

O ran cyfrifoldebau Edwina Hart, yr hyn sydd yn bwysig yw bod y pedwar prif gwnstabl yng Nghymru eisiau rhywun yn y Cynulliad i weithio gyda hwy. Penodwyd Edwina Hart i gydweithio gyda'r pedwar prif gwnstabl, a disgwyliaf iddi hi, gyda'i chyfrifoldebau newydd o ymladd yn erbyn camddefnyddio cyffuriau ac alcohol, weithio gyda nhw. Maent wedi gofyn am bwynt cysylltiad clir gyda ni. Gofynnodd Heddlu De Cymru am hyn mewn llythyr ym mis Ebrill, ac yr ydym wedi cyflawni hynny. Credaf y byddant yn hapus a'u bod yn edrych ymlaen at gydweithio gydag Edwina Hart ar yr agenda hwn.

Kirsty Williams: I thank you for standing by the principle of presumed innocence and for your commitment to the principles of partnership politics. I welcome the return of Mike German to Government today. He has shown immense personal strength during a difficult year. It is difficult to imagine some Members withstanding such pressure with such dignity. The feeble attempts to peddle unfounded allegations against Mike German

conclusion, and that is the end of the matter.

You asked how often responsibility for agriculture and rural development and the regeneration of rural Wales will be changed. From time to time, changes are made to Assembly Ministers' responsibilities, as happens in London or in any country. When a Minister's responsibilities change, you cannot say every time that it is too early or too late. It is a matter of opinion, and this is my opinion as the person responsible for changing ministerial responsibilities. I have made my decision, based on personal opinion, and I do not take much notice of your points. They remind me of Mandy Rice-Davies's remark—'He would say that, wouldn't he?'

You are complaining for the sake of it. There is not much enthusiasm behind your questions and complaints. Mike German's name has been cleared, and that should be the end of it. Conjuring up these clouds while at the same time smiling at Mike German and sympathising and congratulating him does nothing for the Assembly's good name.

On Edwina Hart's responsibilities, what is important is that the four chief constables in Wales want someone in the Assembly to work with them. I have appointed Edwina Hart to co-ordinate with the four chief constables, and I expect her, with her new responsibilities for tackling the misuse of drugs and alcohol, to work with them. They have asked for a clear contact point with us. South Wales Police asked for that in a letter in April, and we have delivered. I believe that they will be happy and will look forward to co-operating with Edwina Hart on this agenda.

Kirsty Williams: Diolchaf ichi am sefyll wrth yr egwyddor o ragdybio dieuogrwydd ac am eich ymrwymiad i egwyddorion gwleidyddiaeth bartneriaeth. Croesawaf ddychweliad Mike German i'r Llywodraeth heddiw. Mae wedi dangos cryfder personol aruthrol yn ystod blwyddyn anodd. Mae'n anodd dychmygu rhai Aelodau'n gwrthsefyll y fath bwysau gyda chymaint o urddas. Ni wna'r ymdrechion tila i bedlera honiadau di-

do nothing but bring politicians and politics into disrepute. The attempts to pursue this matter long after its natural death are predictable and boring. There is no substance to these allegations and there is no breath left in their lungs. Do you believe that Mike's representation of rural South Wales East and his negotiation of a partnership agreement, with its emphasis on rural development, the establishment of Farming Connect, free school milk, farming ombudsmen, rural rate extensions and the small schools policy, show that he is well-equipped to carry out his new responsibility? Does not the establishment of a new Cabinet sub-committee on rural development reinforce this partnership Government's commitment to rural Wales, allowing Mike German to develop a rural proofing mechanism for all Government policy pursued in this Chamber?

The First Minister: I would not have chosen him if I disagreed with those sentiments. On your earlier point, you are correct. The old Harry Truman saying,

'If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen',

applies to us all. Politics is a rough and tumble game. However, over the past 15 months, particularly over the last 11 months of being outside the Cabinet, Mike German has had to put up with much more than the usual knockabout and rough and tumble of politics. He has shown intestinal fortitude—or guts. On the rural agenda, your points are correct. There is a vast agenda for Mike to get on with, and I am confident of his ability to do so. I was pleased that he made the lightning start that I expected when he met the farmers' unions last night.

3:00 p.m.

Nick Bourne: Your statement raises several questions that I would like you to consider. First—and I am not saying anything that I have not said before, so I will not apologise for it—is the OLAF inquiry. The Crown Prosecution Service inquiry cleared Mike German, and I do not see why you need to

sail yn erbyn Mike German ddim ond dwyn anfri ar wleidyddion a gwleidyddiaeth. Mae'r ymdrechion i fynd ar ôl y mater hwn ymhell wedi iddo farw'n naturiol yn ddisgwyliedig ac yn ddiflas. Nid oes dim sylwedd i'r honiadau hyn ac nid oes anadl ar ôl yn eu hysgyfaint. A gredwch fod y modd y cynrychiolodd Mike ardal wledig Dwyrain De Cymru a negodi cytundeb partneriaeth, gyda'i bwyslais ar ddatblygu cefn gwlad, sefydlu Cyswllt Ffermio, llaeth ysgol am ddim, ombwdsmyrn ffermio, estyniadau trethi gwledig a'r polisi ysgolion bychain, yn dangos bod ganddo'r hyn sydd ei angen i gyflawni ei gyfrifoldeb newydd? Onid yw sefydlu is-bwyllgor Cabinet newydd ar ddatblygu gwledig yn atgyfnerthu ymrwymiad y Llywodraeth bartneriaeth i gefn gwlad Cymru, gan ganiatáu i Mike German ddatblygu peirianwaith diogelu cefn gwlad ar gyfer pob polisi Llywodraeth a ddilyniir yn y Siambr hon?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Ni fuaswn wedi'i ddewis pe anghytunwn â'r teimladau hynny. Ar eich pwynt cynharach, yr ydych yn gywir. Mae hen ddywediad Harry Truman,

'Os na allwch oddef y gwres, ewch allan o'r gegin',

yn wir inni i gyd. Sgarmes yw gwleidyddiaeth. Fodd bynnag, dros y 15 mis diwethaf, ac yn enwedig dros yr 11 mis diwethaf o fod y tu allan i'r Cabinet, gorfu i Mike German ddiodeff llawer mwy nag ymrafael a sgarmesoedd arferol gwleidyddiaeth. Mae wedi dangos gwytnwch ymysgarol—neu 'gyts'. Ar yr agenda wledig, mae'ch pwyntiau'n gywir. Mae agenda helaeth i Mike fynd i'r afael â hi, ac yr wyf yn hyderus yn ei allu i wneud hynny. Yr oeddwn yn falch iddo wneud y cychwyn cyflym a ddisgwyliais pan gyfarfu ag undebau'r amaethwyr neithiwr.

Nick Bourne: Mae'ch datganiad yn codi sawl cwestiwn yr hoffwn i chi eu hystyried. Yn gyntaf—ac nid wyf yn dweud dim nad wyf wedi ei ddweud o'r blaen, felly nid ymddiheuraf amdano—mae ymchwiliad OLAF. Cliriwyd Mike German gan Wasanaeth Erllyn y Goron, ac ni welaf pam

sneer when people say that they are pleased about that. The European anti-fraud office inquiry remains. It is an inquiry into an institution, admittedly, but it is the European operation of the Welsh Joint Education Committee. We have already had two Cabinet reshuffles, and a third as a result of this affair. Can you give an assurance that we will not have a fourth? Have you made inquiries about what stage the OLAF inquiry has reached? I know that it is considering BBC tapes. [*Laughter.*]

You may sneer, but it is an important question that the First Minister may choose to answer, without using a Mandy Rice-Davies type quip. You can play the cheeky chappy, First Minister, but perhaps it is time that you began to address these serious issues. Have you made any inquiries about what stage the OLAF inquiry has reached and, if not, would it not be a good idea to do so?

On the agriculture portfolio, I am not reassured that Mike German, as an Assembly Member for South Wales East, having once had a holiday on a farm, knows anything about the portfolio. The previous Minister for Rural Affairs exuded an air of confidence and competence. This must be a rare example of a reshuffle where someone who is untried replaces someone who was accepted by the farming fraternity. The people of rural Wales have suffered enough over the last year; they do not need a fresh disaster. The incoming Minister does not have an agricultural background. He admitted on a radio programme yesterday that he is on a steep learning curve, which is an unfortunate echo of someone else's earlier steep learning curve. Perhaps this is also deserves attention, First Minister.

I turn to the Minister's responsibility for Wales abroad. This part of the portfolio is astounding, and presumably it was a job application rather than your own idea. What exactly does it mean? The Minister also told us on radio that he has cross-cutting responsibilities. Does that mean that he will also represent us in Europe on environment, transport and employment issues? I am told

fod angen ichi droi'ch trwyn pan ddywed pobl eu bod yn falch am hynny. Mae ymchwiliad y swyddfa gwrth-dwyll Ewropeaidd yn parhau. Ymchwiliad i sefydliad ydyw, rhaid cyfaddef, ond ymchwiliad ydyw i gangen Ewropeaidd Cyd-Bwyllgor Addysg Cymru. Gwelsom ad-drefnu'r Cabinet ddwywaith yn barod, ac am y drydedd waith yn sgîl y mater hwn. A allwch chi roi sicrwydd na chawn bedwaredd? A ydych wedi gwneud ymholiadau ynghylch pa gam y mae ymchwiliad OLAF wedi'i gyrraedd? Gwn ei fod yn ystyried tapiâu'r BBC. [*Chwerthin.*]

Cewch watwar, ond mae'n gwestiwn pwysig y gall y Prif Weinidog ddewis ei ateb, heb ddefnyddio sylw bachog yn null Mandy Rice-Davies. Mi gewch chi fod yn fachan smala, Brif Weinidog, ond efallai ei bod yn bryd ichi ddechrau rhoi sylw i'r materion difrifol hyn. A ydych wedi gwneud unrhyw ymholiadau ynghylch pa gam y mae ymchwiliad OLAF wedi'i gyrraedd, ac os nad ydych, oni fyddai'n syniad da gwneud hynny?

O ran portffolio amaethyddiaeth, nid wyf wedi f'argyhoeddi bod Mike German, fel Aelod Cynulliad dros Ddwyrain De Cymru, sydd wedi bod ar wyliau unwaith ar fferm, yn gwybod dim am y portffolio. Rhoddai'r Gweinidog dros Faterion Gwledig diwethaf argraff o hyder a gallu. Dyma enghraifft brin, mae'n rhaid, o ad-drefniant lle caiff rhywun a oedd wedi'i dderbyn gan y frawdoliaeth amaethyddol ei ddisodli gan rywun sydd heb ei brofi. Mae pobl cefn gwlad Cymru wedi dioddef digon dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf; nid oes arnynt angen trychineb newydd. Nid oes gan y Gweinidog sy'n dod i mewn gefndir amaethyddol. Cyfaddefodd ar raglen radio ddoe ei fod ar gromlin ddysgu serth, sydd yn adlais anffodus o gromlin ddysgu serth rhywun arall dro yn ôl. Efallai fod hyn yn teilyngu sylw hefyd, Brif Weinidog.

Trof at gyfrifoldeb y Gweinidog dros Gymru dramor. Mae'r rhan hon o'r portffolio'n anhygoel, a gellir tybio mai cais am swydd ydoedd yn hytrach na'ch syniad chi'ch hun. Beth yn union y mae'n ei olygu? Dywedodd y Gweinidog wrthym hefyd ar y radio fod ganddo gyfrifoldebau trawsbynciol. A ydyw hynny'n golygu y bydd yn ein cynrychioli yn Ewrop ar faterion amgylchedd, trafndiaeth a

by the press—and I did not hear it from you today—that he will be responsible for European Union enlargement and the euro. Is the job anything more than Minister for junkets?

Another serious issue that you did not touch upon is Committee structure. This is vital as it concerns every Member. Section 57 (4) of the Government of Wales Act 1998 makes it clear that, when a Minister is given fresh responsibilities, they are to be shadowed by a Committee. That must mean that we now have a Rural Development and Wales Abroad Committee. I would be grateful for your confirmation of that. It is not an option, and I am unsure whether you have realised that, as it was not addressed in your statement. By extension, it also means that the Minister for Open Government, who now takes on separate ministerial responsibilities for open government, human rights and citizenship, must be shadowed by a Committee. The Act also makes it clear that the Assembly is allowed two Ministers, in the areas of finance and business, who will not be shadowed by Committees. All other Ministers must have Committees in relation to their activities. That probably applied to Andrew Davies when he had responsibilities for e-commerce, but it was not picked up at the time. However, the Act is clear.

Your statement referred, quite correctly, to the fact that the election of Committee Chairs is a matter for the Assembly. That was not made clear in the announcement. The appointment of Chair of the Committee on European and External Affairs, as it is now called, and of the Chair of the Committee on Equality of Opportunity, are matters for the Assembly as a whole. A precedent was set—and I look to the Presiding Officer as much as to the First Minister on this—with the secret ballot to elect the Deputy Presiding Officer. This is such a sensitive matter that I think you may receive private representation on it, Llywydd. Should we not consider a secret ballot in this case also? I address the other issues to the First Minister, and hope that he can respond.

chyflogaeth hefyd? Dywed y wasg wrthyf—ac ni chlywais hyn gennych chi heddiw—bydd yn gyfrifol am ehangu'r Undeb Ewropeaidd a'r ewro. A ydyw'r swydd yn unrhyw beth mwy na Gweinidog dros jolihotian?

Mater difrifol arall na chrybwyllwyd gennych yw strwythur Pwyllgorau. Mae hyn yn allweddol gan ei fod yn effeithio ar bob Aelod. Dywed Adran 57 (4) Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998 yn glir fod Gweinidog a gaiff gyfrifoldebau newydd i fod i gael ei gysgodi gan Bwyllgor. Rhaid i hynny olygu fod gennym bellach Bwyllgor Datblygu Gwledig a Chymru Dramor. Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe baech yn cadarnhau hynny. Nid yw'n opsiwn, ac nid wyf yn siŵr a ydych wedi sylweddoli hynny, gan na chyfeiriwyd ato yn eich datganiad. Trwy estyniad, golyga hefyd fod yn rhaid i'r Gweinidog dros Lywodraeth Agored, sydd bellach yn ymgymryd â chyfrifoldebau gweinidogol ar wahân am lywodraeth agored, hawliau dynol a dinasyddiaeth, gael ei gysgodi gan Bwyllgor. Dywed y Ddeddf yn glir hefyd y caniateir i'r Cynulliad ddau Weinidog, ym meysydd cyllid a busnes, na chaiff eu cysgodi gan Bwyllgorau. Rhaid i bob Gweinidog arall gael Pwyllgor perthnasol i'w weithgareddau. Mae'n debyg fod hynny'n wir am Andrew Davies pan oedd ganddo gyfrifoldebau dros e-fasnach, ond ni chodwyd y pwnc ar y pryd. Fodd bynnag, mae'r Ddeddf yn glir.

Cyfeiriodd eich datganiad, yn gwbl gywir, at y ffaith mai mater i'r Cynulliad yw ethol Cadeiryddion Pwyllgorau. Ni wnaethpwyd hynny'n glir yn y cyhoeddiad. Materion i'r Cynulliad yn ei gyfanrwydd yw penodi Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol, fel y'i gelwir erbyn hyn, a Chadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cyfle Cyfartal. Gosodwyd cysail—ac edrychaf at y Llywydd yn gymaint â'r Prif Weinidog ar hyn—gyda'r bleidlais gudd i ethol y Dirprwy Lywydd. Mae hwn yn fater mor sensitif nes fy mod yn meddwl efallai y gwneir sylwadau preifat ichi amdano, Lywydd. Oni ddylem ystyried pleidlais gudd yn yr achos hwn hefyd? Cyfeiriaf y materion eraill at y Prif Weinidog, a gobeithiaf y gall ymateb.

The First Minister: You have also trailed the question of OLAF, but I have not sought to inform myself in detail about that inquiry. I answered a written Assembly question which you had tabled about the European anti-fraud office inquiry some months ago. The inquiry report passed my desk at that point because of a request for our finance and audit officials to pay a joint-controlled visit with the Department for Education and Skills. However, the incidents to which you referred occurred when we were not responsible for the European social fund; DfES would have been responsible. Since the only proposed advantage for us was staff development, I thought it better for the former Department for Education and Employment to handle it directly with OLAF. That is the only area with which I have familiarised myself in relation to the OLAF inquiry, because I had to. It is better to allow such matters to run their course without any perceived or actual political involvement. I am satisfied that the issues pertaining to Mike German were dealt with in the course of the South Wales Police inquiry and the Crown Prosecution Service verdict on that.

I was pleased to hear you praise Carwyn Jones. It is strange that you suddenly praise Ministers once they have ceased to have responsibility for a portfolio. You did not say the same when he had it. It, I suppose, falls into the crocodile tears category.

You raised the remit of the Wales abroad portfolio. It is a co-ordinating portfolio. The Minister will chair the Cabinet sub-committee on Wales in the world, co-ordinate the activities of all Ministers with responsibilities in that regard, and raise Wales's profile abroad, including in Europe. That is why I propose that Mike German chairs the Committee on European and External Affairs. However, as you say—one matter on which we agree—the Assembly must vote on this matter, as it must also vote to elect Carwyn as Chair of the Committee on Equality of Opportunity.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Yr ydych chi thau wedi cyhoeddi'r cwestiwn am OLAF, ond nid wyf wedi ceisio dysgu'n fanwl am yr ymchwiliad hwnnw. Atebais gwestiwn Cynulliad ysgrifenedig a gyflwynwyd gennych ynglŷn ag ymchwiliad y swyddfa gwrth-dwyll Ewropeaidd rai misoedd yn ôl. Pasiodd adroddiad yr ymchwiliad fy nesg bryd hynny oherwydd cais am i'n swyddogion cyllid ac archwilio dan reolaeth gyfun dalu ymweliad â'r Adran Addysg a Sgiliau. Fodd bynnag, digwyddodd y pethau y cyfeiriwch chi atynt ar adeg pan nad oeddem yn gyfrifol am gronfa gymdeithasol Ewrop; yr Adran Addysg a Sgiliau fuasai'n gyfrifol. Gan mai datblygiad staff oedd yr unig fantais a gynigid i ni, bernais mai gwell fyddai i'r hen Adran Addysg a Chyflogaeth ymdrin â'r mater yn uniongyrchol gydag OLAF. Dyna'r unig faes o ymchwiliad OLAF yr wyf wedi ymgysylltu ag ef, oherwydd y bu'n rhaid imi. Mae'n well gadael i faterion o'r fath redeg eu rhawd heb unrhyw gyfranogiad gwleidyddol tybiannol na gwirioneddol. Yr wyf yn fodlon y deliwyd â'r materion perthnasol i Mike German yng nghwrs ymchwiliad Heddlu De Cymru a dyfarniad Gwasanaeth Erlyn y Goron ar hynny.

Yr oedd yn dda gennyf eich clywed yn canmol Carwyn Jones. Mae'n rhyfedd eich bod yn sydyn yn canmol Gweinidogion unwaith y byddant wedi peidio â bod â chyfrifoldeb dros bortffolio. Ni ddywedasoeh yr un peth pan oedd y portffolio ganddo. Mae'n debyg ei fod yn disgyn i categori dagrau crocodeil.

Bu ichi holi ynghylch cylch gwaith portffolio Cymru dramor. Portffolio cydgysylltu ydyw. Bydd y Gweinidog yn cadeirio is-bwyllgor y Cabinet ar Gymru yn y byd, yn cydgysylltu gweithgareddau'r holl Weinidogion sydd â chyfrifoldebau yn hynny o beth, ac yn codi proffil Cymru dramor, gan gynnwys yn Ewrop. Dyna pam y cynigiai y dylai Mike German gadeirio'r Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol. Fodd bynnag, fel y dywedwch—un mater y cytunwn arno—rhaid i'r Cynulliad bleidleisio ar y mater hwn, fel y mae'n rhaid iddo bleidleisio hefyd ar ethol Carwyn yn Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cyfle Cyfartal.

I am not an expert on Standing Orders, but those who are have vetted everything in today's statement to ensure that it complies with them. Should you wish to raise a particular point with me—in addition to your remarks alleging that my statement does not comply with Standing Orders and requires some consequential changes—I will come back to you.

Issues relating to the euro and enlargement of the European Union are points of discussion that arise during meetings of the Committee on European and External Affairs. As Chair of that Committee, Mike German will chair discussions relating to those and other subjects. We are both familiar with that, having been members of that Committee for the past two years.

Cynog Dafis: Ailddarllenais adroddiad damniol Bentley Jennison ar uned Ewropeaidd Cyd-bwyllgor Addysg Cymru neithiwr. Mae'n gwneud cysylltiad clir rhwng penderfyniadau Mike German a'r perygl y gallai fod yn rhaid i CBAC ad-dalu £1 filiwn neu fwy i'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd.

Efallai mai'r enghraifft fwyaf difrifol yw i Mike German, fel pennaeth yr uned, ysgrifennu at y partneriaid yn y prosiectau i'r perwyl nad oedd y cytundebau â'r partneriaid hynny yn eu rhwymo yn gyfreithiol. Drwy hyn, gall CBAC orfod ad-dalu arian i'r comisiwn, oherwydd methiannau'r partneriaid.

Pe bai canlyniad ymchwiliad OLAF yn golygu bod yn rhaid i CBAC dalu £0.5 miliwn neu £1 filiwn neu fwy yn ôl i'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd, a bod pennaeth yr uned, Mike German, yn amlwg ar fai mewn perthynas â hynny, beth y disgwylicch i Mike German ei wneud? Beth a fydddech chi, fel Prif Weinidog, yn ei wneud? Beth fyddai barn ac ymateb y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol a'r Blaid Lafur, a beth fyddai teimlad y cyhoedd o dan yr amgylchiadau hynny?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae eich cwestiynau yn dangos bod eich darlenniad chi o adroddiad Bentley Jennison i'r gwrthwyneb i gasgliad Heddlu De Cymru a Gwasanaeth Erlyn y Goron. Hwy yw'r bobl broffesiynol i benderfynu a oedd unrhyw gamweinyddu yn

Nid wyf yn arbenigwr ar Reolau Sefydlog, ond mae'r rheini sy'n arbenigwyr wedi archwilio popeth yn natganiad heddiw er mwyn sicrhau ei fod yn cydymffurfio â hwy. Os dymunwch godi pwynt arbennig gyda mi—yn ogystal â'ch sylwadau'n honni nad yw fy natganiad yn cydymffurfio â'r Rheolau Sefydlog a bod angen rhai newidiadau o ganlyniad—deuaf yn ôl atoch.

Mae materion ynglŷn â'r ewro ac ehangu'r Undeb Ewropeaidd yn bwyntiau trafod sy'n codi yn ystod cyfarfodydd y Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol. Fel Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor hwnnw, bydd Mike German yn cadeirio trafodaethau ar y pynciau hynny ac eraill. Yr ydym ill dau'n gyfarwydd â hynny, wedi bod yn aelodau o'r Pwyllgor hwnnw ers dwy flynedd.

Cynog Dafis: Last night, I re-read Bentley Jennison's damning report on the Welsh Joint Education Committee's European unit. It identifies a clear correlation between Mike German's decisions and the possibility that the WJEC may have to repay £1 million or more to the European Commission.

Perhaps the most serious allegation is that Mike German, as head of that unit, wrote to the project partners claiming that the contracts with those partners were not legally binding. As a result, the WJEC may have to repay money to the commission because of the partners' failures.

If, as a result of the OLAF inquiry, the WJEC is forced to repay £0.5 million or £1 million or more to the European Commission, and that the head of the unit, Mike German, is clearly culpable in that respect, what would you expect Mike German to do? What would you, as First Minister, do? What would be the view and response of the Liberal Democrats and the Labour Party, and how would the public feel under those circumstances?

The First Minister: Your questions show that your reading of the Bentley Jennison report is contrary to the conclusions of the South Wales Police and the Crown Prosecution Service. They are the professionals who decide whether there has

CBAC o ran cyfrifoldebau personol Mike German, ac y maent wedi casglu nad oedd. Os oeddech am fod yn dditectif gyda Heddlu De Cymru, dylech fod wedi dilyn gyrfa wahanol.

3:10 p.m.

Os credwch, fel amatur, fod gennych fwy o wybodaeth a gallu i ddod i gasgliadau na ditectyddion Heddlu De Cymru—sy'n arbenigwyr—ni fydd neb yn eich cymryd o ddifrif. Mae'r mater ar ben. Fe'i ymchwiliwyd am 15 mis. Nid oedd Mike German yn aelod o'r Cabinet am 11 mis o'r cyfnod hwnnw ac fe'i cliriwyd. Mae hynny'n ffaith. Os ydych am wybod beth yw canlyniad unrhyw gêm bêl droed neu rygbi, yr ydych yn edrych ar y bwrdd sgorio yn hytrach na meddwl bod gêm arall wedi digwydd ar gae gerllaw. Mae'r bwrdd sgorio yn dangos bod Mike German wedi ei glirio. Peidiwch â cheisio cyflwyno eich hun gerbron y cyhoedd a'r Cynulliad fel arbenigwr ar sut y dylai pobl ddod i gasgliadau o ddarllen adroddiad Bentley Jennison. Mae'r bobl broffesiynol wedi ymchwilio'r mater ac maent wedi clirio Mike German.

Peter Law: Many Labour Party Members, such as myself, find it abhorrent that you wrap the Liberal Democrats in cotton wool and nurse them in the Assembly partnership. You have prostituted the best Labour Party principles to the Liberal Democrats, Wales's party of political flotsam. Will you consider disbanding the partnership before the election and appoint some Labour Members who have great talent and ability and should be recognised in place of the Liberal Democrat Cabinet members?

The First Minister: That would be an attractive idea, had we obtained an outright majority in May 1999. However, you made some over-the-top comments and I do not agree with your conclusions. The situation would have been different had we won a majority. However, we did not.

David Melding: Regarding some of the secondary consequential changes, will you

been any maladministration in the WJEC, in terms of Mike German's personal responsibilities, and they have concluded that there has not. If you wanted to be a detective with South Wales Police, you should have followed a different career path.

If you think, as an amateur, that you have more information and are better qualified to reach a decision than South Wales Police detectives—who are experts—no one will take you seriously. The matter is closed. It was investigated for 15 months. For 11 months of that time, Mike German was not a member of the Cabinet but then he was cleared. That is fact. If you want to know the result of any football or rugby match, you look at the scoreboard rather than looking to another match that has taken place on a pitch nearby. The scoreboard shows that Mike German has been cleared. Do not try to present yourself in front of the public and the Assembly as an expert on the conclusions people should draw from the Bentley Jennison report. The professionals have investigated the matter and they have cleared Mike German.

Peter Law: Mae llawer o Aelodau'r Blaid Lafur, fel fi, yn ei chael yn wrthun eich bod yn lapio'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol mewn wadin a'u nyrso ym mhartneriaeth y Cynulliad. Yr ydych wedi puteinio egwyddorion gorau'r Blaid Lafur i'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, plaid broc môr gwleidyddol Cymru. A wnewch chi ystyried chwalu'r bartneriaeth cyn yr etholiad a phenodi ambell Aelod Llafur sydd â dawn a gallu mawr ac y dylid eu cydnabod yn lle aelodau'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn y Cabinet?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Byddai hynny'n syniad atyniadol, pe baem wedi sicrhau mwyafrif clir ym Mai 1999. Fodd bynnag, gwnaethoch ambell sylw dros-ben-llestri ac ni chytunaf â'ch casgliadau. Buasai'r sefyllfa'n wahanol pe buasem wedi ennill mwyafrif. Fodd bynnag, ni wnaethom.

David Melding: Ynghylch rhai o'r newidiadau eilaidd canlyniadol, a ymunwch â

join me in congratulating Edwina Hart on the way in which she chaired the Committee on Equality of Opportunity? I hope that Carwyn Jones will Chair that Committee in an equally all-inclusive, non-partisan way. The way in which the Committee has worked has been of great service to the Assembly.

I genuinely welcome the re-appointment of the Deputy First Minister, as he has waited 11 months for his name to be cleared. When justice proceeds at such a pedestrian pace, the legitimate rights of individuals and political parties are compromised. That could happen to any party in the Chamber. The fact that this process has taken so long should concern us all. The Deputy First Minister has always struck me as being similar to the delightful, decorative buttresses seen on neo-gothic cathedrals. They serve no structural purpose but give people delight and encouragement. The First Minister has appointed him as the Minister for Wales Abroad, perhaps to give him more practical functions. Wales today, the world tomorrow, is Mike German's view of this, I suppose. Can you assure us that if the Deputy First Minister leads a successful campaign in Wales to adopt the euro, his portrait will not appear on the new euro banknote?

The First Minister: No, I am sure that you are right. He is more likely to appear as a gargoyle on a new church in his constituency. I am grateful for your comments about Edwina Hart, as I was for Nick Bourne's comments about the former Minister for Rural Affairs, Carwyn Jones. I agree with those comments and with those regarding how Jane Hutt dealt with the drug and alcohol team. However, sometimes the situation must change, even though the previous Ministers have done their jobs particularly well, and Ministers need to move on or the arrangements need to be changed. The responsibility for equal opportunity, freedom of information and other issues given to Carwyn in his role as Minister for Open Government sits happily with his responsibility for human rights. I am sure that Carwyn will do his best to live up to the high standard originally set by Jane Hutt, and Edwina Hart over the past two years, in chairing the Committee on Equality of

mi i longyfarch Edwina Hart ar y modd y cadeiriodd y Pwyllgor Cyfle Cyfartal? Gobeithiaf y gwnaiff Carwyn Jones gadeirio'r Pwyllgor hwnnw mewn modd yr un mor ollgynhwysol ac amhleidiol. Mae'r modd y gweithiodd y Pwyllgor wedi bod o wasanaeth mawr i'r Cynulliad.

Croesawaf yn ddiffuant ailbenodiad y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog, gan ei fod wedi aros 11 mis i gael clirio'i enw. Pan symuda cyfiawnder ymlaen mor araf, cyfaddawdir hawliau cyfreithlon unigolion a phleisiau gwleidyddol. Gallai hynny ddigwydd i unrhyw blaid yn y Siambr. Dylai'r ffaith bod y broses hon wedi para gyhyd beri pryder i bawb ohonom. Mae bob amser wedi fy nharo i fod y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn debyg i'r bwtresi addurnol, hyfryd a welir ar eglwysi cadeiriol neo-gothig. Nid oes diben adeiladol o gwbl iddynt ond rhoddant bleser i bobl a chodi eu calonnau. Mae'r Prif Weinidog wedi ei benodi yn Weinidog Cymru Dramor, efallai er mwyn rhoi swyddogaethau mwy ymarferol iddo. Cymru heddiw, y byd yfory, mae'n debyg, yw barn Mike German ar hyn. A allwch ein sicrhau os arweinia'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ymgyrch lwyddiannus yng Nghymru dros fabwysiadu'r ewro, na wnaiff ei bortread ymddangos ar y papur arian ewro newydd?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Na, yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn iawn. Mae'n fwy tebygol o ymddangos fel gargoil ar eglwys newydd yn ei etholaeth. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am eich sylwadau am Edwina Hart, fel yr oeddwn am sylwadau Nick Bourne am y cyn Weinidog dros Faterion Gwledig, Carwyn Jones. Cytunaf â'r sylwadau hynny ac â'r rheini ynghylch y modd y deliodd Jane Hutt â'r tîm cyffuriau ac alcohol. Fodd bynnag, weithiau mae'n rhaid i'r sefyllfa newid, er bod y Gweinidogion blaenorol wedi gwneud eu gwaith yn hynod o dda, ac mae angen i Weinidogion symud ymlaen neu mae angen newid y trefniadau. Mae'r cyfrifoldeb dros gyfle cyfartal, rhyddid gwybodaeth a materion eraill a roddwyd i Carwyn yn ei rôl fel Gweinidog dros Lywodraeth Agored yn cyd-eistedd yn hapus gyda'i gyfrifoldeb dros hawliau dynol. Yr wyf yn siŵr y gwnaiff Carwyn ei orau i gadw at y safon uchel a osodwyd yn wreiddiol gan Jane Hutt, a chan Edwina Hart dros y ddwy flynedd ddiwethaf,

Opportunity.

Pauline Jarman: Your statement says that you intend to transfer the responsibility for action on drugs and alcohol abuse from the health portfolio to the crime reduction portfolio, which is a significant change in priorities. You also said that the Minister will now be expected to work with the four police chiefs. It seems that you intend to treat drug and alcohol abuse as a criminal matter rather than as a health matter. You are aware that we need detoxifying and rehabilitation facilities in Wales, and I believe that this matter should at least have been made a shared responsibility. Will you reconsider that position to give both Ministers the best opportunity to reduce drug-related crime and improve the provision of health services to addicts in Wales?

The First Minister: I understand your point, but there is always an argument against making a change. The responsibility for action on drugs and alcohol abuse was not put into the public health element of Jane Hutt's previous portfolio without reason; it is one of those 60:40 issues. Every Assembly Member and Member of Parliament representing constituencies in the Dyfed Powys Police, Gwent Police and South Wales Police areas will have received a letter from the South Wales Police assistant chief constable, David Francis, who wrote on behalf of the other two police authorities. In that letter, he makes a plea for the drug and alcohol advisory team to join the crime reduction partnership teams, and that is what we have done.

Glyn Davies: On the rural development portfolio and the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Rural Development and Wales Abroad's new role, when the Assembly was established, Christine Gwyther was the Secretary for Agriculture and Rural Development. The Committee shadowing that work has always been the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee. I believe that issues such as housing, tourism, and information and communications technology in rural areas, and anything concerned with

wrth gadeirio'r Pwyllgor Cyfle Cyfartal.

Pauline Jarman: Dywed eich datganiad eich bod yn bwriadu trosglwyddo'r cyfrifoldeb am weithredu ar gamddefnyddio cyffuriau ac alcohol o'r portffolio iechyd i'r portffolio lleihau torcyfraith, sydd yn newid blaenoriaethau sylweddol. Dywedasoeh hefyd y bydd disgwyl bellach i'r Gweinidog weithio gyda'r pedwar pennaeth heddlu. Mae'n ymddangos eich bod yn bwriadu trin camddefnydd cyffuriau ac alcohol fel mater troseddol yn hytrach nag fel mater iechyd. Yr ydych yn ymwybodol fod arnom angen cyfleusterau dadwenwyno ac ymadfer yng Nghymru, a chredaf y dylai'r mater hwn o leiaf fod wedi'i wneud yn gyfrifoldeb a rennir. A wnewch chi ailystyried y sefyllfa honno er mwyn rhoi'r cyfle gorau i'r ddau Weinidog leihau torcyfraith sy'n gysylltiedig â chyffuriau a gwella'r ddarpariaeth gwasanaethau iechyd i rai sy'n gaeth i gyffuriau yng Nghymru?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Deallaf eich pwynt, ond gellir dadlau bob amser yn erbyn newid. Ni chafodd y cyfrifoldeb dros weithredu ar gamddefnydd cyffuriau ac alcohol ei gynnwys yn elfen iechyd cyhoeddus portffolio blaenorol Jane Hutt heb reswm; mae'n fater 60:40. Bydd pob Aelod Cynulliad ac Aelod Seneddol sy'n cynrychioli etholaethau yn ardaloedd Heddlu Dyfed Powys, Heddlu Gwent a Heddlu De Cymru wedi derbyn llythyr oddi wrth brif gwnstabl cynorthwyol Heddlu De Cymru, David Francis, a ysgrifennodd ar ran y ddau awdurdod heddlu arall. Yn y llythyr hwnnw, mae'n erfyn ar i'r tîm cynghori ar gyffuriau ac alcohol ymuno â'r timau partneriaeth lleihau torcyfraith, a dyna beth yr ydym wedi'i wneud.

Glyn Davies: Ynglŷn â phortffolio datblygu gwledig a rôl newydd y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Gwledig a Chymru Dramor, pan sefydlwyd y Cynulliad, Christine Gwyther oedd yr Ysgrifennydd Amaethyddiaeth a Datblygu Gwledig. Y Pwyllgor a gysgodai'r gwaith hwnnw o'r cychwyn oedd y Pwyllgor Amaethyddiaeth a Datblygu Gwledig. Credaf fod materion fel tai, twristiaeth, a thechnoleg gwybodaeth a chyfathrebu mewn ardaloedd gwledig, ac unrhyw beth sy'n ymwneud â lles

the welfare of rural areas, are within that Committee's remit. Will you clarify what is now in the remit of the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Rural Development and Wales Abroad that was not within the remit of his two predecessors with responsibility for rural affairs? The impression given is that new responsibilities have been transferred to the Deputy First Minister, but I am unsure what they are.

The First Minister: They are not new responsibilities in the budgetary and post-holding sense, but he will now chair a co-ordinated Cabinet sub-committee for rural regeneration. Therefore, under his chairship, other Ministers with post-holding responsibilities will discuss a series of issues relating to the regeneration of rural Wales, which may include the reform of the common agricultural policy, diversification into tourism, alternative energy, crops, or the stewardship agenda which infringes upon environmental and countryside matters. Addressing the question of what else rural Wales needs may mean that there are even wider issues, and these may fall within the budgets of other Ministers. These issues need to be packaged; that is what co-ordination means. We have not had a sub-committee on this before, but now that we do, Mike German will chair it.

Ron Davies: Point of order. Nick Bourne asked you a direct question, Presiding Officer, as a result of the First Minister's statement, relating to procedures for the election of a new Chair for the Committee on European and External Affairs. Will you respond to that, because I may have a point of order arising from it?

The Presiding Officer: A point of order was not raised, but rather a question was asked during a response to the First Minister's statement. I do not believe that it is appropriate for me to answer questions on behalf of the First Minister. However, I have taken advice on the content of our Standing Orders and on the Government of Wales Act 1998, and it is clear that there can be a ballot for elections, including elections for the posts of Presiding Officer and Deputy Presiding Officer. However, it is not clear to me at

ardaloedd gwledig, o fewn cylch gwaith y Pwyllgor hwnnw. A wnewch chi egluro beth sydd yn awr yng nghylch gwaith y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Gwledig a Chymru Dramor nad oedd yng nghylch gwaith ei ddau ragflaenydd gyda chyfrifoldeb dros faterion gwledig? Yr argraff a roddir yw bod cyfrifoldebau newydd wedi'u trosglwyddo i'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog, ond nid wyf yn siŵr beth ydynt.

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Nid cyfrifoldebau newydd ydynt yn yr ystyr gyllidebol ac o ran dal swyddi, ond bydd yn awr yn cadeirio is-bwyllgor Cabinet cydgysylltiedig ar gyfer adfywio gwledig. Felly, dan ei gadeiryddiaeth, bydd Gweinidogion eraill sydd â chyfrifoldebau o ran dal swyddi yn trafod cyfres o faterion yn ymwneud ag adfywio'r Gymru wledig, a all gynnwys diwygio'r polisi amaethyddol cyffredin, arallgyfeirio i dwristiaeth, ynni amgen, cnydau, neu'r agenda stiwardiaeth sy'n effeithio ar faterion amgylcheddol a chefn gwlad. Wrth geisio ateb y cwestiwn beth arall sydd ei angen ar y Gymru wledig gellir gweld fod materion ehangach eto, a gall y rhain fod o fewn cyllidebau Gweinidogion eraill. Mae angen pecynnu'r materion hyn; dyna beth a olygir wrth gydgyssylltu. Ni fu gennym is-bwyllgor ar hyn o'r blaen, ond gan fod un gennym yn awr, Mike German fydd yn ei gadeirio.

Ron Davies: Pwynt o drefn. Gofynnodd Nick Bourne gwestiwn uniongyrchol i chi, Lywydd, yn sgîl datganiad y Prif Weinidog, ynglŷn â'r drefn ar gyfer ethol Cadeirydd newydd i'r Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol. A wnewch chi ymateb i hynny, oherwydd efallai y bydd pwynt o drefn gennyf fi yn codi ohono?

Y Llywydd: Ni chodwyd pwynt o drefn, ond yn hytrach gofynnwyd cwestiwn yn ystod ymateb i ddatganiad y Prif Weinidog. Ni chredaf ei bod yn briodol i mi ateb cwestiynau ar ran y Prif Weinidog. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf wedi derbyn cyngor ar gynnwys ein Rheolau Sefydlog ac ar Ddeddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998, ac mae'n glir y gellir cynnal pleidlais ar gyfer etholiadau, gan gynnwys etholiadau i swyddi'r Llywydd a'r Dirprwy Lywydd. Er hynny, nid yw'n glir i mi ar hyn o bryd a ellir cynnal pleidlais ar

present whether or not there can be provision for a ballot for further elections. It seems to me that the course currently open to the Assembly is for a nomination to be put forward—presumably from the Assembly Government. It is then open to Members to vote on that nomination and to take other nominations if nominations fall. That seems to be the course, but I will take further advice on this.

3:20 p.m.

Ron Davies: I am grateful for that, Llywydd. Further to that, I draw your attention to Standing Order No. 8, which relates to the election of Members and Chairs to Standing Committees. Standing Order No. 8 protects the rights of individual parties, and ensures wide consultation. There is no provision in Standing Order No. 8 for any consultation process or for securing party balance. I do not wish to get involved in the previous debate—and I also congratulate Mike German in that the investigation concluded that there was insufficient evidence for prosecution—but there must be questions about the propriety and the wisdom of the National Assembly being represented at a much wider level by an individual who has been through such a traumatic time, and about whom there will doubtless be debate and speculation in the future as a result of the OLAF investigation. Regardless of the outcome of that investigation, questions must be asked.

It is appropriate that Members, in casting their vote on whether Mike is an appropriate candidate for Chair of the Committee on European and External Affairs, should have the opportunity to reflect their own judgment. In pursuance of that, will you bear in mind, Llywydd, the precedent that was set some time ago when the whole Assembly recognised that the role of the Deputy Presiding Officer is a matter for the Assembly—not for party groups or the administration? The Assembly decided that it wished to make that judgment by means of a secret ballot. Will you reflect on the fact that Standing Order No. 8 only allows for nominations to come forward from the Minister responsible for Assembly business and does not allow other interests in the Assembly to be considered or to be

gyfer etholiadau pellach. Mae'n ymddangos i mi mai'r ffordd sy'n agored ar hyn o bryd i'r Cynulliad yw i enwebiad gael ei gynnig—gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad, mi dybiwn. Wedyn mae'n agored i Aelodau bleidleisio ar yr enwebiad hwnnw ac i dderbyn enwebiadau eraill os bydd enwebiadau'n methu. Mae'n ymddangos mai dyna'r ffordd, ond fe gymeraf gyngor pellach ar hyn.

Ron Davies: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am hynny, Lywydd. Ymhellach i hynny, tynnaf eich sylw at Reol Sefydlog Rhif 8, sy'n ymwneud ag ethol Aelodau a Chadeiryddion i Bwyllgorau Sefydlog. Mae Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 8 yn gwarchod hawliau pleidiau unigol, ac yn sicrhau ymgynghori eang. Nid oes darpariaeth yn Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 8 ar gyfer proses ymgynghori nac ar gyfer sicrhau cydbwysedd pleidiau. Nid wyf am ailagor y ddadl flaenorol—a llongyfarchaf finau Mike German o ran bod yr ymchwiliad wedi dod i'r casgliad nad oedd digon o dystiolaeth i erlyn—ond mae'n rhaid fod cwestiynau ynghylch priodoldeb a doethineb gadael i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol gael ei gynrychioli ar lefel lawer ehangach gan unigolyn a fu drwy amser mor drawmatig, ac y bydd dadlau a dyfalu amdano yn ddi-os yn y dyfodol o ganlyniad i ymchwiliad OLAF. Ni waeth beth fo canlyniad yr ymchwiliad hwnnw, rhaid gofyn cwestiynau.

Mae'n briodol y dylai Aelodau, wrth fwrw'u pleidlais ynghylch a yw Mike yn ymgeisydd priodol i gadeirio'r Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol, gael y cyfle i adlewyrchu eu barn eu hunain. Yn unol â hynny, a wnewch chi gofio, Lywydd, y cysail a osodwyd beth amser yn ôl pan gydnabu'r Cynulliad cyfan fod rôl y Dirprwy Lywydd yn fater i'r Cynulliad—nid i grwpiau plaid nac i'r weinyddiaeth? Penderfynodd y Cynulliad ei fod yn dymuno gwneud y dyfarniad hwnnw drwy gyfrwng pleidlais gudd. A wnewch chi fyfyrion ar y ffaith nad yw Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 8 ddim ond yn caniatáu i enwebiadau ddod ymlaen gan y Gweinidog sy'n gyfrifol am fusnes y Cynulliad ac nad yw'n caniatáu i fuddiannau eraill yn y Cynulliad gael eu hystyried na'u cynrychioli?

represented?

I have a separate point of order relating to section 57(4) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, which relates to the establishment of Standing Committees. I do not need to speculate on what was in the mind of the parliamentary draughtsman when section 57(4) was being drafted, because I am familiar with the precise instructions that were given. Section 57(4) exists in the Act to ensure that for each Minister who has responsibilities given to him or her by the First Minister, there shall be a Subject Committee that precisely mirrors those responsibilities.

The present Minister for Economic Development, when he was Minister for Assembly Business, had other responsibilities. He had responsibility for e-commerce but did not have a Subject Committee monitoring his work on e-commerce. It may well be argued that that was a precedent. If that is the case, will you reflect on the fact that a precedent that is either based on ignorance, because nobody has challenged it, or on a tacit acceptance—because I do not think that anyone took issue with the fact that Andrew was discharging those functions—should not be allowed to stand as a valid precedent when it comes to an entirely different set of circumstances? We now have a Minister where there clearly is not tacit acceptance of his new role, and there cannot be ignorance about the provisions of section 57(4) because I have just drawn them to your attention.

Therefore, will you assure me, Llywydd, that under these circumstances you will not allow the existence of that wobbly precedent—if I can describe it thus—to influence your judgment when it comes to deciding that the remit of any Committee that monitors Mike German's work, be it a recast Agriculture Committee or an entirely new Committee, includes all the work that is currently proposed for the Deputy First Minister?

The Presiding Officer: There are three important issues here. On using a ballot for elections, I see no precedent arising from the

Mae gennyf bwynt o drefn gwahanol yn ymwneud ag adran 57(4) Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998, sy'n ymwneud â sefydlu Pwyllgorau Sefydlog. Nid oes angen imi ddyfalu beth oedd ym meddwl y drafftsmon seneddol pan ddrafftwyd adran 57(4), oherwydd yr wyf yn gyfarwydd â'r union gyfarwyddiadau a roddwyd. Mae adran 57(4) yn bodoli yn y Ddeddf er mwyn sicrhau, ar gyfer pob Gweinidog y rhoddydwyd cyfrifoldebau iddo neu iddi gan Brif Weinidog Cymru, y bydd Pwyllgor Pwnc sy'n adlewyrchu'n union y cyfrifoldebau hynny.

Yr oedd cyfrifoldebau eraill gan y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd, pan oedd yn Drefnydd y Cynulliad. Yr oedd ganddo gyfrifoldeb dros e-fasnach ond nid oedd ganddo Bwyllgor Pwnc yn arolygu ei waith ar e-fasnach. Gellir dadlau yn wir mai cynsail oedd hwnnw. Os felly, a wnewch chi fyfyrion ar y ffaith na ellir caniatáu i gynsail sefyll fel un dilys os yw wedi'i seilio naill ai ar anwybodaeth, oherwydd nad oes neb wedi ei herio, neu ar gydsyniad mud—oherwydd nid wyf yn meddwl y codwyd dadl ynglŷn â'r ffaith bod Andrew'n cyflawni'r swyddogaethau hynny—pan ddeuir at set hollol wahanol o amgylchiadau? Yn awr mae gennym Weinidog lle mae'n amlwg nad oes cydsyniad mud ynglŷn â'i rôl newydd, ac ni all fod anwybodaeth am ddarpariaethau adran 57(4) oherwydd yr wyf newydd eu dwyn i'ch sylw.

Felly, a roddwch sicrwydd imi, Lywydd, na wnewch, o dan yr amgylchiadau hyn, ganiatáu i fodolaeth y cynsail simsan hwnnw—os caf ei ddisgrifio felly—ddylanwadu ar eich barn pan ddaw'n fater o benderfynu bod cylch gwaith unrhyw Bwyllgor fydd yn arolygu gwaith Mike German, boed yn Bwyllgor Amaethyddiaeth wedi'i ailwampio neu'n Bwyllgor hollol newydd, yn cynnwys yr holl waith a gynigir ar hyn o bryd ar gyfer y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog?

Y Llywydd: Mae tri mater pwysig yma. Ynghylch defnyddio pleidlais ar gyfer etholiadau, ni welaf fod unrhyw gynsail yn

election for the Deputy Presiding Officer because Standing Order No. 1 contains a clear process for ballot. We do not have a similar process for the election of the Chair of the Committee on European and External Affairs. Standing Order No. 15.4 specifies that the Assembly shall elect an Assembly Minister to chair the Committee, and this is followed by a reference to reflecting the balance of political groups in the Assembly, and so on. The structure of the committee in question does not resemble that of the Subject Committees.

On the Government of Wales Act 1998, and section 57(4) in particular, as soon as it was made known to me that there would be Cabinet changes, I asked for advice on the consequences for our Committee structure. It concerns me that when Cabinet changes are made—which is a matter for the First Minister—there are consequences for our Committee structure and the staffing structure of the Committee Secretariat. Therefore, having sought advice, I, in turn, have given the best advice I can, but will return to this matter on Thursday if I need to give further advice on the implications for the Committee structure.

On the interpretation of the Government of Wales Act 1998, and Parliament's intentions—in which I too take a personal interest—we must ensure, at all times, that whatever we do within our Standing Orders is clearly set within the Act. The Act, as Ron Davies knows, has precedence in these matters, and our Standing Orders sit within it.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Point of order. I raise this matter under Standing Order No. 6. Cynog Dafis asked the First Minister a series of questions based on the Bentley Jennison independent review of the Welsh Joint Education Committee's European activities. The First Minister stated clearly that that investigation had come to an end, but he was referring to the criminal investigation by the police, not the independent review. For the purposes of the record, perhaps the First Minister would like to reflect on his answer to avoid appearing to have intentionally or unintentionally misled the Assembly.

codi o etholiad y Dirprwy Lywydd oherwydd mae Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 1 yn cynnwys proses glir ar gyfer pleidleisio. Nid oes gennym broses debyg ar gyfer ethol Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol. Dywed Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 15.4 y bydd y Cynulliad yn ethol Gweinidog Cynulliad i gadeirio'r Pwyllgor, a dilynir hyn gan gyfeiriad at adlewyrchu cydbwysedd grwpiau gwleidyddol yn y Cynulliad, ac ati. Nid yw strwythur y pwyllgor dan sylw'n debyg i strwythur y Pwyllgorau Pwnc.

Ynglŷn â Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998, ac adran 57(4) yn arbennig, cyn gynted ag y cefais wybod y byddai newidiadau i'r Cabinet, gofynnais am gyngor ar yr hyn y mae'n ei olygu i'n strwythur Pwyllgorau. Pan wneir newidiadau i'r Cabinet—sy'n fater i'r Prif Weinidog—mae'n peri pryder i mi fod hynny'n effeithio ar ein strwythur Pwyllgorau a strwythur staffio Ysgrifenyddiaeth y Pwyllgorau. Felly, wedi gofyn am gyngor, yr wyf fi, yn fy nhro, wedi rhoi'r cyngor gorau a allaf, ond dychwelaf at y mater hwn ddydd Iau os bydd angen imi roi cyngor pellach ar y goblygiadau i'r strwythur Pwyllgorau.

Ar ddehongliad Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998, a bwriadau'r Senedd—y cymeraf innau hefyd ddiddordeb personol ynddynt—rhaid inni sicrhau, bob amser, fod beth bynnag a wnawn o fewn ein Rheolau Sefydlog wedi'i osod yn glir o fewn y Ddeddf. Caiff y Ddeddf, fel y gŵyr Ron Davies, flaenoriaeth yn y materion hyn, ac eistedda'n Rheolau Sefydlog o'i mewn.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Pwynt o drefn. Codaf y mater hwn dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 6. Gofynnodd Cynog Dafis gyfres o gwestiynau i'r Prif Weinidog yn seiliedig ar adolygiad annibynnol Bentley Jennison o weithgareddau Ewropeaidd Cyd-Bwyllgor Addysg Cymru. Dywedodd y Prif Weinidog yn glir fod yr ymchwiliad hwnnw wedi dod i ben, ond yr oedd ef yn cyfeirio at yr ymchwiliad troseddol gan yr heddlu, nid yr ymchwiliad annibynnol. Er mwyn y cofnod, efallai yr hoffai'r Prif Weinidog fyfyrion ar ei ateb er mwyn osgoi ymddangos fel pe bai, yn fwriadol neu'n anfwriadol, wedi camarwain y Cynulliad.

The Presiding Officer: No-one has misled the Assembly. Rhodri Glyn Thomas is seeking to extend the time allotted to questions on a statement with a point of order, and I do not approve of that.

Y Llywydd: Nid oes neb wedi camarwain y Cynulliad. Mae Rhodri Glyn Thomas yn ceisio ymestyn yr amser a ddyrannwyd i gwestiynau ar ddatganiad gyda phwynt o drefn, ac nid wyf yn cymeradwyo hynny.

Datganiad ar Gyhoeddiad Adnewyddu Consignia Statement on the Consignia Renewal Announcement

The Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities (Edwina Hart): I will make a brief statement to the Assembly on the impact of Consignia's recent announcement on postal services in Wales.

Y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau (Edwina Hart): Gwnaf ddatganiad byr i'r Cynulliad ar effaith cyhoeddiad diweddar Consignia ar wasanaethau post yng Nghymru.

Last Thursday, Allan Leighton, the Chairman of Consignia, announced the second phase of the company's restructuring plans. He announced that the Royal Mail would save £350 million a year by moving to a single delivery, six days a week, and that these plans would result in a further 17,000 redundancies across the UK over the next three years.

Ddydd Iau diwethaf, cyhoeddodd Allan Leighton, Cadeirydd Consignia, ail gam cynlluniau ailstrwythuro'r cwmni. Cyhoeddodd y byddai'r Post Brenhinol yn arbed £350 miliwn y flwyddyn drwy symud i un dosbarthiad y dydd, chwe diwrnod yr wythnos, ac y byddai'r cynlluniau hyn yn golygu colli 17,000 yn rhagor o swyddi ledled y DU dros y tair blynedd nesaf.

It is still too early to say how many postal workers in Wales will be affected by these cuts, but our postmen and women now face an extremely anxious and difficult time. The decision to cut more jobs is dreadful for the workforce. The commitment of our postmen and women is highly valued by the communities they serve. They have vital local knowledge and language skills, which help to sustain the levels of service upon which we have all come to rely. The proposed job losses are all the more painful because effective management and investment could have helped to avoid the present situation.

Mae'n dal i fod yn rhy gynnar i ddweud faint o weithwyr post yng Nghymru yr effeithir arnynt gan y toriadau hyn, ond mae ein postmyn a'n postwragedd yn awr yn wynebu adeg hynod o boenus ac anodd. Mae'r penderfyniad i dorri mwy o swyddi'n ofnadwy i'r gweithlu. Caiff ymroddiad ein postmyn a'n postwragedd ei werthfawrogi'n fawr gan y cymunedau a wasanaethant. Mae ganddynt wybodaeth leol a sgiliau iaith hanfodol, sy'n helpu i gynnal y lefelau gwasanaeth yr ydym i gyd wedi dod i ddibynnu arnynt. Mae'r colledion swyddi arfaethedig yn fwy poenus fyth gan y gallai rheoli a buddsoddi effeithiol fod wedi helpu osgoi'r sefyllfa bresennol.

Allan Leighton has made it clear that the company aims to achieve the reduction in jobs by offering voluntary redundancy and alternative jobs within the company. We must keep a close watch on the practical implications of this undertaking for Wales, where alternative sources of employment may not be readily at hand. The Welsh Assembly Government will do everything it can through working in partnership with

Mae Allan Leighton wedi datgan yn glir mai nod y cwmni yw cwtdogi'r swyddi drwy gynnig diswyddiad gwirfoddol a swyddi eraill o fewn y cwmni. Rhaid inni gadw llygad barcud ar oblygiadau ymarferol hynny i Gymru, lle efallai na fydd ffynonellau cyflogaeth eraill wrth law yn hwylus. Gwnaiff Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru bopeth a all drwy weithio mewn partneriaeth gyda'r Ganolfan Byd Gwaith, Dysgu ac

Jobcentre Plus, Education and Learning Wales, and other agencies to help people who leave the Royal Mail to get new jobs and retraining opportunities as quickly as possible.

3:30 p.m.

Although it is regrettable that Consignia's financial position will mean an end to the second mail delivery, I am intent on holding the company to its declared intention that disruption to businesses in Wales will be minimised. Consignia's data suggests that only about 4 per cent of mail is delivered in the second post. The company further suggests that the changes will also mean that postmen and women can work a five-day rather than a six-day week, and that around 1 million more first class letters every week should arrive on time across the UK. On behalf of the Assembly, I intend to subject these suggestions to full and ongoing scrutiny.

Following the Plenary debate on postal services on 12 March, the Assembly Government conveyed the Assembly's concerns about retaining a universal service, at a uniform tariff across the UK, to Martin Stanley, the chief executive of Postcomm. The regulator's decision on 29 May to delay the timetable for introducing competition shows it has listened to the representations made by stakeholders, including the National Assembly for Wales.

As for the future of the network, a scheme for the reinvention of the urban post office network was announced in Westminster on 3 January 2002. This confirmed the Government's agreement in principle to supporting a compensation package for sub-postmasters affected by the modernisation proposals. The scheme awaits European Union state aid clearance and the completion of Parliamentary procedures. The Post Office Ltd wrote to UK sub-postmasters on 10 April 2002 to inform them whether their post offices were within the scope of the restructuring proposals, and provided further details of the reinvention scheme. Up to £210 million is currently earmarked for the programme. Consignia's data suggests that around 300 post offices in Wales will be

Addysgu Cymru, ac asiantaethau eraill i helpu pobl sy'n gadael y Post Brenhinol i gael swyddi newydd a chyfleoedd ailhyfforddi cyn gynted ag y bo modd.

Er ei bod yn anffodus y bydd sefyllfa ariannol Consignia'n golygu diwedd ar yr ail ddosbarthiad post, yr wyf yn benderfynol o gadw'r cwmni at ei fwriad datganedig y bydd cyn lleied o darfu ag sy'n bosibl ar fusnesau yng Nghymru. Awgryma data Consignia mai dim ond rhyw 4 y cant o'r post a ddsberthir yn yr ail bost. Awgryma'r cwmni ymhellach y bydd y newidiadau'n golygu hefyd y gall postmyn a phostwagedd weithio wythnos bum diwrnod yn lle chwech, ac y dylai rhyw 1 miliwn yn fwy o lythyrau dosbarth cyntaf bob wythnos gyrraedd yn brydlon ledled y DU. Ar ran y Cynulliad, bwriadaf graffu'n fanwl ac yn barhaus ar yr awgrymiadau hyn.

Yn dilyn dadl y Cyfarfod Llawn ar wasanaethau post ar 12 Mawrth, mynegodd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad bryderon y Cynulliad ynghylch cadw gwasanaeth cyffredin, am yr un pris ar draws y DU, wrth Martin Stanley, prif weithredwr Postcomm. Mae penderfyniad y rheoleiddiwr ar 29 Mai i oedi'r amserlen ar gyfer cyflwyno cystadleuaeth yn dangos ei fod wedi gwrandao ar y sylwadau a wnaed gan randdeiliaid, gan gynnwys Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru.

O ran dyfodol y rhwydwaith, cyhoeddwyd cynllun ar gyfer ailddyfeisio'r rhwydwaith swyddfeydd post trefol yn San Steffan ar 3 Ionawr 2002. Cadarnhaodd hyn gytundeb y Llywodraeth mewn egwyddor i gefnogi pecyn iawndal i is-bostfeistri yr effeithir arnynt gan y cynigion moderneiddio. Mae'r cynllun yn aros am gliriad cymorth gwladwriaethol yr Undeb Ewropeaidd a chwblhad gweithdrefnau'r Senedd. Ysgrifennodd Swyddfa'r Post Cyf at is-bostfeistri'r DU ar 10 Ebrill 2002 i roi gwybod iddynt a oedd eu swyddfeydd post wedi'u cynnwys yn y cynigion ailstrwythuro, a darparodd fanylion pellach am y cynllun ailddyfeisio. Mae hyd at £210 miliwn wedi'i glustnodi ar hyn o bryd ar gyfer y rhaglen. Awgryma data Consignia yr ystyrir rhyw 300

considered as part of the urban network reinvention proposals, but it is too early to predict how many sub-postmasters will opt to close their post offices and take up the compensation.

In recognition of the important role of post offices in maintaining community cohesiveness and providing services to vulnerable social groups, the Welsh Assembly Government is developing proposals to support the retention of urban and rural post offices with a high social value.

As regards the change of name, this is to be welcomed insofar as it might play a part in the necessary task of re-establishing the public trust in, and respect for, the company.

Last Thursday's announcement involved difficult and painful decisions which will impact upon many individuals and communities. My responsibility will be to ensure that any detrimental impact upon Wales as a whole is minimised and that the assurances provided by the company are realised in practice. It is a responsibility that I intend to discharge vigorously on behalf of the Assembly and the people whom we represent.

Janet Ryder: First, I echo the sentiments expressed by David Melding during questions to the First Minister. The Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities's experience will be sadly missed by the Committee on Equality of Opportunity. I compliment her on her work in that Committee.

I agree with the Minister that this is a worrying time for post office workers. I also agree that effective management and investment could have helped to avoid the present situation. Postal workers are under a great deal of pressure and this announcement will add to that. Minister, do you not agree that it is time that the postal service is recognised as a vital public service and that a universal service at a universal price, to every home and business throughout Wales, must be maintained? Do you now agree with what my colleague, Dai Lloyd, said in the Plenary

o swyddfeydd post yng Nghymru fel rhan o gynigion ailddyfeisio'r rhwydwaith trefol, ond mae'n rhy gynnar i broffwydo faint o is-bostfeistri fydd yn dewis cau eu swyddfeydd post a chymryd yr iawndal.

Gan gydnabod rôl bwysig swyddfeydd post o ran cynnal cydlynid cymunedau a darparu gwasanaethau i grwpiau cymdeithasol bregus, mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn datblygu cynigion i gefnogi cadw swyddfeydd post trefol a gwledig o werth cymdeithasol uchel.

O safbwynt y newid enw, mae hyn i'w groesawu i'r graddau y gallai chwarae rhan yn y dasg angenrheidiol o ailsefydlu ymddiriedaeth y cyhoedd yn y cwmni, a'u parch tuag ato.

Golygodd y cyhoeddiad dydd Iau diwethaf fod yn rhaid gwneud penderfyniadau anodd a phoenus a gaiff effaith ar lawer o unigolion a chymunedau. Fy nghyfrifoldeb i fydd sicrhau y caiff unrhyw effaith niweidiol ar Gymru yn gyffredinol ei lleihau ac y caiff y sicrwydd a roddwyd gan y cwmni ei wireddu yn ymarferol. Dyma gyfrifoldeb y bwriadaf ei weithredu'n egniol ar ran y Cynulliad a'r bobl yr ydym yn eu cynrychioli.

Janet Ryder: Yn gyntaf, ategaf y teimladau a fynegwyd gan David Melding yn ystod cwestiynau i'r Prif Weinidog. Bydd y Pwyllgor Cyfle Cyfartal yn gweld colli profiad y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau. Fe'i cymeradwyaf ar ei gwaith yn y Pwyllgor hwnnw.

Cytunaf â'r Gweinidog fod hwn yn gyfnod pryderus i weithwyr swyddfeydd post. Cytunaf hefyd y gallai rheoli a buddsoddi effeithiol fod wedi helpu osgoi'r sefyllfa bresennol. Mae gweithwyr post dan lawer iawn o bwysau a bydd y cyhoeddiad hwn yn ychwanegu at hynny. Weinidog, oni chytunwch ei bod yn hen bryd cydnabod y gwasanaeth post fel gwasanaeth cyhoeddus hanfodol a bod yn rhaid cadw gwasanaeth cyffredin i bawb ar bris cyffredin i bawb, i bob cartref a busnes drwy Gymru gyfan? A gytunwch yn awr â'r hyn a ddywedodd fy

debate in March? He said that postal services should not only be preserved in Wales, but developed. How can this announcement of a further 17,000 job losses—although it is meant to save the service—achieve that?

You also mentioned the decision to delay the timetable for introducing competition. In the debate in March, the First Minister said:

‘The more competition that exists, the harder it becomes to maintain the universal service obligation’.

Do you not agree that public services should be just that: well managed and public? Do you not think that it is time to challenge the European directive to open up all public services to competition? If you do, what will you do about it? You talked about the future of the network. Again in that March debate, the First Minister mentioned an experiment in Leicestershire to turn post offices into one-stop shops for all Government departments and the possibility of running a pilot scheme in Wales. Why not develop that idea further and turn post offices into one-stop shops for the Assembly? That would not only make the Assembly visible and accessible in all communities, but would also support the post office counter service.

Finally, you mentioned the change of name. What guarantees will you seek from Consignia, and how will you monitor the situation to ensure that money goes into frontline services, not just into rebranding the service?

Edwina Hart: I thank you for your kind comments about my chairing of the Committee on Equality of Opportunity. I enjoyed my time on the Committee and I am delighted that we had such cross-party support for the work on equal opportunities across the Assembly, which I am sure will continue. I am a firm believer in a universal postal service at a universal price. It is vital that postal services offer what people require. That how they should be operated. In

nghyd-Aelod, Dai Lloyd, yn nadl y Cyfarfod Llawn ym mis Mawrth? Dywedodd y dylid nid yn unig gadw gwasanaethau post yng Nghymru, ond eu datblygu. Sut y gall y cyhoeddiad hwn o golli 17,000 o swyddi yn rhagor—er mai'r bwriad yw achub y gwasanaeth—gyflawni hynny?

Bu ichi grybwyll hefyd y penderfyniad i oedi'r amserlen ar gyfer cyflwyno cystadleuaeth. Yn y ddadl ym mis Mawrth, dywedodd y Prif Weinidog:

‘Po fwyaf yw'r gystadleuaeth, mwyaf anodd fydd cynnal ymrwymiad gwasanaeth cyffredinol’.

Oni chytunwch y dylai gwasanaethau cyhoeddus olygu hynny'n union: cyhoeddus ac wedi'u rheoli'n dda? Onid ydych yn meddwl ei bod yn bryd herio'r gyfarwydddeb Ewropeaidd i agor pob gwasanaeth cyhoeddus i gystadleuaeth? Os felly, beth a wnewch chi amdano? Siaradoch am ddyfodol y rhwydwaith. Eto yn y ddadl honno ym Mawrth, soniodd y Prif Weinidog am arbrawf yn Swydd Gaerlŷr i droi swyddfeydd post yn siopau un stop i holl adrannau'r Llywodraeth a'r posibilrwydd o gynnal cynllun peilot yng Nghymru. Pam na ddatblygwn y syniad hwnnw ymhellach a throi swyddfeydd post yn siopau un stop i'r Cynulliad? Byddai hynny nid yn unig yn gwneud y Cynulliad yn weladwy a hygyrch ym mhob cymuned, ond byddai hefyd yn cefnogi gwasanaeth cownteri swyddfa'r post.

Yn olaf, soniasoch am y newid enw. Pa warantau a geisiwch gan Consignia, a sut yr ewch ati i fonitro'r sefyllfa i sicrhau bod arian yn mynd i wasanaethau'r llinell flaen, ac nid dim ond i ailfrandio'r gwasanaeth?

Edwina Hart: Diolch am eich sylwadau caredig am fy ngwaith yn cadeirio'r Pwyllgor Cyfle Cyfartal. Mwynheais fy amser ar y Pwyllgor ac yr wyf wrth fy modd ein bod wedi cael gystal cefnogaeth drawsbleidiol i'r gwaith ar gyfle cyfartal ar draws y Cynulliad, a fydd yn parhau, yr wyf yn siŵr. Yr wyf yn gredwr cryf mewn gwasanaeth post i bawb ar bris cyffredin i bawb. Mae'n hollbwysig fod gwasanaethau post yn cynnig yr hyn y mae ar bobl ei eisiau. Dyna sut y dylid eu

discussions on this matter, it is essential that I recognise the Assembly Government's and my own role. These are not devolved matters and any negotiations that would take place at a European level on changes to the European directive would be a matter for central Government.

I note your comments about the one-stop shop approach. I am currently discussing with officials how we can assist in the retention of post offices that have a high social value in urban and rural areas, how we can enhance them within their communities, and what other services they could provide. I am discussing what we can do in terms of retail, in perhaps having post offices as part of shops. Those are all valuable issues to take forward. It is also important to recognise that this is an enormous change. All that I can do in this situation is to keep my finger on the pulse in relation to what is happening in terms of staff in Wales. I intend to meet the trade unions at the earliest opportunity to discuss with them what their hopes and fears are and to get a clearer picture, rather than that you inevitably get from the company. In addition, I intend to meet Consignia regularly to ask it about the reality of the issues affecting Wales. We want our postal services developed to meet the needs of our communities. I will be taking a strong line in my dealings with Consignia or, as we should perhaps now call it, the Royal Mail.

Peter Law: I thank the Minister for her early statement on this important subject and for telling us about the proposals of this disastrous company, which was known as Consignia, after a waste of millions of pounds. It has now rightly been renamed the Royal Mail, but there are many questions about its corporate effectiveness in spending money in that way. I appreciate your comments about a development strategy to support and retain our sub-post offices throughout Wales. I hope that you can work with the National Federation of SubPostmasters on that. Most importantly, I am greatly concerned about the proposals to sacrifice many decent hard-working post office professionals who have given great service to our communities. Will you consider setting up a taskforce to work with

gweithredu. Mewn trafodaethau ar y mater hwn, mae'n hanfodol fy mod yn cydnabod rôl Llywodraeth y Cynulliad a'm rôl innau. Nid yw'r rhain yn faterion datganoledig a mater i'r Llywodraeth ganolog fyddai unrhyw negodi a ddigwyddai ar lefel Ewrop ar newidiadau i'r gyfarwydddeb Ewropeaidd.

Nodaf eich sylwadau ar y cynllun siop un stop. Yr wyf ar hyn o bryd yn trafod gyda swyddogion sut y gallwn gynorthwyo i gadw swyddfeydd post o werth cymdeithasol uchel mewn ardaloedd trefol a gwledig, sut y gallwn eu gwella o fewn eu cymunedau, a pha wasanaethau eraill y gallent eu darparu. Yr wyf yn trafod beth y gallwn ei wneud o ran manwerthu, drwy gael swyddfeydd post fel rhan o siopau, efallai. Mae'r rhain i gyd yn faterion gwerthfawr i'w hystyried. Mae'n bwysig cydnabod hefyd fod hwn yn newid anferth. Y cyfan y gallaf ei wneud yn y sefyllfa hon yw cadw fy mys ar y pyls o ran yr hyn sy'n digwydd o ran staff yng Nghymru. Bwriadaf gynnal cyfarfod â'r undebau llafur ar y cyfle cyntaf i drafod eu gobeithion a'u hofnau ac i gael darlun cliriach, yn hytrach na hwnnw a geir yn anochel gan y cwmni. At hynny, bwriadaf gwrdd â Consignia yn rheolaidd i'w holi ynghylch realiti'r materion sy'n effeithio ar Gymru. Yr ydym am weld ein gwasanaethau post yn datblygu i ateb anghenion ein cymunedau. Byddaf yn gwneud safiad clir yn fy nhrefodaethau â Consignia neu'r Post Brenhinol, fel y dylem ei alw bellach, efallai.

Peter Law: Diolchaf i'r Gweinidog am ei datganiad cynnar ar y pwnc pwysig hwn ac am ddweud wrthym am gynlluniau'r cwmni alaethus hwn, a enwyd yn Consignia, ar ôl gwastraffu miliynau o bunnoedd. Erbyn hyn cafodd ei ailenwi'n gywir y Post Brenhinol, ond erys llawer o gwestiynau ynglŷn â'i effeithiolrwydd corfforaethol yn gwario arian yn y fath fodd. Gwerthfawrogaf eich sylwadau ynghylch strategaeth ddatblygu i gefnogi a chadw'n his-swyddfeydd post drwy Gymru gyfan. Gobeithiaf y gallwch weithio gyda Ffederasiwn Cenedlaethol yr Is-Bostfeistri ar hynny. Yn bwysicaf oll, yr wyf yn bryderus iawn am y cynigion i aberthu llawer o weithwyr post proffesiynol da sydd wedi rhoi gwasanaeth mawr i'n cymunedau. A wnewch chi ystyried sefydlu tasglu i weithio gydag Undeb y Gweithwyr

the Communication Workers Union, the Post Office union, the Royal Mail, and others, to ensure that as many jobs as possible are saved for those good people?

Edwina Hart: The important impact is on the individuals who are employed by the service. We can talk about what we want from the service, but these individuals are concerned about their futures and livelihoods. When you hear large companies talking about getting rid of staff and making themselves more efficient, it is easy to talk about those issues in the south-east where jobs are plentiful and people can easily retrain and obtain other employment. That is not the case in parts of Wales. All the help that we as the Government can give to ELWa and so on will be welcome. I will consider your proposal of a taskforce. I will raise that in my discussions with the trade unions. It will also be useful in terms of the broader community agenda that we develop in the Local Government and Housing Committee. We could perhaps return to the issue of urban and rural post offices and consider what kind of policies the Committee could develop with the rest of our partners, including local government.

3:40 p.m.

William Graham: Three years ago, the post office was making profits of around £500 million, providing a substantial dividend to the Treasury. The then Secretary of State for Wales boasted of a golden future for it as a major global force. Sadly, today we see a company with a steadily deteriorating performance, plummeting morale, poor industrial relations and now, by its own admission, losses of perhaps over £1 million a day. The financial restructuring proposals announced today are undoubtedly necessary, but I ask the Minister to bear in mind how important sub-post offices are in a rural community. It is also vital that the uniform tariff remains. We have enjoyed it for a long time. We look to you, Minister, to actively resist the use of differential rates.

The sub-post office is important and we would welcome further details on the

Cyfathrebu, undeb Swyddfa'r Post, y Post Brenhinol ac eraill, i sicrhau y caiff cymaint o swyddi ag sy'n bosibl eu harbed i'r bobl dda hynny?

Edwina Hart: Ar yr unigolion a gyflogir gan y gwasanaeth y mae'r effaith fwyaf. Gallwn siarad am yr hyn yr ydym am ei weld gan y gwasanaeth, ond mae'r unigolion hyn yn pryderu am eu dyfodol a'u bywoliaeth. Pan glywch gwmniau mawr yn sôn am gael gwared â staff a gwneud eu hunain yn fwy effeithlon, mae'n hawdd siarad am y pethau hyn yn ne-ddwyrain Lloegr lle mae digonedd o swyddi a gall pobl ailhyfforddi a chael gwaith arall yn hawdd. Nid yw hynny'n wir mewn rhannau o Gymru. Bydd pob cymorth y gallwn ni fel y Llywodraeth ei roi i ELWa ac ati i'w groesawu. Ystyriaf eich cynnig ynghylch tasglu. Codaf hynny yn fy nhrafodaethau gyda'r undebau llafur. Bydd yn ddefnyddiol hefyd o ran yr agenda gymunedol ehangach a ddatblygwn yn y Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Thai. Gallem efallai ddychwelyd at fater swyddfeydd post trefol a gwledig ac ystyried pa fath o bolisiau y gallai'r Pwyllgor eu datblygu gyda gweddill ein partneriaid, gan gynnwys llywodraeth leol.

William Graham: Dair blynedd yn ôl, yr oedd swyddfa'r post yn gwneud elw o ryw £500 miliwn, gan roi difidend sylweddol i'r Trysorlys. Broliodd yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol ar y pryd am ddyfodol euraidd iddi fel grym mawr yn fyd-eang. Ysywaeth, heddiw gwelwn gwmmi gyda pherfformiad sy'n graddol ddirywio, ysbryd sy'n plymio, cysylltiadau diwydiannol gwael ac yn awr, yn ôl ei gyfaddefiad ei hun, golledion sydd efallai dros £1 miliwn y dydd. Mae'r cynigion ailstrwythuro ariannol a gyhoeddwyd heddiw yn angenrheidiol, mae'n siŵr, ond gofynnaf i'r Gweinidog gofio mor bwysig yw is-swyddfeydd post mewn cymuned wledig. Mae'n hollbwysig cadw'r pris cyffredin hefyd. Yr ydym wedi ei fwynhau ers blynyddoedd maith. Edrychwn atoch chi, Weinidog, i wrthwynebu'n gryf y bwriad i wahaniaethu rhwng prisiau.

Mae is-swyddfeydd post yn bwysig a byddem yn croesawu manylion pellach ar y

proposed compensation schemes, as they affect the livelihoods of so many people. Incidental services, such as the post bus in rural Wales, are also important. This policy reversal is unwise and should not have been contemplated in the way that it has been. In 1999, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry suddenly reversed the policy on paying benefits through the Post Office. Rather than giving people a choice in how they received their benefits, the Government insisted that all payments from 2003 would be made into bank accounts through automated credit transfer. Administering benefit payments represents a huge proportion of sub-post offices' revenue. The proposals for the universal bank are universally ridiculed and I do not think that it is likely to be established. If you want chapter and verse on that, consider what the banks have said about forceful measures to implement the scheme. Many sub-postmasters have invested their life savings into their businesses, and rely upon them for their income and retirement provision. In some cases, entire families earn their living from the Post Office.

One good move was to reverse the decision to drop a name that was trusted and respected across the country—and, perhaps, across the world—and replace it with one that was meaningless, the subject of derision and showed crass stupidity. It is typical that this Labour Government prefers to waste money on rebranding instead of spending it on tackling the underlying problems. Over and above management and unions, the ultimate responsibility for today's announcement must rest with the Labour Government.

Edwina Hart: That was a bit of Conservative spin, but I am delighted about your commitment to public services within the Post Office. I hope that all four parties can arrive at a consensus on the way forward for postal services in Wales. I accept your points, and those made by Peter Law, about sub-post offices being important components of communities. People were concerned when it was announced that all benefits must be paid through bank accounts by 2003. However, the Government must also consider

cynlluniau iawndal arfaethedig, gan eu bod yn effeithio ar fywoliaeth cymaint o bobl. Mae gwasanaethau cysylltiedig, fel y bws post yng nghefn gwlad Cymru, yn bwysig hefyd. Mae'r tro pedol hwn ar bolisi yn annoeth ac ni ddylid bod wedi ei ystyried yn y modd y gwnaethpwyd. Yn 1999, cyhoeddodd yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Fasnach a Diwydiant yn sydyn ei fod yn gwrthdroi'r polisi ar dalu budd-daliadau drwy Swyddfa'r Post. Yn hytrach na gadael i bobl ddewis sut y derbynient eu budd-daliadau, mynnodd y Llywodraeth y gwneid pob taliad o 2003 ymlaen i gyfrifon banc drwy drosglwyddiad credyd awtomatig. Gweinyddu budd-daliadau sy'n gyfrifol am gyfran enfawr o refeniw is-swyddfeydd post. Mae'r cynigion am y banc cyffredinol wedi'u difrio gan bawb ac nid wyf yn meddwl ei bod yn debygol y caiff ei sefydlu. Os ydych am gael pennod ac adnod ar hynny, ystyriwch yr hyn a ddywedodd y banciau ynghylch mesurau llym i weithredu'r cynllun. Mae llawer o is-bostfeistri wedi buddsoddi'u cynilion oes yn eu busnesau, ac yn dibynnu arnynt am eu hincwm a'u darpariaeth ymdeol. Mewn rhai achosion, mae teuluoedd cyfan yn ennill eu bywoliaeth o Swyddfa'r Post.

Un cam da oedd gwrthdroi'r penderfyniad i ollwng enw a enynnai ymddiriedaeth a pharch ar draws y wlad—ac, efallai, dros y byd i gyd—a rhoi yn ei le enw diystyr, oedd yn destun gwawd ac yn arwydd o dwpdra affwysol. Mae'n nodweddiadol fod yn well gan y Llywodraeth Lafur hon wastraffu arian ar ailfrandio yn hytrach na'i wario ar fynd i'r afael â'r problemau sylfaenol. Y tu hwnt i reolwyr ac undebau, rhaid i'r cyfrifoldeb yn y pen draw am gyhoeddiad heddiw orffwys gyda'r Llywodraeth Lafur.

Edwina Hart: Ychydig o sbin Ceidwadol oedd hynny, ond yr wyf wrth fy modd gyda'ch ymrwymiad i wasanaethau cyhoeddus o fewn Swyddfa'r Post. Gobeithiaf y gall y pedair plaid ddod i gonsensws ynglŷn â'r ffordd ymlaen i wasanaethau post yng Nghymru. Derbyniaf eich pwyntiau, a'r rhai a wnaethpwyd gan Peter Law, ynghylch bod is-swyddfeydd post yn gydrannau pwysig o gymunedau. Yr oedd pobl yn poeni pan gyhoeddwyd y byddai'n rhaid talu pob budd-dal drwy gyfrifon banc

economies of scale and how it manages its administration. It is then inevitably caught in a catch 22 situation. When I have further information about the compensation scheme, I will make it available. It is essential that we remain committed to differential delivery rates not being used. We should expect a universal service to be established and do what we can in Wales to find Welsh solutions to keep post offices open. They are a vital part of our communities.

Peter Black: I share your concern about the huge impact that Consignia's mismanagement will have on rural and urban Wales. The loss of jobs, the threat to the second mail delivery, the threat to vital post offices and the proposed liberalisation of services will leave many individuals, communities and business worse off. I also welcome the delay on the introduction of competition. However, we must acknowledge that the threat still exists. We need to persuade the UK Government to intervene in order to prevent this catastrophe. On urban post offices that are under threat, you stated that the Post Office sent letters to sub-postmasters on 10 April 2002. Is there information about which of the 300 post offices in Wales are under threat and can we do anything to reverse the cuts that may result? What alternative arrangements are available to help communities that are faced with losing their post offices?

Edwina Hart: I am currently exploring with my officials what type of assistance can be offered and how the post offices could fit into a broader community framework. I will try to obtain the information about which post offices received a letter. I do not have that information today and, if I did, I could not read out 300 names. I will make the information available to Committee.

Brian Hancock: This is a strange situation. Everyone in Consignia was aware that the first letters of the company's name spelled 'con', and it has proven to be a con. It is even stranger when a company with £1.1 billion of pre-tax losses has to pay a golden clawback

erbyn 2003. Fodd bynnag, rhaid i'r Llywodraeth ystyried darbodion maint hefyd a'r modd y mae'n rheoli ei gweinyddiaeth. Yn anochel wedyn caiff ei dal mewn cyfyng gyngor. Pan gaf wybodaeth bellach am y cynllun iawndal, sicrhaf ei bod ar gael ichi. Mae'n hanfodol ein bod yn parhau i ymrwymo yn erbyn defnyddio prisiau gwahanol i wahanol ardaloedd. Dylem ddisgwyl sefydlu gwasanaeth cyffredin a gwneud yr hyn a allwn yng Nghymru i ganfod atebion Cymreig i gadw swyddfeydd post ar agor. Maent yn rhan hanfodol o'n cymunedau.

Peter Black: Rhannaf eich pryder ynglŷn â'r effaith anferth a gaiff camreolaeth Consignia ar y Gymru wledig a threfol. Bydd y colli swyddi, y bygythiad i ddosbarthiad ail bost, y bygythiad i swyddfeydd post hanfodol a'r bwriad i ryddhau gwasanaethau yn gadael llawer o unigolion, cymunedau a busnesau yn waeth eu byd. Croesawaf hefyd yr oedi cyn cyflwyno cystadleuaeth. Er hynny, rhaid inni gydnabod bod y bygythiad yn dal i fodoli. Mae angen inni berswadio Llywodraeth y DU i ymyrryd er mwyn atal y trychineb hwn. Ynghylch swyddfeydd post trefol sydd dan fygythiad, dywedasoed fod Swyddfa'r Post wedi anfon llythyrau at is-bostfeistri ar 10 Ebrill 2002. A oes gwybodaeth ynghylch pa rai o'r 300 o swyddfeydd post yng Nghymru sydd dan fygythiad, ac a allwn wneud unrhyw beth i wrthdroi'r toriadau a all ddeillio o hynny? Pa drefniadau amgen sydd ar gael i helpu cymunedau sy'n wynebu colli eu swyddfeydd post?

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf yn ymchwilio ar hyn o bryd gyda'm swyddogion pa fath o gymorth y gellir ei gynnig a sut y gallai'r swyddfeydd post fod yn rhan o fframwaith cymunedol lletach. Ceisiaf gael y wybodaeth am ba swyddfeydd post a gafodd lythyr. Nid yw'r wybodaeth honno gennyf heddiw a, phe bai'r wybodaeth gennyf, ni allwn ddarllen 300 o enwau ichi. Sicrhaf y bydd y wybodaeth ar gael i'r Pwyllgor.

Brian Hancock: Sefyllfa od yw hon. Yr oedd pawb yn Consignia'n ymwybodol fod llythrennau cyntaf enw'r cwmni'n sillafu 'con', ac fe brofwyd hynny. Mae'n rhyfeddach fyth pan fo cwmni sydd ag £1.1 biliwn o golledion cyn treth yn gorfod talu

to the Treasury when it is trying to provide a universal public service. Will you make representations to the Treasury for it to repay that £2 billion to Consignia, to develop mail delivery services and post office counters so that a universal service continues to be provided in our communities? Sub-post offices are threatened by the proposed pay-off. Why can we not consider using that money? Why can you not insist that it be put towards the development of post office services in our rural and urban communities?

The post office used to be a place to send a telegram or a letter; a communications centre, if you like. If the mail service is suffering from the loss of social mail, owing to the advent of e-mails and text messages, will you seek support and resources to develop sub-post offices as modern communications centres with computers and internet access? Do you agree that they should be a first-stop Government shop? If so, will you recommend that the Department of Trade and Industry takes the decision before December, as it is currently planning to—

The Presiding Officer: Order. This is a statement. You should ask only one question. We have had questions on the statement from the lead spokespeople for all the parties.

Brian Hancock: Do you want me to sit down?

The Presiding Officer: No, I want you to ask just one question.

Brian Hancock: Will you ensure that all services are provided in all post offices? Road and vehicle taxation is only available in some. Postmasters and postmistresses are paid only a small amount under their contracts for—

The Presiding Officer: Order. I asked for a question. The agreed procedure with statements is that the lead spokesperson for each group is allowed a short preamble and a series of questions, then the subsequent questions are to be brief—as are the answers. I have no fear that that will not be the case

adfachiad euraidd i'r Trysorlys tra'n ceisio darparu gwasanaeth cyhoeddus cyffredin i bawb. A bwyswch ar y Trysorlys iddo ad-dalu'r £2 biliwn hynny i Consignia, i ddatblygu gwasanaethau dosbarthu post a chownteri swyddfa'r post fel y bydd gwasanaeth cyffredin yn dal i gael ei ddarparu yn ein cymunedau? Bygythir is-swyddfeydd post gan y taliad euraidd a gynigir. Pam na allwn ystyried defnyddio'r arian hwnnw? Pam na allwch fynnu ei fod yn cael ei roi tuag at ddatblygu gwasanaethau swyddfa'r post yn ein cymunedau gwledig a threfol?

Arferai swyddfa'r post fod yn lle i anfon teligram neu lythyr; yn ganolfan gyfathrebu, os mynnwch. Os yw'r gwasanaeth post yn dioddef o golli post cymdeithasol, oherwydd dyfodiad e-bost a negeseuon testun, a wnewch chi geisio cefnogaeth ac adnoddau i ddatblygu is-swyddfeydd post fel canolfannau cyfathrebu modern gyda chyfrifiaduron a mynediad i'r we? A gytunwch y dylent fod yn siop stop cyntaf i'r Llywodraeth? Os felly, a wnewch chi argymhell bod yr Adran Masnach a Diwydiant yn gwneud y penderfyniad cyn Rhagfyr, fel y bwriada wneud ar hyn o bryd—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Datganiad yw hwn. Dim ond un cwestiwn y dylech ei ofyn. Yr ydym wedi cael cwestiynau ar y datganiad gan brif lefarwyr y pleidiau i gyd.

Brian Hancock: A ydych am imi eistedd i lawr?

Y Llywydd: Na, yr wyf am ichi ofyn dim ond un cwestiwn.

Brian Hancock: A wnewch chi sicrhau y darperir pob gwasanaeth ym mhob swyddfa bost? Dim ond mewn rhai ohonynt y mae treth ffordd a threth cerbyd ar gael. Dim ond swm bach a delir i bostfeistri a phostfeistresi dan eu contractau am—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Gofynnais am gwestiwn. Y weithdrefn y cytunwyd arni gyda datganiadau yw y caniateir i'r prif lefarydd dros bob grŵp ragymadroddi'n fyr a gofyn cyfres o gwestiynau, wedyn mae'r cwestiynau dilynol i fod yn fyr—a'r atebion hefyd. Nid oes gennyf unrhyw ofn nad felly y

with this Minister.

Edwina Hart: The Secretary of State for Wales is aware of the issues that cause the National Assembly concern in relation to postal services, post offices and the plight of sub-postmasters. I will continue to keep the Secretary of State apprised, given his role in national discussions on these issues.

On the one-stop shop, I said to Janet that I am interested in that. The Assembly Government can act on what the Assembly might want to do in that regard. I am particularly taken by the idea of using post offices as learning and communication centres in some places—that could regenerate communities. If the Chair agrees, I hope that discussion in the Local Government and Housing Committee will focus on this. Such centres could be useful in the context of our discussions on communities.

Brian Gibbons: Edwina, you mentioned protected urban post offices and assistance for rural post offices. Is it true that approximately 50 per cent of the sub-post office network in Wales comes within those protected categories? In light of Brian Hancock's point on the first stop Government shop or the Leicestershire experiment, that is important. All current indications are that that experiment will prove to be highly successful and, to contradict William Graham, post offices there are likely to become thriving centres of information and commerce. Not surprisingly, private banks may not welcome that development but every opportunity exists to see post offices going from strength to strength as a community resource.

Are you worried that the letter sent out to sub-postmasters may result in the most-needed post offices being withdrawn from their community's service?

Edwina Hart: Consignia sent the letters out on 10 April 2002. It is up to individual postmasters and postmistresses to decide on their course of action. I hope that the

bydd hi gyda'r Gweinidog hwn.

Edwina Hart: Mae Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru yn ymwybodol o'r materion sy'n peri pryder i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol mewn perthynas â gwasanaethau post, swyddfeydd post a thynged is-bostfeistri. Byddaf yn parhau i sicrhau bod yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol yn ymwybodol, yn wyneb ei rôl mewn trafodaethau cenedlaethol ar y materion hyn.

Ar y siop un stop, dywedais wrth Janet fod gennyf ddiddordeb yn hynny. Gall Llywodraeth y Cynulliad weithredu ar yr hyn allai'r Cynulliad fod eisiau ei wneud yn hynny o beth. Yr wyf yn arbennig o hoff o'r syniad o ddefnyddio swyddfeydd post fel canolfannau dysgu a chyfathrebu mewn rhai lleoedd—gallai hynny adfywio cymunedau. Os cytuna'r Cadeirydd, gobeithiaf y bydd trafodaethau yn y Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Thai yn canolbwyntio ar hyn. Gallai canolfannau o'r fath fod yn ddefnyddiol yng nghyd-destun ein trafodaethau ar gymunedau.

Brian Gibbons: Edwina, fe soniasoch am swyddfeydd post trefol a warchodir a chymorth i swyddfeydd post gwledig. A ydyw'n wir fod oddeutu 50 y cant o'r rhwydwaith is-swyddfeydd post yng Nghymru o fewn y categorïau gwarchoddedig hynny? Yn wyneb pwynt Brian Hancock ar siop stop cyntaf y Llywodraeth neu arbrawf Swydd Gaerlŷr, mae hynny'n bwysig. Yn ôl yr holl arwyddion presennol bydd yr arbrawf hwnnw'n hynod o lwyddiannus ac, yn groes i'r hyn a ddywedodd William Graham, mae swyddfeydd post yn y fan honno'n debygol o ffynnu fel canolfannau gwybodaeth a masnach. Nid yw'n syndod efallai na fydd banciau preifat yn croesawu'r datblygiad hwnnw ond mae pob argoel y gwelir swyddfeydd post yn mynd o nerth i nerth fel adnodd cymunedol.

A ydych yn poeni y gallai'r llythyr a anfonwyd allan at is-bostfeistri olygu y caiff y swyddfeydd post y mae mwyaf o'u hangen eu tynnu allan o wasanaeth eu cymuned?

Edwina Hart: Anfonodd Consignia y llythyrau allan ar 10 Ebrill 2002. Mater i bostfeistri a phostfeistresi unigol yw penderfynu beth y maent am ei wneud.

Leicestershire experiment proves successful. I cannot confirm the figures that you gave, as I do not have the information to hand. I am not certain that that is the correct percentage, but I will write to you on that.

We must be inventive in how we use these locations for the benefit of the community, and more work is needed on that. We already spend much time considering rural and urban communities and community regeneration issues. We are also best placed to decide what local solutions would be useful for us.

3:50 p.m.

David Davies: Is it not the case that one reason why the Post Office has lost so much money is that it was encouraged by the Government to spend tens of millions of pounds on developing computer systems to deal with benefits payments, among other matters, that were subsequently deemed to be unusable? Why does your statement not mention this?

Edwina Hart: I deal with matters that are devolved to me and on which I can impact on people's jobs and on communities in Wales. I do not seek to answer questions on behalf of central Government.

Gwenda Thomas: Datganaf fuddiant gan bod fy ngŵr yn derbyn pensiwn o Swyddfa'r Post. A allwch gynnig unrhyw sicrwydd ynglŷn â dyfodol bws y swyddfa bost sydd yn hollbwysig i bobl yn fy etholaeth i?

Edwina Hart: I intend to raise this with the Royal Mail because, like you, I am concerned about the use of the postal bus. Its importance in some parts of Wales has been mentioned by others. I will report back on the outcome of my discussions.

Alun Cairns: The Minister will be aware that some sorting offices in Wales have a history of illegal strikes—

Peter Law: You should be ashamed of yourself. Sit down and shut up.

Gobeithiaf y bydd arbrawf Swydd Gaerlŷr yn llwyddiannus. Ni allaf gadarnhau'r ffigurau a roesoch, gan nad yw'r wybodaeth gennyf wrth law. Nid wyf yn sicr mai dyna'r ganran gywir, ond fe ysgrifennaf atoch ar hynny.

Rhaid inni fod yn ddyfeisgar yn y modd y defnyddiwn y lleoliadau hyn er budd y gymuned, ac mae angen mwy o waith ar hynny. Eisoed treuliwn lawer o amser yn ystyried cymunedau gwledig a threfol a materion adfywio cymunedau. Yr ydym hefyd yn y lle gorau i benderfynu pa atebion lleol fyddai'n ddefnyddiol i ni.

David Davies: Onid yw'n wir mai un rheswm pam y colodd Swyddfa'r Post gymaint o arian yw y'i hanogwyd gan y Llywodraeth i wario degau o filiynau o bunnoedd ar ddatblygu systemau cyfrifiadur i ddelio â budd-daliadau, ymhlith materion eraill, y dyfarnwyd wedyn na ellid eu defnyddio? Pam nad oes sôn am hyn yn eich datganiad?

Edwina Hart: Deliaf â materion a ddatganolwyd i mi a lle gallaf ddylanwadu ar swyddi pobl ac ar gymunedau yng Nghymru. Ni cheisiaf ateb cwestiynau ar ran y Llywodraeth ganolog.

Gwenda Thomas: I declare an interest as my husband receives a pension from the Post Office. Can you offer any assurance regarding the future of the post office bus that is so important to people in my constituency?

Edwina Hart: Bwriadaf godi hyn gyda'r Post Brenhinol oherwydd, fel chi, yr wyf yn bryderus ynglŷn â'r defnydd o'r bws post. Soniodd eraill am ei bwysigrwydd mewn rhai rhannau o Gymru. Adroddaf yn ôl ar ganlyniad fy nhrafodaethau.

Alun Cairns: Bydd y Gweinidog yn ymwybodol fod gan rai swyddfeydd didoli yng Nghymru hanes o streiciau anghyfreithlon—

Peter Law: Rhag eich cywilydd. Eisteddwch i lawr a chaewch eich ceg.

The Presiding Officer: Order. It is not appropriate for Members to tell other Members to shut up.

Peter Law: I withdraw my remark.

The Presiding Officer: I am grateful to you for doing so.

Alun Cairns: My question relates to illegal strikes, because unions could follow legal procedures if they so wished. Will the Minister use her considerable influence with the trade union organisations to ensure that there are no illegal strikes as a result of the statements that were made? In the event of illegal strikes, can she assure me that she and her Government colleagues will condemn them?

Edwina Hart: Industrial relations are not a matter for me, but for the company and the appropriate union. Trade unions always represent the views and interests of their members responsibly. When workers are faced with dreadful conditions, you can understand why they want to walk out. Many of us who have been trade union members in the past have been sorely tempted to do so at times.

David Lloyd: Pa newyddion cadarnhaol all y Gweinidog ei gyfleu i'r gweithwyr post sydd yn y canolfannau didoli yn Abertawe a Chaerdydd?

Edwina Hart: Last week's announcement was exceptionally gloomy in terms of job prospects in the postal service. I am concerned about its long and short-term impact in Wales. In terms of offering comfort to those workers, all I can say is that the Government will do all that it can with the resources available to it and have the necessary discussions to ensure that postal services and jobs are maintained in Wales as far as possible.

Peter Rogers: I am grateful for the positive way in which you have responded to our questions. There has been much discussion of the loss of post offices, particularly in rural areas, where they are so important. Will you

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid yw'n briodol i Aelodau ddweud wrth Aelodau eraill am gau eu cegau.

Peter Law: Tynnaf fy sylw yn ôl.

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar ichi am wneud hynny.

Alun Cairns: Mae a wnelo fy nghwestiwn â streiciau anghyfreithlon, oherwydd gallai undebau ddilyn gweithdrefnau cyfreithlon pe dymunent. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddefnyddio'i dylanwad sylweddol gyda'r undebau llafur i sicrhau na cheir dim streiciau anghyfreithlon o ganlyniad i'r datganiadau a wnaethpwyd? Os bydd streiciau anghyfreithlon, a all fy sicrhau y gwnaiff hi a'i chyd-Aelodau yn y Llywodraeth eu condemnio?

Edwina Hart: Nid yw cysylltiadau diwydiannol yn fater i mi, eithr i'r cwmni a'r undeb priodol. Bydd undebau llafur bob amser yn cynrychioli barn a buddiannau eu haelodau'n gyfrifol. Pan wyneba gweithwyr amodau ofnadwy, gallwch ddeall pam y bydd arnynt eisiau cerdded allan. Mae llawer ohonom a fu'n aelodau undebau llafur yn y gorffennol wedi cael ein temtio'n arw i wneud hynny ar brydiau.

David Lloyd: What encouragement can the Minister offer the postal workers in the sorting offices in Swansea and Cardiff?

Edwina Hart: Yr oedd cyhoeddiad yr wythnos diwethaf yn eithriadol o ddigalon o safbwynt rhagolygon swyddi yn y gwasanaeth post. Yr wyf yn bryderus ynghylch ei effaith yn y tymor hir a byr yng Nghymru. O ran cynnig cysur i'r gweithwyr hynny, y cwbl y gallaf ei ddweud yw y gwnaiff y Llywodraeth bopeth a all gyda'r adnoddau sydd ar gael iddi a chynnal y trafodaethau angenrheidiol i sicrhau y cedwir gwasanaethau post a swyddi yng Nghymru am gyhyd â phosibl.

Peter Rogers: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am y modd cadarnhaol yr ydych wedi ymateb i'n cwestiynau. Bu llawer o drafodaeth am golli swyddfeydd post, yn enwedig mewn ardaloedd gwledig, lle maent mor bwysig. A

ensure that we never lose postal deliveries to rural areas? That service is important to elderly people who have lived in rural areas all their lives and are now retired. The cheery postmen provide a wonderful service. Can you ensure that we never lose the postal service in rural areas?

Edwina Hart: Thank you for those comments. Postal workers provide a lifeline in remote areas. It is essential that people have that daily contact. We all complain about junk mail, but it is often the only mail that some individuals receive and the only contact that they have with other people is with the person delivering the mail. It is important to realise the significance of the postal worker's role in these communities and that we support them. It is essential that people receive postal deliveries because that is what we have come to expect.

The Presiding Officer: Thank you Minister, I am glad that neither of us walked out.

wnewch sicrhau na chollwn ddosbarthiadau post i ardaloedd gwledig byth? Mae'r gwasanaeth yn bwysig i bobl oeddrannus a fu'n byw mewn ardaloedd gwledig drwy gydol eu hoes ac sydd bellach wedi ymddeol. Mae'r postmyn hwyliog yn darparu gwasanaeth bendigedig. A allwch sicrhau na chollwn y gwasanaeth post mewn ardaloedd gwledig byth?

Edwina Hart: Diolch am y sylwadau hynny. Mae gweithwyr post yn darparu gwasanaeth amhrisiadwy mewn ardaloedd anghysbell. Mae'n hanfodol fod pobl yn cael y cyswllt dyddiol hwnnw. Bydd pawb yn cwyno am lythyrau sgrwtsh, ond dyna'r unig bost a gaiff rhai pobl yn aml, a'r unig gyswllt a gânt â phobl eraill yw gyda'r sawl sy'n danfon y post. Mae'n bwysig sylweddoli arwyddocâd rôl y postmon yn y cymunedau hyn, a'u cefnogi. Mae'n hanfodol fod pobl yn derbyn post drwy'r drws gan mai dyna yr ydym yn ei ddisgwyl.

Y Llywydd: Diolch, Weinidog, yr wyf yn falch na cherddodd y naill na'r llall ohonom allan.

Datganiad Busnes Business Statement

The Minister for Open Government (Carwyn Jones): In view of the anticipated pressure on today's business as a result of the previous two statements, I agreed the following changes to this week's business with the Business Committee this morning. On today's business, Jenny Randerson will now make a statement on the British-Irish Council meeting that she attended last week on Thursday. I am grateful to Glyn Davies as Chair of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee for agreeing to the debate on its report on information and communications technology in rural Wales being rescheduled at a later date. Glyn will not, therefore, propose that motion as the last item of business today. On Thursday's business, the motions on the three town and country planning Orders will be rescheduled for debate on Thursday 18 July.

Y Gweinidog dros Lywodraeth Agored (Carwyn Jones): Oherwydd y pwysau a ragwelir ar fusnes heddiw o ganlyniad i'r ddau ddatganiad diwethaf, cytunais ar y newidiadau canlynol i fusnes yr wythnos hon gyda'r Pwyllgor Busnes y bore yma. Ar fusnes heddiw, bydd Jenny Randerson bellach yn gwneud datganiad ddydd Iau ar y cyfarfod o Gyngor Prydain-Iwerddon a fynychodd yr wythnos diwethaf. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i Glyn Davies fel Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Amaethyddiaeth a Datblygu Gwledig am gytuno i'r ddadl ar adroddiad y Pwyllgor ar dechnoleg gwybodaeth a chyfathrebu yn y Gymru wledig gael ei symud i ddyddiad diweddarach. Ni fydd Glyn, felly, yn cynnig yr eitem honno fel eitem olaf ein busnes heddiw. Ar fusnes dydd Iau, caiff y ddadl ar y cynigion ar y tri Gorchymyn cynllunio gwlad a thref ei symud i ddydd Iau 18 Gorffennaf.

Llywydd, you have agreed that I can propose

Lywydd, yr ydych wedi cytuno y caf roi

a procedural motion on Thursday to allow me to bring forward the two no-named day motions that were tabled yesterday to approve proposed changes to the membership of the Economic Development Committee and the Committee on Equality of Opportunity.

On business for the next three weeks, the Business Committee discussed my draft statement, which is on the Chamberweb under supporting documents, this morning. The Deputy Presiding Officer also determined that under Standing Order No. 22.5, the following items of legislation need not be referred to Subject Committees for extended consideration: the Contaminants in Food (Wales) Regulations 2002; the Local Authorities (Companies) (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2002; the National Health Service (General Medical Services) (Amendment) (No.3) (Wales) Regulations 2002; the Welfare of Farmed Animals (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2002; the Control of Noise (Codes of Practice for Construction and Open Sites) (Wales) Order 2002; the Homelessness Act 2002 (Commencement) (Wales) Order 2002; the Countryside Access (Provisional and Conclusive Maps) (Wales) Regulations 2002; the Countryside Access (Appeals Procedures) (Wales) Regulations 2002; the Local Authorities (Capital Finance) (Approved Investments) (Amendment) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2002; the Local Education Authority (Post-Compulsory Education Awards) (Wales) Regulations 2002 and the Education (Assembly Learning Grant Scheme) (Wales) Regulations 2002.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I congratulate you on your new responsibilities, Minister. You now seem to have enhanced responsibility for a number of matters. Given your new responsibilities, it might be helpful to the Assembly if you were to arrange an early debate on open government. That would give us an opportunity to explore your new responsibilities and to expose how closed the Government has been today.

Carwyn Jones: This Government contends that it is among the most open in western Europe, given that all the information appears on the internet and is thus accessible to the

cynnig trefniadol gerbron ddydd Iau i ganiatáu imi ddwyn ymlaen y ddau gynnig heb ddyddiad trafod a gyflwynwyd ddoe i gymeradwyo newidiadau arfaethedig i aelodaeth y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd a'r Pwyllgor Cyfle Cyfartal.

Ar fusnes y tair wythnos nesaf, trafododd y Pwyllgor Busnes fy natganiad drafft, sydd ar we'r Siambr dan ddogfennau ategol, y bore yma. Penderfynodd y Dirprwy Lywydd hefyd dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 22.5 nad oedd angen cyfeirio'r eitemau deddfwriaeth canlynol i Bwyllgorau Pwnc am ystyriaeth estynedig: Rheoliadau Llygrynnau mewn Bwyd (Cymru) 2002; Gorchymyn Awdurdodau Lleol (Cwmnïau) (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2002; Rheoliadau'r Gwasanaeth Iechyd Gwladol (Gwasanaethau Meddygol Cyffredinol) (Diwygio) (Rhif 3) (Cymru) 2002; Rheoliadau Lles Anifeiliaid Fferm (Cymru) (Diwygio) 2002; Gorchymyn Rheoli Sŵn (Codau Ymarfer ar gyfer Safleoedd Adeiladu ac Agored) (Cymru) 2002; Gorchymyn Deddf Digartrefedd 2002 (Cychwyn) (Cymru) 2002; Rheoliadau Mynediad i Gefn Gwlad (Mapiau Dros Dro a Therfynol) (Cymru) 2002; Rheoliadau Mynediad i Gefn Gwlad (Gweithdrefnau Apêl) (Cymru) 2002; Rheoliadau Awdurdodau Lleol (Cyllid Cyfalaf) (Buddsoddiadau a Gymeradwyr) (Diwygio) (Rhan 2) (Cymru) 2002; Rheoliadau Awdurdodau Addysg Lleol (Dyfarniadau Addysg Ôl-Orfodol) (Cymru) 2002 a Rheoliadau Addysg (Cynllun Grantiau Dysgu'r Cynulliad) (Cymru) 2002.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Fe'ch llongyfarchaf ar eich cyfrifoldebau newydd, Weinidog. Mae'n ymddangos yn awr fod gennych fwy o gyfrifoldeb dros nifer o faterion. O gofio'ch cyfrifoldebau, efallai y byddai'n fuddiol i'r Cynulliad pe baech yn trefnu dadl yn fuan ar lywodraeth agored. Rhoddai hynny gyfle inni archwilio'ch cyfrifoldebau newydd a datgelu pa mor gaeedig y bu'r Llywodraeth heddiw.

Carwyn Jones: Haera'r Llywodraeth hon ei bod ymhlith y mwyaf agored yng ngorllewin Ewrop, o gofio fod yr holl wybodaeth yn ymddangos ar y rhyngwrwyd a'i bod felly ar

people of Wales, including minutes of Cabinet meetings. It would be useful if other bodies were to follow that precedent.

On debating open government, there seems little point in holding a self-congratulatory debate. However, it is for the minority parties, if they feel that the principle of open government has not yet been adhered to, to propose it as the subject of a debate in their time.

Nick Bourne: I also extend my congratulations to the Minister. Will he—and I presume that he will given what he has just said—confirm that he will answer oral questions on open government, and that the Deputy First Minister will answer questions on matters relating to Wales abroad as well as on rural development?

Carwyn Jones: Thank you for your congratulations. Each Minister answers questions on their portfolios; therefore that must be the case. There will be a question time that will scrutinise me on my portfolio.

*Derbyniwyd y datganiad busnes.
Business statement adopted.*

4:00 p.m.

Symud Cyfarfod Llawn Dydd Iau Moving Thursday's Plenary Session

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I propose that

with effect from October 2002, the National Assembly normally holds its second Plenary meeting of the week on Wednesdays commencing at 2 p.m., instead of on Thursdays commencing at 9.05 a.m. (NDM1077)

Following the results of an all-Member questionnaire on changing Plenary times, the Business Committee agreed at its meeting on Tuesday, 28 May that a motion on this issue be tabled for debate in Plenary. This is simply a motion to change the day on which Plenary is held, and it does not involve the issue of whether Plenary should sit until 6

gael i bobl Cymru, gan gynnwys cofnodion cyfarfodydd y Cabinet. Byddai'n ddefnyddiol pe bai cyrff eraill yn dilyn y gysail honno.

O ran dadl ar lywodraeth agored, nid ymddengys fod fawr o bwynt mewn cynnal dadl i longyfarch ein hunain. Fodd bynnag, mater i'r pleidiau lleiafrifol, os teimlant na lynwyd at yr egwyddor o lywodraeth agored eto, yw ei chynnig fel testun dadl yn eu hamser hwy.

Nick Bourne: Estynnaf finnau fy llongyfarchiadau i'r Gweinidog. A wnaiff gadarnhau—a chymeraf y gwnaiff yn wyneb yr hyn y mae newydd ei ddweud—y bydd yn ateb cwestiynau llafar ar lywodraeth agored, ac y bydd y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn ateb cwestiynau ar faterion yn ymwneud â Chymru dramor yn ogystal ag ar ddatblygu gwledig?

Carwyn Jones: Diolch am eich llongyfarchion. Bydd pob Gweinidog yn ateb cwestiynau ar ei bortffolio; felly mae'n rhaid mai felly y gwneir. Ceir sesiwn holi a fydd yn fy archwilio ar fy mhortffolio.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Cynigiau fod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, o fis Hydref 2002, yn cynnal ei ail Gyfarfod Llawn bob wythnos ar ddydd Mercher gan ddechrau am 2 p.m. yn hytrach nag ar ddydd Iau gan ddechrau am 9.05 a.m. (NDM1077)

Yn dilyn canlyniadau holiadur i'r holl Aelodau ynghylch newid amserau Cyfarfodydd Llawn, cytunodd y Pwyllgor Busnes yn ei gyfarfod ddydd Mawrth, 28 Mai y dylid cyflwyno cynnig ar y mater hwn i'w drafod yn y Cyfarfod Llawn. Cynnig yw hwn yn syml i newid y dydd y cynhelir y Cyfarfod Llawn, ac nid yw'n ymwneud â'r cwestiwn a

p.m. instead of 5.30 p.m. on Tuesdays. A motion on that issue will follow at a later date.

ddydd y Cyfarfod Llawn eistedd tan 6 o'r gloch yn lle 5.30 p.m. ar ddydd Mawrth. Bydd cynnig ar y mater hwnnw'n dilyn maes o law.

Cynnig: O blaid 26, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 20.

Motion: For 26, Abstain 0, Against 20.

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Ron
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Law, Peter
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun

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

Davies, Geraint
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Hancock, Brian
Jarman, Pauline
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Helen Mary
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Rogers, Peter
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Kirsty
Williams, Phil

Derbyniwyd y cynnig.

Motion carried.

Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd i'r Gadair am 4.00 p.m.

The Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair at 4.00 p.m.

Adroddiad Blynyddol y Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol The Annual Report of the Committee on European and External Affairs

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendments 1 and 2 in the name of Jonathan Morgan.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliannau 1 a 2 yn enw Jonathan Morgan.

The Deputy First Minister and Minister for Rural Development and Wales Abroad (Michael German): I propose that

Dirprwy Brif Weinidog Cymru a'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Gwledig a Chymru Dramor (Michael German): Cynigiau fod

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. notes the 2001-02 annual report of the Committee on European and External

1. yn nodi adroddiad blynyddol 2001-02 y Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol;

Affairs;

2. recognises the progress made to develop further Wales's increasing involvement in the European Union policy process and in particular the contribution made to the debate on European governance;

3. notes the progress made in implementing European structural funds programmes in Wales;

4. recognises the significant progress made with engagement in the enlargement process. (NDM1079)

I welcome the opportunity to debate European issues. The Committee on European and External Affairs has a key role in providing focus for how the Assembly handles European policy issues. The Committee's importance was recently reflected in the extension of its role to cover international co-operation.

The annual report identifies a range of substantive issues, including several of significant importance to Wales such as the White Paper on EU governance and cohesion. I am grateful for the contributions of many Committee members to the report. I welcome the Committee's extended remit in this important area for the Assembly.

The Welsh Assembly Government is keen to raise Wales's international profile. The Cabinet's Wales in the World sub-committee is taking this objective forward. Several high profile events have been organised to promote Wales overseas, most recently a series of events in New York to mark St David's Day. The Assembly will co-ordinate a Welsh presence at the Lorient Interceltic Festival in August. Wales is also receiving an increasing number of high profile visitors. Like other Members, I was pleased to welcome 11 ambassadors—a record number in one group—from the Arab states last month.

Wales does not enjoy a high international profile. The Welsh Assembly Government is already taking steps to change that. We recognise that to be successful on the world

2. yn cydnabod yr hyn a wnaed i ddatblygu ymhellach gyfranogiad cynyddol Cymru ym mhroses bolisi'r Undeb Ewropeaidd ac yn arbennig ei chyfraniad at y drafodaeth ar lywodraethu Ewropeaidd;

3. yn nodi'r hyn a wnaed o ran rhoi rhaglenni'r cronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd ar waith yng Nghymru;

4. yn cydnabod y camau breision a gymerwyd i gyfrannu at y broses ehangu. (NDM1079)

Croesawaf y cyfle i drafod materion Ewropeaidd. Mae gan y Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol rôl allweddol o ran darparu ffocws i'r modd yr ymdrinia'r Cynulliad â materion polisi Ewropeaidd. Adlewyrchwyd pwysigrwydd y Pwyllgor yn ddiweddar pan estynnwyd ei rôl i gynnwys cydweithredu rhyngwladol.

Mae'r adroddiad blynyddol yn nodi amrediad o faterion o sylwedd, gan gynnwys amryw o bwysigrwydd arwyddocaol i Gymru fel y Papur Gwyn ar drefn llywodraethu a chydlyniaid yr UE. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am gyfraniadau sawl aelod o'r Pwyllgor i'r adroddiad. Croesawaf gylch gwaith estynedig y Pwyllgor yn y maes pwysig hwn i'r Cynulliad.

Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn awyddus i godi proffil rhyngwladol Cymru. Mae is-bwyllgor Cymru yn y Byd y Cabinet yn bwrw ymlaen â'r amcan hwn. Trefnwyd sawl digwyddiad proffil uchel i hyrwyddo Cymru dramor, a'r mwyaf diweddar oedd cyfres o ddigwyddiadau yn Efrog Newydd i nodi Dydd Gŵyl Ddewi. Bydd y Cynulliad yn cydlynu presenoldeb Cymreig yng Ngŵyl Ryng-geltaidd Lorient ym mis Awst. Caiff Cymru nifer gynyddol o ymwelwyr amlwg o wledydd tramor hefyd. Fel Aelodau eraill, yr oeddwn yn falch o groesawu 11 llysgennad—y nifer uchaf erioed mewn un grŵp—o'r gwledydd Arabaidd y mis diwethaf.

Nid yw Cymru'n mwynhau proffil uchel yn rhyngwladol. Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru eisoes yn cymryd camau i newid hynny. Sylweddolwn fod yn rhaid inni gael

stage we must have a clear vision that informs and inspires our global audience. We must develop a strong brand to support this aspiration. The Welsh Assembly Government is undertaking a major project to develop a brand for Wales that will motivate the world to find out what Wales has to offer. The brand will reflect all valued aspects of Welsh life, including education, culture, sport, the economy and all that is at the heart of the country. It is not just another image-building exercise, but a process by which we rethink what Wales has to say about itself to the people of Wales and internationally. We must get away from the outdated images of Wales and show people the Wales of today—a vibrant, outward-looking, innovative country.

Our relationships with European Union institutions continue to develop. The First Minister met with Members of the European Parliament from all parties last December. We have developed excellent relationships with the United Kingdom Permanent Representation to the European Union through our office in Brussels. The Committee met Commissioner Barnier in December and the First Minister met him again in Brussels in May. We hope to see him in Wales before long. President Prodi was here a few weeks ago; Viviane Reding visited the Urdd Eisteddfod, and Neil Kinnock is ever present. Our stock has never been higher with commissioners.

The Assembly is represented on the steering group preparing the way for the next conference of regions with legislative powers within the European Union, which will be held in Florence in November, bringing together about 60 regional government leaders. Rosemary Butler has taken up a full seat for the Assembly on the Committee of the Regions, with Janet Davies acting as alternate member. Gwenda Thomas has taken up post as the Assembly's full member on the Council of Europe, on which we are represented for the first time. Ministers continue to attend the Council of Ministers as part of the UK delegation. Since June 2001, Ministers have attended seven times, and Sue Essex has attended an environment council

gweledigaeth glir sy'n hysbysu ac yn ysbrydoli'n cynulleidfa fyd-eang os ydym am lwyddo ar lwyfan y byd. Rhaid inni ddatblygu brand cryf i gefnogi'r dyhead hwn. Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ymgymryd â phrosiect mawr i ddatblygu brand i Gymru a fydd yn symblu'r byd i ddarganfod beth sydd gan Gymru i'w gynnig. Bydd y brand yn adlewyrchu holl agweddau gwerthfawr bywyd Cymreig, gan gynnwys addysg, diwylliant, chwaraeon, yr economi a phopeth sydd wrth galon y wlad. Nid dim ond ymarfer creu delwedd arall ydyw, ond proses o ailfeddwl am yr hyn sydd gan Gymru i'w ddweud amdani'i hun wrth bobl Cymru ac yn rhyngwladol. Rhaid inni symud i ffwrdd oddi wrth y delweddau hen-ffasiwn o Gymru a dangos Cymru heddiw—gwlad sy'n fyw, yn edrych tuag allan ac yn torri tir newydd.

Mae ein perthynas gyda sefydliadau'r Undeb Ewropeaidd yn dal i ddatblygu. Cyfarfu'r Prif Weinidog ag Aelodau Senedd Ewrop o bob plaid fis Rhagfyr diwethaf. Yr ydym wedi datblygu perthynas ragorol gyda Chynrychiolaeth Barhaol y Deyrnas Unedig i'r Undeb Ewropeaidd drwy'n swyddfa ym Mrwsel. Cyfarfu'r Pwyllgor â'r Comisiynydd Barnier yn Rhagfyr a Chyfarfu'r Prif Weinidog ag ef eto ym Mrwsel ym Mai. Gobeithiwn ei weld yng Nghymru cyn bo hir. Bu'r Arlywydd Prodi yma ychydig wythnosau'n ôl; ymwelodd Viviane Reding ag Eisteddfod yr Urdd, ac mae Neil Kinnock yma o hyd. Ni fu'n stoc erioed yn uwch gyda chomisiynwyr.

Cynrychiolir y Cynulliad ar y grŵp llywio sy'n paratoi'r ffordd ar gyfer cynhadledd nesaf y rhanbarthau â hawliau deddfu o fewn yr Undeb Ewropeaidd, a gynhelir yn Fflorens ym mis Tachwedd, gan ddod â rhyw 60 o arweinwyr llywodraeth rhanbarthol ynghyd. Mae Rosemary Butler wedi cymryd sedd lawn dros y Cynulliad ar Bwyllgor y Rhanbarthau, gyda Janet Davies yn gweithredu fel aelod wrth gefn. Mae Gwenda Thomas wedi ymgymryd â bod yn aelod llawn y Cynulliad ar Gyngor Ewrop, lle mae gennym gynrychiolaeth am y tro cyntaf. Mae Gweinidogion yn dal i fynychu Cyngor y Gweinidogion fel rhan o ddirprwyath y DU. Ers Mehefin 2001, mynychodd Gweinidogion saith cyfarfod, ac mae Sue

for the first time. On 30 May, Jane Davidson led the UK delegation at the youth council.

WalesTrade International has ensured that the Assembly is exploring trading opportunities in Europe and internationally. The total value of deals resulting from the international business opportunities scheme from 1999 to date is about £62.5 million. WalesTrade International is represented in over 35 countries worldwide through the international business opportunities scheme. The areas covered include the Americas, western and eastern Europe, the far east, the middle east and Australia. WalesTrade International has set a programme of 24 trade missions and fairs for 2002-03. Fourteen of these are sector-specific missions and fairs, and of these nine are multisector. The total value of orders resulting from trade missions from 1999 to date is about £16.5 million, with prospective orders worth £140.5 million. WalesTrade International is directly represented in Chicago and Singapore, and these placements have resulted in deals worth £250,000 and £3.38 million respectively.

We are pleased with the progress of European structural fund programmes in Wales, as recognised recently by the Welsh Affairs Committee. Over £350 million in grant aid has been committed to over 800 projects. The EQUAL, URBAN and INTERREG community initiatives are also progressing well.

The Welsh Assembly Government takes a keen interest in future European regional cohesion policy, and we will take every opportunity to contribute to the ongoing debate. Assembly officials participated in a series of conferences and seminars organised by the European Commission and attended a conference in Brussels in May as part of the UK delegation. Future seminars on human resources and simplifying structural funds are planned.

Essex wedi mynychu cyngor amgylcheddol am y tro cyntaf. Ar 30 Mai, arweiniodd Jane Davidson ddirprwyaeth y DU yn y cyngor ieuencid.

Mae MasnachCymru Rhyngwladol wedi sicrhau bod y Cynulliad yn chwilio am gyfleoedd masnachu yn Ewrop ac yn rhyngwladol. Mae cyfanswm gwerth y cytundebau sy'n deillio o'r cynllun cyfleoedd busnes rhyngwladol o 1999 hyd yma oddeutu £62.5 miliwn. Cynrychiolir MasnachCymru Rhyngwladol mewn dros 35 o wledydd dros y byd drwy'r cynllun cyfleoedd busnes rhyngwladol. Mae'r ardaloedd lle mae cynrychiolaeth yn cynnwys cyfandiroedd America, gorllewin a dwyrain Ewrop, y dwyrain pell, y dwyrain canol ac Awstralia. Mae MasnachCymru Rhyngwladol wedi gosod rhaglen o 24 o deithiau a ffeiriau masnachu am 2002-03. Mae 14 o'r rhain yn deithiau a ffeiriau sector-benodol, ac o'r rhain mae naw yn rhai aml-sector. Cyfanswm gwerth yr archebion sy'n deillio o deithiau masnachu o 1999 hyd yma yw oddeutu £16.5 miliwn, gyda darpar archebion gwerth £140.5 miliwn. Mae gan MasnachCymru Rhyngwladol gynrychiolaeth uniongyrchol yn Chicago a Singapor, ac mae'r lleoliadau hyn wedi esgor ar gytundebau gwerth £250,000 a £3.38 miliwn, yn y drefn honno.

Yr ydym yn hapus gyda hynt rhaglenni'r cronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd yng Nghymru, fel a gydnabuwyd yn ddiweddar gan y Pwyllgor Materion Cymreig. Mae dros £350 miliwn o gymhorthdal wedi'i ymrwymo i dros 800 o brosiectau. Mae'r mentrau cymunedol EQUAL, URBAN ac INTERREG yn mynd rhagddynt yn dda hefyd.

Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cymryd diddordeb brwd ym mholisi cydlynu rhanbarthau Ewrop i'r dyfodol, a chymerwn bob cyfle i gyfrannu i'r ddadl sy'n mynd yn ei blaen. Cymerodd swyddogion y Cynulliad ran mewn cyfres o gynadledau a seminarau a drefnwyd gan y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd gan fynychu cynhadledd ym Mrwsel ym mis Mai fel rhan o ddirprwyaeth y DU. Mae seminarau wedi'u cynllunio i'r dyfodol ar adnoddau dynol a symleiddio cronfeydd strwythurol.

The Assembly invested significant effort in responding to the European Commission's White Paper on governance. A Plenary debate was held on the White Paper in January. The Government held a Wales European forum in Llandudno in February to extend the debate to include all elected tiers, along with civil society and Jerome Vignon of the EC. The First Minister sent a response to the Commission on the Assembly's behalf. That was an important milestone in our development as a serious institution capable of contributing to the wider EU debate. Along with EU enlargement and the euro, these issues will affect us in the coming year and they must be addressed.

I ask the Assembly not to support the amendments. Amendment 1 relates to the Wales European Centre. As a result of a discussion in Plenary on 2 May, it was concluded that the Welsh Assembly Government would agree suitable arrangements with the Presiding Office for support to Assembly Members and the Committee in contacts with European institutions. An undertaking was given to return to Plenary to report the outcome of those negotiations. We will not support Jonathan Morgan's amendment 2. The private sector plays a large and important role in Objective 1. Over £160 million has been awarded to more than 150 projects that support small and medium-sized enterprises and develop innovation in Wales. The Assembly's private sector unit continues to strengthen its role, as the Programme Monitoring Committee will discuss on Friday.

I welcome Members' comments on this. Considerable work has already been done, but we must not be complacent. Important issues must be addressed in future, not least the future of Europe itself in terms of enlargement, future regional cohesion policy, and governance. These challenges must be met if Wales is to be recognised on the world stage.

4:10 p.m.

Rhoddodd y Cynulliad gryn ymdrech i mewn i ymateb i Bapur Gwyn y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd ar lywodraethu. Cynhaliwyd dadl yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ar y Papur Gwyn yn Ionawr. Cynhaliodd y Llywodraeth fforwm Ewropeaidd i Gymru yn Llandudno yn Chwefror i ymestyn y ddadl i gynnwys pob haen etholedig, ynghyd â chymdeithas sifil a Jerome Vignon o'r CE. Anfonodd y Prif Weinidog ymateb i'r Comisiwn ar ran y Cynulliad. Yr oedd hynny'n garreg filltir bwysig yn ein datblygiad fel sefydliad difrifol a all gyfrannu at y ddadl ehangach yn yr UE. Ynghyd ag ehangu'r UE a'r ewro, bydd y materion hyn yn effeithio arnom yn y flwyddyn sydd i ddod a bydd rhaid rhoi sylw iddynt.

Gofynnaf i'r Cynulliad beidio â chefnogi'r gwelliannau. Mae gwelliant 1 yn ymwneud â Chanolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru. O ganlyniad i drafodaeth yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ar 2 Mai, daethpwyd i'r casgliad y byddai Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cytuno ar drefniadau addas gyda Swyddfa'r Llywydd ar gyfer cefnogi Aelodau Cynulliad a'r Pwyllgor mewn cysylltiadau â sefydliadau Ewropeaidd. Ymgwymerwyd i ddychwelyd i'r Cyfarfod Llawn gydag adroddiad ar ganlyniad y negodiadau hynny. Ni chefnogwn welliant 2 gan Jonathan Morgan. Mae'r sector preifat yn chwarae rhan fawr a phwysig yn Amcan 1. Dyfarnwyd dros £160 miliwn i fwy na 150 o brosiectau sy'n cefnogi mentrau bach a chanolig eu maint ac yn datblygu arloesedd yng Nghymru. Mae uned sector preifat y Cynulliad yn parhau i gryfhau ei rôl, fel a drafodir gan y Pwyllgor Monitro Rhaglen ddydd Gwener.

Croesawaf sylwadau'r Aelodau ar hyn. Mae gwaith sylweddol wedi'i wneud eisoes, ond rhaid inni beidio â llaesu dwylo. Rhaid rhoi sylw i faterion pwysig yn y dyfodol, nid yn lleiaf ddyfodol Ewrop ei hun yn nhermau ehangu, polisi cydlyniad rhanbarthol i'r dyfodol, a threfn lywodraethu. Rhaid ymateb i'r heriau hyn os yw Cymru am gael ei chydnabod ar lwyfan y byd.

Nick Bourne: I propose the following amendments in the name of Jonathan Morgan. Amendment 1: delete point 2 and insert new point 2:

regrets the unilateral decision of the First Minister to withdraw the National Assembly for Wales from the Wales European Centre;

I propose amendment 2. Delete point 3 and insert new point 3:

regrets that the private sector is not being satisfactorily involved in the implementation of Objective 1 projects with consequent serious effects for west Wales and the Valleys, and indeed all of Wales, in failing to narrow the gross domestic product gap with England;

I welcome this report. The Committee on European and External Affairs has an important role, and is vital to the Assembly. It tackles many important issues affecting Wales, some of which the Minister has already mentioned: enlargement, common agricultural policy reform—which will affect rural communities—the future of Europe, and governance. These are central issues.

Some elements of the Committee's workings have caused problems. Although it may be intractable, the difficulty of finding a timeslot when the MEPs can attend Committee meetings is worth noting. It is vital that MEPs tell us what is happening in Europe, so that we have an early warning of forthcoming issues. That process is assisted when MEPs attend Committee meetings. The only occasion on which they could attend was when the Committee met in Brussels, where the MEPs were present. We should ensure that we have a regular dialogue. It is not important that all five MEPs attend; this involves a Wales element and a report from any Welsh MEP would assist us.

During the year we have made progress on twinning with a region of an entrant country, namely Silesia. That is important. We should welcome this progress, as it can bring mutual

Nick Bourne: Cynigiaf y gwelliannau canlynol yn enw Jonathan Morgan. Gwelliant 1: dileu pwynt 2 a rhoi pwynt 2 newydd yn ei le:

yn gresynu at benderfyniad unochrog y Prif Weinidog i dynnu Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn ôl o Ganolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru.

Cynigiaf welliant 2. Dileu pwynt 3 a rhoi pwynt 3 newydd yn ei le:

yn gresynu nad yw'r sector preifat yn cael ei gynnwys mewn modd boddhaol wrth roi prosiectau Amcan 1 ar waith, gan arwain at effeithiau difrifol yng ngorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd ac, yn wir, yng Nghymru gyfan, o ran lleihau y bwlch rhwng cynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth Cymru a CMC Lloegr.

Croesawaf yr adroddiad hwn. Mae gan y Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol rôl bwysig, ac mae'n hanfodol i'r Cynulliad. Mae'n ymdrin â llawer o faterion pwysig sy'n effeithio ar Gymru. Crybwyllodd y Gweinidog rai ohonynt eisoes: ehangu, diwygio'r polisi amaethyddol cyffredin—a fydd yn effeithio ar gymunedau gwledig—dyfodol Ewrop, a threfn lywodraethu. Mae'r rhain yn faterion canolog.

Mae rhai elfennau o ddull gweithio'r Pwyllgor wedi achosi problemau. Er y gall fod yn anhydrin, mae'n werth nodi'r anhawster o ganfod slot amser pryd y gall Aelodau Senedd Ewrop fynychu cyfarfodydd y Pwyllgor. Mae'n hollbwysig fod Aelodau Senedd Ewrop yn dweud wrthym beth sy'n digwydd yn Ewrop, er mwyn inni gael rhybudd cynnar o faterion sydd i ddod. Cynorthwyir y broses honno pan fydd Aelodau Senedd Ewrop yn mynychu cyfarfodydd Pwyllgor. Yr unig achlysur pryd y gallent fod yn bresennol oedd pan gyfarfu'r Pwyllgor ym Mrwsel, lle'r oedd Aelodau Senedd Ewrop yn bresennol. Dylem sicrhau y cawn ddeialog rheolaidd. Nid yw'n bwysig fod pob un o'r pum ASE yn mynychu; mae elfen Gymreig i hyn a byddai adroddiad gan unrhyw ASE Cymreig yn gymorth inni.

Yn ystod y flwyddyn yr ydym wedi camu ymlaen gyda gefeillio â rhanbarth o wlad newydd, sef Silesia. Mae hynny'n bwysig. Dylem groesawu'r cynnydd hwn, gan y gall

benefits.

The conclusions of the Assembly review of procedure included an all-party recommendation regarding this Committee, namely that the chairmanship of the Committee be opened so that all Assembly Members are eligible. It was felt appropriate to widen the chairmanship, and Ministers have other jobs to do. I draw Members' attention to that. Recent events mean that we are now at loggerheads with this all-party recommendation.

Amendment 1 relates to WEC. I agree that it looks back over what has happened. However, we must address the serious issue of where we go now in terms of WEC. We need a Wales European Centre mark 2 to emerge phoenix-like from the ashes. The Government must address that fairly urgently, in order to reassure WEC stakeholders should the current arrangement collapse. Another institution, Fforwm, has left WEC since the Assembly issued its notice. I believe that it was the next largest institution—or the next but one—to the Assembly in terms of contribution. It pays £40,000 a year, which is a significant amount. *[Interruption.]* We could argue about its relative importance, but I know that it pays £40,000 a year, as I checked that prior to this debate. It is a sizeable amount. We must protect WEC's future and consider how we move forward.

The Minister mentioned the Welsh Affairs Committee report on Objective 1 funding. It is true that much of the report congratulates the Lib-Lab Government's performance, as expected in a report by a Committee dominated by Labour members. However, it is not all one-way traffic. There are criticisms in the report, especially on engagement with the private sector. The Minister did not pick up on that. The criticisms involve filling forms, delays, and the failure to properly engage with the private sector. There are issues to be addressed. This is also reflected in the report by the Auditor General, Sir John Bourn—a namesake of mine, although our surnames are spelt differently. We are not related. His recent report on structural funds is also significant. Stripped of the self-

ddod â buddiannau i'r ddwy ochr.

Yr oedd casgliadau adolygiad y Cynulliad o'r drefn yn cynnwys argymhelliad hollbleidiol ynglŷn â'r Pwyllgor hwn, sef y dylid agor cadeiryddiaeth y Pwyllgor fel bod holl Aelodau'r Cynulliad yn gymwys. Teimlwyd ei bod yn bwysig lledu'r gadeiryddiaeth, ac mae gan Weinidogion swyddi eraill i'w gwneud. Tynnaf sylw Aelodau at hynny. Golyga digwyddiadau diweddar ein bod bellach yn mynd benben â'r argymhelliad hollbleidiol hwn.

Mae a wnelo gwelliant 1 â Chanolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru. Cytunaf ei fod yn edrych yn ôl ar yr hyn sydd wedi digwydd. Fodd bynnag, rhaid inni fynd i'r afael â chwestiwn difrifol ble yr awn ni yn awr gyda WEC. Mae angen ail fersiwn o Ganolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru i godi fel ffenics o'r llwch. Rhaid i'r Llywodraeth roi sylw i hynny ar fyrder, er mwyn rhoi sicrwydd i fudd-ddalwyr WEC pe bai'r trefniant cyfredol yn chwalu. Mae sefydliad arall, Fforwm, wedi gadael WEC ers i'r Cynulliad roi ei rybudd. Credaf mai hwn oedd y sefydliad nesaf o ran maint—neu'r nesaf ond un—i'r Cynulliad yn nhermau cyfraniad. Mae'n talu £40,000 y flwyddyn, sy'n swm sylweddol. *[Torri ar draws.]* Gallem ddadlau am ei bwysigrwydd cymharol, ond gwn ei fod yn talu £40,000 y flwyddyn, gan imi wirio hynny cyn y ddadl hon. Mae'n swm sylweddol. Rhaid inni ddiogelu dyfodol WEC ac ystyried sut y symudwn ymlaen.

Soniodd y Gweinidog am adroddiad y Pwyllgor Materion Cymreig ar gyllid Amcan 1. Mae'n wir fod llawer o'r adroddiad yn llongyfarch perfformiad y Llywodraeth Lafur-Ryddfrydol, fel a ddisgwylid mewn adroddiad gan Bwyllgor a ddominyddir gan aelodau Llafur. Fodd bynnag, nid traffig un ffordd mohono i gyd. Y mae beirniadaethau yn yr adroddiad, yn enwedig ar yr ymwneud â'r sector preifat. Ni wnaeth y Gweinidog sylw ar hynny. Mae a wnelo'r beirniadaethau â llenwi ffurflenni, oedi, a'r methiant i ymwneud yn iawn â'r sector preifat. Mae materion sydd angen sylw. Adlewyrchir hyn hefyd yn yr adroddiad gan yr Archwilydd Cyffredinol, Syr John Bourn—dyn sy'n rhannu'r un cyfenw â mi, er ei fod wedi'i sillafu'n wahanol. Nid ydym yn perthyn. Mae

congratulatory views of Government supporters, Objective 1 is a serious issue. I urge Members to support amendments 1 and 2 in the name of Jonathan Morgan.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Ar ran Plaid Cymru, croesawaf y drafodaeth hon ar adroddiad blynyddol y Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol. Fel yr eglura'r adroddiad, bu trafodaeth yn ystod y flwyddyn ar weithdrefnau'r Pwyllgor a'r materion y dylem eu trafod. Er na dderbyniwyd hynny fel rhan o gylch gwaith y Pwyllgor, yr oedd Plaid Cymru'n teimlo y dylai fod cyfle rhywle yn y Cynulliad i graffu materion Ewropeaidd yn llawer manylach na'r hyn a wneir ar hyn o bryd. Byddai'r Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol yn lle addas i wneud hynny.

Derbyniad fod yn rhaid craffu meysydd cyfyngedig a phenodol. Fodd bynnag, o'm profiad innau fel Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Amaethyddiaeth a Datblygu Gwledig yn ystod misoedd cynta'r Cynulliad hwn, bu i ni ystyried rheoliadau Ewropeaidd a basiwyd yn barod. Nid oedd cyfle am unrhyw fewnbwn. Ni fyddwn yn dymuno gweld unrhyw gadeirydd pwyllgor amaeth, unwaith y bydd y polisi amaethyddol cyffredinol wedi'i ddiwygio, yn yr un sefyllfa. Gobethiaf y bydd modd inni gynnal y drafodaeth honno. Fel y dywed yr adroddiad, mae'r cynllun i ehangu'r Undeb Ewropeaidd i ganol a dwyrain Ewrop yn codi cwestiynau ynglŷn â dyfodol y cronfeydd strwythurol.

Gresynwn at y ffaith bod adrannau Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Gyfunol, y Trysorlys mae'n debyg, am gadw cyfrifoldeb am bolisi rhanbarthol yn y Deyrnas Gyfunol. Gwrthodwn hynny. Mae'r cronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd wedi bod yn gyfrwng pwysig i ddatblygu yng Nghymru, a gwelwn hynny gydag Amcan 1 yn awr. Yr ydym hefyd am sicrhau bod cyfle i gadw cyfrifoldeb am bolisi rhanbarthol ar lefel pan-Ewropeaidd. Mae lefelau cynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth Cymru o'i gymharu â gweddill Prydain yn dal i ddisgyn. Gobeithiwn y bydd y CMC yn newid cyfeiriad ar ddiwedd rhaglen Amcan 1, a'n bod yn gweld y math o dwf yn CMC Cymru

ei adroddiad diweddar ef ar gronfeydd strwythurol yn arwyddocaol hefyd. Ar ôl hepgor sylwadau hunan-longyfarchol cefnogwyr y llywodraeth, mae Amcan 1 yn fater pwysig. Anogaf Aelodau i gefnogi gwelliannau 1 a 2 yn enw Jonathan Morgan.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: On behalf of Plaid Cymru, I welcome this debate on the Committee on European and External Affairs's annual report. As the report states, there have been some discussions during the year on the Committee's procedures and the issues that we should discuss. Although that had not been adopted as part of the Committee's remit, Plaid Cymru felt that there should be an opportunity somewhere in the Assembly for far more detailed scrutiny of European issues. The Committee on European and External Affairs would be an appropriate place to do that.

I accept that the areas scrutinised must be limited and specific. However, in my experience as Chair of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee during the first months of this Assembly, we considered European regulations that had already been adopted. There was no opportunity to have any input. I would not like to see any other chair of an agriculture committee, once the common agricultural policy has been reformed, in the same situation. I hope that we can have that discussion. As the report states, the plan to expand the European Union to central and eastern Europe raises questions about the future of the structural funds.

We deplore the fact that there are departments of the United Kingdom Government, the Treasury it seems, that wish to retain responsibility for regional policy within the United Kingdom. We reject that. The European structural funds have been an important developmental tool in Wales, and we see that now with Objective 1. We also wish to ensure an opportunity to keep responsibility for regional policy on a pan-European level. The levels of gross domestic product in Wales, in relation to the rest of the UK, continue to decline. We hope that by the end of the Objective 1 programme, the GDP trends will be reversed, and we will see the kind of growth in Wales's GDP as we have

a welsom mewn ardaloedd eraill sydd wedi elwa o Amcan 1.

Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn ystyried sut y mae'r cronfeydd strwythurol yn cael eu gweithredu ar hyn o bryd. Mae pryderon dwys—a derbynaf yr hyn a ddywedodd Nick Bourne am welliant 2 y Torïaid—yn y sector breifat ynglŷn â sut y mae Amcan 1 yn gweithredu. Derbynaf gwynion di-rif gan gwmnïau sydd yn dechrau gwneud ceisiadau am Amcan 1, ond yn rhoi'r gorau iddi cyn cyflwyno'r cais. Erfyniaf ar y Gweinidog newydd i dderbyn bod pryderon yn y maes hwn ac i sicrhau bod rhywbeth yn cael ei wneud yn ei gylch. Os na all y sector breifat a chyfalaf preifat helpu Amcan 1 i godi lefelau CMC yng Nghymru, ni fyddwn yn gweld y math o gynnydd economaidd sydd mor bwysig inni yn yr ardaloedd gwledig, yn y Cymoedd ac yn ardal Abertawe.

Mae'r berthynas â Brwsel yn bwysig a dyna pam y cefnogwn welliant 1 y Torïaid ar hyn. Yr ydym yn feirniadol o benderfyniad Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i dynnu allan o Ganolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru. Yr oedd yn gynamserol. Gobeithiaf y bydd gan y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog feddwl agored ar ddyfodol y swyddfa ym Mrwsel. Mae'n hynod bwysig bod ein cynrychiolaeth ym Mrwsel yn parhau i fod mewn un swyddfa. Byddai'n drychineb pe bawn yn gweld y gwaith o gynrychioli Cymru yn Ewrop yn digwydd mewn mwy nag un swyddfa. Gobeithiaf y bydd y Gweinidog newydd yn ystyried y sefyllfa honno ac yn mynnu bod dealltwriaeth rhwng y gwahanol bartïon. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd eraill am drafod hynny yn nes ymlaen.

Trafodir dyfodol y swyddfa ym Mrwsel yn dilyn cyhoeddi adroddiad Syr John Gray. Gobeithiaf unwaith y cyhoeddir yr adroddiad hwnnw y bydd cyfle yn y Pwyllgor i drafod ei ddyfodol. Mae'n bleser gennyf gymryd rhan yn y ddadl hon, a gobeithiaf y gall y Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol weithio dros y Cynulliad a thros Gymru yn ein perthynas â gweddill Ewrop.

4:20 p.m.

Rosemary Butler: As a member of the

seen in other areas that have benefited from Objective 1.

It is important that we consider the way in which the structural funds are implemented at present. There are serious concerns—and I accept what Nick Bourne said about the Tories amendment 2—within the private sector about the way in which Objective 1 is being used. I receive numerous complaints from companies who start to apply for Objective 1 funding, but give up before the application is presented. I urge the new Minister to accept that there are concerns in this area and to ensure that something is done about it. If the private sector and private funding cannot assist the Objective 1 programme to raise the levels of GDP in Wales, we will not see the kind of economic growth that is so vital to us in the rural areas, in the Valleys and in the Swansea area.

The relationship with Brussels is important and that is why we will support the Tories' amendment 1 on that. We are critical of the Assembly Government's decision to withdraw from the Wales European Centre. It was premature. I hope that the Deputy First Minister will keep an open mind on the future of the office in Brussels. It is vital that our representation in Brussels remains in one office. It would be a disaster if we saw the work of representing Wales in Brussels being carried out in more than one centre. I hope that the new Minister will review that situation and insist that there is understanding between the various parties. I am sure that others will wish to discuss that later.

The future of the office in Brussels will be discussed following the publication of Sir John Gray's report. I hope that once that report is published, there will be an opportunity in the Committee to discuss its future. I am pleased to take part in this debate, and I hope that the Committee on European and External Affairs will be able to work for the Assembly and for Wales on our relations with the rest of Europe.

Rosemary Butler: Fel aelod o'r Pwyllgor

Committee on European and External Affairs, it is interesting to read about the work that we have done during the year in this report. The Committee on European and External Affairs is beginning to tackle seriously the issues that are vital to the Assembly. It is obvious, and many Members have mentioned this, and it is stated in the report, that over the coming months we must decide on the appropriate style and level of service that the Assembly needs in Brussels. However, the overall quality of the staff that already represents us in Brussels is exceptional. European issues must be at the core of all Assembly activities. The appointment of European issues champions to each Committee is welcome. However, the role of ensuring that European issues are brought to Committee should not just be left to one Member. Every Member should have that responsibility.

The report mentions secondments to Brussels. We should encourage as many officials as possible to take up secondments to European institutions. This would give them an invaluable insight into how the various institutions work, and, as importantly, would promote knowledge about Wales throughout Europe. The signing of the common declaration on European governance by the First Minister in March was important. This document points out that there should be more regular briefings between the European Commission and other European legislative bodies, such as the European Parliament, and within regional and local government using the Committee of the Regions as a conduit. This can only be achieved if each member state develops an adequate mechanism that allows for regional involvement in preparing national positions on EU policies, which might have a regional impact. A mechanism should also be developed at EU level to allow regions to have a more considered input into policy making. This is where the Committee of the Regions could play a greater role.

More time is needed to assess regional needs, to consider likely consequences, and to prepare a viewpoint at the start of the EU policy-making process, particularly on policies where there is a huge regional

Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol, mae'n ddi-ddorol darllen am y gwaith yr ydym wedi'i wneud yn ystod y flwyddyn yn yr adroddiad hwn. Mae'r Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol yn dechrau mynd i'r afael o ddifrif â'r materion sy'n allweddol i'r Cynulliad. Mae'n amlwg, ac mae llawer o Aelodau wedi crybwyll hyn, ac fe'i nodir yn yr adroddiad, y bydd yn rhaid inni benderfynu yn y misoedd sydd i ddod ar y math a'r lefel briodol o wasanaeth y mae ar y Cynulliad ei angen ym Mrwsel. Fodd bynnag, mae ansawdd cyffredinol y staff sydd eisoes yn ein cynrychioli ym Mrwsel yn eithriadol. Mae'n rhaid i faterion Ewropeaidd fod wrth graidd holl weithgareddau'r Cynulliad. Croesewir penodi lladmeryddion materion Ewropeaidd i bob Pwyllgor. Fodd bynnag, ni ddylid gadael y gwaith o sicrhau y deuir â materion Ewropeaidd i Bwyllgor i un Aelod yn unig. Dylai pob Aelod gael y cyfrifoldeb hwnnw.

Sonia'r adroddiad am secondio pobl i Frwsel. Dylem annog cymaint o swyddogion ag sy'n bosibl i ymgymryd â secondiadau i sefydliadau Ewropeaidd. Byddai hyn yn rhoi golwg werthfawr iddynt ar y modd y mae gwahanol sefydliadau'n gweithio, ac, yn llawn cyn bwysiced, yn hybu gwybodaeth am Gymru ar draws Ewrop. Yr oedd llofnodi'r datganiad cyffredin ar lywodraethu yn Ewrop gan Brif Weinidog Cymru ym mis Mawrth yn weithred bwysig. Mae'r ddogfen hon yn nodi y dylid cael cyfarfodydd briffio mwy rheolaidd rhwng y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd a chyrff deddfu Ewropeaidd eraill, fel Senedd Ewrop, ac o fewn llywodraeth ranbarthol a lleol trwy gyfrwng Pwyllgor y Rhanbarthau. Ni ellir ond cyflawni hyn os bydd pob aelod wladwriaeth yn datblygu peirianwaith digonol fydd yn caniatáu cyfranogiad rhanbarthol wrth baratoi safbwyntiau cenedlaethol ar bolisiau'r UE a allai gael effaith ranbarthol. Dylid datblygu peirianwaith ar lefel yr UE hefyd i ganiatáu i ranbarthau gael mewnbwn mwy ystyrion i'r broses o lunio polisi. Dyma lle y gallai Pwyllgor y Rhanbarthau chwarae rhan fwy.

Mae angen mwy o amser i asesu anghenion rhanbarthol, i ystyried canlyniadau tebygol, ac i baratoi safbwynt ar ddechrau proses lunio polisi'r UE, yn enwedig ar bolisiau lle ceir effaith ranbarthol enfawr. Mae hyn yn

impact. This applies not only to Wales but also to the regional governments throughout the EU. This situation mirrors my own experiences as a member of the Committee of the Regions. There is insufficient opportunity for the Assembly, or the Assembly Government, to make a considered input into EU policy making at an early stage. Ideally, Janet and I should go to Committee of the Regions meetings fully briefed, following a full Assembly consideration of the matters that we consider most relevant to our interests. However, I am pleased that a process for wider briefings is being developed, and that Committee of the Regions representatives can now make a more informed input across the board.

I am a new member of the Committee of the Regions and I believe that the Committee's role needs to be defined. If the regions of Europe are to have a meaningful role in future, the Committee needs to be recognised as an institution in its own right. It should be able to make recommendations directly to the European Commission. That is a huge step, but in the short term we must ensure that any of the opinions that are discussed by the Committee of the Regions are cascaded throughout our Committee structure. That needs to be developed. We are working on it quite closely, but we often make policy when an opinion that has come up from the Committee of the Regions or from the European Parliament has not fed into the process. Therefore, I welcome this report and I look forward to working with Mike German as Chair of the Committee on European and External Affairs.

Janet Davies: I will speak about governance in the European Union and about the Committee of the Regions. I think that we all understand that the European Union is an unwieldy state, and how difficult it is to make it work and to make it accountable, without mentioning sorting out a reasonable degree of democracy there. However, it is crucial that this happens. The one issue that I always return to is that the absence of war in the European Union for 55 years is what makes it essential that we make it work. That can sound glib, but it is easy for later generations to forget about what happened in Europe in earlier times.

wir nid yn unig am Gymru ond hefyd am y llywodraethau rhanbarthol drwy'r UE i gyd. Mae'r sefyllfa hon yn adlewyrchu fy mhrofiadau i fy hun fel aelod o Bwyllgor y Rhanbarthau. Nid oes digon o gyfle i'r Cynulliad, na Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, roi mewnbwn ystyrion i waith llunio polisi'r UE mewn cyfnod cynnar. Yn ddelfrydol, dylai Janet a mi fynd i gyfarfodydd Pwyllgor y Rhanbarthau wedi'n briffio'n llawn, wedi i'r Cynulliad llawn ystyried y materion y barnwn eu bod yn fwyaf pethnasol i'n buddiannau. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn falch fod proses ar gyfer briffio ehangach yn cael ei datblygu, ac y gall cynrychiolwyr Pwyllgor y Rhanbarthau bellach wneud cyfraniad mwy gwybodus ar draws y bwrdd.

Aelod newydd o Bwyllgor y Rhanbarthau wyf fi, a chredaf fod angen diffinio rôl y Pwyllgor. Os yw rhanbarthau Ewrop i gael rôl ystyrion yn y dyfodol, mae angen cydnabod y Pwyllgor fel sefydliad yn ei rinwedd ei hun. Dylai allu gwneud argymhellion yn uniongyrchol i'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd. Mae hynny'n gam enfawr, ond yn y tymor byr rhaid inni sicrhau y caiff unrhyw syniadau a drafodir gan Bwyllgor y Rhanbarthau eu rhaedru drwy ein strwythur Pwyllgorau ni. Mae angen datblygu hynny. Yr ydym yn gweithio ar hynny'n eithaf agos, ond yn aml byddwn yn llunio polisi pan nad yw barn sy'n deillio o Bwyllgor y Rhanbarthau neu o Senedd Ewrop wedi bwydo i mewn i'r broses. Felly, croesawaf yr adroddiad hwn ac edrychaf ymlaen at weithio gyda Mike German fel Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol.

Janet Davies: Yr wyf am siarad am lywodraethu yn yr Undeb Ewropeaidd ac am Bwyllgor y Rhanbarthau. Credaf ein bod i gyd yn deall fod yr Undeb Ewropeaidd yn wladwriaeth anhylaw, ac mor anodd yw gwneud iddo weithio a bod yn atebol, heb sôn am drefnu gradd resymol o ddemocratiaeth yno. Er hynny, mae'n hollbwysig fod hyn yn digwydd. Y pwynt y dychwelaf ato o hyd yw mai'r hyn sy'n ei gwneud yn hanfodol inni wneud i'r Undeb Ewropeaidd weithio yw'r ffaith na fu rhyfel yno am 55 mlynedd. Gall hynny swnio'n amlwg, ond mae'n hawdd i genedlaethau diweddarach anghofio am yr hyn a

ddigwyddodd yn Ewrop yn yr amserau a fu.

I will now turn to governance. During the debate on EU governance in January, Plaid Cymru expressed the view that five of the basic principles of good governance contained in the White Paper were not firm proposals on how to improve European governance. They gave scope for wider debate, but nothing more. We submitted our response to the White Paper, which made specific recommendations. First, to benefit fully from bottom-up policy development, the definition of subsidiarity must be extended by a treatise to include regional and local levels of government. We also asked that the European Parliament open an office in Wales, to improve communications and its public profile. It has already opened offices in other small nations and regions.

Trof yn awr at lywodraethu. Yn ystod y ddadl ar lywodraethu'r UE ym mis Ionawr, mynegodd Plaid Cymru y farn nad oedd pump o'r egwyddorion sylfaenol ar gyfer llywodraethu da a gynhwysid yn y Papur Gwyn ddim yn gynigion pendant ar sut i wella llywodraethu Ewrop. Cynigient le i drafod ymhellach, ond dim mwy. Cyflwynasom ein hymateb ni i'r Papur Gwyn a wnâi argymhellion penodol. Yn gyntaf, er mwyn elwa'n llawn ar ddatblygu polisi o'r gwaelod i fyny, rhaid ehangu'r diffiniad o is-reolaeth drwy gytundeb i gynnwys lefelau llywodraeth rhanbarthol a lleol. Gofynasom hefyd am i Senedd Ewrop agor swyddfa yng Nghymru, i wella'i chyfathrebu a'i phroffil cyhoeddus. Mae eisoes wedi agor swyddfeydd mewn rhanbarthau a chenhedloedd bach eraill.

At the member state level, mechanisms need to be established to ensure that the views of devolved administrations are fed into the pre-legislative process. A root-and-branch assessment of the various policy-making instruments should take place to ensure that decisions by the European Union are made and implemented in the most appropriate way. That could pave the way for tripartite agreements, which the White Paper advocated. On tripartite agreements, during the debate on EU governance in January, we tabled an amendment calling for initiatives from Wales to be included in pilot schemes of contractual agreements. We did not receive a clear response from the First Minister although he agreed that the agreements were 'interesting'. There is no mention of that in the forward work programme of the annual report, but I hope that the Committee will have a role in fleshing out possible roles for the Government of Wales in such agreements.

Ar lefel yr aelod wladwriaeth, mae angen sefydlu peirianweithiau i sicrhau y bwydir sylwadau gweinyddiaethau datganoledig i'r broses cyn-deddfu. Dylid gwneud asesiad gwraidd a brig o'r amryfal offerynnau llunio polisi er mwyn sicrhau y caiff penderfyniadau gan yr Undeb Ewropeaidd eu gwneud a'u gweithredu yn y modd mwyaf priodol. Gallai hynny baratoi'r ffordd ar gyfer cytundebau teiran, a argymhellwyd gan y Papur Gwyn. Ar gytundebau teiran, yn ystod y ddadl ar lywodraethu'r UE ym mis Ionawr, cyflwynasom welliant a alwai am gynnwys mentrau o Gymru yng nghynlluniau peilot cytundebau contractiol. Ni chawsom ymateb clir gan y Prif Weinidog, er iddo gytuno bod y cytundebau'n 'ddiddorol'. Nid oes unrhyw sôn am hynny ym mlaenraglen waith yr adroddiad blynyddol, ond gobeithiaf y bydd gan y Pwyllgor rôl o ran rhoi cnawd ar rolau posibl i Lywodraeth Cymru mewn cytundebau o'r fath.

European regional bodies with legislative powers will have a stronger voice in developing regional aspects of the European Union than those without legislative powers. The Assembly is in a difficult position between having and not having those powers.

Bydd gan gyrff rhanbarthol Ewropeaidd sydd â hawliau deddfu lais cryfach wrth ddatblygu agweddau rhanbarthol yr Undeb Ewropeaidd na chyrrff heb hawliau deddfu. Mae'r Cynulliad mewn sefyllfa anodd rhwng meddu a pheidio â meddu'r hawliau hynny.

The report does not contain much on the Committee of the Regions; it only outlines

Nid yw'r adroddiad yn cynnwys llawer ar Bwyllgor y Rhanbarthau; dim ond

the Assembly's membership. Earlier this year, the First Minister acknowledged that:

'the Committee of the Regions has not been as strong a body as was originally envisaged in the Maastricht treaty, when it was included as a counterweight to the treaty's centralising tendencies.

The Committee of the Regions has recognised that it needs to wield more influence. In September 2001, it issued a memorandum demanding a full role in the debate on the future of Europe. Broadly speaking, the Committee stated that the sub-national level will be directly affected by the coming reforms, that the Committee of the Regions represents that level and that it could draw on its experience to provide substantial input into the debate. However, the Committee of the Regions has only observer status on the convention on the future of the European Union. That is insufficient and inadequate. It means that there is no formal machinery for contributing to the convention. Does that really fulfil Romano Prodi's vision of a Europe where all levels of Government are involved in shaping, implementing and monitoring EU policies?

The Committee on European and External Affairs must consider how the National Assembly will make its presence count on a strengthened and more influential Committee of the Regions, through its membership of that body.

Christine Chapman: We are all familiar with the arguments for being part of Europe. We have enjoyed half a century of peace and security, unprecedented levels of prosperity and greater democracy. However, the challenge for us in the Assembly is to make European matters an everyday reality for our citizens. There is a clear role for devolved nations and regions to bring Europe closer to its citizens. That is why it is vital that Wales participates in the debate on governance. Wales is small, but we need a voice in Europe. Devolution was crucial in that regard. Participation would not have happened before devolution. We should not underestimate Wales' increasing influence. We have many overseas visitors to the Assembly, particularly from the candidate

amlinelliad o aelodaeth y Cynulliad. Yn gynharach eleni, cydnabu'r Prif Weinidog:

'ni fu Pwyllgor y Rhanbarthau yn gorff mor gryf â'r hyn a ragwelwyd yn wreiddiol yng nghytundeb Maastricht, pan gafodd ei gynnwys fel gwrthbwys i dueddiadau canoli'r cytundeb.'

Mae Pwyllgor y Rhanbarthau wedi cydnabod bod angen iddo arfer mwy o ddylanwad. Ym Medi 2001, cyhoeddodd femorandwm yn mynnu rôl lawn yn y ddadl ar ddyfodol Ewrop. Yn fras, dywedodd y Pwyllgor y bydd y lefel is-genedlaethol yn cael ei effeithio'n uniongyrchol gan y diwygiadau sydd i ddod, fod Pwyllgor y Rhanbarthau'n cynrychioli'r lefel honno ac y gallai dynnu o'i brofiad i roi mewnbwn sylweddol i'r ddadl. Fodd bynnag, dim ond statws sylwedydd sydd gan Bwyllgor y Rhanbarthau ar y gynhadledd ar ddyfodol yr Undeb Ewropeaidd. Mae hynny'n annigonol. Golyga nad oes peirianwaith ffurfiol ar gyfer cyfrannu i'r gynhadledd. A ydyw hynny mewn gwirionedd yn cyflawni gweledigaeth Romano Prodi o Ewrop lle cyfranna pob lefel o Lywodraeth at ffurfio, gweithredu a monitro polisïau'r UE?

Rhaid i'r Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol ystyried sut y sicra'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol fod ei bresenoldeb yn cyfrif ar Bwyllgor y Rhanbarthau cryfach a mwy dylanwadol, drwy ei aelodaeth o'r corff hwnnw.

Christine Chapman: Yr ydym i gyd yn gyfarwydd â'r dadleuon dros fod yn rhan o Ewrop. Yr ydym wedi mwynhau hanner canrif o heddwch a diogelwch, lefelau ffyniant uwch nag erioed a mwy o ddemocratiaeth. Fodd bynnag, yr her i ni yn y Cynulliad yw gwneud materion Ewropeaidd yn realiti beunyddiol i'n dinasyddion. Mae rôl glir i genhedloedd a rhanbarthau datganoledig ddod ag Ewrop yn nes at ei dinasyddion. Dyna pam y mae'n hanfodol fod Cymru'n cyfranogi yn y ddadl ar lywodraethu. Mae Cymru'n fach, ond mae arnom angen llais yn Ewrop. Ni fuasem wedi gallu cyfranogi cyn datganoli. Ni ddylem danbriso dylanwad cynyddol Cymru. Cawn lawer o ymwelwyr tramor i'r Cynulliad, yn enwedig o'r gwledydd sy'n ceisio cael

countries to the European Union. There is an increasing sense that Wales's profile and confidence are growing, and that can only be beneficial.

I welcome that fact that Wales, through the Assembly, is raising its profile in Europe. Many Assembly Ministers have participated in Council of Ministers meetings, for example. However, our influence is also spreading into other areas; we are, for example, making progress on structural funds. It should be noted that other European countries look to us to see how we are implementing structural funds.

4:30 p.m.

Wales has the lowest unemployment since the mid 1970s and there are 35,000 more jobs available than in December 1998, but structural funds are about making root-and-branch changes in our communities. We must draw on the expertise in Wales. While I accept the sentiment behind the Conservatives' amendment 2 on the private sector, I cannot support it as it lacks the practical application to involve the private sector. It does not reflect the work being done to ensure that the private sector fully engages with the process. Wales has a small private sector base and we want to change that. Therefore, it is inevitable that the public sector is more visible than may be the case. The Minister mentioned the example of the private sector unit in the Welsh European Funding Office, which helps the private sector to access funds for private sector-led projects. Some of the largest projects, particularly in Objective 1 areas, have been driven and funded by the private sector, for example, Finance Wales with the help of Barclays and Opportunity Wales with the help of BT. Those initiatives are making a difference in our communities.

Those in the private sector who have been involved were successful because they chose to collaborate. Innovation requires good communications between individuals, companies, educational institutions and economic development organisations within

mynediad i'r Undeb Ewropeaidd. Ceir ymdeimlad cynyddol bod proffil a hyder Cymru'n tyfu, ac ni all hynny ond bod yn fuddiol.

Croesawaf y ffaith bod Cymru, drwy'r Cynulliad, yn codi ei phroffil yn Ewrop. Mae llawer o Weinidogion y Cynulliad wedi cymryd rhan yng nghyfarfodydd Cyngor y Gweinidogion, er enghraifft. Fodd bynnag, mae ein dylanwad yn ymledu i feysydd eraill hefyd; yr ydym, er enghraifft, yn symud ymlaen ar gronfeydd strwythurol. Dylid nodi bod gwledydd Ewropeaidd eraill yn edrych atom ni i weld sut yr ydym yn gweithredu cronfeydd strwythurol.

Mae diweithdra yng Nghymru ar ei isaf ers canol y 1970au ac mae 35,000 yn fwy o swyddi ar gael nag yn Rhagfyr 1998, ond amcan cronfeydd strwythurol yw gwneud newidiadau gwraidd a brig yn ein cymunedau. Rhaid inni fanteisio ar yr arbenigedd sydd yng Nghymru. Er fy mod yn derbyn y teimlad y tu ôl i welliant 2 gan y Ceidwadwyr ar y sector preifat, ni allaf ei gefnogi gan nad oes ynddo'r cymhwysiad ymarferol i gynnwys y sector preifat. Nid yw'n adlewyrchu'r gwaith sy'n cael ei wneud i sicrhau bod y sector preifat yn ymwneud yn llawn â'r broses. Mae gennym sylfaen fach o ran y sector preifat yng Nghymru ac mae arnom eisiau newid hynny. Mae'n anochel felly bod y sector cyhoeddus yn fwy gweladwy nag y gallai fod. Crybwyllodd y Gweinidog esiampl yr uned sector preifat yn Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru, sy'n helpu'r sector preifat i gael arian ar gyfer prosiectau a arweinir gan y sector hwnnw. Cafodd rhai o'r prosiectau mwyaf, yn enwedig mewn ardaloedd Amcan 1, eu gyrru a'u hariannu gan y sector preifat, er enghraifft, Cyllid Cymru gyda chymorth Barclays a Chyfle Cymru gyda chymorth BT. Mae'r mentrau hynny'n gwneud gwahaniaeth yn ein cymunedau.

Bu'r rheini a gymerodd ran o'r sector preifat yn llwyddiannus oherwydd iddynt ddewis cydweithio. Mae torri tir newydd yn galw am gyfathrebu da rhwng unigolion, cwmnïau, sefydliadau addysgol a chyrrff datblygu economaidd o fewn yr economi. Dyma'r

the economy. This is the sort of approach that we must build on.

Phil Williams: I declare an interest as I am helping to prepare an Objective 1 proposal.

I will discuss structural funds. Great hopes are pinned on the European programmes and, as a result, some Members proclaim outstanding success based on slender and premature evidence. Others, equally mistaken, seize upon any weakness to declare total disaster. The truth lies somewhere in between. In noting real progress, we should take a balanced view and learn the appropriate lessons. There is no doubt that the different programmes, including Objective 1, made a slow start according to the funding timetable agreed with Europe. By the end of 2001, we should have approved €564 million of Objective 1 grants. At the January exchange rate, that would be £350 million. However, with the euro rising steadily, it has risen to £360 million. The rising value of EU grants through the exchange rate is good news. However, we must plan for this increase. The actual value of grants allocated by December was only £286 million, a shortfall of £74 million. If, by the end of April 2002, we had committed an additional third of the 2002 target for Objective 1, the total would be £420 million. The actual achievement was £321 million. In four months, the shortfall had grown to £99 million. However, these figures are optimistic. They assume that every penny allocated will be spent, and spent on time. The lesson from the 1994 to 1999 rounds is a stern warning. In 2000, there was an overhang of £173 million still to be spent from that round. The last day of March this year was, I believe, the official end of the permitted spending period, but less than £100 million of grant funding had been spent, which is a shortfall of £75 million. Because of the foot and mouth disease outbreak, we have been given extra time to spend some of the agriculture funds, but it is almost certain that much of that £75 million shortfall will be returned to Brussels.

This is a warning to anyone tempted to suggest that only whingers and scaremongers

math o waith y mae'n rhaid inni adeiladu arno.

Phil Williams: Datganaf fuddiant gan fy mod yn helpu i baratoi cynnig Amcan 1.

Yr wyf am drafod cronfeydd strwythurol. Mae gobeithion mawr wedi'u selio ar y rhaglenni Ewropeaidd ac, o ganlyniad, cyhoedda rhai Aelodau lwyddiant ysgubol ar sail tystiolaeth fain a chynamserol. Bydd eraill, yr un mor gyfeiliorus, yn bachu ar unrhyw wendid i gyhoeddi trychineb lwyr. Mae'r gwirionedd rhywle rhwng y ddau begwn. Wrth nodi gwir gynnydd, dylem gymryd golwg gytbwys a dysgu'r gwersi priodol. Nid oes unrhyw amheuaeth na wnaeth yr amryfal raglenni, gan gynnwys Amcan 1, ddechreuad araf yn ôl yr amserlen ariannu y cytunwyd arni gydag Ewrop. Erbyn diwedd 2001, dylasem fod wedi cymeradwyo €564 miliwn o grantiau Amcan 1. Ar gyfradd gyfnewid mis Ionawr, byddai hynny'n £350 miliwn. Fodd bynnag, wrth i'r ewro godi'n raddol, cododd hynny i £360 miliwn. Mae'r cynnydd yng ngwerth grantiau'r UE drwy'r gyfradd gyfnewid yn newyddion da. Ond rhaid inni gynllunio ar gyfer y cynnydd hwn. Dim ond £286 miliwn oedd gwerth gwirioneddol y grantiau a ddyrannwyd erbyn mis Rhagfyr, sef £74 miliwn yn fyr. Pe baem ni, erbyn diwedd Ebrill 2002, wedi ymrwymo traean arall o darged 2002 ar gyfer Amcan 1, buasai'r cyfanswm yn £420 miliwn. Mewn gwirionedd, sicrhawyd £321 miliwn. Mewn pedwar mis, yr oedd y diffyg wedi tyfu i £99 miliwn. Fodd bynnag, ffigurau optimistaidd yw'r rhain. Maent yn rhagdybio y caiff pob ceiniog a ddyrennir ei wario, a'i wario'n brydlon. Mae'r wers o gylchoedd 1994 i 1999 yn rhybudd llym. Yn 2000, yr oedd £173 miliwn yn weddill o hyd i'w wario o'r cylch hwnnw. Diwrnod olaf Mawrth eleni, mi gredaf, oedd diwedd swyddogol y cyfnod gwario a ganiateid, ond yr oedd llai na £100 miliwn o arian grant wedi'i wario, sef £75 miliwn yn fyr. Oherwydd clwy'r traed a'r genau, rhoddwyd amser ychwanegol inni i wario rhywfaint o'r arian ar gyfer amaethyddiaeth, ond mae bron yn sicr y bydd llawer o'r £75 miliwn hwnnw na wariwyd yn mynd yn ôl i Frwsel.

Dyma rybudd i unrhyw un a gaiff ei demtio i awgrymu mai dim ond achwynwyr a

warn of decommitment. Within the next year a large decommitment will be announced. We cannot be complacent. I calculate that, to avoid future decommitment, we must overcommit our programme to a calculated extent and boost our spending profile substantially. The lack of match funding is a barrier to the expansion of the programme. I note an interesting comment in the Auditor General's report on the European fund, which echoes a comment from the select committee's report. In England, social funds are administered by the Department for Education and Skills and are core financed. Any successful applicant is given both European grant and match funding as a single payment. I take this to mean that at least part of the matched funding for ESF projects in England is paid from the DfES's central budget. Therefore, the local budget is not penalised 100 per cent for that expenditure. Will the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning and the First Minister examine this situation and possibly confirm that, when a further education college in Cornwall, Merseyside or south Yorkshire receives an ESF grant from DfES via the learning councils, together with the match funding, there is no automatic mechanism by which, for example, Cornwall loses money for hospitals, south Yorkshire loses part of its road budget, or Liverpool University's funding is reduced in order to compensate for that? If that is true, it appears that the English regions are treated more generously than Wales where almost every penny of public sector match funding comes directly or indirectly from our fixed budget.

Finally, I urge the First Minister to ensure the full success of the European funds, do not return from the spending review negotiations without winning the match funding that you failed to win last time.

Mick Bates: I welcome Mike German's re-appointment to the Cabinet. I hope that everyone follows his example and gets on with improving life for the people of Wales.

I welcome the Committee on European and External Affairs's annual report for 2001-02. The Committee has an important role in

phroffwydi Job sy'n rhybuddio am ddadymrwymiad. O fewn y flwyddyn nesaf, cyhoeddir datglustnodi mawr. Ni allwn laesu dwylo. Yn ôl fy nghyfrif i, er mwyn osgoi datglustnodi yn y dyfodol, rhaid inni orglustnodi ein rhaglen i raddau penodol a chynyddu ein proffil gwario'n sylweddol. Mae diffyg arian cyfatebol yn rhwystr i ehangu'r rhaglen. Nodaf sylw diddorol yn adroddiad yr Archwilydd Cyffredinol ar y gronfa Ewropeaidd, sy'n adleisio sylw o adroddiad y pwyllgor dethol. Yn Lloegr, gweinyddir cronfeydd cymdeithasol gan yr Adran Addysg a Sgiliau a chânt gyllid craidd. Bydd unrhyw ymgeisydd llwyddiannus yn cael grant Ewropeaidd a chyllid cyfatebol fel un taliad. Cymeraf fod hyn yn golygu bod o leiaf ran o'r arian cyfatebol ar gyfer prosiectau Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop yn Lloegr yn cael ei dalu o gyllideb ganolog yr adran. Felly, ni chosbir y gyllideb leol 100 y cant am y gwariant hwnnw. A wnaiff y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes a'r Prif Weinidog edrych ar y sefyllfa hon ac efallai gadarnhau pan fydd coleg addysg bellach yng Nghernyw, Glannau Mersi neu dde Swydd Efrog yn derbyn grant Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop gan yr adran drwy'r cynghorau dysgu, ynghyd â'r arian cyfatebol, nad oes dim peirianwaith awtomatig lle bydd, er enghraifft, Cernyw'n colli arian ar gyfer ysbytai, de Swydd Efrog yn colli rhan o'i gyllideb ffyrdd, neu y cwtogir cyllid Prifysgol Lerpwl i wneud iawn am hynny? Os yw'n wir, mae'n ymddangos bod rhanbarthau Lloegr yn cael eu trin yn fwy hael na Chymru lle daw bron bob ceiniog o arian cyfatebol y sector cyhoeddus yn uniongyrchol neu'n anuniongyrchol o'n cyllideb sefydlog.

Yn olaf, anogaf y Prif Weinidog i sicrhau llwyddiant llawn yr arian Ewropeaidd, peidiwch â dod yn ôl o'r trafodaethau adolygu gwariant heb ennill yr arian cyfatebol y methoch ei ennill y tro diwethaf.

Mick Bates: Croesawaf ailbenodiad Mike German i'r Cabinet. Gobeithiaf y gwnaiff pawb ddilyn ei esiampl a mynd ati i wella bywyd i bobl Cymru.

Croesawaf adroddiad blynyddol y Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol am 2001-02. Mae gan y Pwyllgor rôl bwysig o ran

ensuring a co-ordinated approach to the European Union by the Assembly and maintaining and strengthening Wales's presence and involvement in Europe. There is consensus that Wales's voice in Europe must be strengthened. European directives and legislation impact on all policy matters, and it is important that Wales is heard and gets its views across. Our tough stance on genetically modified crops is a good example of that.

The Wales European Centre has served Wales well in the past. However, different arrangements are now needed. The Assembly must have a stronger official voice. The Welsh Liberal Democrats' decision is clear: we believe in strengthening the Assembly's direct representation and clearly defining the Assembly's office in Brussels as the official voice of the Assembly while maintaining a strong stakeholder presence through a Wales European Centre that should also include the private sector. A beefed-up Assembly office in Brussels would be better able to increase Wales's participation in the EU policy process and the debate on EU governance reform. This goes hand in hand with a Liberal Democrat vision for Europe that involves its citizens through greater openness and improved accountability achieved by re-focusing and reforming EU institutions and policies. It is as vital for the EU to connect with people and involve them as it is for the Assembly. We welcome the launch of secondments to the European Union institutions scheme in October 2001, as noted in the Committee's report. This is an important part of increasing Welsh involvement and influence in the EU. The networks established—as successfully demonstrated by the Scots and the Irish—will prove invaluable to us in the future.

4:40 p.m.

It is interesting that the report states that the Committee heard little evidence of businesses in Wales encountering problems associated with the introduction of the single currency. Membership of the euro—as we are aware—would benefit the Welsh economy by guaranteeing foreign investment, stabilising

sicrhau bod y Cynulliad yn ymwneud â'r Undeb Ewropeaidd mewn modd cydlynol, ac o ran cynnal a chryfhau presenoldeb a gweithgaredd Cymru yn Ewrop. Mae consensws fod yn rhaid cryfhau llais Cymru yn Ewrop. Mae cyfarwyddbau a deddfau Ewropeaidd yn effeithio ar bob mater polisi, ac mae'n bwysig y clywir Cymru ac y gall roi ei barn gerbron. Mae'n safiad di-ildio ar gnydau a addaswyd yn enetig yn enghraifft dda o hynny.

Mae Canolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru wedi gwasanaethu Cymru'n dda yn y gorffennol. Fodd bynnag, mae angen trefniadau gwahanol bellach. Rhaid i'r Cynulliad gael llais swyddogol cryfach. Mae penderfyniad Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru'n glir: credwn mewn cryfhau cynrychiolaeth uniongyrchol y Cynulliad a diffinio'n glir swyddfa'r Cynulliad ym Mrwsel fel llais swyddogol y Cynulliad tra'n cynnal presenoldeb cryf fel buddrannwr drwy Ganolfan Ewropeaidd Gymreig a ddylai gynnwys y sector preifat hefyd. Byddai swyddfa gryfach i'r Cynulliad ym Mrwsel yn fwy abl i gynyddu cyfranogiad Cymru yn y broses o lunio polisiau'r UE a'r ddadl ar ddiwygio trefn lywodraethu'r UE. Aiff hyn law yn llaw â gweledigaeth y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol i Ewrop sy'n rhoi cyfle i'w dinasyddion drwy fod yn fwy agored ac atebol drwy ailffocysu ac ailffurfio sefydliadau a pholisiau'r UE. Mae yr un mor hanfodol i'r UE gysylltu â phobl a chynnwys pobl ag ydyw i'r Cynulliad. Croesawn lansio'r cynllun secondio i sefydliadau'r Undeb Ewropeaidd yn Hydref 2001, fel a nodwyd yn adroddiad y Pwyllgor. Mae hyn yn rhan bwysig o gynyddu ymwneud a dylanwad Cymru yn yr UE. Bydd y rhwydweithiau a sefydlir—fel a ddangoswyd yn llwyddiannus gan yr Albanwyr a'r Gwyddelod—yn amhrisiadwy inni yn y dyfodol.

Mae'n ddiddorol fod yr adroddiad yn dweud na chlywodd y Pwyllgor fawr o dystiolaeth am fusnesau yng Nghymru'n cael problemau cysylltiedig â chyflwyno'r arian sengl. Byddai aelodaeth â'r ewro—fel y gwyddom—yn hybu economi Cymru drwy warantu buddsoddiad tramor, sefydlogi

exports and ending exchange rate instability. The euro would bring stability to British exporters and help the tourism, agriculture and manufacturing sectors, which have all suffered recently. On sustainable development, the Assembly Government is advancing the EU agenda through a proposed pan-European sustainable development network. The Committee's annual report rightly states that it will take a close interest in the debate on the future of Europe. It is important that the Assembly is involved in this debate as the regional and devolved nations tier of government is crucial to the future of a de-centralised Europe that is committed to diversity and is connected to its citizens. Objective 1 is proving a success, with over 500 projects and £300 million committed: the small and medium-sized enterprise priority is oversubscribed. Wales's first development bank, Finance Wales, has been created. This shows that there is no foundation for amendment 2 in the name of Jonathan Morgan.

The Assembly must be involved in the debate on common agricultural policy reform. We must push a Welsh agenda that promotes sustainability in agriculture, reflecting support to small and family farms. It is also important to reduce bureaucracy and further support environmental schemes, organic farming, farming co-operatives and diversification. The Assembly must look towards and anticipate the effects of EU enlargement. Wales is unlikely to secure structural funds after 2006. However, the Assembly must address issues such as greater representation and links with other devolved nations and regions of Europe to influence issues when we swim in a bigger EU pond.

Jonathan Morgan: I welcome this debate and the European and External Affairs Committee's report. There is no doubt that the Committee on European and External Affairs is important in the National Assembly for Wales. It allows the Assembly to focus clearly on our ability to influence the European Union agenda in Brussels. More importantly, it allows Members from all

allforion a rhoi terfyn ar ansefydlogrwydd y gyfradd gyfnewid. Byddai'r ewro'n dod â sefydlogrwydd i allforwyr Prydeinig ac yn helpu'r sectorau twristiaeth, amaethyddiaeth a gweithgynhyrchu, sydd i gyd wedi dioddef yn ddiweddar. O ran datblygu cynaliadwy, mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn mynd ag agenda'r UE yn ei blaen drwy gynnig rhwydwaith datblygu cynaliadwy pan-Ewropeaidd. Dywed adroddiad blynyddol y Pwyllgor yn gywir y bydd yn cymryd diddordeb agos yn y ddadl ar ddyfodol Ewrop. Mae'n bwysig fod y Cynulliad yn cymryd rhan yn y ddadl hon gan fod haen llywodraeth rhanbarthau a chenhedloedd datganoledig yn hollbwysig i ddyfodol Ewrop ddatganoledig sy'n ymroddedig i amrywiaeth ac sydd mewn cysylltiad â'i dinasyddion. Mae Amcan 1 yn profi'n llwyddiant, gyda thros 500 o brosiectau a £300 miliwn wedi'i ymrwmo: mae gordanysgrifio ar y flaenoriaeth mentrau bach a chanolig. Crewyd banc datblygu cyntaf Cymru, Cyllid Cymru. Dengys hyn nad oes dim sail i welliant 2 yn enw Jonathan Morgan.

Rhaid i'r Cynulliad gymryd rhan yn y ddadl ar ddiwygio'r polisi amaethyddol cyffredin. Rhaid inni wthio agenda Gymreig sy'n hybu cynaliadwyedd mewn amaethyddiaeth, gan adlewyrchu cefnogaeth i ffermydd bach a ffermydd teulu. Mae'n bwysig lleihau biwrocratiaeth hefyd a chefnogi ymhellach gynlluniau amgylcheddol, ffermio organig, ffermydd cydweithredol ac arallgyfeirio. Rhaid i'r Cynulliad edrych at a rhagweld effeithiau ehangu'r UE. Mae Cymru'n annhebygol o gael cronfeydd strwythurol ar ôl 2006. Fodd bynnag, rhaid i'r Cynulliad roi sylw i faterion fel mwy o gynrychiolaeth a chysylltiadau â rhanbarthau a chenhedloedd datganoledig eraill Ewrop i ddylanwadu ar faterion pan fyddwn yn nofio mewn llyn Ewropeaidd mwy.

Jonathan Morgan: Croesawaf y ddadl hon ac adroddiad y Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol. Nid oes amheuaeth nad yw'r Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol yn bwysig yng Nghynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru. Mae'n caniatáu i'r Cynulliad ganolbwyntio'n glir ar ein gallu i ddylanwadu ar agenda'r Undeb Ewropeaidd ym Mrwsel. Yn bwysicach, mae'n caniatáu i

parties to engage in an important series of debates, not only on the relationship between Wales and the EU, but on EU developments such as governance, enlargement, the single European currency and a wide range of issues that impact significantly on Wales. The Committee sent a powerful message to the rest of Wales that the Assembly is serious about its relationship with the European Union. You need only look at the enormous amount of detailed work undertaken by the Committee to see how serious its members are.

However, I am concerned by the appointment of the Deputy First Minister as Minister for Rural Development and Wales Abroad. One would assume that the existing Agriculture and Rural Development Committee would be responsible for rural development and Wales abroad. I believe that that sends a mixed message. It would be the first time in the Assembly's history that an issue such as Wales abroad would be dealt with by both a Standing Committee and a Subject Committee. Members of the Subject Committee would be able to use their powers and influence to scrutinise the role of the Minister in his capacity as Minister for Wales Abroad and contribute to policy development. It would be difficult for us to explain to the various bodies in Wales which part of the Assembly would be responsible for our engagement with Europe. Would it be the Standing Committee, chaired by the Deputy First Minister, or would it be the committee responsible for rural development and Wales abroad? There are many unanswered questions about that Subject Committee's role and how its work will fit in with that of the Committee on European and External Affairs.

EU enlargement, which is referred to in this document, provides an opportunity not to be missed in terms of economic gain, cultural developments and political friendships, which have started to develop between the Government and the Assembly and those regions of the nation states that have applied for EU membership. This type of development will aid our own development as a nation attempting to prove itself in Brussels. The Committee undertakes this important part of the work. I welcome the

Aelodau o bob plaid gymryd rhan mewn cyfres bwysig o ddadleuon, nid yn unig ar y berthynas rhwng Cymru a'r UE, ond ar ddatblygiadau yn yr UE fel llywodraethu, ehangu, arian sengl Ewropeaidd ac amrediad eang o faterion a gaiff effaith arwyddocaol ar Gymru. Anfonodd y Pwyllgor neges gref i weddill Cymru fod y Cynulliad o ddifrif ynglŷn â'i berthynas â'r Undeb Ewropeaidd. Nid oes ond angen ichi edrych ar y peth wmbredd o waith manwl a wneir gan y Pwyllgor i weld pa mor o ddifrif y mae ei aelodau.

Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn bryderus ynghylch penodiad y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn Weinidog dros Ddatblygu Gwledig a Chymru Dramor. Gellid tybio y byddai'r Pwyllgor Amaethyddiaeth a Datblygu Gwledig presennol yn gyfrifol am ddatblygu gwledig a Chymru dramor. Credaf fod hynny'n anfon neges gymysg. Byddai'r tro cyntaf yn hanes y Cynulliad i fater fel Cymru dramor gael ei drafod gan Bwyllgor Sefydlog a chan Bwyllgor Pwnc. Byddai aelodau'r Pwyllgor Pwnc yn gallu defnyddio'u grym a'u dylanwad i archwilio rôl y Gweinidog yn ei swydd fel Gweinidog Cymru Dramor a chyfrannu at ddatblygiad polisi. Byddai'n anodd inni esbonio i'r amryfal gwmmiau yng Nghymru pa ran o'r Cynulliad fyddai'n gyfrifol am ein cysylltiadau ag Ewrop. Ai'r Pwyllgor Sefydlog, dan gadeiryddiaeth y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog, ynteu ai'r pwyllgor cyfrifol am ddatblygu gwledig a Chymru dramor? Mae llawer o gwestiynau heb eu hateb am rôl y Pwyllgor Pwnc hwnnw a sut y gwnaiff ei waith gyd-fynd â gwaith y Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol.

Mae ehangu'r UE, y cyfeirir ato yn y ddogfen hon, yn rhoi cyfle na ddylid ei gollu yn nhermau mantais economaidd, datblygiadau diwylliannol a chyfeillgarwch gwleidyddol, sydd wedi dechrau datblygu rhwng y Llywodraeth a'r Cynulliad a'r rhanbarthau hynny o'r aelod wladwriaethau sydd wedi gwneud cais am aelodaeth o'r UE. Bydd y math hwn o ddatblygiad yn helpu'n datblygiad ni'n hun fel cenedl sy'n ceisio profi'i hun ym Mrwsel. Mae'r Pwyllgor yn ymgymryd â'r rhan bwysig hon o'r gwaith.

establishment of the working group on EU enlargement. It has been useful in terms of developing the Assembly's role and considering how Wales fits into the enlargement process. However, we recognise potential drawbacks. The structural funds will not continue in their present form and the current debate over state aids and regional assistance could further complicate the position for Wales. We need to be fully engaged in this and I am pleased that work is moving in this direction.

In response to Nick Bourne, we tabled our amendment 1 on the Wales European Centre because we are seriously concerned about the future of this body. The First Minister's decision to unilaterally withdraw the Assembly's sponsorship of this body, even though we voted unanimously to be part of it, seriously undermines its future. It sends out a mixed message that we want to influence issues in Brussels and we recognise the importance of other public bodies being there, but that we do not want to be part of WEC. That is a difficult message for us to support. We now need to support what I hope will be a WEC mark two and to determine what the Assembly's future will be in Brussels in terms of locating an office there.

The people of Wales want this Assembly to be engaged with life in Brussels and the European Union. It is more proactive for them to see the work that we are undertaking than, for example, to see Romano Prodi giving children chocolates to promote the single European currency. As long as we undertake that work, it will send the right message to the people of this country.

John Griffiths: As many Members have said, it is important that the Assembly, as a new devolved institution, looks outwards and develops international relations because there is always a tendency for devolved bodies to become parochial and inward-looking. I am pleased that we have not done that. I will concentrate on three aspects of how we have developed international, and—in this context—European roles for the Assembly. They include the Council of Ministers, governance and enlargement.

Croesawaf y gweithgor sydd wedi'i sefydlu ar ehangu'r UE. Bu'n ddefnyddiol o ran datblygu rôl y Cynulliad ac ystyried safle Cymru yn y broses ehangu. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym yn cydnabod anfanteision posibl. Ni fydd y cronfeydd strwythurol yn parhau yn eu ffurf bresennol a gallai'r ddadl gyfredol ynghylch cymhorthion gwladwriaeth a chymorth rhanbarthol gymhlethu sefyllfa Cymru ymhellach. Mae angen inni chwarae rhan lawn yn hyn ac yr wyf yn falch fod gwaith yn symud ymlaen i'r cyfeiriad hwn.

Mewn ymateb i Nick Bourne, cyflwynasom ein gwelliant 1 ar Ganolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru am ein bod yn wirioneddol bryderus ynghylch dyfodol y corff hwn. Mae penderfyniad unochrog y Prif Weinidog i ddileu nawdd y Cynulliad i'r corff hwn, er inni bleidleisio'n unfrydol i fod yn rhan ohono, yn tansilio'i ddyfodol yn ddifrifol. Mae'n anfon neges gymysg allan fod arnom eisiau dylanwadu ar bethau ym Mrwsel a'n bod yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd cael cyrff cyhoeddus eraill yno, ond nad oes arnom eisiau bod yn rhan o'r ganolfan. Mae hynny'n neges anodd i ni ei chefnogi. Mae angen yn awr inni gefnogi yr hyn y gobeithiaf fydd yn ail fersiwn o WEC ac inni benderfynu beth fydd dyfodol y Cynulliad ym Mrwsel o ran lleoli swyddfa yno.

Mae pobl Cymru eisiau i'r Cynulliad ymwneud â bywyd ym Mrwsel a'r Undeb Ewropeaidd. Mae'n fwy rhagweithiol iddynt weld y gwaith yr ydym ni'n ei wneud yn hytrach nag, er enghraifft, gweld Romano Prodi yn rhoi siocledi i blant i hyrwyddo'r arian sengl Ewropeaidd. Dim ond i ni wneud y gwaith hwnnw, bydd yn anfon y neges iawn i bobl y wlad hon.

John Griffiths: Fel y mae llawer o Aelodau wedi dweud, mae'n bwysig fod y Cynulliad, fel sefydliad newydd ei ddatganoli, yn edrych tuag allan ac yn datblygu cysylltiadau rhyngwladol oherwydd mae tuedd o hyd i gyrff datganoledig fynd yn blwyfol a mewnblyg. Yr wyf yn falch nad ydym wedi gwneud hynny. Canolbwyntiaf ar dair agwedd lle'r ydym wedi datblygu rolau rhyngwladol, ac—yn y cyd-destun hwn—Ewropeaidd ar gyfer y Cynulliad. Maent yn cynnwys Cyngor y Gweinidogion, llywodraethu ac ehangu.

On the Council of Ministers, it is well documented that the Assembly has played an important role. It has led the UK on procedural issues; Jane Davidson did so early on. Since then many other Members have attended Council of Ministers' meetings and have played prominent roles. In that important sphere of EU activity, the Assembly has punched above its weight.

The working group on enlargement is important, as Jonathan mentioned. There have been many developments. We are set to sign the memorandum of understanding with Silesia in Poland covering sectors of common interest. We are looking to set up an agreement between Wales Trade International and Czech trade covering mutual interests. We know from visits of representatives of Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic to the Assembly that they are developing relations with us. The same is true of Estonia and Slovenia. Much is happening on the enlargement front. It is good to see such developments because they will benefit Wales and those other countries and regions with which we twin, reach agreements and build relations.

4:50 p.m.

On governance, it is true that the Assembly has played another prominent role. Last March, in Brussels, Rhodri was a signatory to the declaration on European governance. That showed the Assembly playing a strong role, and looking to develop the Assembly's influence and profile within the European Union by building relations with other regions, by developing the roles the Assembly can play, and by sharing experience and views on governance and building a common response. The declaration's wording offers scope for Wales to play an important role in the debate in Europe and the development of the European Union.

This is about improving the quality of decision-making by allowing a greater role

Ar Gyngor y Gweinidogion, mae wedi'i gofnodi mewn mwy nag un man fod y Cynulliad wedi chwarae rôl bwysig. Arweiniodd y DU ar faterion trefniadol; gwnaeth Jane Davidson hynny yn gynnar yn y dydd. Ers hynny mae sawl Aelod arall wedi mynychu cyfarfodydd Cyngor y Gweinidogion ac wedi chwarae rhannau blaenllaw. Yn y maes pwysig hwnnw o weithgaredd yr UE, mae'r Cynulliad wedi gwneud mwy na'i ran.

Mae'r gweithgor ar ehangu'n bwysig, fel y soniodd Jonathan. Cafwyd nifer o ddatblygiadau. Yr ydym yn barod i lofnodi'r memorandwm dealltwriaeth gyda Silesia yng Ngwlad Pwyl yn ymdrin â sectorau o ddiddordeb i'r ddwy wlad. Yr ydym yn gobeithio sefydlu cytundeb rhwng Masnach Cymru Ryngwladol a masnach Siec i ymdrin â chyd-fuddiannau. Gwyddom yn sgîl ymweliadau gan gynrychiolwyr o Hwngari, Gwlad Pwyl a'r Weriniaeth Siec â'r Cynulliad eu bod yn datblygu cysylltiadau â ni. Mae'r un peth yn wir am Estonia a Slofenia. Mae llawer yn digwydd ar ffrynt ehangu. Mae'n dda gweld y fath ddatblygiadau oherwydd byddant yn fanteisiol i Gymru a'r gwledydd a rhanbarthau eraill hynny y byddwn yn gefeillio, yn creu cytundebau ac yn adeiladu perthynas â hwy.

O ran llywodraethu, mae'n wir fod y Cynulliad wedi chwarae rhan flaenllaw arall. Fis Mawrth diwethaf, ym Mrwsel, yr oedd Rhodri'n un o lofnodwyr y datganiad ar lywodraethu Ewrop. Dangosodd hynny y Cynulliad yn chwarae rôl gryf, ac yn edrych i ddatblygu dylanwad a phroffil y Cynulliad o fewn yr Undeb Ewropeidd drwy adeiladu cysylltiadau â rhanbarthau eraill, drwy ddatblygu'r rolau y gall y Cynulliad eu chwarae, a thrwy rannu profiad a syniadau ar lywodraethu ac adeiladu ymateb cyffredin. Mae geiriad y datganiad yn cynnig lle i Gymru chwarae rôl bwysig yn y ddadl yn Ewrop a datblygiad yr Undeb Ewropeidd.

Mater yw hyn o wella ansawdd y broses benderfynu drwy ganiatáu rôl fwy i

for regional authority. Given that we have to implement European Union policy, it is only right that we play a strong role in shaping that policy at the earliest possible stage. These points are made in the declaration. The European Commission's code of practice on consultation is welcome in this regard. The Assembly believes—and it is also reflected in the declaration—that the commission should consult regional authorities directly and individually, and that we should be able to go to it on the same basis. The Committee of the Regions should be able to play such a role. As a former member of that committee, I know that it will have a bigger role to play as it continues to develop. The Assembly will be represented in that regard by Rosemary Butler, as a full member, and by Janet Davies, as an alternate member.

It is impressive that the Assembly has played a developing and continuing role. We are all clear about the benefits for Wales in this context. It is about profile and influence, and the Assembly has given Wales a huge opportunity to develop its influence and role within the European Union. The Assembly has made an impressive start and I look forward, through my membership of the Committee on European and External Affairs, to supporting our role and playing a part in its progress. It is important for Wales, therefore we must make it a success.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Yr wyf fi hefyd yn croesawu'r drafodaeth bwysig hon ar waith y Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol. Mae'r Pwyllgor yn bwysig am ei fod yn rhoi cyfle inni edrych ar y ffordd y mae deddfwriaeth Ewropeaidd yn dylanwadu ar weithgareddau'r Cynulliad ac yn effeithio ar fywydau pobl Cymru. Ers ffurfio'r Pwyllgor, yr ydym wedi ceisio proses sydd yn ein galluogi i ganfod yn gynnar y ddeddfwriaeth a'r rheoliadau Ewropeaidd a fydd yn effeithio ar Gymru ac yn berthnasol i Gymru, er mwyn sicrhau bod gan y Pwyllgorau Pwnc perthnasol gyfle i ystyried deddfwriaeth neu reoliadau o'r fath er mwyn bwydo'u trafodaethau drwy holl system y Cynulliad. Nid ydym wedi llwyddo i wneud hynny hyd yn hyn. Serch hynny, cred rhai aelodau ein bod, gyda chymorth Canolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru ym Mrwsel, o leiaf wedi canfod y broses o wneud hynny.

awdurdod rhanbarthol. Gan fod yn rhaid inni weithredu polisi'r Undeb Ewropeaidd, nid yw ond yn iawn ein bod yn chwarae rôl gryf i ffurfio'r polisi hwnnw mor gynnar ag y bo modd yn y broses. Gwneir y pwyntiau hyn yn y datganiad. Mae cod ymarfer y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd ar ymgynghori i'w groesawu yn hyn o beth. Cred y Cynulliad—ac adlewyrchir hyn hefyd yn y datganiad—y dylai'r comisiwn ymgynghori ag awdurdodau rhanbarthol yn uniongyrchol ac yn unigol, ac y dylem ni allu mynd ato yntau ar yr un sail. Dylai Pwyllgor y Rhanbarthau allu chwarae rôl o'r fath. Fel cyn-aelod o'r pwyllgor hwnnw, gwn y caiff rôl fwy i'w chwarae wrth iddo barhau i ddatblygu. Cynrychiolir y Cynulliad yn hynny o beth gan Rosemary Butler, fel aelod llawn, a chan Janet Davies, fel aelod wrth gefn.

Mae'n edrych yn dda bod y Cynulliad wedi chwarae rôl ddatblygol a pharhaus. Yr ydym i gyd yn glir ynghylch y manteision i Gymru yn y cyd-destun hwn. Mae'n fater o broffil a dylanwad, ac mae'r Cynulliad wedi rhoi cyfle enfawr i Gymru ddatblygu'i dylanwad a'i rôl o fewn yr Undeb Ewropeaidd. Mae'r Cynulliad wedi gwneud dechrau addawol ac edrychaf ymlaen, trwy fy aelodaeth o'r Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol, at gefnogi ein rôl a chwarae rhan yn ei datblygiad. Mae'n bwysig i Gymru, felly rhaid inni sicrhau llwyddiant.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I also welcome this important debate on the work of the Committee on European and External Affairs. The Committee is important as it allows us an opportunity to consider how European legislation influences the Assembly's work and affects the lives of the people of Wales. Ever since the Committee was established, we have sought a process to enable early identification of European legislation and regulations affecting, and relevant to, Wales, in order to ensure that the relevant Subject Committees have an opportunity to consider such legislation and regulations and input their deliberations into the Assembly system as a whole. We have failed in this endeavour to date. However, some members believe that, with the assistance of the Wales European Centre in Brussels, we have at least identified the process.

Trafodwyd yr Undeb Ewropeaidd yng Nghyfarfod Llawn y Cynulliad ar 27 Mehefin 2001. Dyfynnaf eiriau'r Prif Weinidog, a oedd yn gyfrifol am faterion Ewropeaidd ac yn Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ar y pryd:

'Mae'n allweddol ein bod yn mesur a ydym yn cyrraedd y lefel cynnydd angenrheidiol.'

Yr oedd y Prif Weinidog yn sôn am bresenoldeb Cymru yn Ewrop, ymweliadau Gweinidogion a'r angen inni ystyried deddfwriaeth a rheoliadau Ewropeaidd. Parhaodd drwy ddweud:

'Yr ydym wedi cryfhau Canolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru, sydd yn swyddfa i'r Cynulliad, a gobeithiwn ei chryfhau eto yn y dyfodol agos, yn arbennig yn nhermau materion gwledig.'

Braidd yn eironig yw'r geiriau hynny erbyn hyn, heblaw bod y Prif Weinidog wedi rhagweld y byddai'n penodi Gweinidog i fod yn gyfrifol am amaethyddiaeth a materion gwledig ynghyd â materion Ewropeaidd a delwedd ryngwladol Cymru. Dywed pobl yn Ewrop wrthym fod sefydlu proses i ganfod deddfwriaeth a rheoliadau perthnasol yn gynnar yn bwysig os ydym am sicrhau y caiff llais Cymru ei glywed. Y perygl yw y down yn rhan o drafodaethau wrth iddynt ddirwyn i ben, yn hytrach na dylanwadu arnynt yn gynnar yn y broses.

Er ei bod yn ddyddiau cynnar iawn ar Mike German yn ei swydd newydd, bu'n aelod o'r Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol ers cryn amser, a hoffwn glywed ganddo, felly, sut y gall proses o'r fath gael ei sefydlu. Beth yw ei weledigaeth ynglŷn â phresenoldeb Cymru yn Ewrop? A yw'n derbyn—ac y mae hyn yn achos pryder i nifer ohonom ar hyn o bryd—fod presenoldeb Cymru wedi ei effeithio gan y ffaith ein bod yn y broses o dynnu allan o aelodaeth o Ganolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru, a hynny heb inni bennu beth fydd ein presenoldeb yn y dyfodol, a bod amser gwerthfawr yn cael ei golli? Cyfeiriodd Mick Bates at y polisi amaethyddol cyffredin, ond mae ystod o fesurau yn cael eu trafod yn Ewrop ar hyn o bryd, lle mae angen i lais Cymru gael ei

The European Union was discussed in Plenary on 27 June 2001. I quote the First Minister, who was at the time responsible for European affairs and Chair of the Committee on European Affairs:

'It is key that we measure whether we are making the necessary level of progress.'

The First Minister referred to Wales's representation in Europe, ministerial visits and the need to scrutinise European legislation and regulations. He went on to say:

'We have strengthened the Wales European Centre, which is an Assembly office, and we hope to strengthen it further in the near future, especially in terms of rural affairs.'

Those words now seem rather ironic, unless the First Minister had foreseen that he would appoint a Minister to be responsible for agriculture and rural affairs as well as for European affairs and Wales's international profile. People in Europe tell us that establishing a process to identify relevant legislation and regulations at an early stage is crucial if we are to ensure that Wales's voice is to be heard. The danger is that we will join the discussions as they draw to a close, rather than influencing them at an early stage.

Although it is very early days for Mike German in his new post, he has been a member of the Committee on European and External Affairs for some time, and I would like to hear, therefore, how he thinks such a process could be established. What is his vision for Wales's presence in Europe? Does he accept—and this is currently a concern for many Members—that Wales's European presence has been affected by our being in the process of withdrawing from membership of the Wales European Centre, without having decided upon our future representation, and that valuable time is being lost? Mick Bates referred to the common agricultural policy, but discussions are currently being held on a raft of measures in Europe on which Wales's voice needs to

glywed. Beth yw gweledigaeth Mike German ynglŷn â sut y gallwn ganfod deddfwriaeth yn gynnar a'u bwydo drwy'r Cynulliad, gan sicrhau bod gan Gymru lais cryf yn y trafodaethau yn Ewrop?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Dechreuaf gydag ymateb i gyfraniad Rhodri Glyn gan iddo godi pwyntiau yn ymwneud â'n haelodaeth o Ganolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru. Mae hwn yn gyfnod anodd ac allweddol, gan y bu i fwrdd y ganolfan gyfarfod neithiwr i drafod adroddiad Syr John Gray. Nid ydym wedi gweld yr adroddiad hwnnw eto; daw'n ddogfen gyhoeddus ddydd Iau, fe gredaf. Yr wyf wedi addo i'r Cynulliad y caiff dadl ei chynnal cyn toriad yr haf ar ein trefniadau i ddelio â'r mater hwn mewn cydweithrediad â'r rhanddeiliaid pwysig eraill megis Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, y WDA ac ELWa. Bwriadwn gyflwyno cynnig ar gyfer dadl er mwyn i'r Cynulliad gael digon o amser i drafod y mater mewn modd gweddus, a hynny heb y dryswch sy'n ddeillio o'r holl faterion eraill a godwyd yn y Pwyllgor yn ystod y flwyddyn, ac a welwyd, felly, yn ei adroddiad blynyddol. Dychwelwn at y mater hwn, felly, ymhen tua mis, pan fydd pawb yn gyfarwydd â chynnwys adroddiad ac argymhellion Syr John Gray ac wedi gweld ymateb cyntaf bwrdd y ganolfan i'r adroddiad.

On amendment 1, we do not accept Jonathan Morgan's description of the decision to withdraw as 'unilateral', in that the decision to give 12 months' notice of our withdrawal from WEC came after the Welsh Local Government Association's decision to do likewise. It can hardly be regarded as unilateral therefore. As we will return to this issue in a month's time, we will not support amendment 1.

Jonathan Morgan: To clarify the term 'unilateral', I was referring to the decision taken by you, without, it seems, reference to your Cabinet colleagues. If it was discussed at a Cabinet meeting, or with any of the directors nominated by the Assembly, perhaps you would like to display the minutes highlighting that fact. You took the decision.

be heard. What is Mike German's vision for ensuring that we identify legislation at an early stage and input it into the Assembly's work, thus ensuring that Wales has a strong voice in discussions in Europe?

The First Minister: I will start by responding to Rhodri Glyn's contribution since he raised points about our membership of the Wales European Centre. This is a difficult and crucial time, because the centre's board of directors met last night to discuss Sir John Gray's report. We have not yet seen the report; it will not be made public until Thursday, I believe. I promised the Assembly that a debate would be held before the summer recess on our arrangements to deal with this matter in collaboration with other important stakeholders such as the Welsh Local Government Association, the WDA and ELWa. We intend to table a motion for debate so that the Assembly has enough time to discuss the issue in an appropriate manner, without the confusion of all the other issues that arose in Committee during the past year, and which were therefore included in its annual report. We will return to this matter, therefore, in about a month's time, when everyone will be familiar with the contents of Sir John Gray's report and recommendations and will have seen the WEC board's initial response to the report.

Ar welliant 1, nid ydym yn derbyn disgrifiad Jonathan Morgan o'r penderfyniad i dynnu allan fel un 'unochrog', oherwydd daeth y penderfyniad i roi 12 mis o rybudd ein bod am dynnu allan o Ganolfan Ewropeaidd Cymru ar ôl penderfyniad Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru i wneud yr un peth. Prin y gellir ei alw'n unochrog felly. Gan y byddwn yn dod yn ôl at y mater hwn ymhen mis, ni chefnogwn welliant 1.

Jonathan Morgan: I egluro'r term 'unochrog', yr oeddwn yn cyfeirio at y penderfyniad a wnaethpwyd gennych chi, heb, fe ymddengys, gyfeirio at eich cyd-aelodau Cabinet. Os trafodwyd hyn mewn cyfarfod o'r Cabinet, neu gydag unrhyw un o'r cyfarwyddwyr a enwebwyd gan y Cynulliad, efallai yr hoffech ddangos y cofnodion sy'n amlygu'r ffaith honno. Chi a gymerodd y penderfyniad.

5:00 p.m.

The First Minister: The word ‘unilateral’ in amendment 1 refers to the 12 months’ notice of withdrawal, which was given in response to the Welsh Local Government Association’s decision, so as to put us in the same position as the association. We will return to this issue before the summer recess, as I have promised.

Christine Chapman gave the lie to amendment 2. It is an attempt to sell the myth that the private sector is deeply unhappy about its involvement in Objective 1. It is always possible to want more, but £160 million of investment, which is 50 per cent of the £320 million of commitments that have been agreed under Objective 1, should not to be sniffed at. Priorities 1 and 2 are heavily orientated towards the private sector, and the commitment of £160 million contradicts the idea that the private sector is being left out. Key elements of Objective 1 include Opportunity Wales and Finance Wales, the long awaited bank that provides equity and other funds to small and medium-sized enterprises. These have been set up under Objective 1—although they are also available outside the Objective 1 areas under slightly less favourable terms—after many decades of requests to do so. That shows that the private sector is not being ignored. However, one or two bodies that represent the private sector will always say that we should have done better. This programme must work alongside, and is not a substitute for, the Assembly investment grants, regional selective assistance, support for products under research, the small firms merit award for research and technology, and the other award schemes that are available for expanding the private sector. Some people thought that this programme would take over from those schemes, but it must complement them, otherwise the private sector would be worse off.

The wider issues that have been mentioned by many speakers this afternoon are important. The European agenda has shot up in importance. Mick Bates reminded us that Brussels is of overwhelming importance in agriculture. There is no question about that. Probably more decisions and more important

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Mae’r gair ‘unochrog’ yng ngwelliant 1 yn cyfeirio at y 12 mis o rybudd tynnu allan, a roddwyd mewn ymateb i benderfyniad Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, er mwyn ein rhoi ni yn yr un sefyllfa â’r gymdeithas. Deuwn yn ôl at y mater hwn cyn gwyliau’r haf, fel yr addewais.

Profodd Christine Chapman anwiredd gwelliant 2. Ymgais ydyw i werthu’r myth fod y sector preifat yn anhapus iawn ynghylch ei ymwneud ag Amcan 1. Mae modd bod eisiau mwy bob amser, ond nid chwarae bach yw £160 miliwn o fuddsoddiad, sy’n 50 y cant o’r £320 miliwn o ymrwymadau a gytunwyd dan Amcan 1. Mae blaenoriaethau 1 a 2 yn gogwyddo’n drwm tuag at y sector preifat, ac mae’r ymrwymiad o £160 miliwn yn gwrth-ddweud y syniad fod y sector preifat yn cael ei adael allan. Ymhlith elfennau allweddol Amcan 1 mae Cyfle Cymru a Chyllid Cymru, y banc hirddisgwyliedig sy’n darparu cronfeydd soddyfrannol ac eraill i fentrau bach a chanolig. Sefydlwyd y rhain dan Amcan 1—er eu bod ar gael hefyd y tu allan i ardaloedd Amcan 1 dan delerau ychydig yn llai ffafriol—wedi degawdau lawer o geisiadau amdanynt. Dyna ddangos nad yw’r sector preifat yn cael ei anwybyddu. Fodd bynnag, bydd un neu ddau o gyrff sy’n cynrychioli’r sector preifat bob amser yn dweud y dylasem fod wedi gwneud yn well. Rhaid i’r rhaglen hon weithio ochr yn ochr â, ac nid cymryd lle, grantiau buddsoddi’r Cynulliad, cymorth dewisol rhanbarthol, cymorth i nwyddau sy’n destun ymchwil, gwobr teilyngdod ymchwil a datblygu cwmnïau bach, a’r cynlluniau gwobrau eraill sydd ar gael am ehangu’r sector preifat. Tybiodd rhai pobl y byddai’r rhaglen hon yn disodli’r cynlluniau hynny, ond rhaid iddi gydorwedd â hwy, neu byddai’r sector preifat yn waeth ei fyd.

Mae’r materion ehangach a grybwyllwyd gan nifer o siaradwyr y prynhawn yma yn bwysig. Mae pwysigrwydd yr agenda Ewropeaidd wedi saethu i fyny. Atgoffodd Mick Bates ni fod Brwsel yn hollbwysig ym myd amaeth. Nid oes dwy waith am hynny. Mae’n debyg y gwneir mwy o

decisions on agriculture are made in Brussels than in London or Cardiff. We must accept that; it was part of the deal when Britain joined the European community many years ago. The reform of the common agricultural policy will be boiling up over the next few years.

It is also important for us to be involved in the Laeken convention process and the preparation for the inter-governmental conference in 2004. We must ensure that the voice of the regional tier of governments, including Wales, is heard during the run-up to the rewriting of the European treaties, which will take place in early 2004.

Enlargement means that the European centre of gravity will be moving steadily eastwards, and that cannot be good for Wales. We must ensure that we shout louder, and that our trade and investment programmes are ready to cope with the impact of that. Wages in the countries that will join—with the exception of Cyprus and Malta—are much lower than those in Great Britain. Therefore these countries will be significant competitors in industry. Industry will tend to want to move to eastern Europe, where it can remain inside the EU boundaries, for geographical and wage cost reasons. That is important.

Also, we expect that around May or June 2003, the euro referendum question, or the five economic tests at least, will be decided upon. Whether the referendum happens then or not, it will be a burning political issue by then. For those reasons, therefore—

Alun Cairns: Are you suggesting that the five economic tests will not be decided upon before a referendum?

The First Minister: My understanding is that the Treasury will be ready to determine on the five economic tests by June 2003, or perhaps earlier, to permit a referendum around that time if the tests are met. It is an approximate date. It has been indicated that the Treasury will be ready to speak delphically at that time in order to permit a

benderfyniadau a mwy o benderfyniadau pwysig ar amaethyddiaeth ym Mrwsel nag yn Llundain na Chaerdydd. Rhaid inni dderbyn hynny; yr oedd yn rhan o'r fargen pan ymunodd Prydain â'r Gymuned Ewropeaidd flynyddoedd lawer yn ôl. Bydd diwygio'r polisi amaethyddol cyffredin yn dod i'r berw dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd nesaf.

Mae'n bwysig hefyd inni gael rhan ym mhroses cynhadledd Laeken a'r paratoad ar gyfer y gynhadledd ryng-lywodraethol yn 2004. Rhaid inni sicrhau y clywir llais yr haen ranbarthol o lywodraethau, gan gynnwys Cymru, yn ystod y cyfnod yn arwain at ailysgrifennu'r cytundebau Ewropeaidd, a fydd yn digwydd yn gynnar yn 2004.

Golyga ehangu y bydd craidd disgyrchiant Ewrop yn symud yn raddol tua'r dwyrain, ac ni all hynny fod yn dda i Gymru. Rhaid inni sicrhau ein bod yn gweiddi'n uwch, a bod ein rhaglenni masnach a buddsoddi yn barod i ymdopi ag effaith hynny. Mae cyflogau yn y gwledydd a fydd yn ymuno—ac eithrio Cyprus a Melita—yn llawer is nag ym Mhrydain Fawr. Felly bydd y gwledydd hyn yn gystadleuwyr arwyddocaol mewn diwydiant. Bydd diwydiant yn tueddu i fod eisiau symud i ddwyrain Ewrop, lle gall aros o fewn ffiniau'r UE, am resymau daearyddol a rhesymau cost cyflogau. Mae hynny'n bwysig.

Hefyd, disgwyliwn y penderfynir oddeutu Mai neu Fehefin 2003 ar gwestiwn refferendwm yr ewro, neu'r pum prawf economaidd, o leiaf. Os ceir refferendwm bryd hynny neu beidio, bydd yn bwnc llosg gwleidyddol erbyn hynny. Am y rhesymau hynny, felly—

Alun Cairns: A ydych yn awgrymu na phenderfynir ar y pum prawf economaidd cyn refferendwm?

Prif Weinidog Cymru: Fy nealltwriaeth i yw y bydd y Trysorlys yn barod i benderfynu ar y pum prawf economaidd erbyn Mehefin 2003, neu efallai'n gynt, i ganiatáu refferendwm oddeutu'r adeg honno os cyflawnir y profion. Dyddiad bras ydyw. Nodwyd y bydd y Trysorlys yn barod i siarad yn oraclaidd bryd hynny er mwyn caniatáu

possible referendum.

refferendwm posibl.

For all those reasons, the work of the Committee on European and External Affairs has been important during the past year and will be of even greater importance over the next few years.

Am y rhesymau hynny i gyd, bu gwaith y Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol yn bwysig yn ystod y flwyddyn a aeth heibio a bydd yn bwysicach fyth yn ystod yr ychydig flynyddoedd nesaf.

Gwelliant 1: O blaid 20, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 29.

Amendment 1: For 20, Abstain 0, Against 29.

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

Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Graham, William
Hancock, Brian
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Rogers, Peter
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
Burnham, Eleanor
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
Hutt, Jane
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Thomas, Gwenda
Williams, Kirsty

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

Gwelliant 2: O blaid 19, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 30.

Amendment 2: For 19, Abstain 0, Against 30.

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

Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Graham, William
Hancock, Brian
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn

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
Davies, Ron
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue

Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Rogers, Peter
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Phil

Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Thomas, Gwenda
Williams, Kirsty

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Cynnig: O blaid 31, Ymatal 13, Yn erbyn 7.
Motion: For 31, Abstain 13, Against 7.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Ron
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Halford, Alison
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Thomas, Gwenda

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Dafis, Cynog

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

Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun
Davies, Glyn
Graham, William
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Rogers, Peter

Davies, Geraint
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Hancock, Brian
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lloyd, David
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wigley, Dafydd
Williams, Phil

Derbyniwyd y cynnig.

Motion carried.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: That brings today's proceedings to a close. **Y Dirprwy Lywydd:** Daw hynny â chyfarfod heddiw i ben.

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5.05 p.m.

The session ended at 5.05 p.m.