



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

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

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

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

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

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, Chwaraeon a'r Gymraeg Questions to the Minister for Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language

Datblygu Rôl y Gymuned yn y Celfyddydau Greater Community Involvement in the Arts

Q1 Richard Edwards: What plans does the Minister have for greater community involvement in the arts in Wales? (OAQ22631)

The Minister for Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language (Jenny Randerson): I am keen to ensure that the Welsh Assembly Government's policies offer help and encouragement to people in all parts of Wales, and from all communities, to enjoy the arts. My culture strategy, 'Creative Future: Cymru Greadigol', sets out a number of targets for the community arts. Community arts organisations have received £1.7 million so far this year from the Assembly Government via the Arts Council of Wales. Immediately after today's Plenary, I shall be launching a youth arts fund called 'Supporting Young Creativity', which is worth over £1.7 million a year.

Richard Edwards: Do you believe that the Arts Council of Wales, when it considered applications for support, recognised the importance of local knowledge and community energy enterprise and experience as key factors in project success and long-term viability? A perfect example of those key factors is the proposed last invasion centre in Fishguard, in my constituency. This is a community-initiated project where an experienced team with an excellent track record plans to regenerate the town centre, create new jobs, support entrepreneurship in textile design and craft and provide a much-needed tourist attraction for north Pembrokeshire. The Arts Council of Wales appears to have ignored those key factors in its recent assessment of the project, and has, sadly, declined to support it financially, thereby jeopardising other funding promised to the trustees and casting doubt over the

C1 Richard Edwards: Pa gynlluniau sydd gan y Gweinidog i ddatblygu rôl y gymuned yn y celfyddydau yng Nghymru? (OAQ22631)

Y Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, Chwaraeon a'r Gymraeg (Jenny Randerson): Yr wyf yn awyddus i sicrhau bod polisïau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cynnig cymorth ac anogaeth i bobl ym mhob cwr o Gymru, ac ym mhob cymuned, i fwynhau'r celfyddydau. Mae fy strategaeth ddiwylliannol, 'Creative Future: Cymru Greadigol', yn nodi nifer o dargedau ar gyfer y celfyddydau yn y gymuned. Cafodd sefydliadau celfyddydol yn y gymuned £1.7 miliwn hyd yma eleni gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad drwy gyfrwng Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru. Yn union ar ôl y Cyfarfod Llawn hwn heddiw, byddaf yn lansio cronfa celfyddydau ieuenctid o'r enw 'Cynnal Creadigrwydd Pobl Ifanc', sydd werth dros £1.7 miliwn y flwyddyn.

Richard Edwards: A gredwch i Gyngor Celfyddydau Cymru, wrth iddo ystyried ceisiadau am gymorth, gydnabod pwysigrwydd gwybodaeth leol a menter ynni gymunedol a phrofiad fel ffactorau sy'n allweddol i lwyddiant prosiect a'i hyfywedd hirdymor? Enghraifft berffaith o'r ffactorau allweddol hynny yw canolfan y goresgyniad olaf arfaethedig yn Abergwaun, yn fy etholaeth i. Mae hwn yn brosiect cymunedol lle mae tîm profiadol gydag enw arbennig o dda yn bwriadu adfywio canol y dref, creu swyddi newydd, cefnogi entrepreneuriaeth ym maes dylunio a chreffft tecstilau a darparu atyniadau twristiaeth y mae galw mawr amdanynt, yng ngogledd Sir Benfro. Ymddengys fod Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru wedi anwybyddu'r ffactorau allweddol hynny yn ei asesiad diweddar o'r prosiect, ac, yn anffodus, mae wedi penderfynu peidio â chefnogi'r fenter yn ariannol, a thrwy hynny,

whole project.

Jenny Randerson: I am aware of your interest and concern about this matter and I have written to you saying that I am happy to meet you to discuss the issue and see how we can advance the project. However, it is important to say that the project has now been to appeal before the Arts Council of Wales, and the initiators of the project could, if they wished, approach the parliamentary ombudsman via their local MP. I reiterate that the arts council—within its criteria—had clear grounds for concern about this project. Bearing in mind the sad events involving the Centre for Visual Arts, one must accept that, with a big project like this, visitor numbers and long-term viability give justifiable grounds for concern. However, I hope that when we meet in the near future we can find a way forward for this project, or a way in which this tapestry can, in the long term, be displayed.

Jonathan Morgan: One organisation seeking to expand community participation and access is Clwyd Theatr Cymru. It has been attempting to find a home in the capital city. Will the Minister update the Assembly as to what progress has been made by our national theatre company in trying to establish itself in Cardiff?

Jenny Randerson: I have received no approaches from Clwyd Theatr Cymru about the question of a national home in Cardiff. I am aware that it would be ambitious to develop as a national theatre for Wales and, looking at Wales as a whole and at theatre as a whole, I am concerned that we develop our English language national theatre in the way that we have been able to set in train Welsh language national theatre. I am working with the arts council at the moment to ensure that, in time for the next budget planning round, there are robust proposals for an English language national theatre for Wales. On specific building issues, I have not received an approach.

mae wedi rhoi arian arall a addawyd i'r ymddiriedolwyr yn y fantol ac wedi bwrw amheuaeth dros y prosiect cyfan.

Jenny Randerson: Yr wyf yn ymwybodol o'ch diddordeb a'ch pryder ynglŷn â'r mater hwn, ac ysgrifennais atoch yn dweud fy mod yn barod i'ch cyfarfod i drafod y mater ac i ystyried sut y gallwn ddatblygu'r prosiect. Fodd bynnag, mae'n bwysig dweud bod y prosiect erbyn hyn wedi bod i apel gerbron Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru, a gallai'r rhai sy'n gyfrifol am y prosiect, pe dymunent, gysylltu â'r ombwdsmon seneddol drwy eu AS lleol. Pwysleisiaf fod gan gyngor y celfyddydau—o fewn ei feini prawf—resymau cryf dros bryderu ynglŷn â'r prosiect hwn. O ystyried y digwyddiadau trist yn gysylltiedig â Chanolfan y Celfyddydau Gweledol, rhaid derbyn gyda phrosiect mawr fel hwn, bod nifer yr ymwelwyr a hyfywedd hirdymor yn rhoi rheswm cyfiawn dros bryderu. Fodd bynnag, gobeithiaf pan fyddwn yn cyfarfod yn y dyfodol agos y gallwn ddod o hyd i ffordd ymlaen ar gyfer y prosiect hwn, neu ffordd y gall y tapestri hwn, yn yr hirdymor, gael ei arddangos.

Jonathan Morgan: Un sefydliad sy'n ceisio ehangu ei rôl yn y gymuned a mynediad i'r gymuned yw Clwyd Theatr Cymru. Mae wedi bod yn ceisio dod o hyd i gartref yn y brifddinas. A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r Cynulliad ynglŷn â'r cynnydd y mae ein cwmni theatr cenedlaethol wedi ei wneud i geisio ymsefydlu yng Nghaerdydd?

Jenny Randerson: Nid wyf wedi derbyn unrhyw ymholiadau gan Clwyd Theatr Cymru ynglŷn â chael cartref cenedlaethol yng Nghaerdydd. Yr wyf yn ymwybodol ei fod yn uchelgeisiol i ddatblygu fel theatr genedlaethol ar gyfer Cymru ac, o edrych ar Gymru gyfan ac ar theatr yn ei chyfanrwydd, yr wyf yn awyddus inni ddatblygu ein theatr genedlaethol Saesneg yn yr un modd ag yr ydym wedi dechrau ei wneud gyda'r theatr genedlaethol Gymraeg. Yr wyf yn gweithio gyda chynghor y celfyddydau ar hyn o bryd i greu cynigion cadarn ar gyfer theatr genedlaethol Saesneg yng Nghymru mewn pryd ar gyfer y cylch cynllunio'r gyllideb nesaf. Ar faterion yn ymwneud ag adeiladau penodol, nid oes neb wedi cysylltu â mi.

Tom Middlehurst: It is time that we recognised the importance of Clwyd Theatr Cymru as the English language national theatre for Wales. Will you take some early action to encourage the arts council to recognise its importance to theatre? Will you acknowledge that in its determination to create a viable national theatre in Wales it is working alongside Cardiff County Council? I pay tribute to Russell Goodway, the leader of that council for his enthusiasm in supporting the project. Will you also add your weight to the efforts of the theatre to create a truly national theatre for Wales?

Jenny Randerson: I believe in putting my money where my mouth is. By increasing the revenue funding stream to Clwyd Theatr Cymru to £1.3 million per year and by providing, via the Finance Minister, £560,000 to eliminate debt, we have taken steps to deal with a thorny problem, which I acknowledge in terms of Clwyd Theatr Cymru's position. I have answered your question in my response to Jonathan. I am actively working with the arts council on an English language national theatre scheme for Wales, and I will ensure that there is a robust scheme available for consideration in the next budget planning round.

Rosemary Butler: I agree with Richard, that when you get the grass-roots organising their own festivals you get real vibrancy. Such an event has been organised in my own village of Caerleon. Unfortunately the organisers have not been able to attract funding. When you are reviewing Wales's festivals—and I understand you undertake an audit of them—I wonder whether you could create a seed-corn budget so that smaller festivals can use that fund directly to help them set up in the first year. Funding is easier to find during the second and third years. However, getting off the ground with true volunteers is often difficult.

2.10 p.m.

Jenny Randerson: The idea of setting up a seed-corn budget is extremely good. Many local authorities provide that, but it may not

Tom Middlehurst: Mae'n bryd inni gydnabod pwysigrwydd Clwyd Theatr Cymru fel theatr genedlaethol Saesneg Cymru. A wnewch chi gymryd camau cynnar i annog cyngor y celfyddydau i gydnabod pwysigrwydd y theatr? A wnewch chi gydnabod, yn ei benderfyniad i greu theatr genedlaethol hyfyw yng Nghymru ei fod yn gweithio ochr yn ochr â Chyngor Sir Caerdydd? Talaf deyrnged i Russell Goodway, arweinydd y cyngor hwnnw am ei gefnogaeth frwd i'r prosiect. A wnewch chi hefyd gefnogi ymdrechion y theatr i greu theatr wirioneddol genedlaethol ar gyfer Cymru?

Jenny Randerson: Yr wyf yn credu mewn rhoi fy arian ar fy ngair. Drwy gynyddu'r ffrwd ariannu refeniw i Clwyd Theatr Cymru i £1.3 miliwn y flwyddyn a thrwy ddarparu £560,000 drwy'r Gweinidog Cyllid er mwyn cael gwared ar ddyled, yr ydym wedi cymryd camau i ddelio â phroblem ddyrys, a gydnabuwyd gennyf o ran sefyllfa Clwyd Theatr Cymru. Yr wyf wedi ateb eich cwestiwn yn fy ymateb i Jonathan. Yr wyf yn gweithio gyda chyngor y celfyddydau ar gynllun theatr genedlaethol Saesneg yng Nghymru, a byddaf yn sicrhau bod cynllun cadarn ar gael i'w ystyried yn y cylch cynllunio'r gyllideb nesaf.

Rosemary Butler: Cytunaf â Richard, pan fydd pobl yn trefnu eu gwyliau eu hunain, mae bywiogrwydd gwirioneddol yn bodoli. Mae digwyddiad o'r fath wedi ei drefnu yn fy mhentref fy hun, sef Caerllion. Yn anffodus, nid yw'r trefnwyr wedi gallu denu nawdd. Pan fyddwch yn adolygu gwyliau Cymru—a deallaf eich bod yn cynnal archwiliad ohonynt—tybed a allech greu cyllideb gychwynnol er mwyn i wyliau llai allu defnyddio'r gronfa honno yn uniongyrchol i'w helpu i ymsefydlu yn eu blwyddyn gyntaf. Mae'n haws dod o hyd i nawdd yn yr ail a'r drydedd flwyddyn. Fodd bynnag, mae sefydlu gŵyl gyda gwir wirfoddolwyr, yn aml yn anodd.

Jenny Randerson: Mae'r syniad o sefydlu cyllideb gychwynnol yn un arbennig o dda. Mae llawer o awdurdodau lleol yn darparu

be available in Newport. I will feed the idea into the Arts Council of Wales in terms of how it approaches festivals in the future.

I regret the fact that Caerleon has failed in its various bids, if that is the case. When I met the festival organisers, they had many funding ideas on stream and seemed to be an enthusiastic and knowledgeable group of people. They were keen, and I am sorry that they will not be able to get the festival off the ground this year.

hynny, ond efallai nad yw ar gael yng Nghasnewydd. Byddaf yn cyfleu'r syniad i Gyngor Celfyddydau Cymru o ran sut i ymdrin â gwyliau yn y dyfodol.

Mae'n resyn gennyf fod Caerllion wedi methu yn ei hamrywiol ymdrechion, os mai dyna'r achos. Pan gyfarfûm â threfnwyr yr ŵyl, yr oedd ganddynt lawer o syniadau nawdd ar y gweill ac yr oeddent yn ymddangos fel grŵp brwdfrydig a deallus o bobl. Yr oeddent yn frwdfrydig, ac mae'n ddrwg gennyf na fyddant yn gallu sefydlu'r ŵyl eleni.

Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru The National Eisteddfod of Wales

C2 David Davies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ynghylch yr arian sydd ar gael i gynnal Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru yn Sir Fynwy? (OAQ22654)

Q2 David Davies: Will the Minister make a statement on the funding available to bring the National Eisteddfod of Wales to Monmouthshire? (OAQ22654)

Jenny Randerson: The Welsh Assembly Government provides funding towards the National Eisteddfod's core costs through the Welsh Language Board. In 2003-04, this funding will be £350,000—a 17 per cent increase on the previous year. National Eisteddfodau are funded by a contribution from the appropriate local authority, local fundraising initiatives and sponsorship from a variety of local and international companies, along with proceeds from the event itself.

Jenny Randerson: Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn darparu arian tuag at gostau craidd yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol drwy gyfrwng Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg. Yn 2003-04, bydd y swm hwn yn £350,000—cynnydd o 17 y cant ar y flwyddyn flaenorol. Ariennir Eisteddfodau Cenedlaethol gan gyfraniad gan yr awdurdod lleol priodol, mentrau codi arian lleol a nawdd gan amrywiaeth o gwmnïau lleol a chenedlaethol, ynghyd ag elw'r digwyddiad ei hun.

David Davies: Yr wyf yn sicr eich bod yn cytuno ei bod yn bwysig i'r Eisteddfod ymweld â phob ardal yng Nghymru er mwyn datblygu'r iaith mewn ardaloedd di-Gymraeg a datblygu'r economi leol. A wnewch chi sicrhau eich bod yn ariannu'r hyn yr ydych yn ei addo pan ddaw'r amser i'r Eisteddfod Genedlaethol ymweld â Sir Fynwy?

David Davies: I am sure that you agree that it is important for the Eisteddfod to visit every area of Wales in order to develop the language in anglicised areas and to develop the local economy. Will you ensure that you put your money where your mouth is when the time comes for the National Eisteddfod to visit Monmouthshire?

Jenny Randerson: My answer explained that that was the case. A 17 per cent increase in funding this year is extremely generous. The important point in your question was the fact that the Welsh language should be nurtured everywhere. I was delighted that the census figures indicated that the number of Welsh speakers in Monmouthshire had increased from 2 to 9 per cent. The percentage and increase in real terms was from 2,000 to 7,000 Welsh speakers.

Jenny Randerson: Yr oedd fy ateb yn egluro mai dyna oedd yr achos. Mae cynnydd o 17 y cant mewn nawdd eleni yn arbennig o hael. Y pwynt pwysig yn eich cwestiwn oedd y ffaith y dylid meithrin y Gymraeg ymhobman. Yr oeddwn yn hynod falch bod ffigurau'r cyfrifiad yn dangos bod nifer y siaradwyr Cymraeg yn Sir Fynwy wedi cynyddu o 2 i 9 y cant. Y ganran a'r cynnydd mewn termau gwirioneddol oedd o 2,000 i 7,000 o siaradwyr Cymraeg. Mae Casnewydd yn

Newport is a case in point. Holding the Eisteddfod in areas where the language is not as common as in other parts of Wales is extremely effective in terms of stimulating the number of Welsh speakers in such an area. It is important that we regard it as *iaith pawb* or everyone's language.

Phil Williams: Not only is Monmouth a county that shows a heartening increase in the proportion of Welsh speakers, it is also one of the most beautiful areas of Wales—a fact not always realised outside Wales, just as the wide appeal of the Eisteddfod is not always appreciated. The Assembly is developing a cultural tourism strategy. What steps do you propose to maximise the opportunities to market the National Eisteddfod inside and outside Wales as part of that tourism strategy, particularly in areas such as Monmouthshire?

Jenny Randerson: The Wales Tourist Board is aware of the contribution that the Eisteddfod makes to its tourism strategies in general. The cultural tourism strategy is a matter for Andrew Davies, although it was developed in co-ordination with me and my officials. You should ask him when it will be announced.

enghraifft nodedig. Mae cynnal yr Eisteddfod mewn ardaloedd lle nad yw'r iaith mor gyffredin ag mewn ardaloedd eraill o Gymru yn ffordd hynod effeithiol o gynyddu nifer y siaradwyr Cymraeg mewn ardal o'r fath. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn ei hystyried fel iaith pawb.

Phil Williams: Mae Sir Fynwy nid yn unig yn sir sy'n dangos cynnydd calonogol yn y gyfran o siaradwyr Cymraeg, mae hefyd yn un o ardaloedd harddaf Cymru—ffaith nad yw'n hysbys bob amser y tu allan i Gymru, yn union fel na chaiff apêl eang yr Eisteddfod bob amser ei gwerthfawrogi. Mae'r Cynulliad yn datblygu strategaeth twristiaeth ddiwylliannol. Pa gamau y bwriadwch eu cymryd i wneud y gorau o'r cyfleoedd i farchnata'r Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yng Nghymru a thu hwnt fel rhan o'r strategaeth dwristiaeth honno, yn enwedig mewn ardaloedd megis Sir Fynwy?

Jenny Randerson: Mae Bwrdd Croeso Cymru yn ymwybodol o'r cyfraniad a wna'r Eisteddfod i'w strategaethau twristiaeth yn gyffredinol. Mater i Andrew Davies yw'r strategaeth twristiaeth ddiwylliannol, er iddi gael ei datblygu mewn cydweithrediad â mi a'm swyddogion. Dylech ofyn iddo pa bryd y caiff ei chyhoeddi.

Uned Iaith Gymraeg Welsh Language Unit

C3 Dafydd Wigley: Pryd gaiff yr uned iaith Gymraeg, y cyfeirir ati yn 'Iaith Pawb', ei sefydlu? (OAQ22637)

Jenny Randerson: The Welsh language unit has already been established within the Culture and the Welsh Language division. The unit is responsible for overseeing the implementation of 'Iaith Pawb' and the Assembly Government's Welsh language scheme, mainstreaming Welsh language issues into policies and programmes, providing strategic advice on Welsh language policy, and sponsoring the Welsh Language Board. It is also responsible for the sponsorship of the Welsh Books Council and providing advice on film and broadcasting policy.

Q3 Dafydd Wigley: When will the Welsh language unit, referred to in 'Iaith Pawb', be established? (OAQ22637)

Jenny Randerson: Sefydlwyd yr uned iaith Gymraeg eisoes o fewn yr adran Ddiwylliant a'r Gymraeg. Mae'r uned yn gyfrifol am oruchwylio'r broses o weithredu 'Iaith Pawb' a chynllun iaith Gymraeg Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, cynnwys materion yn ymwneud â'r iaith Gymraeg mewn polisiau a rhaglenni, darparu cyngor strategol ar bolisi iaith Gymraeg, a noddi Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg. Mae hefyd yn gyfrifol am noddi Cyngor Llyfrau Cymru ac am ddarparu cyngor ar bolisi ffilm a darlledu.

Dafydd Wigley: Yr wyf yn falch bod hynny

Dafydd Wigley: I am pleased that progress

wedi symud ymlaen. A yw'r staff sydd eu hangen ar yr uned yn eu swyddi a beth yw cyllideb yr uned ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf?

Jenny Randerson: A breakdown of budgetary issues is not available because of how civil service budgets are monitored. However, the branch will have nine members of staff and we are ahead with their recruitment. The establishment of the unit is ahead of schedule; it was scheduled to be established on 1 April. The fact that we were able to get it up and running on 3 February is a testament to our commitment to its progress. Two years ago, only four members of staff were working in this policy field; we are now on stream to have nine members of staff by 1 April.

Alun Pugh: Yr wyf yn hapus i weld ar dudalen 49 'Iaith Pawb' bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn marchnata ac yn hybu'r iaith ym mhob agwedd ar fywyd Cymru. A wnewch chi ddarparu arwyddion cyhoeddus yn y sector preifat? Nid oes angen deddfwriaeth newydd; byddai nodyn cyngor technegol yn ddigonol. A gawn hynny?

Jenny Randerson: The Welsh Language Board received £1 million of additional funding from last April to work with the private sector and to make progress in several areas. I agree that we should work with the board rather than introduce new legislation. A great deal of progress can still be made. There have already been excellent pilot projects, and the Welsh Language Board has already carried out excellent work with small and big businesses. A lot of exciting work is ongoing: seminars have been held with the business sector to engage it in the issues, to develop best practice, and to share ideas on how to best use the Welsh language in the private sector.

John Griffiths: 'Iaith Pawb' makes clear the importance of education in taking the language forward in Wales. With Jane Davidson, will you consider providing for special educational needs through the medium of Welsh in the more anglicised—if that is the right word—areas of Wales such as Newport?

has been made. Are all the staff needed to run the unit in post, and what is the unit's budget for next year?

Jenny Randerson: Nid oes dadansoddiad o faterion cyllid ar gael oherwydd y modd y caiff cyllidebau'r gwasanaeth sifil eu monitro. Fodd bynnag, bydd naw aelod o staff gan y gangen ac yr ydym ar y blaen gyda'r broses o'u recriwtio. Mae'r broses o sefydlu'r uned yn digwydd yn gynt na'r disgwyl; disgwyliwyd iddi gael ei sefydlu ar 1 Ebrill. Mae'r ffaith inni lwyddo i sicrhau ei bod yn weithredol ar 3 Chwefror yn arwydd o'n hymrwymiad i'w datblygiad. Ddwy flynedd yn ôl, pedwar aelod o staff yn unig a oedd yn gweithio yn y maes polisi hwn; erbyn hyn yr ydym yn anelu at gael naw aelod o staff erbyn 1 Ebrill.

Alun Pugh: I am glad to see on page 49 of 'Iaith Pawb' that the Assembly Government will market and promote the language in all aspects of Welsh life. Will you provide public signage in the private sector? We do not need new legislation; a technical advice note would be sufficient. Can we have that?

Jenny Randerson: Derbyniodd Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg £1 miliwn o arian ychwanegol o fis Ebrill diwethaf i weithio gyda'r sector preifat ac i wneud cynnydd mewn sawl maes. Cytunaf y dylem weithio gyda'r bwrdd yn hytrach na chyflwyno deddfwriaeth newydd. Gellir gwneud cynnydd mawr o hyd. Bu prosiectau peilot gwych eisoes, ac mae Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg eisoes wedi gwneud gwaith gwych gyda busnesau bach a mawr. Mae llawer o waith cyffrous ar y gweill: cynhaliwyd seminarau gyda'r sector busnes i'w gynnwys yn y gwaith, i ddatblygu arferion gorau, ac i rannu syniadau am y ffordd orau o ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg yn y sector preifat.

John Griffiths: Mae 'Iaith Pawb' yn dangos yn glir bwysigrwydd addysg o ran datblygu'r iaith yng Nghymru. A wnewch chi, gyda Jane Davidson, ystyried darparu ar gyfer anghenion addysgol arbennig drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn yr ardaloedd mwy Seisnigaidd o Gymru—os mai dyna'r gair cywir—megis Casnewydd?

Jenny Randerson: That is a matter for Jane Davidson. However, you will recall that £9.5 million of additional funding will be made available within the formal educational structure, and that some of that money has already been allocated to special educational needs. I will happily raise the fact with Jane Davidson that that facility should be available in the more anglicised areas of Wales. A case was brought to my attention recently with regard to the availability of facilities for those with special educational needs in Newport. It is important to ensure a level playing field throughout Wales.

Jenny Randerson: Mater i Jane Davidson yw hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, cofiwch y bydd £9.5 miliwn o arian ychwanegol ar gael o fewn y strwythur addysgol ffurfiol, ac y clustnodwyd peth o'r arian hwnnw eisoes i anghenion addysgol arbennig. Byddaf yn fwy na bodlon codi'r ffaith gyda Jane Davidson y dylai'r cyfleuster hwnnw fod ar gael yn ardaloedd mwy Seisnigaidd Cymru. Tynnwyd achos i'm sylw yn ddiweddar ynglŷn ag argaeledd cyfleusterau i'r rhai ag anghenion addysgol arbennig yng Nghasnewydd. Mae'n bwysig sicrhau tegwch ledled Cymru.

Cyfleusterau Nofio yng Ngogledd Cymru Swimming Facilities in North Wales

Q4 Ann Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the provision of facilities for swimming in north Wales? (OAQ22645)

C4 Ann Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ynghylch y cyfleusterau nofio a ddarperir yng ngogledd Cymru? (OAQ22645)

Jenny Randerson: I have been advised by the Sports Council for Wales that north Wales is well catered for in terms of competition pools for the purpose of regional training and competitions. The Sports Council for Wales is currently inviting local authorities in north Wales to register their interests in hosting the development of an eight-lane, 25m pool for the area.

Jenny Randerson: Fe'm cynghorwyd gan Gyngor Chwaraeon Cymru bod digon o byllau cystadlu yn y Gogledd at ddibenion hyfforddi a chynnal cystadleuthau rhanbarthol. Ar hyn o bryd mae Cyngor Chwaraeon Cymru yn gwahodd awdurdodau lleol yn y Gogledd i ddangos eu diddordeb i gynnal y gwaith o ddatblygu pwll nofio wyth lôn, 25m o hyd ar gyfer yr ardal.

2.20 p.m.

Ann Jones: Thank you for that answer. Swimming for fun is as important as the serious side of swimming. I pay tribute to the dedication of many parents who get up at the unearthly hour of 4.30 a.m. most mornings to take their children to swimming pools to train. I am pleased that we are now considering an eight-lane, 25m pool for north Wales. However, do you agree that it is unfair to expect people from north Wales to travel four hours to the 50m pool in south Wales? Do you not agree that we should consider having a 50m pool, rather than a 25m one, in north Wales?

Ann Jones: Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw. Mae nofio o ran hwyl cyn bwysiced â nofio o ddifrif. Talaf deyrnged i ymrwymiad nifer o rieni sy'n codi yn oriau mân y bore am 4.30 a.m. y rhan fwyaf o foreau i fynd â'u plant i hyfforddi mewn pyllau nofio. Yr wyf yn falch ein bod bellach yn ystyried pwll nofio wyth lôn, 25m ar gyfer gogledd Cymru. Fodd bynnag, a ydych yn cytuno ei bod yn annheg disgwyl i bobl y Gogledd deithio pedair awr i'r pwll nofio 50m yn y De? Oni chytunwch y dylem ystyried cael pwll nofio 50m, yn hytrach nag un 25m, yn y Gogledd?

Jenny Randerson: I echo your comments on volunteers. Parents who support their children in participating in sport make a tremendous contribution, without which much less sport would be undertaken. Parents

Jenny Randerson: Cytunaf â'ch sylwadau am wirfoddolwyr. Mae'r rhieni sy'n cefnogi eu plant i gymryd rhan mewn chwaraeon yn gwneud cyfraniad anferthol. Hebdo ni fyddai cymaint yn cymryd rhan mewn

whose children are associated with swimming must get up in the early hours. On your substantive point, I take advice from the Sports Council for Wales on this. The council believes that it is not sustainable for Wales to have more than one 50m pool. It wants to ensure that facilities are as evenly distributed as possible. You will be aware that the pot of lottery money is diminishing as ticket sales decrease. The capital costs of development are considerable in a country such as Wales where the population is relatively sparse in comparison with some parts of England. I am told by swimmers that the vast majority of training, up to a high standard, can take place satisfactorily in a 25m pool, although a 50m pool is essential for competitions.

Gareth Jones: O'r hyn a ddywedaso, mae'n ymddangos mai hap a damwain a'r loteri genedlaethol sy'n rheoli datblygiadau o'r math hwn yng Nghymru. Oni fyddai'n fwy buddiol i Lywodraeth Cymru feddwl yn fwy strategol a chenedlaethol, a chyflwyno strategaeth i ddatblygu cyfleusterau yn genedlaethol, gyda chynllun gweithredu yn seiliedig ar adnoddau ac arian?

Jenny Randerson: We are thinking strategically, and the strategy to which I referred is the sports council's strategy, which was developed some years ago. I believe that it pre-dates the Assembly or that it came into force when the Assembly was established. You may be aware that the Culture Committee has been considering sport provision and involvement in sport in Wales. Its report will be available soon, and I will respond to it with a draft strategy. We will move on in terms of strategic thinking, but you cannot make money where it is not available. The sports council has been working with lottery money, of which there is a diminishing pot. The council has an acceptable aim of ensuring that that money is distributed as fairly as possible throughout Wales.

chwaraeon. Rhaid i rieni y mae eu plant yn nofio godi yn yr oriau mân. Ynghylch eich pwynt sylweddol, cymeraf gyngor gan Gyngor Chwaraeon Cymru ar hyn. Cred y cyngor nad yw'n gynaliadwy i Gymru gael mwy nag un pwll 50m. Mae am sicrhau bod cyfleusterau yn cael eu dyrannu mor deg â phosibl. Byddwch yn ymwybodol bod arian y loteri yn lleihau wrth i werthiant tocynnau ostwng. Mae costau cyfalaf datblygu yn sylweddol mewn gwlad fel Cymru lle mae'r boblogaeth yn gymharol wasgaredig o'i chymharu â rhai rhannau o Loegr. Cefais wybod gan nofwyr bod modd ymgymryd â'r rhan fwyaf o hyfforddiant, hyd at safon uchel, yn foddhaol mewn pwll nofio 25m, er bod pwll 50m yn hanfodol ar gyfer cystadlaethau.

Gareth Jones: From what you have said, it appears that developments of this type in Wales are governed by accident and by the national lottery. Would it not be more beneficial for the Government of Wales to think more strategically and nationally, and bring forward a strategy to develop facilities nationally, with an action plan based on resources and funding?

Jenny Randerson: Yr ydym yn meddwl yn strategol, a strategaeth y cyngor yw'r un y cyfeiriais ati, a ddatblygwyd rai blynyddoedd yn ôl. Credaf iddi gael ei chreu cyn dyfodiad y Cynulliad neu iddi ddod i rym pan sefydlwyd y Cynulliad. Mae'n bosibl eich bod yn ymwybodol bod y Pwyllgor Diwylliant wedi bod yn ystyried darpariaeth chwaraeon a chyfranogi mewn chwaraeon yng Nghymru. Bydd ei adroddiad ar gael cyn hir, ac ymatebaf iddo gyda strategaeth ddrafft. Byddwn yn symud ymlaen o ran meddwl yn strategol, ond ni allwch wneud arian lle nad yw ar gael. Bu'r cyngor chwaraeon yn gweithio gydag arian y loteri, sy'n graddol ddiflannu. Mae gan y cyngor nod derbyniol o sicrhau y dosberthir yr arian hwnnw mor deg â phosibl ledled Cymru.

Sgiliau Pêl-Droed Football Skills

Q5 John Griffiths: Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's strategy to improve football

C5 John Griffiths: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ynghylch strategaeth Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i wella sgiliau pêl-droed

skills in Wales? (OAQ22649)

Jenny Randerson: I am keen to see the quantity and quality of football played in Wales increase for both boys and girls. That is why I established the football forum, and subsequently announced a funding package of £1.2 million to implement its recommendations. These are being driven forward and implemented by the Football Association of Wales Trust.

John Griffiths: The Welsh national football side, under Mark Hughes, is doing well at the moment. In order to support, develop and sustain that success, both he and the team should have access to the best possible facilities. Will you do everything possible to consider how we can help ensure that a national football centre is provided for the Welsh national football team so that it can go on to even greater success in future?

Jenny Randerson: I am acutely aware of the need to support the national team with the best facilities. I congratulate the team again on its sustained success, which has done much to raise Welsh morale and increase enthusiasm. Training facilities for football and other sports are being considered as a part of current strategic thinking on sport.

David Ian Jones: I take it that you are aware of the *futebol de salao* training system that is widely used in Brazil to develop ball skills. Players such as Pele, Ronaldo and Zico have commended it; it is employed by Everton Football Club, and has produced players such as Wayne Rooney. However, this system is not used in Wales—except in Colwyn Bay, where Robert Hughes is developing it. Will you consider developing *futebol de salao* as a training system in Wales, in the hope that the Welsh squad can emulate Brazil and win the World Cup?

Jenny Randerson: It would not go down well with the Football Association of Wales if I were to start giving it advice on how it should train its teams.

yng Nghymru? (OAQ22649)

Jenny Randerson: Yr wyf yn awyddus i weld maint a safon y pêl-droed a chwaraeir yng Nghymru yn cynyddu ar gyfer bechgyn a merched. Dyna pam y sefydlais y fforwm pêl-droed, a chyhoeddi pecyn arian o £1.2 miliwn er mwyn gweithredu ei argymhellion. Mae'r rhain yn cael eu datblygu a'u gweithredu gan Ymddiriedolaeth Cymdeithas Bêl-droed Cymru.

John Griffiths: Mae tîm pêl-droed cenedlaethol Cymru, o dan Mark Hughes, yn gwneud yn dda ar hyn o bryd. Er mwyn cynorthwyo, datblygu a chynnal y llwyddiant hwnnw, dylai ef a'i dîm allu defnyddio'r cyfleusterau gorau posibl. A wnewch chi bopeth o fewn eich gallu i ystyried sut y gallwn helpu i sicrhau y darperir canolfan bêl-droed genedlaethol ar gyfer tîm pêl-droed cenedlaethol Cymru er mwyn iddo allu mynd ymlaen i lwyddiant pellach yn y dyfodol?

Jenny Randerson: Yr wyf yn ymwybodol iawn o'r angen i gynorthwyo'r tîm cenedlaethol gyda'r cyfleusterau gorau. Llongyfarchaf y tîm unwaith eto ar ei lwyddiant parhaus, a wnaeth lawer i godi morâl yng Nghymru a chynyddu brwdfrydedd. Mae cyfleusterau hyfforddi ar gyfer pêl-droed a chwaraeon eraill yn cael eu hystyried fel rhan o'r meddylfryd strategol presennol ar chwaraeon.

David Ian Jones: Cymeraf eich bod yn ymwybodol o'r system hyfforddi *futebol de salao* a ddefnyddir yn helaeth ym Mrasil i ddatblygu sgiliau pêl. Fe'i canmolwyd gan chwaraewyr megis Pele, Ronaldo a Zico; fe'i defnyddir gan Glwb Pêl-droed Everton, a chynhyrchodd chwaraewyr megis Wayne Rooney. Fodd bynnag, ni ddefnyddir y system hon yng Nghymru—ar wahân i ym Mae Colwyn, lle mae Robert Hughes yn ei datblygu. A wnewch chi ystyried datblygu *futebol de salao* fel system hyfforddi yng Nghymru, yn y gobaith y gall carfan Cymru efelychu Brasil ac ennill Cwpan y Byd?

Jenny Randerson: Ni fyddai Cymdeithas Bêl-droed Cymru yn rhy hapus pe bawn yn dechrau rhoi cyngor iddi ar sut y dylai hyfforddi ei thimau.

Jonathan Morgan: The First Minister gave advice on rugby—

Jonathan Morgan: Rhoddodd Prif Weinidog Cymru gyngor ar rygbi—

The Presiding Officer: Order. These questions are taking a long time and interruptions do not help.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae'r cwestiynau hyn yn cymryd cryn amser ac nid yw ymyriadau yn helpu.

Jenny Randerson: The FAW Trust should consider your point. We fund it in such a way as to increase the number of coaches, raise the standard of coaching and spread best practice in coaching throughout Wales.

Jenny Randerson: Dylai Ymddiriedolaeth Cymdeithas Bêl-droed Cymru ystyried eich pwynt. Yr ydym yn ei ariannu mewn modd a fydd yn cynyddu nifer yr hyfforddwy, codi safonau hyfforddi a lledaenu arferion gorau mewn hyfforddiant ledled Cymru.

Cwestiynau i'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Gwledig a Chymru Dramor

Questions to the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Rural Development and Wales Abroad

Gwasanaeth Stoc Marw Fallen Stock Service

Q1 Mick Bates: Has the Minister had discussions with his colleagues in the UK Government concerning the forthcoming provision of a fallen stock service? (OAQ22683)

C1 Mick Bates: A yw'r Gweinidog wedi cael unrhyw drafodaethau gyda'i gyd-Weinidogion yn Llywodraeth y DU ynghylch y gwasanaeth stoc marw arfaethedig? (OAQ22683)

The Deputy First Minister and Minister for Rural Development and Wales Abroad (Michael German): The Welsh Assembly Government has strongly supported efforts to develop workable UK-wide arrangements for the collection and disposal of fallen stock when the European Union regulation comes into force. I have raised this issue with Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Ministers on numerous occasions; we are eager to see realistic negotiations to secure agreement on a UK-wide scheme, with costs shared between government and industry. To secure that agreement, I have written to the industry in Wales to confirm that the Assembly Government is prepared to contribute to the additional costs of an agreed and admissible scheme that is also financially supported and operated by the industry itself.

Dirprwy Brif Weinidog Cymru a'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Gwledig a Chymru Dramor (Michael German): Rhoddodd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru gefnogaeth gref i ymdrechion i ddatblygu trefniadau ymarferol ledled y DU ar gyfer casglu a gwaredu stoc marw pan ddaw rheoliad yr Undeb Ewropeaidd i rym. Codais y mater hwn â'r Adran Amaethyddiaeth, Bwyd a Materion Gwledig ar sawl achlysur; yr ydym yn awyddus i weld negodiadau realistig er mwyn sicrhau cytundeb ar gynllun ledled y DU, gyda'r costau wedi eu rhannu rhwng llywodraeth a diwydiant. Er mwyn sicrhau'r cytundeb hwnnw, ysgrifennais at y diwydiant yng Nghymru i gadarnhau bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn barod i gyfrannu tuag at gostau ychwanegol cynllun cytûn a derbyniol a gaiff hefyd ei gynorthwyo'n ariannol a'i weithredu gan y diwydiant ei hun.

Mick Bates: I am pleased to hear that you intend to support such a scheme with, I hope, adequate funding. In order to secure the long-term future of agriculture, do you agree that

Mick Bates: Yr wyf yn falch o glywed eich bod yn bwriadu cefnogi cynllun o'r fath gydag arian digonol, gobeithiaf. Er mwyn sicrhau dyfodol amaethyddiaeth yn yr

we need a significant rendering facility in Wales that would meet our sustainable development aims and, for example, turn fallen stock into biodiesel, as Scotland intends to do?

Michael German: I know that you raised this matter with the First Minister yesterday. There are companies that are interested in pursuing this line and they will require the Welsh Assembly Government's support. Such support will be offered in the normal way, as it would to any business that wished to locate and develop in Wales. I hope that discussions with such companies will progress. However, even if we could find a company that was prepared to do this work, and agreed a financial package, it would take several years before the scheme could come in and we must implement these regulations in a few months' time.

Elin Jones: Yn eich maniffesto yn 1999, dywedasoch y byddai costau gwaredu stoc yn cael eu talu'n llawn o'r pwrs cyhoeddus. Mae rheolau Ewrop yn caniatáu i'r Llywodraeth dalu 75 y cant o'r costau casglu a 100 y cant o'r costau gwaredu. A fyddwch yn cadw at yr ymrwymiad a wnaethpwyd yn eich maniffesto drwy dalu'r costau hyn yn llawn o'r pwrs cyhoeddus?

Michael German: There is an inconsistency in that European rules allow us to meet 75 per cent of costs and you are asking us to meet 100 per cent of the costs. I take it that you do not want the Government to go beyond what it is legally allowed to do. This is a matter of ongoing negotiation. Further negotiation is needed on a UK-wide solution; Wales does not have the facility to provide that solution. I have made it clear that I am prepared to fund an admissible scheme jointly with the industry, to be operated by the industry. I hope that those negotiations will continue. As they proceed, the financial support from this Government will become clear.

2.30 p.m.

William Graham: Minister, will you explain why farmers in Wales have again been kept

hirdymor, oni chytunwch ein bod angen cyfleuster rendro cynaliadwy yng Nghymru a fyddai'n diwallu ein nodau datblygu cynaliadwy ac, er enghraifft, yn troi stoc marw yn fiodiesel, fel y bwriada'r Alban ei wneud?

Michael German: Gwn eich bod wedi codi'r mater hwn gyda Phrif Weinidog Cymru ddoe. Mae cwmnïau sydd â diddordeb mewn dilyn y trywydd hwn a bydd angen cymorth Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru arnynt. Cynigir cymorth o'r fath yn y ffordd arferol, fel y byddai'n cael ei gynnig i unrhyw fusnes a ddymunai sefydlu a datblygu yng Nghymru. Gobeithiaf y bydd trafodaethau â chwmnïau o'r fath yn parhau. Fodd bynnag, hyd yn oed pe baem yn gallu dod o hyd i gwmni i wneud y gwaith hwn, a chytuno ar becyn ariannol, byddai'n cymryd blynyddoedd lawer cyn y gellid cyflwyno'r cynllun a rhaid inni weithredu'r rheoliadau hyn ymhen ychydig fisoedd.

Elin Jones: In your manifesto in 1999, you stated that the costs of disposing of fallen stock would be fully met from the public purse. European rules allow the Government to pay 75 per cent of the collection costs and 100 per cent of the disposal costs. Will you honour the commitment that was made in your manifesto and meet these costs in full from the public purse?

Michael German: Ceir anghysondeb yn yr ystyr bod rheolau Ewropeaidd yn caniatáu inni dalu 75 y cant o'r costau ac yr ydych yn gofyn inni dalu 100 y cant o'r costau. Cymeraf nad ydych am i'r Llywodraeth fynd y tu hwnt i'r hyn y caniateir iddi ei wneud yn gyfreithiol. Mater o negodi'n barhaus yw hwn. Mae angen negodi ymhellach ar ateb ledled y DU; nid oes gan Gymru y cyfleuster i ddarparu'r ateb hwnnw. Gwneuthum yn glir fy mod yn barod i ariannu cynllun derbyniol ar y cyd â'r diwydiant, i'w weithredu gan y diwydiant. Gobeithiaf y bydd y negodiadau hynny'n parhau. Wrth iddynt barhau, daw'r cymorth ariannol gan y Llywodraeth hon yn eglur.

William Graham: Weinidog, a wnewch chi egluro pam mae ffermwyr yng Nghymru

in the dark over the arrangements for the fallen stock service, and will you comment on whether the scheme has parity throughout the European Union, particularly in Portugal?

wedi cael eu cadw yn y tywyllwch unwaith eto am y trefniadau ar gyfer y gwasanaeth stoc marw, ac a wnewch sylw ar pa un a yw'r cynllun yn gydradd ar draws yr Undeb Ewropeaidd ai peidio, yn arbennig ym Mhortiwgal?

Michael German: The EU-wide regulations come into effect at the beginning of May and will apply throughout every member state. The regulations allow member states to intervene through the normal procedures of state-aid regulations. The majority of member states are engaged in joint partnerships with the industry in supporting these regulations. That is my proposal, as I said in my response to Mick Bates.

Michael German: Daw rheoliadau'r UE i rym ddechrau mis Mai a byddant yn berthnasol ym mhob aelod-wladwriaeth. Mae'r rheoliadau yn caniatáu i aelod-wladwriaethau ymyrryd drwy gyfrwng gweithdrefnau arferol y rheoliadau cymorth i wladwriaethau. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o aelod-wladwriaethau yn rhan o bartneriaethau ar y cyd gyda'r diwydiant o ran cefnogi'r rheoliadau hyn. Dyna yw fy nghynnig, fel y dywedais yn fy ymateb i Mick Bates.

The Presiding Officer: Question 2 (OAQ22686) is withdrawn.

Y Llywydd: Tynnwyd Cwestiwn 2 (OAQ22686) yn ôl.

Y Rheol Chwech Diwrnod The Six-day Rule

Q3 Peter Rogers: Can the Minister make a statement on the implementation of the six-day rule? (OAQ22678)

C3 Peter Rogers: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ynghylch rhoi'r rheol chwech diwrnod ar waith? (OAQ22678)

Michael German: New arrangements for the movement of livestock are scheduled to come into effect on 4 March, and have been widely welcomed by the industry. The six-day standstill period will be accompanied by an improved biosecurity code, which will be subject to widespread consultation before coming into effect.

Michael German: Daw'r trefniadau newydd ar gyfer symud da byw i rym ar 4 Mawrth, ac fe'u croesawyd yn helaeth gan y diwydiant. Ategir y cyfnod cadw chwech diwrnod gan god bioddiogelwch gwell, a fydd yn destun ymgynghori helaeth cyn y daw i rym.

Peter Rogers: Livestock auctions suffered greatly during the foot and mouth disease outbreak. This six-day standstill rule seems to introduce more controls and rules to restrict auctions. Considering the increased security that will be required at auctions, the implication of having a veterinary surgeon present costing around £70 per hour, and the overnight lairage that will be banned, the aim of this policy seems to be to close livestock auctions. Why do we continue to implement such a policy? There is no evidence that livestock auctions were responsible for spreading foot and mouth disease. Many such claims were made but none were proven.

Peter Rogers: Dioddefodd arwerthiannau da byw yn fawr yn ystod yr argyfwng clwy'r traed a'r genau. Ymddengys fod y rheol cyfnod cadw chwech diwrnod hon yn cyflwyno rhagor o reolaethau a rheolau er mwyn cyfyngu ar arwerthiannau. O ystyried y cynnydd mewn diogelwch y bydd ei angen mewn arwerthiannau, a'r goblygiad o gael milfeddyg yn bresennol yn costio tua £70 yr awr, a'r lloc dros nos a gaiff ei wahardd, ymddengys mai nod y polisi hwn yw cau arwerthiannau da byw. Pam ein bod yn parhau i weithredu polisi o'r fath? Ni cheir unrhyw dystiolaeth mai arwerthiannau da byw oedd yn gyfrifol am ledaenu clwy'r traed a'r genau. Gwnaethpwyd nifer o honiadau o'r fath ond ni phrofwyd yr un

ohonynt.

Michael German: These issues are still open to consultation and negotiation. No firm decisions have been taken. National Assembly officials met livestock auctioneers on 17 February 2003 and four issues were raised. To refer to your question, lairage and veterinary matters were discussed, and there is sympathy with some of the issues raised by the auctioneers at that productive meeting. I hope to be able to take that forward.

Mike German: Mae'r materion hyn yn parhau i fod yn destun ymgynghori a thrafod. Ni wnaethpwyd penderfyniadau cadarn. Cyfarfu swyddogion y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ag arwerthwyr da byw ar 17 Chwefror 2003 a chodwyd pedwar mater. I gyfeirio at eich cwestiwn, trafodwyd materion a oedd yn ymwneud â llociau a milfeddygaeth, a cheir cydymdeimlad â rhai o'r materion a godwyd gan yr arwerthwyr yn y cyfarfod cynhyrchiol hwnnw. Gobeithiaf allu datblygu hynny.

Kirsty Williams: Mike, do you agree that the livestock auction system is valuable to farmers in Wales? Another biosecurity measure accompanying the six-day standstill rule is the distance that it is permitted for animals to travel when they are sold at market. I appreciate that this matter is currently out to consultation, but do you agree that if the distance that is currently proposed were implemented, it would have a devastating effect on markets in my constituency, such as Rhayader, Knighton and Brecon, which attract livestock dealers from across the UK? That would impact considerably upon farmers' ability to sell their stock.

Kirsty Williams: Mike, a gytunwch fod y system arwerthiant da byw yn werthfawr i ffermwyr yng Nghymru? Mesur bioddiogelwch arall sy'n ategu'r rheol cadw chwech diwrnod yw'r pellter y caniateir i anifeiliaid deithio pan gânt eu gwerthu mewn marchnad. Gwerthfawrogaf fod y mater hwn yn destun ymgynghoriad ar hyn o bryd, ond pe bai'r pellter a gynigir ar hyn o bryd yn cael ei weithredu, a gytunwch y byddai'n cael effaith ddinistriol ar farchnadoedd yn fy etholaeth i, megis Rhaeadr, Trefyclo ac Aberhonddu, sy'n denu arwerthwyr da byw o bob cwr o'r DU? Byddai hynny'n effeithio'n sylweddol ar allu ffermwyr i werthu eu stoc.

Michael German: I do not want to adjudicate on the 150-mile regime, as proposed by the farmers of Brecon and Radnor, and ensuring viable livestock marts. The principle of long-distance travel and, furthermore, the length of distance to be travelled, has not been agreed at this stage. The matter is subject to wide consultation. Besides, it would not be a matter of a ban, rather of a different sort of licence.

Michael German: Nid wyf am ddyfarnu ar y system 150 milltir, fel y cynigiwyd gan ffermwyr Brycheiniog a Maesyfed, a sicrhau marchnadoedd da byw hyfyw. Ni chytunwyd hyd yma ar egwyddor teithio pellter hir, ac, at hynny, hyd y pellter i'w deithio. Mae'r mater yn destun ymgynghoriad helaeth. Beth bynnag, nid mater o waharddiad fyddai, ond yn hytrach math gwahanol o drwydded.

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Diolch am eich ymatebion, Weinidog. Mae angen mwy o eglurhad ar sawl agwedd ar y rheol newydd. Er enghraifft, pa gyngor sydd ar gael i ffermwyr sy'n cludo anifeiliaid i farchnadoedd stoc o dras? Sut y bydd y rheol yn effeithio arnynt hwy? Beth fydd yn digwydd i ffermwyr sy'n symud anifeiliaid o'u ffermydd i dir pori? Byddai'r wybodaeth y gallech chi ei rhoi fod o gymorth i ffermwyr sy'n gorfod ymgodymu â'r rheolau sydd—o reidrydd ar hyn o

The Leader of the Opposition (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Thank you for your responses, Minister. Greater clarity is needed on several aspects of the new rule. For example, what advice is available to farmers who transport animals to pedigree stock markets? How will the rule affect them? What will happen to farmers who move their animals from their farms to grazing land? The information that you can provide would be of assistance to farmers who must get to grips with rules that—of necessity at present—are restrictive.

bryd—yn gyfyng.

Michael German: The rules are far less restrictive than they were, and that is part of the change of regime from the 20-day rule. I am pleased to report that *Gwlad Extra* was sent to every farmer in Wales yesterday. It outlines all the rules in detail, and answers your questions. I am happy for you to have a copy.

Michael German: Mae'r rheolau yn llawer llai cyfyngol nag yr oeddent, ac mae hynny'n rhan o'r newid yn y system rheol 20 diwrnod. Yr wyf yn falch o nodi bod *Gwlad Extra* wedi ei anfon at bob ffermwr yng Nghymru ddoe. Mae'n amlinellu'r holl reolau yn fanwl, ac yn ateb eich cwestiynau. Yr wyf yn fodlon ichi gael copi.

The Presiding Officer: Question 4 (OAQ22689) is withdrawn.

Y Llywydd: Tynnwyd Cwestiwn 4 (OAQ22689) yn ôl.

Pysgota am Gocos yn Aber Afon Dyfrdwy Cockle Fishing in the Dee Estuary

Q5 Ann Jones: Will the Minister give an update on the progress of negotiations with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on bringing forward a regulatory Order which would allow the Environment Agency, by means of licences, to control cockle fishing in the Dee estuary? (OAQ22698)

C5 Ann Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r newyddion diweddaraf ynghylch y trafodaethau gydag Adran yr Amgylchedd, Bwyd a Materion Gwledig ar fwrw ati i lunio Gorchymyn rheoleiddio a fyddai'n caniatáu i Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd reoli pysgota am gocos yn aber afon Dyfrdwy, drwy gyfrwng trwyddedau? (OAQ22698)

Michael German: The Environment Agency has yet to submit a formal application under section 1 of the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967. Once received, the application will be subject to consultation with our statutory advisers, prior to the preparation of the draft Order. The Environment Agency will then advertise the draft Order, allowing a period for objections to be made, and, if it is deemed necessary, a public inquiry may follow. The process of obtaining an Order if it went to public inquiry may take up to two years. The process would be far quicker if there were not a public inquiry.

Michael German: Ni chyflwynodd Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd gais ffurfiol hyd yma o dan adran 1 Deddf Pysgodfeydd Môr (Pysgod Cregyn) 1967. Unwaith y daw i law, caiff y cais ei drafod â'n hymgyngorwyr strategol, cyn paratoi'r Gorchymyn drafft. Bydd Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd yn hysbysebu'r Gorchymyn drafft ar ôl hynny, gan ganiatáu cyfnod i wneud gwrthwynebiadau, ac, os ystyrir y bydd ei angen, gall ymchwiliad cyhoeddus ddilyn. Gall y broses o gael Gorchymyn pe bai'n mynd i ymchwiliad cyhoeddus gymryd hyd at ddwy flynedd. Byddai'r broses yn llawer cyflymach pe na bai ymchwiliad cyhoeddus.

Ann Jones: You are no doubt aware that traditional cockle fishing is a vital part of the livelihood of full-time fishermen along a section of the north Wales coast. I have had many representations from such fishermen, who say that a cockle bed was overfished within seven days and closed because the Environment Agency was unable to prohibit the number of licences issued. That impacts on the fishermen's livelihoods. Do you agree that a licensing system is vital to protect these beds from destruction by overfishing, and

Ann Jones: Mae'n siŵr y gwyddoch fod pysgota cocos traddodiadol yn rhan allweddol o fywoliaeth pysgotwyr llawn amser ar hyd rhan o arfordir gogledd Cymru. Derbyniais nifer o sylwadau gan bysgotwyr o'r fath, sy'n dweud bod gwely cocos wedi ei orbysgota o fewn saith diwrnod a'i gau gan nad oedd Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd yn gallu gwahardd nifer y trwyddedau a gyhoeddwyd. Mae hynny'n effeithio ar fywoliaeth pysgotwyr. A gytunwch fod system drwyddedu yn allweddol er mwyn diogelu'r

that we can create a sustainable cockle industry along the Dee estuary? Will you also give an assurance that there will be no delays on the Welsh Assembly Government's part in obtaining this Order? Obviously, it is a lengthy process.

Michael German: You have my assurance on that. I cannot initiate an Order, but I can receive an application for a regulation Order from other bodies. There is agreement among the professional users, the industry and local government that we need a regulated cockle fishery on the Dee estuary. An England and Wales Order would be preferable, as cockle fishing occurs on both sides of the estuary. We do not wish to see huge numbers of people gathering to fish for cockles when the beds are open. We will take the lead, along with DEFRA. The majority of beds are on the English side, so it is appropriate that DEFRA should take a firm lead. I hope that we would get an application fairly quickly, and we can then move forward in the way that I have indicated.

Janet Ryder: I am sure that you are aware that some of those beds are often closed for various reasons. I understand that the Government submitted an application for financial support in May 2002 for compensation for the fishermen under the financial instruments for fisheries guidance scheme. What response has your application for financial support for the cockle gatherers received from the European Commission?

Michael German: The application for compensation for gatherers is with the European Commission. I understand that it will be a further six weeks before the Commission reaches a decision.

David Ian Jones: While any resumption of the traditional cockle fishing industry on the Dee estuary would be welcome, the fact that the area is also rich in wildfowl and wildlife in general cannot be ignored. Will you give an assurance that any resumption of cockle fishing would take into account the highly sensitive ecology of this area?

Michael German: Yes. When a request for a

gwelyau hyn rhag cael eu dinistrio gan orbysgota, ac y gallwn greu diwydiant cocos cynaliadwy ar hyd aber afon Dyfrdwy? A roddwch sicrwydd hefyd na fydd oedi ar ran Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wrth gael y Gorchymyn hwn? Mae'n broses hirfaith yn amlwg.

Michael German: Rhoddaf fy sicrwydd ichi ar hynny. Ni allaf gychwyn Gorchymyn, ond gallaf dderbyn cais am Orchymyn rheoleiddio gan gyrff eraill. Ceir cytundeb ymysg y defnyddwyr proffesiynol, y diwydiant a llywodraeth leol ein bod angen pysgodfa gocos wedi ei rheoleiddio yn aber afon Dyfrdwy. Byddai'n well cael Gorchymyn Cymru a Lloegr, gan fod pysgota cocos yn digwydd ar ddwy ochr yr aber. Nid ydym am weld nifer fawr o bobl yn ymgasglu i bysgota am gocos pan fydd y gwelyau ar agor. Byddwn yn cymryd yr awenau, ynghyd â DEFRA. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r gwelyau ar ochr Lloegr i'r afon, felly mae'n briodol y dylai DEFRA fod yn arwain yn gadarn. Gobeithiaf y cawn gais yn weddol gyflym, ac yna gallwn symud ymlaen yn y modd a nodais.

Janet Ryder: Mae'n siŵr eich bod yn ymwybodol bod rhai o'r gwelyau hynny yn aml ar gau am amryw resymau. Deallaf i'r Llywodraeth gyflwyno cais am gymorth ariannol ym mis Mai 2002 am iawndal ar gyfer y pysgotwyr o dan yr offerynnau ariannol ar gyfer cynllun arweiniad pysgodfeydd. Pa ymateb a gafodd eich cais am gymorth ariannol i'r casglwyr cocos gan y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd?

Michael German: Mae'r cais am iawndal ar gyfer casglwyr yn nwylo'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd. Deallaf y bydd yn chwe wythnos arall cyn y gwnaiff y Comisiwn benderfyniad.

David Ian Jones: Er y byddai ailddechrau'r diwydiant pysgota cocos traddodiadol ar aber afon Dyfrdwy yn cael ei groesawu, ni ellir anwybyddu'r ffaith ychwaith bod yr ardal yn gyfoethog o ran adar hela a bywyd gwylt. A roddwch sicrwydd y byddai ailddechrau pysgota cocos yn ystyried ecoleg hynod sensitif yr ardal hon?

Michael German: Gwnaf. Pan wneir cais am

regulation is made and the application put out to consultation, there will be an opportunity for all to object, or to make conditions to that Order. That is when we would know whether or not a public inquiry would be needed. Hopefully—and it would be in the interests of all concerned—we could deal with regulation at that point without the need for a public inquiry. However, that will depend on the objections that we receive.

reoleiddio a phan ymgynghorir ar y cais, bydd cyfle i bawb wrthwynebu, neu osod amodau ar y Gorchymyn hwnnw. Dyna pa bryd y byddem yn gwybod pa un a fyddai angen ymchwiliad cyhoeddus ai peidio. Gobeithio—a byddai hyn er budd pawb dan sylw—y gallem ymdrin â rheoleiddio ar yr adeg honno heb greu angen am ymchwiliad cyhoeddus. Fodd bynnag, dibynna hynny ar y gwrthwynebiadau a ddaw i law.

Cynhyrchu Bwyd nad yw'n Gig Producing Non-meat Foodstuffs

Q6 Lorraine Barrett: Has the Minister considered changing the balance of subsidies to farmers to land acreage instead of per head, to encourage the production of non-meat foodstuffs? (OAQ22700)

C6 Lorraine Barrett: A yw'r Gweinidog wedi ystyried newid cydbwysedd y cymorthdaliadau i ffermwyr er mwyn rhoi mwy o bwyslais ar nifer yr erwau o dir a ddefnyddir yn hytrach na nifer yr anifeiliaid, er mwyn annog cynhyrchu bwyd nad yw'n gig? (OAQ22700)

Michael German: That is an interesting question. The vast majority of subsidy payments are made under the European Union's common agricultural policy support schemes at present. The European Commission's latest proposals on reshaping the CAP include a single payment regime that would, among other things, replace the existing headage and acreage requirements that apply to the livestock and arable sectors. Also, it would be the responsibility of individual farmers to determine what level and type of production to maintain under the commission's proposals.

Michael German: Mae hwnnw'n gwestiwn diddorol. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o daliadau cymorthdal a wneir o dan bolisi amaethyddol cyffredin yr Undeb Ewropeaidd yn cynorthwyo cynlluniau ar hyn o bryd. Mae cynigion diweddaraf yr Undeb Ewropeaidd ar ail-lunio'r PAC yn cynnwys system taliadau unigol a fyddai, ymysg pethau eraill, yn disodli'r gofynion presennol y pen ac fesul erw sy'n berthnasol i'r sectorau da byw a thir â'r. Hefyd, cyfrifoldeb y ffermwyr unigol fyddai penderfynu ar lefel a'r math o gynnyrch i'w gynnal o dan gynigion y comisiwn.

2.40 p.m.

Lorraine Barrett: I will support any step to discourage the overproduction of animals for food. However, those that are bred for eating deserve the best possible standards of welfare. Do you support proposals to make the payment of CAP subsidies conditional upon meeting animal welfare standards?

Lorraine Barrett: Cefnogaf unrhyw gam i beidio ag annog y broses o orgynhyrchu anifeiliaid ar gyfer bwyd. Fodd bynnag, mae'r rhai a gaiff eu bridio ar gyfer eu bwyta yn haeddu'r safonau lles gorau posibl. A gefnogwch gynigion i wneud cymorthdaliadau PAC yn amodol ar ddiwallu safonau lles anifeiliaid?

Michael German: The animal welfare regime is under review and consultation is taking place. The movement of animals and significant issues relating to public health are always at the forefront of our concerns. The issue of transferring from holding one stock to another is currently being considered in the

Michael German: Mae'r system lles anifeiliaid yn cael ei hadolygu ac mae proses ymgynghori yn cael ei chynnal. Mae symud anifeiliaid a materion arwyddocaol sy'n ymwneud ag iechyd cyhoeddus bob amser yn flaenaf ymysg ein pryderon. Mae'r mater o drosglwyddo stoc o un daliad i'r llall yn fater

review of the CAP. There is one area of particular concern, namely the issue of farmers being able to change crops to other types of crop such as flax or biomass. At present, the regime proposed by the commission does not allow that. I hope, therefore, that we will be able to deal with that issue. Many member states are concerned about that, which should lead to production matching demand, which is the root of your question.

Dafydd Wigley: Will the Minister ensure that any such changes do not benefit large landowners at the expense of traditional Welsh family farms? If changes are made, will he ensure that any payment regime introduced works? Is it not true that £4 million-worth of subsidies within the arable aid payments were not paid by 31 January? How many individual arable aid payments did that represent, how many people have received interest payments, and how many payments are still outstanding?

Michael German: I cannot give a detailed answer to all your questions: I will write to you with the answers. It is true that several arable aid payments were not made by 31 January. As you know, I have already announced that we will pay compensation in the form of interest to farmers whose payments were not received in time, subject to that clearly being our fault and to the £50 de minimus rule. With regard to your first question, the answer is 'yes'.

Claddu Anifeiliaid ar Ffermydd Burying Animals on Farmland

C7 Elin Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad parthed rheolau ar gyfer claddu anifeiliaid ar ffermydd? (OAQ22690)

Michael German: I refer you to the answer that I gave to Mick Bates earlier today. The new European Union Animal By-products Regulation 2003 applies to member states from 30 April 2003. With limited exceptions, reflecting remoteness and low livestock densities, the regulation will ban the routine on-farm burial and burning of animal carcasses, except during outbreaks of

arall sy'n cael ei ystyried yn y broses o adolygu'r PAC ar hyn o bryd. Mae un maes sy'n achosi pryder arbennig, sef gallu ffermwyr i newid cynydau i fathau eraill o gnydau megis llin neu fio-màs. Ar hyn o bryd, nid yw'r system a gynigir gan y comisiwn yn caniatáu hynny. Gobeithiaf, felly, y byddwn yn gallu ymdrin â'r mater hwnnw. Mae nifer o aelod-wladwriaethau yn bryderus am hynny, a ddylai arwain at gynhyrchu i ateb y galw, sef gwraidd eich cwestiwn.

Dafydd Wigley: A wnaiff y Gweinidog sicrhau nad yw newidiadau o'r fath o fantais i berchnogion tir mawr ar draul ffermydd teuluol Cymreig traddodiadol? Os gwneir newidiadau, a wnaiff sicrhau bod unrhyw system taliadau a gyflwynir yn gweithio? Onid yw'n wir na thalwyd gwerth £4 miliwn o gymorthdaliadau o fewn y taliadau cymorth tir â'r erbyn 31 Ionawr? Faint o daliadau cymorth tir â'r yr oedd hynny'n ei gynrychioli, faint o bobl a dderbyniodd daliadau llog, a faint o daliadau sy'n weddill?

Michael German: Ni allaf roi ateb manwl i bob un o'ch cwestiynau: ysgrifennaf atoch gyda'r atebion. Mae'n wir na wnaed nifer o daliadau cymorth tir â'r erbyn 31 Ionawr. Fel y gwyddoch, cyhoeddais eisoes y byddwn yn talu iawndal ar ffurf llog i ffermwyr na dderbyniodd eu taliadau mewn pryd, yn amodol ar y ffaith mai ein bai ni ydoedd yn amlwg a'r rheol £50 de minimus. O ran eich cwestiwn cyntaf, yr ateb yw 'gwnaf'.

Q7 Elin Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the rules for burying animals on farmland? (OAQ22690)

Michael German: Fe'ch cyfeiriai i'r ateb a roddais i Mick Bates yn gynharach heddiw. Mae Rheoliad Sgil Gynnyrch Anifeiliaid yr Undeb Ewropeaidd 2003 newydd yn berthnasol i aelod-wladwriaethau o 30 Ebrill 2003 ymlaen. Gydag eithriadau prin, sy'n adlewyrchu pellter a dwyseddau da byw isel, bydd y rheoliad yn gwahardd yr arfer o gladdu a llosgi carcasau anifeiliaid ar

notifiable disease, in the case of a lack of capacity at rendering plants and incinerators, or if transporting carcasses would spread disease.

Elin Jones: O gofio'r diffygion o ran rendro yng Nghymru yn ystod yr achos o glwy'r traed a'r genau, a ydych yn hyderus bod capasiti casglu a gwaredu digonol yng Nghymru i ddiwallu gofynion y rheoliadau newydd hyn ym mis Ebrill?

Michael German: It is clear that we do not have the facilities in Wales to meet the new regulations. That is one reason why we need to develop a UK-wide scheme. That is also important for Scotland. We do not have those facilities. In answer to Mick Bates earlier, I mentioned the types of companies from whom applications would be encouraged in order for them to receive Government support to assist in developing our capacity.

Peter Rogers: I am sure that you will agree that this is probably the most appalling piece of legislation that has ever been passed. It will work, as you have said, on a UK basis. We do not have any facilities in north Wales. The largest knackerman there, with whom I spoke yesterday, said that there is no provision or understanding about what will be needed. Knacker's yards are already oversupplied, with over thirty months scheme cattle and TB cattle. The situation is in absolute chaos. There is no way that this scheme can begin. Will you please sit down with someone and get some sense about what we are going to do?

Michael German: I take it from what you have said that you want a Welsh scheme. It is far from clear whether we have the legal authority to do that. As I said earlier, we need a GB scheme. I have said that I am prepared to give the scheme financial support. I would hope that discussions to get a GB scheme—it is not within my capability—would be possible. I am prepared to encourage and support in whatever way I can. I have spoken to DEFRA Ministers on many occasions about this matter. We must find a GB-wide answer to it.

ffermydd, ar wahân i achosion o afiechyd hysbysadwy, pe bai diffygion mewn gweithfeydd rendro a llosgwyr, neu pe byddai cludo carcassau yn lledaenu afiechyd.

Elin Jones: Given the lack of rendering capacity in Wales during the foot and mouth disease outbreak, are you confident that the collection and disposal capacity in Wales is sufficient to meet the requirements of these new regulations in April?

Michael German: Mae'n amlwg nad oes gennym y cyfleusterau yng Nghymru i ddiwallu gofynion y rheoliadau newydd. Mae hynny'n un rheswm pam mae angen inni ddatblygu cynllun ar gyfer y DU gyfan. Mae hynny'n bwysig i'r Alban hefyd. Nid oes gennym y cyfleusterau hynny. Mewn ateb i Mick Bates yn gynharach, soniais am y mathau o gwmnïau a fyddai'n cael eu hannog i wneud cais er mwyn iddynt dderbyn cymorth gan y Llywodraeth i gynorthwyo'r broses o ddatblygu ein capasiti.

Peter Rogers: Yr wyf yn sicr y cytunwch mai dyma'r darn gwaethaf o ddeddfwriaeth a basiwyd erioed mae'n debyg. Bydd yn gweithio, fel y dywedasoch, ar sail y DU. Nid oes gennym unrhyw gyfleusterau yng ngogledd Cymru. Dywedodd y perchennog celanedd-dy mwyaf yno, y bûm yn siarad ag ef ddoe, nad oes darpariaeth na dealltwriaeth o'r hyn fydd ei angen. Mae celanedd-dai wedi eu gorgyflenwi eisoes, gyda gwartheg y cynllun dros dri deg mis oed a gwartheg TB. Mae'r sefyllfa mewn anhrefn llwyr. Nid oes unrhyw ffordd y gall y cynllun hwn gychwyn. A fydddech cystal ag eistedd i lawr gyda rhywun a chael rhywfaint o synnwyr ynghylch yr hyn y dylem ei wneud?

Michael German: Cymeraf o'r hyn a ddywedasoch eich bod am gael cynllun Cymreig. Nid yw'n amlwg o gwbl pa un a oes gennym yr awdurdod cyfreithiol i wneud hynny ai peidio. Fel y dywedais yn gynharach, mae angen cynllun ar gyfer Prydain arnom. Dywedais fy mod yn barod i roi cymorth ariannol i'r cynllun. Byddwn yn gobeithio y byddai trafodaethau sy'n arwain at gynllun ar gyfer Prydain—nid ydyw o fewn fy ngallu i—yn bosibl. Yr wyf yn barod i annog a chefnogi ym mha bynnag ffordd y gallaf. Siaradais â Gweinidogion DEFRA ar

sawl achlysur am y mater hwn. Rhaid inni ganfod ateb Prydain gyfan iddo.

Cwestiynau ar Lywodraeth Agored i'r Trefnydd Questions on Open Government to the Business Minister

Cyfleu Strategaethau a Pholisïau i Bobl Cymru Communicating Strategies and Policies to the People of Wales

Q1 John Griffiths: What strategy will the Welsh Assembly Government follow to further improve the communication of its strategies and policies to the people of Wales? (OAQ22668)

The Business Minister (Carwyn Jones): We are committed to open and accessible government. We continue to take every opportunity to communicate our strategies and policies to the people of Wales, using a variety of approaches. These range from publicity in the form of advertisements to ensure maximum uptake of the extension to free bus passes, to the publication of formal documents such as Cabinet minutes, to public meetings where Ministers can be questioned directly by the public.

John Griffiths: It is in the interests of democracy for the people of Wales to be well informed about Welsh Assembly Government policy. I recently visited the national museum in Cardiff and did not see any indication that the Welsh Assembly Government was responsible for free entry, yet, when caught in a long line of traffic in mid Wales, along with many other impatient and frustrated drivers, I saw a huge sign claiming that the delay was the Assembly's responsibility. [*Laughter.*] Can we try to ensure a fuller and more balanced picture of the Assembly's activities?

Carwyn Jones: In August, I was caught in a traffic jam, caused by road works, on the road between Porthmadog and Pen-y-groes, the A487. The Welsh Office was apparently responsible for that scheme; that is some four years after the Welsh Office ceased to exist. I have regular meetings with the publicity and press officers of Assembly sponsored public

C1 John Griffiths: Pa strategaeth y bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ei dilyn i sicrhau gwelliant pellach yn y modd y mae ei strategaethau a'i pholisïau yn cael eu cyfleu i bobl Cymru? (OAQ22668)

Y Trefnydd (Carwyn Jones): Yr ydym yn ymrwymedig i lywodraeth agored a hygyrch. Yr ydym yn parhau i fanteisio ar bob cyfle i gyfleu ein strategaethau a'n polisïau i bobl Cymru, gan ddefnyddio amrywiaeth o ffyrdd. Mae'r rhain yn amrywio o gyhoeddusrwydd ar ffurf hysbysebion er mwyn sicrhau bod y nifer mwyaf posibl yn derbyn tocynnau bws am ddim, i gyhoeddi dogfennau ffurfiol megis cofnodion y Cabinet, i gyfarfodydd cyhoeddus lle y gall Gweinidogion gael eu holi'n uniongyrchol gan y cyhoedd.

John Griffiths: Dylai pobl Cymru fod yn hyddysg am bolisi Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru er budd democratiaeth. Ymwelais yn ddiweddar â'r amgueddfa genedlaethol yng Nghaerdydd ac ni welais unrhyw arwydd i ddangos mai Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a oedd yn gyfrifol am ddarparu mynediad am ddim, ond eto, pan oeddwn mewn llinell hir o draffig yn y Canolbarth, ynghyd â nifer o yrwyr diamynedd a rhwystredig eraill, gwelais arwydd anferth yn honni mai cyfrifoldeb y Cynulliad oedd yr oedi. [*Chwerthin.*] A allwn ni geisio sicrhau bod darlun mwy cyflawn a chytbwys o weithgareddau'r Cynulliad yn cael ei gyflwyno?

Carwyn Jones: Ym mis Awst, cefais fy nal mewn traffig, a achoswyd gan waith ar y ffordd, rhwng Porthmadog a Phen-y-groes, ar yr A487. Y Swyddfa Gymreig oedd yn gyfrifol am y cynllun hwnnw yn ôl pob golwg; er fod hynny tua phedair blynedd ar ôl i'r Swyddfa Gymreig ddod i ben. Yr wyf yn cael cyfarfodydd rheolaidd gyda swyddogion

bodies and have made it abundantly clear that we expect them to display the Welsh Assembly Government logo, given that the Assembly is their major source of funding. This is ongoing, but ASPBs have been told that, from 1 March, they must do this.

Geraint Davies: During the first three years of the Objective 1 programme, a mere 8 per cent of the funding available for the community economic regeneration—priority 3—has been paid out. Do you agree that this is a damning indictment of this Labour Government’s implementation strategy for Objective 1, and what steps do you intend to take to ensure that the £100 million that is still available is distributed to our most needy communities without further delay?

Carwyn Jones: I do not understand what that has to do with the tabled question. It has nothing to do with communications and seems to relate to another portfolio.

David Ian Jones: Do you accept that, for whatever reason, people in north Wales feel a sense of remoteness and almost alienation from the Assembly’s processes, particularly in those parts of north Wales close to the English border? What measures do you propose to take to address this problem and to communicate the Assembly’s policies effectively to the people of north Wales?

Carwyn Jones: We held a Cabinet open-mike session in Llandudno and the media in the North covers events across the whole of Wales, not only those in north Wales. There is a particular difficulty in north-east Wales, where people often receive their televisual and radio news and newspapers from across the border. We try to work with regional weekly papers in particular and also with papers such as the *Wrexham Leader* and the *Evening Leader* and the *Daily Post* to ensure that people understand what happens in the Assembly so that they can make their opinion about Assembly decisions known. That is a healthy expression of democracy; it would be unhealthy if people were unaware of what was happening.

cyhoedduswydd a swyddogion y wasg cyrff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad, a gwneuthum yn gwbl amlwg ein bod yn disgwyl iddynt ddangos logo Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, o ystyried mai'r Cynulliad yw eu prif ffynhonnell ariannu. Mae hyn yn parhau, ond dywedwyd wrth CCNC bod yn rhaid iddynt wneud hyn, o 1 Mawrth ymlaen.

Geraint Davies: Yn ystod tair blynedd gyntaf rhaglen Amcan 1, dim ond 8 y cant o'r arian sydd ar gael ar gyfer adfywio cymunedau yn economaidd—blaenoriaeth 3—a dalwyd. A gytunwch fod hyn yn adlewyrchiad damniol o strategaeth weithredu'r Llywodraeth Lafur hon ar gyfer Amcan 1, a pha gamau y bwriadwch eu cymryd i sicrhau y caiff y £100 miliwn sy'n parhau i fod ar gael ei ddosbarthu i'n cymunedau mwyaf anghenus heb ragor o oedi?

Carwyn Jones: Nid wyf yn deall beth sydd gan hynny i'w wneud â'r cwestiwn a gyflwynwyd. Nid oes ganddo ddim i'w wneud â chyfathrebu ac ymddengys ei fod yn ymwneud â phortffolio arall.

David Ian Jones: A dderbyniwch fod pobl yn y Gogledd, am ba bynnag reswm, yn teimlo bod prosesau'r Cynulliad yn bell oddi wrthynt ac yn estron, yn arbennig yn y rhannau hynny o'r Gogledd sy'n agos at y ffin â Lloegr? Pa fesurau y bwriadwch eu cymryd i ymdrin â'r broblem hon ac er mwyn cyfathrebu polisïau'r Cynulliad yn effeithiol i bobl y Gogledd?

Carwyn Jones: Cynaliasom sesiwn hawl i holi'r Cabinet yn Llandudno ac mae'r cyfryngau yn y Gogledd yn cwmpasu digwyddiadau ledled Cymru, nid rhai'r Gogledd yn unig. Ceir anhawster arbennig yng ngogledd-ddwyrain Cymru, lle mae pobl yn aml yn derbyn eu newyddion ar deledu a radio a phapurau newydd o'r ochr arall i'r ffin. Yr ydym yn ceisio gweithio â phapurau wythnosol rhanbarthol yn arbennig a hefyd â phapurau megis y *Wrexham Leader* a'r *Evening Leader* a'r *Daily Post* er mwyn sicrhau bod pobl yn deall yr hyn sy'n digwydd yn y Cynulliad fel eu bod yn gallu lleisio eu barn am benderfyniadau'r Cynulliad. Mae hynny'n fynegiant iach o ddemocratiaeth, ac ni fyddai'n iach pe na bai

pobl yn ymwybodol o'r hyn sy'n digwydd.

Pwyllgorau Rhanbarth Regional Committees

C2 Gareth Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar gyfraniad Pwyllgorau Rhanbarth y Cynulliad i lywodraeth agored? (OAQ22662)

Q2 Gareth Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the contribution made by the National Assembly's Regional Committees to open government? (OAQ22662)

Carwyn Jones: Mae hwn yn fater i'r Cynulliad cyfan yn hytrach nag i'r Llywodraeth. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym yn croesawu cyfraniad y Pwyllgorau tuag at hysbysu'r cyhoedd a hybu trafodaeth ar waith y Llywodraeth a'r Cynulliad.

Carwyn Jones: This is a matter for the Assembly as a whole rather than for the Government. However, we welcome the Committees' contribution to informing the public and stimulating debate on the work of the Government and the Assembly.

Gareth Jones: Dywedasoch ddoe nad oeddech am i'r Cynulliad droi'n siop siarad. Onid siopau siarad drud yw'r Pwyllgorau Rhanbarth? Sut y gallwch newid amcanion a strwythur Pwyllgor Rhanbarth y Gogledd fel ei fod yn gweithredu o ddifrif ar ran pobl y Gogledd? Clywsom am ddadurthiad gan David Ian Jones. Mae'r dadurthiad hwnnw yn bodoli ac mae'n destun pryder i bob un ohonom, beth bynnag yw ein plaid. Sut y byddwch yn sicrhau bod y Pwyllgor hwn yn gweithredu o ddifrif, gan sicrhau nad yw'n cymunedau yn cael eu hamddifadu o rwydwaith trafniadaeth gyhoeddus dibynadwy ac o rwydwaith band eang?

Gareth Jones: You said yesterday that you did not want the Assembly to become a talking shop. Are not the Regional Committees expensive talking shops? How can you change the North Wales Regional Committee's objectives and structure so that it truly operates on behalf of the people of north Wales? We heard from David Ian Jones about disillusionment. That disillusionment exists and it is a cause of concern for each of us, regardless of party. How will you ensure that this Committee operates seriously, ensuring that our communities are not deprived of a reliable public transport network and a broadband network?

2.50 p.m.

Carwyn Jones: Clywaf yr hyn a ddywedwch, Gareth, ac mae'n fater sydd yn wirioneddol berthnasol i'r Cynulliad ac i Gadeiryddion ei Bwyllgorau. Dylid trafod y mater hwn gyda Chadeirydd Pwyllgor Rhanbarth y Gogledd, yn yr achos hwn, a Chadeiryddion eraill i weld a ellir gwella'r gwaith da a wneir gan y Pwyllgorau.

Carwyn Jones: I note your comments, Gareth, and it is a truly relevant matter for the Assembly and for its Committee Chairs. This matter should be discussed with the Chair of the North Wales Regional Committee, in this case, and other Chairs to see whether the good work of the Committees can be improved upon.

Christine Chapman: Does not holding Regional Committee meetings encourage interest and participation in Welsh politics? In order to maximise their impact, is it not important that they are advertised and promoted effectively to ensure the widest possible interest?

Christine Chapman: Onid yw cynnal cyfarfodydd Pwyllgorau Rhanbarth yn annog diddordeb a chyfranogiad mewn gwleidyddiaeth yng Nghymru? Er mwyn iddynt gael yr effaith fwyaf posibl, onid yw'n bwysig eu bod yn cael eu hysbysebu a'u hybu'n effeithiol er mwyn sicrhau'r diddordeb ehangaf posibl?

Carwyn Jones: I agree entirely. In my experience, the Regional Committees are

Carwyn Jones: Cytunaf yn llwyr. Yn fy mhrofiad i, caiff y Pwyllgorau Rhanbarth eu

well attended by the public and therefore play an important role in that regard. Press releases are issued by the Committee Secretariat, but the local press does not always publish them.

Peter Rogers: I was disturbed by recent criticisms of the Regional Committees. I thought that we had made tremendous progress with these Committees over the last four years. In north Wales, in particular, as we are so far away from Cardiff, we have had exceptionally good attendance and much of that is due to the secretariat's involvement, its setting of agendas and the work that it undertakes. Those meetings are greatly anticipated in north Wales, but they can be improved, particularly for young people. We must place on the agenda matters suitable for sixth formers. Better participation by young people could pave the way for a greater understanding of the Assembly's work. I ask you to continue to support the Committees financially and ensure that the North Wales Regional Committee meets regularly.

Carwyn Jones: I accept your comments and the importance that you and all members of the North Wales Regional Committee attach to meeting regularly. Geographically, north Wales is obviously distant from Cardiff, and that is why it is so important to have a Committee there that can be a focus point for those who wish to communicate with the Assembly. Of course, Westminster does not have such committees.

Tom Middlehurst: Contrary to Gareth Jones's remarks, one of the Assembly's many successes has been the work of the Regional Committees. Their meetings have been well attended, and I speak from my experience as a Member for a north Wales constituency. However, is not one of the contributing factors to that success the willingness of the First Minister to submit himself to questioning in open-mike sessions? That has been widely welcomed in north Wales and it is a regular feature of the North Wales Regional Committee.

Carwyn Jones: I agree, Tom. That illustrates the importance that Assembly Members must

mynychu'n dda gan y cyhoedd ac felly maent yn chwarae rôl bwysig yn hynny o beth. Cyhoeddir datganiadau i'r wasg gan Ysgrifenyddiaeth y Pwyllgorau, ond nid yw'r wasg leol yn eu cyhoeddi bob amser.

Peter Rogers: Yr oedd yn ofid gennyf glywed am y feirniadaeth ddiweddar o'r Pwyllgorau Rhanbarth. Credais ein bod wedi gwneud cynnydd sylweddol gyda'r Pwyllgorau hyn yn ystod y pedair blynedd diwethaf. Cawsom bresenoldeb arbennig o dda yn y Gogledd yn arbennig, gan ein bod mor bell o Gaerdydd, a'r rheswm dros lawer o hynny yw cyfranogiad yr ysgrifenyddiaeth, y modd y mae'n pennu agendâu a'r gwaith y mae'n ei wneud. Mae disgwyl mawr am y cyfarfodydd hynny yn y Gogledd, ond gellir gwella arnynt, yn arbennig ar gyfer pobl ifanc. Rhaid inni roi materion ar yr agenda sy'n addas i fyfyrwyr chweched dosbarth. Gallai cyfranogiad gwell gan bobl ifanc arwain at well dealltwriaeth o waith y Cynulliad. Gofynnaf ichi barhau i gynorthwyo'r Pwyllgorau yn ariannol a sicrhau bod Pwyllgor Rhanbarth y Gogledd yn cyfarfod yn rheolaidd.

Carwyn Jones: Derbyniaf eich sylwadau a'r pwys a roddwch chi a phob aelod o Bwyllgor Rhanbarth y Gogledd ar gyfarfod yn rheolaidd. Yn ddaearyddol, mae'r Gogledd yn amlwg yn bell o Gaerdydd, a dyna pam ei bod mor bwysig cael Pwyllgor yno a all fod yn ganolbwynt i'r rhai sy'n dymuno cyfathrebu â'r Cynulliad. Wrth gwrs, nid oes gan San Steffan bwyllgorau o'r fath.

Tom Middlehurst: Yn groes i sylwadau Gareth Jones, un o nifer o lwyddiannau'r Cynulliad fu gwaith y Pwyllgorau Rhanbarth. Cafwyd presenoldeb da yn eu cyfarfodydd, a siaradaf o brofiad fel Aelod dros etholaeth yn y Gogledd. Fodd bynnag, onid un o'r ffactorau a gyfrannodd at y llwyddiant hwnnw yw parodrwydd Prif Weinidog Cymru i ateb cwestiynau mewn sesiynau hawl i holi? Croesawyd hynny'n helaeth yn y Gogledd ac mae'n nodwedd reolaidd o Bwyllgor Rhanbarth y Gogledd.

Carwyn Jones: Cytunaf, Tom. Dengys hynny pa mor bwysig ydyw i Aelodau'r Cynulliad

accord the public's ability to question not just their own AMs, but Ministers and, as you pointed out, the First Minister.

roi'r gallu i'r cyhoedd holi nid yn unig eu AC eu hunain, ond Gweinidogion, ac, fel y nodasoch, Brif Weinidog Cymru.

Cyrff Cyhoeddus a Noddir gan y Cynulliad **Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies**

Q3 Peter Black: How is the Minister promoting greater openness among Assembly sponsored public bodies? (OAQ22657)

C3 Peter Black: Sut y mae'r Gweinidog yn annog cyrff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad i fod yn fwy agored? (OAQ22657)

Carwyn Jones: ASPBs are required to follow, where possible, the approach to openness set out in our Code of Practice on Public Access to Information. Officials are in the process of writing to these bodies to ensure that appropriate structures are in place within each organisation to enable this approach to be taken forward. We will also be providing training to key individuals within each organisation to ensure that a shared understanding of the code exists between ASPBs and the Assembly.

Carwyn Jones: Mae'n ofynnol i CCNC ddilyn, lle bynnag y bo modd, yr ymagwedd tuag at fod yn agored a nodir yn ein Cod Ymarfer ar Ganiatáu i'r Cyhoedd Weld Gwybodaeth. Mae swyddogion yn y broses o ysgrifennu at y cyrff hyn i sicrhau bod y strwythurau priodol ar waith o fewn pob sefydliad er mwyn galluogi'r ymagwedd hon i gael ei datblygu. Byddwn hefyd yn darparu hyfforddiant i unigolion allweddol o fewn pob sefydliad er mwyn sicrhau bod dealltwriaeth gyffredin o'r cod sy'n bodoli rhwng CCNC a'r Cynulliad.

Peter Black: The Assembly is achieving greater transparency and openness in Welsh politics, and the quango state, as it was known in pre-Assembly times, is undergoing many changes. However, do you agree that many people still perceive Assembly sponsored public bodies to be less open and transparent than the Assembly, and that much work remains to be done to remedy that? How can we achieve that openness and transparency more quickly?

Peter Black: Mae'r Cynulliad yn llwyddo i fod yn fwy tryloyw ac agored mewn gwleidyddiaeth yng Nghymru, ac mae'r wladwriaeth gwango, fel y'i hadnabuwyd yn y cyfnod cyn y Cynulliad, yn mynd drwy sawl newid. Fodd bynnag, oni chytunwch fod nifer o bobl yn parhau i ystyried cyrff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad fel rhai sy'n llai agored a thryloyw na'r Cynulliad, a bod llawer o waith i'w wneud o hyd i unioni hynny? Sut y gallwn fod yn fwy agored a thryloyw yn gyflymach?

Carwyn Jones: You are right to point out quangos' lack of democratic accountability prior to the Assembly's inception. You are also right to point out the accountability that now exists regarding bodies that were set up in the 1980s and 1990s. That is a great step forward for openness and democracy in Wales, and we as a Government will continue to ensure that that is the case.

Carwyn Jones: Yr ydych yn gywir i nodi diffyg atebolrwydd democrataidd y cwangos cyn sefydlu'r Cynulliad. Yr ydych hefyd yn gywir i nodi'r atebolrwydd sy'n bodoli bellach o ran cyrff a sefydlwyd yn yr 1980au a'r 1990au. Mae hynny'n gam anferth ymlaen ar gyfer bod yn agored ac yn ddemocrataidd yng Nghymru, a byddwn ni fel Llywodraeth yn parhau i sicrhau mai dyna fydd yr achos.

Jonathan Morgan: Minister, your Cabinet colleagues answer questions from time to time on the role of Assembly sponsored public bodies and what they achieve. Ministers will often trumpet the successes of those ASPBs but will be shy in answering

Jonathan Morgan: Weinidog, mae eich cyd-Aelodau yn y Cabinet yn ateb cwestiynau o dro i dro ar rôl cyrff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad a'r hyn y maent yn ei gyflawni. Bydd Gweinidogion yn aml yn canmol llwyddiannau'r CCNC hynny ond yn swil o

questions on some of their failings. What are you doing to promote openness within your Cabinet?

Carwyn Jones: Ours is the most open Cabinet in western Europe, as illustrated by the fact that it has submitted itself to open-mike sessions in Llandudno and in Haverfordwest.

Helen Mary Jones: I am interested in what you said about the democratic accountability of quangos. I am sure that we would all agree that, although there are problems, the situation is better now than it used to be. Will you acknowledge, Minister, that there is grave concern among learning providers about how Education and Learning Wales does or does not communicate with them on a range of decisions—from big policy decisions to small day-to-day financial matters? As Minister with responsibility for open government, will you discuss these communication difficulties and lack of openness with the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, to see whether some kind of memorandum of understanding can be established with ELWa to address these issues?

Carwyn Jones: You have raised this matter with me, and I will raise it with the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning.

ran ateb cwestiynau am rai o'u diffygion. Beth ydych chi'n ei wneud i hybu ymagwedd agored o fewn eich Cabinet?

Carwyn Jones: Ein Cabinet ni yw'r mwyaf agored yng ngorllewin Ewrop, fel y dangosir gan y ffaith iddo drefnu sesiynau hawl i holi yn Llandudno ac yn Hwlfordd.

Helen Mary Jones: Mae gennyf ddiddordeb yn yr hyn a ddywedsoch am atebolrwydd democrataidd cwangos. Er bod problemau, yr wyf yn sicr y byddem oll yn cytuno bod y sefyllfa yn well yn awr nag y bu. A wnewch chi gydnabod, Weinidog, fod pryder dwys ymysg darparwyr dysgu am y modd y mae Dysgu ac Addysgu Cymru yn cyfathrebu â hwy ar amrywiaeth o benderfyniadau, a'r modd nad ydynt yn gwneud hynny—gan gynnwys penderfyniadau polisi mawr a materion ariannol llai o ddydd i ddydd? Fel Gweinidog sydd â chyfrifoldeb dros lywodraeth agored, a wnewch chi drafod yr anawsterau cyfathrebu hyn a'r diffyg ymagwedd agored gyda'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes, er mwyn gweld a ellir sefydlu memorandwm o ddealltwriaeth gydag ELWa i ymdrin â'r materion hyn?

Carwyn Jones: Yr ydych wedi codi'r mater hwn gyda mi, a byddaf yn ei godi gyda'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes.

Cymryd Rhan yn y Broses Ddemocrataidd Democratic Participation

Q4 Val Lloyd: What measures will the Minister employ to strengthen democratic participation in Wales? (OAQ22666)

Carwyn Jones: The Electoral Commission has statutory responsibility for encouraging greater participation in elections. We can reinforce the commission's activities through communication with people in Wales about the Assembly Government's work and the policies it is developing and implementing so that people are informed of what is happening.

Val Lloyd: You may have partly answered my question but, regrettably, many people have the perception that there is no point in

C4 Val Lloyd: Pa fesurau y bydd y Gweinidog yn eu defnyddio i geisio sicrhau bod mwy yn cymryd rhan yn y broses ddemocrataidd yng Nghymru? (OAQ22666)

Carwyn Jones: Mae gan y Comisiwn Etholiadol gyfrifoldeb statudol dros annog rhagor o gyfranogiad mewn etholiadau. Gallwn atgyfnerthu gweithgareddau'r comisiwn drwy gyfathrebu â phobl yng Nghymru ynghylch gwaith Llywodraeth y Cynulliad a'r polisiau y mae'n eu datblygu a'u gweithredu fel bod pobl yn cael eu hysbysu am yr hyn sy'n digwydd.

Val Lloyd: Yr ydych wedi ateb fy nghwestiwn yn rhannol ond, yn anffodus, cred llawer o bobl nad oes diben pleidleisio.

voting. That increases with the media persistently focusing on voter apathy. What plans do you have, if any, to overcome this perception in the longer term, and to reassure the electorate that votes count, and that it is important for people to vote?

Carwyn Jones: You have identified a problem that applies not only to the Assembly elections, but across the board—not just in Wales or the UK, but across western Europe. Turnout is dropping throughout western Europe and in every democratic society. There are no easy answers to that problem, but we must redouble our efforts to ensure that people feel that their vote will make a difference, and that their decision will have a material effect on their lives. It is a challenge for all political parties in the election on 1 May. However, I note with some interest that, on the one hand, it is often suggested that a vote for election to this institution is irrelevant, yet many small organisations wish to put forward candidates for election. That illustrates that the irrelevance that many in the media talk about is not felt by the general public.

Janet Davies: Minister, the actions that the Electoral Commission can take are mechanistic. Do you agree that the way to really increase democratic participation is for governments to meet people's aspirations, tempered with humanity, compassion and justice, and that therefore a low turnout in the May election would be an indictment of the United Kingdom and Welsh Governments?

Carwyn Jones: I do not accept that at all. That would be an indictment of a failure by politicians, because if there were a low turnout, or a lower than expected turnout, it would be a comment on the opposition as well as on the Government, because the opposition would have failed to enthuse people to vote. That is the converse of the argument. It is right to say that we as Assembly Members, as well as politicians elsewhere in Wales, must ensure that as many people as possible participate in the democratic process. Participation in elections in the United States has been historically low,

Mae hynny'n cynyddu wrth i'r cyfryngau ganolbwyntio'n barhaus ar ddifaterwch pleidleiswyr. Pa gynlluniau sydd gennych, os o gwbl, i oresgyn hyn yn y tymor hwy, ac i roi sicrwydd i'r etholwyr bod pleidleisiau'n cyfrif, a'i bod yn bwysig i bobl bleidleisio?

Carwyn Jones: Yr ydych wedi nodi problem sy'n berthnasol nid yn unig i etholiadau'r Cynulliad, ond yn gyffredinol—nid yn unig yng Nghymru neu'r DU, ond ar draws gorllewin Ewrop. Mae nifer y pleidleiswyr yn gostwng ledled gorllewin Ewrop ac ym mhob cymdeithas ddemocrataidd. Nid oes atebion hawdd i'r broblem honno, ond rhaid inni wneud ymdrech o'r newydd i sicrhau bod pobl yn teimlo y gall eu pleidlais wneud gwahaniaeth, ac y bydd eu penderfyniad yn cael effaith sylweddol ar eu bywydau. Mae'n her i bob plaid wleidyddol yn yr etholiad ar 1 Mai. Fodd bynnag, nodaf gyda pheth diddordeb yr awgrymir yn aml, ar yr un llaw, fod pleidlais mewn etholiad i'r sefydliad hwn yn amherthnasol, ond eto mae nifer o sefydliadau bach yn dymuno enwebu ymgeiswyr i'w hethol. Dengys hynny nad yw'r cyhoedd yn gyffredinol yn teimlo'r amherthnasedd y mae llawer yn y cyfryngau yn sôn amdano.

Janet Davies: Weinidog, mecanistig yw'r camau y gall y Comisiwn Etholiadol eu cymryd. A gytunwch mai'r ffordd i gynyddu cyfranogiad democrataidd mewn gwirionedd yw i lywodraethau ddiwallu dyheadau pobl, a hynny gydag ymagwedd ddyngarol, tosturi a chyfiawnder, ac felly y byddai nifer fach o bleidleiswyr yn etholiad mis Mai yn gondemniad ar Lywodraethau y Deyrnas Unedig a Chymru?

Carwyn Jones: Ni dderbyniaf hynny o gwbl. Byddai hynny'n arwydd o fethiant gan wleidyddion, oherwydd os byddai nifer y pleidleiswyr yn fach, neu os byddai'r nifer yn llai na'r disgwyl, byddai'n dweud rhywbeth am y gwrthbleidiau yn ogystal ag am y Llywodraeth, gan y byddai'r gwrthbleidiau wedi methu ag annog pobl i bleidleisio. Dyna ochr arall y ddadl. Mae'n wir i ddweud y dylem ni fel Aelodau'r Cynulliad, yn ogystal â gwleidyddion eraill yng Nghymru, sicrhau bod cymaint â phosibl yn cymryd rhan yn y broses ddemocrataidd. Bu cyfranogiad mewn etholiadau yn yr Unol Daleithiau yn fach yn

and people there seem to have got used to it. I hope that a situation does not arise in the UK or in Wales whereby we become used to low turnouts and accept them as inevitable.

William Graham: Minister, do you agree with the Secretary of State for Wales that voting should be compulsory?

Carwyn Jones: That is a matter of choice and principle. There are great difficulties in making voting compulsory. It is always open to those who are forced to the ballot box to spoil their ballot papers, so it does not add anything to the democratic process. I would hope that people feel they should vote because they need to play a full part in society. Many of us in the Chamber will have met people who say that they never vote. The response to that is if you do not vote, your voice will not be heard. It is difficult for people to say on the one hand that they never vote, and on the other that they want to protest against a particular issue. It is important to vote, and it is a civic duty. However, I regret that that view is not shared by a large minority of our fellow citizens.

3.00 p.m.

Cyhoeddi Lwfansau Aelodau Publication of Members' Allowances

Q5 David Melding: What discussions has the Minister had about the publication of Members' allowances? (OAQ22664)

Carwyn Jones: This is a matter for the House Committee, with its new functions. I understand that it is under consideration at present.

David Melding: Are you proud of the fact that we are the only legislative body in the United Kingdom that has not made any declaration of intent to publish membership allowances?

Carwyn Jones: This has been adopted piecemeal across the UK. Our maximum

hanesyddol, ond ymddengys fod pobl yno wedi dod i arfer â'r sefyllfa. Gobeithiaf na fydd sefyllfa yn codi yn y DU nac yng Nghymru lle byddwn yn dod i arfer â nifer fach o bleidleiswyr ac yn derbyn hynny fel sefyllfa anochel.

William Graham: Weinidog, a gytunwch gydag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru y dylai pleidleisio fod yn orfodol?

Carwyn Jones: Mater o ddewis ac egwyddor yw hynny. Mae anawsterau mawr yn gysylltiedig â gwneud pleidleisio'n orfodol. Mae posibilrwydd bob amser y bydd y rhai a gaiff eu gorfodi i fynd i'r blwch pleidleisio yn difetha eu papurau pleidleisio, felly nid yw'n ychwanegu unrhyw beth i'r broses ddemocrataidd. Gobeithiaf y bydd pobl yn teimlo y dylent bleidleisio gan fod angen iddynt chwarae rhan lawn mewn cymdeithas. Bydd llawer ohonom yn y Siambr wedi cyfarfod â phobl sy'n dweud nad ydynt byth yn pleidleisio. Yr ymateb yw os nad ydych yn pleidleisio, ni chlywir eich llais. Mae'n anodd i bobl ddweud ar yr un llaw nad ydynt byth yn pleidleisio, a dweud ar y llaw arall eu bod am brotestio yn erbyn mater arbennig. Mae'n bwysig pleidleisio, ac mae'n ddyletswydd ddinesig. Fodd bynnag, gresynaf na rennir y farn honno gan leiafrif mawr o'n cyd-ddinasyddion.

C5 David Melding: Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cael ynghylch cyhoeddi manylion lwfansau'r Aelodau? (OAQ22664)

Carwyn Jones: Mater i'r Pwyllgor Tŷ, gyda'i swyddogaethau newydd yw hwn. Deallaf ei fod yn cael ei ystyried ar hyn o bryd.

David Melding: A ydych yn ymfalchïo yn y ffaith mai ni yw'r unig gorff deddfwriaethol yn y Deyrnas Unedig na wnaeth unrhyw ddatganiad o fwriad i gyhoeddi manylion lwfansau'r aelodaeth?

Carwyn Jones: Mabwysiadwyd hyn bob yn dipyn ar draws y DU. Mae mwyafswm ein

allowances are known, and some Members have decided to publish their allowances and broken down the amounts that they have been paid. However, the House Committee must now consider this matter and come back with proposals for Members' consideration.

The Presiding Officer: Question 6 (OAQ22661) is withdrawn.

lwfansau yn hysbys, a phenderfynodd rhai Aelodau gyhoeddi eu lwfansau gyda dadansoddiad o'r symiau y cawsant eu talu. Fodd bynnag, rhaid i'r Pwyllgor Tŷ drafod y mater hwn yn awr a dychwelyd gyda chynigion i'r Aelodau eu hystyried.

Y Llywydd: Tynnwyd Cwestiwn 6 (OAQ22661) yn ôl.

Gwneud Llywodraeth Cymru yn Fwy Agored Greater Openness in Welsh Government

Q7 Peter Black: What initiatives is the Minister proposing to take in the next three months to promote greater openness in Welsh Government? (OAQ22656)

Carwyn Jones: I refer you to my previous answers on Assembly sponsored public bodies, and what has been done, and is being proposed, in terms of Ministers interacting with the public through open-mike sessions, as well as other matters.

Peter Black: We have talked already about the possibility of a low turnout in the Assembly elections. The perception and knowledge of many people of what the Assembly is doing is low. Do you not believe that it is important, over the next month or so, that the National Assembly works with the Electoral Commission to try to raise awareness of what the Assembly does, and of its importance to the people of Wales?

Carwyn Jones: I agree. However, I am not as pessimistic as many other Members about the turnout. There has not been a vote in Wales for two years, and I believe that there is interest in the election. I am not saying that the turnout will be fantastic, but that is down to the society and the age in which we live. However, people should feel that it is important to vote. There is much ignorance as to what this institution does, but that is also true of Parliament and local councils. If you spoke to people about Parliament and asked them to explain its workings, most people would not be able to answer. They would have a vague idea of what that institution does, but it has been around for much longer. In time, there is no doubt that the way in which the Assembly affects the lives of the people of Wales will become better known.

C7 Peter Black: Pa fentrau sydd gan y Gweinidog ar y gweill yn ystod y tri mis nesaf i wneud Llywodraeth Cymru yn fwy agored? (OAQ22656)

Carwyn Jones: Fe'ch cyfeiriaf at fy atebion blaenorol ar gyrff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad, a'r hyn a wnaethpwyd, a'r hyn a gynigir, o ran Gweinidogion yn rhyngweithio gyda'r cyhoedd drwy gyfrwng sesiynau hawl i holi, yn ogystal â materion eraill.

Peter Black: Yr ydym eisoes wedi sôn am y posibilrwydd y bydd nifer fach yn pleidleisio yn etholiadau'r Cynulliad. Mae canfyddiad a gwybodaeth nifer o bobl am yr hyn a wna'r Cynulliad yn brin. Oni chredwch ei bod yn bwysig, yn ystod y misoedd nesaf, bod y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn cydweithio â'r Comisiwn Etholiadol er mwyn ceisio codi ymwybyddiaeth o'r hyn a wna'r Cynulliad, a'i bwysigrwydd i bobl Cymru?

Carwyn Jones: Cytunaf. Fodd bynnag, nid wyf mor besimistaidd â nifer o Aelodau eraill ynghylch nifer y pleidleiswyr. Ni fu pleidlais yng Nghymru ers dwy flynedd, a chredaf fod diddordeb yn yr etholiad. Nid wyf yn dweud y bydd nifer y pleidleiswyr yn aruthrol, ond y gymdeithas a'r oes yr ydym yn byw ynddi sy'n gyfrifol am hynny. Fodd bynnag, dylai pobl deimlo ei bod yn bwysig pleidleisio. Ceir llawer o anwybodaeth am yr hyn a wna'r sefydliad hwn, ond mae hynny hefyd yn wir am y Senedd a chynghorau lleol. Pe baech yn siarad gyda phobl am y Senedd a gofyn iddynt sut mae'n gweithio, ni fyddai'r rhan fwyaf o bobl yn gallu ateb. Byddai ganddynt rhyw fath o syniad am yr hyn a wna'r sefydliad, ond bu mewn bodolaeth ers mwy o amser. Maes o law, nid oes amheuaeth y bydd y modd y mae'r Cynulliad yn effeithio

ar fywydau pobl Cymru yn dod yn fwy hysbys.

David Davies: You have talked about a commitment to open government. On 12 February, I asked the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning if she would list all the conferences that have been organised by the community consortia for education and training, following allegations that headteachers and senior education officials had spent a day playing with Lego bricks in luxury hotels. I am still waiting for an answer. More than two weeks later, I have just been told that she will write to me and put a copy somewhere. It is a straightforward question and I want a straightforward answer. You are not delivering one and your Government is not delivering one. Where is the commitment to openness when it comes to answering difficult questions?

David Davies: Yr ydych wedi sôn am ymrwymiad i lywodraeth agored. Ar 12 Chwefror, gofynnais i'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes pe bai'n rhestru'r holl gynadleddau a drefnwyd gan y consortia cymunedol ar gyfer addysg a hyfforddiant, yn dilyn honiadau bod prifathrawon ac uwch swyddogion addysg wedi treulio diwrnod yn chwarae â briciau Lego mewn gwestai moethus. Yr wyf yn parhau i ddisgwyl am ateb. Dros fythefnos yn ddiweddarach, yr wyf newydd gael gwybod y bydd yn ysgrifennu ataf ac yn rhoi copi yn rhywle. Mae'n gwestiwn syml ac yr wyf am gael ateb syml. Nid ydych yn gwneud hynny ac nid yw eich Llywodraeth yn gwneud hynny. Ble mae'r ymrwymiad i fod yn agored pan ddaw yn amser i ateb cwestiynau anodd?

Carwyn Jones: You must take the matter up in the appropriate quarter with the Minister and the Presiding Officer.

Carwyn Jones: Rhaid ichi godi'r mater gyda'r bobl briodol, y Gweinidog a'r Llywydd.

Cydbwysedd rhwng Bywyd a Gwaith Work-Life Balance

Q8 Christine Chapman: What action has the Minister taken to promote the equal opportunity benefits of a greater work-life balance in Wales? (OAQ22670)

C8 Christine Chapman: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi eu cymryd i hyrwyddo'r ffaith y byddai sicrhau mwy o gydbwysedd rhwng bywyd a gwaith yn fanteisiol o safbwynt cyfle cyfartal? (OAQ22670)

Carwyn Jones: We should take the lead and encourage the private sector, as well as public sector organisations, in Wales to take that concept on board. Our work-life balance programme fits closely with our approach to equality of opportunity, both for our own staff and for other employers. We seek to encourage practical approaches to help people to manage their work and other commitments to widen employment opportunities and career development.

Carwyn Jones: Dylem gymryd yr awenau ac annog y sector cyhoeddus, yn ogystal â chyrff sector cyhoeddus, yng Nghymru i fabwysiadu'r cysyniad hwnnw. Mae ein rhaglen cydbwysedd rhwng bywyd a gwaith yn cyd-fynd yn agos â'n hymagwedd tuag at gyfle cyfartal, ar gyfer ein staff ein hunain ac ar gyfer cyflogwyr eraill. Yr ydym yn ceisio annog ymagweddau ymarferol i gynorthwyo pobl i reoli eu gwaith ac ymrwymadau eraill er mwyn ehangu cyfleoedd cyflogaeth a datblygu gyrfa.

Christine Champan: Are you aware of recent research, which shows that despite equally long working hours and responsibility, the majority of domestic household work, childcare and other care is still carried out by women? Do you agree that, to be effective, measures to improve

Christine Chapman: A ydych yn ymwybodol o ymchwil ddiweddar, sy'n dangos, er gwaethaf oriau gwaith hir a chyfrifoldeb, mai merched sy'n ymgymryd â'r rhan fwyaf o waith tŷ, gofal plant a gofal arall? Er mwyn iddynt fod yn effeithiol, a gytunwch y dylai mesurau i wella

work-life balance must also encourage greater participation by men in the home? Would you support a campaign to this effect, as has been done in Sweden?

Carwyn Jones: Certainly. There has been a breakdown of traditional gender stereotypes. They have not gone completely, but they have broken down over the past 20 or 30 years. I encourage men as well as women to consider work-life balance as an issue of importance. Both men and women work far longer hours in this country than is the case in other European countries. Men work particularly long hours and it is important that both sexes see the concept of work-life balance as important.

cydbwysedd rhwng bywyd a gwaith hefyd annog rhagor o gyfranogiad gan ddynion yn y cartref? A fydddech yn cefnogi ymgyrch i'r diben hwn, fel y gwnaethpwyd yn Sweden?

Carwyn Jones: Yn bendant. Bu newid yn y stereoteipiau rhyw traddodiadol. Ni ddiflannodd y rhain yn llwyr, ond maent wedi newid yn ystod yr 20 neu'r 30 mlynedd diwethaf. Anogaf ddynion yn ogystal â merched i ystyried y cydbwysedd rhwng bywyd a gwaith fel mater pwysig. Mae dynion a merched yn gweithio oriau llawer hirach yn y wlad hon nag a wneir mewn gwledydd Ewropeaidd eraill. Mae dynion yn gweithio oriau arbennig o hir ac mae'n bwysig bod y ddau ryw yn ystyried y cydbwysedd rhwng bywyd a gwaith fel mater pwysig.

Datganiad ar y Rhaglen Ynni Statement on the Energy Programme

The Minister for Economic Development (Andrew Davies): Today I am setting out my vision of Wales becoming a global showcase for sustainable clean energy production and energy efficiency. This builds on my statement of 30 April 2002 and is made against the background of the UK White Paper on energy published on Monday. Our aim is to secure the right mix of energy provision for Wales to take us forward through the next two decades in a way that minimises our impact on the environment. We will do that by strengthening our production of renewable energy, through a greater focus on energy efficiency and conservation, and by seizing the opportunities offered by clean coal and liquified natural gas.

We believe we have the right formula in this energy mix to ensure that we have secure, diverse and affordable energy and can meet environmental commitments without having any new nuclear power generation in Wales in this timeframe. Simultaneously, we will have considerable associated economic development opportunities.

Our policy priorities focus on five equally important strands. The first is to pursue much greater energy efficiency, including small-

Y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd (Andrew Davies): Heddiw cyflwynaf fy ngweledigaeth o Gymru yn dod yn enghraifft fyd-eang o gynhyrchu ynni glân cynaliadwy ac effeithlonrwydd ynni. Mae hyn yn ychwanegu at fy natganiad ar 30 Ebrill 2002 ac fe'i gwneir yn erbyn cefndir Papur Gwyn y DU ar ynni a gyhoeddwyd ar ddydd Llun. Ein nod yw sicrhau'r cymysgedd cywir o ddarpariaeth ynni i Gymru i fynd â ni ymlaen drwy'r ddau ddegawd nesaf mewn ffordd a gaiff yr effaith leiaf ar yr amgylchedd. Gwnawn hynny drwy gryfhau ein cynhyrchiant o ynni adnewyddadwy, drwy ganolbwyntio mwy ar effeithlonrwydd ynni a chadwraeth, a thrwy ganolbwyntio ar y cyfleoedd a gynigir gan lo glân a nwy naturiol hylifedig.

Credwn fod gennym y fformiwla gywir yn y cymysgedd ynni hwn i sicrhau bod gennym ynni diogel, amrywiol a fforddiadwy ac y gallwn fodloni ymrwymadau amgylcheddol heb gynhyrchu unrhyw ynni niwclear newydd yng Nghymru o fewn yr amserlen hon. Ar yr un pryd, cawn gyfleoedd datblygu economaidd cysylltiedig sylweddol.

Canolbwyntia ein blaenoriaethau polisi ar bum maes cyfwerth â'i gilydd. Y gyntaf yw anelu at fwy o effeithlonrwydd ynni, gan

scale on-site combined heat and power and renewable energy plants, in our domestic, business and public sectors, working in partnership with local authorities. Energy conservation offers special opportunities to meet our sustainable development ambitions in Wales. However, achieving these goals will require us to ensure that our energy efficiency, fuel poverty and associated economic development issues are addressed in partnership and coherently.

Much is already happening in Wales in the domestic and public sector, through programmes such as the home energy efficiency scheme. We also have strong Energy Saving Trust and energy efficiency commitment activities that support the Assembly Government's commitment to energy conservation and attacking fuel poverty. Carbon Trust Wales is developing a powerful suite of initiatives for our business and public sectors through NHS Wales and the Assembly estate. Our local authorities are taking an increasing interest in such matters, and bodies such as the Welsh Development Agency and NHS Wales are looking to be exemplars of best practice in energy efficiency. The new Assembly building is to be built to the Building Research Establishment environmental assessment method standard of excellence and we are seeking a transfer of some building regulation powers from Westminster.

However, we need to scale up and better integrate our efforts under the guidance of an energy conservation strategy. We are therefore proposing that an energy conservation action plan for Wales be developed. This plan will include an enhanced role for local authorities and their energy managers and related officers. There will be greater pressure on all our agencies, ideally with the support of the new Assembly construction forum, to be exemplars of best practice. It will encourage the implementation of green procurement plans and related conservation practices and skills in the private and public sectors as outlined in our new business and environment action plan, which we discussed yesterday.

gynnwys gweithfeydd ynni adnewyddadwy a gweithfeydd gwres ac ynni cyfunol ar y safle ar raddfa fach, yn ein sectorau domestig, busnes a chyhoeddus, gan weithio mewn partneriaeth ag awdurdodau lleol. Mae arbed ynni yn cynnig cyfleoedd arbennig i gyflawni ein dyheadau o ran datblygu cynaliadwy yng Nghymru. Fodd bynnag, bydd cyflawni'r nodau hyn yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol inni sicrhau yr ymdrinnir â'n materion effeithlonrwydd ynni, tlodi tanwydd a materion datblygu economaidd cysylltiedig mewn partneriaeth ac yn gydlynol.

Mae llawer eisoes yn digwydd yng Nghymru yn y sector domestig a chyhoeddus, drwy raglenni fel y cynllun effeithlonrwydd ynni yn y cartref. Mae gennym weithgareddau ymrwymiad i effeithlonrwydd ynni pwysig yn ogystal â gweithgareddau'r Ymddiriedolaeth Arbed Ynni sy'n ategu ymrwymiad Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i arbed ynni a mynd i'r afael â thlodi tanwydd. Mae Ymddiriedolaeth Carbon Cymru yn datblygu cyfres bwerus o fentrau ar gyfer ein sectorau busnes a chyhoeddus drwy GIG Cymru ac ystad y Cynulliad. Mae ein hawdurdodau lleol yn cymryd diddordeb cynyddol mewn materion o'r fath, a disgwylir i gyrff fel Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru a GIG Cymru fod yn enghreifftiau o arfer gorau mewn effeithlonrwydd ynni. Caiff adeilad newydd y Cynulliad ei adeiladu yn ôl safon rhagoriaeth dull asesu amgylcheddol y Sefydliad Ymchwil Adeiladu ac yr ydym yn ceisio trosglwyddo rhai o bwerau'r rheoliadau adeiladu o San Steffan.

Fodd bynnag, mae angen inni gynyddu ac integreiddio ein hymdrechion yn well o dan arweiniad strategaeth arbed ynni. Cynigiwn felly y dylid datblygu cynllun gweithredu arbed ynni i Gymru. Bydd y cynllun hwn yn cynnwys gwell rôl i awdurdodau lleol a'u rheolwyr ynni a swyddogion cysylltiedig. Bydd mwy o bwysau ar bob un o'n hasiantaethau, yn ddefnyddol gyda chefnogaeth fforwm adeiladu'r Cynulliad newydd, i fod yn enghreifftiau o arferion gorau. Bydd yn annog gweithredu cynlluniau caffael gwyrdd ac arferion a sgiliau cadwraeth cysylltiedig yn y sectorau preifat a chyhoeddus fel yr amlinellwyd yn ein cynllun gweithredu busnes a'r amgylchedd newydd, a drafodasom ddoe.

We will try to devise effective schools and Assembly estates initiatives covering both building improvements and educational messages. A range of planning-related initiatives will also be introduced, including enhanced efforts to encourage best practice by the private house building sector in Wales.

The second strand is a strong drive in Wales, measured against appropriate benchmarks, for a sustainable mix of renewable energy developments. Wales already contributes 3 per cent of its total electricity production of about 30 terrawatt hours a year from renewable sources, primarily through onshore wind and hydro power. There are plans in the pipeline for more projects through a variety of renewable energy technologies. Innovation and research and development are essential to the future of these new technologies and the WDA and the Carbon Trust in Wales will be integral to their development. The Carbon Trust, for instance, has just announced research and development projects in Wales of around £0.5 million. The Economic Development Committee's recent report on renewable energy recommends renewable energy benchmarks for 2010, which appear to be reasonable. I will give a full response to the Committee's conclusions next week.

3.10 p.m.

In relation to planning policies, we want to see an integrated approach that brings together the views of developers, local authorities, community groups and our economic development and environmental agencies. The technical advisory group is developing detailed guidance in technical advice note 8. The group is already demonstrating the greater willingness of these parties to engage in policy dialogue. The aim is to ensure that developments will not impact on areas of high quality landscape but that, equally, the best projects that demonstrate significant local benefits and best practice will be positively supported.

In the short to medium term, onshore and

Byddwn yn ceisio llunio mentrau effeithiol ar gyfer ysgolion ac ystadau'r Cynulliad sy'n cynnwys gwelliannau i adeiladau a negeseuon addysgol. Caiff amrywiaeth o fentrau yn gysylltiedig â chynllunio eu cyflwyno hefyd, gan gynnwys ymdrechu mwy i annog arferion gorau gan y sectorau adeiladu tai preifat yng Nghymru.

Yr ail faes yw ymgyrch gref yng Nghymru, wedi ei mesur yn erbyn meincnodau priodol, ar gyfer cymysgedd cynaliadwy o ddatblygiadau ynni adnewyddadwy. Mae Cymru eisoes yn cyfrannu 3 y cant o gyfanswm ei chynhyrchiant trydan sef tua 30 awr terawat y flwyddyn o ffynonellau adnewyddadwy, yn bennaf drwy wynt ar y tir ac ynni hydro. Mae mwy o brosiectau yn yr arfaeth i'w cyflwyno drwy amrywiaeth o dechnolegau ynni adnewyddadwy. Mae arloesedd ac ymchwil a datblygu yn hanfodol i ddyfodol y technolegau newydd hyn a bydd y WDA a'r Ymddiriedolaeth Carbon yng Nghymru yn rhan hanfodol o'u datblygiad. Mae'r Ymddiriedolaeth Carbon, er enghraifft, newydd gyhoeddi prosiectau ymchwil a datblygu yng Nghymru o tua £0.5 miliwn. Mae adroddiad diweddar y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd ar ynni adnewyddadwy yn argymhell meincnodau ynni adnewyddadwy ar gyfer 2010, sy'n ymddangos yn rhesymol. Rhoddaf ymateb llawn i gasgliadau'r Pwyllgor yr wythnos nesaf.

O ran polisiau cynllunio, yr ydym am weld ymagwedd integredig sy'n dwyn barn datblygwyr, awdurdodau lleol, grwpiau cymunedol a'n hasiantaethau datblygu economaidd ac amgylcheddol ynghyd. Mae'r grŵp ymgynghorol technegol yn datblygu canllawiau manwl yn nodyn cyngor technegol 8. Mae'r grŵp eisoes yn dangos bod y partion hyn yn barotach i drafod polisi. Y nod yw sicrhau na fydd datblygiadau yn effeithio ar ardaloedd lle ceir tirwedd o safon, ond yn yr un modd, y caiff y prosiectau gorau sy'n dangos manteision lleol sylweddol ac arferion gorau eu cefnogi'n gadarnhaol.

Yn y tymor byr i ganolig, ynni gwynt ar y tir

offshore wind power are the technologies most likely to contribute substantively to our ambitions. We already lead the UK in the development of onshore windfarms and are closely involved in exciting new offshore developments. Consent has already been given for two windfarms off the north Wales coast and we are working with the UK Government on the next stages of offshore development.

Tidal stream technology and biomass energy provide prospects for further development and we are working with our partners to drive this forward. There is real potential to attract a formative range of tidal technologies to Wales. On biomass, we are continuing to examine ways of developing this sector, but it is still an area of some uncertainty. It is our intention to extend our woodlands and biomass strategy into a comprehensive biomass development policy. We believe, in the longer term, that projects of the scale of the Severn barrage could be desirable. However, that has enormous environmental as well as economic implications and further feasibility work is desirable.

The third strand is to encourage energy infrastructure improvements and press for reform of electricity trading arrangements. As North Sea gas supplies diminish we anticipate an increasing role for liquefied natural gas transported internationally by sea. That would have the benefit of producing a strengthened gas transmission infrastructure in Wales. There are currently two major projects that would make west Wales the LNG centre of the UK, thus reversing the situation whereby this area has been at the end of the energy network. We are also undertaking an analysis of the grid in Wales to provide us with a focus for seeking strategic strengthening.

The energy industry in Wales has revealed strong disquiet with current electricity trading arrangements. These concerns centre on financial confidence in the industry as well as the possibility of significant further curtailing of electricity generation in south Wales. Along with the First Minister, I shall be discussing this further with the industry.

ac ar y môr yw'r technolegau sy'n fwyaf tebygol o gyfrannu'n sylweddol at ein dyheadau. Yr ydym eisoes yn arwain y blaen yn y DU o ran datblygu ffermydd gwynt ar y tir ac yr ydym yn cymryd rhan amlwg mewn datblygiadau cyffrous newydd ar y môr. Rhoddwyd caniatâd eisoes ar gyfer dwy fferm wynt oddi ar arfordir y Gogledd ac yr ydym yn gweithio gyda Llywodraeth y DU ar gamau nesaf datblygiadau ar y môr.

Mae'r dyfodol yn edrych yn addawol o ran parhau i ddatblygu technoleg ffrwd lanw ac ynni bio-màs ac yr ydym yn gweithio gyda'n partneriaid i ddatblygu hyn. Mae posibiladau gwirioneddol y gellir denu ystod ffurfiannol o dechnolegau llanw i Gymru. O ran bio-màs, yr ydym yn parhau i ymchwilio i ffyrdd o ddatblygu'r sector hwn, ond mae cryn ansicrwydd o hyd. Ein bwriad yw ymestyn ein strategaeth coetiroedd bio-màs i greu polisi datblygu bio-màs cynhwysfawr. Credwn, yn y tymor hwy, y gallai prosiectau ar raddfa argae Hafren fod yn ddymunol. Fodd bynnag, mae i hynny oblygiadau amgylcheddol enfawr yn ogystal â goblygiadau economaidd ac mae angen gwneud mwy o waith dichonoldeb.

Y trydydd maes yw annog gwelliannau mewn seilwaith ynni a phwyso am ddiwygio trefniadau masnachu trydan. Wrth i gyflenwadau nwy Môr y Gogledd leihau, rhagwelwn rôl gynyddol i nwy naturiol hylifedig a gludir yn rhyngwladol dros y môr. Mantais hyn fyddai creu seilwaith trosglwyddo nwy cryfach yng Nghymru. Ar hyn o bryd mae dau brosiect mawr ar waith a fyddai'n troi'r Gorllewin yn ganolfan nwy naturiol hylifedig y DU, gan wrthdroi'r sefyllfa lle y bu'r ardal hon ar waelod y rhwydwaith ynni. Yr ydym hefyd yn ymgymryd â dadansoddiad o'r grid yng Nghymru i roi ffocws ar gyfer ceisio cryfhau yn strategol.

Mae'r diwydiant ynni yng Nghymru wedi dangos anniddigrwydd mawr o ran y trefniadau masnachu trydan presennol. Mae'r pryderon hyn yn canolbwyntio ar hyder ariannol yn y diwydiant yn ogystal â'r posibilrwydd o gwtogi'n sylweddol ar gynhyrchu trydan hyd yn oed yn fwy yn y De. Fel y Prif Weinidog, byddaf yn trafod hyn ymhellach gyda'r diwydiant.

The fourth strand is to encourage the production of electricity from new clean coal power stations. There are enormous coal reserves in Wales and the technology now exists to use this resource in a more environmentally friendly way. Approval is currently being sought for a 450 MW clean coal project that could secure nearly 1,000 jobs in south Wales and offers the possibility of the creation of many more if coal gasification is a commercial success. Coal gasification is an exciting technology that holds the promise of supporting many jobs while lowering emissions. We firmly support further research and development work on the sequestration, or underground storage, of carbon dioxide, which could reduce the carbon emissions from clean coal plants to zero. We must also not forget that, trapped within the coal reserves, are copious quantities of methane. We believe more could be done to exploit methane as a fuel and we will commission work to examine the options available.

The fifth strand is the setting of achievable and measurable carbon dioxide reduction targets for 2020. Our energy intensive industries face potentially serious consequences if carbon reduction targets are over ambitious. We have a higher preponderance of industrial activity than the UK average and the most energy intensive industries are often concentrated in the more deprived areas of our country. Wales produces around 12 mega tonnes of carbon through our annual carbon dioxide emissions. The measures that I have outlined are capable of reducing that by about 20 per cent or 2.5 mega tonnes of carbon by 2020.

Transport is likely to remain predominantly oil-based until at least 2020. Until that time, improved vehicle fuel efficiencies through the development of hybrid vehicles and, in the longer term, transport systems based on fuel cells powered by hydrogen, look attractive. We will be observing progress closely and seizing all opportunities to put Wales in the vanguard of hydrogen economy.

In conclusion, this is our vision for the

Y pedwerydd maes yw hybu'r gwaith o gynhyrchu trydan o orsafoedd ynni glo glân newydd. Mae cronfeydd glo enfawr yng Nghymru ac mae'r dechnoleg ar gael yn awr i ddefnyddio'r adnodd hwn mewn ffordd sy'n fwy ystyriol o'r amgylchedd. Ceisir cymeradwyaeth ar hyn o bryd ar gyfer prosiect glo glân 450 MW a allai sicrhau bron 1,000 o swyddi yn y De ac sy'n cynnig y posibilrwydd o greu llawer mwy o swyddi os bydd nwyeddio glo yn llwyddiant masnachol. Mae nwyeddio glo yn dechnoleg gyffrous sy'n addo creu llawer o swyddi tra'n lleihau gollyngiadau. Cefnogwn yn gryf waith ymchwil a datblygu pellach ar ymwahanu carbon deuocsid neu ei storio o dan y ddaear, a allai ostwng y gollyngiadau carbon o weithfeydd glo glân i sero. Rhaid inni beidio ag anghofio ychwaith bod llawer iawn o fethan wedi ei ddal o fewn y cronfeydd glo. Credwn y gellid gwneud mwy i ddefnyddio methan fel tanwydd a byddwn yn comisiynu gwaith i archwilio'r opsiynau sydd ar gael.

Y pumed maes yw gosod targedau cyraeddadwy a mesuradwy i leihau carbon deuocsid erbyn 2020. Mae ein diwydiannau ynni dwys yn wynebu canlyniadau difrifol o bosibl os bydd y targedau lleihau carbon yn rhy uchelgeisiol. Mae gennym fwyaf uwch o weithgaredd diwydiannol na chyfartaledd y DU ac yn aml y diwydiannau mwyaf dwys o ran ynni yw'r rhai sydd wedi eu lleoli yn ardaloedd mwyaf difreintiedig ein gwlad. Mae Cymru yn cynhyrchu tua 12 megaton o garbon drwy ein gollyngiadau carbon deuocsid blynyddol. Gall y mesurau a amlinellais leihau hynny tua 20 y cant neu 2.5 megaton o garbon erbyn 2020.

Mae trafniadaeth yn debygol o barhau i ddefnyddio olew yn bennaf tan o leiaf 2020. Hyd hynny, mae sicrhau gwell effeithlonrwydd o ran tanwydd cerbydau drwy ddatblygu cerbydau hybrid ac, yn y tymor hwy, systemau trafniadaeth yn seiliedig ar gelloedd tanwydd wedi eu gyrru gan hydrogen, yn edrych yn ddeniadol. Byddwn yn cadw llygad agos ar y cynnydd a wneir ac yn manteisio ar bob cyfle i roi Cymru ar y blaen o ran economi hydrogen.

I gloi, dyma ein gweledigaeth ar gyfer

development of a unique energy strategy for Wales. It sets us firmly on the path towards a low carbon future and provides a coherent and compelling medium-term strategy, which fits perfectly within our sustainable development duty. It eschews the nuclear option, but should put Wales in the forefront of clean energy generation, which is more than sufficient for our needs and which drives forward a strong energy conservation ethos across all our public and private sectors.

We have already started work on many important initiatives that will help inform and support the implementation of this strategy. As I said earlier, I and the First Minister intend to hold a second energy summit with the energy industry and its major customers later this year, to discuss the issues in this strategy and to reflect on the issues covered by the UK Government's White Paper.

Phil Williams: I will do my best to welcome the positive aspects of this statement, but will not conceal my disappointment at the gaps. I welcome the aim of making Wales a global showcase and welcome the announcement of no plans for nuclear power. You rightly deal at length with the important subject of energy efficiency, but I do not trust statements without figures. Do you agree with Plaid Cymru's calculations that, following the take-up of current schemes, it will take over 70 years to tackle the problems of inadequate insulation in houses in Wales? Therefore, when you talk of 'scaling up', are you prepared to scale up the efforts seven fold, to achieve reasonable progress in 10 years, or two fold to achieve the same target when I am over 100 years old?

On new housing, why is there no mention of the Assembly Government's recommendations on the new building regulations due in the near future, which may be the most important decision to be made in the next two years? On renewable energy sources, which I hoped would be addressed and is the most important aspect on which we can take action, I welcome the fact that the target was agreed unanimously by the Economic Development Committee. That

datblygu strategaeth ynni unigryw ar gyfer Cymru. Mae'n ein gosod yn gadarn ar y llwybr tuag at ddyfodol carbon isel a darpara strategaeth tymor canolig resymegol a chymhellol, sy'n cydweddu'n berffaith â'n dyletswydd o ran datblygu cynaliadwy. Mae'n osgoi'r opsiwn niwclear, ond dylai roi Cymru ar y blaen o ran cynhyrchu ynni glân, sy'n fwy na digon ar gyfer ein hanghenion ac sy'n hybu ethos arbed ynni cryf ar draws pob un o'n sectorau cyhoeddus a phreifat.

Yr ydym eisoes wedi dechrau gweithio ar sawl menter bwysig a fydd yn helpu i lywio ac ategu'r gwaith o weithredu'r strategaeth hon. Fel y dywedais yn gynharach, yr wyf i a'r Prif Weinidog yn bwriadu cynnal ail uwch gynhadledd ynni gyda'r diwydiant ynni a'i brif gwsmeriaid yn ddiweddarach eleni, i drafod y materion yn y strategaeth hon ac i ystyried y materion a gwmpesir gan Bapur Gwyn Llywodraeth y DU.

Phil Williams: Gwnaf fy ngorau i groesawu agweddau cadarnhaol y datganiad hwn, ond ni chuddiaf fy siom am y bylchau. Croesawaf y nod o wneud Cymru yn ffenestr siop fyd-eang wych a chroesawaf y cyhoeddiad nad oes unrhyw gynlluniau ar gyfer ynni niwclear. Yr ydych yn ymdrin yn bur faith â phwnc pwysig effeithlonrwydd ynni ac mae'n iawn ichi wneud hynny, ond ni chredaf mewn datganiadau heb ffigurau. A gytunwch â chyfrifiadau Plaid Cymru, yn dilyn y nifer sydd wedi ymuno â'r cynlluniau presennol, y bydd yn cymryd dros 70 o flynyddoedd i fynd i'r afael â phroblemau inswleiddio annigonol mewn tai yng Nghymru? Felly, pan soniwch am gynyddu, a ydych yn barod i gynyddu ymdrechion seithblyg, i gyflawni cynnydd rhesymol ymhen 10 mlynedd, neu ddeublyg i gyflawni'r un targed pan fyddaf dros 100 mlwydd oed?

O ran tai newydd, pam nad oes unrhyw sôn am argymhellion Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar y rheoliadau adeiladu newydd a ddisgwylir yn y dyfodol agos, sef y penderfyniad pwysicaf o bosibl a gaiff ei wneud yn y ddwy flynedd nesaf? O ran ffynonellau ynni adnewyddadwy, sef rhywbeth yr oeddwn yn gobeithio y byddech yn ymdrin ag ef a'r agwedd bwysicaf y gallwn weithredu arni, croesawaf y ffaith bod y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd wedi cytuno'n unfrydol ar y

involved an enormous amount of careful work, but I am disappointed that we have to wait until next week for the full response, which is the key point of this energy statement. Do you accept that our benchmarking target, or aspirational target—in the new vocabulary—of 4 terrawatt hours should be adopted for 2010?

On planning, there is one key question, which everyone in the industry—such as the people at the National Assembly's sustainable energy group meetings—asks: when will TAN 8 be issued? It is already far beyond schedule and has still not been issued. Is it possible that in two months, when this Government comes to an end, this important aspect of energy policy will still be unresolved?

I have two more questions. I am glad that you share my disquiet over the current electricity trading arrangements. The new electricity trading arrangements are a disastrous handicap to the efficient and proper development of renewable energy. Do you share my disappointment that, as far as I can see, there are no clear recommendations on that in the UK White Paper? Will you make strong recommendations from this Assembly that if we are serious about renewable energy, this is an urgent issue?

Finally, I hope the following is true, but I would like an explanation: you propose that burning carbon can be an efficient zero carbon technology. You say, and I welcome this, that there will be money for further research on this. Can you explain what research has raised reasonable expectations that, in the near future, you can burn coal to produce energy at an efficient price and yet not release any carbon dioxide? We must be careful about the energy implications of sequestration.

To summarise, we should examine the 20 per cent cut in carbon dioxide emissions by 2020—it is certainly the minimum for which we can hope. However, why are there no firm targets for 2010?

3.20 p.m.

targed. Yr oedd hynny'n golygu llawer iawn o waith gofalus, ond yr wyf yn siomedig bod yn rhaid inni aros tan yr wythnos nesaf am yr ymateb llawn, sef pwynt allweddol y datganiad ynni hwn. A dderbyniwch y dylid mabwysiadu ein targed meincnodi, neu'r targed a ddyhëir—yn yr eirfa newydd—o 4 awr terawat ar gyfer 2010?

O ran cynllunio, mae un cwestiwn allweddol, y mae pawb yn y diwydiant—megis pobl yng nghyfarfodydd grŵp ynni cynaliadwy y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol—yn ei ofyn: pryd y caiff TAN 8 ei gyhoeddi? Mae eisoes yn hwyr iawn ac nid yw wedi ei gyhoeddi eto. A yw'n bosibl y bydd yr agwedd bwysig hon ar bolisi ynni heb ei datrys o hyd ymhen dau fis, pan ddaw'r Llywodraeth hon i ben?

Mae gennyf ddau gwestiwn arall. Yr wyf yn falch eich bod yn rhannu fy anniddigrwydd ynghylch y trefniadau masnachu trydan presennol. Mae'r trefniadau masnachu trydan newydd yn rhwystr ofnadwy i ddatblygu ynni adnewyddadwy yn effeithlon a chywir. A rannwch fy siom nad oes unrhyw argymhellion clir ar hynny ym Mhapur Gwyn y DU, hyd y gwelaf i? A wnewch argymhellion cryf o'r Cynulliad hwn, os ydym o ddifrif ynghylch ynni adnewyddadwy, fod hwn yn fater brys?

I gloi, gobeithiaf fod y canlynol yn wir, ond hoffwn gael esboniad: yr ydych yn cynnig y gall llosgi carbon fod yn dechnoleg ddi-garbon effeithlon. Dywedwch, a chroesawaf hyn, y bydd arian ar gael ar gyfer ymchwil bellach i hyn. A allwch egluro pa ymchwil sydd wedi codi disgwyliadau rhesymol y byddwch, yn y dyfodol agos, yn gallu llosgi glo i gynhyrchu ynni am bris effeithlon heb ryddhau unrhyw garbon diocsid? Rhaid inni fod yn ofalus ynghylch goblygiadau ynni ymwahanu.

I grynhoi, dylem archwilio y gostyngiad o 20 y cant mewn gollyngiadau carbon deuocsid erbyn 2020—dyma'r isafswm yn sicr y gallwn obeithio amdano. Fodd bynnag, pam nad oes unrhyw dargedau cadarn ar gyfer 2010?

Andrew Davies: On home energy efficiency, we are already achieving a great deal through the home energy efficiency scheme. Edwina Hart has been working with local authorities to improve energy efficiency in local authority housing. She has agreed to part fund the Welsh Local Government Association energy officer post with the Energy Saving Trust to raise the profile of energy efficiency among senior management and elected members. We are working with local authorities and the private sector to raise awareness of energy efficiency measures. As I said in my statement, we are looking to get the transfer of functions of building regulations, which will give us more control, particularly over the private housing sector. Therefore, we are doing a great deal, but we realise that there is more to be achieved. We are addressing these needs across all of our portfolios, whether in terms of local authority housing through Edwina Hart, planning through Sue Essex, and energy through myself.

On the Economic and Development Committee's recommendations on renewable energy targets, I will respond to the Committee separately. If I had wrapped up my response to the Committee's report in my statement today, I would have been criticised for belittling the report, which is not my intention. I pay tribute to the Committee for its work on this. It has made a major contribution to our policy and thinking as a Government.

TAN 8 will be issued soon. It is more important to get it right, than to go for a quick fix. It is also important that all the partners are signed up to it. There are indications that the process was positive and that all the major players are working towards a common position. We will achieve consensus and Sue Essex will make an announcement on that.

On burning carbon, our research on coal gasification shows that it is possible to almost eliminate carbon dioxide emissions by pumping the gas into old oil and gas fields thereby capturing and sequestering it. Pumping it into coal mines is not feasible because of problems with fault lines.

Andrew Davies: O ran effeithlonrwydd ynni yn y cartref, yr ydym eisoes yn cyflawni llawer drwy'r cynllun effeithlonrwydd ynni yn y cartref. Mae Edwina Hart wedi bod yn gweithio gydag awdurdodau lleol i wella effeithlonrwydd ynni mewn tai awdurdodau lleol. Mae wedi cytuno i ran-ariannu swydd swyddog ynni Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru gyda'r Ymddiriedolaeth Arbed Ynni i godi proffil effeithlonrwydd ynni ymhlith uwch reolwyr ac aelodau etholedig. Yr ydym yn gweithio gydag awdurdodau lleol a'r sector preifat i godi ymwybyddiaeth o fesurau effeithlonrwydd ynni. Fel y dywedais yn fy natganiad, yr ydym yn disgwyl i swyddogaethau rheoliadau adeiladu gael eu trosglwyddo, a fydd yn rhoi mwy o reolaeth inni, yn arbennig dros y sector tai preifat. Felly, yr ydym yn gwneud llawer, ond sylweddolwn fod llawer mwy i'w gyflawni. Yr ydym yn mynd i'r afael â'r anghenion hynny ar draws ein holl bortffolios, boed hynny mewn perthynas â thai awdurdodau lleol drwy Edwina Hart, cynllunio drwy Sue Essex, ac ynni drwy fi fy hun.

O ran argymhellion y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd ar dargedau ynni adnewyddadwy, ymatebaf i'r Pwyllgor ar wahân. Pe bawn wedi dod â'm hymateb i adroddiad y Pwyllgor i ben yn fy natganiad heddiw, byddwn wedi cael fy meirniadu am fychanu'r adroddiad, ac nid dyna yw fy mwriad. Talaf deyrnged i'r Pwyllgor am ei waith ar hyn. Gwnaeth gyfraniad mawr i'n polisi a'n syniadau fel Llywodraeth.

Caiff TAN 8 ei gyhoeddi'n fuan. Mae'n bwysicach inni sicrhau ei fod yn iawn, yn hytrach na cheisio ei gyhoeddi'n gyflym. Mae hefyd yn bwysig bod pob partner yn ei gefnogi. Ceir arwyddion bod y broses wedi bod yn gadarnhaol a bod pob cyfranogwr o bwys yn gweithio tuag at farn gyffredin. Byddwn yn dod i gytundeb a bydd Sue Essex yn gwneud cyhoeddiad ar hynny.

O ran llosgi carbon, dengys ein hymchwil i nweiddio glo ei fod yn bosibl dileu gollyngiadau carbon deuocsid bron yn gyfan gwbl drwy bwmpio'r nwy i hen ardaloedd olew a nwy gan ei ddal a'i ymwahanu. Nid yw ei bwmpio i byllau glo yn ymarferol oherwydd problemau gyda ffawtliniau. Bu

Experience of this system in the USA has been positive. We will consider to what extent such technology can be transferred to Wales. Given our huge reserves of coal and our coal mining tradition, it may well be a major way forward in terms of our contributions to a low carbon energy production system.

Christine Gwyther: Thank you for your strong statement. I understand that we are currently looking at headlines. I will expect to see a bit more meat on the bone next week, when you respond to the Economic Development Committee's recommendations. When you make that response, I hope that you will refer to what the Assembly and WDA can do to promote jobs in the energy sector, whether they be energy efficiency jobs, small firms undertaking building work, social economy projects under the Communities First initiative, or jobs in fabrication and maintenance. That is particularly important in terms of our renewable energy sector, where Wales already has a good track record. We need to build on that track record, not lose it.

A Member recently mentioned biodiesel in the Chamber: I hope that you will consider it because the expertise exists in Wales to realize that aspiration. I was interested to learn that you are eschewing future nuclear plants in Wales—I agree with that and applaud it wholeheartedly. You mentioned that there would be no new nuclear power plants in the medium term: is that because the industry has no plans for new plants or because the Assembly is making a stand? I would like to think that it is the latter.

The subordinate legislation that I proposed to the Assembly under Standing Order No. 29 was to remove nuclear waste storage from the catch-all industrial activity classification in Wales's planning regime. I was delighted when the Assembly voted unanimously to remove nuclear waste from that classification, as it would stop the sort of planning blight that we have sadly seen in Trecwn in north Pembrokeshire. I am sure that the Assembly would have been more

profiad UDA o'r system hon yn gadarnhaol. Byddwn yn ystyried i ba raddau y gellir trosglwyddo technoleg o'r fath i Gymru. O gofio ein cronfeydd enfawr o lo a'n traddodiad o ddiwydiant glo, gall fod yn gam mawr ymlaen o ran ein cyfraniadau i system cynhyrchu ynni carbon isel.

Christine Gwyther: Diolch ichi am eich datganiad cryf. Deallaf mai edrych ar y prif bwyntiau a wnawn ar hyn o bryd. Disgwyliaf weld ychydig mwy o gig ar yr asgwrn yr wythnos nesaf, pan ymatebwech i argymhellion y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd. Pan wnewch yr ymateb hwnnw, gobeithio y cyfeiriwch at yr hyn y gall y Cynulliad a'r WDA ei wneud i hyrwyddo swyddi yn y sector ynni, boed hwy yn swyddi effeithlonrwydd ynni, cwmnïau bach yn gwneud gwaith adeiladu, prosiectau economi gymdeithasol o dan y fenter Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, neu swyddi ym meysydd gwneuthuriad a chynnal a chadw. Mae hynny'n arbennig o bwysig o ran ein sector ynni adnewyddadwy, lle mae gan Gymru record dda eisoes. Mae angen inni adeiladu ar y record honno yn hytrach na'i cholli.

Soniodd Aelod yn ddiweddar am fiodisel yn y Siambr: gobeithio y byddwch yn ei ystyried oherwydd mae'r arbenigedd yn bodoli yng Nghymru i wireddu'r uchelgais hwnnw. Yr oedd gennyf ddiddordeb mewn clywed eich bod am osgoi gweithfeydd niwclear yn y dyfodol yng Nghymru—cytunaf â hynny ac fe'i cymeradwyaf yn galonnog. Soniwyd na fyddai unrhyw weithfeydd ynni niwclear newydd yn y tymor canolig: a yw hynny oherwydd nad oes gan y diwydiant unrhyw gynlluniau ar gyfer gweithfeydd newydd neu am fod y Cynulliad yn gwneud safiad? Hoffwn feddwl mai'r olaf ydyw.

Yr oedd yr is-ddeddfwriaeth a gynigiais i'r Cynulliad o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 29 ar gyfer dileu storio gwastraff niwclear o'r dosbarthiad gweithgaredd diwydiannol dal popeth yng nghyfundrefn gynllunio Cymru. Yr oeddwn wrth fy modd pan bleidleisiodd y Cynulliad yn unfrydol i ddileu gwastraff niwclear o'r dosbarthiad hwnnw, gan y byddai'n atal y math o falltod cynllunio a welsom yn anffodus yn Nhrecwn yng ngogledd Sir Benfro. Yr wyf yn siŵr y

delighted to vote for a motion that said no to new nuclear sites in Wales. It seems to be the perfect time to press home that aspiration for Wales—no new nuclear plants and no new nuclear dumps. As we follow these aspirations we must be mindful of the local economic difficulties that the inevitable run-down of the nuclear industry will create—I am thinking especially of Ynys Môn. We must start to broaden the economic base of the communities that will be affected. I hope that any plans that you bring forward will address that future difficulty.

Andrew Davies: Energy conservation and efficiency are not only major contributors to reducing energy use and achieving carbon dioxide emissions targets, they also contribute to job creation, employment and to raising the gross domestic product per capita level. As you rightly pointed out, this is a huge area where we already have much expertise. It may not grab headlines as a major project would, but low-key work is more sustainable. I have discussed the environmental business services sector with Sue Essex and I am delighted that the Welsh Development Agency sees this as a priority. We have given it the resources to develop the sector, not only because of our sustainable development duty, but also to increase employment in a crucial growth sector. The development of biodiesel is an interesting idea—notwithstanding the earlier experiment in Llanelli—and I am delighted that the Chancellor gave tax incentives in the budget for people to use biodiesel.

As a Cabinet, we were certain that we did not wish to commission any new nuclear power stations, however we felt that it was morally indefensible to take that line and not contribute a policy towards a more balanced growth. We could not say that while we do not want nuclear power generation in Wales, we are happy to take electricity generated by nuclear power elsewhere. We feel that we have taken a balanced and holistic approach and I am delighted that the UK Government agrees. Although nuclear waste is not directly related to my statement, I will discuss this with Sue Essex and write to you, giving the

byddai'r Cynulliad wedi bod yn hapusach i bleidleisio o blaid cynnig a ddywedai na i safleoedd niwclear newydd yng Nghymru. Ymddengys mai dyma'r adeg berffaith i bwysleisio'r dyhead hwnnw i Gymru—dim gweithfeydd niwclear newydd a dim tomenni niwclear newydd. Wrth inni ddilyn y dyheadau hyn rhaid inni gofio'r anawsterau economaidd lleol y bydd dod â'r diwydiant niwclear i ben yn eu creu—meddyliaf yn benodol am Ynys Môn. Rhaid inni ddechrau ehangu sail economaidd y cymunedau yr effeithir arnynt. Gobeithio y bydd unrhyw gynlluniau a gyflwynir gennych yn mynd i'r afael â'r anhawster hwnnw yn y dyfodol.

Andrew Davies: Nid dim ond at arbed ynni ac effeithlonrwydd ynni y cyfranna'r broses o leihau'r defnydd o ynni a chyrraedd targedau gollyngiadau carbon deuocsid, cyfrannant hefyd at greu swyddi a chyflogaeth ac at godi lefel y cynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth y pen. Fel y dywedasoch, a hynny'n briodol, mae hwn yn faes enfawr lle mae gennym lawer o arbenigedd eisoes. Efallai nad yw'n denu llawer o sylw fel y byddai prosiect mawr, ond mae gwaith mwy cyffredin yn fwy cynaliadwy. Yr wyf wedi trafod y sector gwasanaethau busnes amgylcheddol gyda Sue Essex ac yr wyf yn falch bod Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru yn ystyried hyn yn flaenoriaeth. Yr ydym wedi rhoi'r adnoddau iddo ddatblygu'r sector, nid yn unig oherwydd ein dyletswydd o ran datblygu cynaliadwy, ond hefyd i gynyddu cyflogaeth mewn sector twf hollbwysig. Mae datblygu biodisel yn syniad diddorol—er yr arbrawf cynharach yn Llanelli—ac yr wyf yn falch bod y Canghellor wedi rhoi cymhellion treth yn y gyllideb i bobl ddefnyddio biodisel.

Fel Cabinet, yr oeddem yn sicr nad oeddem am gomisiynu unrhyw orsafoedd ynni niwclear newydd, fodd bynnag yr oeddem o'r farn na ellid amddiffyn yn foisol penderfyniad i arddel y safbwynt hwnnw a pheidio â chyfrannu polisi tuag at dwf mwy cytbwys. Ni allem ddweud ein bod yn fodlon cymryd trydan a gynhyrchir gan ynni niwclear o rywle arall, tra'n dweud nad ydym am gynhyrchu ynni niwclear yng Nghymru. Teimlwn ein bod wedi mabwysiadu ymagwedd gytbwys a chyfannol ac yr wyf yn falch bod Llywodraeth y DU yn cytuno. Er nad yw gwastraff niwclear yn uniongyrchol

latest position. I have heard that Wylfa on Ynys Môn is due to be decommissioned in 2010 and if that is the case we must work with the agencies—the local authority, the WDA and others—and the local workforce to identify alternative jobs or training opportunities, according to their needs.

Alun Cairns: I am grateful for the Minister's statement. It follows yesterday's debate on sustainable development, when it was highlighted that the private sector has had the impression in recent years that the bottom line of sustainability is greater cost. That need not be the case and I am sorry that there is little here to show that sustainability does not cost more. The statement that there will be no new nuclear power stations will be applauded in many quarters, but it is irresponsible not to present an alternative to nuclear energy. The emphasis in this paper is on wind power, which we know cannot completely replace current nuclear power station energy output. You may therefore gain some credit, but you will also lose much credit for not bridging the gap left by nuclear power. Also, on nuclear power, you have not indicated whether you will support the licence extensions on plants such as Wylfa. The licence could be extended so, although it might be headline grabbing to state 'no new nuclear power stations', if you were prepared to support the 10-year extension of a licence then the headline might well prove misleading.

3.30 p.m.

There are some positive points in this statement, however. I hope that the Minister can provide more information on the Wales energy conservation action plan, which he will no doubt tie in to the report to the Economic Development Committee. Also, on liquefied natural gas, south-west Wales can play a major role and be a gateway to the rest of the UK, which is a positive option. However, I am worried by the Minister's enthusiasm for wind energy and offshore windfarms in particular. I attended a meeting last night where Labour and Liberal Democrat Members expressed their scepticism about offshore windfarms and

gysylltiedig â'm datganiad, trafodaf hyn gyda Sue Essex ac ysgrifennaf atoch, gan nodi'r safbwynt diweddaraf. Yr wyf wedi clywed bod disgwyl i Wylfa ar Ynys Môn gael ei digomisiynu yn 2010 ac os felly rhaid inni gydweithio â'r asiantaethau—yr awdurdod lleol, y WDA ac eraill—a'r gweithlu lleol i nodi swyddi neu gyfleoedd hyfforddi amgen, yn ôl eu hanghenion.

Alun Cairns: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am ddatganiad y Gweinidog. Mae'n dilyn dadl ddoe ar ddatblygu cynaliadwy, pan bwysleisiwyd bod y sector preifat wedi cael yr argraff yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf mai llinell waelod cynaliadwyedd yw mwy o gost. Nid felly y mae o reidrwydd a thrueni nad oes llawer yma i ddangos nad yw cynaliadwyedd yn costio mwy. Bydd llawer yn canmol y datganiad na fydd unrhyw orsafoedd ynni niwclear newydd, ond mae'n anghyfrifol peidio â rhoi dewis amgen i ynni niwclear. Mae'r pwyslais yn y papur hwn ar ynni gwynt, y gwyddom na all gymryd lle yr hyn a gynhyrchir gan orsafoedd ynni niwclear ar hyn o bryd. Felly efallai y cewch rywfaint o glod, ond byddwch hefyd yn colli llawer o glod am beidio â chau'r bwlch a adewir gan ynni niwclear. Hefyd, o ran ynni niwclear, nid ydych wedi dangos a fyddwch yn cefnogi estyniadau i drwyddedau ar weithfeydd fel Wylfa. Gellid ymestyn y drwydded felly, er y gallai nodi 'dim gorsafoedd ynni niwclear newydd' ddwyn sylw'r wasg, os oeddech yn barod i gefnogi ymestyn trwydded am 10 mlynedd yna gallai'r pennawd fod yn gamarweiniol.

Fodd bynnag, mae rhai pwyntiau cadarnhaol yn y datganiad hwn. Gobeithiaf y gall y Gweinidog ddarparu mwy o wybodaeth ar gynllun gweithredu arbed ynni Cymru, y bydd yn ddiau yn ei gysylltu â'r adroddiad i'r Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd. Hefyd, o ran nwy naturiol hylifedig, gall y De-orllewin chwarae rôl fawr a bod yn borth i weddill y DU, sydd yn opsiwn cadarnhaol. Fodd bynnag, mae brwdfrydedd y Gweinidog dros ynni gwynt a ffermydd gwynt ar y môr yn arbennig yn fy ngofid. Mynychais gyfarfod neithiwr lle y mynegodd Aelodau Llafur ac Aelodau o'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol eu hamheuaeth ynghylch ffermydd gwynt ar y

how one particular project was inappropriate. I hope that the Assembly Government does not have double standards and that we will not hear one message from one Member and a different message from another Member. The landscape was industrialised in the last century by slag heaps and so on throughout the Valleys communities and I hope that the landscape will not now be industrialised by wind turbines, onshore or offshore. We must not forget that tourism is a major part of the economy for many coastal communities. Since the establishment of wind turbines near such communities will hardly support them, what sustainability can you offer them?

Andrew Davies: On the issue of sustainability affecting companies' bottom lines, I said yesterday that all companies, especially the most successful, are always trying to reduce their costs, and for many energy is a major cost. That is why we support the work of the Carbon Trust, which helps companies, large and small, to reduce their energy consumption and, therefore, their costs. Also, if this policy causes any long-term costs for individual companies or sectors from increased energy prices, that may be more than offset in their investment cycle by reductions in energy use. The calculation is that, over the longer term, the increase for major energy users will be approximately 1 per cent or more. We feel that, given other investment opportunities, many companies will be able to carry that. However, we have concerns about the impact of any changes in policy on energy-intensive industries and we will make strong representations to the UK Government on those issues.

You claim that it was irresponsible to eschew the option of nuclear power generation without alternatives. I made clear in my reply to Christine Gwyther that I felt that it was irresponsible to refuse nuclear energy produced outside Wales without proposing an alternative. I am on record as saying that. That is why we are proposing alternatives. This is not just a matter of windfarms, whether onshore or offshore. One of the five strands is clean coal energy production, which I think has huge potential. Also, there is biomass energy, which is of interest to Mick Bates and NASEG. I referred to that in

môr a sut yr oedd un prosiect arbennig yn amhriodol. Gobeithiaf nad oes gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad safonau dwbl ac na chlywn un neges gan un Aelod a neges wahanol gan Aelod arall. Diwydiannwyd y dirwedd yn y ganrif ddiwethaf gan domenni sorod ac yn y blaen yng nghymunedau'r Cymoedd a gobeithio na chaiff y dirwedd yn awr ei diwydiannu gan dyrbinau gwynt, ar y tir neu ar y môr. Rhaid inni beidio ag anghofio bod twristiaeth yn rhan bwysig o'r economi i lawer o gymunedau arfordirol. Gan mai prin y bydd sefydlu tyrbinau gwynt ger cymunedau o'r fath yn eu cynnal, pa gynaliadwyedd y gallwch ei gynnig iddynt?

Andrew Davies: O ran cynaliadwyedd yn effeithio ar gostau sylfaenol cwmnïau, dywedais ddoe bod pob cwmni, yn enwedig y rhai mwyaf llwyddiannus, bob amser yn ceisio lleihau eu costau, ac i lawer mae ynni yn gost fawr. Dyna pam y cefnogwn waith yr Ymddiriedolaeth Carbon, sy'n helpu cwmnïau mawr a bach i leihau'r ynni a ddefnyddiant ac felly i leihau eu costau. Hefyd, os yw'r polisi hwn yn achosi unrhyw gostau hirdymor i gwmnïau unigol neu sectorau o ganlyniad i gynnydd mewn prisiau ynni, efallai y bydd gostyngiadau yn yr ynni a ddefnyddir yn gwrthbwysio hynny i raddau helaeth yn eu cylch buddsoddi. Y cyfrifiad yw y bydd y cynnydd, yn y tymor hwy, i'r prif ddefnyddwyr ynni tua 1 y cant neu fwy. Teimlwn, o gofio cyfleoedd buddsoddi eraill, y bydd llawer o gwmnïau yn gallu cynnal hynny. Fodd bynnag, mae gennym bryderon ynghylch effaith unrhyw newidiadau mewn polisi ar ddiwydiannau lle y defnyddir llawer o ynni a gwnawn sylwadau cryf i Lywodraeth y DU ar y materion hynny.

Yr ydych yn honni ei bod yn anghyfrifol osgoi opsiwn cynhyrchu ynni niwclear heb ddewisiadau amgen. Eglurais yn fy ateb i Christine Gwyther fy mod yn teimlo bod gwrthod ynni niwclear a gynhyrchir y tu allan i Gymru heb gynnig dewis amgen yn anghyfrifol. Fe'm cofnodwyd yn dweud hynny. Dyna pam y cynigiwn ddewisiadau amgen. Nid mater o ffermydd gwynt yn unig ydyw, boed ar y tir neu ar y môr. Un o'r pum maes yw cynhyrchu ynni glo glân, sydd â phosibiliadau enfawr yn fy marn i. Hefyd, ceir ynni biomas, sydd o ddiddordeb i Mick Bates a NASEG. Cyfeiriais at hynny yn fy

my statement. On extending Wylfa's licence, British Energy will discuss that with us and with the UK Government if necessary. However, it is a matter for the company to decide upon. I said in my statement that there would be no new nuclear power generation. We are not in a position to close any operating plants, and would not wish to do so.

We will develop a Wales energy conservation action plan, and I will report on progress to the Economic Development Committee. On liquefied natural gas, as I said in my statement, Wales, and particularly south-west Wales, has been excluded from the benefits of the gas network. We are therefore delighted that Exxon and Petroplus have expressed interest in developing LNG terminals in Milford Haven. We are also delighted that Transco is seriously considering extending the network from its terminal in Dyffryn Clydach near Neath to Milford Haven to accommodate shipments of LNG into the network. That will make a huge impact. I have been lobbied by the south west Wales economic forum, as I am sure you and other Members have been, about extending the gas network to the south-west, which will open up a more dynamic market for a range of energy sources. I do not wish to comment on planning issues, but that is a positive development.

On wind energy, particularly onshore, it would be inappropriate for me to comment on particular applications. However, the thrust of onshore wind development is that it is done with the consent of local communities. That is being addressed in terms of planning and in developing TAN 8. It is not about imposing solutions on local communities; we want to work with those communities. That is why it is important that all the major players, particularly local authorities, are involved in the extensive process of developing TAN 8 and have ownership of it when it is published.

The Presiding Officer: Before I call Mick Bates, I inform Members that we are out of time for this statement. However, I will call Mick Bates because he represents a

natganiad. O ran ymestyn trwydded Wylfa, bydd British Energy yn trafod hynny gyda ni a chyda Llywodraeth y DU os bydd angen. Fodd bynnag, mae'n fater i'r cwmni benderfynu arno. Dywedais yn fy natganiad na fyddai unrhyw orsafoedd ynni niwclear newydd yn cael eu creu. Nid ydym mewn sefyllfa i gau unrhyw weithfeydd gweithredol, ac ni fyddem yn dymuno gwneud hynny.

Byddwn yn datblygu cynllun gweithredu arbed ynni i Gymru, a chyflwynaf adroddiad ar gynnydd i'r Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd. O ran nwy naturiol hylifedig, fel y dywedais yn fy natganiad, mae Cymru, ac yn arbennig y De-orllewin, wedi ei hallgáu o fuddiannau'r rhwydwaith nwy. Yr ydym yn falch felly bod Exxon a Petroplus wedi mynegi diddordeb mewn datblygu terfynellau nwy naturiol hylifedig yn Aberdaugleddau. Yr ydym hefyd yn falch bod Transco yn ystyried o ddifrif ymestyn y rhwydwaith o'i derfynell yn Nyffryn Clydach ger Castell-nedd i Aberdaugleddau i gynnwys llwythi llong o nwy naturiol hylifedig yn y rhwydwaith. Caiff hynny effaith fawr. Cefais fy lobïo gan fforwm economaidd y De-orllewin, fel y cawsoch chi ac Aelodau eraill mae'n siŵr, ynghylch ymestyn y rhwydwaith nwy i'r De-orllewin, a fydd yn agor marchnad fwy deinamig ar gyfer ystod o ffynonellau ynni. Nid wyf yn dymuno gwneud sylw ar faterion cynllunio, ond mae hynny'n ddatblygiad cadarnhaol.

O ran ynni gwynt, yn arbennig ar y tir, byddai'n amhriodol imi roi sylw ar geisiadau penodol. Fodd bynnag, mae'r prif bwyslais o ran datblygu ynni gwynt ar y tir ar gael caniatâd cymunedau lleol. Ymdrinnir â hynny o ran cynllunio ac wrth ddatblygu TAN 8. Nid yw a wnelo â gorfodi atebion ar gymunedau lleol; yr ydym am weithio gyda'r cymunedau hynny. Dyna pam mae'n bwysig bod yr holl brif gyfranogwyr, yn arbennig awdurdodau lleol, yn rhan o'r broses helaeth o ddatblygu TAN 8 a bod ganddynt ymdeimlad o berchenogaeth ohono pan gaiff ei gyhoeddi.

Y Llywydd: Cyn imi alw ar Mick Bates, hysbysaf yr Aelodau fod yr amser ar gyfer y datganiad hwn wedi dod i ben. Fodd bynnag, galwaf ar Mick Bates oherwydd mae'n

significant party in the Chamber and our agreed procedure is that the main spokesperson for each party group is called. Mick Bates has expertise in this field and he will therefore be called. However, I cannot extend the time allocated for this statement by more than 10 minutes because we have an important statement to follow, and the remaining agenda also includes legislation, an important short debate and other items.

Mick Bates: I am grateful for your comments, Presiding Officer. I greatly welcome the statement, Minister. It is of tremendous strategic importance, as carbon reduction is a global issue. If we do not take action, it will affect the lives of millions of people around the world. It is a great disappointment—it is worth reiterating this, although you did not mention it—that the United States of America has not signed up to the Kyoto agreement. That is a fundamental plank in the global strategy to achieve the aims that you outlined and to make Wales a global showcase of renewable energy. That is one of the most significant steps that the Assembly could take in its first term. I am pleased to hear your commitment to that.

Deep questions must be asked about the security of the energy supply. One such question involves the next phase: that is, the rundown of nuclear power during the next 20 years and the need to replace at least 20 per cent of our fuel supply. Other speakers have mentioned the need for a planning policy to encourage that, and TAN 8 is also relevant. However, we also need a broad portfolio of energy supply. The work undertaken in the Economic Development Committee on this is exemplary in terms of achieving that. We must consider how closely we will work with Westminster in order to ensure that, once our structural funding runs out, we have a long-term programme to establish a broad portfolio from hydrogen of the future to the development of wind power, particularly windfarms over 50 MW. We must consider how we relate with Westminster on this, be that through a memorandum of understanding or through other means.

3.40 p.m.

cynrychioli plaid o bwys yn y Siambr a'n gweithdrefn gytûn yw y gelwir ar brif lefarydd pob plaid. Mae gan Mick Bates arbenigedd yn y maes hwn ac felly caiff ei alw. Fodd bynnag, ni allaf ymestyn yr amser a neilltuwyd ar gyfer y datganiad hwn fwy na 10 munud gan fod datganiad pwysig yn dilyn hyn, ac mae'r agenda sy'n weddill hefyd yn cynnwys deddfwriaeth, dadl fer bwysig ac eitemau eraill.

Mick Bates: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am eich sylwadau, Lywydd. Croesawaf y datganiad yn fawr, Weinidog. Mae o bwys strategol aruthrol, gan fod lleihau carbon yn fater bydeang. Os na weithredwn, bydd yn effeithio ar fywydau miliynau o bobl ledled y byd. Mae'n siom fawr—mae'n werth ailadrodd hyn, er na wnaethoch sôn amdano—nad yw Unol Daleithiau America wedi cytuno i gytundeb Kyoto. Mae hynny'n un o sylfeini'r strategaeth fyd-eang i gyflawni'r nodau a amlinellwyd gennych ac i wneud Cymru yn enghraifft fyd-eang ar gyfer ynni adnewyddadwy. Dyna un o'r camau mwyaf arwyddocaol y gallai'r Cynulliad ei gymryd yn ei dymor cyntaf. Yr wyf yn falch o glywed eich ymrwymiad i hynny.

Rhaid gofyn cwestiynau dwys ynghylch pa mor ddiogel yw'r cyflenwad ynni. Mae un cwestiwn o'r fath yn ymwneud â'r cam nesaf: hynny yw, dirywiad ynni niwclear yn ystod yr 20 mlynedd nesaf a'r angen i ddod o hyd i o leiaf 20 y cant o'n cyflenwad o danwydd o ffynonellau amgen. Mae siaradwyr eraill wedi crybwyll yr angen am bolisi cynllunio i annog hynny, ac mae TAN 8 hefyd yn berthnasol. Fodd bynnag, mae angen portffolio eang o gyflenwad ynni arnom hefyd. Mae'r gwaith a wneir yn y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd ar hyn yn rhagorol o ran cyflawni hynny. Rhaid inni hefyd ystyried pa mor agos y byddwn yn cydweithio â San Steffan er mwyn sicrhau, unwaith y bydd ein harian strwythurol yn dod i ben, y bydd gennym raglen hirdymor i sefydlu portffolio eang o hydrogen y dyfodol i ddatblygu ynni gwynt, yn enwedig ffermydd gwynt dros 50 MW. Rhaid inni ystyried sut i gysylltu â San Steffan ar hyn, boed hynny drwy femorandwm dealltwriaeth neu ffyrdd eraill.

It is critical that we have exemplar projects. The greatest service that we could do is to ensure that all our new public buildings are built to the highest standard; you mentioned the standards that will be applied in the Assembly building. Schools present a particular opportunity and yet there is little funding for school energy programmes. Will you undertake, Minister, to ensure that the work of the Energy Saving Trust is encouraged by greater funding? County councils could save an immense amount of money on energy, if we helped them to reduce their requirements by good energy conservation projects.

We must consider developing this nationally. Your statement, welcome as it is, failed to address the problem of how we co-ordinate advice to private industry and to the public sector about how they can achieve all that. What plans do you have to cope with the problem of co-ordination?

A tremendous project relating to hydrogen fuel cells has been undertaken by Professors Dennis and Freda Hawkes in the University of Glamorgan. We need a strategic balance between developments today, such as school energy exemplar projects—like the biomass project in Llanwddyn—but we also need to increase research and development. What work are you undertaking to make sure that we in Wales remain at the cutting edge of research and development?

Andrew Davies: The US Government's failure to sign up to the Kyoto treaty is something we all find extremely disappointing. The Prime Minister's speech on Monday and the Government's commitment to sustainable development indicate that the fact that countries like the US are not taking the initiative makes it even more important that we take our sustainable development duties seriously and set an example.

We need security of supply, particularly with the decline of the North Sea gas fields. That is why the whole area of security of supply, together with the planning policy framework, which will be encompassed in TAN 8, is so

Mae'n hanfodol bod gennym brosiectau enghreifftiol. Y peth gorau y gallem ei wneud yw sicrhau yr adeiledir ein holl adeiladau cyhoeddus newydd i'r safon uchaf; crybwylloch y safonau a gymhwysir yn adeilad y Cynulliad. Mae ysgolion yn cyflwyno cyfle arbennig ac eto nid oes llawer o arian ar gyfer rhaglenni ynni mewn ysgolion. A ymgwymerwch, Weinidog, i sicrhau y caiff gwaith yr Ymddiriedolaeth Arbed Ynni ei annog gan fwy o arian? Gallai cynghorwyr sir arbed swm anferth o arian ar ynni, pe byddem yn eu helpu i leihau eu gofynion drwy brosiectau arbed ynni da.

Rhaid inni ystyried datblygu hyn yn genedlaethol. Methodd eich datganiad, er bod croeso mawr iddo, ag ymdrin â'r broblem o sut y cydlynwn gyngor i'r diwydiant preifat ac i'r sector cyhoeddus ynghylch sut y gallant gyflawni hynny i gyd. Pa gynlluniau sydd gennych i ymdopi â'r broblem o gydlynw?

Ymgwymerodd yr Athrawon Dennis a Freda Hawkes â phrosiect aruthrol yn ymwneud â chelloedd tanwydd hydrogen ym Mhrifysgol Morgannwg. Mae angen cydbwysedd strategol rhwng datblygiadau heddiw, fel prosiectau enghreifftiol ar ynni mewn ysgolion—fel y prosiect biomas yn Llanwddyn—ond hefyd mae angen inni gynyddu'r gwaith ymchwil a datblygu. Pa waith a wneir gennych i sicrhau ein bod yng Nghymru yn parhau ar flaen y gad o ran gwaith ymchwil a datblygu?

Andrew Davies: Mae methiant Llywodraeth yr UD i gytuno â chytundeb Kyoto yn rhywbeth sydd yn siom fawr i bawb ohonom. Mae araith y Prif Weinidog ddydd Llun ac ymrwymiad y Llywodraeth i ddatblygiad cynaliadwy yn dynodi bod y ffaith nad yw gwledydd fel yr UD yn bod yn flaengar yn ei gwneud yn bwysicach fyth ein bod yn cymryd ein dyletswyddau o ran datblygiad cynaliadwy o ddifrif ac yn gosod esiampl.

Mae angen inni sicrhau bod y cyflenwad yn ddiogel, yn enwedig o ystyried dirywiad ardaloedd nwy Môr y Gogledd. Dyna pam bod yr holl fater o ddiogelwch y cyflenwad, ynghyd â'r fframwaith polisi cynllunio, a

important. I agree that the Economic Development Committee's work has been exemplary and I have already paid tribute to that. I will respond to the Committee's report next week. We work closely with our colleagues in Whitehall, and that is why we must influence the UK Government's White Paper on energy and we will continue to seek to do so.

We are ideally placed to benefit from new technologies. We have a long tradition of this. The First Minister told us that the Grove cell, the predecessor of the fuel cell, was invented in Swansea. With respect to research and development, our officials are working with departments in the University of Glamorgan and elsewhere, where there is particular expertise in hydrogen economy and other technologies.

As to public buildings, I agree with you. We have all had experience of buildings that have been erected without regard to energy conservation or alternative sources of energy production. All of my colleagues, including Jane Davidson, the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, and Edwina Hart, the Finance Minister, are considering ways in which we can ensure that public bodies incorporate best practice in the building of public buildings. This includes making sure that the buildings are highly energy-efficient, that they conserve energy and are in line with our duties towards sustainable development.

Richard Edwards: I warmly welcome your statement, Minister, and in particular the announcement that there will be no new nuclear power plants in Wales. This is indeed excellent news. It would be even better—to reinforce Christine Gwyther's point and in the spirit of environmental protection and sustainable economic development—if you and the Welsh Assembly Government could give a categorical assurance that there will be no new sites for the storage of nuclear waste. I understand that this is not your direct responsibility. There is overwhelming support for it in the Chamber. Over 40 Members from all of the political parties have signed my statement of opinion to that effect.

gaiff ei gwmpasu yn TAN 8, mor bwysig. Cytunaf y bu gwaith y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd yn rhagorol ac yr wyf eisoes wedi talu teyrnged i hynny. Byddaf yn ymateb i adroddiad y Pwyllgor yr wythnos nesaf. Byddwn yn cydweithio'n agos â'n cydweithwyr yn Whitehall, a dyna pham bod yn rhaid inni ddylanwadu ar Bapur Gwyn Llywodraeth y DU ar ynni a byddwn yn parhau i geisio gwneud hynny.

Yr ydym mewn sefyllfa ddelfrydol i elwa ar dechnolegau newydd. Mae gennym draddodiad hir o wneud hyn. Dywedodd y Prif Weinidog wrthym mai yn Abertawe y dyfeisiwyd cell Grove, rhagflaenydd y gell tanwydd. O ran gwaith ymchwil a datblygu, mae ein swyddogion yn cydweithio ag adrannau ym Mhrifysgol Morgannwg ac mewn mannau eraill, lle y ceir arbenigedd penodol o ran economi hydrogen a thechnolegau eraill.

O ran adeiladau cyhoeddus, cytunaf â chi. Mae pob un ohonom wedi cael profiad o adeiladau a godwyd heb ystyried arbed ynni neu ffynonellau eraill o gynhyrchu ynni. Mae pob un o'm cydweithwyr, gan gynnwys Jane Davidson, y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes, ac Edwina Hart, y Gweinidog Cyllid, yn ystyried ffyrdd y gallwn sicrhau bod cyrff cyhoeddus yn ymgorffori arfer gorau wrth adeiladu adeiladau cyhoeddus. Mae hyn yn cynnwys sicrhau bod yr adeiladau yn ynni-effeithlon iawn, eu bod yn arbed ynni a'u bod yn unol â'n dyletswyddau tuag at ddatblygiad cynaliadwy.

Richard Edwards: Croesawaf eich datganiad yn fawr, Weinidog, ac yn arbennig y cyhoeddiad na fydd unrhyw weithfeydd ynni niwclear newydd yng Nghymru. Mae hyn yn newyddion ardderchog yn wir. Byddai hyd yn oed yn well—i ategu pwnt Christine Gwyther ac yn ysbryd diogelu'r amgylchedd a datblygiad economaidd cynaliadwy—pe gallech chi a Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru roi sicrwydd pendant na fydd unrhyw safleoedd newydd ar gyfer storio gwastraff niwclear. Deallaf nad eich cyfrifoldeb uniongyrchol chi yw hyn. Mae cefnogaeth aruthrol o'i blaid yn y Siambr. Mae dros 40 o Aelodau o'r holl bleidiau gwleidyddol wedi llofnodi fy natganiad barn

yn datgan hynny.

Andrew Davies: As I said earlier in response to Chris Gwyther, the issue of nuclear waste and nuclear sites is not part of this statement. Nevertheless, I will discuss that with colleagues, particularly with Sue Essex regarding planning. I will respond to your and Chris Gwyther's request in writing, in due course.

Andrew Davies: Fel y dywedais yn gynharach mewn ymateb i Chris Gwyther, nid yw'r gwastraff niwclear a safleoedd niwclear yn rhan o'r datganiad hwn. Er hyn, byddaf yn trafod hynny gyda'm cydweithwyr, yn enwedig gyda Sue Essex o ran cynllunio. Byddaf yn ymateb i'ch cais chi a Chris Gwyther yn ysgrifenedig, maes o law.

Datganiad ar Gyfrifon Dysgu Unigol Statement on Individual Learning Accounts

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (Jane Davidson): I am pleased to make a statement today on the introduction of Individual Learning Accounts Wales, the successor to the ILA programme that was suspended just over a year ago. I made a commitment then that a more robust and better-targeted ILA would be introduced in Wales. The Assembly Government has developed ILA Wales in partnership with Education and Learning Wales, building on the strengths of the original programme, and using evidence gathered from external evaluations, internal reviews and the lessons learned from other UK countries.

I am delighted to be able to publicly launch this first phase in Swansea tomorrow. This signals the start of the selection process for learning providers, such as colleges and private training companies. Individual learning accounts, first introduced across Wales in 1999, were warmly welcomed by all those involved—individuals, organisations involved in encouraging people to take up learning and improve their skills, and the providers supplying the learning. We attracted interest from over 80,000 individuals, with over 44,000 going on to use their ILA to fund the learning of their choice. One of the most important messages from the first ILA programme was that people felt that they had control over their learning by having a real choice on how to spend their ILA funding. No one was dictating how or where the money should be spent; instead, individuals were empowered to make that decision. What better way to ensure a sense of ownership of, and encouragement to continue with, learning?

Y Gweinidog Dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes (Jane Davidson): Mae'n dda gennyf roi datganiad heddiw ar gyflwyno Cyfrifon Dysgu Unigol Cymru, olynnydd y rhaglen CDU a ataliwyd ychydig dros flwyddyn yn ôl. Rhoddais ymrwymiad y pryd hwnnw y byddai rhaglen CDU fwy cadarn ac wedi ei thargedu'n well yn cael ei chyflwyno yng Nghymru. Datblygodd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad CDU Cymru mewn partneriaeth â Dysgu ac Addysgu Cymru, gan adeiladu ar gryfderau'r rhaglen wreiddiol, a defnyddio tystiolaeth a gasglwyd o werthusiadau allanol, adolygiadau mewnol a'r gwersi a ddysgwyd o wledydd eraill y DU.

Yr wyf wrth fy modd yn cael lansio'r cymal cyntaf yn Abertawe yfory. Dyma ddechrau'r broses o ddewis darparwyr dysgu, megis colegau a chwmnïau hyfforddi preifat. Croesawyd cyfrifon dysgu unigol, a gyflwynwyd gyntaf ar draws Cymru ym 1999, yn frwd gan bawb a oedd yn ymwneud â hwy—unigolion, cyrff a oedd yn annog pobl i ymgymryd â dysgu a gwella'u sgiliau, a'r darparwyr a ddarparai'r dysgu. Bu inni ennyn diddordeb dros 80,000 o unigolion, gyda dros 44,000 yn mynd ymlaen i ddefnyddio eu CDU i ariannu'r dysgu yr oeddent wedi ei ddewis. Un o negeseuon pwysicaf y rhaglen CDU gyntaf oedd bod pobl yn teimlo fod rheolaeth ganddynt dros eu dysgu drwy gael dewis gwirioneddol ar sut i wario eu harian CDU. Nid oedd unrhyw un yn eu gorchymyn ynghylch sut a ble y dylid gwario'r arian; yn lle hynny, galluogwyd unigolion i wneud y penderfyniad hwnnw. Pa ffordd well o sicrhau syniad o berchenogaeth o ddysgu, ac anogaeth i barhau ag ef?

External evaluation revealed that nearly 90 per cent of people who used an ILA in Wales felt that their ILA-supported learning had met or exceeded their expectations. Over 60 per cent stated that a gain in confidence had been a major benefit of taking a course. Reading such results and talking to people who have benefited from using an ILA makes us realise that this programme was capable of making a difference, breaking down some of the barriers to learning.

One area that concerned me was that over half of account holders indicated that they would have taken the course without the help of an ILA. The original programme was open to all. However, I want to see the most effective use of our precious education and training resources and, therefore, ILA Wales will not be available on a universal basis. It will be targeted to reach those who most need support. One of the Assembly Government's priorities is to provide equality of opportunity in learning. ILA Wales will help to achieve this by providing financial help to those with no or low qualifications—those people who, for whatever reason, missed out on learning opportunities earlier in their lives. Specifically, ILA Wales will be available to those whose highest prior learning is at level 2 or below—not higher than GCSE or NVQ level 2, or equivalent.

The decision to suspend the original programme was made because of the grave concerns about the activities of some learning providers and their marketing companies, particularly those who had had their revenue cut off with the earlier closure of the ILA programmes in England and Northern Ireland and, later, in Scotland. Although no incidences of fraud were uncovered in Wales, the threat by those learning providers was palpable. You only had to look across the border to see the devastating effects that fraud could have on a programme. Therefore, we took a reluctant but prudent decision to suspend at that time.

We were right to suspend the original programme, but we were equally committed to introducing a successor programme to

Dangosodd gwerthusiad allanol bod bron 90 y cant o'r bobl sy'n defnyddio CDU yng Nghymru yn teimlo bod eu dysgu drwy CDU wedi bodloni eu disgwyliadau, neu wedi bod yn well na'r disgwyl. Dywedodd dros 60 y cant fod ennyn hyder wedi bod yn un o fanteision mawr dilyn y cwrs. Mae darllen am ganlyniadau o'r fath a siarad â phobl sydd wedi elwa ar CDU yn peri inni sylweddoli fod gan y rhaglen hon y gallu i wneud gwahaniaeth, gan dorri rhai o'r rhwystrau i ddysgu.

Un maes a oedd yn fy mhryderu oedd bod dros hanner y rhai oedd â chyfrifon wedi dangos y byddent wedi dilyn y cwrs heb gymorth y CDU. Yr oedd y rhaglen wreiddiol yn agored i bawb. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf am weld y defnydd mwyaf effeithiol o'n hadnoddau addysg a hyfforddiant gwerthfawr, ac felly ni fydd CDU Cymru ar gael i bawb. Caiff ei dargedu at y rhai sydd â'r angen mwyaf am gymorth. Un o flaenoriaethau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yw rhoi cyfle cyfartal ym maes dysgu. Bydd CDU Cymru yn cynorthwyo i gyflawni hyn drwy roi cymorth ariannol i'r rhai sydd heb gymwysterau, neu sydd ag ychydig o gymwysterau—y bobl, a gollodd gyfleoedd dysgu, am ba bynnag reswm, yn gynharach yn eu bywyd. Yn benodol bydd CDU Cymru ar gael i'r rhai y mae eu dysgu uchaf blaenorol ar lefel 2 neu'n is—nid yn uwch na TGAU neu CGC lefel 2, neu gyfwerth.

Gwnaed y penderfyniad i atal y rhaglen wreiddiol oherwydd y pryderon mawr am rai o weithgareddau rhai darparwyr dysgu a'u cwmnïau marchnata, yn arbennig y rhai a gollodd eu refeniw pan ataliwyd rhaglenni CDU yn Lloegr a Gogledd Iwerddon yn gynharach ac, wedyn, yn yr Alban. Er na ddatgelwyd unrhyw achosion o dwyll yng Nghymru, yr oedd y bygythiad gan y darparwyr dysgu hynny yn amlwg. Nid oedd ond rhaid ichi edrych dros y ffin i weld yr effaith andwyol y gall twyll ei gael ar raglen. Felly, gwnaethom benderfyniad anfoddog, ond pwylllog, i atal y rhaglen y pryd hynny.

Yr oeddem yn iawn i atal y rhaglen wreiddiol, ond yr oeddem yr un mor ymrwymedig i gyflwyno rhaglen i'w holynu i

build on the positives of the original programme. What we are introducing with ILA Wales is a good idea made better. We have designed a programme that has built on the best aspects of the original, making them even more effective. ILA Wales will concentrate resources on those who face the greatest financial barriers to participating in learning. Those least able to afford to pay for learning will be given the most help. People in receipt of income support or job seekers allowance will receive the maximum help—up to £200 a year to spend on learning. Those on other income-related benefits will receive 80 per cent of the course costs, up to a maximum of £160, and all other eligible people can have 50 per cent of course costs met, up to £100.

3.50 p.m.

ILA Wales has learned the lessons of the first ILA programme, particularly by taking time to understand what went wrong in the rest of the UK, and by ensuring that we have the necessary systems and controls in place to administer the programme effectively and in the best interests of the learner and the provider. It is imperative that we have the best quality learning providers to offer a wide range of subject areas to ensure that people across Wales have equality of access to their chosen method of learning. Learning providers that wish to be involved in the scheme will be required to go through a selection process where checks will be made on their financial viability, quality of learning, track record in delivering learning, marketing practices, and health and safety policies. Approximately 100 learning providers will be selected to offer ILA Wales funded learning. We will announce the second stage, the individual applications, when we are satisfied that this selection process is complete.

This is another good news story for Wales. We are the first UK country to bring back individual learning accounts, which, together with the Assembly learning grant, will further widen access to, and provide opportunities in, lifelong learning across Wales. This is another step in the Assembly Government's

adeiladu ar agweddau cadarnhaol y rhaglen wreiddiol. Yr hyn yr ydym yn ei gyflwyno gyda CDU Cymru yw syniad da wedi ei wella. Yr ydym wedi cynllunio rhaglen sydd wedi adeiladu ar agweddau gorau'r gwreiddiol, gan eu gwneud yn fwy effeithiol byth. Bydd CDU Cymru yn canolbwyntio adnoddau ar y rhai sy'n wynebu'r rhwystrau ariannol mwyaf i gymryd rhan mewn dysgu. Y rhai sydd lleiaf abl i fforddio talu am ddysgu a gaiff y cymorth mwyaf. Y bobl sy'n cael cymhorthdal incwm a lwfans ceisio gwaith a gaiff y cymorth mwyaf—hyd at £200 y flwyddyn i wario ar ddysgu. Bydd y rhai sy'n cael budd-daliadau eraill sy'n gysylltiedig ag incwm yn cael 80 y cant o gostau'r cwrs, hyd at uchafswm o £160, a bydd pob person arall sy'n gymwys yn gallu cael 50 y cant o gostau eu cyrsiau wedi ei dalu, hyd at £100.

Mae CDU Cymru wedi dysgu gwersi rhaglen gyntaf CDU, yn enwedig drwy gymryd yr amser i ddeall beth a aeth o'i le yng ngweddill y DU, a thrwy sicrhau bod gennym y systemau a'r rheolaethau angenrheidiol ar waith i weinyddu'r rhaglen yn effeithiol ac er budd y dysgwyr a'r darparwyr. Mae'n holl bwysig bod gennym y darparwyr dysgu o'r safon gorau i gynnig ystod eang o feysydd pwnc, i sicrhau y bydd gan bobl ledled Cymru yr un cyfle i ddilyn eu dewis ddull dysgu. Bydd yn rhaid i ddarparwyr dysgu sy'n dymuno bod yn rhan o'r cynllun fynd drwy broses ddewis lle gwneir gwiriadau ar eu dichonoldeb ariannol, ansawdd eu dysgu, eu record o ddarparu dysgu, eu harferion marchnata a'u polisiau iechyd a diogelwch. Bydd tua 100 o ddarparwyr dysgu yn cael eu dewis i gynnig dysgu wedi ei ariannu gan CDU Cymru. Byddwn yn cyhoeddi yr ail gymal, y ceisiadau unigol, pan fyddwn wedi ein bodloni bod y broses ddewis wedi ei chwblhau.

Dyma newyddion da unwaith eto i Gymru. Ni yw'r wlad gyntaf yn y DU i aildddechrau'r cyfrifon dysgu unigol, a fydd ynghyd â grant dysgu'r Cynulliad, yn ymestyn y mynediad ymhellach, ac yn darparu cyfleoedd mewn dysgu gydol oes ledled Cymru. Mae hwn yn gam arall yn uchelgais Llywodraeth y

ambition to make lifelong learning a reality in Wales, and to achieve the vision of making Wales internationally renowned as a learning country.

Helen Mary Jones: I am glad that the Minister has made a statement of substance today, after she wasted our time yesterday. However, I am concerned that she regards this issue as more urgent and important than the financial and managerial crisis that faces ELWa. I am not alone in the Chamber in being disappointed that, in response to that crisis, she has only made a wholly inadequate written statement about the Pop Factory. In that statement she acknowledges that she knew about the project all along, disclaims all responsibility for it, ignores wider issues of concern, and, once again, suggests that Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council was party to that project: it was not, as records in the Library will show. With a typical lack of nerve, she refuses to answer questions on what we really want to ask her about.

However, I have some questions about this statement. It is short on crucial detail. I am glad that the individual learning accounts have been sorted out in Wales rather than elsewhere. That is a credit to the department involved. I am afraid that we do not have enough details to be able to agree with the Minister that this is good news for Wales. The Minister cannot tell us today when the individual learning accounts will start. When will new applicants be able to apply? That is what will be of most interest to potential learners. This statement is of great interest to training providers, but it would have been just as useful as a written statement. Could you give us an indicative timescale as to when people will be able to take advantage of the individual learning accounts?

How will this be resourced? Will there be a new budget heading, and if so, how much money will be included? If the learning accounts are to be included in the existing budget, could the Minister identify where that would be? Will the financial crisis that ELWa faces—and there is talk that it will make

Cynulliad i wireddu dysgu gydol oes yng Nghymru, ac i gyflawni'r weledigaeth o wneud Cymru yn enwog yn rhyngwladol fel gwlad sy'n dysgu.

Helen Mary Jones: Yr wyf yn falch bod y Gweinidog wedi gwneud datganiad o sylwedd heddiw, ar ôl iddi wastraffu ein hamser ddoe. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn bryderus ei bod yn ei ystyried yn fwy o fater o frys ac yn fwy pwysig na'r argyfwng ariannol a rheoli sy'n wynebu ELWa. Nid fi yw'r unig un yn y Siambr hon sy'n siomedig, mai ei hunig ymateb i'r argyfwng hwnnw oedd rhoi datganiad ysgrifenedig cwbl annigonol am y Ffatri Bop. Yn y datganiad hwnnw mae'n cydnabod ei bod yn gwybod am y prosiect o'r cychwyn, yn gwadu pob cyfrifoldeb amdano, yn anwybyddu'r materion ehangach o bryder, ac, unwaith eto, yn awgrymu fod Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf yn rhan o'r prosiect hwnnw: nid ydoedd, fel y dengys cofnodion yn y Llyfrgell. Gyda diffyg dewrder nodweddiadol, mae'n gwrthod ateb cwestiynau ar yr hyn yr ydym mewn gwirionedd am ei holi yn ei gylch.

Fodd bynnag, mae gennyf gwestiynau am y datganiad hwn. Mae'n brin o fanylion hollbwysig. Yr wyf yn falch y rhoddwyd trefn ar y cyfrifon dysgu unigol yng Nghymru yn hytrach nag yn rhywle arall. Mae hynny'n glod i'r adran berthnasol. Yr wyf yn ofni nad oes gennym ddigon o fanylion i allu cytuno â'r Gweinidog fod hyn yn newyddion da i Gymru. Ni all y Gweinidog ddweud wrthym heddiw pryd y bydd y cyfrifon dysgu unigol yn dechrau. Pryd y bydd ymgeiswyr newydd yn gallu gwneud cais? Dyna fydd o'r pwys mwyaf i ddarpar ddysgwyr. Mae'r datganiad hwn o ddiddordeb mawr i ddarparwyr hyfforddiant, ond byddai wedi bod yr un mor ddefnyddiol fel datganiad ysgrifenedig. A allwch roi amserlen ddynodol inni pryd y bydd pobl yn gallu manteisio ar y cyfrifon dysgu unigol?

Sut y caiff hyn ei ariannu? A fydd pennawd cyllideb newydd, ac os felly, faint o arian a gaiff ei gynnwys? Os bwriedir cynnwys cyfrifon dysgu yn y gyllideb bresennol, a all y Gweinidog nodi inni ymhle y bydd hynny? A fydd yr argyfwng ariannol a wyneba ELWa—ac mae sôn y bydd yn diswyddo

large numbers of staff redundant—impact upon the funding of individual learning accounts and ELWa’s capacity to manage them? I suggest that it might.

It is interesting that the statement does not clarify who exactly will administer the individual learning accounts. It is unlike the Minister to be coy about such matters. I imagine that it will be ELWa, although the statement refers to a partnership with ELWa. The Minister has said that lessons have been learned from the estimated £97 million fraud that occurred in other parts of the UK. It is important to put on record that we are pleased that that did not happen here. However, there was major fraud. How confident is the Minister that ELWa is capable of selecting learning providers and checking their financial viability and quality? I am not the most likely Member to quote from the holy scriptures, but the phrase about a mote in your own comes to mind. I hardly think that ELWa is in a position to question anyone’s financial rectitude.

When will the Minister acknowledge that these individual learning accounts, which are a positive development, and many other positive aspects of her education agenda are being severely damaged by the lack of confidence in ELWa? When will she take positive action to investigate what has gone wrong there and correct it in order to restore confidence in this important body? Until we have confidence in ELWa, individual learning accounts will not develop beyond the statement on a piece of paper that they are today, and will not make a difference to people’s lives.

Jane Davidson: To address your points in order, I agree with you that it is a credit to my department and to ELWa that we are announcing the first phase of ILA Wales, namely inviting applications from learning providers. It was also a credit to ELWa that Wales was the last country in the UK to close down the first ILA programme. While Capita administered the other programmes across Britain, ELWa successfully and prudently managed our programme in Wales. The problem with the original programme was not

nifer fawr o staff—yn effeithio ar ariannu cyfrifon dysgu unigol a chapasiti ELWa i’w gweinyddu? Awgrymaf y gallai hyn ddigwydd.

Mae’n ddiddorol nad yw’r datganiad yn egluro pwy yn union fydd yn gweinyddu’r cyfrifon dysgu unigol. Nid yw’n nodweddiadol o’r Gweinidog i fod yn swil am faterion o’r fath. Yr wyf yn tybio mai ELWa fydd yn eu gweinyddu, er bod y datganiad yn cyfeirio at bartneriaeth ag ELWa. Dywedodd y Gweinidog fod gwersi wedi’u dysgu o’r twyll gwerth £97 miliwn yn ôl amcangyfrif a ddigwyddodd mewn rhannau eraill o’r DU. Mae’n bwysig cofnodi ein bod yn falch na ddigwyddodd hynny yma. Fodd bynnag, bu twyll ar raddfa fawr. Pa mor ffyddiog yw’r Gweinidog fod ELWa yn gallu dewis darparwyr dysgu a gwirio eu dichonoldeb ariannol a’u hansawdd? Nid yr Aelod mwyaf tebygol o ddyfynnu o’r ysgrythurau sanctaidd mohonof, ond mae’r ymadrodd am y brycheuyn yn llygaid pobl eraill tra bod trawst yn eich llygad chi yn dod i’r meddwl. Ni allaf gredu bod ELWa mewn sefyllfa i amau cywirdeb ariannol unrhyw un.

Pryd y gwnaiff y Gweinidog gydnabod bod y cyfrifon dysgu unigol, sy’n ddatblygiad cadarnhaol, a llawer o’r agweddau cadarnhaol eraill ar ei hagenda addysg, yn cael eu niweidio gan y diffyg hyder yn ELWa? Pryd y gwnaiff weithredu’n gadarnhaol i ymchwilio i’r hyn a aeth o’i le yno a’i gywiro er mwyn adfer hyder yn y corff pwysig hwn? Hyd nes y bydd gennym hyder yn ELWa, ni fydd cyfrifon dysgu unigol yn datblygu ymhellach na’r datganiad ar ddarn o bapur a geir heddiw, ac ni wnaiff wahaniaeth i fywydau pobl.

Jane Davidson: I ateb eich pwyntiau mewn trefn, cytunaf â chi ei bod yn glod i’r hadran ac i ELWa ein bod yn cyhoeddi cymal cyntaf CDU Cymru, sef gwahodd ceisiadau gan ddarparwyr dysgu. Bu’n glod i ELWa hefyd mai Cymru oedd y wlad ddiwethaf yn y DU i gau ei rhaglen CDU gyntaf. Er i Capita weinyddu’r rhaglenni eraill ar draws Prydain, gweinyddodd ELWa ein rhaglen yn bwylllog ac yn llwyddiannus yng Nghymru. Nid oedd gan y broblem gyda’r rhaglen wreiddiol unrhyw gysylltiad o gwbl â’r ffordd y’i

connected in any way with its management but with the fact that it did not contain sufficient robust mechanisms to test the quality of training providers. When the programme was closed down in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland, we could not be sure that those training providers, who were in it for the money and not for the learning, would not come to Wales. That was the reason for the programme closing down.

In light of current issues, I sought extra reassurance from our chief accountant that all the correct measures had been put in place, and he gave me that solid assurance. My officials have also worked with the ILA development team since the suspension of the original programme, and we seconded one official to ELWa for three months to assist on the operational development, as we had to be clear that the measures would work. I am confident that they will work, or I would not be making this statement today. We will not spend programme funds until we are satisfied that the council's new systems and controls are working effectively.

This is an important statement because it offers the learning providers that are prepared to deliver quality learning the opportunity to sign up before May so that learners can take advantage of the programme from September onwards. Many people consider developing new learning during the summer and we wanted to ensure that we tied-in with the normal academic and educational timetable. The budget contains £2 million for each year.

On the number of people able to benefit from the programme, if every place were to be taken, approximately 20,000 people would receive £200 each. However, a range of opportunities is available, depending on people's incomes, which gives rise to the possibility of a wide programme, targeted at those with the lowest incomes and with the least qualifications.

Brian Gibbons: I am pleased with this announcement. You may remember a reception held in the Assembly hall when representatives of the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians asked when you intended to re-launch ILAs in Wales, as the original scheme was valuable and

gweinyddwyd ond â'r ffaith nad oedd ganddi ddigon o ddulliau cadarn o brofi ansawdd darparwyr hyfforddiant. Pan gaewyd y rhaglen yn Lloegr, yr Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon, ni allem fod yn sicr na ddeuai'r darparwyr hyfforddiant hynny â'u bryd ar wneud elw, ac nid dysgu, i Gymru. Dyna oedd y rheswm dros gau'r rhaglen.

Yng ngoleuni materion cyfredol, ceisiais gael sicrwydd gan ein prif gyfrifydd fod y camau cywir i gyd wedi eu cymryd, a rhoddodd y sicrwydd cadarn hwnnw imi. Gweithiodd fy swyddogion hefyd gyda thîm datblygu'r CDU ers i'r rhaglen wreiddiol gael ei hatal, a secondiwyd un swyddog i ELWa am dri mis i gynorthwyo'r datblygiad gweithredol, gan fod angen inni fod yn sicr y byddai'r mesurau'n gweithio. Yr wyf yn ffyddiog y byddant yn gweithio, neu ni fyddwn yn cyhoeddi'r datganiad hwn heddiw. Ni fyddwn yn gwario arian y rhaglen hyd nes ein bod yn fodlon bod systemau a rheolaethau newydd y cyngor yn gweithio'n effeithiol.

Mae hwn yn ddatganiad pwysig oherwydd ei fod yn cynnig cyfle i ddarparwyr dysgu sy'n barod i gyflwyno dysgu o safon i ymuno cyn mis Mai fel y gall dysgwyr fanteisio ar y rhaglen o fis Medi ymlaen. Mae llawer o bobl yn ystyried datblygu dysgu newydd yn ystod yr haf ac yr oeddem am sicrhau ein bod yn cydweddu â'r amserlen academaidd ac addysgol arferol. Mae'r gyllideb yn cynnwys £2 filiwn ar gyfer pob blwyddyn.

O ran nifer y bobl sy'n gallu elwa ar y rhaglen, pe bai pob lle yn cael ei lenwi, byddai tua 20,000 o bobl yn cael £200 yr un. Fodd bynnag, mae ystod o gyfleoedd ar gael, yn dibynnu ar incwm pobl, sy'n rhoi'r posibilrwydd o raglen eang, wedi'i thargedu at y rhai sydd â'r incwm isaf a'r cymwysterau lleiaf.

Brian Gibbons: Yr wyf yn falch o'r cyhoeddiad hwn. Efallai y cofiwhch dderbyniad a gynhaliwyd yn neuadd y Cynulliad pan ofynnodd cynrychiolwyr Undeb y Creffttau Cysylltiedig ag Adeiladau a Thechnegwyr pryd yr oeddech yn bwriadu ail-lansio CDU yng Nghymru, gan fod y

welcome among UCATT members.

There are several innovative and imaginative workplace training schemes in Port Talbot in my constituency, for example, at the BorgWarner factory on Baglan energy park, in Kenfig Hill. Another example is the work with which Hywel Francis MP is involved, namely developing a union academy in Port Talbot. A key element of this is allowing trade union members, in the first instance, to access lifelong learning in the workplace. Many of those taking up these opportunities have incomes—and I appreciate your point on targeting people on low incomes. Can I assume that, even if people earn regular wages, as long as they do not possess qualifications beyond GNVQ level 2 or GCSE, and even if people are in reasonably well-paid, gainful employment, they will be eligible for assistance under this scheme, so that programmes such as the union academy in Port Talbot can extend their benefits to people in the workplace?

4.00 p.m.

Jane Davidson: The two criteria with which we will operate are level of income and the level of qualifications, as we want to link both elements. One hundred per cent of course costs will be met for those in receipt of income support or jobseekers allowance and whose highest prior learning attainment is at level 2, which is equivalent to GCSE level, or below. Eighty per cent of the course costs of those people in receipt of the working families tax credit—many of the people that you described will be in that category—the working tax credit, the disabled persons tax credit, housing benefit or council tax benefit and whose highest prior learning attainment is at level 2 or below will be met. That will be up to a maximum of £160, so a substantial amount of support will still be offered. All others who are eligible will receive 50 per cent of course costs up to a maximum ILA of £100 if their highest prior learning attainment is at level 2 or below. Therefore, we are carefully targeting this and giving the most money in the new scheme to those who fulfil the criteria. It is also important to remember that people who are currently taking up basic skills learning have

cynllun gwreiddiol yn werthfawr ac wedi derbyn croeso gan aelodau UCATT.

Mae sawl cynllun hyfforddiant arloesol yn y gweithle ym Mhort Talbot yn fy etholaeth i, er enghraifft, yn ffatri BorgWarner ar barc ynni Baglan, ym Mynydd Cynffig. Enghraifft arall yw'r gwaith y mae Hywel Francis AS yn ymwneud ag ef, sef datblygu academi undebo. ym Mhort Talbot. Elfen allweddol o hyn yw caniatáu i aelodau undebau llafur, gael mynediad, yn y lle cyntaf, i ddysgu gydol oes yn y gweithle. Mae gan lawer o'r rhai sy'n manteisio ar y cyfleoedd hyn incwm—a gwerthfawrogaf eich pwynt ar dargedu pobl ar incwm isel. A allaf dybio y bydd pobl, hyd yn oed os ydynt yn ennill cyflogau cyson, ar yr amod nad ydynt yn meddu ar gymwysterau uwch na GCCC lefel 2 neu TGAU, a hyd yn oed os ydynt mewn cyflogaeth â thâl cymharol dda, yn gymwys i gael cymorth o dan y cynllun hwn, fel y gall rhaglenni megis yr academi undebau ym Mhort Talbot yn medru ymestyn eu manteision i bobl yn y gweithle?

Jane Davidson: Y ddau faen prawf a weithredwn fydd lefel incwm a lefel cymwysterau, gan ein bod am gysylltu'r ddwy elfen. Bydd 100 y cant o'r costau cwrs yn cael eu rhoi i'r rhai sy'n cael cymhorthdal incwm neu lwfans chwilio swydd y mae eu cyrhaeddiad dysgu uchaf blaenorol ar lefel 2, sy'n gyfwerth â lefel TGAU, neu'n is. Bydd 80 y cant o'r costau cwrs yn cael ei dalu i'r bobl hynny sydd yn cael y credyd treth i deuluoedd sy'n gweithio—bydd llawer o'r bobl a ddisgrifiwyd gennych yn y categori hwnnw—y credyd treth gweithio, y credyd treth person anabl, budd-dal tai neu fudd-dal treth gyngor ac y mae eu cyrhaeddiad dysgu uchaf blaenorol ar lefel 2 neu is. Bydd hynny hyd at uchafswm o £160, felly bydd swm sylweddol o gymorth yn cael ei roi o hyd. Bydd pawb arall sy'n gymwys yn derbyn 50 y cant o gostau'r cwrs hyd at uchafswm CDU o £100 os yw eu cyrhaeddiad dysgu uchaf blaenorol ar lefel 2 neu'n is. Felly, yr ydym yn targedu hyn yn ofalus ac yn rhoi'r arian mwyaf yn y cynllun newydd i'r rhai sy'n bodloni'r meini prawf. Mae hefyd yn bwysig, cofio bod gan bobl sydd ar hyn o bryd yn manteisio ar ddysgu sgiliau sylfaenol

free access to that training, and that is strongly supported through trade union mechanisms in the workplace. However, if an individual, for example, wanted to follow a basic skills course that incurs a charge with a registered provider—one that would have been through all the quality assurance checks—an ILA could be used for that purpose. We want to make them as flexible as possible. They are aimed at ensuring that people have proper learning routes.

Jonathan Morgan: I thank the Government for distributing copies of this statement in advance. I concur with Helen Mary Jones, who expressed concern about how this statement has been handled, given that the Minister does not believe it necessary to make an oral statement in the Chamber on the important questions surrounding ELWa. After all the concerns expressed in the Chamber on that subject, the fact that the Minister has issued a written statement rather than submitting herself to be scrutinised by Assembly Members who wanted to question her on important issues displays breathtaking arrogance on her part. It is very well for Government Ministers to make woolly, warm statements relating to their portfolios; they should also stand up to be scrutinised on matters about which the Government may feel uncomfortable. Yesterday's actions were incredible, given that this oral statement has been made to Plenary today.

I had concerns about the previous ILA system, Minister, and you were right to take the action that you took at the time. We supported that. We also support the establishment of a new ILA framework for Wales. We must wait for the rest of the details, which we hope will be forthcoming in a few months' time, before being able to determine whether the scheme will be successful. In terms of the criteria that you will apply to assess whether people qualify for certain amounts of money, will you confirm that there will be two criteria, based on qualifications and financial means-testing? I understand the need for a qualifications criterion; it makes perfect sense to target the scheme at those people with no or low

fynediad rhad ac am ddim, i'r hyfforddiant hwnnw, a chefnogir hynny'n gadarn drwy ddulliau undebau llafur yn y gweithle. Fodd bynnag, os bydd unigolyn, er enghraifft, yn dymuno dilyn cwrs sgiliau sylfaenol sy'n golygu talu ffi i ddarparwr cofrestredig—un a fyddai wedi bod drwy'r holl wiriadau sicrwydd ansawdd—gallai CDU gael ei ddefnyddio i'r diben hwnnw. Yr ydym am eu gwneud mor hyblyg â phosibl. Fe'u hanelwyd at sicrhau bod gan bobl lwybrau dysgu priodol.

Jonathan Morgan: Diolchaf i'r Llywodraeth am ddsbarthu copïau o'r datganiad hwn ymlaen llaw. Cytunaf â Helen Mary Jones, a fynegodd bryder am y modd y deliwyd â'r datganiad hwn, o gofio nad yw'r Gweinidog yn credu ei bod yn angenrheidiol gwneud datganiad llafar yn y Siambr ar y cwestiynau pwysig ynglŷn ag ELWa. Ar ôl yr holl bryderon a fynegwyd yn y Siambr ar y pwnc hwnnw, mae'r ffaith bod y Gweinidog wedi cyhoeddi datganiad ysgrifenedig yn hytrach na bod yn barod i gael ei harchwilio gan Aelodau Cynulliad a ddymunai ei holi ar faterion pwysig, yn dangos hyfdra dychrynlyd ar ei rhan. Mae'n iawn i Weinidogion y Llywodraeth wneud datganiadau gwresog diddrwg didda sy'n ymwneud â'u portffolios; dylent hefyd fod yn barod i wynebu archwiliadau ar faterion y gall y Llywodraeth deimlo'n anghyfforddus ynglŷn â hwy. Yr oedd gweithrediadau ddoe yn anghredadwy, o gofio bod y datganiad llafar hwn yn cael ei roi i'r Cyfarfod Llawn heddiw.

Yr oedd gennyf bryderon am y system CDU flaenorol, Weinidog, ac yr oeddech chi'n iawn i gymryd y camau a wnaethoch ar yr adeg honno. Gwnaethom gefnogi hynny. Cefnogwn hefyd sefydlu fframwaith CDU newydd i Gymru. Rhaid inni aros am weddill y manylion y gobeithiwn y deuant i law ymhen ychydig fisoedd, cyn y gallwn benderfynu a fu'r cynllun yn llwyddiannus. O ran y meini prawf y byddwch yn eu cymhwyso i asesu a yw pobl yn gymwys am symiau penodol o arian, a wnewch gadarnhau y bydd dau faen prawf, wedi eu seilio ar gymwysterau a phrawf moddion ariannol? Deallaf yr angen am faen prawf cymwysterau; mae'n gwneud synnwyr i dargedu'r cynllun at y bobl hynny sydd heb

qualifications. However, the problem with a financial means-testing criterion is that it tends to be so narrow as to exclude a large number of people who would have otherwise been eligible because they have low or no qualifications. I hope that there will be more emphasis on individuals' qualifications base than on whether they have a certain amount of income. The concern over the financial criterion has been expressed to me in relation to the Assembly learning grant. I do not want to see the mistakes made with that repeated in this new scheme.

Do we know what the cost of the scheme will be in terms of the likely uptake of ILAs? What will be the likely uptake in comparison to the uptake of the old ILA scheme? What will be the cost of administering this scheme? If the amount available is only £2 million, it is important that the cost of administering the scheme is kept to a bare minimum. Will you outline the controls that will be implemented to ensure that the disaster of the first ILA scheme is not repeated? Admittedly, concerns were not expressed in Wales because we did not have the problems that were experienced elsewhere. However, you said in your statement that controls would be implemented. What type of controls will there be to ensure that those problems do not occur in Wales?

I am also concerned about ELWa's ability to manage the scheme; confidence in the organisation has hit rock bottom, not only among Assembly Members, but also among learners and training providers in Wales. You need to reassure people in Wales that ELWa will be able to manage the scheme. Therefore, I have concerns about the criteria, the administration of the project, and the controls. However, if the scheme begins to reach the people who have been excluded until now, it will get the vote of the Conservative Party.

Jane Davidson: I have already outlined in full to Brian the income requirements in terms of the new ILA in Wales. However, it is probably helpful to outline how we will ensure quality learning. All learning must either be accredited by an external awarding

gymwysterau neu sydd ag ychydig o gymwysterau. Fodd bynnag, y broblem gyda maen prawf ar sail prawf moddion ariannol yw ei fod yn tueddu i fod mor gul ag i eithrio nifer fawr o bobl a fyddai fel arall wedi bod yn gymwys oherwydd bod ganddynt ychydig o gymwysterau neu ddim cymwysterau o gwbl. Gobeithiaf y bydd rhagor o bwyslais ar sail cymwysterau unigolyn yn hytrach nag a oes ganddynt swm penodol o incwm. Mynegwyd y pryder ynglŷn â'r maen prawf ariannol imi mewn perthynas â chymhorthdal dysgu'r Cynulliad. Nid wyf am weld y camgymeriadau a wnaed gyda hwnnw yn digwydd gyda'r cynllun hwn hefyd.

A wyddom beth fydd cost y cynllun newydd o ran nifer y bobl sy'n debygol o fanteisio ar CDU? Beth fydd y nifer tebygol o gymharu â'r hen gynllun CDU? Beth fydd cost gweinyddu'r cynllun hwn? Os mai £2 filiwn yn unig yw'r swm sydd ar gael, mae'n bwysig sicrhau bod cost gweinyddu'r cynllun mor isel â phosibl. A wnewch amlinellu'r rheolaethau a gaiff eu gweithredu i sicrhau na fydd trychineb y cynllun CDU cyntaf yn digwydd eto? Derbyniwn na leisiwyd pryderon yng Nghymru oherwydd ni chawsom y problemau a brofwyd mewn manau eraill. Fodd bynnag dywedasoich yn eich datganiad y câi rheolaethau eu gweithredu. Pa fath o reolaethau a geir i sicrhau na fydd y problemau hynny'n digwydd yng Nghymru?

Hefyd, pryderaf am allu ELWa i reoli'r cynllun; mae hyder yn y corff ar ei fan isaf, nid yn unig ymhlith Aelodau'r Cynulliad, ond hefyd ymhlith dysgwyr a darparwyr hyfforddiant yng Nghymru. Mae angen ichi dawelu meddwl pobl yng Nghymru y bydd ELWa yn gallu rheoli'r cynllun. Felly, mae gennyf bryderon am y meini prawf, gweinyddiaeth y prosiect, a'r rheolaethau. Fodd bynnag, os bydd y cynllun yn dechrau cyrraedd y bobl sydd wedi eu hallgáu hyd yn hyn, bydd yn cael cefnogaeth y Blaid Geidwadol.

Jane Davidson: Yr wyf eisoes wedi amlinellu'n llawn i Brian beth yw'r gofynion incwm, o ran y CDU newydd yng Nghymru. Fodd bynnag, bydd o gymorth mae'n siŵr i amlinellu sut y gwnawn ddiogelu dysgu o safon. Rhaid i bob dysgu gael ei achredu gan

body or meet determined standards. We are focusing on those with the lowest qualifications so that they can have a meaningful learning experience and gain a new qualification. However, we are aware that many people do not want to start studying for a qualification because they are putting a toe back in the water and need support to develop their learning potential. Therefore, it will be possible to take non-accredited courses under the scheme, provided that they meet the standards determined by the Wales credit framework team. That group is considering ascribing point values to units of learning so that they are transferable. People can use them, can exchange providers and build up a learning bank or portfolio. All courses must therefore have clearly-defined learning outcomes, level descriptors—a description of the equivalent level at which the course will be operating—learning hours and levels of tutor support. That is important in terms of the public purse, to ensure that we are confident that our money is spent well.

I am grateful that Jonathan did not use the word 'crisis' as Helen Mary Jones did. It is interesting that everyone involved in the *Week In Week Out* programme, including the training providers, have written in to complain about how the programme was handled. The training providers were particularly angry—and they have written to the BBC about this—because the National Training Federation for Wales has worked closely with senior ELWa officers during the last year and has witnessed a real desire to produce an excellent training and learning infrastructure in Wales. Therefore, there is not a lack of confidence in ELWa across the board. There are issues, which the Audit Committee is considering. On the issues regarding European procurement, which I reported to the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee, the Audit Committee will be reporting on those and will ask the Assembly Government for its response. We will give that response in due course, as is proper and required by Standing Order No. 12.

In terms of accountability and my role as Minister, accountability for ELWa lies with its accounting officer. Members of the Audit

gorff dyfarnu allanol neu gyrraedd safonau penodedig. Yr ydym yn canolbwyntio ar y rhai sydd â'r cymwysterau lleiaf er mwyn iddynt gael profiad dysgu ystyrlon ac ennill cymhwyster newydd. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym yn ymwybodol bod llawer nad ydynt am ddechrau astudio am gymhwyster oherwydd eu bod yn mentro arni eto ac mae angen cymorth arnynt i ddatblygu eu potensial dysgu. Felly, bydd yn bosibl cymryd cyrsiau nas achredwyd o dan y cynllun, ar yr amod eu bod yn cyrraedd y safonau a bennwyd gan dîm fframwaith credyd Cymru. Mae'r grŵp hwnnw yn ystyried rhoi gwerth pwyntiau i unedau dysgu fel y gellir eu trosglwyddo. Gall pobl eu defnyddio, cyfnewid darparwyr a chreu cronfa neu bortffolio dysgu. Rhaid i'r cyrsiau felly gael canlyniadau dysgu clir eu diffiniad, disgrifyddion lefel—disgrifiad o'r lefel gyfwerth y bydd y cwrs yn gweithredu arni—oriau dysgu a lefelau cymorth tiwtor. Mae hynny'n bwysig o ran arian cyhoeddus, i sicrhau ein bod yn hyderus y bydd ein harian yn cael ei wario'n dda.

Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar na ddefnyddiodd Jonathan y gair 'argyfwng' fel y gwnaeth Helen Mary Jones. Mae'n ddi-ddorol bod pawb a oedd yn gysylltiedig â rhaglen *Week in Week Out*, gan gynnwys y darparwyr hyfforddi, wedi ysgrifennu yn cwyno am y modd y cafodd y rhaglen ei thrafod. Yr oedd y darparwyr hyfforddi yn arbennig o ddi—ac maent wedi gohebu â'r BBC ynghylch hyn—oherwydd gweithiodd Ffederasiwn Hyfforddi Cenedlaethol Cymru yn glos gydag uwch swyddogion ELWa yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf ac maent wedi gweld awydd gwirioneddol i lunio seilwaith hyfforddi a dysgu ardderchog yng Nghymru. Felly, nid oes diffyg hyder yn ELWa yn gyffredinol. Mae materion y mae'r Pwyllgor Archwilio yn eu hystyried. O ran caffael Ewropeaidd, a adroddais amdano i'r Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes, bydd y Pwyllgor Archwilio yn adrodd yn ôl ar hynny a bydd yn gofyn i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad am ei ymateb. Byddwn yn rhoi'r ymateb hwnnw maes o law, fel sy'n gywir ac sy'n ofynnol o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 12.

O ran atebolrwydd a'm rôl fel Gweinidog, mae'r atebolrwydd dros ELWa yn gorwedd gyda'i swyddog cyfrifo. Bydd aelodau y

Committee will be fully familiar with the government accounting manual—the bible on how all financial issues are handled inside government; it is the absolute bottom-line—which makes it clear that grants are not to be given in advance of need. It is stated in a document issued by the Treasury that all Government departments and Assembly sponsored public bodies must comply with that requirement. In addition it is noted in a management statement and financial memorandum sent by the Assembly to all its sponsored public bodies, and a letter relating to the designation of an accounting officer is sent to each ASPB. Also, schedule 8 of the management statement gives guidelines for innovation. The Government has put all the processes in place to ensure that those spending public money are accountable at all times.

4.10 p.m.

In terms of the investigations into aspects of finance within ELWa, it seemed appropriate to ensure that Members were given the proper information at this time about the Pop Factory project, which ELWa began to investigate internally in December 2002. It reported the matter to its national council and that is when my officials, as was said in the statement, picked up during their normal monitoring that a payment had been made in advance of need. ELWa is holding an ongoing investigation, as the statement said, and it will report to us when it is completed. There is nothing more that can be said about this issue at present other than that we are always concerned about probity in terms of public money. Our principal finance officer has kept the matter under review and the National Audit Office is also considering the issue. Therefore, is a matter of belt and braces when it comes to issues regarding public money. We need to wait until the report is presented, through the National Audit Office, to the Audit Committee. The Assembly Government can then respond to it, as required by Standing Order No. 12.

Mick Bates: The Welsh Liberal Democrats will, by and large, welcome your statement today because it means that individuals will

Pwyllgor Archwilio yn gwbl gyfarwydd â llawlyfr cyfrifo'r Llywodraeth—y beibl ar sut mae'r holl faterion ariannol yn cael eu trafod o fewn llywodraeth; dyna'r awdurdod yn y pen draw—sy'n tanlinellu na ddylid rhoi grantiau cyn i'r angen godi. Nodir mewn dogfen a gyhoeddwyd gan y Trysorlys fod yn rhaid i bob adran o'r Llywodraeth a chyrrff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad gydymffurfio â'r gofyniad hwnnw. Yn ychwanegol, fe'i nodir mewn datganiad rheoli a memorandwm ariannol a anfonir gan y Cynulliad i'r holl gyrff a noddir ganddo, ac anfonir llythyr yn ymwneud â phenodi swyddog cyfrifo at bob CCNC. Hefyd, mae atodlen 8 i'r datganiad rheoli yn rhoi canllawiau ar gyfer arloesi. Gosododd y Llywodraeth yr holl brosesau ar waith i sicrhau fod y rhai sy'n gwario arian cyhoeddus bob amser yn atebol.

O ran ymchwiliadau i agweddau ar ariannu o fewn ELWa, yr oedd yn ymddangos yn briodol i sicrhau bod Aelodau yn cael y wybodaeth gywir ar yr adeg hon am brosiect y Ffatri Bop, y dechreuodd ELWa ymchwilio iddo yn fewnol ym mis Rhagfyr 2002. Adroddodd ar y mater i'w gyngor cenedlaethol a dyna pryd y canfu fy swyddogion, fel y dywedwyd yn y datganiad, yn ystod eu gwaith monitro arferol, fod taliad wedi ei wneud cyn i'r angen godi. Mae ELWa yn cynnal ymchwiliad sy'n mynd rhagddo, fel y dywedodd y datganiad, a bydd yn adrodd yn ôl inni pan gaiff ei gwblhau. Nid oes dim pellach y gellir ei ddweud am y mater ar hyn o bryd, eithr ein bod bob amser yn bryderus ynglŷn â gonestrwydd o ran arian cyhoeddus. Mae ein prif swyddog cyllid wedi parhau i adolygu'r mater ac mae Swyddfa'r Archwilio Genedlaethol hefyd yn ystyried y mater. Felly mae'n fater o fod yn hollol sicr wrth drafod materion ynglŷn ag arian cyhoeddus. Mae angen inni aros hyd nes i'r adroddiad gael ei gyflwyno, drwy'r Swyddfa Archwilio Genedlaethol, i'r Pwyllgor Archwilio. Gall Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedyn ymateb iddo fel sy'n ofynnol gan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 12.

Mick Bates: Bydd Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru, yn gyffredinol, yn croesawu eich datganiad heddiw gan ei fod

be empowered to choose. The combination of the small, but not insignificant, amount of money available for the individual learning accounts with the Assembly learning grant means that there has been a significant advance in broadening access to education. I also welcome your comments about a more effective use of the money. We all note that the previous Welsh scheme was not subject to fraudulent use as it was in England. We also welcome the targeting in general. The concerns that I have about the scheme relate to ensuring that the processes of evaluation and monitoring are robust. I would like you to say more about that. Also, although a grant of £100 or £200 is not insignificant, it does not buy a tremendous amount of education. We should consider that and how the Basic Skills Agency or Careers Wales—which are here in the Assembly today—could also be part of the loop to ensure that the scheme is effective. Publicity and marketing may be the answer to ensuring that the target audience—those with qualifications below NVQ level 2—take up the scheme. I would like to hear about how we will market the scheme to those people.

Also, will students be able to spend this money in England? If so, how can they check that training providers have real accreditation? I am aware that all training providers in Wales are accredited, but there were cases in England of companies going bankrupt, which left people who had spent money on courses without any qualifications.

Jane Davidson: The selection process follows several stages, with training providers being sifted initially on the basis of being acknowledged providers that can provide a number of formally accredited courses and whose financial standing, based on their accounts, is satisfactory. Therefore, the first sift will ensure that the training provider has the width of provision and is financially sound. The second element of the selection process will relate to an ability to provide a spread of courses, to ensure that relevant quality control procedures are in place, and that there is a geographic spread of courses across Wales. We will also need a linguistic spread across Wales to ensure that there are training providers who are able to

yn golygu y caiff unigolion y pŵer i ddewis. Mae'r swm bach, ond nid ansylweddol, o arian sydd ar gael ar gyfer y cyfrifon dysgu unigol ynghyd â grant dysgu'r Cynulliad yn golygu bod cynnydd sylweddol wedi bod o ran estyn mynediad i addysg. Hefyd croesawaf eich sylwadau am ddefnydd mwy effeithiol o'r arian. Nodwn oll nad oedd y cynllun yng Nghymru blaenorol yn destun defnydd twyllodrus fel yr oedd yn Lloegr. Hefyd croesawn yr ymgais i dargedu yn gyffredinol. Mae'r pryderon sydd gennym am y cynllun yn ymwneud â sicrhau bod y prosesau gwerthuso a monitro yn gadarn. Hoffwn petaech yn dweud mwy am hynny. Hefyd, er nad yw grant o £100 neu £200 yn un ansylweddol, nid yw'n prynu llawer o addysg. Dylem ystyried hynny a sut y gallai'r Asiantaeth Sgiliau Sylfaenol neu Gyrfaoedd Cymru—sydd yma yn y Cynulliad heddiw—hefyd chwarae rhan i sicrhau bod y cynllun yn effeithiol. Efallai mai cyhoeddusrwydd a marchnata yw'r ateb i sicrhau bod y gynulleidfa darged—y rhai â chymwysterau is na lefel CGC 2—yn manteisio at y cynllun. Byddwn yn falch o glywed sut y byddwn yn marchnata'r cynllun i'r bobl hynny.

Hefyd, a fydd myfyrwyr yn gallu gwario'r arian hwn yn Lloegr? Os felly, sut y gallant wirio fod gan ddarparwyr hyfforddiant achrediad gwirioneddol? Yr wyf yn ymwybodol bod yr holl ddarparwyr hyfforddiant yng Nghymru wedi eu hachredu, ond bu achosion yn Lloegr o gwmnïau yn mynd yn fethdalwyr, a adawodd bobl a wariodd arian ar gyrsiau heb gymwysterau.

Jane Davidson: Mae sawl cam i'r broses ddewis. Caiff darparwyr hyfforddiant eu didoli ar y dechrau ar y sail eu bod yn ddarparwyr cydnabyddedig a all ddarparu nifer o gyrsiau a achredir yn ffurfiol ac y mae eu statws ariannol, yn seiliedig ar eu cyfrifon, yn foddhaol. Felly bydd y didoli cyntaf yn sicrhau bod gan y darparwr hyfforddiant yr ystod o ddarpariaeth a'i fod yn gadarn yn ariannol. Bydd ail elfen y broses ddewis yn ymwneud â'r gallu i ddarparu amrediad o gyrsiau, i sicrhau bod gweithdrefnau rheoli ansawdd perthnasol wedi eu rhoi ar waith, a bod amrediad daearyddol o gyrsiau ar draws Cymru. Bydd angen amrediad ieithyddol arnom yng Nghymru yn ogystal i sicrhau bod darparwyr hyfforddiant sy'n gallu darparu

provide courses in both languages.

In terms of training providers in England, any training provider will be able to apply to the National Council—ELWa for accreditation. The council will then apply the test of quality assurance. Those providers selected by the end of April or the beginning of May must then sign up to a legal agreement to provide the relevant courses, to provide any information that the council might require, to allow the council to look at their books and check their records, and to have the quality of their work assessed. Those providers who are signed up will be added to a database. Therefore, we have strong controls in place and our chief accounting officer strongly endorses that approach. Widening access is crucial; that is what this is all about. We must remember that the chief inspector's report last week stated that the education and training system has improved overall. There are more learners than ever before, the number of people without qualifications is lower than ever before, and the number of people leaving school who do not go into training or employment is lower than ever before. ELWa has exceeded targets in terms of people in work-based learning. It has exceeded targets in terms of the new modern skills diploma for adults. It has exceeded targets in the training needs analysis for business. It has delivered 305 innovation and development fund projects. It has recorded a 19 per cent increase in trainees in work-based learning—over its target. It has 156 organisations with investors in people accreditation, which again exceeds its targets. We should celebrate these successes, and, although we should properly consider issues surrounding financial accountability, I am unhappy that there are Members in this Chamber who talk down ELWa and the learners of Wales at every opportunity.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I am grateful to you for answering some of the concerns about ELWa today. You have taken that opportunity in responding to Jonathan Morgan and Mick Bates. You must accept that we have a responsibility as Assembly Members to hold the Government to account. It is not a case of talking anybody down—it is holding the

cyrsiau yn y ddwy iaith.

O ran darparwyr hyfforddiant yn Lloegr, bydd unrhyw ddarparwr hyfforddiant yn gallu gwneud cais i'r Cyngor Cenedlaethol—ELWa am achrediad. Bydd y cyngor wedyn yn gweithredu'r prawf o sicrwydd ansawdd. Bydd y darparwyr hynny a ddewisir erbyn diwedd Ebrill neu ddechrau Mai yn gorfod cytuno i gytundeb cyfreithiol i ddarparu'r cyrsiau perthnasol, darparu unrhyw wybodaeth y gall y cyngor ofyn amdano, i alluogi'r cyngor i edrych ar eu cyfrifon a gwirio eu cofnodion, a chael y cyfle i asesu ansawdd eu gwaith. Bydd enwau y darparwyr hynny a fydd yn cytuno yn cael eu hychwanegu at gronfa ddata. Felly, mae gennym reolaethau cadarn ar waith ac mae ein prif swyddog cyfrifo yn cymeradwyo'r ymagwedd honno yn gryf. Mae lledaenu mynediad yn dyngedfennol; dyna'r nod. Rhaid inni gofio fod adroddiad y prif arolygydd yr wythnos diwethaf wedi datgan fod y system addysg a hyfforddiant yn gyffredinol wedi gwella. Mae gennym fwy o ddysgwyr nag erioed o'r blaen, ac mae nifer y bobl heb gymwysterau yn is nag erioed o'r blaen, ac mae nifer y rhai sy'n gadael ysgol sydd heb fynd ar hyfforddiant neu i weithio yn is nag erioed o'r blaen. Mae ELWa wedi rhagori ar y targedi o ran y diploma sgiliau newydd modern i oedolion. Mae wedi rhagori ar y targedau yn y dadansoddiad o anghenion hyfforddiant ar gyfer busnes. Cyflwynodd 305 o brosiectau arloesi a datblygu. Cofnododd gynnydd o 19 y cant yn nifer y rhai o dan hyfforddiant mewn dysgu sy'n seiliedig ar waith—yn uwch na'i darged. Mae ganddo 156 o gyrff sydd ag achrediad buddsoddwyr mewn pobl, sydd eto yn uwch na'i dargedau. Dylem ddathlu'r llwyddiannau hyn ac, er y dylem archwilio'n briodol faterion sydd yn ymwneud ag atebolrwydd ariannol, nid wyf yn fodlon bod Aelodau yn y Siambr hon sy'n dilorni ELWa a dysgwyr Cymru ar bob cyfle.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar ichi am ateb rhai o'm pryderon am ELWa heddiw. Yr ydych wedi manteisio ar y cyfle hwnnw wrth ymateb i Jonathan Morgan a Mick Bates. Rhaid ichi dderbyn fod gennym gyfrifoldeb fel Aelodau Cynulliad i ddwyn y Llywodraeth i gyfrif. Nid mater o ddilorni unrhyw un ydyw—dwyn y Gweinidog i

Minister to account. It is incumbent upon you as a Minister to answer questions. You have made the point about ELWa's involvement with the individual learning account grants. We need to be satisfied that ELWa now has full public confidence to deliver on that.

What questions remain about ELWa? Questions remain about the granting of a contract in relation to the Pop Factory. You tell us today that it has nothing to do with you, but when the launch was made, you were prepared to be photographed announcing the grant. However, once there is trouble, you want to run for cover and say that it is to do with the accounting officer, financial control, or ELWa itself. Where does ministerial accountability lie? You must answer that question. Does your name, as Minister, appear on the contract granted to Avanti?

Jane Davidson: As I said in the statement, it is ELWa's responsibility to manage operational and contractual matters relating to individual projects within the usual public sector rules, which are clearly set out in its management statement and financial memorandum. The Government sets a strategic direction and stipulates the obligations of compliance. We have done that. The statement explained the Government's involvement in full. I remain as convinced now as I was in January 2002, that the project presented to me then was a good project. The project that is now being delivered is not the same project, and I may have a different view. However, the project presented in 2002 was a good one. It involved the Welsh Development Agency, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, schools, further education institutions and private training providers. It had the support of the community consortium for education and training, the University of Glamorgan, and a steering group, which was established from April 2002 onwards. There is an Objective 1 application, supported by the local partnership, which is now with the Welsh European Funding Office. This project aims to reach the learners that we would not have otherwise reached, and that must be welcomed.

Neither I, nor anyone else in this Chamber,

gyfrif ydyw. Mae dyletswydd arnoch fel Gweinidog i ateb cwestiynau. Gwnaethoch y pwynt am ymwneud ELWa gyda'r grantiau cyfrifon dysgu unigol. Mae angen inni gael ein bodloni fod gan ELWa yn awr hyder llwyr y cyhoedd i gyflawni hynny.

Pa gwestiynau sy'n aros ynglŷn ag ELWa? Erys cwestiynau am roi contract mewn perthynas â'r Ffatri Bop. Dywedwch wrthym heddiw nad oes a wnelo hyn â chi, ond pan lanswyd y fenter, yr oeddech chi'n barod i gael eich llun wedi'i dynnu yn cyhoeddi'r grant. Fodd bynnag, unwaith y bydd trafferth, yr ydych am redeg i gysgodi a dweud mai rhywbeth sy'n ymwneud â'r swyddog cyfrifo, rheolaeth ariannol neu ELWa ei hun ydyw. Ymhle mae atebolrwydd gweinidogol? Rhaid ichi ateb y cwestiwn hwnnw. A yw eich enw, fel Gweinidog, yn ymddangos ar y contract a roddwyd i Avanti?

Jane Davidson: Fel y dywedais yn y datganiad hwn, cyfrifoldeb ELWa yw rheoli materion gweithredol a chytundebol sy'n ymwneud â phrosiectau unigol o fewn y rheolau sector cyhoeddus arferol, a nodir yn eglur yn ei ddatganiad rheoli a'i femorandwm ariannol. Gesyd y Llywodraeth gyfeiriad strategol a rhestra'r rhwymedigaethau cydymffurfio. Gwnaethom hynny. Esboniodd y datganiad ymwneud y Llywodraeth yn llawn. Yr wyf yn parhau mor sicr ag yr oeddwn ym mis Ionawr 2002, fod y prosiect a gyflwynwyd imi bryd hynny yn brosiect da. Nid yr un yw'r prosiect sy'n cael ei gyflwyno yn awr, ac efallai y bydd gennyf farn wahanol. Fodd bynnag, yr oedd y prosiect a gyflwynwyd yn 2002 yn un da. Yr oedd Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru, Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf, ysgolion, sefydliadau addysg bellach a darparwyr hyfforddiant preifat yn rhan ohono. Cafodd gefnogaeth y consortiwm cymunedol dros addysg a hyfforddiant, Prifysgol Morgannwg a grŵp llywioa sefydlwyd ym mis Ebrill 2002 ymlaen. Ceir cais am arian Amcan 1 a gefnogir gan y bartneriaeth leol, sydd ar hyn o bryd gyda Swyddfa Ariannu Ewropeaidd Cymru. Anela'r prosiect hwn at gyrraedd y dysgwyr na fyddem fel arall wedi eu cyrraedd, a dylai hynny gael ei groesawu.

Ni fyddwn i, na neb arall yn y Siambr hon, yn

would be happy about a breach of government accounting procedures. However, we do not know that a breach has occurred until we have the information. It is right and proper that we do not confuse financial accountability with the responsibility of a Minister as the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning. I doubt whether my name appears on the contract, because I simply cleared a submission that stated that this was a good idea. My officials advised me that it was a good idea and the partners—including Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council—suggested that it was a good idea and I want to ensure that we reach out to people that we cannot reach otherwise. We must wait for ELWa to perform its proper accounting responsibilities in terms of considering the situation and we must consider what the National Audit Office—as ELWa’s auditor—says to ELWa and to the Audit Committee. Then you will have the Assembly Government’s response as usual.

4.20 p.m.

The Presiding Officer: We are nearly out of time for this statement.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: In answering the question you seem to express a degree of doubt, on which you should reflect. You said that you doubt that your name appears on the contract with Avanti. I would have expected you to be clear about that, given the nature of your statement. Will you tell the Assembly whether your name, as Minister, appears on the contract and, if you are not sure, will you place a copy of the contract in the Assembly’s Library?

Jane Davidson: The only decision that I have made is the one outlined in the statement on ELWa.

Dafydd Wigley: I am grateful to be allowed to contribute, as the audit function has been discussed. Jane, do you agree that, in terms of the differentiation in responsibility, the job of the Auditor General and the Audit Committee is to ensure that public money is spent with probity and effectiveness and that value for money is attained, while policy matters are

fodlon bod gweithdrefnau cyfrifo Llywodraeth wedi’u torri. Fodd bynnag, ni wyddom a fu tor-gweithdrefn hyd nes y daw gwybodaeth i law. Mae’n gwbl briodol nad ydym yn cymysgu atebolrwydd ariannol gyda chyfrifoldeb Gweinidog fel y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes. Amheuf a yw fy enw yn ymddangos ar y contract, oherwydd yr unig beth a wneuthum oedd cymeradwyo cyflwyniad a nododd ei fod yn syniad da. Cynghorwyd fi gan fy swyddogion ei fod yn syniad da ac awgrymodd y partneriaid—yn cynnwys Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf—ei fod yn syniad da ac yr wyf yn dymuno sicrhau ein bod yn cyrraedd pobl na allwn eu cyrraedd fel arall. Bydd yn rhaid inni aros i ELWa gyflawni ei gyfrifoldebau cyfrifo priodol o ran ystyried y sefyllfa a bydd yn rhaid inni ystyried beth ddywed y Swyddfa Archwilio Genedlaethol – fel archwiliwr ELWa—wrth ELWa ac wrth y Pwyllgor Archwilio. Bryd hynny y cewch chi ymateb Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ôl yr arfer.

Y Llywydd: Mae ein hamser ar gyfer y datganiad hwn bron â dod i ben.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Wrth ateb y cwestiwn yr ydych fel pe baech yn mynegi elfen o amheuaeth, y dylech feddwl uwch ei ben. Dywedasoeh eich bod yn amau a yw eich enw yn ymddangos ar y contract gydag Avanti. Byddwn wedi disgwyl ichi fod yn sicr ynglŷn â hynny, o gofio natur eich datganiad. A ddywedwch chi wrth y Cynulliad a yw eich enw, Weinidog, yn ymddangos ar y contract ac, os nad ydych yn siŵr, a wnewch chi osod copi o’r contract yn Llyfrgell y Cynulliad?

Jane Davidson: Yr unig benderfyniad a wneuthum i yw’r un a amlinellir yn y datganiad ar ELWa

Dafydd Wigley: Yr wyf yn falch o gael y cyfle i wneud cyfraniad, gan fod y swyddogaeth archwilio wedi’i chrybwyll. Jane, a gytunwch, o ran gwahaniaethau mewn cyfrifoldeb, mai gwaith yr Archwilydd Cyffredinol a’r Pwyllgor Archwilio yw sicrhau bod arian cyhoeddus yn cael ei wario mewn ffordd onest ac effeithiol a bod gwerth

nothing to do with either? They must ensure that the Assembly and the public bodies that are answerable to the Assembly are working efficiently and with propriety within the policy framework that has been laid down. I have asked the Auditor General to investigate the issues and questions that arose from that television programme. However, both policy and questions regarding the effectiveness of public bodies that are answerable to the Government are matters for the Government and the Minister. The role of the Auditor General and the Audit Committee is to investigate within the context of policies that have been laid down.

Jane Davidson: I agree. That is the distinction. The Government's role is to set strategic direction—that is what it does. It is the responsibility of the bodies to deliver financial accountability.

am yr arian yn cael ei sicrhau, tra nad oes a wnelo materion polisi â'r naill na'r llall? Rhaid iddynt sicrhau bod y Cynulliad a'r cyrff cyhoeddus sy'n atebol i'r Cynulliad yn gweithio'n effeithlon a gyda gonestrwydd o fewn y fframwaith polisi a osodwyd. Gofynnais i'r Archwilydd Cyffredinol i ymchwilio i'r materion a'r cwestiynau a gododd o'r rhaglen deledu honno. Fodd bynnag, mae polisi a chwestiynau ynglŷn ag effeithiolrwydd cyrff cyhoeddus sy'n atebol i'r Llywodraeth yn faterion i'r Llywodraeth a'r Gweinidog. Rôl yr Archwilydd Cyffredinol a'r Pwyllgor Archwilio yw ymchwilio o fewn cyd-destun y polisiau a osodwyd.

Jane Davidson: Cytunaf â hynny. Dyna'r gwahaniaeth. Rôl y Llywodraeth yw gosod cyfeiriad strategol—dyna'r hyn a wna. Cyfrifoldeb y cyrff yw cyflwyno atebolrwydd ariannol.

Cymeradwyo'r Rheoliadau Ardrethu Annomestig (Hysbysiadau Galw am Dalu) (Cymru) (Diwygio) 2003

Approval of the Non-Domestic Rating (Demand Notices) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2003

The Finance Minister (Edwina Hart): I propose that

the National Assembly considers the principle of the Non-Domestic Rating (Demand Notices) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2003, laid in the Table Office on 4 February 2003. (NDM1361)

I propose that

the National Assembly:

1. considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office on 11 February 2003, which does not draw the special attention of the Assembly to any matter under Standing Order No. 11.5, in relation to the draft Order, the Non-Domestic Rating (Demand Notices) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2003;

2. approves that the Order is made in accordance with the draft the Non-Domestic Rating (Demand Notices) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2003, laid in the

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Edwina Hart): Cynigiad fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn ystyried egwyddor Rheoliadau Ardrethu Annomestig (Hysbysiadau Galw am Dalu) (Cymru) (Diwygio) 2003, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 4 Chwefror 2003. (NDM1361)

Cynigiad fod:

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol:

1. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau, nad yw'n tynnu sylw arbennig y Cynulliad at unrhyw fater o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 11.5 mewn perthynas â'r Gorchymyn drafft, Rheoliadau Ardrethu Annomestig (Hysbysiadau Galw am Dalu) (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2003, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 11 Chwefror 2003;

2. yn cymeradwyo bod y Gorchymyn yn cael ei wneud yn unol â'r Rheoliadau Ardrethu Annomestig (Hysbysiadau Galw am Dalu) (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2003 drafft, a osodwyd yn

Table Office on 4 February 2003 and the memorandum of corrections laid in the Table Office on 17 February 2003. (NDM1362)

Janet Ryder: The Order mentions that transitional rate relief will cease. It was introduced to cover the re-evaluation but it also covered the period when many businesses were hit by foot and mouth disease. I realise that transitional rate relief cannot continue forever, but have you assessed the impact of its cessation? On the rural rate relief scheme, if a property is used for a purpose that benefits the local community all or part of the rate bill may be remitted. Do you agree that a post office in a small community benefits rural communities? In Pentrefoelas, the post office offers not only the usual services, but also a prescription collection service to replace that of the surgery that closed recently. It offers a valuable service to that community. In light of that, will you consider bringing forward a special scheme to offer relief to rural post offices?

The Finance Minister (Edwina Hart): As Janet is aware, the rateable value of sole shops and post offices was increased to £6,000 and pubs and petrol stations to £9,000. The rateable values for discretionary rural relief were increased from £10,000 to £12,000, therefore much has been done in that area. Opposition parties and large businesses were highly critical of the transitional rate relief scheme that was introduced for the 2000 business rates re-evaluation. I reviewed the transitional rate relief scheme following the business rates re-evaluation in 2000, and I reported the findings to the Local Government and Housing Committee. The conclusion was that the scheme had achieved the objectives that we determined at the outset. There will be a business rates re-evaluation in 2005, and I have been seeking the powers to retain in the Local Government Bill the existing powers that enable the Assembly to determine whether or not to have a transitional rate relief scheme in light of the impact of re-evaluation on business in Wales.

y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 4 Chwefror 2003, a'r memorandwm cywiriadau, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 17 Chwefror 2003. (NDM1362)

Janet Ryder: Mae'r Gorchymyn yn cyfeirio at y ffaith bod rhyddhad ardrethi trosiannol yn dod i ben. Fe'i cyflwynwyd i gwmpasu ailwerthuso ond yr oedd hefyd yn cwmpasu'r cyfnod pryd y trawyd nifer o fusnesau gan glwy'r traed a'r genau. Sywleddolaf na all rhyddhad ardrethi trosiannol barhau am byth, ond a ydych wedi asesu'r effaith os caiff ei ddirwyn i ben? O ran cynllun rhyddhad ardrethi gwledig, os caiff eiddo ei ddefnyddio i bwrpas sydd o fudd i'r gymuned leol gall rhan neu'r cyfan o fil y dreth gael ei ddileu. A gytunwch fod swyddfa bost mewn cymuned fach o fudd i gymunedau gwledig? Ym Mhentrefoelas, mae'r swyddfa bost nid yn unig yn cynnig y gwasanaethau arferol, ond hefyd darpara wasanaeth casglu presgripsiynau i wneud y gwaith a arferid ei wneud gan y feddygfa a gaeodd yn ddiweddar. Cynigia wasanaeth gwerthfawr i'r gymuned honno. Yn wyneb hynny a wnewch ystyried cyflwyno cynllun arbennig i gynnig rhyddhad i swyddfeydd post gwledig?

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Edwina Hart): Fel y gŵyr Janet, cynyddwyd gwerth trethiannol unig siopau pentref a swyddfeydd post i £6,000, a thafarndai a gorsafoddd petrol i £9,000. Cynyddwyd y gwerth trethiannol ar gyfer rhyddhad ardrethi dewisol o £10,000 i £12,000, felly gwnaed llawer yn y maes hwnnw. Bu'r gwrthbleidiau a'r busnesau mawr yn feirniadol iawn o'r cynllun rhyddhad ardrethi trosiannol a gyflwynwyd ar gyfer ailwerthusiad ardrethi busnes 2000. Adolygais y cynllun rhyddhad ardrethi trosiannol yn dilyn yr ailwerthusiad ardrethi busnes 2000 ac adroddais y casgliadau yn ôl i'r Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Thai. Y casgliad oedd bod y cynllun wedi cyflawni'r amcanion a benderfynwyd ar y dechrau. Bydd ailwerthuso yn digwydd i'r ardrethi busnes yn 2005, ac yr wyf wedi bod yn ceisio'r pwerau i gadw'r pwerau presennol yn y Mesur Llywodraeth Leol sy'n galluogi'r Cynulliad i benderfynu a gaiff gynllun rhyddhad ardrethi trosiannol ai peidio o gofio effaith ailwerthuso ar fusnes yng Nghymru.

*Cynnig (NDM1361): O blaid 31, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM1361): For 31, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Burnham, Eleanor
Chapman, Christine
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Janet
Edwards, Richard
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gibbons, Brian
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, David Ian
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Cynnig (NDM1362): O blaid 31, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM1362): For 31, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Burnham, Eleanor
Chapman, Christine
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Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, David Ian

Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Middlehurst, Tom
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Ryder, Janet
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

Newidiadau i'r Penderfyniad ar Gyflogau a Lwfansau Aelodau Changes to the Determination of Members' Pay and Allowances

The Deputy Presiding Officer (John Marek): I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales approves the National Assembly for Wales (Assembly Members and Officers) (Salaries, Allowances etc.) Determination 2003 laid in the Table Office on 18 February 2003. (NDM1360)

The salaries of the First Minister, other Ministers, the Presiding Officer, the Deputy Presiding Officer and Committee Chairs will cease to be paid on 30 April and payment will not restart until the new Assembly elects Members to those posts. However, it was expected that Members who were re-elected and Members who were elected for the first time would be paid from 1 May. There was a legal question in that, if the declaration was made after midnight, it could be argued that payment could not start until 2 May. To clarify the situation, we are proposing this small change. There are two other slight changes. One is to the temporary staffing allowance. Members will now be able to claim a temporary staffing allowance if a member of their staff takes adoptive leave. That was not possible previously, and such a provision needed to be introduced. Finally, if a Member dies or cannot take the oath for some reason, we have introduced the ability to pay a winding-up allowance for properly incurred expenditure between that Member's being elected and dying or not being able to take the oath and therefore take his or her place in the Assembly. These may be small

Y Dirprwy Lywydd (John Marek): Cynigiau fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn cymeradwyo'r Penderfyniad Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru (Aelodau a Swyddogion y Cynulliad) (Cyflogau, Lwfansau ac ati) 2003, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 18 Chwefror 2003. (NDM1360)

Peidir â thalu cyflogau'r Prif Weinidog, Gweinidogion eraill, y Llywydd, y Dirprwy Lywydd a Chadeiryddion Pwyllgor ar 30 Ebrill ac ni ailddechreuir eu talu hyd nes bydd y Cynulliad newydd wedi ethol Aelodau i'r swyddi hynny. Fodd bynnag, disgwylid i Aelodau a oedd yn cael eu hailethol a'r Aelodau a oedd yn cael eu hethol am y tro cyntaf gael eu talu o 1 Mai. Cododd cwestiwn cyfreithiol y gellid dadlau na allai'r taliad ddechrau tan 2 Mai pe bai'r cyhoeddiad yn cael ei wneud wedi hanner nos. I egluro'r sefyllfa, cynigiwn y newid bach hwn. Mae dau newid bach arall. Un yw lwfans staffio dros dro. Bydd Aelodau yn awr yn gallu hawlio lwfans staffio dros dro os bydd aelod o'u staff yn cymryd seibiant mabwysiadu. Nid oedd hynny'n bosibl yn flaenorol, ac yr oedd angen cyflwyno darpariaeth o'r fath. Yn olaf, os bydd Aelod yn marw neu, am unrhyw reswm, yn methu cymryd y llw, yr ydym wedi cyflwyno'r gallu i dalu lwfans dirwyn i ben ar gyfer gwariant priodol a ddigwyddodd rhwng ethol yr Aelod hwnnw a'i farwolaeth, neu ei anallu i gymryd y llw ac o ganlyniad gymryd ei le ef neu ei lle hi yn y Cynulliad. Efallai mai newidiadau

changes, but I believe them to be good changes that will make the determination much more definite and less open to question. I commend the motion.

bach yw'r rhain, ond credaf eu bod yn newidiadau da a fydd yn gwneud y penderfyniad yn llawer mwy pendant a llai agored i'w gwestiynu. Cymeradwyaf y cynnig.

The Presiding Officer: I am grateful, as always, to the Deputy Presiding Officer. Surprisingly, there are no speakers in this debate. Therefore, I call a vote.

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar, fel erioed, i'r Dirprwy Lywydd. Er syndod, nid oes siaradwyr yn y ddadl hon. Felly, galwaf bleidlais.

*Cynnig (NDM1360): O blaid 33, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM1360): For 33, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Burnham, Eleanor
Chapman, Christine
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Janet
Edwards, Richard
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gibbons, Brian
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Hutt, Jane
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, David Ian
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Gwenda
Williams, Kirsty
Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd i'r Gadair am 4.26 p.m.
The Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair at 4.26 p.m.*

**Adroddiad Pwyllgor yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Thrafnidiaeth ar Weithredu'n
Lleol ar Fioamrywiaeth
The Environment, Planning and Transport Committee's Report on Local
Biodiversity Action**

Richard Edwards: I propose that

the National Assembly notes the report of the Environment, Planning and Transport Committee on its review of local bio-diversity action, which was laid in Table Office on 18 February 2003. (NDM1363)

I am pleased to present the report of the Committee's final review on local biodiversity action. I will briefly set out the background and outline the key areas for action. What is biodiversity? Biodiversity conservation is a useful term for one of the biggest issues facing humankind—how we meet the needs of a growing population without compromising plants, animals and their habitats. Action is underway across the UK to conserve rare and threatened species and habitats. We considered progress in drawing up and implementing local biodiversity action plans because they translate national conservation targets into local action and, crucially, develop sustainable local partnerships.

Progress in drawing up local plans has been good. Of the 24 partnerships in Wales, 16 have already published plans, with the remaining eight plans in draft form. Implementation is underway in all partnerships, and I commend the excellent work being pioneered by a small number of committed individuals in these partnerships. However, our review identified barriers to progress. We recommend further action to support implementation through partnership in four main areas: political commitments, matching commitment with resources, accessing information and expertise and supporting local action. The local partnerships play a key role in delivering national species and habitat conservation targets, but they rely on a relatively small number of motivated individuals. We heard that partnerships worked well in the planning

Richard Edwards: Cynigiaf fod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn nodi adroddiad Pwyllgor yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Thrafnidiaeth ar ei adolygiad o weithredu'n lleol ar fioamrywiaeth, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 18 Chwefror 2003. (NDM1363)

Mae'n bleser gennyf gyflwyno adroddiad adolygiad terfynol y Pwyllgor ar weithredu'n lleol ar fioamrywiaeth. Nodaf y cefndir yn fras ac amlinellaf y meysydd allweddol ar gyfer gweithredu. Beth yw bioamrywiaeth? Mae cadwraeth bioamrywiaeth yn derm defnyddiol ar gyfer un o'r problemau mwyaf sy'n wynebu dynolryw—sut y diwallwn anghenion poblogaeth sy'n tyfu heb beryglu planhigion, anifeiliaid a'u cynefinoedd. Mae gwaith ar y gweill ledled y DU i ddiogelu rhywogaethau a chynefinoedd prin a rhai sydd dan fygythiad. Bu inni ystyried cynnydd wrth lunio cynlluniau gweithredu bioamrywiaeth lleol a'u rhoi ar waith gan eu bod yn troi targedau cadwraeth cenedlaethol yn weithredu lleol ac yn datblygu partneriaethau lleol cynaliadwy, sy'n hanfodol.

Gwnaethpwyd cynnydd da wrth lunio cynlluniau lleol. O'r 24 o bartneriaethau yng Nghymru, mae 16 ohonynt eisoes wedi cyhoeddi cynlluniau, ac mae'r wyth cynllun arall ar ffurf ddrafft. Mae'r holl bartneriaethau yn mynd ati i'w gweithredu, a chymeradwyaf y gwaith ardderchog a arloesir gan nifer fach o unigolion ymrwymedig yn y partneriaethau hyn. Fodd bynnag, nododd ein hadolygiad rwystrau i gynnydd. Argymhellwn y dylid cymryd camau pellach i gynorthwyo'r broses o roi hyn ar waith drwy bartneriaeth mewn pedwar prif faes: ymrwymadau gwleidyddol, darparu adnoddau i gyd-fynd â'r ymrwymiad, manteisio ar wybodaeth ac arbenigedd a chefnogi gweithredu lleol. Mae'r partneriaethau lleol yn chwarae rôl allweddol wrth gyrraedd targedau cenedlaethol o ran diogelu rhywogaethau a chynefinoedd, ond

stage, but not as well when it came to implementation. This is due to a lack of commitment by senior officers or politicians in the partner organisations.

The first area for action is political commitment. Given the Assembly's duty to biodiversity, we recommend that the Welsh Assembly Government take the lead. This means mainstreaming biodiversity considerations into Assembly policies and priorities and those of its sponsored public bodies. It means making conservation a central policy consideration, not a green checklist at the end. Local action is key to meeting national targets for species and habitat conservation, but statutory duties relating to biodiversity do not extend to local authorities. We recommend a review of how local government commitment to conservation can be strengthened. In the meantime, conservation should be mainstreamed into local decision-making through local biodiversity plans becoming supplementary planning guidance and underpinning community strategies. It is also essential that local plans are co-ordinated with national species and habitat plans and important that the local focus of priorities is not forgotten.

4.30 p.m.

The second area for action is matching increased political support for conservation with the resources available locally. The Committee heard that limited and inaccessible funds hampered the work of local partnerships. We recommend a review of the funding available to support local conservation action. Relatively small amounts of funding are needed to support local partnerships by providing permanent, full-time biodiversity officers. We recommend dedicated funding for these officers, and also the development of specific funding for local conservation projects, possibly by the direct funding of partnerships.

dibynnant ar nifer gymharol fach o unigolion brwdfrydig. Clywsom i'r partneriaethau weithio'n dda yn ystod y cam cynllunio, ond nid cystal yn ystod y cam gweithredu. Y rheswm dros hyn yw diffyg ymrwymiad gan uwch swyddogion neu wleidyddion yn y sefydliadau partner.

Y maes gweithredu cyntaf yw ymrwymiad gwleidyddol. O ystyried dyletswydd y Cynulliad i fioamrywiaeth, argymhellwn y dylai Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru arwain y blaen. Golyga hyn brif ffrydio ystyriaethau bioamrywiaeth ym mholisiau a blaenoriaethau'r Cynulliad ac ym mholisiau a blaenoriaethau'r cyrff cyhoeddus a noddir ganddo. Golyga sicrhau bod cadwraeth yn ystyriaeth ganolog o ran polisi, yn hytrach nag yn restr wirio werdd ar y diwedd. Mae gweithredu lleol yn allweddol wrth gyrraedd targedau cenedlaethol ar gyfer diogelu rhywogaethau a chynefinoedd, ond nid yw'r dyletswyddau statudol sy'n ymwneud â bioamrywiaeth yn ymestyn i awdurdodau lleol. Argymhellwn y dylid cynnal adolygiad o sut y gellir atgyfnerthu ymrwymiad llywodraeth leol i gadwraeth. Yn y cyfamser, dylid prif ffrydio cadwraeth yn y broses o wneud penderfyniadau yn lleol drwy sicrhau bod cynlluniau bioamrywiaeth lleol yn dod yn ganllawiau cynllunio ategol ac yn sail i strategaethau cymunedol. Mae'n hanfodol hefyd y caiff cynlluniau lleol eu cydgyssylltu â chynlluniau cenedlaethol rhywogaethau a chynefinoedd ac mae'n bwysig na chaiff pwyslais lleol blaenoriaethau ei anghofio.

Yr ail faes gweithredu yw sicrhau bod adnoddau ar gael yn lleol i gyd-fynd â'r gefnogaeth wleidyddol gynyddol i gadwraeth. Clywodd y Pwyllgor bod y ffaith bod arian yn gyfyngedig ac na ellid cael gafael arno wedi rhwystro gwaith partneriaethau lleol. Argymhellwn y dylid cynnal adolygiad o'r arian sydd ar gael i gefnogi gweithredu lleol ar gadwraeth. Mae angen symiau cymharol fach o arian i gynorthwyo partneriaethau lleol drwy ddarparu swyddogion bioamrywiaeth llawn amser parhaol. Argymhellwn y dylid darparu arian penodol ar gyfer y swyddogion hyn, yn ogystal â datblygu arian penodol ar gyfer prosiectau cadwraeth lleol, drwy ariannu'r

partneriaethau'n uniongyrchol o bosibl.

The third area for action is information and expertise. Target-setting and monitoring are dependent on consistent, reliable and timely data. We therefore recommend the establishment of a national local-record sensor network. This would provide a single access point for species and habitat information in Wales. We heard that partnerships rely heavily on the skills of a few experts. We recommend looking at ways of providing access to expert ecological and conservation support locally. There is also scope to harness the skills of volunteers. To reverse the decline in the skills base, we must develop an enthusiasm for conservation in local communities. We recommend increasing the availability and take-up of conservation science, taxonomy and practical land training. To further develop Welsh academic expertise, we recommend the alignment of academic research to UK conservation research priorities. The final area for action is moving from local planning to implementation, which will be facilitated by increased political and financial support. We also recommend new biodiversity awards to highlight good conservation practice and encourage partnership working.

In conclusion, we have a responsibility to balance social and economic growth with conservation of species and habitat. Local actions are key to meeting national conservation targets. Our review recommends ways to support local partnerships through political commitment, matching commitment to resources, accessing information and expertise and supporting local actions. On behalf of the Committee, I thank all who contributed to our review and now call upon the Welsh Assembly Government to implement our recommendations.

Y trydydd maes gweithredu yw gwybodaeth ac arbenigedd. Mae'r broses o bennu targedau a monitro yn dibynnu ar ddata cyson, dibynadwy ac amserol. Felly, argymhellwn y dylid sefydlu rhwydwaith synwryddion cenedlaethol o gofnodion lleol. Byddai hyn yn darparu un pwynt mynediad ar gyfer gwybodaeth am rywogaethau a chynefinoedd yng Nghymru. Clywsom fod partneriaethau yn dibynnu i raddau helaeth ar sgiliau ychydig o arbenigwyr. Argymhellwn y dylid ystyried ffyrdd o sicrhau bod cymorth ecolegol a chadwraethol arbenigol ar gael yn lleol. Mae'n bosibl defnyddio sgiliau gwirfoddolwyr hefyd. Rhaid inni ennyn brwdfrydedd tuag at gadwraeth mewn cymunedau lleol, er mwyn gwyrddroi'r dirywiad mewn argaeledd sgiliau. Argymhellwn y dylid cynyddu'r cyfleoedd i gael hyfforddiant mewn gwyddor cadwraeth, tacsonomeg a hyfforddiant ymarferol ar y tir a chynyddu nifer y bobl sy'n cael eu hyfforddi. Er mwyn datblygu arbenigedd academiaidd Cymru ymhellach, argymhellwn y dylid sicrhau bod ymchwil academiaidd yn adlewyrchu blaenoriaethau'r DU o ran ymchwil i gadwraeth. Y maes gweithredu olaf yw symud o gynllunio lleol i weithredu, a gaiff ei hwyluso gan fwy o gefnogaeth wleidyddol a chymorth ariannol. Argymhellwn hefyd y dylid sefydlu gwobrau bioamrywiaeth newydd i nodi arferion da o ran cadwraeth ac annog pobl i weithio mewn partneriaeth.

I gloi, yr ydym yn gyfrifol am sicrhau cydbwysedd rhwng twf cymdeithasol ac economaidd a'r dasg o ddiogelu rhywogaethau a chynefinoedd. Mae gweithredu lleol yn allweddol er mwyn cyrraedd targedau cenedlaethol o ran cadwraeth. Argymhella ein hadolygiad ffyrdd o gefnogi partneriaethau lleol drwy ymrwymiad gwleidyddol, darparu adnoddau i gyd-fynd â'r ymrwymiad, manteisio ar wybodaeth ac arbenigedd a chefnogi gweithredu lleol. Ar ran y Pwyllgor, hoffwn ddiolch i bawb a gyfrannodd at ein hadolygiad a galwaf yn awr ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i roi ein hargymhellion ar waith.

Janet Davies: It is interesting that the Committee reached cross-party agreement on this important topic. The review highlights the need for top-level commitment from local and central government because gaps and weaknesses currently exist and communities look to the Assembly Government to address and remedy them. The Committee Chair points out in his introduction the need to make biodiversity a mainstream issue, and this has been an integral part of Plaid Cymru policy for some years.

We debated the business and environment action plan yesterday and today we are considering the need to balance economic development and environmental stewardship. Yesterday, some argued that caring for the environment does not necessarily help business. It is easy to say that businesses are not interested in and do not understand the reasons for sustainable development or the role of biodiversity in achieving it, but that does an injustice to their intelligence. They are naturally concerned about the profitability of their businesses, but many are also deeply concerned about the environment and understand that, in running a business in an environmentally sound way, they can help themselves as well as the environment because—let there be no mistake—wildlife and plants have a value in their own right. They clean our air, purify our water, maintain our soils and provide us with food and raw materials. Our health depends upon them, and it is essential that we recognise their true value and do not destroy them through lack of care or money, for short-term gain.

Plaid Cymru welcomes the recommendation that local biodiversity plans become part of planning procedures. As development increases, wildlife corridors and connections between areas of land that are large enough to maintain and allow species populations to mix with others should be considered in planning decisions. However, as the review points out, there are weaknesses in the current biodiversity plans. I hope that the Government will accept that secure funding is needed for a full-time officer for each partnership, in addition to an officer at

Janet Davies: Mae'n ddiddorol i'r Pwyllgor ddod i gytundeb trawsbleidiol ar y pwnc pwysig hwn. Amlinella'r adolygiad yr angen am ymrwymiad ar y lefel uchaf gan lywodraeth leol a llywodraeth ganolog gan fod bylchau a gwendidau ar hyn o bryd a chan fod cymunedau yn disgwyl i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad ymdrin â hwy a'u datrys. Noda Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor yn ei gyflwyniad yr angen i sicrhau bod bioamrywiaeth yn fater prif ffrwd, a bu hyn yn rhan annatod o bolisi Plaid Cymru ers rhai blynyddoedd.

Bu inni drafod y cynllun gweithredu busnes a'r amgylchedd ddoe ac ystyriwn heddiw yr angen i sicrhau cydbwysedd rhwng datblygu economaidd a stiwardiaeth amgylcheddol. Ddoe, dadleuodd rhai nad yw gofalu am yr amgylchedd o anghenraid yn helpu busnes. Mae'n hawdd dweud nad oes gan fusnesau ddiddordeb yn y rhesymau dros ddatblygu cynaliadwy na rôl bioamrywiaeth wrth sicrhau hyn ac nad ydynt yn eu deall, ond gwna hynny gam â'u deallusrwydd. Maent yn amlwg yn pryderu am broffidoldeb eu busnesau, ond mae llawer ohonynt yn pryderu'n fawr hefyd am yr amgylchedd ac yn deall, wrth redeg busnes mewn ffordd sy'n ystyriol o'r amgylchedd, y gallant helpu eu hunain yn ogystal â helpu'r amgylchedd, oherwydd—peidied neb â chamgymryd—mae gan fywyd gwyllt a phlanhigion werth ynddynt eu hunain. Maent yn glanhau ein haer, yn puro ein dŵr, yn cynnal ein pridd ac yn rhoi bwyd a deunyddiau crai inni. Dibynna ein hiechyd arnynt, ac mae'n hanfodol inni gydnabod eu gwerth gwirioneddol a pheidio â'u dinistrio drwy ddiffyg gofal neu ddiffyg arian, er mwyn elw byrdymor.

Croesawa Plaid Cymru yr argymhelliad y dylai cynlluniau bioamrywiaeth lleol ddod yn rhan o weithdrefnau cynllunio. Wrth i waith datblygu gynyddu, dylid ystyried coridorau bywyd gwyllt a chysylltiadau rhwng darnau o dir sy'n ddigon mawr i gynnal rhywogaethau a'u galluogi i gymysgu â rhywogaethau eraill wrth wneud penderfyniadau cynllunio. Fodd bynnag, fel y nodar adolygiad, ceir gwendidau yn y cynlluniau bioamrywiaeth presennol. Gobeithiaf y bydd y Llywodraeth yn derbyn bod angen sicrhau arian ar gyfer swyddog llawn amser i bob partneriaeth, yn

national level, so that officers can share information and communicate with each other. I agree with the Chair that the lack of data is a matter of concern, but the data collected must be relevant and comparable throughout Wales.

Lack of skills was also mentioned, as it seems that even common plants and animals are often not recognised. Educational institutions must address this, but there is a role for amateurs working voluntarily in this regard. An inability to tell the difference between different species of buttercups is bad enough, but if biology graduates, who can write screeds about the complex physiology of viruses, cannot recognise the primrose, it would seem that they are both over-educated and ignorant.

Effort and commitment is needed from the top down to develop a culture that mainstreams the concept of biodiversity. Writing papers and producing strategies is just the start. Talking, persuading and changing attitudes towards wild animals and plants is not an optional extra; it is essential for our children's future.

The Minister for Environment (Sue Essex): Wales has an exceptional diversity of habitats and wildlife, and I welcome the Committee's report, which reviews how local action for biodiversity in Wales has progressed and makes recommendations to move the process forward.

Considerable progress has been made in Wales in recent years on biodiversity recognition and protection. Establishing the Wales biodiversity partnership in 1996 was crucial, and has helped to achieve more than we could have hoped for. I also recognise the achievements of the local biodiversity partnerships in developing their plans. Make no mistake, partnership is crucial and Janet is right to point out that business must be part of that partnership. We are not complacent and recognise that there is always room for improvement. The report's recommendations will help us to consider how we can further encourage locally based actions to help

ogystal â swyddog cenedlaethol, fel y gall swyddogion rannu gwybodaeth a chyfathrebu â'i gilydd. Cytunaf â'r Cadeirydd fod diffyg data yn peri pryder, ond rhaid i'r data a gesglir fod yn berthnasol a rhaid ei bod yn bosibl ei gymharu ledled Cymru.

Crybwyllwyd y diffyg sgiliau hefyd, oherwydd ymddengys na chydnabyddir hyd yn oed blanhigion ac anifeiliaid cyffredin yn aml. Rhaid i sefydliadau addysgol ymdrin â hyn, ond mae rôl i amaturiaid sy'n gweithio'n wirfoddol yn hyn o beth. Mae methu â gweld y gwahaniaeth rhwng rhywogaethau gwahanol o flodau menyn yn ddigon gwael, ond os na all graddedigion bioleg, a all ysgrifennu'n helaeth am ffisioleg gymhleth firysau, adnabod briallu, ymddengys eu bod wedi cael gormod o addysg ond eu bod eto'n anwybodus.

Mae angen ymdrech ac ymrwymiad o'r brig i'r bôn er mwyn datblygu diwylliant sy'n prif ffrydio'r cysyniad o fioamrywiaeth. Dim ond y dechrau yw'r gwaith o ysgrifennu papurau a llunio strategaethau. Nid yw siarad, darbwylllo a newid agweddau tuag at anifeiliaid a phlanhigion gwyllt yn rhywbeth ychwanegol y gallwn ddewis ei wneud; mae'n hanfodol ar gyfer dyfodol ein plant.

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd (Sue Essex): Mae gan Gymru amrywiaeth eithriadol o gynefinoedd a bywyd gwyllt, a chroesawaf adroddiad y Pwyllgor, sy'n adolygu sut mae gweithredu'n lleol ar fioamrywiaeth yng Nghymru wedi datblygu ac yn cynnig argymhellion i symud y broses ymlaen.

Gwnaethpwyd cynnydd sylweddol yng Nghymru yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf o ran adnabod a diogelu bioamrywiaeth. Yr oedd sefydlu partneriaeth bioamrywiaeth Cymru yn 1996 yn hanfodol, ac mae wedi helpu i gyflawni mwy nag y gallem fod wedi gobeithio amdano. Cydnabyddaf hefyd gyflawniadau'r partneriaethau bioamrywiaeth lleol wrth ddatblygu eu cynlluniau. Peidied neb â chamgymryd, mae partneriaeth yn hanfodol ac mae Janet yn gywir i nodi bod yn rhaid i fusnes fod yn rhan o'r bartneriaeth honno. Nid ydym yn hunanfodlon a chydnabyddwn fod lle i wella bob amser. Bydd argymhellion yr adroddiad yn ein helpu

ensure that our valuable heritage is maintained.

I have taken careful note of the evidence presented to the Committee—the benefit of our system is that I am a member of the Committee—and I was impressed with the quality and range of advice offered. I intend to take account of all the evidence in taking action forward on the Wales biodiversity partnership's report on future biodiversity action in Wales.

4.40 p.m.

My commitment to biodiversity action is well known and the Welsh Assembly Government's leadership in driving this agenda forward is widely recognised. I was pleased to hear the Joint Nature Conservation Committee recognise that leadership in this morning's Environment, Planning and Transport Committee meeting.

I turn to the Committee's recommendations. Recommendations 3, 4 and 10 are for the Wales biodiversity partnership to consider. I will ask it to discuss those recommendations in its next meeting. I will also ask the partnership to consider ways of celebrating good practice and local achievements. The idea of an award, as set out in recommendation 10 of the report, is a good one. Some of the actions in recommendations 5 and 6 concern funding. I accept the principle that funding and resources—because biodiversity is very much about people—are critical in terms of sustaining progress and outputs of local actions. I will consider ways to encourage the mainstreaming of funding for biodiversity.

In the current financial year, I have made £200,000 available to support local biodiversity action plans in Wales. I am pleased to announce that, for the coming year, I have agreed with the Countryside Council for Wales that it will continue to support local action. That indicates the Assembly Government's strong commitment to partnerships, in which local authorities, the voluntary sector, and local businesses have a part to play. Other sources of funding, such

i ystyried sut y gallwn annog gweithredu lleol ymhellach i sicrhau y caiff ein treftadaeth werthfawr ei chynnal.

Nodais y dystiolaeth a gyflwynwyd i'r Pwyllgor yn ofalus—mantais ein system yw fy mod yn aelod o'r Pwyllgor—a gwnaeth ansawdd ac amrywiaeth y cyngor a gynigiwyd argraff dda arnaf. Bwriadaf ystyried yr holl dystiolaeth wrth symud ymlaen o ran adroddiad partneriaeth bioamrywiaeth Cymru ar weithredu bioamrywiaeth yng Nghymru yn y dyfodol.

Mae fy ymrwymiad i weithredu ar fioamrywiaeth yn hysbys a chydabyddir yn eang arweinyddiaeth Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wrth ddatblygu'r agenda hon. Yr oeddwn yn falch o glywed y Cyd-bwyllgor Cadwraeth Natur yn cydnabod yr arweinyddiaeth honno yng nghyfarfod Pwyllgor yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Thrafnidiaeth y bore yma.

Trof at argymhellion y Pwyllgor. Rhaid i bartneriaeth bioamrywiaeth Cymru ystyried argymhellion 3, 4 a 10. Gofynnaf iddi drafod yr argymhellion hynny yn ei chyfarfod nesaf. Gofynnaf i'r bartneriaeth ystyried ffyrdd o ddatlu arferion da a chyflawniadau lleol hefyd. Mae'r syniad o wobr, fel y nodwyd yn argymhelliad 10 yr adroddiad, yn dda. Mae rhai o'r camau a geir yn argymhellion 5 a 6 yn ymwneud ag arian. Derbyniaf yr egwyddor bod arian ac adnoddau—gan fod a wnelo bioamrywiaeth â phobl i raddau helaeth—yn hanfodol o ran cynnal cynnydd a chanlyniadau gweithredu lleol. Ystyriaaf ffyrdd o annog y broses o brif ffyrddio arian ar gyfer bioamrywiaeth.

Yn y flwyddyn ariannol bresennol, darperais £200,000 i gynorthwyo cynlluniau gweithredu bioamrywiaeth lleol yng Nghymru. Mae'n bleser gennyf gyhoeddi fy mod wedi cytuno â Chyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru y bydd yn parhau i gefnogi gweithredu lleol, ar gyfer y flwyddyn i ddod. Dengys hynny ymrwymiad cryf Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i bartneriaethau, lle y mae gan awdurdodau lleol, y sector gwirfoddol, a busnesau lleol ran i'w chwarae. Croesewir

as the Heritage Lottery Fund, and more obvious routes, such as the Countryside Council for Wales, are also welcome. I support the idea of holding a review to identify and clarify funding sources for local action. I will ask the Wales biodiversity partnership to take that forward.

I am pleased to be able to take forward the remaining recommendations and to report that many of the positive actions highlighted in the review are being implemented. For example, recommendation 1 is on the Welsh Assembly Government mainstreaming biodiversity into policy areas: that is already at the forefront of our work. I will give one example of that: the transport directorate has recently announced its draft plan for mainstreaming biodiversity action on its trunk road and motorway network from 2004. From the schemes that I have seen around Wales, we have learned much about how to protect biodiversity in road schemes and we will build on the knowledge and experience that has been gained over the last few years.

With regard to recommendation 7 on a national records network, in this coming year we will build on the successful record centre in Powys that many of you will know of. We will begin to establish and develop a network of local centres across Wales. That is considered by everyone involved to be of paramount importance in sustaining local biodiversity planning. Recommendation 2 refers to planning. I should point out that local biodiversity action plans were recognised as supplementary planning guidance in 'Planning Policy Wales', which was set out in March 2002.

As regards recommendation 3, I will ask the Wales biodiversity partnership to consider setting local targets. The Countryside Council for Wales is committed to publishing data that will allow that to happen. With regard to recommendations 8 and 9 on the need for expertise, I have announced £20,000 in funding to help provide training and guidance on the list of species and habitats of principal importance for the conservation of biological

hefyd ffynonellau eraill o arian, megis Cronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri, a ffyrdd mwy amlwg o ariannu, megis Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru. Cefnogaf y syniad o gynnal adolygiad i nodi ac egluro ffynonellau arian ar gyfer gweithredu lleol. Gofynnaf i bartneriaeth bioamrywiaeth Cymru ddatblygu hynny.

Mae'n bleser gennyf allu datblygu'r argymhellion sy'n weddill a nodi y caiff llawer o'r camau cadarnhaol a amlygwyd yn yr adolygiad eu rhoi ar waith. Er enghraifft, mae a wnelo argymhelliad 1 â sicrhau bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn prif ffyrddio bioamrywiaeth mewn meysydd polisi: mae hynny eisoes yn flaenllaw yn ein gwaith. Rhoddaf un enghraifft o hynny: cyhoeddodd y gyfarwyddiaeth drafnidiaeth yn ddiweddar ei chynllun drafft ar gyfer prif ffyrddio camau bioamrywiaeth ar ei rhwydwaith o gefnffyrdd a thraffyrdd o 2004. O'r cynlluniau a welais ledled Cymru, yr ydym wedi dysgu llawer am sut i ddiogelu bioamrywiaeth mewn cynlluniau ffyrdd a byddwn yn adeiladu ar y wybodaeth a'r profiad a gafwyd yn ystod yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf.

O ran argymhelliad 7 sy'n ymwneud â rhwydwaith cenedlaethol o gofnodion, yn y flwyddyn hon sy'n dod, byddwn yn adeiladu ar y ganolfan gofnodion lwyddiannus ym Mhowys y bydd llawer ohonoch yn gwybod amdani. Byddwn yn dechrau sefydlu a datblygu rhwydwaith o ganolfannau lleol ledled Cymru. Mae pawb sy'n gysylltiedig â'r gwaith hwn o'r farn bod hyn yn hollbwysig wrth gynnal cynlluniau bioamrywiaeth lleol. Mae argymhelliad 2 yn cyfeirio at gynllunio. Dylwn nodi i gynlluniau gweithredu bioamrywiaeth lleol gael eu cydnabod yn ganllawiau cynllunio atodol yn y ddogfen 'Polisi Cynllunio Cymru', a gyflwynwyd ym mis Mawrth 2002.

O ran argymhelliad 3, gofynnaf i bartneriaeth bioamrywiaeth Cymru ystyried pennu targedau lleol. Mae Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru yn ymrwymedig i gyhoeddi data a fydd yn caniatáu hynny. O ran argymhellion 8 a 9 ynglŷn â'r angen am arbenigedd, cyhoeddais fod £20,000 ar gael i helpu i ddarparu hyfforddiant a chanllawiau ar y rhestr o rywogaethau a chynefinoedd sy'n hollbwysig er mwyn diogelu bioamrywiaeth

diversity. That money has been allocated to the National Museums and Galleries of Wales, which will take this forward.

I welcome the fact that devolution has ensured that the Assembly Government has a voice in discussions about biodiversity policy at a UK level and that the Wales biodiversity partnership has a stronger role in UK arrangements.

Finally, I put on record my thanks for the good work that has taken place on biodiversity and the enthusiasm demonstrated around Wales. I have been privileged to launch many local biodiversity action plans. The enthusiasm and commitment of local biodiversity officers and volunteers is enormous. I thank everyone who has been involved in and has taken an interest in preparing this report. I intend to report back to the Committee to outline progress and I look forward to Wales reaping the benefits that local biodiversity action will bring in the longer term.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Six Members still wish to speak and we only have 18 minutes left. I would therefore appreciate it if Members could limit their speeches to three minutes, but I will not impose a three-minute limit. If Members have important points to raise and want to carry on, they will be allowed to speak for up to five minutes.

David Davies: I welcome this report, which details the work undertaken by the Environment, Planning and Transport Committee. The Conservative Party is well represented in rural areas, and has its roots in the countryside; it recognises the importance of protecting the variety of plant and animal life across our countryside.

Alun Cairns: Hear, hear.

David Davies: Thank you; I did not get much support from the other side of the Chamber, but support is welcome, wherever it comes from.

We support the principle of giving local communities greater powers to protect their

biolegol. Dyrannwyd yr arian hwnnw i Amgueddfeydd ac Orielau Cenedlaethol Cymru, a fydd yn datblygu hyn.

Croesawaf y ffaith bod datganoli wedi sicrhau bod gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad lais mewn trafodaethau am bolisi bioamrywiaeth yn y DU gyfan a bod gan bartneriaeth bioamrywiaeth Cymru rôl gryfach yn nhrefniadau'r DU.

I gloi, cofnodaf fy niolchiadau am y gwaith da a wnaethpwyd o ran bioamrywiaeth a'r brwdfrydedd a ddangoswyd ledled Cymru. Braint oedd lansio llawer o gynlluniau gweithredu bioamrywiaeth lleol. Dangosir brwdfrydedd ac ymrwymiad helaeth gan swyddogion a gwirfoddolwyr bioamrywiaeth lleol. Diolchaf i bawb a gymerodd ran ac a ddangosodd ddiddordeb yn y gwaith o lunio'r adroddiad hwn. Bwriadaf gyflwyno adroddiad pellach i'r Pwyllgor i nodi'r cynnydd ac edrychaf ymlaen at weld Cymru yn elwa yn yr hirdymor yn sgîl camau bioamrywiaeth lleol.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Mae chwe Aelod arall am siarad a dim ond 18 munud sydd ar ôl. Felly, gwerthfawrogwn pe gallai Aelodau gyfyngu eu hareithiau i dair munud, ond ni orfodaf gyfyngiad tair munud. Os bydd gan Aelodau bwyntiau pwysig i'w codi ac os byddant am barhau, caniateir iddynt siarad am hyd at bum munud.

David Davies: Croesawaf yr adroddiad hwn, a rydd fanylion am y gwaith a gyflawnwyd gan Bwyllgor yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Thrafnidiaeth. Cynrychiolir y Blaid Geidwadol yn dda mewn ardaloedd gwledig, ac mae ei gwreiddiau yng nghefn gwlad; mae'n cydnabod pwysigrwydd diogelu'r amrywiaeth o blanhigion ac anifeiliaid a geir ar draws cefn gwlad.

Alun Cairns: Clywch, clywch.

David Davies: Diolch; ni chefais lawer o gefnogaeth o ochr arall y Siambr, ond croesawaf gefnogaeth, o lle bynnag y daw.

Cefnogwn yr egwyddor o roi mwy o bwerau i gymunedau lleol ddiogelu eu cynefinoedd, a

habitats, and we recognise that LBAPs, which draw on support and expert advice from local communities can play an important role in bringing this work forward.

While we all believe in the principles that have resulted in biodiversity action plans, we must take care to ensure that they are implemented realistically and in a way that takes account of the different environmental situations across Wales. I do not want this to be interpreted as a criticism, but rather as a comment. The environment in Cardiff is somewhat different to the countryside of Pembrokeshire and it is ironic that—if Members look at the annex to this report—while Cardiff has a full-time LBAP officer, the officer for Pembrokeshire only works two days a week. That is just one example, but there are others similar to it. That is strange because, one would expect, the more rural an area is, the more work should be done by the relevant in-house LBAP officer. It has been suggested that, while intentions may be good, somehow priorities have become a little confused. Large urban authorities with access to funds are finding it easier to produce the plans and to staff the offices than the rural areas that we are trying most to protect. Cardiff is mapping out flowerbeds on roundabouts while rural areas struggle to map out large areas of natural habitat. I have not been able to verify that suggestion. Although it has been exaggerated, there may be more than a grain of truth in it. If it is true, then we must look at the whole funding package and ensure that funding goes where the need is greatest. If there is a shortage of money then funding should be directed more to rural, rather than urban, areas. However, we should remember that, no matter how much we spend on mapping biodiversity, our good intentions and efforts will come to nought if we do not put good planning policies in place to protect our environment. Too much of our natural environment is being destroyed by unnecessary development. While I recognise that LBAPs are useful and important, they will be irrelevant if the areas that we spend so much time and money mapping are concreted over by developments. I will therefore strive to ensure that we get better planning legislation to protect our countryside for future generations.

chydnabyddwn y gall cynlluniau gweithredu bioamrywiaeth lleol, sy'n dibynnu ar gefnogaeth a chyngor arbenigol gan gymunedau lleol, chwarae rhan bwysig wrth ddatblygu'r gwaith hwn.

Er y cred pob un ohonom yn yr egwyddorion sydd wedi arwain at gynlluniau gweithredu bioamrywiaeth, rhaid inni sicrhau y'u cyflawnir mewn modd realistig ac mewn ffordd sy'n ystyried y sefyllfaoedd amgylcheddol gwahanol ledled Cymru. Nid wyf am ichi feddwl bod hyn yn feirniadaeth, ond yn hytrach yn sylw. Mae'r amgylchedd yng Nghaerdydd rywfaint yn wahanol i gefn gwlad sir Benfro ac mae'n eironig—os edrycha Aelodau ar atodiad yr adroddiad hwn—bod gan Gaerdydd swyddog cynlluniau gweithredu bioamrywiaeth lleol llawn amser ond mai dim ond am ddau ddiwrnod yr wythnos y mae swyddog sir Benfro yn gweithio. Un enghraifft yn unig yw honno, ond mae enghreifftiau tebyg eraill. Mae'n rhyfedd, gan y byddech yn disgwyl i ardal fwy gwledig arwain at fwy o waith i'r swyddog mewnol perthnasol. Awgrymwyd bod blaenoriaethau wedi'u drysu ychydig, er bod bwriadau efallai yn dda. Mae awdurdodau trefol mawr y mae arian ar gael iddynt yn ei chael yn haws i lunio'r cynlluniau a staffio'r swyddfeydd na'r ardaloedd gwledig y ceisiwn eu diogelu fwyaf. Mae Caerdydd yn cynllunio gwelyau blodau yng nghanol cylchfannau tra caiff ardaloedd gwledig drafferthion i gynllunio ardaloedd mawr o gynefin naturiol. Nid wyf wedi gallu dilysu'r awgrym hwnnw. Er iddo gael ei orliwio, mae'n bosibl bod rhywfaint o wirionedd ynddo. Os yw'n wir, yna rhaid inni ystyried y broses ariannu gyfan a sicrhau yr â'r arian lle y mae ei angen fwyaf. Os nad oes digon o arian, yna dylid cyfeirio mwy ohono i ardaloedd gwledig, yn hytrach nag ardaloedd trefol. Fodd bynnag, dylem gofio, waeth faint a wariwn ar gynllunio bioamrywiaeth, bydd ein bwriadau da a'n hymdrechion yn methu os na sefydlwn bolisiau cynllunio da i ddiogelu ein hamgylchedd. Caiff gormod o'n hamgylchedd naturiol ei ddinistrio gan waith datblygu diangen. Er y cydnabyddaf fod cynlluniau gweithredu bioamrywiaeth lleol yn ddefnyddiol ac yn bwysig, ni fyddant yn berthnasol os caiff yr ardaloedd y treuliwn gymaint o amser, ac y gwariwn gymaint o

arian, yn eu cynllunio eu dinistrio gan ddatblygiadau. Felly, ymdrechaf i sicrhau y cawn ddeddfwriaeth gynllunio well i ddiogelu cefn gwlad ar gyfer cenedlaethau i ddod.

Eleanor Burnham: The Welsh Liberal Democrats welcome and support this excellent Committee report and its positive recommendations. Every form of life on our planet is inter-linked in a huge interdependent system. Conserving biodiversity in an ever-changing world is vital, particularly now when it is affected by challenges such as global warming. I agree that the Assembly must lead the way by integrating biodiversity considerations into all of its policies and those of Assembly sponsored public bodies, and press local authorities to adopt local biodiversity action plans as supplementary planning guidance. The report notes, and the consultation reflected, that there is a greater need for co-ordination between the local and national strategy and partnerships. As a previous speaker said, there are discrepancies in what certain local authorities are doing. The Wales biodiversity partnership should press the new approach.

Eleanor Burnham: Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn croesawu ac yn cefnogi adroddiad ardderchog y Pwyllgor a'i argymhellion cadarnhaol. Mae pob math o fywyd ar ein planed wedi'u cydgyssylltu mewn system gyd-ddibynnol enfawr. Mae'n hanfodol diogelu bioamrywiaeth mewn byd sy'n newid o hyd, yn enwedig ar hyn o bryd pan fo heriau megis cynhesu byd-eang yn effeithio arno. Cytunaf fod yn rhaid i'r Cynulliad arwain y ffordd wrth integreiddio ystyriaethau bioamrywiaeth ym mhob un o'i bolisïau a pholisïau cyrff cyhoeddus a noddir ganddo, a bod yn rhaid iddo bwysu ar awdurdodau lleol i fabwysiadu cynlluniau gweithredu bioamrywiaeth lleol fel canllawiau cynllunio atodol. Noda'r adroddiad, a nododd yr ymgynghoriad, fod mwy o angen am gydgyssylltu rhwng strategaeth a phartneriaethau lleol a chenedlaethol. Fel y dywedodd un o'r siaradwyr blaenorol, mae anghysondebau yn yr hyn a wna rhai awdurdodau lleol. Dylai partneriaeth bioamrywiaeth Cymru annog yr ymagwedd newydd.

Political commitment to conserving biodiversity must be matched by resources. Sufficient funds must be targeted to support these action plans and I am hopeful that, according to Sue's remarks, the Assembly Government will ensure that this is delivered. Hopefully, that will happen in a transparent and easily-accessibly manner so that these hard-working biodiversity partnerships can develop their full potential for the benefit of all in Wales.

Rhaid sicrhau bod adnoddau yn cyfateb â'r ymrwymiad gwleidyddol i ddiogelu bioamrywiaeth. Rhaid targedu digon o arian i gefnogi'r cynlluniau gweithredu hyn a gobeithiaf, yn ôl sylwadau Sue, y bydd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn sicrhau y caiff hyn ei gyflawni. Gobeithiaf y digwydd hyn mewn modd tryloyw a hygyrch fel y gall y partneriaethau bioamrywiaeth diwyd hyn ddatblygu hyd eithaf eu potensial er budd pawb yng Nghymru.

4.50 p.m.

Brian Hancock: I welcome and promote the review of local biodiversity action. I thank those organisations and people who contributed to it. I also welcome the recommendation that local biodiversity action plans become supplementary planning guidance as, I hope, will the forthcoming strategy on waterways. I raise that point as the chair of the cross-party group on

Brian Hancock: Yr wyf yn croesawu ac yn hyrwyddo'r adolygiad o gamau bioamrywiaeth lleol. Diolchaf i'r sefydliadau a'r bobl hynny a gyfrannodd ato. Croesawaf hefyd yr argymhelliad y dylai cynlluniau gweithredu bioamrywiaeth lleol ddod yn ganllawiau cynllunio atodol fel y gwna'r strategaeth a gyhoeddir maes o law ar ddyfrffyrdd, gobeithio. Codaf y pwynt

waterways.

Canals and waterways are important; they are great biodiversity areas. We need to balance the need for self-regenerated habitats for flora and fauna against the need for the economic activity of tourism and leisure. That should link in with the business and environment action plan discussed yesterday. I must summarise, as I do not want to repeat what other Members have said.

Striking a balance between the economy and the environment is important if we are to have a win-win situation. However, we must promote environmental safeguards and policies. I recall an occasion when a property developer promoted such a policy and the Marsh Fritillary butterfly population flourished. He then found that he was only permitted to develop less than a quarter of his land—which amounted to only 23 of his 100 acres—because the land had become a site of special scientific interest and then a special area of conservation. His development could not go ahead, although he was a good developer who was concerned about the environment and managed his land responsibly. Instead of the butterfly population rising, it is falling. This is not sustainable and is a worry.

To be slightly parochial, I will talk about my constituency of Islwyn. Caerphilly County Borough Council launched its local biodiversity action plan last year and I was present at that successful event. Many thousands of people attended and learned of the plan's importance. It has resulted in two projects. The first is an eco-park in Cefn Fforest, where a brownfield site has been regenerated, and where nearly all the 22 trees representing the Celtic Ogham alphabet are present. A learning centre for all to use will also be developed there. Secondly, in another ward of Islwyn, an overgrown area had become a dumping ground, so residents got together and formed a small local partnership to recover the area for the benefit of the entire community.

I intended to draw recommendations 5 and 6

hwnnw fel cadeirydd y grŵp trawsbleidiol ar ddyfrffyrdd.

Mae camlesi a dyfrffyrdd yn bwysig; maent yn ardaloedd lle y ceir llawer o fioamrywiaeth. Mae angen inni sicrhau cydbwysedd rhwng yr angen am gynefinoedd sy'n hunan-atgynhyrchiol ar gyfer fflora a ffawna a'r angen am weithgaredd economaidd twristiaeth a hamdden. Dylai hynny gysylltu â'r cynllun gweithredu busnes a'r amgylchedd a drafodwyd ddoe. Rhaid imi grynhoi, gan nad wyf am ailadrodd yr hyn a ddywedodd Aelodau eraill.

Mae'n bwysig sicrhau cydbwysedd rhwng yr economi a'r amgylchedd er mwyn cael sefyllfa lle na allwn golli. Fodd bynnag, rhaid inni hyrwyddo camau diogelu a pholisïau amgylcheddol. Cofiaf achlysur pan hyrwyddodd datblygwr eiddo bolisi o'r fath a ffynnodd iâr fach yr haf brith y gors. Yna canfu mai dim ond llai na chwarter o'i dir y caniatwyd iddo ei ddatblygu—sef dim ond 23 o'i 100 o erwau—gan fod y tir wedi dod yn safle o ddiddordeb gwyddonol arbennig ac yna yn ardal gadwraeth arbennig. Ni allai ei ddatblygiad fynd rhagddo, er ei fod yn datblygwr da a oedd yn pryderu am yr amgylchedd ac a reolodd ei dir mewn modd cyfrifol. Yn hytrach na chynyddu, mae niferoedd ieir bach yr haf yn gostwng. Nid yw hyn yn gynaliadwy ac mae'n peri pryder.

I fod ychydig yn blwyfol, siaradaf am fy etholaeth i, sef Islwyn. Lansiodd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili ei gynllun gweithredu bioamrywiaeth lleol y llynedd ac euthum i'r digwyddiad llwyddiannus hwnnw. Yr oedd miloedd o bobl yno yn dysgu am bwysigrwydd y cynllun. Crëwyd dau brosiect o ganlyniad i hyn. Eco-parc yng Nghefn Fforest yw'r prosiect cyntaf, lle yr adfywiwyd tir llwyd, a lle y ceir bron pob un o'r 22 o goed sy'n cynrychioli'r wyddor ogam Geltaidd. Caiff canolfan ddysgu i'w defnyddio gan bawb ei datblygu yno hefyd. Yn ail, mewn ward arall yn Islwyn, yr oedd ardal a oedd wedi tyfu'n wyllt wedi troi'n domen sbwriel, ac felly daeth y trigolion at ei gilydd i greu partneriaeth leol fach i adfer yr ardal er budd y gymuned gyfan.

Bwriadais dynnu sylw'r Gweinidog at

to the Minister's attention, but that has already been done. It is important that we work together as businesses, environmental groups, and local communities, to support the environment.

Val Lloyd: I welcome the commitment demonstrated to date to conserve and enhance biodiversity, through the financial support and encouragement given to local authorities and other groups to embrace this important agenda.

Biodiversity is important for rural and conservation areas but, if we are to address biodiversity in all its forms, we must also see it as an issue for our cities and towns. Much of the support for, and attention on, this issue is geared towards rural areas and specifics, such as wildlife habitats. That is understandable and is a good starting point. However, conservation is important to all localities, including urban areas, which are often not highlighted when it comes to environmental protection.

Looking to the future, it will be important for urban areas to garner more attention when we think about conservation. Natural heritage is not confined to sites designated by statute; it extends across all of Wales—to urban areas, the countryside and the coast. The success of biodiversity and sustainable development will benefit not only our environment, but also the social, cultural and economic life of Wales. We must recognise the influence of the biodiversity of Wales's natural landscape on all aspects of life, and on our quality of life in particular. This must extend to our urban areas and could be a focus for drawing together disparate communities, which may not, at first sight, seem to have much in common.

Increasing the availability and marketing of courses such as conservation science across Wales, and increasing the research base will raise the profile of biodiversity and assist in increasing the pool of expert support in local areas, as will a network of local record centres, which will be another strength.

argymhellion 5 a 6, ond gwnaethpwyd hynny eisoes. Mae'n bwysig inni gydweithio fel busnesau, grwpiau amgylcheddol, a chymunedau lleol, i gefnogi'r amgylchedd.

Val Lloyd: Croesawaf yr ymrwymiad a ddangoswyd hyd yma i ddiogelu a gwella bioamrywiaeth, drwy'r cymorth ariannol a'r anogaeth a roddir i awdurdodau lleol a grwpiau eraill ddatblygu'r agenda bwysig hon.

Mae bioamrywiaeth yn bwysig i ardaloedd gwledig ac ardaloedd cadwraeth ond, er mwyn inni allu ymdrin â bioamrywiaeth o bob math, rhaid inni hefyd ei ystyried yn fater sy'n bwysig i'n dinasoedd a'n trefi. Mae llawer o'r gefnogaeth i'r mater hwn a'r sylw a roddir iddo wedi'u hanelu tuag at ardaloedd gwledig ac ardaloedd penodol, megis cynefinoedd bywyd gwyllt. Gellir deall hynny ac mae'n fan cychwyn da. Fodd bynnag, mae cadwraeth yn bwysig i bob cymdogaeth, gan gynnwys ardaloedd trefol, nas amlygir yn aml pan ystyrir diogelu'r amgylchedd.

Wrth edrych tuag at y dyfodol, bydd yn bwysig i ardaloedd trefol gael mwy o sylw pan ystyriwn gadwraeth. Nid yw treftadaeth naturiol yn gyfyngedig i safleoedd a nodwyd drwy statud; mae'n ymestyn dros Gymru gyfan—i ardaloedd trefol, cefn gwlad a'r arfordir. Nid dim ond ein hamgylchedd a fydd yn elwa ar lwyddiant bioamrywiaeth a datblygu cynaliadwy, ond bywyd cymdeithasol, diwylliannol ac economaidd Cymru hefyd. Rhaid inni gydnabod dylanwad bioamrywiaeth tirwedd naturiol Cymru ar bob agwedd ar fywyd, ac ar ansawdd ein bywydau yn arbennig. Rhaid i hyn ymestyn i'n hardaloedd trefol a gallai fod yn ganolbwynt ar gyfer dod â chymunedau gwahanol at ei gilydd, na fydd ganddynt, ar yr olwg gyntaf, lawer yn gyffredin.

Bydd cynyddu'r cyrsiau megis gwyddor cadwraeth sydd ar gael ledled Cymru a'u marchnata'n well, a chynyddu'r sail ymchwil, yn codi proffil bioamrywiaeth ac yn helpu i gynyddu'r cymorth arbenigol sydd ar gael mewn ardaloedd lleol. Bydd rhwydwaith o ganolfannau cofnodion lleol, a fydd yn gryfder arall, hefyd yn cyfrannu at

hyn.

We are fortunate that Wales has one of the most beautiful natural landscapes in the world. Local biodiversity action plans, as recommended by the Committee, present an opportunity to build upon a wonderful existing resource.

Tom Middlehurst: As a member of the Committee, I commend this report to the Assembly. It was, of necessity, a short review, due to time constraints which are more significant for some of us in the Assembly than for others, although who knows what result the election on 1 May will be. This is a significant step forward on this important agenda, and the successor Government can build on this report.

The report recognises the leadership role of the Welsh Assembly Government at a strategic level, and I pay particular tribute to the Minister, Sue Essex, for her enthusiasm, commitment and her leadership on sustainability, both in Committee and in the Chamber. The report also recognises that we need to harness expertise in our local communities. The contributions of various experts will be essential to the work of the local action groups.

Annex 2 to the report illustrates the positive response of local authorities in Wales, and demonstrates authorities' commitment at this early stage. However, given my experience of working in local government, I am well aware that it is often the dedication and drive of a small number of staff—in this case possibly a single officer—that underpins the work of local authorities on such specialist subjects. They deserve the full support of their parent authorities, and I urge all authorities to ensure that the resources and capacity are built in to their staffing structures, to ensure that we deliver on this important agenda. I have spoken today in order to pay particular tribute to the work of local authority staff in this area.

I started by saying that I commend this report to the Assembly. Perhaps it is more appropriate to say that I bequeath this report to the incoming Government of Wales.

Yr ydym yn ffodus bod gan Gymru un o'r tirweddau naturiol prydfferthaf yn y byd. Cynigia cynlluniau gweithredu bioamrywiaeth lleol, fel yr argymhellwyd gan y Pwyllgor, gyfle i ddatblygu adnodd rhagorol sydd eisoes yn bodoli.

Tom Middlehurst: Fel aelod o'r Pwyllgor, cymeradwyaf yr adroddiad hwn i'r Cynulliad. Adolygiad byr ydoedd, o anghenraid, oherwydd y cyfyngiadau amser sy'n bwysicach i rai ohonom yn y Cynulliad nag eraill, er pwy a wŷr beth fydd canlyniad etholiad 1 Mai. Mae hyn yn gam pwysig ymlaen yn yr agenda bwysig hon, a gall y Llywodraeth olynol ddatblygu'r adroddiad hwn.

Mae'r adroddiad yn cydnabod rôl arweinyddiaeth Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar lefel strategol, a thalaf deyrnged benodol i'r Gweinidog, Sue Essex, am ei brwdfrydedd, ei hymrwymiad a'i harweinyddiaeth o ran cynaliadwyedd, yn y Pwyllgor ac yn y Siambr. Mae'r adroddiad yn cydnabod hefyd bod angen inni ddefnyddio arbenigedd yn ein cymunedau lleol. Bydd cyfraniadau arbenigwyr gwahanol yn hanfodol i waith grwpiau gweithredu lleol.

Dengys atodiad 2 yr adroddiad ymateb cadarnhaol awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru, a dengys ymrwymiad awdurdodau ar y cam cynnar hwn. Fodd bynnag, o ystyried fy mhrofiad o weithio mewn llywodraeth leol, yr wyf yn ymwybodol iawn mai ymroddiad a chymhelliant nifer fach o staff—un swyddog o bosibl yn yr achos hwn—sydd yn aml wrth wraidd gwaith awdurdodau lleol ar bynciau arbenigol o'r fath. Maent yn haeddu cefnogaeth lawn eu rhiant-awdurdodau, ac anogaf bob awdurdod i sicrhau bod yr adnoddau a'r gallu yn rhan o'u strwythurau staffio, i sicrhau ein bod yn cyflawni'r agenda bwysig hon. Siaradais heddiw er mwyn talu teyrnged benodol i waith staff yr awdurdod lleol yn yr ardal hon.

Dechreuais drwy ddweud fy mod yn cymeradwyo'r adroddiad hwn i'r Cynulliad. Efallai ei bod yn fwy priodol dweud fy mod yn trosglwyddo'r adroddiad hwn i ofal Llywodraeth newydd Cymru.

Richard Edwards: I will be brief, Deputy Presiding Officer. I warmly welcome the cross-party support for our recommendations and, in particular, I welcome the Minister's strong commitment to taking forward our recommendations. I echo her praise for the enthusiastic individuals who have driven the agenda forward thusfar.

With your indulgence, Deputy Presiding Officer, as this is my last opportunity to speak, I will say what a privilege and a pleasure it has been to chair the Committee since its inception in April 2000. [*Applause.*] I have enjoyed working with all Members from all parties and I thank them—even you, David, paragon of finely honed sensitivity that you are.

David Davies: I will miss you too, Chair.

Richard Edwards: Thank you. I noticed that you took a pop at Pembrokeshire, but should point out that, as your comment concerns Pembrokeshire County Council, I could not possibly comment.

I have enjoyed working with the Committee Secretariat team immensely; it is a credit to the Assembly. I hope that, as the Assembly matures over the next few years, the work of my Committee at this formative stage will prove to be of value.

Richard Edwards: Byddaf yn gryno, Ddirprwy Lywydd. Croesawaf yn fawr y gefnogaeth drawsbleidiol i'n hargymhellion ac yn benodol, croesawaf ymrwymiad cryf y Gweinidog i weithredu ein hargymhellion. Fel hithau, canmolaf yr unigolion brwdfrydig sydd wedi datblygu'r agenda hyd yma.

Gyda'ch caniatâd, Ddirprwy Lywydd, gan mai hwn yw fy nghyfle olaf i siarad, hoffwn ddweud iddi fod yn ffrainc a phleser imi gadeirio'r Pwyllgor ers ei sefydlu ym mis Ebrill 2000. [*Cymeradwyo.*] Mwynheais gydweithio â phob Aelod o bob plaid a diolchaf iddynt—hyd yn oed chi, David, a chithau'n enghraifft o sensitifrwydd perffaith.

David Davies: Byddaf yn gweld eich eisiau chi hefyd, Gadeirydd.

Richard Edwards: Diolch. Sylwais ichi ymosod ar Sir Benfro, ond dylwn nodi, gan fod eich sylw yn ymwneud â Chyngor Sir Penfro, nad oes modd imi wneud unrhyw sylw.

Mwynheais gydweithio â thîm Ysgrifenyddiaeth y Pwyllgor yn fawr; mae'n glod i'r Cynulliad. Gobeithiaf, wrth i'r Cynulliad aeddfedu yn ystod yr ychydig flynyddoedd nesaf, y bydd gwaith fy Mhwyllgor yn ystod y cam ffurfiannol hwn yn werthfawr.

Cynnig (NDM1363): O blaid 32, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.

Motion (NDM1363): For 32, Abstain 0, Against 0.

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
Evans, Delyth
German, Michael

Gregory, Janice
 Halford, Alison
 Hancock, Brian
 Hutt, Jane
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, David Ian
 Jones, Gareth
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Middlehurst, Tom
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

5.00 p.m.

Dadl Fer Short Debate

Diarfogi Irac Disarming Iraq

Mick Bates: I tabled this debate because it is only right that the views of Wales are heard. I have accepted requests from Richard Edwards, John Griffiths, Ieuan Wyn Jones and David Ian Jones to contribute to this debate.

The rightful and most appropriate place for these views to be aired is Parliament, where the UK Government should be held to account. However, when I drew the ballot for this rare half-hour, there was no assurance that Parliament would hold a debate. I passionately believe that the Assembly is the place to express a Welsh voice. I welcome the fact that such a debate is being held in Parliament today, but regret the grudging reluctance with which it was granted. I am deeply concerned that the so-called ‘mother of parliaments’—as it is arrogantly described—is not even guaranteed the chance to authorise the country’s entry into war. But more of that later.

This short debate is entitled ‘Disarming Iraq’. Let no-one doubt that we all want to see Saddam Hussein’s evil regime disarmed of its weapons of mass destruction. One of the sadnesses of language is that the repetition of

Mick Bates: Cyflwynais y ddadl hon gan ei bod yn iawn i safbwyntiau Cymru gael eu clywed. Derbyniais geisiadau gan Richard Edwards, John Griffiths, Ieuan Wyn Jones a David Ian Jones i gyfrannu at y ddadl hon.

Y lle teilwng a’r lle mwyaf priodol i leisio’r safbwyntiau hyn fyddai’r Senedd, lle y dylai Llywodraeth y DU gael ei dwyn i gyfrif. Fodd bynnag, pan dynnwyd fy enw ar gyfer yr hanner awr prin hwn, nid oedd unrhyw sicrwydd y byddai’r Senedd yn cynnal dadl. Yr wyf yn gadarn o’r farn mai yn y Cynulliad y dylid datgan llais Cymru. Croesawaf y ffaith bod dadl o’r fath yn cael ei chynnal yn y Senedd heddiw, ond gresynaf at yr amharodrwydd amlwg a fu wrth ei chaniatáu. Yr wyf yn pryderu’n fawr nad oes gwarant y rhoddir cyfle hyd yn oed i ‘fam pob senedd’—fel y’i disgrifir yn drahaus—roi awdurdod i’r wlad fynd i ryfel. Ond mwy am hynny yn y man.

Teitl y ddadl fer hon yw ‘Diarfogi Irac’. Nid oes unrhyw amheuaeth ein bod oll am weld cyfundrefn ddielflig Saddam Hussein yn cael ei diarfogi o’i harfau a fyddai’n achosi dinistr eang. Un o elfennau trist iaith yw y gall

a phrase—no matter how powerful—can lead to its neutering: ‘weapons of mass destruction’ is such a phrase. It refers to the most horrific of armoury—weaponry that kills in the most devastating and indiscriminate of ways. There should be nothing conventional about war but, if such conventions exist, and if war can be guided by rules of combat, then the use of these weapons lies outside such conventions and rules. However, I remind Members that sanctions have also played their part in causing death and misery. Humanitarian aid is better than any kind of bombs.

The very possession of biological and chemical weaponry is an evil; Saddam Hussein has a record of using them. No-one can dispute that he is an evil dictator; no-one can dispute that he has systematically murdered thousands of his own people, and that he has used fear to rule a country in which children are dying because of a lack of basic foods and medicines. No-one can dispute that Iraq would benefit unquestionably from his overthrow, and the establishment of a democracy that would empower its people. Given all these evils, it is essential that we are clear about the aims of this war and, particularly, what evidence there is to support it. That is where the case of the west disintegrates fast.

President Bush first talked about regime change, then backed off and now talks about it again. He throws in al-Qaeda and terrorism. In short, I do not know—and neither do many of the people I speak to—whether Bush or Blair would be happy if there was proof that every Iraqi weapon had been destroyed yet Saddam was left in place. I have not heard them answer that. Will they not rest until Saddam has been replaced? Will Bush only be satisfied when a regime of his liking is installed in Iraq?

The position of Tony Blair and the British Government is no clearer than that of America. The British Secretary of State for Defence, Geoff Hoon, said that regime change is not part of UK policy, and that the UK Government would never argue that the

ailadrodd ymadrodd—waeth pa mor rymus—arwain at ddirymu'r ymadrodd hwnnw: mae 'arfau a fyddai'n achosi dinistr eang' yn ymadrodd o'r fath. Mae'n cyfeirio at yr arfau mwyaf dieflig—arfau sy'n lladd yn y ffyrdd mwyaf dinistriol a diarwahan. Ni ddylai rhyfel fod yn gonfensiynol mewn unrhyw ffordd ond, os oes confensiynau o'r fath, ac os gellir llywodraethu rhyfel gan ddefnyddio rheolau brwydro, wedyn nid yw defnyddio'r arfau hyn wedi'i gynnwys o fewn confensiynau a rheolau o'r fath. Fodd bynnag, hoffwn atgoffa'r Aelodau bod sancsiynau hefyd wedi cyfrannu at achosi marwolaeth a thrallod. Mae cymorth dyngarol yn well nag unrhyw fath o fomiau.

Mae hyd yn oed meddu ar arfau biolegol a chemegol yn ddieflig; mae gan Saddam Hussein hanes o'u defnyddio. Ni ellir dadlau nad yw'n unben dieflig; ni ellir dadlau ei fod wedi llofruddio miloedd o'i bobl ei hun yn systemataidd, a'i fod wedi defnyddio ofn i lywodraethu gwlad lle mae plant yn marw oherwydd diffyg bwydydd a meddyginiaethau sylfaenol. Ni ellir dadlau y byddai Irac yn elwa'n ddiau o'i ddymchwel, a sefydlu democratiaeth a fyddai'n grymuso ei phobl. O ystyried yr holl ddrygau hyn, mae'n hanfodol ein bod yn glir am nodau'r rhyfel hwn ac, yn arbennig, pa dystiolaeth sydd i'w gefnogi. Dyna lle y mae achos y gorllewin yn mynd ar chwâl yn gyflym.

Soniodd Arlywydd Bush yn gyntaf am newid cyfundrefn, wedyn tawelodd ac yn awr mae'n sôn am wneud hynny unwaith eto. Mae'n sôn am al-Qaeda a therfysgaeth. Yn gryno, ni wn i—ac ni w'yr llawer o'r bobl y siaradaf â hwy—pa un a fyddai Bush neu Blair yn fodlon pe caed tystiolaeth bod pob arf yn Irac wedi'i dinistrio ond bod Saddam yn dal i fod yn ei le. Nid wyf wedi clywed ateb ganddynt i hynny. Oni fyddant yn fodlon hyd nes y caiff Saddam ei ddisodli? Ai dim ond pan gaiff cyfundrefn sy'n ei blesio ei rhoi ar waith yn Irac y bydd Bush yn fodlon?

Nid yw safbwynt Tony Blair a Llywodraeth Prydain yn gliriach na safbwynt America. Dywedodd yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Amddiffyn ym Mhrydain, Geoff Hoon, nad yw newid cyfundrefn yn rhan o bolisi'r DU, ac na fyddai Llywodraeth y DU fyth yn

objective of its policy should be the removal of Saddam. Tony Blair, on the other hand, has said that,

‘[I]f necessary the action should be military and again, if necessary and justified, it should involve regime change.’

Surely, the opportunity to do that was in 1991. What are we to think of such muddled, confused thinking from our leaders? Moreover, what is the poor serviceman and his family to think, when the very objective of his mission lacks clarity?

This is not an easy problem. The political and security consequences could ravage the middle east and every country where people from the middle east have a presence, which is just about everywhere. I would not want to risk such consequences on the back of a PhD student’s research—the dodgy dossier. Where is the evidence? Does this mean that oil is the real agenda? We must lower our sights for a while and concentrate on disarming Iraq. We all agree that this is an objective that is worth achieving and the United Nations has agreed to it. However, is it best to achieve such disarmament peacefully through the UN or by war?

The message that we are sending is confusing. Dr Hans Blix has only had eight weeks to complete work that has been abandoned for four years. For most of that eight weeks, he has not had a full team to help him. However, he has made progress. He is applying pressure and in some ways the regime in Iraq has given ground. At a time when we are making progress, why are Bush and Blair so keen on going to war? Is a week, a month or a year critical in this process? It seems that the right weather conditions for war and the acclimatisation of troops are more important considerations for starting a war than is the state of Saddam’s disarmament.

Many people have lost faith in government leaders because they have made their case so poorly and it is understandable that people from my constituency ask why are we going to the cost of this military operation and boosting the profits of arms manufacturers?

dadlau y dylai cael gwared ar Saddam fod wrth wraidd ei pholisi. Ar y llaw arall, dywedodd Tony Blair,

Os bydd angen, dylid cymryd camau milwrol ac eto, os bydd angen ac os bydd cyfiawnhad dros hynny, dylai gynnwys newid cyfundrefn.

Onid yn 1991 y cafwyd cyfle i wneud hynny? Pa argraff y mae ffordd o feddwl mor ddryslyd a chymysglyd gan ein harweinwyr yn ei rhoi inni? At hynny, beth fydd y milwr druan a’i deulu yn ei feddwl, pan na fydd nod ei genhadaeth hyd yn oed yn eglur?

Nid yw’r broblem hon yn un syml. Gallai’r canlyniadau gwleidyddol a’r canlyniadau o ran diogelwch ddymchwel y dwyrain canol a phob gwlad lle y ceir pobl o’r dwyrain canol, sef pob gwlad fwy neu lai. Ni fyddwn am fentro canlyniadau o’r fath gan ddibynnu ar ymchwil myfyriwr PhD—y ffeiliau amheus. Ble mae’r dystiolaeth? Ai olew yw’r gwir reswm felly? Rhaid inni ostwng ein golygon am gyfnod a chanolbwyntio ar ddiarfogi Irac. Yr ydym oll yn cytuno bod yr amcan hwn yn werth ei gyflawni ac mae’r Cenhedloedd Unedig wedi cytuno ar hynny. Fodd bynnag, ai’r Cenhedloedd Unedig neu ryfel yw’r ffordd orau o ymgymryd â’r diarfogi hwn?

Mae’r neges yr ydym yn ei hanfon yn ddryslyd. Dim ond wyth wythnos a gafodd Dr Hans Blix i gwblhau gwaith a esgeuluswyd ers pedair blynedd. Ni fu ganddo dîm llawn i’w helpu am y rhan fwyaf o’r wyth wythnos honno. Fodd bynnag, gwnaeth gynnydd. Mae’n dwyn pwysau ac i ryw raddau mae’r gyfundrefn yn Irac wedi ildio tir. Ar adeg lle y gwnaed cynnydd gennym, pam mae Bush a Blair mor awyddus i fynd i ryfel? A yw wythnos, mis neu flwyddyn yn allweddol yn hyn o beth? Ymddengys fod tywydd addas ar gyfer rhyfel ac ymhinsoddi’r milwyr yn ystyriaethau pwysicach ar gyfer dechrau rhyfel na chyflwr y broses o ddiarfogi Saddam.

Mae llawer o bobl wedi colli ffydd yn arweinwyr y llywodraeth gan eu bod wedi methu â chyflwyno achos da a gellir deall bod pobl yn fy etholaeth yn gofyn pam yr ydym yn mynd i gost yr ymgyrch filwrol hon gan gynyddu elw gweithgynhyrchwyr arfau?

Is the presence of the US war lobby so strong and is it only about securing oil supplies for America? It is clear to most people that Hans Blix's job is not done. He has neither found a smoking gun nor persuaded Iraq to disarm completely. The diplomatic and political channels have not been exhausted. Thank goodness that some members of the UN Security Council have spoken out on this issue. It is clear that the people of this country have not been convinced of the need to risk the lives of so many of our armed forces, let alone tens of thousands of innocent Iraqis.

Today, some Members met representatives of the Kurdish National Council when they visited the Assembly. They are overwhelmingly against war, fearing a catastrophe for their local economy and further restrictions on their freedom as militarism is strengthened in their society. They welcome the opportunity to see the back of Saddam Hussein, but they state that, ultimately, there is no guarantee that even their future will be secure as the consequences of war tend to be unpredictable.

It is clear that we have not yet reached the point of last resort. For these reasons, the UN Security Council must not authorise war, and the House of Commons must not sanction war. Our Prime Minister, Tony Blair, must listen and respond. His path to peace must take him along the same path as the UN. The consequences of an attack on Iraq could be dire for the middle east peace process and could possibly encourage further acts of terrorism around the world. That would have serious repercussions for public safety in Wales, whether in terms of a fuel crisis, a shortage of blood or the call-up of medical staff, not to mention the increased tension surrounding the discourse over asylum seekers.

Our position should be clear. We must continue to support the UN inspectors in their attempts to disarm Iraq, and we will argue that they should be given the time to do so. If war is needed, it should be the last resort,

A yw presenoldeb lobi rhyfel yr UD mor gryf ac ai sicrhau cyflenwadau olew i America yw'r unig ddiben? Mae'n amlwg i'r rhan fwyaf o bobl nad yw gwaith Hans Blix ar ben. Nid yw wedi canfod tystiolaeth bendant nac wedi darbwyllo Irac i ddiarfogi'n llwyr. Mae rhagor y gellid ei wneud o hyd yn ddiplomataidd ac yn wleidyddol. Diolch byth bod ambell aelod o Gyngor Diogelwch y Cenedloedd Unedig wedi lleisio barn ar y mater hwn. Mae'n amlwg na ddarbwyllwyd pobl y wlad hon bod angen peryglu bywydau cymaint o'n lluoedd arfog, heb sôn am ddegau o filoedd o bobl ddiniwed yn Irac.

Heddiw, cyfarfu rhai Aelodau â chynrychiolwyr o Gyngor Cenedlaethol y Cwrdaid wrth iddynt ymweld â'r Cynulliad. Maent yn daer yn erbyn rhyfel, gan ofni trychineb i'w heconomi leol a chyfyngiadau pellach ar eu rhyddid wrth i filitariaeth gynyddu yn eu cymdeithas. Croesawant y cyfle i weld cefn Saddam Hussein, ond nodant, yn y pen draw, nad oes unrhyw warrant y bydd eu dyfodol yn sicr hyd yn oed gan na ellir rhagweld canlyniadau rhyfel yn gyffredinol.

Mae'n amlwg nad ydym wedi cyrraedd y pwynt lle nad oes unrhyw ateb arall. Am y rhesymau hyn, rhaid i Gyngor Diogelwch y Cenedloedd Unedig beidio ag awdurdodi rhyfel, a rhaid i Dŷ'r Cyffredin beidio â chymeradwyo rhyfel. Rhaid i'n Prif Weinidog, Tony Blair, wrando ac ymateb. Rhaid i'w lwybr at heddwch ei dywys ar hyd llwybr y Cenedloedd Unedig. Gallai canlyniadau ymosodiad ar Irac fod yn drychinebus i'r broses heddwch yn y dwyrain canol a gallai o bosibl annog rhagor o derfysgaeth ledled y byd. Byddai i hynny oblygiadau difrifol o ran diogelwch y cyhoedd yng Nghymru, boed yn nhermau argyfwng tanwydd, prinder gwaed neu'r staff meddygol y byddai eu hangen ar gyfer rhyfel, heb sôn am y tensiwn cynyddol a fyddai'n gysylltiedig â'r drafodaeth am geiswyr lloches.

Dylai ein safbwynt fod yn glir. Rhaid inni barhau i gefnogi arolygwyr y Cenedloedd Unedig yn eu hymdrechion i ddiarfogi Irac, a dadleuwn y dylid rhoi'r amser iddynt wneud hynny. Os bydd angen rhyfel, dylai hynny

used only when all political and diplomatic channels have been exhausted, not after only eight weeks of Hans Blix's work in Iraq.

I have personal experience of the dark side of war. I remember my grandfather telling me that the first world war was a war to end all wars. I saw my father destroyed by action in the second world war. It now seems that political leaders are about to inflict the same misery on a great many people. When will we ever learn?

5.10 p.m.

Richard Edwards: I thank Mick for choosing a subject that is the defining issue of the day, and also thank him for his moving contribution. I shall be accused of self-indulgence in some quarters for what I am about to say—so be it; there must be better forms of self-indulgence.

The war that is about to engulf the poor people of Iraq is entirely without justification. There is no compelling evidence whatsoever that Saddam has a destructive arsenal and is pointing it at the United States or the UK. All the inspectors have found are a few empty canisters with a 12-mile range, and some rusty weapon hulls that we knew about a decade ago. At the very worst, Saddam has but a fraction of the vast arsenal that the west gifted him before the Gulf war, when the US and the UK disgracefully connived at his genocide of the Kurds, and then blocked UN resolutions condemning that genocide. There are no proven links with Al-Qaeda. Why would there be, when Islamic fundamentalists have excoriated Saddam as a godless apostate? The attacks of 9/11 were carried out by Saudis and Egyptians, not by Iraqis. The Bush family has far closer links than Saddam Hussein with Osama Bin Laden.

There is overwhelming opposition throughout the world to this obscene adventure even as the propaganda reaches a deafening pitch in what has been a carefully choreographed timetable for war. We can see through your weapons of mass distraction, Bush and Blair,

fod pan fetho popeth arall, pan nad oes dim byd arall y gellid ei wneud yn wleidyddol ac yn ddiplomataidd, nid ar ôl dim ond wyth wythnos o waith Hans Blix yn Irac.

Mae gennyf brofiad personol o ochr dywyll rhyfel. Cofiaf fy nhad-cu yn dweud wrthyf fod y rhyfel byd cyntaf yn rhyfel i roi diwedd ar bob rhyfel arall. Gwelais fy nhad wedi'i ddinistrio gan frwydro yn ystod yr ail ryfel byd. Ymddengys yn awr fod arweinwyr gwleidyddol ar fin peri'r un dioddefaint i lawer o bobl. Pryd y dysgwn?

Richard Edwards: Diolchaf i Mick am ddewis pwnc sy'n fater llosg o bwys, a diolchaf iddo hefyd am ei gyfraniad teimladwy. Caf fy nghyhuddo o fod yn hunan-foddhaus gan rai am yr hyn yr wyf ar fin ei ddweud—ta waeth; rhaid bod yna fathau gwell o hunan-foddhad.

Nid oes unrhyw gyfiawnhad dros y rhyfel sydd ar fin bwrw pobl Irac. Nid oes unrhyw dystiolaeth gymhellgar o gwbl i brofi bod gan Saddam arfau dinistriol a'i fod yn eu hanelu at yr Unol Daleithiau na'r DU. Canfu'r arolygwyr nifer fach o gistiau gwag gyda chyrhaeddiad o 12 milltir, a chregyn arfau rhydlyd y cawsom wybod amdanynt tua degawd yn ôl. Ar y gwaethaf, dim ond cyfran fach sydd gan Saddam o'r swm sylweddol o arfau y rhoddodd y gorllewin iddo cyn rhyfel y Gwlff, pan gydgnyllwyniodd yr UD a'r DU yn gywilyddus wrth iddo hil-ladd y Cwrdaid, gan wedyn atal penderfyniadau'r Cenhedloedd Unedig yn condemnio'r hil-laddiad hwnnw. Ni phrofwyd unrhyw gysylltiadau ag Al-Qaeda. Pam y byddai unrhyw gysylltiadau? Mae ffundamentalwyr Islamaidd wedi llachio Saddam fel apostat annuwiol. Pobl o Sawdi a'r Aifft a oedd yn gyfrifol am ymosodiadau 9/11, nid pobl o Irac. Mae gan deulu Bush gysylltiadau llawer agosach ag Osama Bin Laden na Saddam Hussein.

Ceir gwrthwynebiad aruthrol ledled y byd i'r antur anllad hwn hyd yn oed wrth i'r propaganda gyrraedd ei anterth yn yr hyn a fu'n amserlen wedi'i threfnu'n ofalus ar gyfer rhyfel. Gallwn weld drwy eich ystrywiau i dynnu ein sylw, Bush a Blair, a'ch holl

and all your Orwellian devices—the media spin, the euphemisms and the doublethink. Bush can blithely disregard the American electorate—he managed to get to the White House without them—but what about our own democracy? Is it any wonder that there is a growing conviction—expressed in apathy, disengagement, and low turnouts—that the political system is failing people, when so much power is concentrated in the hands of one person, who can ignore the views of the vast majority of his own party and those of the country at large, and ignore international law to boot?

Those who would drive a coach and horses through international law with their revolting doctrine of pre-emption are not prosecuting a war against terror; they are perpetuating terror, guaranteeing that it will last for decades to come, in a vicious and bloody downward spiral—all to preserve the supremacy of corporate America. That Bush does this is no surprise, but what on earth are you doing, Mr Blair?

John Griffiths: I agree that war is not justified. Post the cold war and post 11 September, the world is struggling for a new world order. That must not be about war as a solution to problems or about might being right, but about considering the causes. If we do that, we will deal with crisis points, such as those between Palestine and Israel, and we will move towards fair trade, debt relief, fighting the AIDS epidemic, and achieving proper development in a developing world. That is the only way for a fairer, more stable and more secure world.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I also thank Mick Bates for arranging for this debate to be held on this important issue. I hope that there will be an opportunity for the whole Assembly to debate the issue before too long, because it is important for us to have a measured debate on this in Government time. However, this is an opportunity for us to make clear our opposition to war. There is no moral or strategic justification for war, and there is no popular mandate for it. The United States seems to be content to tear up what has been internationally agreed since the second world war—the principle of containment and

ddyfeisiau Orwelaidd—y delweddau yn y cyfryngau, y geiriau llednais a'r twyll. Gall Bush anwybyddu etholwyr America yn siriol—llwyddodd i gyrraedd y Tŷ Gwyn hebddynt—ond beth am ein democratiaeth ni? Does dim rhyfedd bod cred gynyddol—a fynegir drwy ddifaterwch, ymddieithrio, a nifer isel o bleidleiswyr—bod y system wleidyddol yn methu pobl, gyda chymaint o bŵer yn cael ei ganolbwyntio yn nwylo un person, a all anwybyddu barn mwyafrif helaeth ei blaid ei hun a'r wlad yn gyffredinol, yn ogystal ag anwybyddu cyfraith ryngwladol.

Nid yw'r rhai a fyddai'n diystyru cyfraith ryngwladol gyda'u hathrawiaeth ffaidd o achub y blaen yn dwyn rhyfel yn erbyn terfysgaeth; maent yn achosi terfysg, gan warantu y bydd yn para am ddegawdau i ddod, mewn cylch milain a gwaedlyd—a hynny oll i sicrhau goruchafiaeth America gorfforaethol. Nid yw'n syndod mai dyma a wna Bush, ond beth ar y ddaear yr ydych chi, Mr Blair, yn ei wneud?

John Griffiths: Cytunaf nad oes cyfiawnhad dros ryfel. Yn dilyn y rhyfel oer a 11 Medi, mae'r byd yn chwilio am drefn newydd. Ni ddylai hynny olygu defnyddio rhyfel fel ateb i broblemau neu roi cyfiawnhad dros ddefnyddio grym, ond yn hytrach dylai olygu ystyried yr achosion. Os gwnawn hynny, byddwn yn ymdrin ag argyfyngau fel y rhai rhwng Palestina ac Israel, gan symud tuag at fasnachu teg, cymorth dyledion, trechu'r epidemig AIDS, a chyflawni datblygiadau priodol mewn byd datblygol. Dyna'r unig ffordd tuag at fyd tecach, mwy sefydlog a mwy diogel.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Diolchaf hefyd i Mick Bates am drefnu i'r ddadl hon gael ei chynnal ar y mater pwysig hwn. Gobeithiaf y bydd cyfle i'r Cynulliad cyfan ddadlau'r mater cyn hir, gan ei bod yn bwysig inni gynnal dadl bwyllog ar y pwnc yn ystod amser y Llywodraeth. Fodd bynnag, dyma gyfle inni ddatgan ein gwrthwynebiad i ryfel. Nid oes unrhyw gyfiawnhad moesol na strategol dros ryfel, ac nid oes unrhyw fandad gan y bobl ar ei gyfer. Ymddengys fod yr Unol Daleithiau yn fodlon diystyru'r hyn y cytunwyd arno yn rhyngwladol ers yr ail ryfel byd—sef yr egwyddor o reoli ac atal. Caiff hynny bellach

deterrence. That has now given way to pre-emptive strikes, which the international community abhors. There is no consensus for war, which is why it is vital that we express our opposition to it at this vital time.

David Ian Jones: Any study of the successive resolutions of the United Nations Security Council will reveal not only that Iraq has been repeatedly warned of its wilful and persistent violation of its obligations in terms of disarmament, but also that the serious consequences of non-compliance—diplomatic parlance for military action—have been made abundantly clear. Those who ask for more time for the weapons inspectors should make it clear how much more time they seek, and to what purpose. Saddam Hussein is a cunning dictator whose political currency is time, or rather time wasting.

It is not acceptable that the United Nations should be expected to engage in a protracted, grotesque version of hunt the thimble. The United States and Britain are right to take the lead in making it clear to Saddam Hussein that further delay will not be tolerated. Unless he complies with UN resolutions, we will be left with no option but to disarm him by force.

The Business Minister (Carwyn Jones): It is difficult to investigate all the issues appertaining to Iraq in a debate such as this. It is also difficult to reply on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government, when it rightly does not hold a view on what is a non-devolved matter. It is open to all Cabinet Ministers to express their own views on this situation.

The world has reached a situation that it has never experienced before. The post-war settlement was based on bi-polarity, where there were two super powers in the world, keeping each other in check. There were checks and balances. On occasion, war was fought by proxy in countries such as Vietnam, but, in the main, a deterrent and containment factor existed at that time. The UN Security Council was only called on to intervene in controversial circumstances in

ei ddisodli gan ragymosodiadau, sy'n gas gan y gymuned ryngwladol. Nid oes unrhyw gytundeb o blaid rhyfel, a dyna pam mae'n hanfodol inni fynegi ein gwrthwynebiad iddo yn ystod y cyfnod hollbwysig hwn.

David Ian Jones: Bydd unrhyw astudiaeth o benderfyniadau dilynol Cyngor Diogelwch y Cenhedloedd Unedig yn datgelu nid yn unig i Irac gael ei rhybuddio dro ar ôl tro ei bod yn torri ei rhwymedigaethau o ran diarfogi a hynny yn fwriadol ac yn barhaus, ond hefyd i ganlyniadau difrifol methu â chydymffurfio—term diplomataidd am weithredu milwrol—gael eu gwneud yn gwbl glir. Dylai'r rhai sy'n gofyn am fwy o amser i'r arolygwyr arfau egluro faint yn fwy o amser y maent yn gofyn amdano, ac at ba ddiben. Mae Saddam Hussein yn unben cyfrwys sy'n defnyddio amser, neu yn hytrach gwastraffu amser, fel arf gwleidyddol.

Nid yw'n dderbyniol disgwyl i'r Cenhedloedd Unedig gymryd rhan mewn fersiwn gwrthun, estynedig o hela'r gwniadur. Mae'n iawn i'r Unol Daleithiau a Phrydain gymryd yr awenau wrth egluro i Saddam Hussein na oddefir rhagor o oedi. Oni chydymffurfia â phenderfyniadau'r Cenhedloedd Unedig, ni fydd gennym unrhyw ddewis ond ei ddiafogi gan ddefnyddio grym.

Y Trefnydd (Carwyn Jones): Mae'n anodd ymchwilio i'r holl faterion sy'n gysylltiedig ag Irac mewn dadl o'r math hwn. Mae hefyd yn anodd ymateb ar ran Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, pan nad oes ganddo farn, a rheswm da dros hynny, ar fater nad yw wedi'i ddatganoli. Dewis pob un o Weinidogion y Cabinet yw mynegi eu barn hwy eu hunain ar y sefyllfa hon.

Mae'r byd wedi cyrraedd sefyllfa na phrofodd erioed o'r blaen. Yr oedd y setliad ôl-ryfel yn seiliedig ar ddeubegynedd, lle yr oedd dau brif bŵer yn y byd, yn cadw llygad ar ei gilydd. Yr oedd rhwystrau a gwrthbwsau ar waith. O bryd i'w gilydd, byddai rhyfel yn cael ei ymladd drwy ddirprwy mewn gwledydd fel Fietnam, ond, ar y cyfan, yr oedd ffactor atal a rheoli ar waith bryd hynny. Dim ond mewn amgylchiadau dadleuol yn Korea yn 1951 y

Korea in 1951, when Soviet delegates boycotted the Security Council meeting. Otherwise, troops were on green lines elsewhere in the world during the 1950s and 1960s, but generally under uncontroversial circumstances. That bi-polarity no longer exists, so containment and deterrent factors in many ways no longer apply because the checks and balances in the system have disappeared.

In 1991, to hark back to the Gulf war, there was a feeling that Iraq was an aggressor and that the world could unite and resist that aggressor. The cold war had come to an end and there was a sense of idealism that that would prove to be the case for years to come. We now know that that is not the case. However, one's view on the Iraq situation depends, in some ways, on one's view of the UN. There are those who take what is called the 'realist view'—as it is defined in the theory of international relations—which asserts that states exist in an anarchy; they always act in their own interests and international institutions are of no value. It is arguable that, on the one hand, states such as the USA and Britain propose unilateral action, which exemplifies that theory. On the other hand, one's faith can be placed in the UN as an international institution that is more than just a talking shop.

However, we must remember one issue above all else: we are talking about UN resolutions, which are properly enforced by the UN Security Council. That is not inconsistent with the UK Government's view, despite what has been stated regarding the military build up and so on. The UK Government believes that the Security Council should concentrate on this matter to ensure that it finds a solution to avoid war. We must all recognise that we all want to avoid war despite the rhetoric. Frankly, I do not believe that Saddam Hussein wants to avoid war. We must remember that he is the cause of the problem.

galwyd ar Gyngor Diogelwch y Cenhedloedd Unedig i ymyrryd, pan foicotiwyd cyfarfod y Cyngor Diogelwch gan gynrychiolwyr Sofietaidd. Fel arall, yr oedd milwyr ar linellau gwyrdd mewn mannau eraill yn y byd yn ystod y 1950au a'r 1960au, ond yn gyffredinol nid oeddynt mewn amgylchiadau dadleuol. Nid yw'r deubegynedd hwnnw yn bodoli bellach, felly mewn sawl ffordd nid yw ffactorau rheoli ac atal bellach yn berthnasol gan fod y rhwystrau a'r gwrthbwsau yn y system wedi diflannu.

Yn 1991, gan rygnu nôl i ryfel y Gwlff, yr oedd teimlad bod Irac yn ymosodwr ac y gallai'r byd uno i drechu'r ymosodwr hwnnw. Yr oedd y rhyfel oer wedi dod i ben ac yr oedd ymdeimlad o ddelfrydiaeth y byddai hynny'n para am flynyddoedd wedi hynny. Gwyddom erbyn hyn nad yw hynny'n wir. Fodd bynnag, mae ein barn ar sefyllfa Irac yn dibynnu, i ryw raddau, ar ein barn am y Cenhedloedd Unedig. Daw rhai i'r hyn a elwir yn 'farn realydd'—fel y'i diffinnir o fewn damcaniaeth cysylltiadau rhyngwladol—sy'n honni bod gwladwriaethau yn bodoli o fewn anarchiaeth; maent bob amser yn gweithredu er budd iddynt hwy eu hunain ac nid oes unrhyw werth i sefydliadau rhyngwladol. Gellid dadlau, ar y naill law, bod gwladwriaethau fel UDA a Phrydain yn cynnig gweithredu unochrog, sy'n enghraifft o'r ddamcaniaeth honno. Ar y llaw arall, gellid ymddiried yn y Cenhedloedd Unedig fel sefydliad rhyngwladol sy'n fwy na siop siarad.

Fodd bynnag, rhaid inni gofio un peth yn anad dim: yr ydym yn sôn am benderfyniadau gan y Cenhedloedd Unedig, a orfodir gan Gyngor Diogelwch y Cenhedloedd Unedig. Nid yw hynny'n anghyson â barn Llywodraeth y DU, er gwaethaf yr hyn a ddatganwyd o ran camau milwrol ac ati. Cred Llywodraeth y DU y dylai'r Cyngor Diogelwch ganolbwyntio ar y mater hwn er mwyn sicrhau y daw o hyd i ateb a fydd yn osgoi rhyfel. Rhaid inni oll gydnabod ein bod oll am osgoi rhyfel er gwaethaf y rhethreg. A dweud y gwir yn onest, nid yw Saddam Hussein am osgoi rhyfel. Rhaid inni gofio mai efe sydd wrth wraidd y broblem.

We find ourselves in a situation where the UN Security Council is the primary body for settling international disputes. We must accept that, regardless of our views on how it operates. There are some who believe, and I have heard it expressed, that the votes of the UN Security Council members can be bought in some way, through wheeling and dealing. If that is the case, then the Security Council has no value and the UN is obsolete. That is too cynical a view of the world. The most important members of the Security Council are the five permanent members. I do not believe that they can be bought and that they will act against their own interests and the interest of world peace.

It is clear that France, Russia and China currently take a different view to the USA and UK. However, it is important that the Security Council is able to consider the situation and draft an appropriate resolution.

5.20 p.m.

In my view, there comes a time when war is unavoidable—I am not a pacifist; pacifism is acceptable, if you live in a country that is not under threat. It is difficult to sustain such a position in a country that is under threat of military action. A war should always be the last resort—at the bottom of the pile after ploughing through all the solutions and resolutions to international conflict. That is what the UK Government is trying to ensure. No-one can deny that there is currently a great deal of sabre rattling, but that is part of what happens in international affairs and relations. Ultimately, war is the last resort—it does not take primacy or supremacy over the UN Security Council's views, and Tony Blair has said so on many occasions.

Despite what we see on our television screens, hear on the radio and read in the newspapers about the military build up and the ships sent to the Gulf, we have not yet reached a situation where conflict is unavoidable. There has been a build up of troops and when troops are mobilised, it is possible to argue that there comes a time

Yn y sefyllfa sydd ohoni, Cyngor Diogelwch y Cenhedloedd Unedig yw'r prif gorff ar gyfer datrys anghydfodau rhyngwladol. Rhaid inni dderbyn hynny, waeth beth fo ein barn am ei ffordd o weithredu. Mae rhai o'r farn, ac yr wyf wedi eu clywed yn datgan hynny, y gellir prynu pleidleisiau aelodau Cyngor Diogelwch y Cenhedloedd Unedig, drwy daro bargeinion. Os felly, nid oes unrhyw werth i'r Cyngor Diogelwch ac mae'r Cenhedloedd Unedig wedi darfod amdano. Mae'r farn honno o'r byd yn rhy sinigaidd. Y pum aelod parhaol yw aelodau pwysicaf y Cyngor Diogelwch. Ni chredaf y gellir eu prynu nac y byddent yn gweithredu yn groes i'w buddiannau eu hunain a heddwch bydeang.

Mae'n amlwg bod barn Ffrainc, Rwsia a Thsieina ar hyn o bryd yn wahanol i farn UDA a'r DU. Fodd bynnag, mae'n bwysig i'r Cyngor Diogelwch allu ystyried y sefyllfa gan ddrafftio penderfyniad priodol.

Yn fy marn i, daw amser pan na ellir osgoi rhyfel—nid wyf yn heddychwyr; mae heddychiaeth yn dderbyniol, os ydych yn byw mewn gwlad nad yw o dan fygythiad. Mae'n anodd cynnal safbwynt o'r fath mewn gwlad sydd wedi'i bygwth gan gamau milwrol. Dim ond lle nad oes ateb arall y dylid troi at ryfel—dylai fod ar waelod y pentwr ar ôl trin a thrafod pob ateb a phenderfyniad i anghydfod rhyngwladol. Dyna y mae Llywodraeth y DU yn ceisio ei sicrhau. Ni all unrhyw un wadu'r clecian cleddyfau sy'n mynd rhagddo ar hyn o bryd, ond mae hynny'n rhan o'r drefn ym maes materion a chysylltiadau rhyngwladol. Yn y pen draw, yr ateb olaf yw rhyfel—nid yw'n cael blaenoriaeth na goruchafiaeth dros safbwyntiau Cyngor Diogelwch y Cenhedloedd Unedig, ac mae Tony Blair wedi datgan hynny ar sawl achlysur.

Er gwaethaf yr hyn a welwn ar ein sgriniau teledu, yr hyn a glywn ar y radio ac a ddarllenwn yn y papurau newydd am gamau milwrol cychwynnol a'r llongau sydd wedi'u hanfon i'r Gwlff, nid ydym hyd yn hyn wedi cyrraedd sefyllfa lle na ellir osgoi rhyfel. Mae milwyr yn eu lle a phan gaiff milwyr eu defnyddio, mae'n bosibl dadlau y daw adeg

when you go over the edge and the movement towards conflict becomes unstoppable. However, the solution rests with Saddam Hussein. It would be possible for him to take the heat out of the situation tomorrow, if he so wished. He could stop defying the UN view—which is the case—and he could retreat from the course of action that he has taken. We must not forget that there is no democracy, order, freedom from being killed arbitrarily, justice or welfare in Iraq. That in itself, is not a reason to go to war with a state, but reason does not prevail in Iraq. Despite the fact that people in a democracy can often be prevailed upon to move away from a position, that is not the case with Iraq. Therefore, the solution lies in Saddam's hands.

I have heard many say that the reason for this war—reasons other than simply trying to disarm a country—is to secure oil supplies. I have considered this argument, but if oil were the main reason, a deal would have been cut by now. Saddam could have released more oil stocks and would have been left alone. That has not been the case. For that reason, I do not believe that oil is the main reason for the war—there are other reasons. The UK is a net exporter of oil, therefore it does not need Iraq's oil to maintain its supplies. The USA has an appalling record on energy consumption, yet it sources its oil and petroleum from elsewhere. Oil is not the sole reason for this war.

Looking at the current situation, we can only hope that sense will prevail, that Iraq can give way and that all parties can move away from a conflict situation. Our armed forces are unsure of what the situation will be. If you join the army or the territorial army, you must expect to be called up—you cannot complain about that. However, such a situation causes tremendous uncertainty and is an intolerable strain for families. The current situation is uncertain; it unfolds everyday and we do not know what the final result will be.

I thank Mick, Richard and others for their contributions. There is a multiplicity of views in the Chamber, many of which will be expressed over the course of the next week or

pan yr eir dros y dibyn ac y daw'r symudiad tuag at ryfel yn anochel. Fodd bynnag, gan Saddam Hussein y mae'r ateb. Byddai'n bosibl iddo liniaru'r sefyllfa yfory, pe byddai am wneud hynny. Gallai roi'r gorau i herio safbwynt y Cenhedloedd Unedig—fel sy'n wir ar hyn o bryd—a gallai ailystyried y camau gweithredu y mae wedi'u cymryd. Rhaid inni beidio ag anghofio nad oes unrhyw ddemocratiaeth, trefn, rhyddid rhag cael eich lladd yn fympwyol, cyfiawnder na lles yn Irac. Nid yw hynny, ynddo'i hun, yn rheswm dros ddechrau rhyfel gyda gwladwriaeth, ond nid oes rheswm ar waith yn Irac. Er yn aml y gellir pwysu ar bobl mewn democratiaeth i newid eu safbwynt, nid yw hynny'n wir yn Irac. Felly, mae'r ateb yn nwylo Saddam.

Clywais sawl un yn dweud mai'r rheswm am y rhyfel hwn—rhesymau heblaw ceisio diarfogi gwlad—yw sicrhau cyflenwadau olew. Ystyriais y ddadl hon, ond os mai olew oedd y prif reswm, byddem wedi gweld cytundeb erbyn hyn. Gallai Saddam fod wedi rhyddhau mwy o stociau olew a byddai wedi cael llonydd. Ni ddigwyddodd hynny. Am y rheswm hwnnw, ni chredaf mai olew yw'r prif reswm dros y rhyfel—mae rhesymau eraill. Mae'r DU yn allforio olew ei hun, felly nid oes angen olew o Irac arni i gynnal ei chyflenwadau. Bu defnydd UDA o ynni yn y gorffennol yn arswydus, ond daw ei gyflenwadau olew a phetrolewm o wledydd eraill. Nid olew yw'r unig reswm dros y rhyfel hwn.

Gan edrych ar y sefyllfa sydd ohoni, gallwn ond gobeithio y bydd pawb yn callio, y gall Irac ildio ac y gall pawb symud o ryfel. Nid yw ein lluoedd arfog yn siŵr o'r sefyllfa a fydd ohoni. Os ymunwch â'r fyddin neu'r fyddin diriogaethol, rhaid ichi ddisgwyl cael eich galw—ni allwch gwyno am hynny. Fodd bynnag, mae sefyllfa o'r fath yn achosi ansicrwydd aruthrol gan roi straen ofnadwy ar deuluoedd. Mae'r sefyllfa sydd ohoni yn ansicr; mae'n datblygu bob dydd ac ni wyddom beth fydd y canlyniad yn y pen draw.

Diolchaf i Mick, Richard ac eraill am eu cyfraniadau. Ceir amrywiaeth o safbwyntiau yn y Siambr, y caiff llawer ohonynt eu datgan yn ystod yr wythnos nesaf, ac os cyfyd

so, and if conflict arises. However, let us all hope that in weeks to come, we look back on this period, and, although we see it as a time of great conflict and trouble, we also see it as a time when, even at the brink of war, sense prevailed and people did not lose their lives.

anghydfod. Fodd bynnag, gadewch inni oll obeithio yn ystod yr wythnosau i ddod, yr edrychwn yn ôl ar y cyfnod hwn, ac, er y caiff ei ystyried yn adeg o anghydfod a thrafferthion mawr, y gallwn hefyd ei ystyried fel adeg pan lwyddodd synnwyr i drechu, hyd yn oed ar drothwy rhyfel, a lle na chollodd pobl eu bywydau.

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 5.22 p.m.

The session ended at 5.22 p.m.