



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

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

Dydd Mawrth, 25 Ionawr 2005

Tuesday, 25 January 2005

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

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

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

**Ethol i'r Pwyllgor Archwilio
Elections to the Audit Committee**

The Presiding Officer: I have selected amendment 1 to NDM2255 in the name of Jane Hutt. **Y Llywydd:** Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliant 1 i NDM2255 yn enw Jane Hutt.

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): I propose that **Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt):** Cynigiau fod

the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Orders Nos. 8.4 and 12.1, elects Christine Chapman (Labour) and Irene James (Labour) to its Audit Committee in place of Christine Gwyther (Labour) and Val Lloyd (Labour). (NDM2255) *Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol â Rheolau Sefydlog Rhif 8.4 a Rhif 12.1, yn ethol Christine Chapman (Llafur) ac Irene James (Llafur) i'w Bwyllgor Archwilio yn lle Christine Gwyther (Llafur) a Val Lloyd (Llafur). (NDM2255)*

I propose amendment 1. Delete the name Christine Chapman (Labour) and replace it with the name Catherine Thomas (Labour). **Cynigiau welliant 1. Dileu enw Christine Chapman (Llafur) a rhoi enw Catherine Thomas (Llafur) yn ei le.**

*Gwelliant: O blaid 44, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Amendment: For 44, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Butler, Rosemary
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn

Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment carried.*

Motion NDM2255 as amended:

the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Orders Nos. 8.4 and 12.1, elects Catherine Thomas (Labour) and Irene James (Labour) to its Audit Committee in place of Christine Gwyther (Labour) and Val Lloyd (Labour).

Cynnig NDM2255 wedi'i ddiwygio:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol â Rheolau Sefydlog Rhif 8.4 a Rhif 12.1, yn ethol Catherine Thomas (Llafur) ac Irene James (Llafur) i'w Bwyllgor Archwilio yn lle Christine Gwyther (Llafur) a Val Lloyd (Llafur).

*Cynnig wedi'i ddiwygio: O blaid 43, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Amended motion: For 43, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Butler, Rosemary
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne

Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Kirsty

Derbyniwyd y cynnig.

Motion carried.

Ethol i Bwyllgorau Elections to Committees

Y Llywydd: Cynigir cymryd yr eitemau nesaf gyda'i gilydd, oni bai fod Aelod yn gwrthwynebu. Gwelaf nad oes gwrthwynebiad.

The Presiding Officer: It is proposed that the next items be taken together, unless any Member objects. I see that there are no objections.

Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt): Cynigiaf fod

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): I propose that

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, o dan Reolau Sefydlog Rhifau 8.4, 18.4 ac 18.5, yn ethol Jane Hutt (Llafur) i Bwyllgor y Tŷ yn lle Karen Sinclair (Llafur). (NDM2253)

the National Assembly for Wales, under Standing Orders Nos. 8.4, 18.4 and 18.5 elects Jane Hutt (Labour) to its House Committee in place of Karen Sinclair (Labour). (NDM2253)

Cynigiaf fod

I propose that

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol â Rheolau Sefydlog Rhifau 8.4 a 11.1, yn ethol Janice Gregory (Llafur), Christine Gwyther (Llafur), Ann Jones (Llafur) a Sandy Mewies (Llafur) i'w Bwyllgor Deddfau yn lle Christine Chapman (Llafur), Jeff Cuthbert (Llafur), Irene James (Llafur) a Tamsin Dunwoody-Kneafsey (Llafur). (NDM2254)

the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Orders Nos. 8.4 and 11.1 elects Janice Gregory (Labour), Christine Gwyther (Labour), Ann Jones (Labour) and Sandy Mewies (Labour) to its Legislation Committee in place of Christine Chapman (Labour), Jeff Cuthbert (Labour), Irene James (Labour) and Tamsin Dunwoody-Kneafsey (Labour). (NDM2254)

Cynigiaf fod

I propose that

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol â Rheolau Sefydlog Rhif 8.4 a Rhif 16.2, yn ethol Val Lloyd (Llafur) a Karen Sinclair (Llafur) i'w Bwyllgor Safonau Ymddygiad yn lle Jeff Cuthbert (Llafur) a Sandy Mewies (Llafur). (NDM2256)

the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Orders Nos. 8.4 and 16.2 elects Val Lloyd (Labour) and Karen Sinclair (Labour) to its Committee on Standards of Conduct in place of Jeff Cuthbert (Labour) and Sandy Mewies (Labour). (NDM2256)

Cynigiad fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol â Rheolau Sefydlog Rhifau 8.4 a 15.5, yn ethol Jeff Cuthbert (Llafur) i'w Bwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol yn lle Christine Chapman (Llafur). (NDM2257)

I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Orders Nos. 8.4 and 15.5 elects Jeff Cuthbert (Labour) to its European and External Affairs Committee in place of Christine Chapman (Labour). (NDM2257)

Cynigiad fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol â Rheolau Sefydlog Rhifau 8.4 a 9.1, yn ethol Tamsin Dunwoody-Kneafsey (Llafur), Leighton Andrews (Llafur) a Carl Sargeant (Llafur) i'w Bwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth yn lle Christine Chapman (Llafur), Brian Gibbons (Llafur) a Lynne Neagle (Llafur). (NDM2258)

I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Orders No. 8.4 and No. 9.1 elects Tamsin Dunwoody-Kneafsey (Labour), Leighton Andrews (Labour) and Carl Sargeant (Labour) to its Economic Development and Transport Committee in place of Christine Chapman (Labour), Brian Gibbons (Labour) and Lynne Neagle (Labour). (NDM2258)

Cynigiad fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol â Rheolau Sefydlog Rhifau 8.4 a 9.1, yn ethol Christine Chapman (Llafur) i'w Bwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes yn lle Leighton Andrews (Llafur). (NDM2262)

I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Orders Nos. 8.4 and 9.1 elects Christine Chapman (Labour) to its Education and Lifelong Learning Committee in place of Leighton Andrews (Labour). (NDM2262)

Cynigiad fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol â Rheolau Sefydlog Rhifau 8.4 a 9.1, yn ethol Lorraine Barrett (Llafur) a Sandy Mewies (Llafur) i'w Bwyllgor Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad yn lle Tamsin Dunwoody-Kneafsey (Llafur) a Jeff Cuthbert (Llafur). (NDM2259)

I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Orders No. 8.4 and No. 9.1 elects Lorraine Barrett (Labour) and Sandy Mewies (Labour) to its Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee in place of Tamsin Dunwoody-Kneafsey (Labour) and Jeff Cuthbert (Labour). (NDM2259)

Cynigiad fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol â Rheolau Sefydlog Rhifau 8.4 a 9.1, yn ethol Lynne Neagle (Llafur) a Karen Sinclair (Llafur) i'w Bwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yn lle Ann Jones (Llafur) a Gwenda Thomas (Llafur). (NDM2260)

I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Orders Nos. 8.4 and 9.1 elects Lynne Neagle (Labour) and Karen Sinclair (Labour) to its Health and Social Services Committee in place of Ann Jones (Labour) and Gwenda Thomas (Labour). (NDM2260)

Cynigiad fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol â Rheolau Sefydlog Rhif 8.4 a Rhif 9.1, yn ethol

I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Orders No. 8.4

Val Lloyd (Llafur) a Gwenda Thomas (Llafur) i'w Bwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus yn lle Lorraine Barrett (Llafur) a Tamsin Dunwoody-Kneafsey (Llafur). (NDM2261) *and No. 9.1 elects Val Lloyd (Labour) and Gwenda Thomas (Labour) to its Local Government and Public Services Committee in place of Lorraine Barrett (Labour) and Tamsin Dunwoody-Kneafsey (Labour).* (NDM2261)

Cynigion (NDM2254 i NDM2261): O blaid 51, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motions (NDM2254 i NDM2261): For 51, Abstain 0, Against 0.

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynigion.
Motions carried.*

Cwestiynau i'r Prif Weinidog Questions to the First Minister

Gwella'r GIG Improving the NHS

Q1 The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives (Nick Bourne): What discussions has the First Minister had with the Minister for Health and Social Services about improving the NHS in Wales? OAQ0089(FM)

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): Many, as you would imagine. I am sure that you will join me, Nick, in welcoming the figures on delayed transfers of care published today, which show a drop from 1,088 a year ago to 738, which is a drop of 350, or some 33 per cent. Similarly, if you look at the number of days delayed reported for December 2004, at 63,154 that is probably about a 40 per cent drop, given that it was 104,000 in January last year.

Nick Bourne: I am relieved that the First Minister appears to have had some discussions with the Minister for Health and Social Services now, because he did not appear to have had any with him before he appointed him, and said that it was down to Brian what would happen now. Given that the First Minister is keen to trade statistics, has he had the opportunity to discuss waiting lists with the Minister, particularly since there has been an 82 per cent increase in those on waiting lists since Labour came to power in May 1999? What discussions have you had on that?

The First Minister: I am sad that you could not bring yourself to welcome the drop in delayed transfers of care, because they are important to any sensible discussion of waiting lists. Clearly, if there are a lot of delayed transfers of care, medical outliers will block the patients who are on the waiting lists for elective surgery from coming in. You will also be aware that there has been a dramatic improvement over the past two

C1 Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru (Nick Bourne): Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Prif Weinidog wedi'u cael gyda'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ynghylch gwella'r GIG yng Nghymru? OAQ0089(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog (Rhodri Morgan): Llawer ohonynt, fel y byddech yn tybio. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwch am ymuno â mi, Nick, i groesawu'r ffigurau ar oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal a gyhoeddwyd heddiw, sydd wedi gostwng o 1,088 flwyddyn yn ôl i 738, sef gostyngiad o 350, neu ryw 33 y cant. Yn yr un modd, os edrychwch ar nifer y diwrnodau a ohiriwyd y rhoddwyd gwybod amdanynt ar gyfer Rhagfyr 2004, sef 63,154, mae'n debyg bod hynny tua 40 y cant yn is gan mai 104,000 oedd y ffigur ym mis Ionawr y llynedd.

Nick Bourne: Mae'n dda gennyf fod y Prif Weinidog wedi cael rhai trafodaethau bellach gyda'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, yn ôl pob golwg, gan nad oedd yn ymddangos ei fod wedi cael rhai ag ef cyn ei benodi, a dywedodd mai Brian a fyddai'n gyfrifol am yr hyn a ddigwyddai o hynny allan. Gan fod y Prif Weinidog mor awyddus i ffeirio ystadegau, a gafodd gyfle i drafod y rhestrau aros gyda'r Gweinidog, yn enwedig gan fod 82 y cant yn fwy ar y rhestrau aros ers i Lafur ddod i rym ym Mai 1999? Pa drafodaethau a gawsoch ar hynny?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'n ofid i mi nad oeddech yn barod i groesawu'r gostyngiad yn yr oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal, gan fod hynny'n bwysig mewn unrhyw drafodaeth synhwyrol ar restrau aros. Mae'n amlwg, os bydd llawer o oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal, y bydd allgleifion yn atal y cleifion sydd ar restrau aros ar gyfer llawdriniaeth ddewisol rhag dod i mewn. Gwyddoch hefyd fod gwelliant trawiadol wedi bod dros y ddwy

years with regard to long waits, and the number of those waiting over 12 months has fallen by about 50 per cent. There is an even bigger drop of, I think, some 80 per cent in the number of those waiting over 18 months. You should also welcome that, although I doubt that you will.

Nick Bourne: The First Minister always tends to be either evasive or abusive; today he is evasive. He has not answered the question I asked about the increase in long waits—there are 306,000 people on waiting lists in Wales. When Alun Michael came to power—

The Presiding Officer: Order. I would ask the leader of the Welsh Conservatives to reconsider his use of the word ‘evasive’.

Nick Bourne: Tending to be evasive, then.

The Presiding Officer: Order. That is ‘tending’ to withdraw the word.

Nick Bourne: Often, the First Minister could be perceived to be tending towards the evasive in not answering questions put to him. [*Laughter.*] I put a question to him about the number of people on waiting lists having gone up from 168,000 when the Assembly was established to nearly 306,000 now. I asked him if he had had any discussions with the new Minister for Health and Social Services specifically about those increases. Could he now answer that question?

The First Minister: Yes, indeed; of course I have had such discussions. It is also important, contrary to the impression that you sought to give, or were tending to give—you were remarkably reluctant to abide by a ruling by the Presiding Officer, so it can hardly be said that I am the one being evasive when you were wriggling on the Presiding Officer’s hook for quite some time, so look in the mirror the next time—

The Presiding Officer: Order. I require no assistance—not even from the First Minister.

The First Minister: I was merely using a

flynedd diwethaf o ran arosiadau hir, ac mae’r nifer sy’n aros yn hwy na 12 mis wedi gostwng tua 50 y cant. Bu gostyngiad hyd yn oed yn fwy o tua 80 y cant, yr wyf yn credu, yn y nifer sy’n aros yn hwy na 18 mis. Dylech groesawu hynny hefyd, er fy mod yn amau na fyddwch.

Nick Bourne: Mae’r Prif Weinidog yn wastad yn tueddu i fod un ai’n osgoilyd neu’n sarhaus; heddiw mae’n osgoilyd. Nid yw wedi ateb y cwestiwn a ofynnais am y cynnydd yn nifer yr arosiadau hir—mae 306,000 o bobl ar restrau aros yng Nghymru. Pan ddaeth Alun Michael i rym—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Gofynnaf i arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru ailystyried ei ddefnydd o’r gair ‘osgoilyd’.

Nick Bourne: Tueddu i fod yn osgoilyd, felly.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Dyna ‘dueddu’ i dynnu’r gair yn ôl.

Nick Bourne: Yn aml, gellid barnu bod y Prif Weinidog yn tueddu i fod yn osgoilyd o ran peidio ag ateb cwestiynau a ofynnir iddo. [*Chwerthin.*] Gofynnais gwestiwn iddo am y ffaith bod y nifer sydd ar restrau aros wedi codi o 168,000 pan sefydlwyd y Cynulliad i bron 306,000 yn awr. Gofynnais iddo a gawsai unrhyw drafodaethau â’r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol newydd am y cynnydd hwnnw’n benodol. A wnaiff ateb y cwestiwn hwnnw’n awr?

Y Prif Weinidog: Gwnaf, yn wir; yr wyf wedi cael trafodaethau o’r fath, wrth gwrs. Mae hefyd yn bwysig, yn groes i’r argraff y ceisiasoch ei rhoi, neu y tueddasoch i’w rhoi—yr oeddech yn hynod o amharod i ufuddhau i ddyfarniad gan y Llywydd, felly prin y gellir dweud mai myfi yw’r un osgoilyd a chithau wedi bod yn gwingo ar fachyn y Llywydd am gryn amser, felly edrychwch yn y drych y tro nesaf—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid oes arnaf angen unrhyw gymorth—hyd yn oed gan y Prif Weinidog.

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid oeddwn ond yn

fishing analogy; it is a sport of which I am sure that we all approve. It is important that you recognise, Nick, that there has been a considerable decrease in the number of people waiting a long time. I mentioned the figure of 86 per cent. If I mention statistics, you may not like them, but you cannot say that figures are evasive. If I give a figure, that is the figure that I have. That is a statistic, and you should accept that. In relation to long waits, it is important to recognise that there has been a major downward movement since the end of 2002. That shows that we are getting on with the job, and that the second offer guarantee scheme is a great success. Brian has inherited a position of strength in this regard, and we must continue to implement the second offer guarantee scheme, as well as the other innovations in care.

Nick Bourne: If you think that that is a position of strength, goodness knows what a position of weakness would be. You obviously have not discussed these specific figures. I have put this question to you twice, but have not received a satisfactory response. Since you talk about waits, and say that they are coming down, let me draw your attention to an e-mail that I received today, not from a constituent, but from a 74-year-old lady from Newport—I will not name her, as that would not be fair—who has been waiting two and a half years for a hip replacement. She is in much discomfort and pain. What do you have to say about that? I have forwarded the details to you, before you put that to me.

The First Minister: I am not aware of it. You have claimed in the past to have sent documents to me before getting to your feet in the Chamber, and that has not proved to be true when I have returned to my office. [ASSEMBLY MEMBERS: 'Oh.'] What is important—[*Interruption.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order. I would be grateful if the First Minister did not allege an untruth on the part of the leader of the Welsh Conservatives.

The First Minister: I said nothing of the sort. I referred to the fact that, on past occasions when Nick Bourne has raised

cymharu hyn â physgota; mae'n ddfyrrwch yr ydym i gyd yn ei gymeradwyo, yr wyf yn siŵr. Mae'n bwysig ichi gydnabod, Nick, fod y nifer sy'n aros yn hir wedi gostwng yn sylweddol. Crybwyllais y ffigur o 86 y cant. Os crybwyllaf ystadegau, efallai na fyddwch yn eu hoffi, ond ni allwch ddweud bod y ffigurau'n rhai osgoilyd. Os rhoddaf ffigur, hwnnw yw'r ffigur sydd gennyf. Ystadegyn ydyw, a dylech dderbyn hynny. Gyda golwg ar arosiadau hir, mae'n bwysig cydnabod bod gostyngiad mawr wedi bod ers diwedd 2002. Dengys hynny ein bod yn bwrw ymlaen â'r gwaith, a bod cynllun gwarant yr ail gynnig yn llwyddiannus iawn. Mae Brian wedi etifeddu sefyllfa gref yn hyn o beth, a rhaid inni barhau i roi cynllun gwarant yr ail gynnig ar waith, yn ogystal â'r mentrau newydd eraill mewn gofal.

Nick Bourne: Os credwch mai sefyllfa gref yw honno, y nefoedd a wŷr beth fyddai sefyllfa wan. Mae'n amlwg nad ydych wedi trafod y ffigurau penodol hyn. Yr wyf wedi gofyn y cwestiwn hwn ichi ddwy waith, ond ni chefais ateb boddhaol. Gan eich bod yn sôn am arosiadau, ac yn dweud eu bod yn mynd yn llai, gadewch imi dynnu'ch sylw at neges e-bost a gefais heddiw, nid oddi wrth un o'm hetholwyr, ond oddi wrth fenyw 74 blwydd oed yng Nghasnewydd—nis enwaf, gan na fyddai hynny'n deg—a fu'n aros ddwy flynedd a hanner am glun newydd. Mae mewn llawer o boen a gofid. Beth sydd gennych i'w ddweud am hynny? Yr wyf wedi anfon y manylion ymlaen atoch, cyn ichi godi hynny gyda mi.

Y Prif Weinidog: Ni wn am hynny. Yr ydych wedi honni yn y gorffennol eich bod wedi anfon dogfennau ataf cyn codi ar eich traed yn y Siambr, a chafwyd nad oedd hynny'n wir pan ddychwelais i'm swyddfa. [AELODAU'R CYNULLIAD: 'O.'] Yr hyn sy'n bwysig—[*Torri ar draws.*]

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe na honnai'r Prif Weinidog fod arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru wedi dweud anwiredd.

Y Prif Weinidog: Ni ddywedais ddim o'r fath. Cyfeiriais at y ffaith bod Nick Bourne wedi codi materion yma yn y gorffennol ac

issues here and has said that he has given me prior notice of them, my office has told me that he has not done so. It is as simple as that. It is important, when you have an individual case, if it is not a constituent of yours—this is not, which is fair enough—that you should write a letter on behalf of that person. A person who has been waiting two and a half years for an operation should, by now, have had a second offer of treatment. The second offer guarantee scheme is working well, though there is sometimes reluctance in England and in Wales, of roughly the same proportion, to accept offers of treatment elsewhere, at a distance from the local hospital. We understand that; it is a natural reluctance. Has this person been given a second offer? That offer should have been made. Brian or I will write to the individual concerned, or to you, to indicate why she has not had a second offer, if that is the case. She should have had a second offer if she has been waiting two and a half years.

Leighton Andrews: First Minister, when you meet with the Minister for Health and Social Services, I hope that you will not look to adopt the patient passport policy. That policy would rob the national health service in Wales of £60 million in order to subsidise wealthier patients' private treatment. Will you ensure that, instead of adopting that policy, you and the Minister speak out against the patient passport across Wales over the coming months?

The First Minister: I am sure that I will be doing so, as it is among many cranky ideas put forward by one of the opposition parties. It will go down like a lead balloon across Wales. I will certainly be making that case.

2.10 p.m.

The important point is that we have a strategy that is bringing long waits down. The figures that I have already given clearly show a dramatic drop in those waiting over 12 months for treatment, and an even bigger drop in those waiting over 18 months.

wedi dweud ei fod wedi fy hysbysu amdanynt ymlaen llaw, ond bod fy swyddfa wedi dweud wrthyf nad oedd wedi gwneud hynny. Mae mor syml â hynny. Mae'n bwysig, wrth drafod achos neilltuol, os nad yw'n ymwneud ag un o'ch etholwyr chi—nid yw hwn, ac mae hynny'n ddigon teg—ichi ysgrifennu llythyr ar ran y person hwnnw. Os bu rhywun yn aros ddwy flynedd a hanner am lawdriniaeth, dylai fod wedi cael ail gynnig o driniaeth erbyn hyn. Mae cynllun gwarant yr ail gynnig yn gweithio'n dda, er bod amharodrwydd weithiau yn Lloegr ac yng Nghymru, o tua'r un gyfran, i dderbyn cynnig o driniaeth mewn man arall, yn bell o'r ysbyty lleol. Yr ydym yn deall hynny; mae amharodrwydd o'r fath yn naturiol. A yw'r person hwn wedi cael ail gynnig? Dylai'r cynnig hwnnw fod wedi'i wneud. Gwnaiff Brian neu fi ysgrifennu at yr unigolyn dan sylw, neu atoch chi, i nodi pam na chafodd ail gynnig, os felly y bu. Dylai fod wedi cael yr ail gynnig os bu'n aros am ddwy flynedd a hanner.

Leighton Andrews: Brif Weinidog, pan gyfarfyddwch â'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, yr wyf yn gobeithio nad ystyriwch fabwysiadu'r polisi pasportau cleifion. Byddai'r polisi hwnnw'n dwyn £60 miliwn oddi ar y gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol yng Nghymru er mwyn rhoi cymhorthdal tuag at driniaeth breifat i gleifion mwy cefnog. A wnewch sicrhau y byddwch chi a'r Gweinidog, yn hytrach na mabwysiadu'r polisi, yn codi llais yn erbyn pasportau cleifion ledled Cymru yn y misoedd i ddod?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddaf yn gwneud hynny, gan fod hwnnw'n un o blith nifer mawr o syniadau rhyfedd a gyflwynwyd gan un o'r gwrthbleidiau. Ni fydd croeso iddo yn unman yng Nghymru. Byddaf yn sicr o gyflwyno'r ddadl honno.

Y pwynt pwysig yw bod gennym strategaeth sy'n lleihau'r arosiadau hir. Mae'r ffigurau a roddais yn barod yn dangos yn glir fod y nifer a fu'n aros yn hwy na 12 mis am driniaeth wedi gostwng yn sylweddol, a bod gostyngiad mwy byth ymysg y rhai sy'n aros yn hwy na 18 mis.

The other part of the strategy is to reduce delayed transfers of care. That is an important strategy, and there has been a 35 per cent drop since last year. Then there is the issue of growing more of our own doctors and nurses; again, there has been a dramatic increase in the numbers going through our medical schools and our nursing schools.

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Mae'n debyg eich bod wedi gweld yr arolwg gan Sefydliad Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol Cymru sy'n nodi bod dau o bob tri o arweinwyr y gwasanaeth iechyd yng Nghymru yn dweud y byddent yn dewis anfon aelod o'u teulu y tu allan i Gymru am driniaeth. Beth mae hynny'n ei ddweud am y gwasanaeth iechyd o dan eich teyrnasiad chi, Brif Weinidog, a beth wnewch chi i newid y sefyllfa?

Y Prif Weinidog: Fel rheol, mae arolygon o fam cwsmeriaid, neu gleifion, y gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol am y driniaeth a gânt, yn dangos eu bod yn hapus dros ben bod y driniaeth yn ddigonol os nad yn rhagorol. Yr wyf wedi darllen yr arolwg, ac mae'n rhoi rhyw gipolwg o'r sefyllfa; nid yw'n orwyddonol, a chredaf fod pawb yn derbyn hynny, gan gynnwys y rhai a gynhaliodd yr arolwg. Er hynny, y mae'n achosi i ddyn betruso; y mae tensiwn rhwng y bobl sy'n rhedeg y gwasanaeth iechyd, yn enwedig ar ochr yr ymddiriedolaethau a'r byrddau iechyd lleol, ac efallai fod peth o'r tensiwn hwnnw yn dod i'r wyneb yn yr arolwg.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: You cannot have it both ways, First Minister. You cannot say that things are going well when the people who are expected to deliver your Government's policy, whether they are managers, professionals or consultants, have no confidence in that policy. In the survey, they said that they do not expect you, as a Government, to have met your targets by 2007. They do not expect you to have met your targets on orthopaedic surgery, and they do not expect you to have ensured that all trusts are in surplus rather than in deficit. If we cannot expect those people to deliver on your policy, how possible is it for you to deliver? You must answer this question: if

Y rhan arall o'r strategaeth yw lleihau oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal. Mae honno'n strategaeth bwysig, a bu 35 y cant o ostyngiad ers y flwyddyn ddiwethaf. Wedyn rhaid ystyried tyfu mwy o'n meddygon a'n nyrsys ein hunain; unwaith eto, mae'r niferoedd sy'n mynd drwy ein hysgolion meddygol a'n hysgolion nyrsio wedi codi'n drawiadol.

The Leader of the Opposition (Ieuan Wyn Jones): I am sure that you will have seen the survey conducted by the Welsh Institute for Health and Social Care that notes that two thirds of health service managers in Wales would choose to send a member of their family outside Wales for treatment. What does that say about the health service under your rule, First Minister, and what will you do to change the situation?

The First Minister: As a rule, surveys asking national health service customers, or patients, about their opinion of the treatment that they receive, show that they are content that the treatment has been satisfactory, if not excellent. I have read the survey, and it gives an overview of the situation; it is not overly scientific, and I think that everybody accepts that, including those who undertook the survey. However, it does make one pause for thought; there is tension between the people who run the health service, especially on the trust side, and the local health boards, and perhaps some of that tension comes through in the survey.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Ni allwch ei chael y ddwy ffordd, Brif Weinidog. Ni allwch ddweud bod pethau'n mynd yn iawn tra bo'r rhai y disgwylir iddynt roi polisi eich Llywodraeth ar waith, boed hwy'n rheolwyr, yn weithwyr proffesiynol neu'n ymgynghorwyr, heb hyder yn y polisi hwnnw. Yn yr arolwg, dywedasant nad oeddent yn disgwyl y byddwch chi, fel Llywodraeth, wedi cyrraedd eich targedau erbyn 2007. Nid ydynt yn disgwyl y byddwch wedi cyrraedd eich targedau ar lawdriniaeth orthopedig, ac nid ydynt yn disgwyl y byddwch wedi sicrhau bod gwared gan yr holl ymddiriedolaethau yn hytrach na diffyg. Os na allwn ddisgwyl i'r

the people delivering that policy have no confidence in it, how can ordinary patients have confidence in it?

The First Minister: Ordinary patients do have confidence in it. Every time they are polled, they express a high degree of affection for and satisfaction with the quality of their treatment, as Brian said in his first speech as health Minister, last week. It is the access to the health service that is the problem, and not the quality of treatment that you get or the confidence that patients have. Following any treatment that they receive, an overwhelming percentage of them reports a high degree of satisfaction. Of course, access to the health service system, especially for those on the elective surgery waiting list, is the problem that we must catch up on. We are not so proud that we do not look across the border and export staff and expertise where they have done better than we have in that regard while recognising that there are other areas in which we are well ahead of England, as I have mentioned before with regard to infant mortality rates, having much lower rates of MRSA or faster rates of access to the primary care system and on more rapid increase in throughput in our medical, clinical and nursing schools.

bobl hynny gyflawni'ch polisi, sut y gallwch lwyddo? Rhaid ichi ateb y cwestiwn hwn: os yw'r rhai sy'n cyflawni'r polisi hwnnw heb hyder ynddo, sut y gall cleifion cyffredin fod â hyder ynddo?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae gan gleifion cyffredin hyder ynddo. Bob tro yr holir hwy mewn arolwg, datganant fod ganddynt lawer o feddwl o ansawdd eu triniaeth a'u bod yn fodlon iawn arni, fel y dywedodd Brian yn ei araith gyntaf fel y Gweinidog dros iechyd, yr wythnos diwethaf. Cael mynediad i'r gwasanaeth iechyd sy'n peri problem, nid ansawdd y driniaeth a gewch neu'r hyder ymysg cleifion. Yn dilyn unrhyw driniaeth a gânt, mae mwyafrif llethol ohonynt yn datgan ei fod yn fodlon iawn arni. Wrth gwrs, cael mynediad i system y gwasanaeth iechyd, yn enwedig gan y rhai sydd ar y rhestr aros am lawdriniaeth ddewisol, yw'r broblem y mae'n rhaid inni ei datrys. Nid ydym mor falch fel na fyddwn yn edrych y tu draw i'r ffin ac yn allforio staff ac arbenigedd lle y gwnaethant yn well na ni yn hynny o beth gan gydnabod bod meysydd eraill lle'r ydym yn bell ar y blaen i Loegr, fel y dywedais o'r blaen mewn cysylltiad â chyfraddau marwolaeth babanod, y cyfraddau MRSA, sy'n is o lawer, neu'r cyfraddau mynediad cyflymach i'r system gofal sylfaenol a'r cynnydd cynt o lawer yn y nifer sy'n mynd drwy ein hysgolion meddygol, clinigol a nyrsio.

Yr Economi Wledig The Rural Economy

C2 Elin Jones: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad ar yr economi wledig? OAQ0079(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn derbyn bod y cwmp mewn diweithdra yn yr economi wledig wedi bod yn fawr, a'i fod llawer yn well nag yn y Gymru drefol. Credaf i'r cwmp fod tua 42 y cant yn y naw awdurdod lleol yr ystyrir eu bod, i raddau helaeth, yn awdurdodau gwledig. Mae'n llawer yn uwch na'r cwmp mewn ardaloedd trefol, er bod y cwmp hwnnw ymhlith y gorau yn y Deyrnas Unedig; mae'r cwmp yn y Gymru wledig yn arbennig o dda, ac yn llawer gwell nac yn unrhyw le arall yn y Deyrnas Unedig.

Q2 Elin Jones: Will the First Minister make a statement on the rural economy? OAQ0079(FM)

The First Minister: It is important that we accept that there has been a significant fall in unemployment in the rural economy, and that that fall is far greater than in urban Wales. I believe that unemployment has fallen by around 42 per cent in the nine local authorities broadly considered to be rural. That is far greater than the fall in urban areas, notwithstanding the fact that those areas are among the best performers in the United Kingdom; the fall in rural Wales is particularly good, and much better than in any other area of in the United Kingdom.

Elin Jones: Mae rhan helaeth o Gymru wledig yn rhan o ardal Amcan 1. A wyddoch fod ffigurau Eurostat, a ryddhawyd heddiw, yn dangos bod ffigur cyfartalog cynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth y pen y Gorllewin a'r Cymoedd, dros dair blynedd, yn awr yn 73.8 y cant o gyfartaledd 25 gwlad yr Undeb Ewropeaidd, yn is na Slofenia a Malta, dan 75 y cant felly, ac yn ein gwneud ni'n gymwys ar gyfer y lefel uchaf o gymhorthdal Ewrop.

Gyda'r ffigurau hyn, a ffigurau'r GVA Prydeinig a gyhoeddwyd cyn y Nadolig, a ydych yn derbyn bod eich polisi adfywio economaidd ar gyfer y Gorllewin a'r Cymoedd ers 1999 wedi bod yn fethiant llwyr?

Y Prif Weinidog: Ddim o gwbl. Mae newid ystadegol ac ailasesiad o'r ystadegau rhyngwladol wedi digwydd. Mae'n anodd cyfuno ystadegau 25 gwlad. Deallaf fod newid wedi ei wneud yn y ffigurau ar gyfer 2000, 2001 a 2002 y bore yma. Felly, mae'n disgrifio sefyllfa dair blynedd yn ôl, yn gyffredinol.

Gallai hyn arwain at fonws aruthrol, ac yn un yr ydym yn ei haeddu neu beidio. Pe baech yn penderfynu, yr haf hwn, pwy fydd yn cael arian Amcan 1 ar ôl 1 Ionawr 2007, gallai dwy ran o dair o Gymru fod y tu fewn i ardal Amcan 1, fel Cernyw. Byddai hynny'n golygu bonws aruthrol, ac ni fyddaf am wrthod y bonws hwnnw, er nad wyf yn disgwyl ei gael, gan fy mod yn disgwyl y bydd gohiriad tua ddiwedd y flwyddyn ariannol. Felly, bydd ffigurau 2003 yn cael eu cyfrif, a ni fydd ffigurau 2000 yn cael eu cynnwys yn y tair blynedd a gaiff eu hystyried.

Mae newidiadau ystadegol wedi digwydd. Felly, nid yw hyn yn golygu y bu dirywiad yng Nghymru: newid arall, rhywle arall, sydd wedi newid y cyfryw. Mae'n amlwg bod y ffigurau a gyhoeddwyd cyn y Nadolig yn dangos llwyddiant mawr ein polisiau ynglŷn â chynnydd yng nghynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth Cymru o 6 y cant. Un ardal yn unig, sef dwyrain canolbarth Lloegr, sydd wedi gwneud yn well, a GVA neu GDP Cymru wedi cynyddu £2 biliwn yn 2003.

Elin Jones: A large part of rural Wales lies within the Objective 1 area. Are you aware of the Eurostat figures, released today, that show that the average gross domestic product per capita for west Wales and the Valleys, over three years, is now 73.8 per cent of the average for the 25 countries of the European Union. It is lower than Slovenia and Malta, below 75 per cent, and therefore qualifies us for the highest level of assistance from the EU.

Given these figures, and the British GVA figures published before Christmas, do you accept that your economic regeneration policy for west Wales and the Valleys since 1999 has been an abject failure?

The First Minister: Not at all. A statistical change and a reassessment of the international statistics has taken place. It is difficult to combine figures from 25 countries. I understand that a change has been made in the figures for 2000, 2001 and 2002. Therefore, they describe the general situation three years ago.

This could result in a massive bonus, which we may or may not deserve. If you were to decide, this summer, who will receive Objective 1 funding after 1 January 2007, two thirds of Wales could fall within the Objective 1 area, as does Cornwall. That would mean a massive bonus, and I would not refuse it, although I do not expect to receive it, as I expect that there will be a deferment towards the end of the financial year. Therefore, the figures for 2003 will be taken into account and those for 2000 will not be included in the three years under consideration.

There have been statistical changes. Therefore, this does not constitute a decline in Wales: another change, somewhere else, has changed the figures. The figures published just before Christmas show the massive success of our policies with regard to the 6 per cent increase in GDP in Wales of. Only one area, the east midlands, has done better, and there has been a £2 billion increase in Welsh GVA or GDP in 2003.

Mick Bates: The pressure on the rural economy in east Wales has not changed. At present, £17 million of farmers' money is sitting in a suspense account held by your Minister for the Environment, Planning and Countryside. That amount could increase to £40 million. When will you tell your Minister to get that money to the people in the rural economy who need it?

The First Minister: You are right that the situation in Powys is not as healthy as it is in Elin Jones's constituency, in terms of the fall in employment. There is around a 45 per cent drop in unemployment in Ceredigion—Elin Jones likes to pretend that she is somewhere else when these figures are published, of course. Powys's record is not as good, as the figure is only 34 per cent. That said, unemployment in Powys is under 2 per cent. Unemployment across rural Wales is at exceptionally low levels and we are close to full employment. You are therefore making one sound point.

Your other point is totally unsound. There is simply no basis to the allegation that you make about £17 million sitting in a bank account. I am sure that you will have read Carwyn Jones's wise words on this point.

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Gan gyfeirio'n ôl at eich ateb i Elin Jones, mae sefyllfa economaidd ardal Amcan 1 Cymru yn gwbl warthus. Erbyn hyn, mae Cymru'n dlotach na phan gawsai arian Amcan 1 am y tro cyntaf. Nid yn unig yr oeddem yn gymwys mewn undeb o 15 aelod-wladwriaeth, ond bellach yr ydym yn gymwys mewn undeb o 25 aelod-wladwriaeth, sy'n cynnwys gwledydd dwyrain Ewrop. Mae sefyllfa gorllewin Cymru yn waeth na sefyllfa rhai o'r gwledydd yn nwyrain Ewrop. Dyna'r canlyniad polisi economaidd Rhodri Morgan. Oni dderbyniwch fod hynny'n sgandal, Brif Weinidog? Ni ddisgwyliem i chi ddweud y gwnaiff Cymru gymhwyso'r eilwaith. Amcan eich rhaglen economaidd oedd codi Cymru uwchlaw 75 y cant o CMC y pen Ewrop ar gyfartaledd fel na fyddai'n rhaid i ni ddibynnu ar yr arian hwn. Onid ydych yn derbyn, Brif Weinidog, fod hyn yn dangos

Mick Bates: Mae'r pwysau ar yr economi wledig yn y Dwyrain yn parhau. Ar hyn o bryd, mae £17 miliwn o arian ffermwyr yn sefyll mewn cyfrif crog a ddelir gan eich Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad. Gallai'r swm hwnnw godi i £40 miliwn. Pa bryd y dywedwch wrth eich Gweinidog am fynd â'r arian hwnnw at y rhai yn yr economi wledig y mae arnynt ei angen?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydych yn iawn wrth ddweud nad yw'r sefyllfa ym Mhowys cyn iached ag ydyw yn etholaeth Elin Jones, o ran y gostyngiad yn nifer y di-waith. Mae gostyngiad o tua 45 y cant yn nifer y di-waith yng Ngheredigion—mae Elin Jones yn hoffi cymryd arni ei bod yn rhywle arall pan gyhoeddir y ffigurau hyn, wrth gwrs. Nid yw'r record ym Mhowys yn gystal, gan mai dim ond 34 y cant yw'r ffigur. Wedi dweud hynny, mae diweithdra ym Mhowys o dan 2 y cant. Mae diweithdra ledled Cymru wledig yn eithriadol o isel ac yr ydym yn agos at gyflogaeth lawn. Gan hynny, yr ydych yn gwneud un pwynt dilys.

Mae'r pwynt arall a wnaethoch yn gwbl annilys. Nid oes unrhyw sail o gwbl i'r honiad a wnewch i'r perwyl bod £17 miliwn yn sefyll mewn cyfrif banc. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwch wedi darllen geiriau doeth Carwyn Jones ar y pwynt hwn.

The Leader of the Opposition (Ieuan Wyn Jones): I refer to your response to Elin Jones. The economic situation in Wales's Objective 1 area is appalling. Wales is now poorer than it was when it first received Objective 1 funding. Not only were we eligible in a union of 15 member states, but we are now eligible in a union of 25 member states, which includes eastern European countries. The situation in west Wales is worse than that of some eastern European countries. That is the result of Rhodri Morgan's economic policy. Do you not accept that that is a scandal, First Minister? We would not expect you to say that Wales will become eligible for the second time. The objective of your economic programme was to raise Wales above 75 per cent of the European average GDP per capita so that we would not have to depend on that funding. Do you not accept that this shows that your policy has completely failed, First Minister?

methiant llwyr eich polisi?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydych bob amser yn cael anhawster gyda ffigurau, Ieuan. Os ydych yn sôn am ffigurau 2000, 2001 a 2002, yr ydych yn disgrifio sefyllfa o leiaf ddwy flynedd a hanner yn ôl. Nid ydych yn disgrifio'r sefyllfa bresennol. Y ffigurau diweddaraf sydd gennym, sef ffigurau Prydeinig 2003, yn dangos bod gwelliant yng Nghymru a bod y CMC a'r GVA yng Nghymru wedi cynyddu 6 y cant. Dim ond dwyrain canolbarth Lloegr a oedd wedi cynyddu'n uwch na hynny. Mae'r GVA wedi cynyddu £2 biliwn o £35 biliwn i £37 biliwn.

The First Minister: You always find figures difficult, Ieuan. When you talk about the figures for 2000, 2001 and 2002, you are describing the situation at least two and a half years ago. You are not describing the current situation. The most recent figures that we have—the British figures for 2003—show an improvement in Wales and that our GDP and GVA has increased by 6 per cent. Only the east midlands has seen a greater increase. GVA has increased by £2 billion from £35 billion to £37 billion.

2.20 p.m.

Os edrychwch ar ffigurau 2002 a lefelau Cymru wledig a'r Cymoedd, effeithir ar GVA y pen yr ardaloedd hynny a chaiff ei gamystumio oherwydd y cymudo a geir ar draws y ffin rhwng un rhan o Gymru a'r llall, er enghraifft, rhwng y Cymoedd a Chaerdydd, cymoedd Gwent a Chasnewydd, a gogledd-orllewin a gogledd-ddwyrain Cymru. Mae hynny'n peri bod amheuaeth ynghylch y ffigurau, fel y gwelir yng Nghernyw hefyd. Mae pensiynwyr yn symud i ardaloedd o'r fath hefyd, sy'n gwasgu'r GVA i lawr ond nid y cyfoeth. Dyna yw'r broblem. Nid ydych yn hoff o ffigurau, ond cafwyd codiad o £2 biliwn yn GVA Cymru rhwng 2002 a 2003. Yr ydych yn amlwg yn hollol anhapus ynghylch y newyddion da hwnnw. Yn yr un modd, hyd y deallaf, pe byddem yn gymwys ar gyfer arian Amcan 1 ar gyfer Cymru wledig yn 2007, byddech yn ei wrthod.

If you consider the figures for 2002 and the levels in rural Wales and the Valleys, GVA per capita in those areas is affected and distorted by the fact that there is commuting across the border between one part of Wales and another, for example, between the Valleys and Cardiff, the valleys of Gwent and Newport, and north-west and north-east Wales. That casts some doubt on the figures, as is the case in Cornwall. Pensioners also move to such areas, which depresses the GVA but not the wealth. That is the problem. You are not fond of figures, but there was an increase of £2 billion in Welsh GVA between 2002 and 2003. You are obviously completely unhappy about that good news. Similarly, as I understand it, if we were to qualify for Objective 1 funding for rural Wales in 2007, you would turn it down.

Carl Sargeant: Flintshire's rural economy goes hand in hand with its urban economy. What we have heard today is typical of the separatist quotations given by Plaid Cymru, which is trying to split the rural and urban economies. Unemployment is lower than it has been for 20 years, interest rates are lower than they have been for 40 years, and the economic development of Wales is particularly good. Is it not time to talk Wales up and not talk it down, as the opposition parties do?

Carl Sargeant: Mae economi wledig sir y Fflint yn mynd law yn llaw â'i heconomi drefol. Mae'r hyn a glywsom heddiw'n nodweddiadol o'r dyfyniadau ymwahanol a roddir gan Blaid Cymru, sy'n ceisio rhannu'r economïau gwledig a threfol. Mae diweithdra'n is nag y bu am 20 mlynedd, mae cyfraddau llog yn is nag y buont am 40 mlynedd, a cheir datblygu economaidd arbennig o dda yng Nghymru. Onid yw'n bryd canu clodydd Cymru yn hytrach na'i bychanu, fel y gwnaiff y gwrthbleidiau?

The First Minister: As of February next year, it will be 30 years since unemployment

Y Prif Weinidog: O fis Chwefror y flwyddyn nesaf, bydd yn 30 mlynedd ers i

was lower than it is today. You are right; we have shown a clear pair of heels to all other parts of the UK. We have lowered unemployment rates from 7.7 per cent to 4.4 per cent, which is a drop of 43 per cent. The closest region in terms of the percentage fall in unemployment rates is north-east England, which has seen a fall of 30 per cent. The Welsh economy has performed extraordinarily in lowering unemployment. No other part of the UK comes close to what we have achieved during the five and a half years since devolution.

ddiweithdra fod yn is nag y mae heddiw. Yr ydych yn iawn; yr ydym wedi achub y blaen ar yr holl rannau eraill o'r DU. Yr ydym wedi gostwng cyfraddau diweithdra o 7.7 y cant i 4.4 y cant, sef gostyngiad o 43 y cant. Y rhanbarth agosaf o ran canran y gostyngiad mewn cyfraddau diweithdra yw gogledd-dwyrain Lloegr, lle y cafwyd gostyngiad o 30 y cant. Mae economi Cymru wedi llwyddo'n eithriadol o ran lleihau diweithdra. Nid oes yr un rhan arall o'r DU sydd wedi dod yn agos at yr hyn a gyflawnasom ni yn ystod y pum mlynedd a hanner ers datganoli.

Byw yn Iach Healthy Lifestyles

Q3 Jeff Cuthbert: What actions is the Assembly Government taking to promote healthy lifestyles in Wales? OAQ0068(FM)

C3 Jeff Cuthbert: Pa gamau y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn eu cymryd i annog pobl i fyw yn iach yng Nghymru? OAQ0068(FM)

Q7 Denise Idris Jones: What action has the Welsh Assembly Government taken to promote better health awareness in Wales? OAQ0075(FM)

C7 Denise Idris Jones: Beth y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi'i wneud i godi ymwybyddiaeth o iechyd yng Nghymru? OAQ0075(FM)

The First Minister: I know that Jeff is very interested in this subject because he chairs the Assembly's all-party group on healthy living. I warmly welcome the event that the group is hosting at the Assembly next Wednesday, 2 February. The same month will see the launch of a major awareness-raising campaign for Health Challenge Wales. All these initiatives are fundamental to our aim of creating a health service, and not simply an illness and treatment service, in Wales.

Y Prif Weinidog: Gwn fod Jeff yn ymddiddori'n fawr yn y pwnc hwn gan mai ef yw cadeirydd grŵp trawsbleidiol y Cynulliad ar fyw'n iach. Croesawaf yn fawr y digwyddiad y mae'r grŵp yn ei gynnal yn y Cynulliad ddydd Mercher nesaf, 2 Chwefror. Yn yr un mis, gwelir lansio ymgyrch fawr i hybu ymwybyddiaeth ar gyfer Her Iechyd Cymru. Mae'r holl fentrau hyn yn hollbwysig i'n bwriad i greu gwasanaeth iechyd, ac nid gwasanaeth salwch a thriniaeth yn unig, yng Nghymru.

Jeff Cuthbert: Thank you for your kind words. Will you join me in encouraging all Assembly Members, their staff and civil servants to take part in the healthy living day next Wednesday, an event that is supported by 12 or more external organisations concerned with healthy living, healthcare and related issues? The day, as you know, will be full of activities and events that we trust will be well supported. Will you join me in encouraging as many Assembly Members and staff as possible to take part in that day?

Jeff Cuthbert: Diolch i chi am eich geiriau caredig. A wnewch ymuno â mi i annog holl Aelodau'r Cynulliad, eu staff a gweision sifil i gymryd rhan yn y diwrnod byw'n iach ddydd Mercher nesaf, a hwnnw'n ddigwyddiad a gefnogir gan 12 a rhagor o gyrrff allanol sy'n ymwneud â bwyta'n iach, gofal iechyd a materion cysylltiedig? Fel y gwyddoch, bydd y diwrnod hwnnw'n llawn gweithgareddau a digwyddiadau yr hyderwn y ceir cefnogaeth dda iddynt. A wnewch ymuno â mi i annog cynifer ag y bo modd o Aelodau'r Cynulliad ac o staff i gymryd rhan yn y diwrnod hwnnw?

The First Minister: We do not have all-party anything on health because it is statutorily a divisive issue, and increasingly so as events elsewhere, namely election campaigns, are nearing. It is important that Health Challenge Wales is promoted on an all-party, non-partisan basis, with a partnership between the public and politicians. Everybody realises that the holy grail of running a national health service is that we should create a health service, and not just an illness treatment service. You can only do that by strongly promoting public health so that people reduce how much they smoke, take up more exercise, and reduce the amount of animal fat and salt that they consume. The bulk of the health gain that we achieve over the next 10 or 20 years will happen outside and not inside hospitals as a result of Health Challenge Wales and its implementation, its roll-out and its awareness raising across communities.

Denise Idris Jones: I am sure that you will join me in congratulating the new incentive that Maes Geirchen, a Communities First area near Bangor in my constituency, has undertaken of selling fresh fruit and vegetables at £2 per bag, therefore helping to encourage healthier eating among residents. Do you also agree that the recent appointment of a full-time worker to boost sport on the Maes Geirchen estate is helping to improve people's quality of life?

The First Minister: I do. I know the Maes Geirchen estate reasonably well, although not as well as you or Betty Williams know it. It is the perfect estate on which to bring in initiatives such as food co-ops to make fresh fruit and vegetables available. By involving the people in the running of those co-ops, you get a strong commitment to them, and then you can extend the eating of more fresh fruit into replacing lard and butter with margarine and polyunsaturated fats and so on. The same applies to trying to persuade people to cook with less salt, and getting them to understand that even if the food tastes funny in the first fortnight, they will get rid of that taste for salt a fortnight later. That will bring enormous benefits to them and their families in terms of not having the furred-up arteries and other health problems that the wrong diet can lead

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid oes gennym ddim sy'n drawsbleidiol ar iechyd gan ei fod yn bwnc sy'n sicr o beri ymrannu, ac yn fwyfwy felly wrth i ddigwyddiadau mewn mannau eraill, sef ymgyrchoedd etholiad, ddod yn nes. Mae'n bwysig hyrwyddo Her Iechyd Cymru mewn modd trawsbleidiol ac amhleidgar, gyda phartneriaeth rhwng y cyhoedd a gwleidyddion. Mae pawb yn sylweddoli mai'r ddelfryd wrth redeg gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol yw y dylem greu gwasanaeth iechyd, ac nid gwasanaeth i drin salwch yn unig. Yr unig fodd i wneud hynny yw hybu iechyd cyhoeddus yn egniol fel bod pobl yn ysmygu llai, yn gwneud mwy o ymarfer, ac yn bwyta llai o fraster o anifeiliaid a halen. Bydd y rhan fwyaf o'r cynnydd mewn iechyd a gawn dros y 10 neu 20 mlynedd nesaf yn digwydd y tu allan i ysbytai, ac nid oddi mewn iddynt, o ganlyniad i sefydlu Her Iechyd Cymru a'i rhoi ar waith a hybu ymwybyddiaeth ohoni mewn cymunedau.

Denise Idris Jones: Yr wyf yn siŵr yr ymunwch â mi i longyfarch y fenter newydd y mae Maes Geirchen, ardal Cymunedau yn Gyntaf ger Bangor yn fy etholaeth, wedi ymgymryd â hi o werthu ffrwythau a llysiau ffres am £2 y bag fel modd i annog y trigolion i fwyta'n iach. A ydych hefyd yn cytuno bod penodi gweithiwr llawn amser yn ddiweddar i hybu chwaraeon ar ystâd Maes Geirchen yn helpu i wella ansawdd bywyd pobl?

Y Prif Weinidog: Ydwyf. Yr wyf yn adnabod ystâd Maes Geirchen yn eithaf da, er nad cystal â chi neu Betty Williams. Honno yw'r union fath o ystâd lle y gellir cychwyn mentrau fel mentrau bwyd cydweithredol i gynnig ffrwythau a llysiau. Drwy gynnwys y bobl yn y gwaith o redeg y mentrau hynny, ceir ymrwymiad cryf iddynt, ac wedyn gellir ymestyn yr arfer o fwyta rhagor o ffrwythau ffres i gynnwys bwyta marjarîn a braster aml-annirlawn ac yn y blaen yn lle saim a menyn. Mae'r un peth yn wir am geisio perswadio pobl i goginio gan ddefnyddio llai o halen, a pheri iddynt ddeall, hyd yn oed os oes blas rhyfedd ar y bwyd yn y pythefnos cyntaf, y cânt wared â'u hoffter o halen ymhen pythefnos wedyn. Daw hynny â buddion aruthrol iddynt hwy a'u teuluoedd o ran peidio â chael rhydweliâu wedi'u cau gan gen

to.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: O wrando ar y Prif Weinidog yn ymateb i gwestiynau'r prynhawn yma, mae'n glir bod David Melding wedi gwneud cam mawr â Dr Pangloss yn ei gymharu â Dr Brian Gibbons. Mae'n amlwg nad oes neb yn fwy 'panglossaidd' ei agwedd at y gwirionedd ac at ystadegau na'r Prif Weinidog. Hyd yn oed yn eich byd afreal chi, tra bod traean ieuenctid Cymru a thraean henoed Cymru yn byw o dan y llinell tlodi, a'r bwlch rhwng y cyfoethog a'r tlawd yn ehangu o flwyddyn i flwyddyn—a hynny yn ôl ystadegau'r Llywodraeth—a thra bod pobl yng Nghymru yn methu cael mynediad at dai fforddiadwy yn eu cymunedau, onid cwbl symbolaidd yw eich ymdrechion chi i geisio sicrhau bywydau iach gyda'r fath anghyfiawnder cymdeithasol sylfaenol yn bodoli yn ein cymunedau?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nonsens llwyr a geiriau gwag oedd y rheini, ac yr ydych wedi trio dyfynnu ystadegau nad ydych yn eu deall, mae arnaf ofn. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn deall cymaint o welliant a fu yn ein heconomi, o ran y gallu i gael swyddi. Yr ydym yn anelu at gymdeithas wedi ei seilio ar gyflogaeth lawn mewn egwyddor. Er nad ydym wedi cyrraedd y nod yn llawn, yr ydym wedi ei gyrraedd mewn rhai ardaloedd: credaf y bydd pawb yn derbyn ein bod bron â chyrraedd cyflogaeth lawn yng ngogledd-ddwyrain Cymru, ond nid ydym yn gwneud gystal yn rhannau eraill o Gymru.

O ran tlodi ymhlith pensiynwyr, cafwyd gwelliant enfawr o ran sefyllfa gweddwon, yn arbennig, a henoed eraill sy'n dibynnu ar yr isafswm incwm. O ran teuluoedd â phlant, gall y rhieni yn awr symud i swydd heb golli'r budd-dal y buont yn dibynnu arno ers oesoedd, efallai ers cenhedlaeth, yn ôl i 1974 neu 1975. Mae'r gallu i brynu tai yn llawer gwell yn awr gan fod cysondeb yn yr economi, a chyfraddau llog yn is nag a fuont ers oesoedd. Fel arfer, pan welir cyflogaeth lawn a diweithdra isel, mae chwyddiant yn broblem, ond nid ydym wedi gweld chwyddiant er bod gennym y diweithdra isaf ers cenhedlaeth.

a'r problemau iechyd eraill a all ddeillio o ddeiet anghywir.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Having listened to the First Minister answering questions this afternoon, it is clear that David Melding has done Dr Pangloss an injustice in comparing him to Dr Brian Gibbons. It is clear that no-one is more 'panglossian' in his attitude to the truth and to statistics than the First Minister. Even in your surreal world, while a third of young people in Wales and a third of the elderly in Wales live below the poverty line, and the gap between rich and poor continues to widen year on year—according to Government statistics—and while people in Wales cannot access affordable housing in their communities, are not your efforts to try to ensure healthy living completely tokenistic, given such fundamental social injustice in our communities?

The First Minister: That was utter nonsense and empty rhetoric, and you have tried to quote statistics that I am afraid you do not understand. It is important that we understand the scale of the improvement in our economy in terms of job creation. We are, in principle, aiming for a society based on full employment. Although we have not fully achieved that aim, we have achieved it in some areas: I think that everyone would accept that we have almost attained full employment in north-east Wales, but we are not doing so well in other parts of Wales.

On poverty among pensioners, there has been a significant improvement in relation to widows, especially, and other pensioners who live on the minimum income. On families with children, the parents can now move into work without losing the benefits on which they have been dependent for years, perhaps for a generation, since 1974 or 1975. There is a greater ability to buy houses now due to consistency in the economy, with interest rates at their lowest for many years. Usually, when you have full employment and low unemployment, inflation becomes a problem, but that has not been the case even though we have the lowest unemployment for a generation.

The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrat Group (Michael German): First Minister, you will have read the e-mail that was sent to me, and which was published today in the *Western Mail*. I am also sure that you will have seen the original e-mail that was sent to Brian Gibbons. I have had a subsequent e-mail from the ward sister at the University Hospital of Wales. She tells me that the staff of that unit have met representatives of the executive board of the trust and the Royal College of Nursing. They posed the question of what will happen when the Heath hospital admits that it can no longer cope, and closes its doors to all patients except for those suffering cardiac arrest. What would your answer be to that?

2.30 p.m.

The First Minister: That is a highly hypothetical question. We are dealing with a particularly acute version of the January problem. You have the advantage of having read more e-mails than me, but I have read the story in the *Western Mail*, and I have spoken at length today about the matter to Simon Jones, the chair of the trust, because it betokens a serious situation. However, it is not much more serious than would commonly be found in most large, urban hospitals in January, when you have a high level of pulmonary obstructive respiratory disease. It has been a serious situation since the return to work after Christmas, but the hospital has continued to carry out elective surgery, which I was pleased to see, because it wanted to hit its targets. It hopes to get more co-operative working across the M4-belt hospitals so that patients can be diverted from one hospital to another, according to where the pressure is greatest. I understand how difficult it must be for the staff involved to balance that. It is important that you take this message back to the Liberal-Democrat-controlled council in Cardiff, or the Conservative-controlled council in the Vale. If the delayed transfers of care excess—in other words, the amount by which delayed transfers of care in Liberal-Democrat-controlled Cardiff or in Tory-controlled, with Plaid Cymru support, Vale of Glamorgan—could be, not abolished altogether, but brought down to the Welsh average, there would be enough beds to cope. You should not look just at the NHS, because

Arweinydd Grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Michael German): Brif Weinidog, byddwch wedi darllen yr e-bost a yrrwyd ataf, ac a gyhoeddwyd heddiw yn y *Western Mail*. Yr wyf hefyd yn siŵr y byddwch wedi gweld yr e-bost gwreiddiol at Brian Gibbons. Cefais neges drwy'r e-bost wedyn oddi wrth y brif nyrs ward yn Ysbyty Athrofaol Cymru. Dywed wrthyf fod y staff yn yr uned honno wedi cwrdd â chynrychiolwyr bwrdd gweithredol yr ymddiriedolaeth a Choleg Brenhinol y Nyrsys. Holasant beth a ddigwydd pan fydd ysbyty'r Mynydd Bychan yn cyfaddef na all ymdopi bellach, ac yn cau ei ddrysau ar yr holl gleifion heblaw rhai sy'n cael ataliad ar y galon. Beth fyddai'ch ateb chi i hynny?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae hwnnw'n gwestiwn tra damcaniaethol. Yr ydym yn delio â fersiwn arbennig o ddifrifol o'r broblem a geir ym mis Ionawr. Cawsoch y fantais o fod wedi darllen mwy o negeseuon e-bost nag a wneuthum i, ond yr wyf wedi darllen yr hanes yn y *Western Mail*, ac wedi siarad yn hir heddiw am y mater hwn gyda Simon Jones, cadeirydd yr ymddiriedolaeth, gan ei fod yn arwydd bod y sefyllfa'n un ddifrifol. Er hynny, nid yw'n llawer mwy difrifol na'r hyn a geid fel arfer yn y rhan fwyaf o ysbytai mawr, trefol ym mis Ionawr, pan geir lefel uchel o afiechyd anadlol oherwydd rhwystr ar yr ysgyfaint. Bu'r sefyllfa'n un ddifrifol ers aildddechrau gweithio ar ôl y Nadolig, ond mae'r ysbyty wedi parhau â llawdriniaethau dewisol, ac yr oeddwn yn falch o weld hynny, gan ei fod yn dymuno cyrraedd ei dargedau. Mae'n gobeithio cael mwy o gydweithio rhwng yr ysbytai ar hyd yr M4 fel y gellir troi cleifion o'r naill ysbyty i'r llall, yn ôl lle y ceir y pwysau mwyaf. Deallaf pa mor anodd ydyw i'r staff dan sylw ddal y ddysgl yn wastad yn hynny o beth. Mae'n bwysig ichi gyfleu'r neges honno i'r cyngor a reolir gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yng Nghaerdydd, neu'r cyngor a reolir gan y Ceidwadwyr yn y Fro. Os gellid, nid eu dileu'n llwyr, ond gostwng y nifer gormodol o achosion o oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal—mewn geiriau eraill, y graddau o oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal yng Nghaerdydd, a reolir gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, neu ym Mro Morgannwg, a reolir gan y Toriaid, gyda

if you can bring the delayed transfers of care down to the average, it would have 40 more beds.

Michael German: I am glazed over with amazement that you want to divert the problem that this ward sister has highlighted on behalf of her colleagues in Wales's flagship hospital. Four or five patients at a time are waiting 51 hours on a trolley. They are stacked in the corridors and do not have the dignity of being treated in a bed. Babies that have been admitted cannot be found a bed, and you say that this is normal for the period after Christmas. If this is normal, what sort of record is it? Can you assure these dedicated staff, who have given this cry of anguish, that this will not go on, that we will not put up with it, that it will be changed and that we will not see it next week in the University Hospital of Wales?

The First Minister: Do not get overexcited, Mike. One hundred and thirty beds are blocked by delayed transfers of care from Cardiff and the Vale, in the main, because that is the area. The target for the standards of admission to accident and emergency is for 95 per cent to be seen within four hours. I am assured that the current figure is 88 per cent. That is well below the target of 95 per cent, but the hospital is doing well in coping with the high levels of accident and emergency admissions, caused by the January problem, and the high levels of influenza or influenza-like illnesses, or coughs and colds, which, in frail and elderly people, can easily turn into bronchitis and so on. However, it is still at 88 per cent, which is below 95 per cent. It is not doing too badly, but I do not think that you should ignore the impact that reducing bedblocking, on the part of the two local authorities most closely associated with UHW's intake, to the Welsh average, would have on its ability to get more people in.

Michael German: Bedblocking is worse year on year in the University Hospital of

chefnogaeth Plaid Cymru—i'r cyfartaledd yng Nghymru, byddai digon o welyau i allu ymdopi. Nid ar y GIG yn unig y dylech edrych, oherwydd os gellir gostwng nifer yr achosion o oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal i'r cyfartaledd, byddai ganddo 40 yn rhagor o welyau.

Michael German: Yr wyf wedi fy syfrdanu gan y ffaith eich bod yn dymuno bwrw o'r neilltu y broblem y mae'r brif nyrs ward hon wedi tynnu sylw ati ar ran ei chydweithwyr yn ysbyty pwysicaf Cymru. Mae pedwar neu bump o gleifion ar y tro yn disgwyl 51 awr ar droli. Cânt eu cadw yn y coridorau ac ni chânt eu trin gydag urddas mewn gwely. Ni ellir dod o hyd i welyau ar gyfer babanod sydd wedi'u derbyn, a dywedwch fod hyn yn arferol yn y cyfnod ar ôl y Nadolig. Os yw hyn yn arferol, pa fath o record yw hynny? A allwch sicrhau'r staff ymroddedig hyn, a fynegodd eu gofid fel hyn, na fydd hyn yn parhau, na fyddwn yn ei oddef, y caiff ei newid ac nas gwelwn yr wythnos nesaf yn Ysbyty Athrofaol Cymru?

Y Prif Weinidog: Peidiwch â gorgynhyrfu, Mike. Mae 130 o welyau wedi'u blocio oherwydd oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal o Gaerdydd a'r Fro, yn bennaf am mai honno yw'r ardal. Y targed ar gyfer safonau derbyn i adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys yw y dylid gweld 95 y cant o fewn pedair awr. Fe'm sicrhawyd mai 88 y cant yw'r ffigur presennol. Mae hynny'n is o lawer na'r targed o 95 y cant, ond mae'r ysbyty'n gwneud yn dda wrth ymdopi â'r niferoedd mawr a dderbynnir i'r adran ddamweiniau ac achosion brys, a achosir gan y broblem a geir yn Ionawr, a'r lefelau uchel o'r fflw neu anhwylderau tebyg i'r fflw, neu annwyd a pheswch, y mae'n hawdd iddynt droi'n fronicitis ac yn y blaen mewn pobl oeddrannus a bregus eu hiechyd. Fodd bynnag, mae'n dal i fod ar 88 y cant, sy'n is na 95 y cant. Mae'n gwneud yn weddol dda, ond ni chredaf y dylech anwybyddu'r effaith a gâi ostyngiad yn y blocio ar welyau, ar ran y ddau awdurdod lleol sy'n bennaf cysylltiedig â'r cleifion a dderbynnir i Ysbyty Athrofaol Cymru, i'r cyfartaledd yng Nghymru, ar ei allu i dderbyn mwy o gleifion.

Michael German: Mae'r blocio ar welyau'n gwaethygu o'r naill flwyddyn i'r llall yn

Wales, but the nurses, on behalf of their patients, were seeking a response from you today that the quality of care and service that they provide for their patients, and which they think is far below what any human being should have to suffer, would be changed. Will it be the same in the university hospital next week, or will you take direct action to ensure that this matter is put right and that there will not be people on trolleys, waiting in corridors for 24, 48, or, in this case, 51 hours?

The First Minister: I do not know from where you get figures that delayed transfers of care in UHW is getting worse. I explained earlier that it has dropped by 35 per cent in Wales. The way in which you are pointing the figure at your Liberal Democrat colleagues in Cardiff is disgraceful. I am making a plea to the council to bring its delayed transfers of care bed averages down to the Welsh average. I am not asking it to be superhuman; just to bring the levels down to the Welsh average, which would probably release some 40 beds, which is what UHW needs. Likewise on the 88 per cent figure to be seen within four hours. We are now at the January peak, which we always get—I agree: this January is worse than previous Januaries—but on whether I can guarantee that it will be better next week, no, of course I cannot, because I do not know whether there might be an influenza epidemic next week. There is no sign of one, but we all know that an influenza epidemic can come along at any time and suddenly flood in. The hospital has maintained elective surgery, it has not abandoned it, and is able to keep to its 88 per cent, although that is not as high as it should be, at 95 per cent. However, that is not unusual in January, and I hope that the figure will come down soon. Usually, this kind of crisis stops at the end of January, but you cannot give a guarantee because you do not know what the flow of influenza epidemics, or other epidemics, such as bronchitis, may be.

Ysbyty Athrofaol Cymru, ond yr oedd y nyrsys, ar ran eu cleifion, yn ceisio ymateb gennych heddiw i'r perwyl y byddai ansawdd y gofal a'r gwasanaeth a gynigiant i'w cleifion, y credant ei fod yn is o lawer na'r hyn y dylai unrhyw fod dynol ei ddioddef, yn newid. A fydd yr un fath yn yr ysbyty athrofaol yr wythnos nesaf, neu a gymerwch gamau ar unwaith i sicrhau y caiff y mater hwn ei gywiro ac na cheir pobl ar drolïau, yn aros mewn coridorau am 24, 48, neu, yn yr achos hwn, 51 o oriau?

Y Prif Weinidog: Ni wn o ble y cawsoch ffigurau sy'n dangos bod mwy o achosion o oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal yn Ysbyty Athrofaol Cymru. Eglurais yn gynharach fod y nifer wedi gostwng 35 y cant yng Nghymru. Mae'r modd yr ydych yn cyhuddo'ch cyd-Ddemocratiaid Rhyddfrydol yng Nghaerdydd yn warthus. Yr wyf yn erfyn ar y cyngor i ostwng nifer yr achosion o oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal i'r cyfartaledd yng Nghymru. Nid wyf yn gofyn iddo gyflawni'r amhosibl; dim ond gostwng y lefelau i'r cyfartaledd yng Nghymru, ac mae'n debyg y byddai hynny'n fodd i ryddhau tua 40 o welyau, sef yr hyn y mae ar Ysbyty Athrofaol Cymru ei angen. Mae hynny'n wir hefyd am y ffigur ar gyfer gweld 88 y cant o fewn pedair awr. Yr ydym wedi cyrraedd y brig a welir bob amser ym mis Ionawr—yr wyf yn cytuno: mae mis Ionawr eleni'n waeth na'r rhai blaenorol—ond ynghylch a allaf warantu y bydd yn well yr wythnos nesaf, na allaf, wrth gwrs, gan na wn a geir llawer o achosion o'r fflw yr wythnos nesaf. Nid oes arwydd o hynny, ond gwyddom y gellir cael cynnydd sydyn yn nifer yr achosion o'r fflw ar unrhyw adeg. Mae'r ysbyty wedi parhau â llawdriniaeth ddewisol, nid yw wedi rhoi'r gorau iddi, a gall ddal at yr 88 y cant, er nad yw hynny cyn uchod ag y dylai fod, sef 95 y cant. Fodd bynnag, nid yw hynny'n anarferol ym mis Ionawr, a gobeithiaf y bydd y ffigur yn gostwng cyn hir. Fel arfer, mae argyfwng o'r math hwn yn dod i ben ddiwedd Ionawr, ond ni ellir rhoi sicrwydd o hynny gan na wyddys pa gynnydd a geir yn nifer yr achosion o'r fflw a heintiau eraill.

**Stigma y Mae Cleifion Iechyd Meddwl yn ei Ddioddef
The Stigma Suffered by Mental Health Patients**

Q4 David Melding: Will the First Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's policy to reduce the stigma suffered by mental health patients? OAQ0093(FM)

The First Minister: There should be no stigma, but that is easier said than done. I was interested to read Jane Hutt's evidence and your evidence, which was as frank as usual, David, on the draft mental health Bill, when the joint committee took evidence from the Health and Social Services Committee, which you chair, and the Minister for Health and Social Services a couple of days ago. Making mental health services more available is part of the national service framework, but it is important that people realise that the traditional British stiff upper lip is not the right way to regard mental health. If you have a mental health problem, you should have it treated in the same way as you would a physical health problem.

David Melding: A generation ago, it was uncommon for people to talk commonly about cancer for fear that they may somehow get the condition. Cancer affects around a third of the population. Mental health problems affect around a quarter of the population and many people in the Assembly will suffer from such problems at some point in their lives. Mental health problems are also effectively treated, and most people who suffer pose no danger, other than to themselves sometimes, but, with effective care, they can recover fully. We must get that message across, so that people access services, get on the road to recovery and maintain their wellbeing afterwards. That means that we as politicians must take a lead and be positive in our discussions of mental health in general.

The First Minister: I agree. My grandmother was one of the first patients to be treated for cancer through radium therapy at the old Whitchurch Hospital, which is now called Felindre Hospital. I did not like to talk about it because you had to explain that your grandmother was in Whitchurch—there was

C4 David Melding: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad ar bolisi Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar leihau'r stigma y mae cleifion iechyd meddwl yn ei ddiodeff? OAQ0093(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Ni ddylid cael unrhyw stigma, ond mae'n haws dweud na gwneud yn hyn o beth. Yr oedd o ddiddordeb imi ddarllen tystiolaeth Jane Hutt a'ch tystiolaeth chi, a oedd mor blaen ag arfer, David, a roesoch ar y Mesur iechyd meddwl drafft, pan wnaeth y cyd-bwyllgor gymryd tystiolaeth gan y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, yr ydych yn gadeirydd arno, a chan y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ychydig ddyddiau'n ôl. Mae peri y bydd gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl ar gael yn haws yn un agwedd ar y fframwaith gwasanaeth cenedlaethol, ond mae'n bwysig i bobl sylweddoli y dylid bod yn agored ynghylch iechyd meddwl. Os oes gennych broblem iechyd meddwl, dylai gael ei thrin yn yr un modd ag y câi problem iechyd corfforol.

David Melding: Genhedlaeth yn ôl, yr oedd yn anarferol fel arfer i bobl sôn am ganser rhag ofn iddynt gael yr anhwylder rywsut drwy wneud hynny. Mae cancer yn effeithio ar tua un rhan o dair o'r boblogaeth. Mae problemau iechyd meddwl yn effeithio ar tua chwarter o'r boblogaeth a bydd llawer yn y Cynulliad yn profi problemau o'r fath ar ryw adeg yn ystod eu bywyd. Gellir trin problemau iechyd meddwl yn effeithiol hefyd, ac nid yw'r rhan fwyaf o'r bobl sy'n eu profi yn achosi perygl i neb, heblaw hwy eu hunain weithiau, ac, o gael gofal effeithiol, gallant gael iachâd llwyr. Rhaid inni gyfleu'r neges honno, fel y bydd pobl yn defnyddio gwasanaethau, yn dechrau ymadfer ac yn parhau'n iach wedyn. Mae hynny'n golygu bod rhaid i ni fel gwleidyddion roi arweiniad a bod yn gadarnhaol yn ein trafodaethau ar iechyd meddwl yn gyffredinol.

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn cytuno. Fy mam-gu oedd un o'r cleifion cyntaf a gafodd driniaeth ar gyfer canser drwy therapi radiwm yn hen Ysbyty'r Eglwys Newydd, a elwir yn awr yn Ysbyty Felindre. Nid oeddwn yn hoffi sôn am hynny gan fod rhaid ichi egluro bod eich mam-gu yn Ysbyty'r Eglwys Newydd—

no distinction between Felindre and Whitchurch. One of the reasons for separating the names of the two hospitals was that people did not like referring to the fact that their grandmother, or whoever, was in Whitchurch. You would quickly follow that with, 'but being treated for cancer'. It is a complete nonsense that we should have that distinction between being treated for diseases that are seen as okay and those which are not. It is nothing like as bad as it was 50 years ago, but we must continue to press for de-stigmatisation and for early recognition and coming forward for treatment, particularly for men perhaps. If people recognise that they have a problem, they should come forward for the treatment that is available.

Jocelyn Davies: The proposed mental health Bill does nothing to reduce stigma, but instead makes a clear link between mental ill health and the criminal justice system. That is appalling, and it will perhaps take us back those 50 years that you mentioned. The Bill mentions a code of practice. Will you clarify that codes of practice must comply with the law, and cannot be relied upon to protect patients from the thrust of this Bill?

The First Minister: I might get myself into difficulties if I attempt to answer this on my feet. You are certainly right that there are two particular categories of patients that the draft mental health Bill attempts to deal with, whether it gets through before the election, or it is carried over to the period after the election. The two categories are, first, people with schizophrenia, who for some reason or another, fail to take their medication at a certain point and do something when they are totally off the rails, and secondly, people who are regarded as untreatable, namely those with a psychopathic personality disorder, and which are sometimes classed as non-treatable, although psychiatrists disagree on that. The important point about the code of practice about which Jane spoke when she gave evidence before Christmas in the same session as the Health and Social Services Committee, is that we are attracted by some of the protection that is conferred on people against this kind of improper compulsion by

nid oedd gwahaniaeth rhwng Ysbyty Felindre ac Ysbyty'r Eglwys Newydd. Un o'r rhesymau dros roi gwahanol enwau i'r ddau ysbyty oedd nad oedd pobl yn hoffi cyfeirio at y ffaith bod eu mam-gu, neu bwy bynnag, yn ysbyty'r Eglwys Newydd. Dywedech 'yn cael triniaeth ar gyfer canser' yn syth ar ôl hynny. Nonsens llwyr yw gwahaniaethu o'r fath rhwng triniaeth ar gyfer clefydau yr ystyrir eu bod yn iawn a rhai sydd fel arall. Mae ymhell o fod cyn waethed ag ydoedd 50 mlynedd yn ôl, ond rhaid inni ddal i bwysu dros ddileu'r stigma ac am i bobl gydnabod yn gynnar fod ganddynt broblem a mynd i gael triniaeth, yn enwedig yn achos dynion o bosibl. Os yw pobl yn gweld bod ganddynt broblem, dylent ddod ymlaen i gael y driniaeth sydd ar gael.

Jocelyn Davies: Nid oes dim yn y Mesur iechyd meddwl a gynigiwyd a wnaiff leihau stigma, ond, yn hytrach, mae'n creu cyswllt clir rhwng afiechyd meddwl a'r system cyfiawnder troseddol. Mae hynny'n warthus, ac mae'n bosibl y bydd yn peri inni fynd yn ôl yr 50 mlynedd y cyfeiriasoch atynt. Mae'r Mesur yn sôn am god ymarfer. A wnewch egluro bod rhaid i godau ymarfer gydymffurfio â'r gyfraith, ac na ellir dibynnu arnynt i amddiffyn cleifion rhag effaith y Mesur hwn?

Y Prif Weinidog: Efallai yr af i drafferthion os ceisïaf ateb hyn yn syth. Yr ydych yn sicr yn iawn wrth ddweud bod dau ddosbarth penodol o gleifion y mae'r Mesur iechyd meddwl drafft hwn yn ceisio delio â hwy, pa un a aiff drwodd cyn yr etholiad, neu a gaiff ei drosglwyddo i'r cyfnod ar ôl yr etholiad. Y ddau ddosbarth yw, yn gyntaf, rhai sydd â sgitsoffrenia sydd, am ryw reswm neu'i gilydd, yn methu â chymryd eu meddyginiaeth rywbyrd ac yn gwneud rhywbeth wedi iddynt fynd ar gyfeiliorn ac, yn ail, pobl y bernir nad oes modd eu trin, sef y rhai sydd ag anhwylder personoliaeth seicopathig, ac a ystyrir weithiau'n rhai na ellir eu trin, er bod seiciatryddion yn anghytuno ar hynny. Y pwynt pwysig am y cod ymarfer y soniodd Jane amdano pan roddodd dystiolaeth cyn y Nadolig yn yr un sesiwn â'r Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, yw ein bod yn cymeradwyo peth o'r amddiffyniad a roddir i bobl rhag gorfodaeth amhriodol o'r fath gan

the Scottish legislation, and we will be making our feelings clear on that. Likewise, we have asked for maximum discretion in writing the subordinate legislation, so that we can incorporate that code of practice into our legislation in Wales.

2.40 p.m.

Jeff Cuthbert: One of the greatest problems faced by many people who have, or have had a mental health problem, is getting back into the job market. Do you agree that organisations like the Confederation of British Industry and Jobcentre Plus need to provide a programme of education to encourage employers to take seriously applications from people who have, or have had, mental health problems in the same way as they would take seriously an application from anyone else?

The First Minister: Yes. That is an important point and is relevant to the Pathways to Work experiment currently conducted by the Department for Work and Pensions in the Rhondda Cynon Taf and Bridgend area with strong professional support from us. Over 40 per cent of those who specify either a physical or mental incapacity actually specify the latter. People might think that the percentage is around 5 or 10 per cent, but it is over 40 per cent. It is important to ensure that those who are dependent on incapacity or invalidity benefits but who could access a job under the right circumstances, are encouraged to return to work and gain the self-confidence that that would give them. Although we are in the early days of that experiment, it looks good, which is one of the reasons why it has been extended to other parts of the UK. The Rhondda Cynon Taf and Bridgend area includes around 12 per cent of the population of Wales, but probably around 15 or 16 per cent of those dependent on incapacity and other analogous long-term sickness benefits. The experiment is going well—we contribute the GP support, occupational therapist and physiotherapist support and the DWP provides the money.

Kirsty Williams: The Scottish Executive has ring-fenced funds for an anti-stigma

ddeddfwriaeth yr Alban, a byddwn yn dangos ein teimladau ynghylch hynny. Yn yr un modd, yr ydym wedi gofyn am gael y disgresiwn mwyaf posibl wrth lunio'r is-ddeddfwriaeth, fel y gallwn ymgorffori'r cod ymarfer hwnnw yn ein deddfwriaeth yng Nghymru.

Jeff Cuthbert: Un o'r problemau mwyaf a wynebir gan lawer sydd neu a fu â phroblem iechyd meddwl yw dychwelyd i'r farchnad swyddi. A ydych yn cytuno y dylai cyrff fel Cydffederasiwn Diwydiant Prydain a Canolfan Byd Gwaith gynnig rhaglen addysg i annog cyflogwyr i gymryd ceisiadau gan rai sydd neu a fu â phroblemau iechyd meddwl o ddifrif yn yr un modd ag y byddent yn ystyried cais gan unrhyw un arall?

Y Prif Weinidog: Ydwyf. Mae hwnnw'n bwynt pwysig ac mae'n berthnasol i arbrawf Llwybrau at Waith sy'n cael ei gynnal ar hyn o bryd gan yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau yn ardal Rhondda Cynon Taf a Phen-y-bont ar Ogwr gyda chefnogaeth broffesiynol helaeth gennym ni. Mae mwy na 40 y cant o'r rhai sy'n nodi analluogrwydd corfforol neu feddyliol yn nodi'r olaf. Gallai pobl dybio bod y ganran tua 5 neu 10 y cant, ond mae'n fwy na 40 y cant. Mae'n bwysig sicrhau y bydd y rhai sy'n dibynnu ar fudd-daliadau analluogrwydd neu analluedd ond a allai gael swydd o dan yr amgylchiadau iawn, yn cael eu hannog i ailddechrau gweithio ac ennill yr hunanhyder a gaent drwy hynny. Er mai newydd ddechrau y mae'r arbrawf hwnnw, mae'n argoeli'n dda, a dyna un o'r rhesymau y mae wedi'i ymestyn i rannau eraill o'r DU. Mae ardal Rhondda Cynon Taf a Phen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn cynnwys tua 12 y cant o boblogaeth Cymru, ond tua 15 neu 16 y cant, mae'n debyg, o'r rhai sy'n dibynnu ar fudd-dal analluogrwydd a budd-daliadau tebyg ar gyfer salwch tymor hir. Mae'r arbrawf yn mynd yn dda—ni sy'n cyfrannu'r cymorth gan feddygon teulu, therapyddion galwedigaethol a ffisiotherapyddion a'r DWP sy'n rhoi'r arian.

Kirsty Williams: Mae Gweithrediaeth yr Alban wedi clustnodi arian ar gyfer ymgyrch

campaign in this area. What will the Welsh Assembly Government do to match that spending?

The First Minister: We do not have any current proposals that I am aware of. I will write to you if something of that sort is under consideration. I mentioned that we were attracted to some aspects of the Scottish legislation. We are currently trying to seek the maximum discretion to implement the draft mental health Bill if it becomes an Act of Parliament later this year, so that we can implement it in the way that we want. That might be the time to have an anti-stigma campaign, which I strongly support.

yn erbyn stigma yn y maes hwn. Beth a wnaiff Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru o ran sicrhau gwariant tebyg?

Y Prif Weinidog: Ni wn am unrhyw gynigion ar hyn o bryd. Ysgrifennaf atoch os yw rhywbeth o'r fath yn cael ei ystyried. Dywedais ein bod yn hoff o rai agweddau ar ddeddfwriaeth yr Alban. Ar hyn o bryd, yr ydym yn ceisio cael y disgrisiwn mwyaf posibl wrth roi'r Mesur iechyd meddwl drafft ar waith os gwneir ef yn Ddeddf Seneddol yn ddiweddarach eleni, fel y gallwn ei gweithredu yn y modd a ddymunwn. Efallai mai honno yw'r adeg y dylid cael ymgyrch yn erbyn stigma, a gefnogaf yn gryf.

Entrepreneuriaeth Entrepreneurship

Q5 Lorraine Barrett: What action is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to encourage entrepreneurship in Wales? OAQ0094(FM)

C5 Lorraine Barrett: Pa gamau y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn eu cymryd i hybu entrepreneuriaeth yng Nghymru? OAQ0094(FM)

The First Minister: This is a key priority of 'A Winning Wales', being actively and effectively taken forward by our partners, brought together by the Welsh Development Agency as part of the entrepreneurship action plan.

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae hyn yn flaenoriaeth allweddol yn 'Cymru'n Ennill', a hyrwyddir yn egnïol ac yn effeithiol gan ein partneriaid, dan nawdd Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru fel rhan o'r cynllun gweithredu entrepreneuriaeth.

Lorraine Barrett: I am sure that you would agree that financial risk and fear of failure can prevent people from taking that first step into business. Will you therefore join me in congratulating the success of the enterprise rehearsal project run by the Wales Co-operative Centre, which helps people claiming benefits to set up their own business and trade for six months without losing any of their benefits?

Lorraine Barrett: Yr wyf yn siŵr y cytunech fod risg ariannol ac ofn methiant yn gallu atal rhai rhag cymryd y cam cyntaf hwnnw mewn busnes. Gan hynny, a wnewch ymuno â mi i ganmol llwyddiant y prosiect ymarfer menter sy'n cael ei redeg gan Ganolfan Cydweithredol Cymru, sy'n helpu pobl sy'n hawlio budd-daliadau i sefydlu eu busnes eu hunain a masnachu am chwe mis heb golli unrhyw un o'u budd-daliadau?

The First Minister: Yes I strongly agree with you. I should declare an interest as a charter founding director of the Wales Co-operative Centre a quarter of a century ago. It does a valuable job. The scheme that you have just outlined, with flexibility on benefit retention, is not unlike what happens with Pathways to Work. In other words, you take the risk and you do not lose all your access to benefits if anything goes wrong in taking a job, or if the business goes wrong in terms of a new enterprise. An enterprise rehearsal

Y Prif Weinidog: Cytunaf yn gryf â chi. Dylwn ddatgan buddiant gan y bŵm yn gyfarwyddwr sefydlu i Ganolfan Cydweithredol Cymru chwarter canrif yn ôl. Gwnaiff waith gwerthfawr. Mae'r cynllun yr ydych newydd ei ddisgrifio, sy'n cynnig hyblygrwydd o ran cadw budd-daliadau, yn ddigon tebyg i'r hyn sy'n digwydd yn achos Llwybrau at Waith. Mewn geiriau eraill, yr ydych yn mentro ac nid ydych yn colli'ch hawl i gael budd-daliadau os aiff rhywbeth o'i le wrth gymryd swydd, neu os aiff menter

allows you to give it a try without the fear of losing money or going through a huge bureaucratic process to regain access to a benefit package. That is important. It is a pathway out of unemployment or inactivity. Although we are closer than we have been for 30 years to full employment, there is still room for an increase in enterprise activity, which usually takes two forms. The first is senior managers in companies or research laboratories who have plenty of money and access to being able to re-mortgage their house, and who have many business contacts. They are usually the most successful survivors in new business. However, there are also the instant muscle types, who set up small companies and have some kind of trade skills and can put themselves forward in building, printing, small engineering, shop-keeping and so on. I think that the enterprise rehearsal is particularly relevant to such people.

Alun Cairns: In response to Lorraine Barrett, you said that entrepreneurship was an important part of 'A Winning Wales', but its real purpose is to raise the relative GDP in Wales in comparison to the rest of the UK. From your response to Elin Jones earlier, it seems that the strategy that the Welsh Assembly Government is following is that we should not worry if we fail in raising relative GDP in west Wales and the Valleys, because we will qualify, once again, for Objective 1 funding. You used the phrase 'a bonus'. Is it not the reality that your policies are failing so badly that even if we do qualify for Objective 1 funding in west Wales and the Valleys, it will be a booby prize because of your dreadful policies?

The First Minister: We have a record level of jobs—1,335,000 jobs. You can shake your head—you obviously do not like that fact, because you are a Conservative. The number of people on the dole in Wales is now one third of what it was, on average, during the 18-year period when the Conservatives were in power. Job numbers are at a record level—1,335,000 jobs. You do not like that, and you would prefer that we were like Bangladesh, or that we had 50 per cent unemployment rates. It was your party which had 15 per cent unemployment rates; we have brought it down one third of that level. We have

newydd i'r gwellt. Mae'r prosiect ymarfer menter yn caniatáu ichi roi cynnig arni heb ofni colli arian neu fynd drwy broses fiwrocataidd anferth i adennill yr hawl i gael pecyn o fudd-daliadau. Mae hynny'n bwysig. Mae'n cynnig ffordd allan o ddiweithdra neu anweithgarwch. Er ein bod yn agosach nag y buom er 30 mlynedd at gael cyflogaeth lawn, mae lle o hyd i fwy o weithgarwch drwy fentrau, y ceir dau fath ohono fel arfer. Y cyntaf yw uwch reolwyr mewn cwmnïau neu labordai ymchwil sydd â digon o arian ac sy'n gallu ailforgeisio eu tŷ, ac sydd â llawer o gysylltiadau busnes. Hwyl fel arfer yw'r rhai gorau am oroesi mewn busnes newydd. Fodd bynnag, ceir rhai hefyd sy'n mentro'n sydyn, sy'n sefydlu cwmnïau bach ac sydd â rhyw fath o sgiliau crefft ac sy'n gallu mentro ym maes adeiladu, argraffu, gwaith peirianegol ar raddfa fach, cadw siop ac yn y blaen. Credaf fod y prosiect ymarfer menter yn arbennig o berthnasol i bobl o'r fath.

Alun Cairns: Mewn ymateb i Lorraine Barrett, dywedasoch fod entrepreneuriaeth yn rhan bwysig o 'Cymru'n Ennill', ond ei wir ddiben yw codi lefel CMC yng Nghymru o'i gymharu â gweddill y DU. Yn ôl eich ymateb i Elin Jones yn gynharach, ymddengys mai'r strategaeth y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ei dilyn yw na ddylem boeni os methwn â chodi CMC cymharol yn y Gorllewin a'r Cymoedd, gan y byddwn yn gymwys, unwaith eto, i gael arian Amcan 1. Defnyddiasoch y gair 'bonws'. Onid y gwir yw bod eich polisiau'n methu cymaint fel mai'r hyn a gawn, hyd yn oed os byddwn yn gymwys i gael arian Amcan 1 yn y Gorllewin a'r Cymoedd, yw'r llwy bren oherwydd eich polisiau ofnadwy?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae gennym y nifer mwyaf erioed o swyddi—1,335,000 o swyddi. Cewch ysgwyd eich pen—mae'n amlwg nad ydych yn hoffi'r ffaith honno, gan mai Ceidwadwr ydych. Mae nifer y rhai sydd ar y dôl yng Nghymru yn un rhan o dair o'r hyn ydoedd, ar gyfartaledd, yn ystod y cyfnod o 18 mlynedd y bu'r Ceidwadwyr mewn grym. Mae nifer y swyddi ar ei uchaf erioed—1,335,000 o swyddi. Nid ydych yn hoffi hynny, a byddai'n well gennych pe byddem fel Bangladesh, neu pe byddai gennym gyfraddau diweithdra o 50 y cant. Eich plaid chi a gafodd gyfradd diweithdra o

brought down the rate by 42 per cent, which is far greater than any other part of the United Kingdom, since devolution—from 7.7 to 4.4 per cent. Try to drill those figures into your head, Alun. Unemployment was 7.7 per cent at the time of devolution, and now it is 4.4 per cent. It was 75 per cent higher when devolution was introduced than it is today in Wales. No other part of the United Kingdom comes close to that.

With regard to GVA, I mentioned earlier that there was a £2 billion rise in GVA in the first definitive figures for GVA that we have had in 10 years, which is a long time. GVA for Wales went up by £2 billion. Do you like having an extra £2 billion? You probably would have preferred it if the figure had gone down by £2 billion. The definitive figures show that GVA went up from £35 billion in 2002 to £37 billion in 2003. Those are the latest figures we have. Only one part of the United Kingdom increased its GVA by more than that—the East Midlands was up by 6.3 per cent, in Wales it was up by 6 per cent, and in the UK as a whole it was up by 5 per cent. Therefore, we are closing the gap. No other part of the United Kingdom comes close to us, overall, in terms of job numbers, reduction in unemployment or our GVA improvement in 2003.

John Griffiths: Would you agree that the concert at the Millennium Stadium last weekend, which raised such a considerable amount for charity, involved tremendous entrepreneurial qualities on behalf of Paul Sargeant and others who undertook the organisation in just a few weeks? Arranging such a successful and productive event showed tremendous ability, energy, dynamism, commitment and imagination.

The First Minister: Strictly speaking, it was probably enterprise and not entrepreneurship that was responsible. However, I agree that it was a brilliant performance. A senior figure in the music industry who had been connected with the Live Aid concert 21 years ago, said that if he had been asked three weeks ago to stage a big, spectacular concert in three weeks, he would not have bothered

15 y cant; yr ydym wedi'i gostwng i un rhan o dair o'r lefel honno. Yr ydym wedi gostwng y gyfradd o 42 y cant, sy'n fwy o lawer nag mewn unrhyw ran arall o'r Deyrnas Unedig, ers datganoli—o 7.7 i 4.4 y cant. Ceisiwch gofio'r ffigurau hynny, Alun. Yr oedd diweithdra yn 7.7 y cant ar adeg datganoli, ac mae bellach yn 4.4 y cant. Yr oedd yn 75 y cant yn uwch pan gyflwynwyd datganoli nag y mae heddiw. Nid oes yr un rhan arall o'r Deyrnas Unedig a ddaw'n agos at hynny.

Gyda golwg ar werth ychwanegol crynswth, dywedais yn gynharach fod cynnydd o £2 biliwn yn y GVA yn y ffigurau swyddogol cyntaf ar gyfer GVA a gawsom mewn 10 mlynedd, sy'n gyfnod hir. Cododd GVA ar gyfer Cymru o £2 biliwn. A ydych yn hoffi cael £2 biliwn ychwanegol? Mae'n debyg y buasai'n well gennych pe byddai'r ffigurau wedi gostwng o £2 biliwn. Dengys y ffigurau swyddogol fod GVA wedi codi o £35 biliwn yn 2002 i £37 biliwn yn 2003. Dyna'r ffigurau diweddaraf sydd gennym. Dim ond un rhan o'r Deyrnas Unedig a gododd ei GVA yn fwy na hynny—cododd o 6.3 y cant yn Nwyrain Canolbarth Lloegr, cododd o 6 y cant yng Nghymru, a chododd o 5 y cant yn y DU gyfan. Felly, yr ydym yn cau'r bwlch. Nid oes yr un rhan arall o'r Deyrnas Unedig sy'n debyg i ni, yn gyffredinol, o ran nifer y swyddi, lleihau diweithdra neu ein gwelliant o ran GVA yn 2003.

John Griffiths: A gytunech fod y cyngerdd yn Stadiwm y Mileniwm y penwythnos diwethaf, a gododd swm mor sylweddol ar gyfer elusennau, yn gofyn rhinweddau entrepreneuriaidd aruthrol ar ran Paul Sargeant ac eraill a'i trefnodd o fewn ychydig wythnosau? Yr oedd trefnu digwyddiad mor llwyddiannus a chynhyrchiol yn amlygu gallu, egni, deinamigrwydd, ymroddiad a dychymyg aruthrol.

Y Prif Weinidog: A bod yn fanwl, mae'n debyg mai menter yn hytrach nag entrepreneuriaeth a oedd yn gyfrifol. Er hynny, cytunaf ei fod yn berfformiad gwych. Dywedodd rhywun blaenllaw yn y diwydiant cerddoriaeth a fu'n gysylltiedig â chyngerdd Live Aid 21 mlynedd yn ôl, pe byddai rhywun wedi gofyn iddo dair wythnos yn ôl drefnu cyngerdd mawr, ysblennydd o fewn

trying, as it would have been impossible. Paul Sargeant and his team did the impossible, and they deserve our credit and the credit of the people of Wales and Britain. We can be enormously proud of what they did. It shows that the impossible can be done in three weeks in Wales. That message will ring around the world, because no-one else could do it. It would normally take three to four months to organise, but it was done brilliantly in three weeks.

tair wythnos, na fyddai wedi trafferthu i roi cynnig arni, gan y buasai'n amhosibl. Mae Paul Sargeant a'i dim wedi cyflawni'r amhosibl, ac maent yn haeddu ein clod a chlod pobl Cymru a Phrydain. Gallwn ymfalchïo'n aruthrol yn yr hyn a wnaethant. Mae hyn yn dangos fod modd cyflawni'r amhosibl o fewn tair wythnos yng Nghymru. Aiff y neges honno ar led drwy'r byd, gan nad oedd neb arall yn gallu ei wneud. Fel arfer, cymerai dri neu bedwar mis i'w drefnu, ond gwnaed hynny'n wych o fewn tair wythnos.

Ennyn Diddordeb Pobl Ifanc yn y Gwyddorau Encouraging Young People's Interest in the Sciences

Q6 Christine Chapman: What is the Welsh Assembly Government doing to encourage young people's interest in the sciences? OAQ0073(FM)

C6 Christine Chapman: Beth mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ei wneud i ennyn diddordeb pobl ifanc yn y gwyddorau? OAQ0073(FM)

The First Minister: We are changing the nature of the science curriculum by introducing the applied science GCSE to help motivate students, who might be a bit turned off, as I was, by science taught in the old strictly talk-and-chalk, Bunsen burner way. That is off-putting, and it needs a different approach. The issue is not the quality, but the style, of teaching which gets people really interested in the subject. I also commend the way that Technquest, in its original form in Cardiff and also its Wrexham version, has helped inspire people to follow their interest in science with a good grasp of how things work, seeing that happen on an interactive, real terms basis, and not just by watching what happens in a slightly staged experiment, or by scribblings on a blackboard.

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydym yn newid natur cwricwlwm y gwyddorau drwy gyflwyno'r TGAU gwyddoniaeth gymwysedig i helpu i ysgogi myfyrwyr, a allai gael eu diflasu, fel y cefais i, gan yr hen ddull o ddysgu'r gwyddorau gyda'r llosgwr Bunsen a'r athro'n sefyll o flaen y bwrdd du. Mae hynny'n ddiflas, ac mae galw am ddull gwahanol. Nid ansawdd y dysgu sydd dan sylw, ond yr arddull, fel y gellir ennyn gwir diddordeb yn y pwnc. Yr wyf hefyd yn cymeradwyo'r modd y mae Technquest, ar ei ffurf wreiddiol yng Nghaerdydd a hefyd yn y fersiwn ohono yn Wrecsam, wedi helpu i ysbrydoli pobl i ddilyn eu diddordeb yn y gwyddorau drwy ddod i ddeall sut y mae pethau'n gweithio, gweld hynny'n digwydd mewn modd rhyngweithiol, go iawn, ac nid drwy ddim ond gwyllo'r hyn sy'n digwydd mewn arbrawf braidd yn ffug, neu drwy sgriblan ar y bwrdd du.

Christine Chapman: It is pleasing to see so many initiatives to encourage young people. You may know that this year has been designated as Einstein year by the Institute of Physics to encourage more young people to take up the subject. Do you share my concern that, currently, even the brightest pupils are not choosing to do physics at A-level in great numbers? Do you agree that the sciences generally have a poor image among young people, and that we must address this if

Christine Chapman: Braf yw gweld cynifer o fentrau i ysgogi pobl ifanc. Efallai y gwyddoch fod y flwyddyn hon wedi'i dynodi'n flwyddyn Einstein gan y Sefydliad Ffiseg i annog mwy o bobl ifanc i gymryd y pwnc. A ydych yn pryderu, fel minnau, nad oes llawer o'r disgyblion disgleiriaf hyd yn oed yn dewis cymryd ffiseg ar y Safon Uwch? A ydych yn cytuno nad yw'r gwyddorau'n atyniadol i bobl ifanc yn gyffredinol, a bod rhaid inni ymdrin â hynny

Wales is to maximise its economic and scientific base?

os yw Cymru i wneud y gorau o'i sylfaen economaidd a gwyddonol?

2.50 p.m.

The First Minister: This is a big problem. Most physics teachers will accept that how science is taught puts off many children. Science's appeal is restricted to those who have high academic ability. People of average, or just below average, ability, find it off-putting, and I put myself in that category.

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae hon yn broblem fawr. Bydd y rhan fwyaf o athrawon ffiseg yn derbyn bod y dull o ddysgu'r gwyddorau'n diflasu llawer o blant. Nid yw'r gwyddorau ond yn apelio i'r rhai sydd â llawer o allu academaidd. Mae rhai o allu cyffredin, neu ychydig o dan y gallu cyffredin, yn eu cael yn ddiflas, ac yr wyf yn fy nghynnwys fy hun yn y categori hwnnw.

People need to be inspired by local, major projects of which they are aware. France has its TGV, its nuclear power stations, the Mirage bomber, and the Arianespace space craft. The Germans have Mercedes-Benz and BMW as sources of inspiration. It is harder to find things that are very British and very glamorous in science terms. In Wales, I hope that the breakthrough in establishing the Institute of Life Science and IBM's giant Blue C computer in Swansea will have the same effect. Schoolchildren aged 13, 14 and 15 will be able to visit the centre and be inspired by its work in trying to conquer the outermost areas of previously unconquerable diseases such as cancer and malaria. All this will be in Swansea.

Rhaid i bobl gael eu hysbrydoli gan brosiectau mawr, lleol y gwyddant amdanynt. Mae gan Ffrainc ei TGV, ei gorsafoedd trydan niwclear, yr awyren fomio Mirage, a llong ofod Arianespace. Mae gan yr Almaenwyr Mercedes-Benz a BMW i'w hysbrydoli. Anodd yw dod o hyd i bethau sy'n Brydeinig iawn neu'n dra deniadol yng nghyd-destun y gwyddorau. Yng Nghymru, yr wyf yn gobeithio y bydd y torri drwodd wrth sefydlu cyfrifiadur mawr Blue C y Sefydliad Gwyddorau Bywyd ac IBM yn Abertawe yn cael yr un effaith. Bydd plant ysgol 13, 14 a 15 oed yn gallu ymweld â'r ganolfan a chael eu hysbrydoli gan ei gwaith i geisio trechu'r agweddau gwaethaf ar afiechydon na fu modd eu gwella o'r blaen fel canser a malaria. Gwneir hynny oll yn Abertawe.

Y Gwahaniaeth rhwng Cyflogau Dynion a Menywod The Disparity in Pay between Men and Women

Q8 Helen Mary Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the disparity in pay between men and women in Wales? OAQ0086(FM)

C8 Helen Mary Jones: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad ar y gwahaniaeth sy'n bodoli rhwng cyflogau dynion a menywod yng Nghymru? OAQ0086(FM)

The First Minister: In cash terms, the disparity continues at around £95, which is regrettable. As a percentage, it has reduced slightly, but remains at an unacceptable 21.5 per cent.

Y Prif Weinidog: O ran arian, mae'r gwahaniaeth yn dal i fod tua £95, ac mae hynny'n destun gofid. Fel canran, mae wedi gostwng ychydig, ond mae'n dal i fod yn annerbyniol ar 21.5 y cant.

Helen Mary Jones: You will be aware that recent research by the GMB identified not only differences between different parts of the UK, but substantial regional differences in terms of the pay gap in Wales. With the exception of the City of London, Anglesey is

Helen Mary Jones: Gwyddoch fod ymchwil ddiweddar gan y GMB wedi canfod nid yn unig fod gwahaniaethau rhwng gwahanol rannau o'r DU, ond bod gwahaniaethau mawr rhwng y rhanbarthau o ran y bwch cyflogau yng Nghymru. Heblaw am Ddinas Llundain,

the worst area in Britain, while Gwynedd is the best, but this was, sadly, because male earnings were lower. Do you agree that the national equal pay campaign should address the regional disparities in Wales as a step towards ultimately closing the gap across the nation, and that it should do this by driving women's wages up rather than men's wages down?

The First Minister: I certainly agree with your last proposition. We have seen a huge generational shift since the mid 1960s and mid 1970s, when Wales was a zone of the United Kingdom, or even of Europe, with remarkably little female employment. The country was totally dominated by the concept of the male breadwinner, with women working for a short time before getting married or having their first child. This has changed, and there are probably more women in the workforce than there are men because of the disappearance of the coal mining industry and the decline of the steel industry as a large employer. There has been a massive social shift, but this has not been combined with equality of wages. We have some way to go before we reach equality, but it is important that we continue to close the gap bit by bit. Slight progress continues to be made, but we need to campaign on equal pay and maintain the Assembly's leadership in this field.

Christine Gwyther: You will be aware that, historically, women in my constituency have been employed on a low-wage, part-time or seasonal basis, or any combination of the three. Schemes such as the New Deal have ameliorated this situation. The biggest lifeline thrown to women in my constituency is the national minimum wage. Will you join me in deploring Liberal Democrat plans for regional variance in the national minimum wage, which would automatically disadvantage my constituents? Will you also join me in condemning the Tories for wanting to scrap the national minimum wage altogether?

The First Minister: Both of these parties had difficulty with the minimum wage and

Ynys Môn yw'r ardal waethaf ym Mhrydain, a Gwynedd yw'r orau, ond yr oedd hynny, gwaetha'r modd, am fod enillion dynion yn is. A gytunwch y dylai'r ymgyrch genedlaethol dros gyflogau cyfartal roi sylw i'r gwahaniaethau rhwng rhanbarthau yng Nghymru fel cam ymlaen tuag at gau'r bwlch yn y pen draw ledled y wlad, ac y dylai wneud hynny drwy yrru cyflogau menywod i fyny yn hytrach na gyrru cyflogau dynion i lawr?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn sicr yn cytuno â'ch gosodiad olaf. Gwelsom newid aruthrol rhwng y cenedlaethau ers canol y 1960au a chanol y 1970au, pan oedd Cymru'n barth o fewn y Deyrnas Unedig, neu Ewrop hyd yn oed, lle'r oedd cyflogaeth ymysg menywod yn hynod brin. Yr oedd y wlad yn llwyr dan ddylanwad y syniad o gael enillydd cyflog gwrywaidd, gyda menywod yn gweithio am ychydig cyn priodi neu gael eu plentyn cyntaf. Mae hynny wedi newid, ac mae'n debyg bod mwy o fenywod nag o ddynion yn y gweithlu am fod y diwydiant cloddio glo wedi diflannu a'r diwydiant dur wedi dirywio fel cyflogwr mawr. Bu newid cymdeithasol aruthrol, ond nid yw cyflogau cyfartal wedi mynd law yn llaw â hynny. Mae gennym gryn waith i'w wneud i sicrhau cydraddoldeb, ond mae'n bwysig inni ddal i gau'r bwlch fesul tipyn. Parheir i wneud ychydig o gynnydd, ond rhaid inni ymgyrchu dros gyflogau cyfartal a pharhau ag arweiniad y Cynulliad yn y maes hwn.

Christine Gwyther: Gwyddoch fod menywod yn fy etholaeth i wedi arfer gweithio am gyflogau isel, yn rhan amser neu'n dymhorol, neu unrhyw gyfuniad o'r tri. Mae cynlluniau fel y Fargen Newydd wedi gwella'r sefyllfa hon. Y rhaff achub bwysicaf a gafodd menywod yn fy etholaeth yw'r isafswm cyflog cenedlaethol. A wnewch ymuno â mi i resynu at gynlluniau'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol i gael gwahaniaethau rhanbarthol yn yr isafswm cyflog cenedlaethol, a fyddai'n sicr o beri anfantais i'm hetholwyr? A wnewch hefyd ymuno â mi i gondemnio'r Torïaid am eu dymuniad i gael gwared ar yr isafswm cyflog cenedlaethol yn gyfan gwbl?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr oedd y ddwy blaid hynny'n ei chael yn anodd derbyn yr isafswm

made bloodcurdling threats about how it would lead to job losses. The number of jobs has continued to climb and is now at a record level. Opposing the minimum wage is almost stereotypical Tory policy, but I do not know why the Liberal Democrats had such a problem with it. They are still opposed to it or are trying to monkey around with it. What is incontrovertible is that the national minimum wage and the subsequent additions to it have not destroyed jobs; they have created additional jobs. As long as it is set at the right rate, it is possible to have it so that it gives a boost to the lowest paid but does not lead to job losses. It is connected to a full-employment economy and is part of the 115,000 to 120,000 net increase in jobs in Wales since devolution five and a half years ago.

cyflog a chyhoeddasant rybuddion brawychus gan ddweud y byddai'n arwain at golli swyddi. Mae nifer y swyddi wedi parhau i godi ac mae bellach ar ei lefel uchaf erioed. Mae gwrthwynebu'r isafswm cyflog yn bolisi Toriaidd ystrydebol bron, ond ni wn pam yr oedd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn ei chael mor anodd ei dderbyn. Maent yn dal i'w wrthwynebu neu'n ceisio ffidlan ag ef. Yr hyn sy'n sicr yw nad yw'r isafswm cyflog cenedlaethol a'r ychwanegiadau ato a gafwyd wedyn wedi dinistrio swyddi; maent wedi creu swyddi ychwanegol. Ar yr amod y caiff ei osod ar y gyfradd briodol, mae modd iddo roi hwb i'r rhai ar y cyflogau isaf ond nid yw'n arwain at golli swyddi. Mae ynghlwm wrth economi sydd â chyflogaeth lawn ac mae wedi cyfrannu at y cynnydd net o 115,000 i 120,000 yn nifer y swyddi yng Nghymru ers datganoli bum mlynedd a hanner yn ôl.

Tlodi Poverty

Q9 Irene James: Will the First Minister make a statement about poverty in Wales? OAQ0077(FM)

C9 Irene James: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad ar dlodi yng Nghymru? OAQ0077(FM)

The First Minister: Tackling poverty across Wales lies at the heart of the Assembly's agenda, and good progress is being made. A range of programmes and policies across the different portfolios, are aimed at combating poverty. Having a strong anti-poverty strategy for children and adults, and implementing it, is important.

Y Prif Weinidog: Mynd i'r afael â thlodi ledled Cymru yw canolbwynt agenda'r Cynulliad, a gwneir cynnydd da. Ceir amryw o raglenni a pholisïau yn y gwahanol bortffolios sydd â'r bwriad o ymladd yn erbyn tlodi. Mae'n bwysig cael strategaeth gadarn yn erbyn tlodi ar gyfer plant ac oedolion, a'i rhoi ar waith.

Irene James: A recent Department of Trade and Industry survey shows that 80 per cent of Welsh consumers are credit users, that 10 per cent of consumers in Wales feel that they have borrowed more than they can afford to repay, and that one in five have fallen into arrears with credit repayments or household bills in the last year. Do you share concern at the growing levels of credit use and over-indebtedness in Wales, especially among those already in poverty? Would you encourage people having difficulties to seek assistance from organisations such as Citizens Advice Bureaux, and to use community-based, low-cost borrowing, such as credit unions, rather than the buy-now, pay-much-more-later-on of many other credit

Irene James: Mae arolwg diweddar gan yr Adran Masnach a Diwydiant yn dangos bod 80 y cant o'r defnyddwyr yng Nghymru'n defnyddio credyd, bod 10 y cant ohonynt wedi cymryd benthyg mwy nag y gallant fforddio ei ad-dalu, a bod un ym mhob pump wedi bod mewn ôl-ddyled wrth dalu'n ôl am gredyd neu dalu biliau domestig yn y flwyddyn a aeth heibio. A ydych yn rhannu'r pryder am y cynnydd yn y defnydd o gredyd ac am lefel yr orddyled yng Nghymru, yn enwedig ymysg y rhai sydd eisoes mewn tlodi? A wnewch annog y rhai sydd mewn trafferthion i geisio cymorth gan gyrff fel Cyngor ar Bopeth, ac i ddefnyddio dulliau rhad, cymunedol o fenthyca, fel yr undebau credyd, yn hytrach na'r dull o brynu'n awr a

schemes? Do you also agree that more research needs to be done to map the nature, extent and causes of over-indebtedness in Wales?

The First Minister: I understand, from those who study this subject more closely than I do, that what normally happens among relatively less well-off people is that they have to spend 100 per cent of their income and can just manage on that. When there is a funeral, or some other unanticipated event, such as the theft of a car, which they have to replace in order to get to work, they will need £500, £600, £1,000, or whatever and they do not have it, so they borrow it. They then cannot get off that treadmill, and may finish up in the hands of loan sharks. The credit unions' special programmes, and CAB advice, can help prevent people from getting into the hands of loan sharks, from whom there is little escape. It is important that people realise that there is good advice available from the CAB, and that there are alternatives available through the credit unions.

Peter Black: The 1998 Welsh House Condition Survey estimates that the number of households in fuel poverty in Wales is 220,000. However, new research by your Government puts the figure for 1998 at 360,000. How are you adjusting your home energy efficiency scheme budget to take account of this discrepancy?

The First Minister: Discrepancy is a strong word to use. Statistics are occasionally revised—I was not aware of that particular one. We are strongly promoting the home energy efficiency scheme. We are big fans of that scheme—we help to fund it—and it is doing a good job in reducing fuel bills. That comes on top of the winter fuel payments from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, which range between £200 and £300, depending on whether you are aged over 70 or over 80, and so on. Taken together, these are important schemes for combating fuel poverty.

thalu llawer mwy yn ddiweddarach a gynigir gan lawer o gynlluniau credyd eraill? A ydych hefyd yn cytuno bod angen gwneud mwy o ymchwil i fesur natur, graddau ac achosion gorddyled yng Nghymru?

Y Prif Weinidog: Cefais wybod, gan y rhai sy'n astudio'r pwnc hwn yn fanylach nag yr ydwyf fi, mai'r hyn a ddigwydd fel arfer ymysg pobl lai cefnog yw eu bod yn gorfod gwario 100 y cant o'u hincwm a'u bod yn gallu cael deupen y llinyn ynghyd. Pan geir angladd, neu ryw ddigwyddiad annisgwyl arall, fel dwyn car, fel bod rhaid iddynt gael un yn ei le er mwyn mynd i'w gwaith, bydd arnynt angen £500, £600, £1,000, neu ba swm bynnag ac nid yw hynny ganddynt, felly maent yn ei gymryd ar fenthyg. Wedyn ni allant ddianc o'r fagl, a gallant fynd i ddwylo usurwyr yn y diwedd. Mae rhaglenni arbennig yr undebau credyd, a chynghorion Cyngor ar Bopeth, yn gallu helpu i atal pobl rhag mynd i ddwylo usurwyr, nad oes bron ddim modd dianc rhagddynt. Mae'n bwysig i bobl sylweddoli bod cyngor da ar gael oddi wrth Cyngor ar Bopeth, a bod dewisiadau eraill ar gael drwy'r undebau credyd.

Peter Black: Yn Arolwg Cyflwr Tai Cymru 1998, amcangyfrifir mai nifer y teuluoedd sydd mewn tloidi tanwydd yng Nghymru yw 220,000. Er hynny, mae ymchwil newydd gan eich Llywodraeth yn pennu ffigur o 360,000 ar gyfer 1998. Sut yr ydych yn addasu'ch cyllideb ar gyfer y cynllun effeithlonrwydd ynni cartref er mwyn rhoi sylw i'r anghysondeb hwn?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae anghysondeb yn air cryf. Caiff ystadegau eu hadolygu weithiau—ni wyddwn am hwnnw. Yr ydym yn hyrwyddo'r cynllun effeithlonrwydd ynni cartref yn egniol. Yr ydym yn frwd iawn dros y cynllun hwnnw—yr ydym yn helpu i'w ariannu—ac mae'n gwneud gwaith da o ran lleihau biliau tanwydd. Mae hynny'n ychwanegol at y taliadau tanwydd gaeaf gan Ganghellor y Trysorlys, sy'n amrywio o £200 i £300, yn ôl pa un a ydych dros 70 oed neu dros 80 oed, ac yn y blaen. Gyda'i gilydd, mae'r cynlluniau hyn yn bwysig i ymladd yn erbyn tloidi tanwydd.

Cysylltiadau Hiliol yn Wrecsam Race Relations in Wrexham

Q10 Eleanor Burnham: Will the First Minister make a statement on race relations in Wrexham? OAQ0096(FM)

The First Minister: I discussed this matter during my walk around Caia Park, as part of the public health initiatives for Health Challenge Wales, last Friday afternoon. I am glad to say that I was told that there have been only the slightest murmurings in Caia Park since the disturbances some 20 months ago. I was relieved to hear that. That does not mean that it will never happen again, but I was told that there had been no repeat of the incident that caused such unhappiness and criticism back in June 2003.

Eleanor Burnham: I have seen at first hand, as you have, the effective work being done by the police, particularly in Caia Park. However, more funding is needed to support their work and to avoid a repeat of Saturday's unfortunate arson incident, when a refugee's car was burned. What are you and your Government doing to ensure that more investment comes forward, not only for policing, but to help to continue community education racial and ethnic intolerance, and, hopefully, to avoid further incidents such as this arson attack?

The First Minister: During the morning session on Friday, I met representatives from the association of voluntary organisations in Wrexham. I also met some people whose exact job titles I have forgotten now; they are not police officers, but work for the police as safety officers. They told me that they had a major role to play in ensuring that things did not get out of hand between different groups of young people that might gather and might think of causing trouble, who might be involved in binge drinking, and who therefore might be tempted to do something foolish. They were confident that, whatever happened, they would be able to handle it jointly with the full-scale police officers.

C10 Eleanor Burnham: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad ar gysylltiadau hiliol yn Wrecsam? OAQ0096(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Trafodais y mater hwn wrth gerdded o gwmpas Parc Caia, fel rhan o'r mentrau iechyd cyhoeddus ar gyfer Her Iechyd Cymru, brynhawn Gwener diwethaf. Yr wyf yn falch o ddweud fy mod wedi cael fy hysbysu na chafwyd ond y murmuron lleiaf ym Mharc Caia ers yr helyntion tua 20 mis yn ôl. Yr oeddwn yn falch o glywed hynny. Nid yw hynny'n golygu na wnaiff byth ddigwydd eto, ond dywedwyd wrthyf na fu digwyddiad wedyn o'r math a achosodd y fath anfodlonrwydd a beirniadaeth yn ôl ym Mehefin 2003.

Eleanor Burnham: Gwelais â'm llygaid fy hun, fel y gwnaethoch chi, y gwaith effeithiol a wneir gan yr heddlu, yn enwedig ym Mharc Caia. Fodd bynnag, mae angen rhagor o arian i gynnal eu gwaith a sicrhau na cheir digwyddiad tebyg eto i'r achos anffodus o losgi bwriadol ar ddydd Sadwrn, pan losgwyd car o eiddo ffoadur. Pa gamau yr ydych chi a'ch Llywodraeth yn eu cymryd i sicrhau y ceir mwy o fuddsoddi, nid yn unig ar gyfer plismona, ond i helpu i barhau ag addysg gymunedol ynghylch anoddefgarwch hiliol ac ethnig a, gobeithio, i sicrhau na cheir digwyddiadau pellach yn debyg i'r llosgi bwriadol hwnnw?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yn ystod sesiwn y bore ar ddydd Gwener, cyfarfûm â chynrychiolwyr cymdeithas y cyrff gwirfoddol yn Wrecsam. Cyfarfûm hefyd â rhai na chofiaf union deitl eu swyddi'n awr; nid heddweision ydynt, ond maent yn gweithio i'r heddlu fel swyddogion diogelwch. Dywedasant wrthyf fod ganddynt ran bwysig i'w chwarae wrth sicrhau nad âi pethau dros ben llestri rhwng gwahanol grwpiau o bobl ifanc a allai ymgasglu ac a allai ystyried achosi helynt, a allai oryfed ar brydiau, a chael eu temtio felly i wneud rhywbeth ffôl. Yr oeddent yn ffyddiog, ni waeth beth a ddigwyddai, y byddent yn gallu ei drafod ar y cyd â'r heddweision cyflawn.

**Cwestiwn Brys
Urgent Question**

**Colli Swyddi yn Sony
Job Losses at Sony**

Janice Gregory: Will the Minister make a statement on the job losses at the Sony UK sites in Pencoed and Bridgend? EAQ0063 (EDT)

Janice Gregory: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar golli swyddi yn safleoedd Sony UK ym Mhen-coed a Phen-y-bont ar Ogwr? EAQ0063 (EDT)

3.00 p.m.

The Minister for Economic Development and Transport (Andrew Davies): Like all Members I am sure, I was disappointed by Sony's announcement last week. The reason for the redundancies is that the company is restructuring its manufacturing facilities in Wales following a fall in the sale of cathode ray tube televisions. My officials, and those of the WDA, are working with the company to help those affected by this announcement. Jobcentre Plus is to meet Sony officials to discuss the potential significant redundancies. I know that the company and the trade unions appreciate the work that you and Carwyn Jones, as the local AMs, have done in supporting the company over several years, and at the time of this announcement.

Y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth (Andrew Davies): Fel yr holl Aelodau, yr wyf yn siŵr, cefais fy siomi gan gyhoeddiad Sony yr wythnos diwethaf. Y rheswm am y diswyddiadau yw bod y cwmni'n ad-drefnu ei gyfleusterau gweithgynhyrchu yng Nghymru yn dilyn gostyngiad yng ngwerthiant setiau teledu â thiwb pelydrau cathod. Mae fy swyddogion i, a rhai'r WDA, yn gweithio gyda'r cwmni i helpu'r rhai a effeithiwyd gan y cyhoeddiad hwn. Bydd Canolfan Byd Gwaith yn cwrdd â swyddogion Sony i drafod y nifer sylweddol o ddiswyddiadau y gellid ei gael. Gwn fod y cwmni a'r undebau llafur yn gwerthfawrogi'r gwaith a wnaethoch chi a Carwyn Jones, fel yr ACau lleol, wrth gefnogi'r cwmni dros sawl blwyddyn, ac ar adeg y cyhoeddiad hwn.

The company has assured us that, where possible, redundancies will be achieved by voluntary means on enhanced packages. With over 1,200 employees after the job losses, I am pleased to say that Sony remains a major employer in the Bridgend area. The Assembly Government and I remain committed to working with the company on a strategy to help it diversify its operations in Wales, and that is why I am delighted that Sony has invested in the digital satellite technium at Pencoed and is also involved in the development of a creative media centre with Swansea Institute of Higher Education. I understand that the managing director of Sony UK is keen to put jobs back into Wales, and is in discussion with Japan about moving high-end technical jobs to Pencoed. I plan to visit Japan at Easter, when I hope to meet Sony representatives to discuss its future operations in Wales.

Mae'r cwmni wedi ein sicrhau y ceir diswyddiadau, os oes modd, drwy ddulliau gwirfoddol gyda pheccynnau gwell. Gan fod mwy na 1,200 o weithwyr yn weddill ar ôl colli'r swyddi, yr wyf yn falch o ddweud bod Sony yn dal i fod yn gyflogwr o bwys yn ardal Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad a minnau wedi ymrwymo o hyd i weithio gyda'r cwmni ar strategaeth i'w helpu i arallgyfeirio ei weithrediadau yng Nghymru, a dyna pam yr wyf yn falch o ddweud bod Sony wedi buddsoddi yn y technium lloeren ddigidol ym Mhen-coed, a'i fod hefyd yn ymwneud â datblygu canolfan cyfryngau creadigol gydag Athrofa Addysg Uwch Abertawe. Deallaf fod rheolwr gyfarwyddwr Sony UK yn awyddus i greu swyddi newydd yng Nghymru, a'i fod yn cynnal trafodaethau â Siapan ynghylch symud swyddi technegol uwch i Ben-coed. Bwriadaf ymweld â Siapan dros y Pasg, a

gobeithiaf gwrdd â chynrychiolwyr Sony bryd hynny i drafod ei weithrediadau yn y dyfodol yng Nghymru.

As Team Wales, we are committed to working with the company on a strategy to help it diversify its operations in Wales, and we will set up a project team to assist. Sony has warmly welcomed this. We have indicated that we would particularly like to see headquarter and research and development operations and high-end manufacturing.

Janice Gregory: I remember Sony first opening its factory in Bridgend in 1973, and, since then, thousands of local people, and people from across south Wales, have benefited from employment with a well-respected and, to use your words, major employer. Sony continues to be a major employer in my constituency.

The Bridgend area, including Pencoed in my constituency, has benefited greatly from the UK and Welsh Assembly Government economic development policies. As you said, an announcement such as this by a company such as this is a blow to the area, but it is to be noted that Sony has not moved these jobs to a country where wages are lower. The reason for this is a change in consumer preference—I do not think that there is anyone in the Chamber who does not now own a flat screen television, including me. [*Interruption.*] Okay, not all of us, then.

Minister, I am sure that your thoughts, like mine, are with this highly skilled and loyal workforce at the Bridgend and Pencoed sites. I feel for those workers, as I am sure that you do, who face the terrible prospect of redundancy. I am confident that Amicus, the trade union, will continue to work closely with the company for the benefit of its members. However, it is vital that we now concentrate on the future of these sites. You touched upon that, but I ask you to give an assurance that you and your officials will work closely with this company so that we can bring alternative Sony products to the area.

Fel Tîm Cymru, yr ydym wedi ymrwymo i weithio gyda'r cwmni ar strategaeth i'w helpu i arallgyfeirio ei weithrediadau yng Nghymru, a byddwn yn sefydlu tîm prosiect i gynorthwyo. Mae Sony wedi croesawu hyn yn fawr. Yr ydym wedi nodi y byddem yn arbennig o falch o weld gweithrediadau pencadlys ac ymchwil a datblygu a gweithgynhyrchu datblygedig.

Janice Gregory: Cofiaf Sony yn agor ei ffatri'n gyntaf ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn 1973, ac, ers hynny, mae miloedd o bobl leol, a rhai ledled y De, wedi cael budd o weithio gyda chyflogwr sy'n uchel ei barch ac, fel y dywedasoeh chi, yn gyflogwr o bwys. Mae Sony yn parhau'n gyflogwr o bwys yn fy etholaeth.

Mae ardal Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, gan gynnwys Pen-coed yn fy etholaeth i, wedi cael budd mawr o bolisïau datblygu economaidd y DU a Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Fel y dywedasoeh, mae cyhoeddiad fel hwn gan gwmni fel hwn yn ergyd i'r ardal, ond dylid nodi nad yw Sony wedi symud y swyddi hyn i wlad lle y ceir cyflogau is. Newid yn newis y defnyddwyr sydd wedi achosi hyn—ni chredaf fod unrhyw un yn y Siambr nad yw'n berchen ar set deledu â sgrîn wastad bellach, gan fy nghynnwys i. [*Torri ar draws.*] O'r gorau, nid pawb ohonom, felly.

Weinidog, yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod chi, fel minnau, yn estyn cydymdeimlad at y gweithlu teyrngar a hyfedr hwn yn y safleoedd ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr a Phen-coed. Cydymdeimlaf â'r gweithwyr hynny, fel chithau yr wyf yn siŵr, sy'n wynebu'r posibilrwydd ofnadwy o gael eu diswyddo. Yr wyf yn ffyddiog y bydd Amicus, yr undeb llafur, yn parhau i gydweithio'n agos â'r cwmni er budd ei aelodau. Fodd bynnag, mae'n hollbwysig inni ganolbwyntio'n awr ar ddyfodol y safleoedd hyn. Cyfeiriasoeh at hynny, ond gofynnaf am sicrwydd gennych y byddwch chi a'ch swyddogion yn cydweithio'n agos â'r cwmni hwn fel y gallwn ddod â chynhyrchion eraill o eiddo Sony i'r ardal.

Andrew Davies: Indeed. Whenever we are faced with significant redundancies, there is a tried and tested system of Team Wales responding to the announcements, and we will help those affected by the announcement to go either into alternative employment or into training, if they so wish. The fact that the labour market is so buoyant at the moment is an advantage; most companies tell me that they find it difficult to recruit and retain staff. That may be cold comfort to those affected, but there is a buoyant labour market for them to take advantage of. We remain committed to helping them into alternative employment or skills training.

On continuing to engage with Sony, we will do that. Sony is a significant employer, and we want to work strategically with the company to look at other opportunities to help it diversify. I underline your point that this is not about the quality of the workforce or the cost of production. It is entirely a matter of consumer choice: people are moving to LCD and plasma screens and flat-screen technology, and away from CRT technology. As I have already indicated with the digital satellite technium at Pencoed and the creative media centre in Swansea, we will work with the company to identify opportunities for diversification, which, I hope, will increase employment by Sony in Wales.

Janet Davies: I join you in regretting these job losses, which is disappointing news for the local workforce, particularly given that these were relatively well-paid jobs for the area. I understand that the Minister does not have any say over the commercial decisions of a private company, but it is interesting to wonder why the decision was made to produce flat-screen televisions in Spain rather than in Wales. There must have been a reason, although I cannot think of one. Has the company received any grants, either directly from this Government, the WDA or through local government, in the last three years, and is there any room for manoeuvre in trying to persuade the company to bring high-skilled and research and development jobs to Pencoed, in particular, as a result of

Andrew Davies: Yn wir. Pryd bynnag y wynebwn golli nifer sylweddol o swyddi, mae Tîm Cymru yn ymateb i'r cyhoeddiadau drwy roi system brofedig ar waith, a byddwn yn helpu'r rhai a effeithiwyd gan y cyhoeddiad, naill ai i gael gwaith arall neu i gael hyfforddiant, os dymunant hynny. Mae'r ffaith bod y farchnad lafur mor fywiog ar hyn o bryd yn fantais; dywed y rhan fwyaf o gwmnïau wrthyf eu bod yn ei chael yn anodd recriwtio a chadw staff. Cysur bach fydd hynny i'r rhai a effeithiwyd, o bosibl, ond mae marchnad lafur fywiog y gallant fanteisio arni. Yr ydym wedi ymrwmo o hyd i'w helpu i gael gwaith arall neu hyfforddiant i ddysgu sgiliau.

Ynghylch parhau â'n cysylltiadau â Sony, byddwn yn gwneud hynny. Mae Sony yn gyflogwr o bwys, ac yr ydym am weithio'n strategol gyda'r cwmni i ystyried cyfleoedd eraill i'w helpu i arallgyfeirio. Ate gaf y pwynt a wnaethoch i'r perwyl nad oes a wnelo hyn ag ansawdd y gweithlu neu gost cynhyrchu. Mater o ddewis y defnyddwyr ydyw'n llwyr: mae pobl yn troi at sgriniau arddangosiad grisial hylifol a phlasma a thechnoleg sgrîn wastad, ac oddi wrth dechnoleg y tiwb pelydrau cathod. Fel y nodais eisoes, drwy gael y technium lloeren ddigidol ym Mhen-coed a'r ganolfan cyfryngau creadigol yn Abertawe, byddwn yn gweithio gyda'r cwmni i ganfod cyfleoedd i arallgyfeirio a bydd hynny, yr wyf yn gobeithio, yn golygu y bydd Sony yn cyflogi mwy o bobl yng Nghymru.

Janet Davies: Ymunaf â chi wrth fynegi gofid ynghylch colli'r swyddi hyn, gan fod hynny'n newydd siomedig i'r gweithlu lleol, yn enwedig o gofio eu bod yn swyddi â chyflogau cymharol uchel yn yr ardal. Deallaf nad oes gan y Gweinidog unrhyw ddylanwad dros benderfyniadau masnachol gan gwmni preifat, ond diddorol yw ystyried pam y penderfynwyd cynhyrchu setiau teledu â sgrîn wastad yn Sbaen yn hytrach nag yng Nghymru. Mae'n rhaid bod rheswm, er na allaf feddwl am un. A yw'r cwmni wedi cael unrhyw grantiau, naill ai'n uniongyrchol gan y Llywodraeth hon, y WDA neu drwy lywodraeth leol, yn y tair blynedd diwethaf, ac a oes unrhyw le i symud o ran ceisio perswadio'r cwmni i ddod â swyddi hyfedr ac ymchwil a datblygu i Ben-coed, yn benodol,

grants that the company may have received?

Andrew Davies: Regional selective assistance has been offered to the company since 1999. I will write to you about the details, Janet. We will look at any offers that have been taken up and whether we will need to reclaim grant.

With reference to your first point, it is my understanding that the company's decision to invest in Spain was largely due to the fact that it is in the eurozone. Nevertheless, we will continue to work closely with Sony, as we have done for many years, to look for opportunities for diversification.

Alun Cairns: On behalf of the Welsh Conservative Party, I join the Minister in expressing regret at the loss of these jobs. The Welsh Assembly Government cannot be held wholly accountable for the changes in the marketplace that have led to these job losses.

However, I remember that when the switch from analogue to digital was made at Sony in Pencoed and Bridgend, the First Minister hailed it as a great success for the plants in south Wales, and said that it would offer long-term prosperity. He claimed that the switch to digital would create added-value jobs. Is it not the case that the Welsh Assembly Government has been lulled into a false sense of security when tastes have been changing, or was the First Minister happy to build up the switch from analogue to digital at Pencoed and Bridgend because the contract for the flat screens had already gone to Spain? Was that the case?

I am surprised that the Minister has not mentioned Team Wales in his statement. He usually trots that out at these times, although no-one knows precisely what Team Wales means. The Minister chose to refer to a technium, but only some weeks ago I was tabling questions and writing to the WDA about the technium roll-outs, and it seems that there are significant delays, given the original timescales. Are you not presenting false hopes, when, in reality, your economic policies are resulting in manufacturing going overseas? Manufacturing will continue to

o ganlyniad i unrhyw grantiau a gafodd y cwmni o bosibl?

Andrew Davies: Mae cymorth rhanbarthol dewisol wedi'i gynnig i'r cwmni er 1999. Ysgrifennaf atoch ynghylch y manylion, Janet. Ystyriwn unrhyw gynigion a dderbyniwyd ac a fydd angen inni hawlio grantiau yn ôl.

Gan gyfeirio at y pwynt cyntaf a wnaethoch, yr wyf yn deall bod penderfyniad y cwmni i fuddsoddi yn Sbaen yn ganlyniad yn bennaf i'r ffaith ei bod yn rhanbarth yr ewro. Er hynny, parhawn i gydweithio'n agos â Sony, fel y gwnaethom am flynyddoedd lawer, i chwilio am gyfleoedd i arallgyfeirio.

Alun Cairns: Ar ran Plaid Geidwadol Cymru, ymunaf â'r Gweinidog wrth fynegi gofid ynghylch colli'r swyddi hyn. Ni ellir dal Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n gwbl gyfrifol am y newidiadau yn y farchnad a arweiniodd at golli'r swyddi hyn.

Er hynny, cofiaf pan newidiwyd o analog i ddigidol yn Sony ym Mhen-coed a Phen-y-bont ar Ogwr, fod y Prif Weinidog wedi galw hynny'n llwyddiant mawr i'r gweithfeydd yn y De, a dywedodd y byddai hynny'n cynnig ffyniant yn y tymor hir. Honnodd y byddai'r newid i ddigidol yn creu swyddi â gwerth ychwanegol. Onid yw'n wir bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi gorffwys ar ei rhwyfau tra bu chwaeth y cyhoedd yn newid, neu a oedd y Prif Weinidog yn fodlon canmol y newid o analog i ddigidol ym Mhen-coed a Phen-y-bont ar Ogwr gan fod y contract ar gyfer y sgriniau gwastad wedi mynd i Sbaen eisoes? Ai felly yr oedd?

Synnaf nad yw'r Gweinidog wedi cyfeirio at Dîm Cymru yn ei ddatganiad. Mae'n codi hynny fel arfer ar adegau fel hyn, er nad oes neb yn gwybod beth yn union y mae Tîm Cymru yn ei olygu. Dewisodd y Gweinidog gyfeirio at un technium, ond nid oes ond ychydig wythnosau ers imi gyflwyno cwestiynau ac ysgrifennu at y WDA ynghylch sefydlu canolfannau technium, ac ymddengys fod cryn oedi, yng ngolwg yr amserlenni gwreiddiol a bennwyd. Onid ydych yn cynnig gwag obeithion tra bo'ch polisiau economaidd, mewn gwirionedd, yn

decline in Wales while you continue to follow the policies in 'A Winning Wales'.

Andrew Davies: I am sorry that Alun did not hear my reference to Team Wales. I assure you that, if you look at the Record, you will see that I did refer to it.

As Janet Davies said, this is not about jobs or production being relocated overseas, but a consequence of the fact that the market for CRT screens is on the decline due to consumer preference. People want to buy flat-screen televisions.

3.10 p.m.

That is the way that the market is going. We have been working with Sony. We created the satellite digital technium at Pencoed with Sony and the WDA, which was the result of that close working relationship. We also had a close working relationship with Tony Abbott, the former managing director of the Pencoed plant. I am delighted that he continues to play a role in taking forward the engagement with business as a member of my business procurement taskforce. Therefore, it is untrue to say that we have not worked closely with Sony. In response to the announcement, Team Wales—various public sector companies, the Government, the WDA, and Jobcentre Plus, although this is a non-devolved issue—has the ability to work to deal with the redundancies. We are working strategically with the company. We are not immune to global pressures and changes in consumer preference. Nevertheless, as a small country, we must be flexible and innovative in order to be able to adapt to changing global trading conditions.

Peter Black: I also associate myself with the Minister's regret regarding the loss of these jobs, which is unfortunate. I also welcome the measures that he is taking to mitigate the impact of those losses. Nevertheless, 15,000 manufacturing jobs have been lost since September 2001, and Wales has the lowest GVA per capita in the UK. Are you forming a strategy for the manufacturing industry in

peri i weithgynhyrchu fynd i wledydd tramor? Deil gweithgynhyrchu i ddirywio yng Nghymru tra parhewch i ddilyn y polisiau yn 'Cymru'n Ennill'.

Andrew Davies: Mae'n ddrwg gennyf na chlywodd Alun fy nghyfeiriad at Dîm Cymru. Yr wyf yn eich sicrhau, os edrychwch ar y Cofnod, y gwelwch fy mod wedi cyfeirio ato.

Fel y dywedodd Janet Davies, nid yw hyn yn ymwneud ag ail-leoli swyddi neu gynhyrchu mewn gwledydd tramor, ond â chanlyniad i'r ffaith bod y farchnad i sgriniau CRT yn dirywio oherwydd dewis y defnyddwyr. Mae pobl am brynu setiau teledu â sgrîn wastad.

I'r cyfeiriad hwnnw y mae'r farchnad yn mynd. Buom yn gweithio gyda Sony. Bu inni greu y technium lloeren ddigidol ym Mhen-coed gyda Sony a'r WDA, ac yr oedd hynny'n ganlyniad i'r berthynas weithio agos honno. Cawsom berthynas weithio agos hefyd â Tony Abbott, y cyn reolwr gyfarwyddwr yn y gwaith ym Mhen-coed. Yr wyf yn falch iawn ei fod yn dal i chwarae rhan wrth hyrwyddo'r cysylltiad â busnes fel aelod o'm tasglu caffael busnes. Gan hynny, anghywir yw dweud nad ydym wedi cydweithio'n agos â Sony. Mewn ymateb i'r cyhoeddiad, mae Tîm Cymru—gwahanol gwmnïau yn y sector cyhoeddus, y Llywodraeth, y WDA, a Canolfan Byd Gwaith, er mai mater nas datganolwyd yw hwn—yn gallu gweithio i ddelio â'r diswyddiadau. Yr ydym yn gweithio'n strategol gyda'r cwmni. Nid ydym yn ddiogel rhag pwysau byd-eang a newidiadau yn newis y defnyddwyr. Er hynny, fel gwlad fach, rhaid inni fod yn hyblyg ac yn arloesol er mwyn gallu ymaddasu i'r newid yn yr amgylchiadau masnachu ledled y byd.

Peter Black: Yr wyf finnau'n cysylltu fy hun â mynegiad y Gweinidog o ofid ynghylch colli'r swyddi hyn, gan fod hynny'n anffodus. Yr wyf hefyd yn croesawu'r camau y mae'n eu cymryd i leddfu effaith y colledion hynny. Er hynny, collwyd 15,000 o swyddi gweithgynhyrchu ers mis Medi 2001, a chan Gymru y mae'r GVA isaf y pen yn y DU. A ydych yn ffurfio strategaeth ar gyfer y

Wales and, if so, how does the future of Sony feature in that strategy?

Andrew Davies: I see the manufacturing sector in Wales as a key priority. That is why I set up the manufacturing task and finish group last year, chaired by Colin Johnson, who was the former plant manager at the Bridgend engine plant, which is made up of representatives from business and industry, including employers and the trade unions. That group reported to me in the summer, and the last meeting held before the end of last year showed that substantial progress had been made on meeting the group's recommendations. Therefore, a strategy and action plan are in place and we are beginning deliver on them. The decline in manufacturing jobs—and I think that Glyn Davies asked a written question on this issue last week—has been slower in Wales than in the rest of the UK. Therefore, you could argue that the contraction has been greater in the UK as a whole than in Wales. I think that that is because of the assistance that we give the sector. Seventy per cent of regional selective assistance grants given to companies in Wales have gone to the manufacturing sector. A total of around £330 million of assistance has been given through RSA since 1999, so we believe that we are helping the industry and manufacturing. Nevertheless, we are not immune from global pressures.

diwydiant gweithgynhyrchu yng Nghymru ac, os ydych, pa sylw a roddir i ddyfodol Sony yn y strategaeth honno?

Andrew Davies: Mae'r sector gweithgynhyrchu yng Nghymru'n flaenoriaeth allweddol, yn fy marn i. Dyna pam y sefydlais y grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen ar weithgynhyrchu y llynedd, o dan gadeiryddiaeth Colin Johnson, cyn reolwr yng ngwaith peiriannau Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, ac ynddo gynrychiolwyr o fusnes a diwydiant, gan gynnwys cyflogwyr a'r undebau llafur. Adroddodd y grŵp hwnnw i mi yn yr haf, ac yr oedd y cyfarfod diwethaf a gynhaliwyd cyn diwedd y flwyddyn ddiwethaf yn dangos bod cryn gynnydd wedi'i wneud ar gyflawni argymhellion y grŵp. Felly, mae strategaeth a chynllun gweithredu ar waith ac yr ydym yn dechrau eu cyflawni. Mae nifer y swyddi gweithgynhyrchu—a chredaf fod Glyn Davies wedi gofyn cwestiwn ysgrifenedig ar y pwnc hwn yr wythnos diwethaf—wedi dirywio'n arafach yng Nghymru nag yng ngweddill y DU. Felly, gellid dadlau y bu mwy o gwtogi yn y DU gyfan nag yng Nghymru. Credaf fod hynny'n ganlyniad i'r cymorth a roddwn i'r sector. Mae 70 y cant o'r grantiau cymorth rhanbarthol dewisol a roddwyd i gwmnïau yng Nghymru wedi mynd at y sector gweithgynhyrchu. Rhoddwyd cyfanswm o tua £330 miliwn o gymorth drwy gymorth rhanbarthol dewisol er 1999, felly credwn ein bod yn helpu'r diwydiant a gweithgynhyrchu. Er hynny, nid ydym yn ddiogel rhag pwysau byd-eang.

Datganiad Busnes Business Statement

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): I have one change to tomorrow's business to report. The motion to elect a planning decision committee is postponed until Tuesday, 1 February. Business for the next three weeks is as set out in the draft statement, which can be found on the Chamberweb under supporting documents. Further to this morning's deliberations in the Business Committee, it has been determined under Standing Order No. 24.6 that the following items of subordinate legislation need not be referred to a subject committee for extended

Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt): Mae gennyf un newid i'w adrodd i'r busnes ar gyfer yfory. Mae'r cynnig i ethol pwyllgor penderfyniadau cynllunio wedi'i ohirio tan ddydd Mawrth, 1 Chwefror. Mae busnes ar gyfer y tair wythnos nesaf fel y mae wedi'i nodi yn y datganiad drafft, y gellir ei weld ar we'r Siambr o dan ddogfennau ategol. Ymhellach i'r trafodaethau y bore yma yn y Pwyllgor Busnes, penderfynwyd o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 24.6 nad oes angen cyfeirio'r eitemau is-ddeddfwriaeth a ganlyn i bwyllgor pwnc i'w hystyried yn helaethach:

consideration: the Contaminants in Food (Wales) Regulations 2005; the Town and Country Planning (Blight Provisions) (Wales) Order 2005; the Salmonella in Laying Flocks (Survey Powers) (Wales) Regulations 2005; the Diseases of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2005; the Food Safety (General Food Hygiene) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2005; and the National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts) (Prescription of Drugs Etc.) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2005.

Y Llywydd: A oes unrhyw wrthwynebiad i'r datganiad busnes drafft? Gwelaf fod. A oes o leiaf 10 gwrthwynebiad i'r datganiad busnes? Gwelaf fod. Gan hynny, o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 5.4, galwaf ar y Trefnydd i gynnig y datganiad busnes yn ffurfiol.

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales adopts the business statement.

Janet Ryder: In the Business Committee meeting this morning Jocelyn Davies called for a statement on free school breakfasts. As that statement has not been scheduled, we oppose the business statement today.

The Labour Government's promise on free school breakfasts has changed at least twice, from originally being provided to every primary school child in Wales to being provided to children at every primary school in Wales that wants to offer them. It appears that the costings have also changed. Despite repeated calls in the Chamber for the Welsh Assembly Government to publish the costs of the free breakfast scheme, those costs have not been forthcoming. The Government has now been forced to publish them under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Government papers show that the scheme cannot be achieved within the end-of-year flexibility as has always been promised in the Chamber. In fact, those documents prove that there are considerable costs related to this scheme. We now need a clear statement from

Rheoliadau Halogion mewn Bwyd (Cymru) 2005; Gorchymyn Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref (Darpariaethau Malltod) (Cymru) 2005; Rheoliadau Salmonela mewn Heidiau Dodwy (Pwerau Arolygu) (Cymru) 2005; Gorchymyn Clefydau Anifeiliaid (Diheintyddion a Gymeradwywyd) (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2005; Rheoliadau Diogelwch Bwyd (Hylendid Bwyd yn Gyffredinol) (Diwygio) (Cymru) 2005; a Rheoliadau'r Gwasanaeth Iechyd Gwladol (Contractau Gwasanaethau Meddygol Cyffredinol) (Rhagnodi Cyffuriau Etc.) (Cymru) (Diwygio) 2005.

The Presiding Officer: Are there any objections to the draft business statement? I see that there are. Are there at least 10 objections to the business statement? I see that there are. Therefore, under Standing Order No. 5.4, I call on the Business Minister to formally propose the business statement.

Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt): Cynigaf fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn derbyn y datganiad busnes.

Janet Ryder: Yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Busnes y bore yma, galwodd Jocelyn Davies am ddatganiad ar frechwastau am ddim mewn ysgolion. Gan nad amserlennwyd datganiad o'r fath, gwrthwynebwn y datganiad busnes heddiw.

Mae addewid y Llywodraeth Lafur ar frechwastau am ddim mewn ysgolion wedi newid o leiaf ddwywaith, o fod yn addewid yn gyntaf i'w cynnig i bob plentyn mewn ysgol gynradd yng Nghymru i'w darparu i blant ym mhob ysgol gynradd yng Nghymru sy'n dymuno eu cynnig. Ymddengys fod y prisiadau wedi newid hefyd. Er gwaethaf sawl galwad yn y Siambr ar i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru gyhoeddi costau'r cynllun brechwastau am ddim, ni chafwyd y costau hynny. Bellach mae'r Llywodraeth wedi gorfod eu cyhoeddi o dan Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000. Dengys papurau'r Llywodraeth na ellir cyflawni'r cynllun o fewn yr hyblygrwydd diwedd blwyddyn fel yr addawyd bob amser yn y Siambr. Mewn gwirionedd, mae'r dogfennau hynny'n profi bod costau sylweddol yn gysylltiedig â'r

the Government on what those costs will be, including overall costs and the cost of delivering the scheme locally. What will a healthy breakfast be for every primary schoolchild in Wales who wants one, as originally promised by the Government?

David Melding: Business Minister, you know that we have called for an immediate debate on the Assembly sponsored public bodies, given last week's debacle in terms of process. I acknowledge that you have said that there will be a debate on this in two or three months' time, when the consultation that was launched last Monday is concluded, but we think that the people of Wales expect us to debate this matter thoroughly, as soon as possible. Therefore, that request stands. I know that you have not granted it, and we oppose your statement on that basis.

I reiterate my concern that the Government now proposes to have a children's Minister who will not be responsible for universal children's services. This is an odd way to structure a Cabinet, and I am particularly concerned that the Children's Commissioner for Wales will not answer to the children's Minister in terms of the interface between his office and the Government, but to the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning. I do not impugn her, incidentally; I just think that the structure is clumsy, and we should discuss it.

We also support what has been said about school breakfasts. The Government has been caught out on this one, and has pretended that providing school breakfasts will be a universal service. Most of us thought that a universal service was based on every citizen, and that if you wanted to access a service, you could. However, we are now told that children can only access school breakfasts if their school is taking part. That is a strange way to define a universal service, and this matter needs to be debated as soon as possible.

Peter Black: I also support the request for a

cynllun hwn. Rhaid inni gael datganiad clir yn awr gan y Llywodraeth ynghylch beth fydd y costau hynny, gan gynnwys y costau cyffredinol a chost rhedeg y cynllun yn lleol. Beth fydd cost brecwast iach i bob plentyn ysgol gynradd yng Nghymru sydd am ei gael, fel yr addawyd yn wreiddiol gan y Llywodraeth?

David Melding: Drefnydd, gwyddoch ein bod wedi galw am gael dadl ar unwaith ar y cyrff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad, yng ngolwg y llanastr a gafwyd yr wythnos diwethaf o ran proses. Derbyniaf eich bod wedi dweud y ceir dadl ar hyn ymhen dau neu dri mis, wedi i'r ymgynghoriad a lansiwyd ddydd Llun diwethaf ddod i ben, ond credaf fod pobl Cymru'n disgwyl inni drafod y mater hwn yn drwyadl, cyn gynted ag y bo modd. Gan hynny, mae'r cais hwnnw'n sefyll. Gwn nad ydych wedi cydsynio iddo, a gwrthwynebwn eich datganiad ar y sail honno.

Ailddatganaf fy mhryder bod y Llywodraeth bellach yn bwriadu cael Gweinidog plant na fydd yn atebol dros yr holl wasanaethau i blant. Mae hwnnw'n fodd rhyfedd i drefnu Cabinet, ac yr wyf yn arbennig o bryderus na fydd Comisiynydd Plant Cymru'n ateb i'r Gweinidog plant o ran y cysylltiad rhwng ei swyddfa ef a'r Llywodraeth, ond i'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes. Nid wyf yn ei beirniadu, gyda llaw; nid wyf ond yn meddwl bod y trefniant yn lletchwith, ac y dylem ei drafod.

Yr ydym hefyd yn ategu'r hyn a ddywedwyd am frechwastau mewn ysgolion. Mae'r Llywodraeth wedi'i dal ar ei bai yn hyn o beth, ac wedi cymryd arni y bydd darparu brecwastau mewn ysgolion yn wasanaeth cyffredinol. Credai'r rhan fwyaf ohonom mai ystyr gwasanaeth cyffredinol oedd ei fod ar gael i bob dinesydd, ac os oeddech am gael y gwasanaeth hwnnw, y gallech ei gael. Fodd bynnag, dywedir wrthym yn awr na fydd plant ond yn gallu cael brecwast yn yr ysgol os yw eu hysgol yn cymryd rhan. Dyna ddiffiniad rhyfedd o wasanaeth cyffredinol, a rhaid cael dadl ar y mater hwn cyn gynted ag y bo modd.

Peter Black: Yr wyf finnau'n cefnogi'r

statement on school breakfasts. It is important that we get to the bottom of what this costing is all about. We also request a proper statement or debate on the accident and emergency service in Wales, particularly with regard to the revelations concerning the Heath hospital that Mike German brought to the press's attention yesterday, and the issues around that.

I ask for a debate on the cuts in the Supporting People grant. This has started to impact on local councils around Wales, and it will certainly impact on a number of valuable projects in terms of homelessness and other aspects of care. There is a clear need to look at how the Assembly can mitigate the cuts being imposed on us by the Westminster Government in this regard.

3.20 p.m.

Carl Sargeant: As always, this side of the Chamber will support the business statement, as it allows excellent opportunity for debate. Provided that you can find time, we would like to discuss immigration policy that impacts upon Wales, following the racist comments made by the Conservative Party at Westminster.

The Presiding Officer: Order. I do not believe that the Business Minister has any responsibility for the Conservative Party.

Carl Sargeant: Thank you for your guidance.

We could perhaps draw a line under the free school breakfast debate that the opposition parties want, as we want free breakfasts, as does the electorate. It was included in our manifesto.

Perhaps we could find time to discuss the aerospace industry in Wales, following a comment by Jeremy Clarkson in *The Times* last weekend, where he claimed that one is better off going on a Boeing. I hope that Jeremy Clarkson never steps foot in an Airbus or in Wales again after having made such sarcastic comments.

Nick Bourne: Point of order. I hope that the

alwad am ddatganiad ar frecwastau mewn ysgolion. Mae'n bwysig inni fynd at wraidd y prisio hwn. Gofynnwn hefyd am ddatganiad neu ddadl iawn ar y gwasanaeth damweiniau ac achosion brys yng Nghymru, gyda golwg yn benodol ar y datguddiadau ynghylch ysbyty'r Mynydd Bychan y daeth Mike German â hwy i sylw'r wasg ddoe, a'r materion sy'n gysylltiedig â hynny.

Gofynnaf am ddadl ar y toriadau i'r grant Cefnogi Pobl. Mae hynny wedi dechrau effeithio ar gynghorau lleol yng Nghymru, a bydd yn sicr o effeithio ar sawl prosiect buddiol sy'n ymwneud â digartrefedd ac agweddau eraill ar ofal. Mae'n amlwg bod angen ystyried sut y gall y Cynulliad liniaru'r toriadau a orfodir arnom gan Lywodraeth San Steffan yn hyn o beth.

Carl Sargeant: Fel y gwnawn bob amser, bydd yr ochr hon i'r Siambr yn cefnogi'r datganiad busnes, gan ei fod yn cynnig cyfle rhagorol i ddadlau. Os gallwch neilltuo amser ar gyfer hyn, carem drafod polisi mewnffudo sy'n effeithio ar Gymru, yn dilyn y sylwadau hiliol gan y Blaid Geidwadol yn San Steffan.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Ni chredaf fod gan y Trefnydd unrhyw gyfrifoldeb dros y Blaid Geidwadol.

Carl Sargeant: Diolch i chi am eich cyfarwyddyd.

Efallai y gallem roi pen ar yr alwad am ddadl ar frecwastau am ddim yn yr ysgol gan y gwrthbleidiau, gan ein bod oll am gael brecwastau am ddim, fel y mae'r etholwyr. Yr oedd hynny yn ein maniffesto.

Efallai y gallem gael amser i drafod y diwydiant awyrofod yng Nghymru, yn dilyn sylw gan Jeremy Clarkson yn *The Times* y penwythnos diwethaf, lle'r honnodd ei bod yn well i rywun hedfan mewn awyren Boeing. Gobeithiaf na fydd Jeremy Clarkson byth yn rhoi ei droed mewn Airbus nac ar dir Cymru eto ar ôl gwneud y fath sylwadau sarcastig.

Nick Bourne: Pwynt o drefn. Gobeithiaf y

Member could be encouraged, perhaps on your ruling, to withdraw the term 'racist'. It seems to me that there was an outrageous suggestion that it was a racist policy, and I hope that, on reflection, he will withdraw that.

The Presiding Officer: Order. My view would be that if an individual was referred to as racist, I would certainly ask that that be withdrawn. I understood Carl Sargeant to refer to policies. It is not unusual to talk of institutional racism or of policies that induce racism. I would distinguish between making such a comment about an individual, which would be out of order in my view, and making a description of a policy. I understood Carl Sargeant to refer not to an individual but to policies.

David Davies: Further to this point of order, I have no wish to suggest that you may have misheard, Presiding Officer—

Presiding Officer: Order. I would not go down that route, if I were you.

David Davies: I heard him refer to the leader of the Conservative Party, and I wonder whether we could ask him to clarify his comments. The last people described as racist by the Commission for Racial Equality were those in the Cardiff Labour Party.

Carl Sargeant: Further to this point of order, I will clarify the situation. I said Tory party policies, and did not refer to any individual.

The Presiding Officer: That is what I heard, but I will consult the Record and return to this matter on reflection.

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): As Carl Sargeant says, the three opposition parties cannot bear to see the success of a Labour Welsh Assembly Government policy. If opposition Members had bothered to visit the school that I visited recently, namely the Windsor Clive school in Ely, they would have seen that 45 children there are now accessing a healthy breakfast as a result of this policy. Children and schools across Wales are benefiting from a policy that we

gellid annog yr Aelod, wedi dyfarniad gennych chi efallai, i dynnu'n ôl y gair 'hiliol'. Ymddengys i mi ei bod yn warthus awgrymu ei fod yn bolisi hiliol, ac yr wyf yn gobeithio, ar ôl ystyried, y bydd yn tynnu hynny'n ôl.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Yn fy marn i, os gelwid unigolyn yn hiliol, byddwn yn sicr yn gofyn i hynny gael ei dynnu'n ôl. Deallais fod Carl Sargeant yn cyfeirio at bolisiau. Nid yw'n anarferol sôn am hiliaeth sefydliadol neu am bolisiau sy'n achosi hiliaeth. Byddwn yn gwahaniaethu rhwng gwneud sylw o'r fath am unigolyn, a fyddai allan o drefn yn fy marn i, a disgrifio polisi. Deallais fod Carl Sargeant yn cyfeirio at bolisiau yn hytrach nag at unigolyn.

David Davies: Ymhellach i'r pwynt o drefn hwn, nid oes gennyf unrhyw ddymuniad i awgrymu y gallech fod wedi camglywed, Lywydd—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid awn i'r cyfeiriad hwnnw, pe byddwn yn eich lle chi.

David Davies: Fe'i clywais yn cyfeirio at arweinydd y Blaid Geidwadol, ac yr wyf yn meddwl tybed a allwn ofyn iddo egluro ei sylwadau. Y rhai diwethaf a alwyd yn hiliol gan y Comisiwn Cydraddoldeb Hiliol oedd y rhai ym Mhlaid Lafur Caerdydd.

Carl Sargeant: Ymhellach i'r pwynt o drefn hwn, egluraf y sefyllfa. Polisiau'r blaid Dori'aid a ddywedais, ac ni chyfeiriais at unrhyw unigolyn.

Y Llywydd: Dyna a glywais, ond darllenaf y Cofnod a dod yn ôl at y mater hwn ar ôl ei ystyried.

Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt): Fel y dywed Carl Sargeant, ni all y tair gwrthblaid oddef gweld llwyddiant polisi'r Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru Lafur. Pe byddai Aelodau'r gwrthbleidiau wedi trafferthu i ymweld â'r ysgol yr ymwelais â hi'n ddiweddar, sef ysgol Windsor Clive yn Nhrelái, byddent wedi gweld bod 45 o blant yn cael brechwast iach yn awr o ganlyniad i'r polisi hwn. Mae plant ac ysgolion ledled Cymru yn cael budd o bolisi a roddwn ar waith. Fel y dywed Carl,

are implementing. As Carl says, you cannot bear the fact that this is a popular policy, and we are rolling it out across Wales. The costs associated with the scheme are available on a website. I can guide you to the website, but I am sure that you know how to access it. The pilot has been running for over six months, and it is being evaluated in every respect, as it should and as we agreed. We are leading the way in terms of this free breakfast initiative, and we intend, David, to roll the programme out across Wales. That is what you needed to hear today, because it has been quite clear from the beginning that it would be rolled out across Wales from January 2007. All schools will be encouraged to participate. We will not force children to take the breakfasts if they do not want them; this is a voluntary scheme. All schools will be invited and encouraged to participate, and the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning will regularly update the committee on the success as well as on the costings of the scheme. This is good news for children in Wales. Janet, David and Peter raised those issues, and I hope that they will also take advantage of visiting local schools to see how important and how successful this scheme has been.

David, on the debate last week, I have agreed that we will find time in the Government programme for a debate on the consultation document, which was launched last week but which was not the subject of debate last week. I was glad to hear my Labour colleagues giving excellent speeches about the importance of the Assembly sponsored public body merger, recognising that we were again implementing policies that Rhodri Morgan announced last year, and which were the basis of the debate and motion that we were discussing.

David, you raised an important point about ministerial responsibility for children, which I am taking on, in accordance with the announcement made by the First Minister yesterday. This is an important point for clarification. The First Minister has asked me to take the overarching role of Minister with responsibility for children and to continue to chair the Cabinet sub-committee on children and young people, to ensure joined-up

ni allwch oddef y ffaith bod hwn yn bolisi poblogaidd, ac yr ydym yn ei roi ar waith ledled Cymru. Mae'r costau sy'n gysylltiedig â'r cynllun i'w gweld ar wefan. Gallaf eich cyfeirio at y wefan, ond yr wyf yn siŵr y gwyddoch sut i'w chyrraedd. Bu'r cynllun peilot yn rhedeg am fwy na chwe mis, a gwerthusir pob agwedd arno, fel y dylid gwneud ac fel y cytunasom. Yr ydym yn arwain y ffordd gyda'r fenter brecwastau am ddim, a bwriadwn ei rhoi ar waith ledled Cymru, David. Dyna'r hyn yr oedd angen ei ddweud wrthyh heddiw, gan ei bod yn gwbl glir ers y dechrau y câi ei rhoi ar waith ledled Cymru o Ionawr 2007. Anogir pob ysgol i gymryd rhan. Ni orfodwn blant i gymryd y brecwastau os nad ydynt am eu cael; cynllun gwirfoddol yw hwn. Bydd yr holl ysgolion yn cael eu gwahodd a'u hannog i gymryd rhan, a bydd y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes yn hysbysu'r pwyllgor yn rheolaidd am y llwyddiannau diweddaraf yn ogystal â'r prisiadau ar gyfer y cynllun. Mae hyn yn newydd da i blant Cymru. Cododd Janet, David a Peter y materion hynny, a gobeithiaf y byddant hwythau'n achub ar y cyfle i ymweld ag ysgolion lleol i weld pa mor bwysig a llwyddiannus y bu'r cynllun hwn.

David, ynghylch y ddadl yr wythnos diwethaf, yr wyf wedi cytuno i neilltuo amser yn rhaglen y Llywodraeth ar gyfer dadl ar y ddogfen ymgynghori, a lansiwyd yr wythnos diwethaf ond na chafwyd dadl arni yr wythnos diwethaf. Yr oeddwn yn falch o glywed fy nghyd-Aelodau Llafur yn traddodi areithiau rhagorol am bwysigrwydd ymgorffori cyrff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad, gan gydnabod ein bod unwaith eto'n rhoi polisïau ar waith a gyhoeddwyd gan Rhodri Morgan y llynedd, ac a oedd yn sail i'r ddadl a'r cynnig yr oeddem yn ei drafod.

David, gwnaethoch godi pwynt pwysig am gyfrifoldeb gweinidogol dros blant, ac yr wyf yn ystyried hynny, yn unol â'r cyhoeddiad a wnaeth y Prif Weinidog ddoe. Mae hwn yn bwynt pwysig sy'n gofyn eglurhad. Mae'r Prif Weinidog wedi gofyn imi ymgymryd â'r rôl gyffredinol o fod yn Weinidog â chyfrifoldeb dros blant ac i barhau i gadeirio is-bwyllgor y Cabinet ar blant a phobl ifanc, er mwyn sicrhau llywodraeth gydgyssylltiedig

government for children and young people in Wales. Across the whole of the Cabinet—*[Interruption.]*

The Presiding Officer: Order. The Business Minister is responding to issues raised on the business statement.

Jane Hutt: Finally, on your point, David, one Minister must have an interface with the children's commissioner and the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning is taking on that responsibility. The maximum impact of having a Minister for children, and outlining all other ministerial responsibilities, is key. Peter raised two points. I have spoken to the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration and she will be making a written statement on Supporting People. I am sure that that will be raised and discussed in tomorrow's committee meeting. You know, and the First Minister referred to this, that there are always pressures in relation to accident and emergency admissions. Over 1 million people in Wales attend accident and emergency departments every year, which is why we have established an emergency access and care collaborative. Accident and emergency departments are also working with the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust at a regional level when there are particular pressure points on our accident and emergency units. On Carl's question, the electorate is looking with great concern at a number of Conservative Party policies as they emerge from day to day. I pay tribute to Edwina Hart for her work and to Wales's record in terms of the welcome it gives to refugees and asylum seekers. When I met the British Red Cross and church representatives last week, I was told that Wales has a good record—let us recognise that. We must also ensure that the Welsh contribution to Airbus is properly recognised, and I am glad that Carl did that.

David Melding: Point of order. Now that we have the unique situation in the Government of having a health Minister emeritus, will you rule on when we should put our health

ar gyfer plant a phobl ifanc yng Nghymru. Mae pawb yn y Cabinet—*[Torri ar draws.]*

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae'r Trefnydd yn ymateb i faterion a godwyd ynghylch y datganiad busnes.

Jane Hutt: Yn olaf, ynghylch y pwynt a wnaethoch, David, rhaid i un Gweinidog fod â chysylltiad â'r comisiynydd plant a'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes sy'n ymgymryd â'r cyfrifoldeb hwnnw. Mae'n hollbwysig sicrhau'r effaith fwyaf posibl o gael Gweinidog dros blant, a disgrifio'r holl gyfrifoldebau gweinidogol eraill. Cododd Peter ddau bwynt. Yr wyf wedi siarad â'r Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio a bydd yn gwneud datganiad ysgrifenedig ar Cefnogi Pobl. Yr wyf yn siŵr y caiff hynny ei godi a'i drafod yng nghyfarfod y pwyllgor yfory. Gwyddoch, a chyfeiriodd y Prif Weinidog at hyn, fod pwysau bob amser o ran derbyn rhai i adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys. Mae mwy nag 1 filiwn o bobl yng Nghymru yn mynd i adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys bob blwyddyn, a dyna pam yr ydym wedi sefydlu rhaglen gydweithredol ar gyfer mynediad i ofal brys. Mae adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys yn gweithio hefyd gydag Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Gwasanaethau Ambiwlans Cymru ar lefel ranbarthol pan geir gwasgbwyntiau penodol yn ein hunedau damweiniau ac achosion brys. Ynghylch y cwestiwn a ofynnodd Carl, mae'r etholwyr yn edrych yn bryderus iawn ar sawl polisi o eiddo'r Blaid Geidwadol wrth iddynt ddod i'r golwg o'r naill ddiwrnod i'r llall. Talaf deyrnged i Edwina Hart am ei gwaith ac i record Cymru o ran y croeso y mae'n ei estyn i ffoaduriaid a cheiswyr lloches. Pan gyfarfûm â chynrychiolwyr y Groes Goch Brydeinig a'r eglwysi yr wythnos diwethaf, dywedwyd wrthyf fod record Cymru yn un dda—gadewch inni gydnabod hynny. Rhaid inni hefyd sicrhau cydnabyddiaeth briodol i gyfraniad Cymru i Airbus, ac yr wyf yn falch bod Carl wedi gwneud hynny.

David Melding: Pwynt o drefn. Gan fod gennym sefyllfa unigryw yn y Llywodraeth bellach o fod â Gweinidog emeritws dros ieched, a wnewch ddyfarnu ynghylch pa bryd

questions to the Business Minister, and when we should put them to our acolyte, the current Minister, Dr Pangloss?

The Presiding Officer: Order. I have not yet had the ease to study ministerial responsibilities in detail, as they have only recently been published. However, I will do so and discuss them with colleagues in the Table Office to ensure that Ministers are open to questions, which are in order, on their responsibilities at all times.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Not only their responsibilities.

The Presiding Officer: Order. I need no assistance from assistant deputy presiding officer Rhodri Glyn Thomas.

y dylem ofyn ein cwestiynau ar iechyd i'r Trefnydd, a pha bryd y dylem eu gofyn i'r gwas newydd, y Gweinidog presennol, Dr Pangloss?

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid wyf wedi cael cyfle eto i astudio cyfrifoldebau gweinidogol yn fanwl, gan mai ond yn gymharol ddiweddar y'u cyhoeddwyd. Fodd bynnag, gwnaf hynny a'u trafod gyda'm cydweithwyr yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno i sicrhau bod Gweinidogion yn agored i gwestiynau, sydd mewn trefn, ar eu cyfrifoldebau bob amser.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Nid eu cyfrifoldebau'n unig.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid oes arnaf angen unrhyw gymorth gan y dirprwy lywydd cynorthwyol Rhodri Glyn Thomas.

Cynnig: O blaid 30, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 26.

Motion: For 30, Abstain 0, Against 26.

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

Derbyniwyd y cynnig.

Motion carried.

**Cymeradwyo Gorchymyn Cynllun Amddiffyn Rhag Llifogydd Lleol Cymru
1996 (Dirymu) 2005**
**Approval of the Welsh Local Flood Defence Scheme 1996 (Revocation) Order
2005**

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliant 1 i NDM2248 yn enw David Melding.

The Presiding Officer: I have selected amendment 1 to NDM2248 in the name of David Melding.

The Minister for the Environment, Planning and Countryside (Carwyn Jones): I propose that

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad (Carwyn Jones): Cynigiaf fod

the National Assembly for Wales under Standing Order No. 25 Section 1 considers the principle of the Welsh Local Flood Defence Scheme 1996 (Revocation) Order 2005, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office on 22 December 2004. (NDM2248)

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru gan weithredu o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 25, Adran 1 yn ystyried egwyddor Gorchymyn Cynllun Atal Llifogydd Lleol Cymru 1996 (Diddymu) 2005, y gosodwyd copi ohono yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 22 Rhagfyr 2004. (NDM2248)

I propose that

Cynigiaf fod

the National Assembly for Wales, under Standing Order No. 25 Section 1, considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office on 11 January 2005 in relation to the draft Order, the Welsh Local Flood Defence Scheme 1996 (Revocation) Order 2005, and

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, gan weithredu o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 25, Adran 1, yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau mewn perthynas â'r gorchymyn drafft, Gorchymyn Cynllun Atal Llifogydd Lleol Cymru 1996 (Diddymu) 2005, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 11 Ionawr 2005, ac

a) approves that the Welsh Local Flood Defence Scheme 1996 (Revocation) Order 2005 is made in accordance with:

a) yn cymeradwyo bod Gorchymyn Cynllun Atal Llifogydd Lleol Cymru (1996) (Diddymu) 2005 yn cael ei wneud yn unol ag:

i) the draft Order laid in the Table Office on 22 December 2004; and

i) y Gorchymyn drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 22 Rhagfyr 2004

ii) the regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 18 January 2005. (NDM2249)

(ii) yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ac a e-bostiwyd at Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar 18 Ionawr 2005. (NDM2249)

In Plenary on 29 June 2004, I announced my proposals for the future flood defence arrangements in Wales, namely a single committee based on the administrative boundary between England and Wales. I am now pleased to bring forward an Order to revoke the local flood defence scheme in Wales, which is the first step in support of that proposal.

Yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ar 29 Mehefin 2004, cyhoeddais fy nghynigion ar gyfer y trefniadau atal llifogydd yng Nghymru yn y dyfodol, sef un pwyllgor yn seiliedig ar y ffin weinyddol rhwng Cymru a Lloegr. Yr wyf yn falch yn awr o gael rhoi Gorchymyn gerbron i ddiddymu'r cynllun atal llifogydd lleol yng Nghymru, sef y cam cyntaf o blaid y cynnig hwnnw.

The revocation of the local flood defence scheme will abolish the six local flood defence committees and leave a single tier committee in the form of the existing Welsh regional flood defence committee that covers the majority of Wales and parts of England. The revocation will leave the way clear to progress further Orders to change the boundary and to alter the composition of that committee. As cross-border arrangements already exist, there are legal processes involved, which will involve annulment by either the House of Parliament or special parliamentary procedure to take forward the Order that moves us towards the administrative boundary. However, the Order has been developed with the full support and awareness of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Minister.

3.30 p.m.

These regulations will remove a tier of administration, thereby streamlining the existing administrative arrangements, and will also result in savings of approximately £180,000, which can be diverted to front-line services. A single committee will allow a greater focus on strategic flood defence issues across Wales. It will facilitate easier and more consistent delivery of Assembly policy throughout Wales, clarify accountability, encourage consideration of national priorities and facilitate a more efficient delivery system through procurement opportunities and lower administrative costs. It will also provide enhanced flexibility and improved certainty of funding.

I cannot support the amendment, because it is vague. Most people would support the thrust of the amendment, but it is difficult to support an amendment that calls for widespread geographical representation on the flood defence committee as it could lead to us having a flood defence committee that is simply too big to be manageable.

Glyn Davies: I propose amendment 1 in the name of David Melding: add a new point at the end of the motion:

'notes the importance of local knowledge to

Drwy ddiddymu'r cynllun atal llifogydd lleol, dilëir y chwe phwyllgor atal llifogydd lleol gan adael pwyllgor un haen ar ffurf y pwyllgor atal llifogydd rhanbarthol i Gymru sy'n gwasanaethu'r rhan fwyaf o Gymru a rhannau o Loegr. Drwy ei ddiddymu, bydd y ffordd yn glir i hyrwyddo Gorchmynion pellach i newid y ffin ac i newid y gynrychiolaeth ar y pwyllgor hwnnw. Gan fod trefniadau trawsffiniol yn bod eisoes, mae prosesau cyfreithiol yn gysylltiedig â hyn, a fydd yn golygu dirymu un ai gan y Senedd neu drwy weithdrefn seneddol arbennig i hyrwyddo'r Gorchmyn sy'n ein symud tuag at fabwysiadu'r ffin weinyddol. Fodd bynnag, mae'r Gorchmyn wedi'i ddatblygu gyda chefnogaeth lwyr ac ymwybyddiaeth ohono ar ran y Gweinidog yn Adran yr Amgylchedd, Bwyd a Materion Gwledig.

Bydd y rheoliadau hyn yn dileu haen weinyddol, gan symleiddio'r trefniadau gweinyddol presennol, a byddant hefyd yn arwain at arbedion o tua £180,000, y gellir eu rhoi at wasanaethau rheng flaen. O gael un pwyllgor, gellir canolbwyntio'n fanylach ar faterion strategol sy'n ymwneud ag atal llifogydd ledled Cymru. Bydd yn fodd i gyflawni polisi'r Cynulliad yn rhwyddach ac yn fwy cyson ledled Cymru, yn egluro atebolrwydd, yn cymell ystyriaeth i flaenoriaethau cenedlaethol ac yn hwyluso system ddarparu fwy effeithlon drwy gyfleoedd i gaffael a chostau gweinyddol is. Bydd hefyd yn cynnig mwy o hyblygrwydd a mwy o sicrwydd o ran ariannu.

Ni allaf gefnogi'r gwelliant, gan ei fod yn annelwig. Byddai'r rhan fwyaf o bobl yn cefnogi pwyslais y gwelliant, ond anodd yw cefnogi gwelliant sy'n galw am amrywiaeth daeryddol ymysg y cynrychiolwyr ar y pwyllgor atal llifogydd gan y gallai beri inni gael pwyllgor atal llifogydd sy'n rhy fawr i'w drin.

Glyn Davies: Cynigiau welliant 1 yn enw David Melding. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn nodi pwysigrwydd gwybodaeth leol i

the new all-Wales Flood Defence Committee and the importance of a wide geographical spread in the representatives that serve on it.'

Bwyllgor newydd Atal Llifogydd Cymru gyfan a phwysigrwydd cael amrywiaeth daearyddol ymysg y cynrychiolwyr sy'n gwasanaethu arno.

Over the last two years, we have noted the Government's desire to change the administrative structure through which flood defence activities in Wales take place, particularly the consultation document, 'The Flood Defence Arrangements in Wales: The Future'. I accept that there is a case for change. The previous arrangement was unnecessarily cumbersome. As the Minister says, there were six local flood defence committees, as well as special arrangements in Powys. It was complex, and going forward with change will strengthen accountability through clarity. Also, there will be cost savings of £180,000, of which all of us approve.

It is right that this scheme should be single tier, and we have all accepted the political boundary, but the contentious issue is whether there should be one flood defence committee or three. I think that around 30 of the 42 responses that the Minister received from across Wales said that there should be three, but the Minister decided to go down the road of one. The question that must be answered is that which the Minister referred to at the end of his speech, namely how can we accommodate local knowledge, which is important in respect of flood defence, along with local accountability through local government, without a single committee becoming unnecessarily unwieldy and too large. When the Minister comes forward with his detailed proposals on the committee, he will have to make his case and we will have to decide whether or not it is a good case at that time. We accept that to go down this road means that we will have to abolish the existing complex tier, but I am concerned that we will not be able to include in the Minister's final arrangements, the local knowledge and accountability that is so crucial. We are only prepared to support the motion today if our amendment is carried. It is important, in dealing with this debate and in moving forward, that our concern to retain local knowledge and accountability is explicitly stated.

Dros y ddwy flynedd diwethaf, yr ydym wedi sylwi ar awydd y Llywodraeth i newid y drefn weinyddol ar gyfer gweithgareddau atal llifogydd yng Nghymru, yn enwedig y ddogfen ymgynghori, 'Trefniadau Atal Llifogydd yng Nghymru: Y Dyfodol'. Yr wyf yn derbyn bod dadleuon o blaid newid. Yr oedd y trefniant blaenorol yn llesteiriol heb fod rhaid. Fel y dywed y Gweinidog, yr oedd chwe phwyllgor atal llifogydd lleol, yn ogystal â threfniadau arbennig ym Mhowys. Yr oedd yn gymhleth, a thrwy ei newid, ceir gwell atebolrwydd drwy gynnig eglurder. Hefyd, arbedir gwerth £180,000 o gostau, ac mae pob un ohonom yn cymeradwyo hynny.

Mae'n briodol i'r cynllun hwn fod ar ffurf un haen, ac yr ydym oll wedi derbyn y ffin wleidyddol, ond y pwnc dadleuol yw a ddylid cael un pwyllgor atal llifogydd neu dri. Credaf fod tua 30 o'r 42 o ymatebion a gafodd y Gweinidog o bob rhan o Gymru yn dweud y dylid cael tri, ond penderfynodd y Gweinidog mai un y dylid ei gael. Y cwestiwn y mae'n rhaid ei ateb yw'r un y cyfeiriodd y Gweinidog ato ar ddiwedd ei araith, sef sut y gallwn gynnwys gwybodaeth leol, gan fod hynny'n bwysig o ran atal llifogydd, ynghyd ag atebolrwydd lleol drwy lywodraeth leol, heb i un pwyllgor fynd yn drwsgl heb fod eisiau ac yn rhy fawr. Pan fydd y Gweinidog yn rhoi ei gynigion manwl ar y pwyllgor gerbron, bydd yn rhaid iddo roi ei ddadl a bydd yn rhaid i ni benderfynu a yw'r ddadl yn un dda ai peidio bryd hynny. Yr ydym yn derbyn y byddwn yn gorfod dileu'r haen gymhleth bresennol drwy ddilyn y cwrs gweithredu hwn, ond yr wyf yn bryderus na fyddwn yn gallu cynnwys yn nhrefniadau terfynol y Gweinidog y wybodaeth a'r atebolrwydd lleol sydd mor hanfodol. Nid ydym ond yn barod i gefnogi'r cynnig heddiw os derbynnir ein gwelliant. Mae'n bwysig, wrth ddelio â'r ddadl hon ac wrth symud ymlaen, ein bod yn datgan yn glir ei bod yn bwysig cadw gwybodaeth ac atebolrwydd lleol.

Helen Mary Jones: Flooding, as we all know, is an increasing problem for communities across Wales. We see the effects of global warming and climate change making flooding a problem for communities that have never had to face it before. We welcome the moves partly addressed in these regulations to make the flood defence programmes more efficient and accountable in Wales. We are happy to support the Minister's proposal to create a single flood defence committee for Wales and we accept that the political boundary is the most sensible one. We support his contention that this will improve the ability to plan strategically and to prioritise resources more effectively. However, I emphasise the need for continuing excellent cross-border arrangements, after the establishment of the national committee, particularly with regard to the Severn basin. The Minister referred to the cost savings and I am sure that we would all welcome anything that saves on administrative costs and increases the amount of money available for front-line services. However, I seek the Minister's reassurance that the full £180,000 per year to be saved by this change will annually go into the provision of flood defences in Wales and that there is no risk that that money will be reabsorbed by the Environment Agency centrally; I understand that the Environment Agency is responsible for servicing the current committees. I ask the Minister to make this explicit to the Environment Agency, and to report back to the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee on exactly where that money will go, if he cannot give us complete clarification today.

I understand the Minister's concern about the Conservative amendment. It would obviously be detrimental to the flood defence committee's work if it became too large, but nevertheless we will support it, because we believe that local knowledge is important. As the Minister knows, it was the main concern raised in the consultation responses that were not content. A commitment by the Minister to a wide geographical spread among the membership might go some way towards addressing that valid concern.

Helen Mary Jones: Fel y gwyddom i gyd, mae llifogydd yn broblem gynyddol i gymunedau ledled Cymru. Gwelwn effeithiau'r cynhesu byd-eang ac mae'r newid yn yr hinsawdd yn peri bod llifogydd yn broblem i gymunedau na fu'n rhaid iddynt eu hwynebu o'r blaen. Croesawn y camau yr ymdrinnir â hwy'n rhannol yn y rheoliadau hyn i beri i'r rhaglenni atal llifogydd fod yn fwy effeithlon ac atebol yng Nghymru. Yr ydym yn fodlon cefnogi cynnig y Gweinidog i greu un pwyllgor atal llifogydd i Gymru a derbyniwn mai'r ffin wleidyddol yw'r un fwyaf synhwyrol. Cefnogwn ei ddadl y bydd hyn yn hwyluso'r gallu i gynllunio'n strategol ac i flaenoriaethu adnoddau'n fwy effeithiol. Er hynny, pwysleisïaf yr angen i barhau â threfniadau trawsffiniol rhagorol, ar ôl sefydlu'r pwyllgor cenedlaethol, yn enwedig mewn cysylltiad â basn Hafren. Cyfeiriodd y Gweinidog at yr arbedion o ran costau ac yr wyf yn siŵr y byddem oll yn croesawu unrhyw beth sy'n lleihau costau gweinyddol ac yn peri bod mwy o arian ar gael i wasanaethau rheng flaen. Er hynny, ceisïaf sicrwydd gan y Gweinidog y bydd y cwbl o'r £180,000 y flwyddyn sydd i'w arbed drwy'r newid hwn yn mynd bob blwyddyn tuag at godi amddiffynfeydd rhag llifogydd yng Nghymru ac nad oes perygl y caiff yr arian hwnnw ei lyncu gan Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd yn ganolog; deallaf mai Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd sy'n gyfrifol am wasanaethu'r pwyllgorau presennol. Gofynnaf i'r Gweinidog egluro hynny i Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd, ac adrodd yn ôl i Bwyllgor yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad gan ddweud i ble'n union yr aiff yr arian hwnnw, os na all roi eglurhad llawn inni heddiw.

Deallaf bryder y Gweinidog ynghylch gwelliant y Ceidwadwyr. Mae'n amlwg na fyddai'n llesol i waith y pwyllgor atal llifogydd pe byddai'n mynd yn rhy fawr ond, er hynny, fe'i cefnogwn, gan ein bod yn credu bod gwybodaeth leol yn bwysig. Fel y gŵyr y Gweinidog, hwnnw oedd y prif destun pryder a godwyd yn yr ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad gan rai nad oeddent yn fodlon. Efallai y byddai ymrwymiad gan y Gweinidog i gael amrywiaeth daearyddol ymysg y cynrychiolwyr yn gam tuag at ymateb i'r pryder dilys hwnnw.

I also seek the Minister's assurance—I would hope that it would go without saying, but sometimes these matters do not—that the membership will be appointed according to best practice and in line with the Assembly's statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity for all.

We support the measure, although we acknowledge the genuine concerns raised in the consultation. It is important that this matter is kept under regular review, as the different measures are taken forward to put in place the new committee. I ask the Minister to commit to reporting regularly to the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee on the progress towards establishing the committee, on its membership when it is appointed, and on the arrangements that are put in place to ensure effective cross-border co-operation with regard to flood defences after the new committee is fully operational.

Mick Bates: The Welsh Liberal Democrats broadly support the Order before us today. However, we think that the Government is timid in addressing the main problem, which is climate change. I would look to the Minister at some stage to give a greater lead on this issue. My colleague, Glyn Davies, who eloquently proposed the amendment, is building his own windfarm. We should support the process of ensuring that there are more renewable energy sources in Wales, so that we can stand up and say that we are doing our bit to alleviate the enormous problem of climate change. Hopefully, when the Prime Minister leads the G8 and takes the chair of the commission, he will show the same commitment as the proposer of the amendment.

There are four issues in the legislation which I wish to address—accountability, prioritising policies, procurement, and the reduction in administrative costs. In terms of accountability, the Welsh Liberal Democrats wholeheartedly support the amendment. As has been raised in previous debates on this issue, we believe that local knowledge is the key to successful flood defence. Without that local knowledge, as has been demonstrated on so many occasions in Wales, strategic planning is meaningless, because defences

Ceisïaf sicrwydd gan y Gweinidog hefyd—hyderaf fod hyn wedi'i gymryd yn ganiataol, ond weithiau nid yw hynny'n wir am y materion hyn—y caiff yr aelodau eu penodi yn unol â'r arferion gorau a dyletswydd statudol y Cynulliad i hyrwyddo cyfle cyfartal i bawb.

Cefnogwn y mesur, er ein bod yn cydnabod y pryderon dilys a fynegwyd yn yr ymgynghoriad. Mae'n bwysig dal y mater hwn dan sylw'n rheolaidd, wrth roi'r gwahanol fesurau ar waith i sefydlu'r pwyllgor newydd. Gofynnaf i'r Gweinidog ymrwymo i adrodd yn rheolaidd i Bwyllgor yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad ar y cynnydd a wneir tuag at sefydlu'r pwyllgor, ar ei aelodaeth pan benodir hi, ac ar y trefniadau a roddir ar waith i sicrhau cydweithredu effeithiol ar draws y ffin mewn cysylltiad ag atal llifogydd wedi i'r pwyllgor newydd ddod yn llawn weithredol.

Mick Bates: Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru'n cefnogi'r Gorchymyn sydd ger ein bron heddiw'n gyffredinol. Er hynny, credwn fod y Llywodraeth yn ofnus o ran ei hymagwedd at y brif broblem, sef newid yn yr hinsawdd. Disgwyliaf i'r Gweinidog gynnig mwy o arweiniad ar y mater hwn rywbyrd. Mae fy nghyd-Aelod, Glyn Davies, a gynigiodd y gwelliant yn huawdl, yn codi ei fferm wynt ei hun. Dylem gefnogi'r broses i sicrhau y ceir mwy o ffynonellau ynni adnewyddadwy yng Nghymru, fel y gallwn sefyll ar ein traed a dweud ein bod yn gwneud ein rhan i leddfu problem aruthrol y newid yn yr hinsawdd. Gobeithiaf, pan fydd y Prif Weinidog yn arwain y G8 ac yn cadeirio'r comisiwn, y bydd yn amlygu'r un ymrwymiad â chynigydd y gwelliant.

Mae pedwar mater yn y ddeddfwriaeth y dymunaf ymdrin â hwy—atebolrwydd, blaenoriaethu polisïau, caffael, a lleihau costau gweinyddol. O ran atebolrwydd, mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru'n llwyr gefnogi'r gwelliant. Fel y dywedwyd mewn dadleuon blaenorol ar y pwnc hwn, credwn fod gwybodaeth leol yn hollbwysig er mwyn atal llifogydd. Heb gael y wybodaeth leol honno, fel y dangoswyd lawer gwaith yng Nghymru, mae cynllunio strategol yn ddiystyr, gan fod amddiffynfeydd wedi'u

have been breached and proved inadequate. Many people's lives and homes are ruined, and their ability to insure or sell their house is lost. We believe that these types of measures should bring greater accountability.

In terms of prioritisation, we are equally concerned that when the Environment Agency prioritises through the single committee, we are kept well informed of the process. Communication is particularly important. All too often, Members are kept in the dark about the strategic planning that is taking place, both at local authority and Environment Agency level. In supporting the single tier, we need to know exactly what is happening, and we look to the Minister to give regular reports on the matter.

In terms of procurement and best value, I am particularly concerned that the administration of the Assembly flood grant, which is intended to help individuals who are threatened by flooding, is an absolute disaster. It was established by a previous Minister, and it is a generous 85 per cent grant to individual householders. However, as yet, only one authority—Monmouthshire—has been successful in accessing the grant. If we are to believe in the benefits of this legislation, best value has to be demonstrated. Minister, why are you not giving best value to my constituents, for example, in terms of access to the Assembly flood grant?

3.40 p.m.

Helen Mary raised the issue of administrative costs. These are important in justifying the structural change embodied in this legislation. It is important that you report how the estimated £180,000 in savings will be used. Let us hope that it will benefit more people in terms of flood protection. Finally, who will monitor and evaluate this change, and at what stage do you propose to bring forward a report on its effectiveness?

David Davies: Flooding has been a huge problem in Monmouthshire, particularly in Monmouth. During the last big flood, the waters were only a few hundred yards from

bylchu a'u profi'n annigonol. Mae bywydau a chartrefi llawer o bobl yn cael eu difetha, ac ni allant yswirio neu werthu eu tai. Credwn ei bod yn debyg y bydd mesurau o'r math hwn yn dod â mwy o atebolrwydd.

Gyda golwg ar flaenoriaethu, credwn ei bod yr un mor bwysig, pan fydd Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd yn blaenoriaethu drwy'r pwyllgor sengl, inni gael ein hysbysu'n llawn am y broses. Mae cyfathrebu'n arbennig o bwysig. Yn rhy aml o lawer, ni chaiff Aelodau wybod am y cynllunio strategol sy'n digwydd, ar lefel yr awdurdodau lleol ac ar lefel Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd. Wrth gefnogi'r un haen, rhaid inni gael gwybod beth yn union sy'n digwydd, a disgwylw'n i'r Gweinidog roi adroddiadau rheolaidd ar y mater hwn.

O ran caffael a'r gwerth gorau, pryderaf yn benodol fod y dull o weinyddu grant llifogydd y Cynulliad, y bwriedir iddo helpu unigolion sy'n cael eu bygwth gan lifogydd, yn llastr llwyr. Fe'i sefydlwyd gan Weinidog blaenorol, ac mae'n grant hael o 85 y cant i ddeiliaid tai unigol. Fodd bynnag, hyd yma, dim ond un awdurdod—sir Fynwy—sydd wedi llwyddo i gael y grant. Os ydym i gredu ym manteision y ddeddfwriaeth hon, rhaid dangos ei bod yn cynnig y gwerth gorau. Weinidog, pam nad ydych yn rhoi'r gwerth gorau i'm hetholwyr i, er enghraifft, o ran y gallu i gael grant llifogydd y Cynulliad?

Gwnaeth Helen Mary godi mater y costau gweinyddol. Mae'r rhain yn bwysig o ran cyfiawnhau'r newid i'r trefniadau a ymgorfforir yn y ddeddfwriaeth hon. Mae'n bwysig ichi adrodd ar y modd y defnyddir yr arbedion amcangyfrifedig o £180,000. Gadewch inni obeithio y daw â mwy o fudd i bobl o ran amddiffyn rhag llifogydd. Yn olaf, pwy a fydd yn monitro ac yn gwerthuso'r newid hwn, a pha bryd y bwriadwch roi adroddiad gerbron ar ei effeithiolrwydd?

David Davies: Bu llifogydd yn broblem aruthrol yn sir Fynwy, yn enwedig yn Nhrefynwy. Yn ystod y llifogydd mawr diwethaf, nid oedd y dŵr ond ychydig

my front door, but, happily, I was unaffected. The causes of flooding are complicated. It is not simply a matter of waters breaching a floodbank, as underlying factors can be involved. For example, in Monmouth, the flood was not caused by weak defences, but by rigorous ones that did not allow water running off the hillsides and out of the brooks to reach the river. The situation was also dependent on tides and on rivers backing up, but I will not go into that. In complicated scenarios such as this, local knowledge is required so that solutions to problems can be found. This is where local flood defence committees work so well. Some people will have served on these committees for generations. The family of one of my constituents, whose surname is Waters, and who will be known to some Members, has been involved in flood defences in the Severn levels area for about 400 to 500 years, and a huge amount of crucial local knowledge has been built up during this time. Unless the Minister is prepared to give us certain guarantees, there is a danger that this type of information could be lost. This is the reason for amendment 1.

I do not want to make accusations, but it is important that people have confidence that decisions on the location of new flood defences are not taken on a parochial basis. People should not be led to believe that a certain amount of money will be spent on a certain area because, dare I say it, it might include a key marginal seat and, therefore, bring political advantage. I am not suggesting that this would happen, but, if we are not careful, we could create the perception that it could. This did not happen with local flood defence committees. I recently spoke to a Liberal Democrat councillor, from England no less, who helpfully provided me with some of the local information that he has built up.

Mick Bates: What is his name?

David Davies: I will tell you afterwards.

It is crucial that we maintain local knowledge and ensure that gerrymandering does not take

gannoedd o lathenni o'm drws ffrynt, ond, yn ffodus, nid effeithiwyd arnaf. Mae achosion llifogydd yn gymhleth. Mae'n fwy na dim ond mater o ddŵr yn torri drwy wrthglawdd, gan y gall ffactorau sylfaenol fod yn gysylltiedig. Er enghraifft, yn Nhrefynwy, nid amddiffynfeydd gwan oedd achos y llifogydd, ond rhai cadarn nad oeddent yn gadael i ddŵr o ochrau'r bryniau ac o nentydd gael cyrraedd yr afon. Yr oedd y sefyllfa hefyd yn dibynnu ar y llanw ac ar afonydd a oedd yn adlifo, ond nid af ymhellach i hynny. Mewn senarios cymhleth o'r fath, mae angen gwybodaeth leol fel y gellir canfod atebion i broblemau. Dyma hanfod llwyddiant y pwyllgorau atal llifogydd lleol. Bydd rhai wedi gwasanaethu ar y pwyllgorau hyn am genedlaethau. Mae teulu un o'm hetholwyr, sydd â'r cyfenw Waters, ac a fydd yn adnabyddus i rai Aelodau, wedi bod yn ymwneud ag amddiffynfeydd rhag llifogydd yn ardal gwastadeddau Hafren ers tua 400 i 500 o flynyddoedd, a chronnwyd swm anferth o wybodaeth leol hollbwysig yn ystod y cyfnod hwnnw. Os nad yw'r Gweinidog yn barod i roi rhai gwarantau i ni, mae perygl y collir gwybodaeth o'r fath. Dyma'r rheswm dros gynnig gwelliant 1.

Nid wyf am wneud cyhuddiadau, ond mae'n bwysig i bobl deimlo'n hyderus na wneir penderfyniadau ar leoli amddiffynfeydd newydd rhag llifogydd mewn modd plwyfol. Ni ddylai pobl gael eu harwain i gredu y caiff swm penodol o arian ei wario ar ardal benodol oherwydd, os caf fentro dweud, gallai gynnwys sedd ymylol allweddol ac, felly, dod â mantais wleidyddol. Nid wyf yn awgrymu y digwyddai hynny, ond, os na fyddwn yn ofalus, gallem greu canfyddiad y gallai hynny ddigwydd. Ni ddigwyddodd hynny yn achos y pwyllgorau atal llifogydd lleol. Bûm yn siarad yn ddiweddar ag un o gynghorwyr y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, o Loegr, fel y mae'n digwydd, a fu mor garedig â chynnig imi rywfaint o'r wybodaeth leol y mae wedi'i chasglu.

Mick Bates: Beth yw ei enw?

David Davies: Dywedaf wrthyhch wedyn.

Mae'n hollbwysig inni gadw gwybodaeth leol a sicrhau na chwaraeir y ffiniau, gan

place, with money invested in one area over another. To take umbrage with Helen Mary Jones, we need to ensure that people are chosen not on the basis of equality of opportunity, but according to their knowledge and ability to do the job. Secondly, the budget's finite funding must be invested where it will be of most use in preventing people's homes from being flooded, not where it will bring political advantage.

Eleanor Burnham: I attended the last meeting of the Dee and Clwyd local flood defence committee before Christmas. I take a keen interest in the Trefalun and Rossett areas, where flooding has been rampant in the last few years. I persuaded the Environment Agency of the need to open two valves at the side of the Chester weir gates. This was a simple, inexpensive procedure, even though I had been previously told that a feasibility study would cost £75,000. Why must everything be so complicated? We want simplicity and, as the previous speaker so eloquently put it, we want to use local knowledge. We need more funding for regular maintenance and the clearing of ditches, not just for costly capital projects, so that people are not constantly bombarded by floods, which are overwhelming for everyone, as we know.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Croesawaf finnu'r cyfle i gyfrannu i'r drafodaeth hon, gan bod llifogydd wedi cael cryn effaith ar Ynys Môn yn ystod mis Hydref y llynedd.

I ryw raddau, felly, cydymdeimlaf, nid â phopeth a ddywedodd David Davies, ond â rhai o'i bwyntiau perthnasol. Yn Ynys Môn, fel ym Mynwy, mae llifogydd yn fater eithaf cymhleth. Nid mater o gael amddiffynfeydd yn unig ydyw, ond hefyd o sicrhau bod digon o le i ddŵr sy'n rhedeg oddi ar y mynyddoedd fynd i mewn i'r draeniau, ac wedyn i gael llifo i'r môr, yn achos Biwmaris. Mae cymunedau megis Biwmaris, Bae Trearddur, Dwyran, a nifer o bentrefi eraill, wedi dioddef, ac mae llifogydd yn digwydd yn llawer amlach y dyddiau hyn. Cofiaf Janet Ryder ac eraill yn sôn am yr hyn a ddigwyddodd yn Rhuthun rai blynyddoedd yn ôl, ac mae fel pe bai'r enghreifftiau hyn o lifogydd yn cynyddu'n eithaf sylweddol.

fuddsoddi arian mewn un ardal yn hytrach nag un arall. Er y byddaf yn tramgwyddo Helen Mary Jones drwy ddweud hyn, rhaid inni sicrhau y caiff pobl eu dewis nid ar sail cyfle cyfartal, ond yn ôl eu gwybodaeth a'u gallu i wneud y gwaith. Yn ail, rhaid buddsoddi'r arian penodol a geir yn y gyllideb yn y manau y bydd yn fwyaf defnyddiol i atal llifogydd yng nghartrefi pobl, nid yn y manau y daw â mantais wleidyddol.

Eleanor Burnham: Bûm yng nghyfarfod diwethaf pwyllgor atal llifogydd lleol Dyfrdwy a Chlwyd cyn y Nadolig. Ymddiddoraf yn fawr yn ardaloedd Trefalun a'r Orsedd, lle y bu llifogydd yn rhemp yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Darbwyllais Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd o'r angen i agor dwy lifddor wrth ochr gatau cored Caer. Gwaith syml a rhad oedd hwn, er y dywedwyd wrthyf cynt y byddai astudiaeth dichonoldeb yn costio £75,000. Pam y mae'n rhaid i bopeth fod mor gymhleth? Yr ydym am gael symlrwydd ac, fel y dywedodd y siaradwr blaenorol mor huawdl, yr ydym am ddefnyddio gwybodaeth leol. Mae arnom angen mwy o arian ar gyfer gwaith cynnal a chadw rheolaidd a chlirio ffosydd, nid ar gyfer prosiectau cyfalaf drud yn unig, fel na chaiff pobl eu taro'n gyson gan lifogydd, sy'n drech na phawb, fel y gwyddom.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I also welcome the opportunity to contribute to this debate, as floods had a significant effect on Ynys Môn last October.

To some extent, therefore, I sympathise, not with everything that David Davies said, but with some of his salient points. In Ynys Môn, as in Monmouth, flooding is a relatively complex issue. It is not just a matter of putting defences in place, but of ensuring that there is adequate space for water running off the mountains to enter the drains, and then to be washed out to sea, in the case of Beaumaris. Communities such as Beaumaris, Trearddur Bay, Dwyran, and many other villages, have suffered, and floods are a more frequent occurrence these days. I remember Janet Ryder and others referring to what happened in Ruthin some years ago, and it seems that the incidence of flooding has increased significantly.

Gofynnaf i'r Gweinidog ein sicrhau y bydd y drefn newydd hon, yn ogystal â bod yn fwy atebol ac yn haws i'w gweinyddu, yn ei gwneud yn haws i gymunedau sicrhau gwell amddiffynfeydd nag ydoedd cynt. A fydd yn fwy ymarferol i gymunedau wneud ceisiadau am gymorth ariannol i sicrhau gwell amddiffynfeydd rhag llifogydd nag o dan yr hen drefn?

A wnaiff y Gweinidog ystyried yr hyn sy'n cael ei ddweud ynglŷn ag aelodaeth y pwyllgor newydd? Nid wyf yn deall yn iawn pan y mae'n gwrthwynebu'r gwelliant. Nid oes raid i'r pwyllgor hwn fod yn bwyllgor mawr, cyn belled ag y bo pob ymdrech yn cael ei gwneud i sicrhau bod gwahanol ardaloedd yng Nghymru yn cael eu cynrychioli. Mae'r pwynt ynglŷn â gwybodaeth leol yn un teg. Gwŷr y Gweinidog am y canfyddiad nad yw pwyllgorau cenedlaethol yn cynrychioli Cymru gyfan, a gwŷr am y canfyddiad yn rhannau o'r Gogledd, er enghraifft, nad yw'r pwyllgorau yn cynrychioli Cymru gyfan. Pam na wnaiff y Gweinidog ystyried derbyn ysbryd y gwelliant hwn, ac wedyn efallai ddod yn ôl â chynnig a fyddai'n help inni symud pethau yn eu blaen?

Gofynnaf yn benodol i'r Gweinidog, felly, i roi sicrwydd pan ddaw ceisiadau i law—fel y gwŷr y gwnânt—gan Gyngor Sir Ynys Môn, ar y cyd ag Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd ac, mewn rhai achosion, â Dŵr Cymru, i sicrhau gwelliannau i systemau amddiffyn rhag llifogydd, y bydd y system y mae yn ei gweithredu yn ei gwneud yn haws i'r ceisiadau hynny gael eu derbyn gan y Llywodraeth.

The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside (Carwyn Jones): I cannot support the amendment because it is too wide. It mentions having a wide geographical representation. I take the point about local knowledge being important, but I am not prepared to create a hostage to fortune at this stage. For example, some Members' interpretation of 'wide' might mean a representative from every single unitary authority, which would be far too wide. Therefore, it is best that we wait until the final detailed proposals come before the

I ask the Minister for an assurance that this new system, as well as being more accountable and easier to administer, will make it easier for communities to ensure better defences than was previously the case. Will it be more practicable for communities to make bids for financial assistance to improve flood defences than was the case under the old system?

Will the Minister take account of what has been said about the membership of the new committee? I do not quite understand why he opposed the amendment. This committee does not have to be a large one, as long as every effort is made to ensure that different areas of Wales are represented. The point about local knowledge is a fair one. The Minister will be aware of the perception that national committees do not represent the whole of Wales, and he knows of the perception that exists in parts of north Wales, for example, that the committees do not represent the whole of Wales. Why will the Minister not consider accepting the spirit of this amendment, and then perhaps return with a motion that would help us to move things forward?

I ask the Minister specifically, therefore, to give assurance that when bids come in—as he knows they will—from the Isle of Anglesey County Council, jointly with the Environment Agency and, in some cases, Dŵr Cymru, to ensure improvements to flood defence systems, that the system that he implements will make it easier for those applications to be accepted by the Government.

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad (Carwyn Jones): Ni allaf gefnogi'r gwelliant gan ei fod yn rhy gyffredinol. Mae'n sôn am gael amrywiaeth daearyddol ymysg y cynrychiolwyr. Derbyniaf y pwynt bod gwybodaeth leol yn bwysig, ond nid wyf yn barod i greu gwystl ffawd ar hyn o bryd. Er enghraifft, gallai dehongliad rhai Aelodau o'r gair 'amrywiaeth' olygu cael cynrychiolydd o bob awdurdod unedol, a byddai hynny'n ormodol. Felly, mae'n well inni ddisgwyl hyd nes y daw'r cynigion manwl terfynol gerbron y

Assembly. If the opposition parties have difficulties with what is proposed, perhaps then they could then put forward more detailed amendments so that I can consider them further.

On the cost savings, the £180,000 will be ring-fenced for flood defence—that is clear. On the cross-border situation, it is important that we have cross-border working, and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs was concerned about getting that right. Much work that is carried out in the Upper Severn Valley is for the benefit of communities downstream, on the English side of the river. There will be arrangements in place where works for the benefit of England are paid for by the English authorities, and works for the benefit of Wales are paid for by the Welsh authorities, no matter which side of the border those works have been carried out.

On membership of the committee, it is important that the procedure for appointing members of the committee should follow the procedures that we would deem to be acceptable in this institution. Mick Bates said accessing the Assembly flood defence grant is a disaster. Local authorities merely have to apply for it. If they have not applied for it, it is a matter for them. The money and the grant are there, but the operating authorities have to ask for it in the first place. I suggest that you take up the matter with the operating authority concerned. If it is a disaster, then it is not one that lies at the Assembly Government's door.

3.50 p.m.

On renewable energy, TAN 8 is there for all to see as draft planning guidance. You believe that it is not robust enough, but others send me e-mails regularly that disagree with that position. When the final guidance is produced during the summer, we will all have the opportunity to see what is actually proposed. However, the targets for renewable energy are clear.

In terms of accessing flood defence grant, we want to make it as easy as possible and make as much money as possible available to the

Cynulliad. Os bydd y gwrthbleidiau'n ei chael yn anodd derbyn yr hyn a gynigir, efallai y gallent roi gwelliannau manylach gerbron bryd hynny fel y gallaf eu hystyried ymhellach.

Ynghylch arbed costau, caiff y £180,000 ei glustnodi ar gyfer amddiffyn rhag llifogydd—mae hynny'n glir. Ynghylch y sefyllfa drawsffiniol, mae'n bwysig inni gael gweithio trawsffiniol, ac yr oedd Adran yr Amgylchedd, Bwyd a Materion Gwledig yn rhoi pwys ar gael hynny'n iawn. Mae llawer o'r gwaith a wneir ym Mlaen Dyffryn Hafren er budd cymunedau i lawr yr afon, ar ochr Lloegr i'r afon. Bydd trefniadau ar waith fel y telir am waith sydd er lles Lloegr gan yr awdurdodau yn Lloegr, ac fel y telir am waith sydd er lles Cymru gan yr awdurdodau yng Nghymru, ni waeth ar ba ochr i'r ffin y gwnaed y gwaith hwnnw.

Ynghylch aelodaeth y pwyllgor, mae'n bwysig i'r weithdrefn ar gyfer penodi aelodau'r pwyllgor fod yn un sy'n dilyn y gweithdrefnau a ystyriem yn dderbyniol yn y sefydliad hwn. Dywedodd Mick Bates fod y dull o gael grant amddiffyn rhag llifogydd y Cynulliad yn llanastr. Nid oes ond rhaid i awdurdodau lleol ymgeisio amdano. Os nad ydynt wedi ymgeisio amdano, mae hynny'n fater iddynt hwy. Mae'r arian a'r grant ar gael, ond rhaid i'r awdurdodau gweithredol ofyn amdano yn y lle cyntaf. Awgrymaf eich bod yn codi'r mater gyda'r awdurdod gweithredol dan sylw. Os yw'n llanastr, nid y Cynulliad sydd ar fai am hynny.

Ynghylch ynni adnewyddadwy, mae nodyn cyngor technegol 8 ar gael i bawb ei weld ar ffurf canllawiau cynllunio drafft. Credwch nad ydyw'n ddigon cadarn, ond mae eraill yn anfon negeseuon ataf yn aml drwy'r e-bost gan anghytuno â'r safbwynt hwnnw. Pan lunnir y canllawiau terfynol yn ystod yr haf, bydd cyfle i bawb gael gweld beth yn union a gynigir. Fodd bynnag, mae'r targedau ar gyfer ynni adnewyddadwy'n glir.

O ran cael y grant amddiffyn rhag llifogydd, yr ydym am wneud hynny mor rhwydd ag y bo modd ac am ddarparu cymaint o arian ag y

new flood defence committee. With six flood defence committees, there can often be a problem where the budget of one committee might run low and it is not able to carry out the works that it might want to.

Mick Bates: Thank you for answering the points about the Assembly flood grant. I hope that you are aware that, of the 22 authorities, the only one that has currently accessed it has not yet been paid the grant money. People who are trying hard to access the grant are failing because of the bureaucratic mess facing them in trying to do so. I wrote to you on this matter asking you to provide a list of approved suppliers—which you have not yet done—to make life easier for others. You should reconsider your statement that it is working, because it is not.

Carwyn Jones: It is for the operating authorities to ask for money under the flood defence grant. I cannot go further than that. If they have not asked for it, I can hardly go to various county halls and force the money on them, which is what you seem to be describing.

On Ieuan Wyn Jones's point on making it easy, yes, it is designed to make the situation easier in terms of accessing money. With regard to who will take the decisions as to which flood defence schemes should go ahead, that is, ultimately, a matter for the Environment Agency, but, of course, the flood defence committee will have a strong role in advising on where these schemes should be implemented. I am sure that, if there is any suggestion of political interference by any Minister, the members of that flood defence committee will be the first to say so, privately and publicly. I can, therefore, give the assurance that there will be no political interference to favour one area over another. When it is finally brought into being, and where the administrative boundary is the boundary of the new regional flood defence committee, this system will serve Wales well.

bo modd i'r pwyllgor atal llifogydd newydd. O gael chwe phwyllgor atal llifogydd, gall problem godi'n aml am fod cyllideb un pwyllgor yn mynd yn isel fel na all gyflawni'r gwaith y mae'n ei ddymuno.

Mick Bates: Diolch i chi am ateb y pwyntiau ynghylch grant llifogydd y Cynulliad. Gobeithiaf y gwyddoch fod yr unig awdurdod a'i cafodd, o blith y 22 o awdurdodau, heb dderbyn yr arian grant eto. Mae rhai sy'n gwneud eu gorau glas i gael y grant yn methu oherwydd y llanastr biwrocraidaidd a wynebant wrth geisio gwneud hynny. Ysgrifennais atoch ynghylch y mater hwn gan ofyn ichi ddarparu rhestr o gyflenwyr cymeradwy—ac ni wnaethoch eto—i wneud bywyd yn haws i eraill. Dylech ailystyried eich datganiad i'r perwyl bod hyn yn gweithio, gan nad ydyw.

Carwyn Jones: Lle'r awdurdodau gweithredol yw gofyn am arian o dan y grant amddiffyn rhag llifogydd. Ni allaf fynd yn bellach na hynny. Os nad ydynt wedi gofyn amdano, prin y gallaf fynd i wahanol neuaddau sir a'u gorfodi i gymryd yr arian, sef yr hyn sydd dan sylw gennych chi, yn ôl pob golwg.

Ynghylch y pwynt a wnaeth Ieuan Wyn Jones am ei hwyluso, ydyw, y bwriad yw gwneud y sefyllfa'n haws o ran cael arian. Gyda golwg ar bwy a wnaiff y penderfyniadau ar ba gynlluniau atal llifogydd a ddylai fynd ymlaen, mae hynny, yn y pen draw, yn fater i Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd, ond, wrth gwrs, bydd rôl bwysig i'r pwyllgor atal llifogydd o ran cynghori ar y manau y dylid rhoi'r cynlluniau hynny ar waith. Yr wyf yn siŵr, os bydd unrhyw awgrym o ymyriad gwleidyddol gan unrhyw Weinidog, mai aelodau'r pwyllgor atal llifogydd hwnnw fydd y cyntaf i ddweud hynny, yn breifat ac yn gyhoeddus. Gan hynny, gallaf roi sicrwydd na fydd unrhyw ymyriadau gwleidyddol i ffafrio un ardal dros y llall. Pan gaiff ei ffurfio yn y diwedd, a phan fydd y ffin weinyddol yn ffin i'r pwyllgor atal llifogydd rhanbarthol newydd, bydd y system hon yn gwasanaethu Cymru'n dda.

*Gwelliant: O blaid 24, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 30
Amendment: For 24, Abstain 0, Against 30.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Cynnig (NDM2248): O blaid 45, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 9.
Motion (NDM2248): For 45, Abstain 0, Against 9.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise

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

Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Francis, Lisa
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Laura Anne
Melding, David
Williams, Brynle

James, Irene
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

*Cynnig (NDM2249): O blaid 45, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 9.
 Motion (NDM2249): For 45, Abstain 0, Against 9.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Butler, Rosemary
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, Janet
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
 Essex, Sue
 German, Michael
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 James, Irene
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy

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

Cairns, Alun
 Davies, David
 Davies, Glyn
 Francis, Lisa
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Jones, Laura Anne
 Melding, David
 Williams, Brynle

Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

Cymeradwyo Rheoliadau Gofal Dydd (Cymhwyso i Ysgolion) (Cymru) 2005 Approval of the Day Care (Application to Schools) (Wales) Regulations 2005

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Brian Gibbons): I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales considers the principle of the Day Care (Application to Schools) (Wales) Regulations 2005, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office on 1 December 2004. (NDM2250)

I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office on 11 January 2005 in relation to the draft regulations the Day Care (Application to Schools) (Wales) Regulations 2005, and

a) approves that the Day Care (Application to Schools) (Wales) Regulations 2005 is made in accordance with:

i) the draft regulations laid in the Table Office on 1 December 2004; and

ii) regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office on 1 December 2004. (NDM2251)

Y Llywydd: Nid oes siaradwyr ar y cynnig hwn, felly awn yn syth at bleidlais.

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Brian Gibbons): Cynigiaf fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn ystyried egwyddor Rheoliadau Gofal Dydd (Cymhwyso i Ysgolion) (Cymru) 2005, y gosodwyd copi ohonynt yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 1 Rhagfyr 2004. (NDM2250)

Cynigiaf fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau mewn perthynas â'r rheoliadau drafft, Rheoliadau Gofal Dydd (Cymhwyso i Ysgolion) (Cymru) 2005, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 11 Ionawr 2005, ac

a) yn cymeradwyo bod Rheoliadau Gofal Dydd (Cymhwyso i Ysgolion) (Cymru) 2005 yn cael eu gwneud yn unol ag:

i) y Rheoliadau drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 1 Rhagfyr 2004

ii) yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 1 Rhagfyr 2004. (NDM2251)

The Presiding Officer: There are no speakers on this motion, so we will move directly to the vote.

*Cynnig (NDM2250): O blaid 54, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
 Motion (NDM2250): For 54, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:

The following Members voted for:

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Cynnig (NDM2251): O blaid 54, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM2251): For 54, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

Derbyniwyd y cynnig.

Motion carried.

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd i'r Gadair am 3.55 p.m.
The Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair at 3.55 p.m.*

**Dadl Plaid Leiafrifol (Y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol)
Minority Party Debate (The Welsh Liberal Democrats)**

**Gofal Personol Am Ddim
Free Personal Care**

The Presiding Officer: I have selected amendment 1 in the name of Kirsty Williams, amendment 2 in the name of Jane Hutt and amendments 3 and 4 in the name of Jocelyn Davies.

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliant 1 yn enw Kirsty Williams, gwelliant 2 yn enw Jane Hutt a gwelliannau 3 a 4 yn enw Jocelyn Davies.

Kirsty Williams: I propose that

Kirsty Williams: Cynigiau fod

the National Assembly accepts the principle of free personal care, as defined by the royal commission, and calls on the First Minister to press the UK Government to allow the Assembly the powers and funding to implement free personal care. (NDM2247)

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn derbyn egwyddor gofal personol am ddim, fel y'i diffiniwyd gan y Comisiwn Brenhinol, ac mae'n galw ar Brif Weinidog Cymru i roi pwysau ar Lywodraeth y DU i ganiatáu i'r Cynulliad bwerau a chyllid i gyflwyno gofal personol am ddim. (NDM2247)

I propose amendment 1 in my name: delete all and replace with:

Cynigiau welliant 1 yn fy enw i. Dileu'r cyfan ac yn ei le rhoi:

the National Assembly calls on the First Minister to press the UK Government to allow the Assembly the powers and funding to implement free personal care as defined by the royal commission.

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn galw ar Brif Weinidog Cymru i roi pwysau ar Lywodraeth y DU i ganiatáu i'r Cynulliad bwerau a chyllid i gyflwyno gofal personol am ddim fel y'i diffiniwyd gan y comisiwn brenhinol.

It is nearly six years since the royal commission presented its report in March 1999 and recommended that:

Aeth bron chwe blynedd heibio ers i'r comisiwn brenhinol gyflwyno ei adroddiad ym mis Mawrth 1999 ac argymhell:

'Personal care should be available after assessment, according to need and paid for from general taxation'.

y dylai gofal personol fod ar gael ar ôl gwneud asesiad, yn ôl yr angen, a dylid talu amdano o drethiant cyffredinol.

For nearly six years, the Labour Government in Westminster has ignored the plight of vulnerable elderly people who have worked hard all their lives, served their country, been prudent and saved, only to lose that money to a grasping Government. It has denied them their dignity and robbed them of their savings with an indefensible tax on illness.

Am ymron i chwe blynedd, mae'r Lywodraeth Lafur yn San Steffan wedi anwybyddu trafferthion pobl oedranus ddiameddifyn sydd wedi gweithio'n galed gydol eu hoes, wedi gwasanaethu eu gwlad, wedi bod yn ofalus ac wedi cynilo, dim ond i golli'r arian hwnnw i Lywodraeth grintachlyd. Mae wedi gwrthod iddynt eu hurddas ac wedi dwyn eu cynilion gan osod treth anesgusodol ar salwch.

The royal commission discovered that the system that existed at the time was too complex and provided no clarity as to what a person could expect, and that help was only available to the poorest, but led to the

Darganfu'r comisiwn brenhinol fod y system a geid ar y pryd yn rhy gymhleth ac nad oedd yn dangos yr hyn y gallai rhywun ei ddisgwyl, ac nad oedd cymorth ond ar gael i'r rhai tlotaf, a'i bod yn arwain at dlodi rhai

impoverishment of people of moderate assets before they could have any help from the state. The commission also described a degree of fear about the system which is of concern in a modern welfare state. Perhaps I could begin by clarifying what is meant by personal care. This is help with feeding, washing, maintaining continence and dealing with incontinence, which are basic daily events for us all.

The response to the royal commission was to introduce a free nursing care regime. I admit that the regime introduced in Wales is better than that introduced in England at the time. However, the system is inadequate, further confuses the issues and perpetuates the unfairness. To most professionals in the care sector, it makes a false distinction between personal and nursing care. The time, money and energy used in carrying out assessments to separate these two elements are frustrating and demoralising, and prevent the individual's care needs from being considered holistically.

The inability to bathe and feed oneself has a profound effect on a person's health. When performing a bath, professionals are not just cleansing a person, but assessing their general wellbeing. When assisting with feeding, they are assessing a person's hydration levels and ensuring that their nutritional needs are being met and monitored. Where, in these examples, does health or nursing care officially end? This also cruelly discriminates between clinical conditions, when those suffering from long-term chronic illnesses, such as Parkinson's disease and dementia, who need help with the tasks that I have highlighted, have to pay for care services.

Secondly, I turn to the impoverishment to which the royal commission referred. A few weeks ago, Mr J came into my constituency office in Brecon. He returned to Brecon from London some 10 years ago, to care for his elderly mother. He gave up his job and has cared for his mother, lovingly and willingly, for 10 years. Unfortunately, her needs have now become too great for him to manage

ag ychydig o asedau cyn y gallent gael unrhyw gymorth gan y wladwriaeth. Gwnaeth y comisiwn hefyd ddisgrifio elfen o ofn ynghylch y system sy'n peri pryder mewn gwladwriaeth les fodern. Efallai y gallwn ddechrau drwy egluro'r hyn a olygir wrth ofal personol. Mae'n golygu help i fwyta, ymolchi, parhau â'r gallu i ymatal a delio ag anallu i ymatal, sef pethau sylfaenol sy'n digwydd i ni bob dydd.

Yr hyn a wnaed mewn ymateb i'r comisiwn brenhinol oedd cyflwyno cyfundrefn gofal nyrsio am ddim. Yr wyf yn derbyn bod y gyfundrefn a gyflwynwyd yng Nghymru'n well na'r un a gyflwynwyd yn Lloegr ar y pryd. Er hynny, mae'r system yn annigonol, mae'n drysu'r materion dan sylw ymhellach ac yn parhau â'r annhegwch. Ym marn y rhan fwyaf o'r gweithwyr proffesiynol yn y sector gofal, mae'n ffug wahaniaethu rhwng gofal personol a gofal nyrsio. Mae'r amser, yr arian a'r ymdrech a aiff at gyflawni asesiadau i wahanu'r ddwy elfen hyn yn peri rhwystredigaeth a digalondid, ac yn peri na ellir ystyried anghenion gofal yr unigolyn yn gyfannol.

Mae'r anallu i ymolchi neu fwydo'ch hun yn cael effaith bellgyrhaeddol ar iechyd rhywun. Wrth olchi rhywun mewn bath, nid golchi rhywun yn unig y mae gweithwyr proffesiynol, ond asesu eu lles cyffredinol. Wrth helpu rhywun i fwyta, maent yn asesu ei lefelau hydradu ac yn sicrhau bod ei anghenion maethol yn cael eu diwallu a'u monitro. Ym mhle, yn yr enghreifftiau hyn, y daw'r gofal iechyd neu nyrsio i ben yn swyddogol? Mae hyn yn gwahaniaethu'n greulon hefyd rhwng anhwylderau clinigol, gan fod y rhai sy'n dioddef gan salwch cronig tymor hir, fel clefyd Parkinson a demensia, y mae arnynt angen cymorth i gyflawni'r tasgau y tynnais sylw atynt, yn gorfod talu am wasanaethau gofal.

Yn ail, cyfeiriaf at y tlodi y cyfeiriodd y comisiwn brenhinol ato. Rai wythnosau'n ôl, daeth Mr J i'm swyddfa etholaeth yn Aberhonddu. Daethai'n ôl i Aberhonddu o Lundain tua 10 mlynedd yn ôl, i ofalu am ei fam oedrannus. Rhoddodd y gorau i'w waith ac mae wedi gofalu am ei fam, gyda chariad ac o'i wirfodd, ers 10 mlynedd. Gwaetha'r modd, mae ei hanghenion wedi mynd yn

alone at home. Both he and his mother have agreed that it is now time for her to move into a residential care home.

4.00 p.m.

They have found a place that they are both happy with, and, although she regrets the need to move out of her home, she understands that it is in her interest and in her son's interest to do so. However, the crunch came when they were visited by social workers, who explained what this meant in reality. The house belongs to his mother, and although it has also been his home for the last 10 years, that is of little consequence to Powys social services department. She will have to pay for her new care setting. In order to do that, the house has to be sold. The best advice that I could offer my constituent was that I could write to Powys County Council asking it to be lenient and to use the waiver given to it by the National Assembly to only place a charge on the house, and to ensure that the house would only be sold after his mother's death, which would allow him to plan ahead. However, that is a discretionary power. Powys council does not have to respond positively to that request. Regardless of whether they sell the house now or after his mother's death, it will be sold, and the assets used to pay for the care. As a result, my constituent, who has cared for his mother, will be homeless.

I was also approached by an elderly couple in my constituency. They have no children to leave their house and assets to. However, they were concerned about how they can plan for their old age. When I explained the current situation in Wales to them, the gentleman, who used to teach English, paraphrased a well-known Shakespearean quotation, saying 'Well, Miss Williams, if I were to go, it were best that I should go quickly, were it not?'. The fact is that he is right. What kind of message are we sending elderly people when that is the reality of the situation that so many face?

In a previous incarnation, the Welsh Assembly Government accepted the principle of free personal care. What did it do about it?

ormod iddo ddelio â hwy gartref ar ei ben ei hun bellach. Mae ef a'i fam wedi cytuno ei bod yn bryd yn awr iddi symud i gartref gofal preswyl.

Maent wedi dod o hyd i rywle y mae'r ddau ohonynt yn fodlon arno, ac, er ei bod yn ofid iddi ei bod yn gorfod gadael ei chartref, mae'n deall bod hynny er ei budd hi ac er budd ei mab. Fodd bynnag, daeth yr argyfwng pan ddaeth gweithwyr cymdeithasol i'w gweld ac egluro beth a olygai hyn mewn gwirionedd. Mae'r tŷ'n eiddo i'w fam, ac er y bu'n gartref iddo ef am y 10 mlynedd diwethaf, nid yw hynny o fawr bwys i adran gwasanaethau cymdeithasol Powys. Bydd yn gorfod talu am ei lle newydd mewn gofal. Er mwyn gwneud hynny, rhaid gwerthu'r tŷ. Y cyngor gorau y gallwn ei gynnig i'm hetholwr oedd y gallwn ysgrifennu at Gyngor Sir Powys gan ofyn iddo fod yn drugarog ac arfer yr hawl a roddwyd iddo gan y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol i roi arwystl ar y tŷ yn unig, ac i sicrhau na fyddai'r tŷ ond yn cael ei werthu wedi i'w fam farw, fel y câi gynllunio i'r dyfodol. Fodd bynnag, hawl ddewisol yw honno. Nid oes raid i gyngor Powys ymateb yn gadarnhaol i'r cais hwnnw. Pa un a fydd yn gwerthu'r tŷ yn awr neu wedi i'w fam farw, caiff ei werthu, a defnyddir yr asedau i dalu am y gofal. O ganlyniad, bydd fy etholwr, a ofalodd am ei fam, yn ddigartref.

Daeth cwpl oedrannus yn fy etholaeth i gysylltiad â mi hefyd. Nid oes ganddynt blant y gallant adael eu tŷ a'u hasedau iddynt. Er hynny, yr oeddent yn pryderu am y modd y gallent gynllunio ar gyfer eu henaint. Pan eglurais iddynt beth oedd y sefyllfa yng Nghymru ar hyn o bryd, gwnaeth y gŵr bonheddig, a arferai fod yn athro Saesneg, aralleirio dyfyniad adnabyddus o waith Shakespeare, gan ddweud 'Wel, Miss Williams, os wyf yn gorfod mynd, byddai'n well imi fynd yn sydyn, oni fyddai?'. Y gwir amdani yw ei fod yn iawn. Pa fath o neges yr ydym yn ei chyfleu i bobl oedrannus gan mai sefyllfa felly y mae llawer yn ei hwynebu?

Derbyniodd Llywodraeth flaenorol y Cynulliad egwyddor gofal personol am ddim. Beth a wnaeth ynghylch hynny?

The previous Minister wrote a letter to the then Secretary of State for Wales, and that was it. That was the sum total of her action at the time. The former Minister also stated in January 2003 that if the UK Government was not convinced of the arguments that she would press for powers and resources so that we could consider the issue in Wales. What form has this pressing taken? How forceful was it? It has clearly been deeply unsuccessful. I look forward to receiving information on this following my request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for all the papers to be released. It is a pity that they did not arrive in time for this debate. However, I am sure that I will return to the issue when they become available.

Perhaps Labour in Westminster does not listen to Labour in the Assembly, or perhaps Peter Hain has simply not made up his mind. When he does, I am sure that he will inform the press.

The new Minister is well aware of the arguments on this issue, as he chaired the older persons strategy group, which produced 'When I'm 64...and more'. I hope that he will do more than simply write another letter in making the case to Westminster. Perhaps, in making that case, he could not do better than to quote from the report produced by the group that he chaired. It states:

'As a general principle, people who are assessed as needing care should have that care provided free irrespective of the setting in which it is provided or who provides it. The vision is of seamless care and people's needs should not be 'chopped up' to conform to administrative boundaries or payment regimes, or by reference to false distinctions between nursing care and personal care. Moreover, at the level of principle, the diagnostic equity argument is persuasive.'

Today, the Welsh Liberal Democrats are demanding action. It is not enough for Welsh Labour to concede the principle of free personal care. We need to put real pressure on Labour in London to make it happen. It is not a pipe dream. The Scottish Executive,

Ysgrifennodd y Gweinidog blaenorol lythyr at Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ar y pryd, a dyna ben arni. Dyna'r cwbl a wnaeth ar y pryd. Dywedodd y cyn-Weinidog hefyd yn Ionawr 2003, os na châi Llywodraeth y DU ei hargyhoeddi gan y dadleuon, y pwysai am gael pwerau ac adnoddau fel y gallem ystyried y mater yng Nghymru. Pa fath o bwyso a gafwyd? Pa mor rymus ydoedd? Mae'n amlwg y bu'n dra aflwyddiannus. Edrychaf ymlaen at gael gwybodaeth am hyn yn dilyn fy nghais o dan Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000 am ryddhau'r holl bapurau. Mae'n drueni na chyraeddasant mewn pryd ar gyfer y ddadl hon. Er hynny, yr wyf yn siŵr y byddaf yn dod yn ôl at y mater hwn pan fyddant ar gael.

Efallai nad yw Llafur yn San Steffan yn gwrandao ar Lafur yn y Cynulliad, neu efallai nad yw Peter Hain wedi penderfynu eto. Pan wnaiff, yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd yn rhoi gwybod i'r wasg.

Mae'r Gweinidog newydd yn gwybod yn iawn am y dadleuon ynghylch y mater hwn, gan iddo fod yn gadeirydd ar grŵp y strategaeth ar gyfer pobl hŷn, a luniodd 'Pan fwyf yn hen a pharchus...'. Gobeithiaf y gwnaiff fwy na dim ond ysgrifennu llythyr arall wrth gyflwyno'r ddadl i San Steffan. Efallai, wrth gyflwyno'r ddadl honno, na allai wneud yn well na dyfynnu o'r adroddiad a luniwyd gan y grŵp y bu'n gadeirydd arno. Dywed:

'Fel egwyddor gyffredinol, dylai pobl yr asesir bod angen gofal arnynt, gael y gofal hwnnw wedi ei ddarparu am ddim waeth beth fo'r sefyllfa y'i darparir ynnddi na phwy sy'n ei ddarparu. Gofal di-dor yw'r weledigaeth ac ni ddylid cymysgu anghenion pobl i gydymffurfio â ffiniau gweinyddol neu drefniadau talu, neu drwy gyfeirio at wahaniaethau ffug rhwng gofal nyrsio a gofal personol. At hynny, ar lefel egwyddor, mae'r ddadl ynghylch tegwch o ran diagnosis yn un argyhoeddiadol.'

Heddiw, mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn galw am weithredu. Nid yw'n ddigon i Lafur Cymru dderbyn egwyddor gofal personol am ddim. Rhaid inni bwysu o ddifrif ar Lafur yn Llundain i'w roi ar waith. Nid breuddwyd wrth ewyllys ydyw. Mae

made up of Labour and Liberal Democrat members, has already proved that it can be a reality, if the political will exists. Let us learn from the Scots, and end this unfair tax on illness and give back to our elderly people the dignity that they deserve.

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Brian Gibbons): I propose amendment 2 in the name of Jane Hutt. Delete all and replace with:

the National Assembly for Wales:

1. continues to accept the principle of free personal care, in the context set out by the royal commission;

2. notes the actions taken by Ministers to relay the views of the Assembly to the UK Government;

3. welcomes the measures that the Assembly Government has taken, and plans to take, to mitigate the impact of paying for personal care; and

4. notes that the emerging experience in Scotland has to be taken into account in considering this matter in the future.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Cynigiaf y gwelliannau canlynol yn enw Jocelyn Davies. Gwelliant 3: ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn nodi methiant Llywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad i ddylanwadu ar eu cydweithwyr yn San Steffan i weithredu penderfyniad y Cynulliad a oedd yn galw am ofal personol am ddim.

Cynigiaf welliant 4. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn mynegi pryder ynghylch y diffyg blaenoriaeth y mae Llafur Newydd yn ei rhoi i gynorthwyo pobl hŷn yng Nghymru.

Cytunaf yn llwyr â'r cyfan a ddywedodd Kirsty Williams wrth gyflwyno'r cynnig hwn a gwelliant 1 ar ran y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol. Byddwn yn cefnogi'r cynnig a

Gweithrediaeth yr Alban, sy'n cynnwys aelodau Llafur a rhai o blith y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, wedi profi bod hyn yn bosibl, os oes ewyllys wleidyddol i'w gyflawni. Gadewch inni ddysgu gan yr Albanwyr, a rhoi terfyn ar y dreth annheg hon ar salwch ac adfer yr urddas y mae ein pobl oedrannus yn ei haeddu.

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Brian Gibbons): Cynigiaf welliant 2 yn enw Jane Hutt. Dileu'r cyfan ac yn ei le rhoi:

bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. yn parhau i dderbyn egwyddor gofal personol am ddim, yn y cyd-destun a nodwyd gan y Comisiwn Brenhinol

2. yn nodi'r camau a gymerwyd gan Weinidogion i gyfleu barn y Cynulliad i Lywodraeth y DU

3. yn croesawu'r mesurau y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi'u cymryd, ac yn bwriadu'u cymryd, i leddfu effaith talu am ofal personol

4. yn nodi bod yn rhaid ystyried y profiad sy'n dod i'r amlwg yn yr Alban wrth drafod y mater hwn yn y dyfodol.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I propose the following amendment in the name of Jocelyn Davies. Amendment 3: add a new point at the end of the motion:

notes that the failure of the Labour Assembly Government to influence its Westminster colleagues to implement the Assembly resolution calling for free personal care.

I propose amendment 4. Add a new point at the end of the motion:

expresses concern at the lack of priority given to supporting older people in Wales by New Labour.

I agree wholeheartedly with everything that Kirsty Williams said in proposing this motion and amendment 1 on behalf of the Liberal Democrats. We will support the motion and

gwelliant 1, ond ni fyddwn yn cefnogi gwelliant 2 o eiddo'r Llywodraeth gan ei bod yn ymddangos bod y Gweinidog yn ceisio oedi ac osgoi gwneud penderfyniad ar bwnc sy'n wirioneddol bwysig. Bydd y Gweinidog yn ymwybodol o argymhellion y comisiwn brenhinol ar ofal tymor hir, a bod y comisiwn wedi mynegi'n glir ei fod o blaid sicrhau gofal personol i bobl a'i fod yn gyfrifoldeb ar Lywodraeth. Gwelaf o welliant 2 y Llywodraeth bod y Gweinidog yn barod i dderbyn yr egwyddorion, ond nid yw'n barod i weithredu arnynt.

Bydd y Gweinidog wedi nodi'r hyn a ddywedodd Kirsty Williams am annhegwch sylfaenol y ffaith y telir i bobl dderbyn gofal nyrso yn y cartref, ond nad ydynt yn gallu derbyn gofal personol. Bydd y Gweinidog yn ymwybodol bod hyn yn rhan o broblem ehangach, oherwydd pan gyfeirir pobl at gartrefi preswyl mae gofal nyrso i'w gael yn rhad ac am ddim, ond os cynigir gwasanaeth drwy'r gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, rhaid talu amdano. Cyfeiriodd Kirsty Williams at nifer o enghreifftiau o blith ei hetholwyr lle mae hwn wedi creu sefyllfa o galedi gwirioneddol, gyda phobl hyd yn oed yn wynebu bod yn ddigartref o ganlyniad.

Yr wyf yn derbyn nad yw'r Gweinidog wedi bod yn ei swydd yn hir, ac yr wyf yn fawr obeithio na fydd yn arddangos yr hunanfodlonrwydd a welwn, yn anffodus, yng ngwelliant y Llywodraeth, sydd mor nodweddiadol o'i ragflaenydd. Ni all fod yn hunanfodlon o ran sefyllfa sy'n gwbl anghyfiawn ac annerbyniol. Gobeithiaf y bydd y Gweinidog yn derbyn mai gwaith Gweinidog a gwaith Llywodraeth yw peidio â chael eu llethu gan broblemau, a gweithredu er mwyn eu gorchfygu i sicrhau bod pobl yn derbyn y gwasanaeth y maent ei angen.

Bydd y Gweinidog yn ymwybodol bod y sefyllfa'n waeth yng Nghymru nag yng ngwledydd eraill y Deyrnas Unedig. Credaf y byddem oll yn derbyn, gan fod digon o ystadegau i brofi hynny, bod incwm pobl hŷn yng Nghymru, ar gyfartaledd, yn is nag yng ngwledydd eraill y Deyrnas Unedig, bod mwy o bobl yng Nghymru yn debygol o fod yn berchenogion tai a bod angen gwerthu'r tai hynny i dalu am ofal personol, a bod yr

amendment 1, but we will not support the Government's amendment 2 because it appears that the Minister is trying to delay and avoid making a decision on an issue of fundamental importance. The Minister will be aware of the royal commission's recommendations on long-term care, and that the commission clearly expressed that it favours providing personal care for people and that it is the responsibility of Government. I see from the Government's amendment 2 that the Minister is prepared to accept the principles, but is not prepared to act on them.

The Minister will have noted what Kirsty Williams said about the underlying injustice of the fact that domiciliary nursing care is paid for, but people cannot receive personal care. The Minister will be aware that this is part of a wider problem, because when people are referred to residential homes, free nursing care is provided, but if a service is offered through social services, it must be paid for. Kirsty Williams referred to many of her constituents for whom this situation has created real hardship, with people even facing homelessness as a result.

I accept that the Minister has not been in post for long, and I very much hope that he will not display the self-satisfaction that we unfortunately see in the Government's amendment, which is so characteristic of his predecessor. He cannot be self-satisfied with regard to a situation that is totally unjust and unacceptable. I hope that the Minister will accept that it is the duty of a Minister and of Government not to be defeated by problems and to ensure that they are overcome so that people can receive the service that they need.

The Minister will be aware that the situation is worse in Wales than in the other countries of the United Kingdom. I think that we would all accept, as there is enough statistical evidence to prove it, that the income of older people in Wales is, on average, lower than in the other countries of the United Kingdom, that more people in Wales own their homes and that those homes must be sold to pay for personal care, and that the income that is

incwm sydd ar gael i bobl hŷn i dalu am ofal personol yn brin. Cyfeiriaf y Gweinidog at arolwg y Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio o sefyllfa pobl hŷn yng Nghymru a'u dibyniaeth ar eu cartrefi ar gyfer incwm.

Val Lloyd: In view of comments that were made earlier in the Chamber, will you condemn the plans of your friends to your left, in the Welsh Conservative group, who said, in their last Assembly manifesto, that local authorities in Wales should be removed from providing residential care so that the private and independent sectors could take over? This is in line with what you have already said.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: The Conservative Party in Wales may well be to the left of the Labour Party these days, but it is certainly not to the left of Plaid Cymru—the Party of Wales. However, I certainly do not agree with that policy. I will let the Conservative Party defend it, and I can see that David Melding is looking forward to doing so.

We want to note, in amendment 3, that this Government has failed to influence Westminster. We were told, 'Elect a Labour Government in the Assembly, and it will have influence in Westminster', and, 'We will get our colleagues in Westminster to agree to everything that we want in primary legislation'. You said that in 1999.

Brian Gibbons: Steady on, Rhodri Glyn.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: That is what you sold to the electorate. That was the justification for electing you, and you have failed miserably. Once again, you have failed to put forward a policy that is much-needed in Wales. I refer you to the real issue in terms of older people in Wales, which is poverty. I am sure that you will agree that one third of elderly people in Wales live below the poverty line. That is not acceptable, and the situation is getting worse—[*Interruption.*] It is, Brian. You will have an opportunity to respond to that.

available to older people to pay for personal care is scarce. I refer the Minister to the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee's review of the situation regarding older people in Wales and their dependence on their homes as a source of income.

Val Lloyd: Yng ngolwg y sylwadau a wnaed yn gynharach yn y Siambr, a wnewch gollfarnu cynlluniau'ch ffrindiau ar y chwith i chi, yng ngrŵp Ceidwadwyr Cymru, a ddywedodd, yn eu manifesto diwethaf ar gyfer y Cynulliad, y dylai awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru gael eu hatal rhag darparu gofal preswyl fel y gall y sectorau preifat ac annibynnol gymryd drosodd? Mae hynny'n gyson â'r hyn a ddywedasoeh eisoes.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Efallai'n wir fod y Blaid Geidwadol yng Nghymru ar y chwith i'r Blaid Lafur y dyddiau hyn ond, yn sicr, nid yw ar y chwith i Blaid Cymru—the Party of Wales. Fodd bynnag, nid wyf yn cytuno â'r polisi hwnnw, yn sicr. Gadawaf i'r Blaid Geidwadol ei amddiffyn, a gallaf weld bod David Melding yn edrych ymlaen at wneud hynny.

Yr ydym am nodi, yng ngwelliant 3, fod y Llywodraeth hon wedi methu â dylanwadu ar San Steffan. Yr hyn a ddywedwyd wrthym oedd, 'Etholwch Lywodraeth Lafur yn y Cynulliad, a bydd yn ddylanwadol yn San Steffan', a, 'Parwn i'n cymheiriaid yn San Steffan gytuno â phopeth a ddymunwn o ran deddfwriaeth sylfaenol'. Dywedasoeh hynny yn 1999.

Brian Gibbons: Arhoswch funud, Rhodri Glyn.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Dyna oedd eich honiad i'r etholwyr. Dyna oedd y cyfiawnhad dros eich ethol, ac yr ydych wedi methu'n druenus. Unwaith eto, yr ydych wedi methu â chyflwyno polisi y mae mawr angen amdano yng Nghymru. Fe'ch cyfeiriaf at y mater sydd o wir bwys o ran pobl oedrannus yng Nghymru, sef tlodi. Yr wyf yn siŵr y cytunwch fod traean o'r bobl oedrannus yng Nghymru yn byw o dan y llinell dlodi. Nid yw hynny'n dderbyniol, ac mae'r sefyllfa'n gwaethygu—[*Torri ar draws.*] Ydyw, Brian. Cewch gyfle i ymateb i hynny.

4.10 p.m.

Your record on increasing pensions is not much better than that of the Conservative Party, and yet people in Wales are facing increasing financial burdens, and it will get worse this year with rebanding. Council taxes have increased year on year in Wales. The situation is getting worse, and, unless you can address this issue of personal care, some people will face real difficulties. I urge you, again, Minister, to take this issue on and to show us that you can tackle these issues and that Labour can bring policies to the Assembly and to Westminster that will ensure that people receive the service that they need.

David Melding: It was strange to see a Labour Member intervene in the Plaid Cymru spokesman's contribution to ask him to clarify a Conservative Party policy. That seemed to be a somewhat indirect approach, but it was, perhaps, typical of the party that is in Government.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I will intervene in your contribution and say that you are doing an admirable job of avoiding the issue. Let us hear you defend it.

David Melding: The trouble is that the Labour Party has an army of people who think that they are rather clever—I was going to say that they are young, but they are not necessarily young—special advisers and researchers and the like, and they get things awfully wrong. They have opened the Conservative manifesto and have wanted to damn it immediately, so they have not analysed it properly. Our approach is to take our opponents seriously and to read what is in their manifestos and then to respond. I will give a history lesson. The commitment in our 2003 manifesto—*[Interruption.]* The Member needs to contain himself. You have to wait for the punch line, Rhodri Glyn, before you can tell whether the joke is good or not, and the same is true of serious arguments.

We were committed to forming joint care councils that would unite community care with personal care for adults. That would

Nid yw'ch record ar gynyddu pensiynau'n fawr gwell nag un y Blaid Geidwadol, ac eto mae pobl yng Nghymru'n wynebu mwy o feichiau ariannol, a bydd yn gwaethygu eleni gyda'r ailfandio. Mae trethi cyngor wedi codi y naill flwyddyn ar ôl y llall yng Nghymru. Mae'r sefyllfa'n gwaethygu, ac, os na allwch ymdrin â mater gofal personol, bydd rhai pobl yn wynebu anawsterau sylweddol. Fe'ch anogaf eto, Weinidog, i fynd i'r afael â'r mater hwn a dangos inni y gallwch ymdrin â'r materion hyn ac y gall Llafur ddod â pholisiau i'r Cynulliad ac i San Steffan a fydd yn sicrhau y caiff pobl y gwasanaeth y mae arnynt ei angen.

David Melding: Yr oedd yn rhyfedd gweld Aelod Llafur yn ymyrryd yn ystod y cyfraniad gan lefarydd Plaid Cymru i ofyn iddo egluro polisi o eiddo'r Blaid Geidwadol. Yr oedd hynny'n ymddangos yn ddull gweithredu anuniongyrchol braidd, ond yr oedd, efallai, yn nodweddiadol o'r blaid sydd mewn grym.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Fe ymyrraf yn ystod eich cyfraniad chi a dweud eich bod yn cael hwyl dda ar osgoi'r mater. Gadewch inni'ch clywed yn ei gyfiawnhau.

David Melding: Y drafferth yw bod gan y Blaid Lafur fyddin o bobl sy'n tybio eu bod yn eithaf clyfar—yr oeddwn am ddweud eu bod yn ifanc, ond nid ydynt yn ifanc o reidrwydd—cynghorwyr arbennig ac ymchwilyr a'u tebyg, ac maent yn camddeall pethau'n ofnadwy. Maent wedi agor maniffesto'r Ceidwadwyr gan ddimuno ei gollfarnu ar unwaith, felly nid ydynt wedi'i ddadansoddi'n iawn. Ein harfer ni yw cymryd ein gwrthwynebwyr o ddifrif a darllen yr hyn sydd yn eu maniffestos ac ymateb wedyn. Rhoddaf wers hanes ichi. Mae'r ymrwymiad yn ein maniffesto yn 2003—*[Torri ar draws.]* Dylai'r Aelod ymatal. Rhaid ichi aros am yr ergyd, Rhodri Glyn, cyn y gallwch ddweud a yw stori'n un ddigrif ai peidio, ac mae'r un peth yn wir am ddadleuon difrif.

Yr oeddem wedi ymrwymo i ffurfio cynghorau gofal ar y cyd a fyddai'n uno gofal cymunedol a gofal personol ar gyfer

have continued to have been largely a public service. Local authorities would have had a supervising remit over those joint care councils and they would have retained their duty to provide children's services. It was a well-thought-out policy, and we may well return to it if we ever get the chance to govern. That was our policy, and I urge Val Lloyd to go to the original source.

Val Lloyd *rose*—

David Melding: Perhaps she has it in her hand, so I suppose that I must be gallant and give way.

Val Lloyd: Thank you for your gallantry, David. I am reading this because I want to get it quite right. The following is taken from the 2003 Welsh Conservative manifesto, which states that you would

'require local authorities to concentrate on their role as commissioners of high quality services'

rather than being the direct provider of services. You also said that you would ensure that more social services are commissioned from the 'voluntary and independent sectors'.

David Melding: We completely stand by that. One of the main criticisms from the joint reviews of social services was that local authorities, largely dominated by your party, were not developing social care sectors, and that is why we have such poor, meagre and thin provision across Wales. This is the problem when people read material with a mind to damn others, instead of having an open and intellectual approach, and taking their opponent seriously. You need to get your researcher to look at these ideas with a little more care.

I commend the royal commission's excellent report, and it is right that we should think hard about whether we should provide free personal care. I have thought hard about it and I think that it is difficult to do in terms of providing a service at an effective cost, or

oedolion. Byddai hynny wedi parhau'n wasanaeth cyhoeddus gan mwyaf. Buasai awdurdodau lleol yn gyfrifol am oruchwyllo'r cynghorau gofal ar y cyd hynny a byddent wedi cadw eu dyletswydd i ddarparu gwasanaethau plant. Yr oedd yn bolisi a ystyriwyd yn drwyadl, ac mae'n ddigon posibl yr awn yn ôl ato os cawn gyfle i lywodraethu. Dyna oedd ein polisi, ac anogaf Val Lloyd i fynd at y ffynhonnell wreiddiol.

Val Lloyd *a gododd*—

David Melding: Efallai ei bod ganddi yn ei llaw, felly mae'n debyg y dylwn fod yn gwrtais ac ildio.

Val Lloyd: Diolch ichi am fod yn gwrtais, David. Yr wyf yn darllen hyn gan fy mod am ei gael yn hollol gywir. Daw'r canlynol o fanffesto Ceidwadwyr Cymru yn 2003, a dywed y byddech

yn mynnu y bydd awdurdodau lleol yn canolbwyntio ar eu rôl fel comisiynwyr gwasanaethau o ansawdd da

yn hytrach na darparu gwasanaethau'n uniongyrchol. Dywedasoeh hefyd y sicrhach y câi mwy o wasanaethau cymdeithasol eu comisiynu oddi wrth y sectorau gwirfoddol ac annibynnol.

David Melding: Yr ydym yn glynu wrth hynny'n llwyr. Un o'r beirniadaethau pennaf yn yr adolygiadau ar y cyd o wasanaethau cymdeithasol oedd nad oedd awdurdodau lleol, a reolir gan eich plaid chi gan mwyaf, yn datblygu sectorau gofal cymdeithasol, a dyna pam y mae gennym ddarpariaeth mor wael, mor brin ac mor ansylweddol ledled Cymru. Dyna'r broblem a gyfyd pan fo pobl yn darllen deunydd gan fwriadu collfarnu eraill, yn hytrach na bod yn agored ac yn ddeallusol, gan gymryd eu gwrthwynebydd o ddifrif. Dylech ofyn i'ch ymchwilydd edrych ar y syniadau hyn yn fwy gofalus.

Cymeradwyaf adroddiad rhagorol y comisiwn brenhinol, ac mae'n briodol inni ddwys ystyried a ddylem ddarparu gofal personol am ddim. Yr wyf wedi dwys ystyried hyn a chredaf ei bod yn anodd gwneud hynny o ran darparu gwasanaeth

providing a service that is genuinely free and not constrained by a narrow eligibility criteria. Scotland is facing a cost that is 50 per cent higher than the original estimate. A couple of years ago, we estimated that free personal care in Wales would cost between £60 million and £100 million. If we take the mid point of £80 million, half as much again would take us to £120 million, which is a great deal of money.

There are issues around how you charge and under what conditions you charge. Is it appropriate, in Kirsty Williams's example, that a carer does not receive some sort of credit for caring and that, perhaps, the charge that is put on a house is disappplied under those circumstances?

We could also consider delivering free personal care perhaps for the first three or six months in certain cases. Again, that would limit the approach. It would be fairly expensive, but it would be within the realms of reality. I agree with the Liberal Democrat Party in one respect, in relation to seeking the powers here: it is more responsible to ask for the powers to determine the issue and then come to a decision following a review, than to say, 'Oh, we will petition the UK Government'. The sum of the petition is one letter by the look of it, although we may find out that it was more extensive as a result of Kirsty Williams's approaches under the Freedom for Information Act 2000. However, we should look at that carefully. I also favour the UK Government's consideration of some kind of insurance, so that people can insure themselves against the costs of personal care. That could be delivered in terms of requiring contributions. In effect, it would be a voluntary tax.

I am still concerned about how the Government will deliver its promise of free care for disabled people. We are still awaiting a definition of a disabled person, despite the fact that that definition exists in UK law, and we do not know what criteria will be used to trigger that. However, I warn those who believe that free personal care

cost-effeithiol, neu ddarparu gwasanaeth sydd am ddim mewn gwirionedd a heb ei gyfyngu gan feini prawf cul ar gymhwyster. Mae'r Alban yn wynebu cost sydd 50 y cant yn uwch na'r amcangyfrif gwreiddiol. Ychydig flynyddoedd yn ôl, gwnaethom amcangyfrif y byddai gofal personol am ddim yng Nghymru'n costio rhwng £60 miliwn a £100 miliwn. Os cymerwn y pwynt canol o £80 miliwn, byddai hanner cymaint eto'n mynd â ni i £120 miliwn, ac mae hwnnw'n swm mawr o arian.

Mae materion yn codi o ran y modd y codir tâl ac o dan ba amgylchiadau y gwneir hynny. A yw'n briodol, yn yr enghraifft a gynigiodd Kirsty Williams, nad yw gofalwr yn cael rhyw fath o greddyd am ofalu ac, efallai, yn cael tynnu'r arwystl a roddwyd ar ddy o dan yr amgylchiadau hynny?

Gallem hefyd ystyried darparu gofal personol am ddim am y tri neu chwe mis cyntaf, o bosibl, mewn rhai achosion. Unwaith eto, byddai hynny'n cyfyngu ar y dull o weithredu. Byddai'n eithaf drud, ond byddai'n bosibl ei ystyried. Cytunaf â Phlaid y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol ar un peth, mewn cysylltiad â cheisio pwerau yma: mwy cyfrifol fyddai gofyn am y pwerau i benderfynu ar y mater ac wedyn gwneud hynny ar ôl cael adolygiad, yn hytrach na dweud, 'O, erfyniwn ar Lywodraeth y DU'. Ymddengys mai un llythyr oedd swm a sylwedd yr erfyn hwnnw, er ei bod yn bosibl y cawn ei fod yn fwy helaeth na hynny o ganlyniad i'r ymholiadau gan Kirsty Williams o dan Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000. Fodd bynnag, dylem ystyried hynny'n ofalus. Yr wyf hefyd o blaid gweld Llywodraeth y DU yn ystyried rhyw fath o yswiriant, fel y gall pobl eu hyswiro eu hunain rhag costau gofal personol. Gellid cyflawni hynny drwy ofyn cyfraniadau. Byddai hynny, i bob pwrpas, y dreth wirfoddol.

Yr wyf yn dal i fod yn bryderus ynghylch y modd y gwnaiff y Llywodraeth gadw ei haddewid i ddarparu gofal am ddim i bobl anabl. Yr ydym yn dal i ddisgwyl am ddiffiniad o berson anabl, er bod y diffiniad hwnnw'n bod yng nghyfraith y DU, ac ni wyddom pa feini prawf a ddefnyddir i gychwyn hynny. Fodd bynnag, rhybuddiaf y

offers a magic solution that we would be faced either with high costs, or with driving those costs down, and trying to keep the demand as low as possible and ending up in the perverse situation of people having to be very ill with complicated conditions before they could access services, rather than our having wider criteria that encourage people to come forward when they need help to maintain themselves at home.

Jenny Randerson: This is about treating people with dignity in their old age, and, as such, I hope that it will be a priority for all of us here, whatever our background. To return to the royal commission's report, the commission concluded that doing nothing with respect to the current system was not an option. Yet, six years on, the UK Government has done just that. The commission concluded that the system is too complex, provides no clarity as to what people can expect, and that it too often causes people to move into residential care, when that might not be the best outcome. I know from my own family's experience how beneficial care in your own home can be and how much it can extend a useful and happy life. The commission also stated that the current system leads to the impoverishment of people with moderate assets before they can get any help, as Kirsty highlighted. It also stated that there is a degree of fear about the system, which is of concern in a modern welfare state. I conclude that the Labour Party in general is not concerned about that, because so much of what it has done increases this degree of fear, given the means testing and complexity of the application process for all kinds of benefits. That is a matter of great fear for older people.

Possibly the strongest argument from some of the parties here is that the system is riddled with inefficiencies and that procedure is inefficient. The royal commission acknowledged that its definition of free personal care was tightly drawn, and yet the Labour Government has still refused to accept its recommendation to pay for free personal care out of general taxation. That definition, which Kirsty touched on, includes

rhai sy'n credu bod gofal personol am ddim yn cynnig ateb hud y byddem un ai'n wynebu costau uchel, neu'r rheidrwydd i leihau'r costau hynny, ac yn gorfod ceisio cadw'r galw mor isel ag y bo modd a chael sefyllfa wrthnysig yn y diwedd lle y byddai'n rhaid i bobl fod yn sâl iawn oherwydd anhwylderau cymhleth cyn y gallent gael gwasanaethau, yn hytrach na chael meini prawf ehangach sy'n cymell pobl i ddod ymlaen pan fo arnynt angen cymorth i gynnal eu hunain yn eu cartrefi.

Jenny Randerson: Mae hyn yn ymwneud â thrin pobl gydag urddas yn eu henaint, ac, oherwydd hynny, gobeithiaf y bydd yn flaenoriaeth gan bob un ohonom sydd yma, beth bynnag fo'n cefndir. Gan droi at adroddiad y comisiwn brenhinol, daeth y comisiwn i'r casgliad na ellid dewis gwneud dim o ran y system bresennol. Ac eto, chwe blynedd yn ddiweddarach, dyna'n union a wnaeth Llywodraeth y DU. Daeth y comisiwn i'r casgliad fod y system yn rhy gymhleth, nad yw'n egluro'r hyn y gall pobl ei ddisgwyl, a'i bod yn rhy aml yn peri i bobl symud i ofal preswyl, er nad hynny fyddai'r canlyniad gorau iddynt, o bosibl. Gwn o brofiad fy nheulu i pa mor llesol y gall gofal yn y cartref fod a'r graddau y gall ymestyn oes hapus a buddiol. Dywedodd y comisiwn hefyd fod y system bresennol yn arwain at dlodi pobl sydd ag ychydig o asedau cyn y gallant gael unrhyw gymorth, fel y dangosodd Kirsty. Dywedodd hefyd fod rhywaint o ofn ynghylch y system, a bod hynny'n peri pryder mewn gwladwriaeth les fodern. Deuaf i'r casgliad nad yw'r Blaid Lafur yn gyffredinol yn poeni am hynny, gan fod cymaint a wnaeth wedi cynyddu'r ofn hwnnw, o ystyried y defnydd o brawf moddion a'r broses ymgeisio gymhleth ar gyfer pob math o fudd-daliadau. Mae'r mater hwnnw'n achosi ofn ymysg pobl hŷn.

Efallai mai'r ddadl gryfaf gan rai o'r pleidiau sydd yma yw bod aneffeithlonrwydd yn rhemp yn y system a bod y weithdrefn yn aneffeithlon. Cydnabu'r comisiwn brenhinol fod ei ddiffiniad o ofal personol am ddim yn gyfyngedig, ac eto mae'r Llywodraeth Lafur yn dal i wrthod derbyn ei argymhelliad i dalu am ofal personol am ddim o drethiant cyffredinol. Mae'r diffiniad hwnnw, y cyfeiriodd Kirsty ato, yn cynnwys ymolchi,

washing, bathing, personal presentation, dressing and undressing, skincare, eating and drinking, managing urinary and bowel functions, managing problems associated with immobility, and the administration and monitoring of medication. I repeat that list because I want it to have an impact. I want people to ask themselves, 'What does this mean to me, or what would this mean to me if I was in that position?' These are the most personal and private things about our lives, and surely we should be allowed the dignity of having that kind of care when we need it. These are all closely related to the care of older people, which people in their earlier years assumed would be free of charge because they were paying tax and national insurance. Basically, older people have been let down by the Labour Party. Providing free personal care would help to reduce delayed transfers of care and free up more bed capacity, thereby helping to decrease waiting times and lists. The number of delayed transfers of care, which was announced today, has increased from 419 in September to 517. Most of those beds were being occupied for social care reasons, and providing free personal care would help to reduce that.

4.20 p.m.

I have talked to care home owners in my constituency, and I am frankly amazed by the argument as to whether this care should be provided by the private sector or local councils. I do not think that it matters who provides the care, as long as it is good care that is freely available in the quantities required. The care home owners in my constituency are dwindling in number. That is the picture across Wales; there are fewer placements available in care homes. That is in contrast to the situation in England. Mike German's proposal for legislation under Standing Order No. 31 on direct payments, which would enable people to stay in their own homes was rejected. Although those direct payments are now available throughout most of Wales, but not all of Wales, there is a shocking lack of publicity about them and of assistance for people to access them. If you take those issues together, you have a real

cymryd bath, ymgyflwyniad personol, gwisgo a dadwisgo, gofalu am y croen, bwyta ac yfed, ymatal rhag gwlychu a baeddu, rheoli problemau sy'n ymwneud â methu â symud o gwmpas, a rhoi a monitro meddyginiaeth. Ailadroddaf y rhestr honno gan fy mod am iddi gael effaith. Yr wyf am i bobl ofyn iddynt eu hunain, 'Beth y mae hyn yn ei olygu i mi, neu beth a olygai hyn i mi pe byddwn yn y sefyllfa honno?' Dyma'r pethau mwyaf personol a phreifat yn ein bywydau ac, yn sicr, dylid rhoi inni'r urddas o gael gofal o'r math hwnnw pan fo arnom ei angen. Mae'r rhain i gyd â chysylltiad agos â gofal am bobl hŷn, ac yr oedd pobl, pan oeddent yn iau, yn cymryd y byddent ar gael yn rhad am ac ddim am eu bod yn talu treth ac yswiriant gwladol. A'i roi'n blwmp ac yn blaen, mae pobl hŷn wedi cael cam gan y Blaid Lafur. Byddai darparu gofal personol am ddim yn gymorth i leihau oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal ac yn rhyddhau mwy o welyau, gan helpu i leihau amseroedd a rhestrau aros. Mae nifer yr achosion o oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal, a gyhoeddwyd heddiw, wedi codi o 419 ym mis Medi i 517. Yr oedd y rhan fwyaf o'r gwelyau hynny'n cael eu defnyddio am resymau sy'n ymwneud â gofal cymdeithasol, a byddai darparu gofal personol am ddim yn helpu i liniaru hynny.

Yr wyf wedi siarad â pherchnogion cartrefi gofal yn fy etholaeth, ac yr wyf yn synnu, a dweud y gwir, at y ddadl ynghylch a ddylai'r gofal hwn gael ei ddarparu gan y sector preifat neu gan gynghorau lleol. Ni chredaf ei fod o bwys pwy a fydd yn rhoi'r gofal, cyhyd ag y bydd yn ofal da sydd ar gael am ddim yn ôl yr angen. Mae nifer y perchnogion cartrefi gofal yn fy etholaeth yn lleihau. Dyna'r darlun a welir ledled Cymru; mae llai o leoedd ar gael mewn cartrefi gofal. Mae hynny'n groes i'r sefyllfa yn Lloegr. Gwrthodwyd cynnig Mike German i gael deddfwriaeth o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 31 ar daliadau uniongyrchol, a alluogai bobl i aros yn eu cartrefi eu hunain. Er bod y taliadau uniongyrchol hynny ar gael erbyn hyn yn y rhan fwyaf o Gymru, ond nid ledled Cymru, ni chawsant ddigon o gyhoeddusrwydd ac nid oes digon o gymorth ar gael wrth drefnu i bobl eu derbyn. Os cymmerwch y materion

problem.

hynny gyda'i gilydd, gwelir bod problem sylweddol.

Free personal care—

Gofal personol am ddim—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Jenny, you are running out time; please wind up.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Jenny, yr ydych yn mynd yn brin o amser; gorffennwch, os gwelwch yn dda.

Jenny Randerson: We need the powers to deal with this issue.

Jenny Randerson: Rhaid inni gael y pwerau y mae eu hangen i ddelio â'r mater hwn.

Lisa Francis: As my colleague, David Melding, has already outlined, we feel that we have to be cautious on the issue of free personal care because we do not know what the full cost would be. That is not to say that we would not like it to be available for everyone. I understand and fully sympathise with Help the Aged, which would like to see a commitment to providing free personal care in principle, because that would be in line with overall policy direction, as is the case in Scotland. However, figures for Scotland show that the four-year budget of £126 million was spent in the first nine months of this flagship policy. Everyone here will know that Scottish Ministers earmarked £250 million to pay for that policy in its first two years. Those figures suggest that, overall, the two-year cost could run closer to £336 million. Perhaps it might be possible, as David Melding has suggested, for this Assembly to consider offering free personal care for the first six months.

Lisa Francis: Fel y mae fy nghyd-Aelod, David Melding, wedi nodi eisoes, teimlwn fod rhaid inni fod yn ofalus ar bwnc gofal personol am ddim am na wyddom beth fyddai'r gost lawn. Nid yw hynny'n gyfystyr â dweud na fyddem yn hoffi iddo fod ar gael i bawb. Yr wyf yn deall ac yn llwyr gydymdeimlo â Help the Aged, a garai weld ymrwymiad mewn egwyddor i ddarparu gofal personol am ddim, gan y byddai hynny'n gyson â nod y polisi cyffredinol, yn yr un modd ag yn yr Alban. Er hynny, dengys ffigurau ar gyfer yr Alban fod y gyllideb bedair blynedd o £126 miliwn wedi'i wario yn naw mis cyntaf y polisi pwysig hwnnw. Gŵyr pawb sydd yma fod Gweinidogion yr Alban wedi clustnodi £250 miliwn i dalu am y polisi hwnnw yn y ddwy flynedd cyntaf. Mae'r ffigurau hynny'n awgrymu, at ei gilydd, y gallai'r gost ar gyfer dwy flynedd fod yn agosach i £336 miliwn. Efallai y gallai fod yn bosibl, fel yr awgrymodd David Melding, i'r Cynulliad hwn ystyried cynnig gofal personol am ddim am y chwe mis cyntaf.

Kirsty Williams: Following Scotland's experience—and I daresay that Labour Members will use the Scottish example as an excuse for why this issue cannot be tackled—would you agree with the words of Tom McCabe, the Deputy Health Minister in Scotland, who regards free personal care as

Kirsty Williams: Yn dilyn y profiad a gafwyd yn yr Alban—a mentraf ddweud y bydd Aelodau Llafur yn defnyddio'r enghraifft yn yr Alban yn esgus dros beidio â mynd i'r afael â'r mater hwn—a gytunech â geiriau Tom McCabe, y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Iechyd yn yr Alban, sydd o'r farn mai gofal personol am ddim yw

'one of devolution's major successes'?

un o'r llwyddiannau mawr a gafwyd drwy ddatganoli?

Furthermore, David Kennedy of the Scottish Local Authorities Association says that there is a positive picture in Scotland, that councils have moved mountains to achieve this and that things are going well.

At hynny, dywed David Kennedy o Gymdeithas Awdurdodau Lleol yr Alban fod y sefyllfa yn yr Alban yn obeithiol, bod cynghorau wedi cyflawni'r amhosibl a bod pethau'n mynd yn iawn.

Lisa Francis: I have read Mr McCabe's remarks, Kirsty, but we must have fully costed policies. It is not responsible to continue with an initiative, if we do not know its full cost.

Driving up the standards of the care currently on offer needs to be considered. Jenny's point about the private sector needing more encouragement is right. Over 2,000 care home places have been lost in Wales since 1999. While thousands of people in Wales continue to face delayed transfers of care, bureaucracy in NHS Wales has the NHS tightly by its throat, which limits people's choice. People who have visited my surgeries have asked why doorways in care homes must measure a distance of so many centimetres, if the care home is safe, and an individual is happy to remain there.

Does it really matter if care homes for younger adults fail to meet over-prescriptive requirements for personal care that would be more relevant to looking after bed-ridden or incontinent persons, if their main purpose is to provide much-needed detoxification and rehabilitation programmes for drug and alcohol abusers? Those programmes have a high success rate in a country where facilities are few and far between and limited.

I want older people to receive care which is dignified, and, in an ideal world, personal care should be free. Unfortunately, despite record amounts of public money being spent in the NHS in Wales, as things stand at present, this is impossible.

Eleanor Burnham: Delayed transfers of care are evident throughout north Wales, as in other areas of Wales. The lack of vision, ambition and success shown by the Welsh Labour Assembly Government in pressing for free personal care, or for powers and resources for the Assembly to introduce free personal care itself, contrasts with its securing of future legislation to create an older persons' commissioner for Wales. That is a distraction from the real task of

Lisa Francis: Yr wyf wedi darllen sylwadau Mr McCabe, Kirsty, ond rhaid inni gael polisiau sydd wedi'u prasio'n drylwyr. Nid yw'n gyfrifol bwrw ymlaen â menter, os na wyddom ei chost lawn.

Rhaid ystyried codi safonau'r gofal sy'n cael ei gynnig ar hyn o bryd. Mae'r pwynt a wnaeth Jenny i'r perwyl bod ar y sector preifat angen mwy o anogaeth yn gywir. Collwyd mwy na 2,000 o leoedd mewn cartrefi gofal yng Nghymru er 1999. Tra bo miloedd o bobl yng Nghymru'n dal i wynebu oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal, mae biwrocratiaeth yn GIG Cymru yn tagu'r GIG, ac mae hynny'n cyfyngu ar ddewis pobl. Mae rhai a ddaeth i'm cymorthfeydd wedi gofyn pam y mae'n rhaid i ddrysau mewn cartrefi gofal fod yn hyn a hyn o sentimedrau o led, os yw'r cartref gofal yn ddiogel, a'r unigolyn yn fodlon aros yno.

A yw o bwys, mewn gwirionedd, os yw cartrefi gofal ar gyfer oedolion iau yn methu â bodloni gofynion gormodol ar gyfer gofal personol a fyddai'n fwy perthnasol i ofal am rai sy'n gaeth i'w gwelyau neu'n methu â dal, os mai eu prif bwrpas yw rhedeg rhaglenni dadwenwyno neu ailsefydlu y mae eu mawr angen ar gyfer rhai sy'n camddefnyddio cyffuriau ac alcohol? Mae'r rhaglenni hynny'n llwyddiannus dros ben, a hynny mewn gwlad lle y mae cyfleusterau'n brin ac yn gyfyngedig.

Yr wyf am i bobl hŷn gael gofal sy'n urddasol, ac, mewn byd delfrydol, dylai gofal personol fod ar gael am ddim. Gwaetha'r modd, er bod y symiau mwyaf erioed o arian cyhoeddus yn cael eu gwario yn y GIG yng Nghymru, fel y mae ar hyn o bryd, mae hynny'n amhosibl.

Eleanor Burnham: Gwelir achosion o oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal ledled y Gogledd, fel y'u gwelir mewn rhannau eraill o Gymru. Mae'r diffyg o ran gweledigaeth, uchelgais a llwyddiant a amlygir gan y Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru Lafur wrth bwysu am ofal personol am ddim, neu am bwerau ac adnoddau fel y gall y Cynulliad gyflwyno gofal personol am ddim ei hun, yn gwrthgyferbynnu â'r ffaith ei bod wedi sicrhau deddfwriaeth yn y dyfodol i greu

improving services for older people, the most prominent of which is securing a better deal for those in long-term care.

Rather than creating an official to whom older people can complain, Labour should focus on giving older people a better deal. One way of achieving this would be to implement the royal commission's recommendation, and invest in free personal care. In principle, it is not a bad idea to have an older people's commissioner, but it is not necessarily a priority for Wales. On the other hand, free personal care is a priority. While Labour fiddles, Rome burns.

The Welsh Assembly Government prefers to concentrate on gimmicks such as free swimming for the elderly, rather than vigorously convincing its Westminster colleagues that free personal care should be a major priority. Resources, including some—

Rosemary Butler *rose—*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. You have only just come into the Chamber, Rosemary. You cannot just suddenly intervene in the debate. It is up to you whether you wish to take the intervention, Eleanor.

Eleanor Burnham: I am indulgent, and I will give Rosemary an opportunity to speak if she wishes.

Rosemary Butler: There is a song about the grand old duke of York—when he was up, he was up. Thank you for giving way, Eleanor. I was disappointed to hear your comment about free swimming for the elderly, especially as you are an active member of the Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee. Are you not in favour of this excellent initiative?

Eleanor Burnham: Not at all. I am reflecting the concerns of my constituents. Many people have complained to me bitterly about waiting lists. Although they are grateful to be able to travel free on a bus,

comisiynydd ar gyfer pobl hŷn i Gymru. Mae hynny'n eilbeth i'r wir dasg o wella gwasanaethau i bobl hŷn, a'r hyn sy'n bwysicaf yn hynny o beth yw sicrhau gwell bargaen i'r rhai sydd mewn gofal tymor hir.

Yn hytrach na chreu swyddog y gall pobl hŷn gwyno iddo, dylai Llafur ganolbwyntio ar roi gwell bargaen i bobl hŷn. Un modd i gyflawni hynny fyddai cyflawni argymhelliad y comisiwn brenhinol, a buddsoddi mewn gofal personol am ddim. Mewn egwyddor, nid yw'r syniad o gael comisiynydd ar gyfer pobl hŷn yn un drwg, ond nid yw o reidrwydd yn flaenoriaeth i Gymru. Ar y llaw arall, mae gofal personol am ddim yn flaenoriaeth. Mae Llafur yn chwarae'r crwth a Rhufain yn llosgi.

Mae'n well gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ganolbwyntio ar gimigau fel nofio am ddim ar gyfer yr henoed, yn hytrach na mynd ati i ddarbwylllo ei chymheiriaid yn San Steffan y dylai gofal personol am ddim fod yn flaenoriaeth o bwys. Mae adnoddau, gan gynnwys rhai—

Rosemary Butler *a gododd—*

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Yr ydych newydd ddod i mewn i'r Siambr, Rosemary. Ni chewch ymyrryd yn y ddadl yn fwyaf sydyn. Chi sydd i benderfynu a ydych yn dymuno derbyn yr ymyriad, Eleanor.

Eleanor Burnham: Yr wyf yn oddefgar, a rhoddaf gyfle i Rosemary gael siarad os yw'n dymuno.

Rosemary Butler: Ceir cân am hen ddug Caerefrog—pan oedd ar ben y bryn, yn y fan honno yr ydoedd. Diolch i chi am ildio, Eleanor. Yr oeddwn yn siomedig o glywed eich sylw am nofio am ddim i'r henoed, yn enwedig gan eich bod yn aelod brwdfrydig o Bwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon. Onid ydych o blaid y fenter ragorol hon?

Eleanor Burnham: Ddim o gwbl. Yr wyf yn adlewyrchu pryderon fy etholwyr. Mae llawer wedi cwyno'n arw wrthyf am restrau aros. Er eu bod yn ddiolchgar am gael teithio am ddim ar fws, mae nofio ar gael am bris is

they already have reduced price swimming in the area. I am reflecting the view of my constituents, and I have received quite a lot of letters in my postbag about this issue—I would not have raised it otherwise.

Pensioners have complained to me bitterly that they would prefer the Welsh Assembly Government to concentrate on tackling hospital waiting lists, which are often exacerbated by delayed transfers of care, rather than provide free swimming for the elderly. They point out that they can travel for free on the bus, as I say, and that they already get reduced price swimming.

Instead of subsidising the active people who live within easy reach of a swimming pool, perhaps the Welsh Assembly Government should ensure that those who are desperately in need of free personal care receive it, and do not have to sell their homes. That is the crunch in this argument.

John Griffiths: Are you aware that older people and the organisations that represent them were key in working up the proposals for an older people's commissioner for Wales? It is what older people in Wales want. Are you telling us that the Liberal Democrats in Wales are opposed to the idea?

Eleanor Burnham: Not at all, but the same people have asked for free personal care to be prioritised. In our view, Labour in Wales prefers to concentrate on gimmicks, and I urge the Government to think clearly and carefully about free personal care. It is a huge issue, and I have received letters about it, as have other Members. I am lucky in having an active 87-year-old mother, who now lives with my sister and brother-in-law. Not everyone is that lucky.

4.30 p.m.

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Brian Gibbons): In the first Assembly, we had a good debate on this particular subject in the context of the advisory group's report on the strategy for older people. As Kirsty said, the Assembly

iddynt yn yr ardal eisoes. Yr wyf yn adlewyrchu barn fy etholwyr, ac yr wyf wedi cael cryn nifer o lythyrau ar y mater hwn—ni fyddwn wedi'i godi fel arall.

Mae pensynwyr wedi cwyno'n arw wrthyf gan ddweud y byddai'n well ganddynt pe byddai Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n canolbwyntio ar fynd i'r afael â rhestrau aros ysbytai, a waethygir yn aml gan achosion o oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal, yn hytrach nag ar gynnig nofio am ddim i'r henoed. Cyfeiriant at y ffaith eu bod yn cael teithio am ddim ar y bws, fel y dywedais, a'u bod eisoes yn cael nofio am bris is.

Yn hytrach na rhoi cymhorthdal i'r bobl heini sy'n byw o fewn cyrraedd hwylus i bwl nofio, efallai y dylai Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru sicrhau bod gofal personol ar gael am ddim i'r rhai y mae arnynt ei daer angen, ac nad ydynt yn gorfod gwerthu eu cartrefi. Dyna'r pwynt hanfodol yn y ddadl hon.

John Griffiths: A wyddoch fod pobl hŷn a'r cyrff sy'n eu cynrychioli wedi chwarae rhan allweddol wrth baratoi'r cynigion ar gyfer comisiynydd ar gyfer pobl hŷn i Gymru? Dyna ddymuniad pobl hŷn yng Nghymru. A ydych yn dweud wrthym fod y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yng Nghymru yn gwrthwynebu'r syniad?

Eleanor Burnham: Ddim o gwbl, ond mae'r un bobl wedi gofyn am roi blaenoriaeth i ofal personol am ddim. Yn ein barn ni, mae'n well gan Lafur yng Nghymru ganolbwyntio ar gimigau, ac anogaf y Llywodraeth i feddwl yn glir ac yn ofalus ynghylch gofal personol am ddim. Mae'n bwnc aruthrol o bwysig, ac yr wyf wedi cael llythyrau yn ei gylech, fel y mae Aelodau eraill. Yr wyf yn ffodus o fod â mam fywiog 87 mlwydd oed, sy'n byw'n awr gyda'm chwaer a'm brawd yng nghyfraith. Nid yw pawb mor ffodus â hynny.

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Brian Gibbons): Yn y Cynulliad cyntaf, cawsom ddadl dda ar y pwnc hwn yng nghyd-destun adroddiad y grŵp ymgynghorol ar y strategaeth ar gyfer pobl hŷn. Fel y dywedodd Kirsty, cytunodd y

agreed that, on the basis of diagnostic equity, there were strong arguments for providing free personal care. However, our acceptance of the principle of providing free personal care came, as Rhodri Glyn said, in the context of the Sutherland commission report. The report recommended that this should be a UK matter and should possibly be funded through hypothecated taxation. We needed to consider the benefits and inheritance ramifications of any such proposals.

In proposing our amendment 2, I seek to make two points. First, even though the Liberal Democrats proposed an amendment to their motion, it does not move us further forward, as we have already achieved what is sought. Secondly, I remind Members of the considerable amount of work undertaken to improve the position of older people in general, not just of those who pay for care. Our record deserves commendation, not the condemnation of the Plaid Cymru amendments.

The Assembly Government followed up 'When I'm 64...and more' by writing to the UK Government and publishing our strategy for older people. We explained our position to the UK Government, but it chose to maintain its position that spending priorities should involve the delivery of a range of quality services rather than meeting the demand for free personal care. For better or for worse, there is little indication that the UK Government has changed its position.

When we debate this subject, a number of issues are regularly overlooked. The first is that the current means-testing regime means that 80 per cent of people in residential care in Wales qualify for some sort of support from local authorities or the NHS. It follows, therefore, that the main beneficiaries of free personal care will be the 20 per cent who are relatively—and I stress 'relatively'—better off, rather than the poorest, as we have heard.

Kirsty Williams: You outlined the fact that your predecessor wrote to the Westminster Government and asked it to reconsider its

Cynulliad, ar sail tegwch diagnostig, fod dadleuon cryf o blaid darparu gofal personol am ddim. Fodd bynnag, gwnaethom dderbyn yr egwyddor o ddarparu gofal personol am ddim, fel y dywedodd Rhodri Glyn, yng nghyd-destun adroddiad comisiwn Sutherland. Yr oedd yr adroddiad hwnnw'n argymhell y dylai hyn fod yn fater i'r DU ac y dylai gael ei ariannu, o bosibl, drwy drethiant a glustnodir. Yr oedd yn rhaid inni ystyried manteision unrhyw gynigion o'r fath a'u goblygiadau o ran etifeddu.

Wrth gynnig gwelliant 2 o'n heiddo, ceisiaf wneud dau bwynt. Yn gyntaf, er bod y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol wedi cynnig gwelliant i'w cynnig, nid yw'n ein symud ymlaen, gan ein bod eisoes wedi sicrhau'r hyn a geisir. Yn ail, yr wyf yn atgoffa Aelodau am y gwaith sylweddol a gyflawnwyd i wella sefyllfa pobl hŷn yn gyffredinol, nid y rhai sy'n talu am ofal yn unig. Mae ein record yn haeddu ei channol, nid ei cholffarnu fel y gwnaiff gwelliannau Plaid Cymru.

Gwnaeth Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ddilyn 'Pan fwyf yn hen a pharchus...' drwy ysgrifennu at Lywodraeth y DU a chyhoeddi ein strategaeth ar gyfer pobl hŷn. Eglurwyd ein safbwynt i Lywodraeth y DU, ond dewisodd ddal at ei safbwynt y dylid rhoi blaenoriaeth mewn gwariant i ddarparu amryw o wasanaethau o ansawdd da yn hytrach nag ateb y galw am ofal personol am ddim. Er gwell neu er gwaeth, nid oes fawr o arwydd bod Llywodraeth y DU wedi newid ei safbwynt.

Pan gawn ddadleuon ar y pwnc hwn, mae sawl mater a anwybyddir yn aml. Y cyntaf yw bod y trefniadau presennol ar gyfer cynnal prawf moddion yn golygu bod 80 y cant o'r rhai mewn gofal preswyl yng Nghymru'n gymwys i gael rhyw fath o gymorth gan awdurdodau lleol neu gan y GIG. Mae'n dilyn, felly, mai'r rhai a fydd yn elwa gan mwyaf ar ofal personol am ddim fydd y 20 y cant sy'n gymharol—ac yr wyf yn rhoi pwys ar 'cymharol'—gwell eu byd, yn hytrach na'r rhai tlotaf, fel y clywsom.

Kirsty Williams: Gwnaethoch nodi'r ffaith bod eich rhagflaenydd wedi ysgrifennu at Lywodraeth San Steffan gan ofyn iddi

view. Your predecessor also gave a commitment to the Assembly in January 2003 that, if the Labour Party in Westminster remained unmoved—and you said that that is the case—she would seek to have the relevant powers and resources devolved to this institution. Was such a request made to London, and, if so, what was the reply?

Brian Gibbons: Personally, I cannot tell you. I can find out the answer, but I cannot respond to your question now.

The Sutherland commission recognised that although its proposals would lead to paying for free personal care, residents would continue to be responsible for their own living and hotel costs. So, everyone would still have to be subject to a means test to determine their ability to pay hotel costs, and capital assets built up over the years would still be reduced, albeit more slowly. The royal commission's proposals would not abolish means testing or the threat to people's property, even though some Members have suggested otherwise during this debate. Equally, free personal care would not cover all forms of domestic support according to the royal commission. For example, feeding at home would be covered, but the preparation of food would be chargeable.

We need to take into account that an entitlement to free personal care would put public support such as the attendance allowance at risk. This allowance is worth over £58 a week to the many people who rely on domiciliary care. Introducing free personal care other than as recommended by the royal commission could lead to a situation where Wales loses about £15 million through subsidising Westminster, rather than a situation where Westminster provides the necessary support through general taxation.

David Melding: I agree with many of your points, but point 1 of amendment 2 says that the Government continues to accept the principle of free personal care in the context set out by the royal commission, while point 4 notes that the emerging experience in Scotland has to be taken into account in

ailystyried ei barn. Gwnaeth eich rhagflaenydd roi ymrwymiad hefyd i'r Cynulliad yn Ionawr 2003, y byddai'n ceisio cael datganoli'r pwerau a'r adnoddau perthnasol i'r sefydliad hwn os na fyddai'r Blaid Lafur yn San Steffan yn newid ei barn—a dywedasoch nad ydyw. A wnaed cais o'r fath i Lundain, ac, os gwnaed, beth oedd yr ateb?

Brian Gibbons: Ni allaf ddweud wrthyfch fy hun. Gallaf gael gwybod beth oedd yr ateb, ond ni allaf ymateb i'ch cwestiwn yn awr.

Yr oedd comisiwn Sutherland yn cydnabod, er y byddai ei gynigion yn arwain at dalu am ofal personol am ddim, y byddai preswylwyr yn dal i fod yn gyfrifol am eu costau ar gyfer bwyd a llety. Felly, byddai pawb yn dal i orfod cael prawf moddion i bennu eu gallu i dalu costau llety, a byddai asedau cyfalaf a gronwyd dros y blynyddoedd yn dal i leihau, er y digwyddai hynny'n arafach. Ni fyddai cynigion y comisiwn brenhinol yn dileu'r prawf moddion neu'r bygythiad i eiddo pobl, er bod rhai Aelodau wedi awgrymu fel arall yn ystod y ddatl hon. Yn yr un modd, ni fyddai gofal personol am ddim yn cynnwys pob math o gymorth domestig yn ôl y comisiwn brenhinol. Er enghraifft, byddai'n cynnwys bwydo yn y cartref, ond byddid yn codi tâl am baratoi bwyd.

Rhaid inni ystyried y byddai hawl i gael gofal personol am ddim yn peryglu cymorth cyhoeddus fel y lwfans gweini. Mae'r lwfans hwn yn werth mwy na £58 yr wythnos i'r nifer fawr sy'n dibynnu ar ofal yn y cartref. Os cyflwynid gofal personol am ddim ar ffurf heblaw'r hyn a argymhellir gan y comisiwn brenhinol, gellid cael sefyllfa lle y byddai Cymru'n colli tua £15 miliwn drwy sybsideiddio San Steffan, yn hytrach na sefyllfa lle y mae San Steffan yn rhoi'r cymorth angenrheidiol drwy drethiant cyffredinol.

David Melding: Cytunaf â llawer o'r pwyntiau a wnaethoch, ond dywed pwynt 1 yng ngwelliant 2 fod y Llywodraeth yn dal i dderbyn egwyddor gofal personol am ddim yn y cyd-destun a nodwyd gan y comisiwn brenhinol, tra bo pwynt 4 yn nodi bod rhaid ystyried y profiad sy'n dod i'r amlwg yn yr

considering this matter in the future, which means exploding costs and the problem with the attendance allowance. These points are diametrically opposite. How on earth can this be?

Brian Gibbons: I will come to that towards the end of my contribution.

As a responsible Government, we are doing what we can, in a practical and pragmatic way, to improve the lives of older people in Wales. On that basis, it is completely incorrect to suggest that we are doing absolutely nothing, as Jenny Randerson has suggested. For example, we are committing £105 a week to the cost of free nursing care. This is more generous, as Kirsty said, than the arrangements in England, and it is anything from 40 to 50 per cent higher than the arrangements in Scotland.

Jenny Randerson: Will you give way?

Brian Gibbons: No. I am sorry, Jenny, but time is getting on.

We also have an arrangement by which the first 12 weeks of residential home care are free. We have made other regulations that will allow people to be offered the opportunity to defer the cost of residential care through the scheme to which Kirsty referred. We have introduced many modifications to the means test for residential care. We have also made up the ground lost to the Tory spending cuts over the year by raising the capital threshold. I hope to bring forward further regulations so that these improvements will continue from April.

We have also made statutory guidance available on domiciliary charging, so as to ensure that there is a 25 per cent buffer above income support level for people receiving domiciliary care. We therefore remain committed to the principle of working actively to improve the lot of older people in Wales in a practical way, and we will continue to explore how we can bring forward our manifesto commitment for free home care for the disabled.

We cannot ignore Scotland's experience,

Alban wrth drafod y mater hwn yn y dyfodol, sy'n golygu costau cynyddol a'r broblem sy'n gysylltiedig â'r lwfans gweini. Mae'r pwyntiau hyn yn gwbl groes i'w gilydd. Sut ar y ddaear y gallai hynny fod?

Brian Gibbons: Deuaf at hynny tua diwedd fy nghyfraniad.

Fel Llywodraeth gyfrifol, yr ydym yn gwneud yr hyn a allwn, mewn modd ymarferol a phragmatig, i wella bywydau pobl hŷn yng Nghymru. Ar y sail honno, hollol anghywir yw awgrymu nad ydym yn gwneud dim o gwbl, fel yr awgrymodd Jenny Randerson. Er enghraifft, yr ydym yn rhoi £105 yr wythnos tuag at gost gofal nyrsio am ddim. Mae hynny'n fwy hael, fel y dywedodd Kirsty, na'r trefniadau yn Lloegr, ac mae rhwng 40 a 50 y cant yn uwch na'r trefniadau yn yr Alban.

Jenny Randerson: A wnewch ildio?

Brian Gibbons: Na wnaaf. Mae'n ddrwg gennyf, Jenny, ond mae'n mynd yn hwyr.

Mae gennym drefniant hefyd fel y rhoddir y 12 wythnos gyntaf o ofal mewn cartref preswyl am ddim. Gwnaethom reoliadau eraill a fydd yn fodd i gynnig cyfle i bobl gael gohirio cost gofal preswyl drwy'r cynllun y cyfeiriodd Kirsty ato. Cyflwynasom lawer o newidiadau i'r prawf moddion ar gyfer gofal preswyl. Yr ydym hefyd wedi ennill y tir a gollwyd oherwydd toriadau mewn gwariant gan y Torïaid dros y blynyddoedd drwy godi'r trothwy cyfalaf. Gobeithiaf roi rheoliadau pellach gerbron fel y bydd y gwelliannau hyn yn parhau o fis Ebrill.

Yr ydym hefyd wedi darparu canllawiau statudol ar daliadau am ofal yn y cartref, fel y ceir clustog o 25 y cant uwchlaw lefel cymhorthdal incwm i rai sy'n derbyn gofal yn y cartref. Gan hynny, yr ydym wedi ymrwymo o hyd i'r egwyddor o ymdrechu i wella byd pobl hŷn yng Nghymru mewn modd ymarferol, a pharhawn i ymchwilio i'r modd y gallwn roi ar waith yr ymrwymiad yn ein maniffesto i roi gofal am ddim yn y cartref i bobl anabl.

Ni allwn anwybyddu profiad yr Alban, sy'n

which suggests that it could cost anything from £150 million to £180 million to implement a similar scheme in Wales.

Peter Black: I am interested in what you say about Scotland. One Audit Scotland report clearly said that, as a result of the scheme in Scotland, there was a shift in the balance of care for older people, from care home provision to more intensive care packages. Therefore, surely, although you have rising costs in terms of personal care, you also have falling costs in terms of the use of care homes, which must be taken into account in the costing of any scheme.

Brian Gibbons: That is precisely why we are putting our investment into promoting free domiciliary care as a priority, which is what 80 to 85 per cent of older people want. Their preference is for care in their community, close to their relatives and friends, which is our priority.

If we were to introduce free personal care, as in Scotland, this would cost us anything up to £180 million. I ask the Liberal Democrats—and Eleanor Burnham in particular, given the shopping list and long list of other complaints that she presented—what their priority would be if they were to spend that £180 million. Would it be improving the lot of older people in terms of free transport, improving waiting lists, improving their educational experience or dealing with free personal care?

On David Melding's point, the main challenge is that delivering free personal care would not improve the quality of services for older people in Wales. Improving the quality of services for older people in Wales is the Welsh Assembly Government's priority, and we have a record to vindicate that.

Michael German: The interesting point on which I looked for an answer from the Minister was where he now sees the choice that is before him. He had made a choice earlier, when he chaired the Assembly working group, that free personal care was the route to take. As you know, this issue is not just a matter of principle about the choices that you make—I will come to those choices in a minute, because Brian has not

awgrymu y gallai gostio rhwng £150 miliwn a £180 miliwn i roi cynllun tebyg ar waith yng Nghymru.

Peter Black: Ymddiddoraf yn yr hyn a ddywedwch am yr Alban. Mewn un adroddiad gan Audit Scotland, dywedir yn glir fod newid yng nghydbwysedd y gofal am bobl hŷn, o ganlyniad i'r cynllun yn yr Alban, o ddarpariaeth mewn cartrefi gofal i becynnau gofal dwysach. Felly, yn sicr, er bod costau gofal personol yn codi, mae costau defnyddio cartrefi gofal yn disgyn, a rhaid ystyried hynny wrth brisio unrhyw gynllun.

Brian Gibbons: Dyna'r union reswm yr ydym yn rhoi blaenoriaeth i fuddsoddi i hyrwyddo gofal yn y cartref am ddim, sef yr hyn y mae 80 i 85 y cant o bobl hŷn yn ei ddymuno. Mae'n well ganddynt gael gofal yn eu cymuned, yn agos at eu perthnasau a'u ffrindiau, a dyna'n blaenoriaeth ni.

Pe byddem yn cyflwyno gofal personol am ddim, fel y gwnaed yn yr Alban, byddai hynny'n costio hyd at £180 miliwn i ni. Gofynnaf i'r Democratiaid Rhyddfryfol—ac i Eleanor Burnham yn benodol, yng ngolwg y rhestr ofynion a'r rhestr hir o gwynion eraill a gyflwynodd—beth fyddai eu blaenoriaeth hwy pe byddent yn gwario'r £180 miliwn hwnnw. Ai gwella byd pobl hŷn o ran trafndiaeth am ddim, gwella rhestrau aros, gwella eu profiad addysgol neu ddelio â gofal personol am ddim?

Ynghylch y pwynt a wnaeth David Melding, y brif her yw na fyddai cynnig gofal personol am ddim yn gwella ansawdd gwasanaethau i bobl hŷn yng Nghymru. Gwella ansawdd gwasanaethau i bobl hŷn yng Nghymru yw blaenoriaeth Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, ac mae gennym record i ddangos hynny.

Michael German: Y pwynt diddorol y disgwyliais gael ateb arno gan y Gweinidog oedd pa ddewis a wêl o'i flaen yn awr. Gwnaeth ddewis yn gynharach, pan oedd yn gadeirydd ar weithgor y Cynulliad, mai gofal personol am ddim oedd yr hyn y dylid ei geisio. Fel y gwyddoch, nid mater o egwyddor o ran y dewisiadau a wneir yn unig yw'r pwnc hwn—deuaf at y dewisiadau hynny mewn munud, gan nad yw Brian wedi

told us where he believes those choices should be made—but is about practicality and the way in which you see your priorities. Choice in this matter is simply that you spend more on what you believe in, and less on what you think has a lower priority. That is precisely what we were looking for from the Minister.

4.40 p.m.

The issue at stake is what has the Assembly Government done, and what is it proposing to do to put pressure on the UK Government. This motion calls for two things—the powers and the money. I would have expected, in any first boat that may come from London, that you would have heard an unsatisfactory response from the UK Government. However, we did not hear from the Minister how many times that case was pressed, or whether the Assembly could be mobilised to press that point upon the UK Government. Jenny Randerson's point about doing nothing was not that the Assembly has done nothing, but that the UK Government has done nothing. I was, therefore, hoping to hear from the Minister about the issue of powers, and whether he intends to pursue the issue of powers with the Government in London to ensure that that decision could be taken in the National Assembly.

The Minister asked us if we could move further forward in this debate, and I agree that we should. This debate was tabled and proposed because we see the matter as a clear priority—we would choose to spend more on this issue, and, as you know from our budget proposals, we have also said that that funding would come from savings on lower priorities. However, it is clear that we needed to see more Government action to meet the issue of long-term care described in the very document that the Minister presided over. You cannot have your cake and eat it, and if you sit on a body that says, 'This is the solution', as the royal commission has put it, then you must find some way, through your later political career, to drive that forward. I hope, therefore, that the Minister, in his deliberations will say that he intends to take this matter forward as one of urgency at some stage. At least then that decision could be

dweud wrthym ym mhle y mae'n credu y dylid gwneud y dewisiadau hynny—gan ei fod yn ymwneud â'r hyn sy'n ymarferol a'r blaenoriaethau sydd gennych mewn golwg. Y dewis yn y mater hwn yw gwario mwy ar yr hyn y credwch ynddo, a llai ar yr hyn y rhoddwch flaenoriaeth is iddo. Dyna'r union beth yr ydym yn ei geisio gan y Gweinidog.

Y pwnc dan sylw yw beth a wnaeth Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, a beth y mae'n bwriadu ei wneud, i ddwyn pwysau ar Lywodraeth y DU. Mae'r cynnig hwn yn galw am ddau beth—y pwerau a'r arian. Byddwn wedi disgwyl, mewn unrhyw neges fuan a ddeuai o Lundain, y byddech wedi cael ymateb anfoddhaol gan Lywodraeth y DU. Fodd bynnag, ni chlywsom gan y Gweinidog pa sawl gwaith y cyflwynwyd yr achos hwnnw, neu a ellid rhoi'r Cynulliad ar waith i bwysu ar Lywodraeth y DU ynghylch hynny. Pan ddywedodd Jenny Randerson nad oedd dim wedi'i wneud, nid dweud yr oedd fod y Cynulliad heb wneud dim, ond bod Llywodraeth y DU heb wneud dim. Gan hynny, yr oeddwn yn gobeithio clywed gan y Gweinidog ynghylch pwnc pwerau, ac a yw'n bwriadu mynd ynghylch pwnc pwerau gyda'r Llywodraeth yn Llundain i sicrhau y gellid gwneud y penderfyniad hwnnw yn y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol.

Gofynnodd y Gweinidog i ni a allem symud ymlaen yn y ddadl hon, a chytunaf y dylem. Cafodd y ddadl hon ei chyflwyno a'i chynnig am ein bod yn ystyried y mater yn flaenoriaeth amlwg—dewisem wario rhagor ar y mater hwn, ac, fel y gwyddoch o'n cynigion ar y gyllideb, dywedasom hefyd y ceid yr arian drwy arbed gwariant ar flaenoriaethau is. Fodd bynnag, mae'n amlwg ein bod yn dymuno gweld mwy o weithredu gan y Llywodraeth i ymdrin â'r mater sy'n ymwneud â gofal tymor hir a ddisgrifiwyd yn yr union ddogfen y bu'r Gweinidog yn gyfrifol amdani. Ni allwch ei chael bob ffordd, ac os ydych yn aelod o gorff sy'n dweud, 'Dyma'r ateb', fel y dywedodd y comisiwn brenhinol, rhaid ichi ddarganfod rhyw fodd, drwy eich gyrfa wleidyddol ddiweddarach, i hyrwyddo hynny. Gobeithiaf, felly, y bydd y Gweinidog yn dweud yn ei drafodaethau ei fod yn bwriadu

taken here.

On the matter of cost, when the Minister presided over this matter, the report that he produced came up with a figure of £81 million at the time of publication and estimated that, by 2021, it might grow to £130 million. However, as Peter Black just pointed out, what is happening in Scotland is clear, and the Minister was right in that most people would like to receive that care in their own homes. The number of people receiving free personal care in care homes in Scotland increased by 15 per cent over the two-year period of the first inauguration, and the number of people who received free personal care in their own homes increased by 74 per cent. That is precisely what is happening. People are making choices about retaining their dignity and being able to live their lives independently in their own communities and in their own homes. That is precisely what the royal commission said. It should come as no surprise that that was the outcome of that policy. Scotland also discovered that, although you make an initial estimate, there will be a natural increase in demand, but that that will probably level out as time goes by. However, were you to ask the people of Scotland about this, as many surveys and polls have done, and as the Government has done, they would say that this particular policy is among the most popular, that it creates a positive picture of Scotland, and is supported by local authorities, Government and all voluntary agencies.

David Melding: Were you surprised to hear the Minister say that a major reason for opposing this motion is that 80 per cent of people, because of their income, do not pay for personal care anyway, and that resources would be moved to the relatively wealthier 20 per cent? However, with regard to free prescriptions, about 85 per cent receive them free based on income, but Labour is keen to extend that to 100 per cent of the population. Does that not seem a fundamental contradiction?

Michael German: I agree that that is a contradiction, but I much prefer the example

hyrwyddo hyn fel mater o frys ar ryw adeg. O leiaf y bydd modd penderfynu ar hyn yma wedyn.

Ynghylch mater y gost, pan fu'r mater hwn dan sylw'r Gweinidog, y ffigur a gafwyd yn yr adroddiad a gynhyrchodd oedd £81 miliwn ar adeg ei gyhoeddi ac amcangyfrifwyd y gallai godi i £130 miliwn erbyn 2021. Fodd bynnag, fel y mae Peter Black newydd nodi, mae'n amlwg beth sy'n digwydd yn yr Alban, ac yr oedd y Gweinidog yn iawn wrth ddweud y byddai'n well gan y rhan fwyaf o bobl gael y gofal hwnnw yn eu cartrefi. Gwnaeth y nifer a oedd yn cael gofal personol am ddim mewn cartrefi gofal yn yr Alban godi o 15 y cant dros y ddwy flynedd ar ôl sefydlu'r cynllun, a chododd y nifer sy'n cael gofal personol am ddim yn eu cartrefi o 74 y cant. Dyna'n union sy'n digwydd. Mae pobl yn dewis ynghylch cadw eu hurddas a gallu byw'n annibynnol yn eu cymunedau eu hunain ac yn eu tai eu hunain. Dyna'n union a ddywedodd y comisiwn brenhinol. Ni ddylai beri syndod mai hwnnw oedd canlyniad y polisi hwnnw. Mae'r Alban wedi darganfod hefyd, er y gwneir amcangyfrif ar y dechrau, y ceir cynnydd naturiol yn y galw, ond y bydd hynny'n debygol o wastatáu wrth i amser fynd heibio. Fodd bynnag, pe holech bobl yr Alban am hyn, fel y gwnaed mewn llawer o arolygon barn, ac fel y gwnaeth y Llywodraeth, dywedent fod y polisi hwn ymysg y rhai mwyaf poblogaidd, ei fod yn creu darlun cadarnhaol o'r Alban, a bod awdurdodau lleol, y Llywodraeth a'r holl asiantaethau gwirfoddol yn ei gefnogi.

David Melding: A wnaethoch synnu o glywed y Gweinidog yn dweud mai un o'r prif resymau dros wrthwynebu'r cynnig hwn yw bod 80 y cant o bobl, oherwydd eu hincwm, nad ydynt yn talu am ofal personol beth bynnag, ac y câi adnoddau eu cyfeirio at yr 20 y cant sy'n gymharol gefnog? Fodd bynnag, gyda golwg ar bresgripsiynau am ddim, mae tua 85 y cant yn eu cael am ddim ar sail eu hincwm, ond mae Llafur yn awyddus i ymestyn hynny i 100 y cant o'r boblogaeth. Onid yw hynny'n ymddangos yn wrthddywediad sylfaenol?

Michael German: Cytunaf â chi mai gwrthddywediad yw hwnnw, ond mae'n

of contradiction that you raised earlier with regard to the matter of choice in the Government amendment to this motion. The Government is looking in two directions. We wanted to see this Government standing up to say, 'We believe, as we believed in 2002,' as the Minister said before, 'that this is the right approach', as the royal commission said. You cannot damn the royal commission because, after all, if you have a commission, it is the most serious means of investigating these matters, and you must take note of it. There was no surprise, therefore, that the Minister's review, when he was in charge of this document, came to the conclusion that 'You must do what the royal commission has said', because the issue had been examined thoroughly. However, now is the time for the Government to say, 'Well, we wrote a letter to our colleagues in London, we had a reply back which wasn't very helpful, and so we've decided to do things for ourselves'. We wanted to see some backbone from this Government, taking on its own UK Government and taking this matter forward. There are Labour politicians all over Scotland who are prepared to stand up and say that they may have been brought into this kicking and shrugging their shoulders, but now that they have seen what it means, not only do they appreciate it, but they stand up for it. If you have those—

John Griffiths: Will you give way?

Michael German: I will in a moment.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. You only have 20 seconds remaining.

Michael German: I am sorry, John.

To end, how many Members would agree with the statement—

'I do not want to live in a country where the only way that pensioners can have long-term care is by selling their home'?

I certainly do not want to live in that country, and neither did Tony Blair when he said it.

llawer gwell gennyf yr enghraifft o wrth-ddweud y gwnaethoch ei godi'n gynharach mewn cysylltiad â mater y dewis yng ngwelliant y Llywodraeth i'r cynnig hwn. Mae'r Llywodraeth yn edrych i ddau gyfeiriad. Yr oeddem am weld y Llywodraeth hon yn sefyll ar ei thraed ac yn dweud, 'Credwn, fel y credasom yn 2002,' fel y dywedodd y Gweinidog o'r blaen, 'mai hwn yw'r dull gweithredu cywir', fel y dywedodd y comisiwn brenhinol. Ni allwch gollfarnu'r comisiwn oherwydd, wedi'r cwbl, os sefydlir comisiwn, hwnnw yw'r dull gorau o ymchwilio i'r materion hyn, a rhaid cymryd sylw ohono. Nid oedd yn syndod, felly, fod adolygiad y Gweinidog, pan oedd yn gofalu am y ddogfen hon, wedi dod i'r casgliad bod 'Rhaid gwneud fel y dywedodd y comisiwn brenhinol', gan fod y pwnc wedi'i ystyried yn drwyadl. Fodd bynnag, hon yw'r adeg y dylai'r Llywodraeth ddweud, 'Wel, ysgrifenasom lythyr at ein cymheiriaid yn Llundain, cawsom ateb nad oedd yn fuddiol iawn, ac yr ydym wedi penderfynu gwneud pethau drosom ein hunain'. Yr oeddem am i'r Llywodraeth hon ddangos rhywfaint o asgwrn cefn, drwy fynd i'r afael â'i Llywodraeth ei hun yn y DU a hyrwyddo'r mater hwn. Ceir gwleidyddion Llafur ledled yr Alban sy'n barod i ddweud eu bod wedi'u perswadio i wneud hyn o'u hanfodd ond, a hwythau wedi gweld yr hyn y mae'n ei olygu, nid yn unig y maent yn ei werthfawrogi, ond maent yn bleidiol iddo. Os oes gennych—

John Griffiths: A wnewch ildio?

Michael German: Gwnaf mewn eiliad.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Dim ond 20 eiliad sydd gennych ar ôl.

Michael German: Mae'n ddrwg gennyf, John.

I gloi, pa sawl Aelod a gytunai â'r datganiad—

Nid wyf am fyw mewn gwlad lle mae'r unig fodd y gall pensïynwyr gael gofal tymor hir yw drwy werthu eu cartref?

Yn sicr, nid wyf fi am fyw mewn gwlad o'r fath, ac nid oedd Tony Blair ychwaith pan

ddywedodd hynny.

*Gwelliant 1: O blaid 16, Ymatal 10, Yn erbyn 30.
Amendment 1: For 16, Abstain 10, Against 30.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
German, Michael
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lloyd, David
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Francis, Lisa
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Laura Anne
Melding, David
Williams, Brynle

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 2: O blaid 30, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 26.
Amendment 2: For 30, Abstain 0, Against 26.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter

Butler, Rosemary
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
 Essex, Sue
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 James, Irene
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda

Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Cairns, Alun
 Davies, David
 Davies, Glyn
 Davies, Janet
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Francis, Lisa
 German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Jones, Laura Anne
 Lloyd, David
 Melding, David
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment accepted.*

Methodd gwelliant 3.
 Amendment 3 fell.

*Gwelliant 4: O blaid 26, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 30.
 Amendment 4: For 26, Abstain 0, Against 30.*

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

Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Cairns, Alun
 Davies, David
 Davies, Glyn
 Davies, Janet
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Francis, Lisa
 German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Jones, Laura Anne
 Lloyd, David
 Melding, David
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn

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

Andrews, Leighton
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Butler, Rosemary
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
 Essex, Sue
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 James, Irene
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri

Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

Motion NDM2247 as amended:

the National Assembly for Wales:

bod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. continues to accept the principle of free personal care, in the context set out by the royal commission

1. yn parhau i dderbyn egwyddor gofal personol am ddim, yn y cyd-destun a nodwyd gan y comisiwn brenhinol

2. notes the actions taken by Ministers to relay the views of the Assembly to the UK Government

2. yn nodi'r camau a gymerwyd gan Weinidogion i gyfleu barn y Cynulliad i Lywodraeth y DU

3. welcomes the measures which the Assembly Government has taken, and plans to take, to mitigate the impact of paying for personal care

3. yn croesawu'r mesurau y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi'u cymryd, ac yn bwriadu'u cymryd, i leddfu effaith talu am ofal personol

4. notes that the emerging experience in Scotland has to be taken into account in considering this matter in the future.

4. yn nodi bod yn rhaid ystyried y profiad sy'n dod i'r amlwg yn yr Alban wrth drafod y mater hwn yn y dyfodol.

Cynnig wedi'i ddiwygio: O blaid 28, Ymatal 9, Yn erbyn 19.

Amended motion: For 28, Abstain 9, Against 19.

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Essex, Sue
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
German, Michael
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lloyd, David
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty

Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Francis, Lisa
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Laura Anne
Melding, David
Williams, Brynle

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig wedi'i ddiwygio.
Amended motion carried.*

Cynllun Gweithredu Sgiliau a Chyflogaeth 2 The Skills and Employment Action Plan 2

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendments 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7 in the name of Jocelyn Davies, amendment 9 in the name of David Melding and amendment 8 in the name of Kirsty Williams. Amendment 3 in the name of David Melding has not been selected.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliannau 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 a 7 yn enw Jocelyn Davies, gwelliant 9 yn enw David Melding a gwelliant 8 yn enw Kirsty Williams. Ni ddetholwyd gwelliant 3 yn enw David Melding.

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (Jane Davidson): I propose that

Y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes (Jane Davidson): Cynigiau fod

the National Assembly for Wales welcomes the actions to improve skill levels and help more people into sustainable employment contained in the revised skills and employment action plan for Wales 2005. (NDM2252)

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn croesawu'r camau a geir yn fersiwn ddiwygiedig Cynllun Gweithredu Sgiliau a Chyflogaeth Cymru 2005 i wella sgiliau ac i helpu mwy o bobl i gael cyflogaeth gynaliadwy. (NDM2252)

I am pleased to introduce the Assembly Government's skills and employment action plan 2005. This is a significant document. It takes forward two of the key policy areas identified in 'Wales: A Better Country', helping more people into jobs, and creating better jobs and skills. This action plan also builds on the first such action plan, issued in 2002.

Yr wyf yn falch o gyflwyno cynllun gweithredu sgiliau a chyflogaeth 2005 o eiddo Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Mae hon yn ddogfen o bwys. Mae'n hyrwyddo dau o'r meysydd polisi allweddol a nodwyd yn 'Cymru: Gwlad Well', sef helpu mwy o bobl i gael swyddi, a chreu gwell swyddi a sgiliau. Mae'r cynllun gweithredu hwn hefyd yn adeiladu ar sail y cynllun gweithredu cyntaf o'r fath, a gyhoeddwyd yn 2002.

This is an agenda on which there is a large measure of agreement from all interests. All of us—Government, employers, employees, unions, the voluntary sector—want the same thing, namely a high-skill, high-employment

Mae hon yn agenda y ceir llawer o gytundeb arni gan bawb sy'n gysylltiedig. Mae pob un ohonom—y Llywodraeth, y cyflogwyr, y gweithwyr, yr undebau, y sector gwirfoddol—am gael yr un peth, sef economi

economy for Wales, with all individuals fulfilling their potential. Together, we have identified a programme of action to move us significantly further in that direction.

4.50 p.m.

As this debate was deferred, it could not take place on 11 January 2005 when I launched the plan. This was a successful event, which demonstrated the joined-up approach that we are taking. I shared the platform with the Minister for Economic Development and Transport, the chairmen of ELWa and the WDA, Roger Evans of Ina Bearings, a senior industrialist whose mantra, 'the rate of learning must be greater than the rate of change', demonstrates the way in which he has driven his company to success, and a group of young people from Ynysawdre Comprehensive School who have been developing their skills in the field of car design. There has been a positive response to our approach, both at the launch and subsequently.

Building on our successful partnership approach, we are joining things up even more at a Government level. Our merger with the ASPBs offers tremendous scope for simplifying reporting lines, identifying priorities and taking quick action. The Cabinet has decided to establish a sub committee on jobs and skills. I will also jointly chair with Andrew Davies twice-yearly meetings with key partners. Each Minister will also have meetings with their appropriate sector skills councils to ensure that they are fully informed of skills issues in their portfolios.

We still have a long way to go in Wales to improve our level of skills and economic activity. However, we have set a clear course in partnership and are tackling the issues energetically. Standards in our schools are certainly getting better, and the qualifications levels of the adult population are increasing. For example, in 1999, 39 per cent of adults were qualified to NVQ level 3; the latest figure is 43 per cent. More adults in Wales participate in learning than in other parts of

â sgiliau datblygedig a nifer mawr o swyddi i Gymru, lle y bydd pob unigolyn yn cyflawni ei botensial. Gyda'n gilydd, yr ydym wedi pennu rhaglen weithredu i fynd â ni'n bellach o lawer i'r cyfeiriad hwnnw.

Gan fod y ddadl hon wedi'i gohirio, ni ellid ei chynnal ar 11 Ionawr 2005 pan lansiais y cynllun. Bu'n ddigwyddiad llwyddiannus, a amlygodd y dull gweithredu cydgysylltiedig sydd gennym. Rhannais y llwyfan â'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth, cadeiryddion ELWa a'r WDA, Roger Evans o Ina Bearings, uwch ddiwydiannydd y mae ei arwyddair, 'rhaid i'r gyfradd dysgu fod yn uwch na'r gyfradd newid', yn dangos y modd y llywiodd ei gwmmi tuag at lwyddiant, a grŵp o bobl ifanc o Ysgol Gyfun Ynysawdre a fu'n meithrin eu sgiliau ym maes dylunio ceir. Cafwyd ymateb cadarnhaol i'n dull gweithredu, yn y cyfarfod lansio ac wedyn.

Drwy adeiladu ar sail ein dull gweithredu llwyddiannus sy'n seiliedig ar bartneriaeth, yr ydym yn cysylltu pethau â'i gilydd fwyfwy ar lefel Llywodraeth. Mae ymgorffori'r CCNC yn cynnig cyfle aruthrol inni symleiddio llinellau adrodd, nodi blaenoriaethau a chymryd camau buan. Mae'r Cabinet wedi penderfynu sefydlu is-bwyllgor ar swyddi a sgiliau. Hefyd, byddaf fi ac Andrew Davies yn cydgadeirio cyfarfodydd a gynhelir ddwywaith y flwyddyn gyda phartneriaid allweddol. Bydd pob Gweinidog hefyd yn cynnal cyfarfodydd â'i briod gyngor sgiliau sector i sicrhau y cânt eu hysbysu'n llawn am faterion sy'n ymwneud â sgiliau yn eu portffolios.

Mae gennym lawer i'w wneud eto yng Nghymru i wella ein lefelau sgiliau a gweithgarwch economaidd. Er hynny, yr ydym wedi pennu cwrs pendant ar y cyd â'nartneriaid ac yr ydym yn mynd i'r afael yn frwdfrydig â'r materion sy'n codi. Mae safonau yn ein hysgolion yn gwella'n sicr, ac mae lefelau cymwysterau oedolion ar gynydd. Er enghraifft, yn 1999, 39 y cant o oedolion a oedd â chymwysterau hyd at lefel 3 mewn NVQ; y ffigur diweddaraf yw 43 y

the UK, and the number of economically active adults has increased by over 40,000 since 2002. However, a quarter of adults in Wales still have low literacy skills and a half have low numeracy skills. We have more people in higher education than ever before, but we still have fewer people with intermediate and higher level qualifications than many other countries.

We have been active since the first plan was published in 2002. Most of the sector skills councils are now fully operational. We were the first part of the UK to remove age restrictions on modern apprenticeships, and we introduced the innovative modern skills diploma for adults. We have made considerable progress on basic skills, with the employers' pledge and the skills concordat between the Assembly Government, the Confederation of British Industry Wales and the Wales Trades Union Congress. Individual learning accounts and Careers Wales Online are both up and running. We have made excellent progress with the credit and qualification framework, which is an approach that England is now taking up. The learning workers project in Llanelli has shown that there is real demand from employers and employees for training and qualifications delivered in a way that meets their needs. Union-led learning is now an accepted part of the landscape in many workplaces, and we have set up the Wales employment advisory panel to drive forward employment and welfare-to-work issues.

I wish to highlight some of the main items in the skills and employment action plan. First, I have emphasised the need for basic skills. All partners, and particularly employers, tell us that the overriding need is for everyone to be literate and numerate. I have therefore decided that all basic-skills tuition should in future be available free of charge. This will be a key feature of our second basic skills strategy to be published in April and will take forward our successful first strategy. Yesterday, Members may have seen the latest phase of the awareness-raising campaign, which focuses on the need for parents to talk

cant. Mae mwy o oedolion yng Nghymru'n cymryd rhan mewn dysgu nag mewn rhannau eraill o'r DU, ac mae nifer yr oedolion economaidd weithgar wedi codi o fwy na 40,000 er 2002. Serch hynny, mae chwarter yr oedolion yng Nghymru yn dal i fod â sgiliau llythrennedd isel, ac mae gan hanner ohonynt sgiliau rhifedd isel. Mae gennym fwy o bobl mewn addysg uwch nag erioed o'r blaen, ond yr ydym yn dal i fod â llai o bobl sydd â chymwysterau ar lefel ryngol ac uwch nag mewn llawer gwlad arall.

Buom yn brysur ers cyhoeddi'r cynllun cyntaf yn 2002. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r cynghorau sgiliau sector yn llawn weithredol yn awr. Ni oedd y rhan gyntaf o'r DU i ddileu cyfyngiadau o ran oedran ar brentisiaethau modern, a chyflwynasom y ddiploma sgiliau modern arloesol ar gyfer oedolion. Gwnaethom gryn gynnydd ar sgiliau sylfaenol, gydag addewid y cyflogwyr a'r concordat sgiliau rhwng Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, Cydffederasiwn Diwydiant Prydain Cymru a Chyngres Undebau Llafur Cymru. Mae cyfrifon dysgu unigol a Gyrfa Cymru Ar-lein ill dau'n weithredol. Gwnaethom gynnydd rhagorol ar y fframwaith credydau a chymwysterau, sy'n ddull gweithredu a ddilynir gan Loegr yn awr. Mae'r prosiect gweithwyr sy'n dysgu yn Llanelli yn dangos bod gwir alw ymysg cyflogwyr a gweithwyr am gyflwyno hyfforddiant a chymwysterau mewn modd sy'n diwallu eu hanghenion. Mae dysgu dan arweiniad undebau wedi'i dderbyn bellach fel rhan naturiol o fywyd mewn sawl gweithle, ac yr ydym wedi sefydlu panel cynghori ar gyflogaeth Cymru i hyrwyddo materion sy'n ymwneud â chyflogaeth ac o fudd-dal i waith.

Dymunaf dynnu sylw at rai o'r prif eitemau yn y cynllun gweithredu sgiliau a chyflogaeth. Yn gyntaf, rhoddais bwys ar yr angen am sgiliau sylfaenol. Mae'r holl bartneriaid, a chyflogwyr yn enwedig, yn dweud wrthym mai'r angen pennaf yw i bawb fod yn llythrennog ac yn rhifog. Gan hynny, penderfynais y dylai'r holl hyfforddiant mewn sgiliau sylfaenol fod ar gael yn rhad ac am ddim yn y dyfodol. Bydd hynny'n agwedd allweddol ar ein hail strategaeth sgiliau sylfaenol sydd i'w chyhoeddi ym mis Ebrill a bydd yn parhau â gwaith ein strategaeth gyntaf lwyddiannus.

and play with their children. All the evidence shows that such early interventions work if sustained, which they will be through our all-age approach.

Secondly, we have emphasised the need to provide integrated support to individual businesses. Most employers see their businesses as a whole, and public sector support for those businesses needs to do the same. That is why the Assembly Government, the WDA and ELWa will take forward a fully integrated business support service with a field force of account managers and one-stop shops, which we aim to have in place by April 2006. To back that up, we will introduce a new and more flexible form of learning support for employers, called the workforce learning account, which will combine a business assessment of training needs with flexible packages of support to meet them. We will build on our sector approaches through sector skills agreements, which will be supported by sector strategies, such as that for the technology sector, which I launched jointly with Andrew Davies.

We will also give extra impetus to Investors in People. The plan aims to increase the take-up of IIP by 75 per cent over the next three years. I am also determined to reduce the numbers of 16 to 18-year-olds who are not in education, training or employment. We have issued an action plan for consultation that includes a number of proposals for agencies to work together to keep in touch with these young people and to provide the support that they need.

Finally, I wish to mention the fresh approach that we are taking to helping the economically inactive to find and keep a job, which is called 'want to work' and is a joint Assembly Government and Jobcentre Plus initiative using additional resources from the European social fund. We expect this to help reduce our levels of economic inactivity, which are still too high.

Mae'n bosibl y bydd Aelodau wedi gweld y cam diweddaraf ddoe yn ein hymgyrch hybu ymwybyddiaeth, sy'n canolbwyntio ar yr angen i rieni siarad a chwarae â'u plant. Mae'r holl dystiolaeth yn dangos bod ymyriadau cynnar o'r fath yn llwyddo os parheir â hwy, a sicrheir hynny drwy ein dull gweithredu ar gyfer pob oedran.

Yn ail, rhoesom bwys ar yr angen i gynnig cymorth integredig i fusnesau unigol. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o gyflogwyr yn edrych ar eu busnes fel peth cyfan, a rhaid i gymorth y sector cyhoeddus i'r busnesau hynny wneud yr un fath. Dyna pam y bydd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, y WDA ac ELWa yn hyrwyddo gwasanaeth cymorth busnes cwbl integredig, gyda rheolwyr cyfrifon yn y maes a siopau un stop, y bwriadwn ei roi ar waith erbyn Ebrill 2006. I ategu hynny, cyflwynwn fath newydd a mwy hyblygu o gymorth dysgu i gyflogwyr, a elwir yn gyfrif dysgu'r gweithlu, a fydd yn cyfuno asesiad o anghenion dysgu'r busnes a phe cynnau cymorth hyblyg i'w diwallu. Byddwn yn adeiladu ar sail ein dull o ymwneud â sectorau drwy gytundebau sgiliau sector, a ategir gan strategaethau sector, fel honno ar gyfer y sector technoleg, a lansiâs ar y cyd ag Andrew Davies.

Byddwn hefyd yn rhoi hwb ychwanegol i Buddsoddwyr mewn Pobl. Mae'r cynllun yn ceisio sicrhau y bydd 75 y cant yn fwy yn ymgymryd â Buddsoddwyr mewn Pobl dros y tair blynedd nesaf. Yr wyf hefyd yn benderfynol o leihau nifer y rhai 16 i 18 mlwydd oed nad ydynt mewn addysg, hyfforddiant neu waith. Cyhoeddassom gynllun gweithredu ar gyfer ymgynghori sy'n cynnwys sawl cynnig fel y bydd asiantaethau'n cydweithio i gadw mewn cysylltiad â'r bobl ifanc hyn ac yn cynnig y cymorth y mae arnynt ei angen.

Yn olaf, dymunaf gyfeirio at ein dull newydd o helpu'r rhai economaidd anweithgar i ddod o hyd i swydd a'i chadw, a elwir yn 'eisiau gweithio' ac sy'n fenter ar y cyd rhwng Llywodraeth y Cynulliad a Canolfan Byd Gwaith sy'n defnyddio adnoddau ychwanegol o gronfa gymdeithasol Ewrop. Yr ydym yn disgwyl y bydd hyn o gymorth i ostwng ein lefelau anweithgarwch

Overall, this is a major programme of action, which takes forward a significant part of the learning country agenda: the range of actions will help us to raise levels of learning and GDP, there is an additional £9 million for basic skills over the next three years, it is supportive of the Welsh language, it builds on the guiding principle in 'The Learning Country' to achieve parity of esteem between vocational and other learning routes, and we have worked closely with employers and others in drawing it up. The plan is supported by all members of Future Skills Wales, and we will implement it in partnership with them. I hope that all Members will welcome and support the motion, unamended.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I must be mindful of family-friendly hours and a dozen Members wish to speak, I will therefore impose a three-minute time limit once the amendments have been proposed and, of course, those three minutes become four minutes if anyone takes an intervention.

Janet Ryder: I propose the following amendments in the name of Jocelyn Davies. Amendment 1: insert as a new first point and renumber accordingly:

needs to improve skill levels in Wales and address the extremely low level of GDP per head in Wales as compared to England.

I propose amendment 2. In line 1 delete 'welcomes' and replace with 'notes'.

I propose amendment 4. Add as a new point at the end of the motion:

supports young people who are continuing in education and directs the Labour Assembly Government to create a special grant, to be administered in the same way as the educational maintenance allowance, extending the right to apply for financial assistance to those who reach their eighteenth birthday during the academic year 2004-05.

I propose amendment 5. Add as a new point

economiaidd, sy'n dal i fod yn rhy uchel.

Yn gyffredinol, mae hon yn rhaglen weithredu o bwys, sy'n hyrwyddo rhan helaeth o agenda 'Y Wlad sy'n Dysgu': bydd yr amrediad o gamau gweithredu yn ein helpu i godi lefelau dysgu a chynnyrch mewnwladol crynswth, mae £9 miliwn ychwanegol ar gyfer sgiliau sylfaenol dros y tair blynedd nesaf, mae'n gefnogol i'r Gymraeg, mae'n adeiladu ar sail yr egwyddor sylfaenol yn 'Y Wlad sy'n Dysgu' o sicrhau parch cydradd i ddulliau dysgu galwedigaethol a rhai eraill, ac yr ydym wedi cydweithio'n agos â chyflogwyr ac eraill wrth ei lunio. Cefnogir y cynllun gan holl aelodau Sgiliau Dyfodol Cymru, ac fe'i rhoddwn ar waith ar y cyd â hwy. Gobeithiaf y bydd yr holl Aelodau'n croesawu ac yn cefnogi'r cynnig, heb ei ddiwygio.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Rhaid imi fod yn ymwybodol o oriau sy'n ystyriol o deuluoedd ac mae dwsin o Aelodau'n dymuno siarad. Gan hynny, byddaf yn gosod cyfyngiad amser o dri munud ar ôl cynnig y gwelliannau ac, wrth gwrs, bydd y tri munud hynny'n mynd yn bedwar os yw rhywun yn derbyn ymyriad.

Janet Ryder: Cynigiaf y gwelliannau canlynol yn enw Jocelyn Davies. Gwelliant 1: ychwanegu pwynt cyntaf newydd ac ailrifo'r gweddill yn unol â hynny.

angen gwella lefelau sgiliau yng Nghymru a mynd i'r afael â lefel hynod isel CMC y pen yng Nghymru o gymharu â Lloegr.

Cynigiaf welliant 2. Yn llinell 1, dileu 'croesawu'r' a rhoi 'nodi'r' yn ei le.

Cynigiaf welliant 4. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn cynorthwyo pobl ifanc sy'n parhau â'u haddysg ac yn cyfarwyddo Llywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad i greu Grant Arbennig, i'w weinyddu yn yr un modd â'r Lwfans Cynhaliaeth Addysg, a fydd yn rhoi'r hawl hefyd i'r rhai sy'n cyrraedd eu deunaw oed yn ystod y flwyddyn academaidd 2004-05 i wneud cais am gymorth ariannol.

Cynigiaf welliant 5. Ychwanegu pwynt

at the end of the motion:

condemns the Labour Assembly Government for presenting an action plan that does not accord with its own language policy and fails to meet the obligation to ensure the equal status of Welsh and English across all sectors.

I propose amendment 6. Add as a new point at the end of the motion:

recognises that the allocated budget to develop basic skills support is insufficient and instructs the Labour Assembly Government to review funding as a matter of urgency.

I propose amendment 7. Add as a new point at the end of the motion:

calls on the Labour Assembly Government to commit to a system of funding post-16 education which will not act as a financial deterrent to students and confirms that a system which includes student top-up fees is not acceptable in Wales.

As the document says, hard-to-fill vacancies have reduced by half since 1998 and Wales is maintaining an employment rate well above its historical average, which sounds great, until you arrive at section 12, where reality starts to show through. Welsh GDP per capita remains around 80 per cent of the UK average and average earnings in Wales are also lower than the UK average—there is still a great deal of work to do.

Increases in employment offer an opportunity, but economically inactive people who lack skills and confidence will not take up that opportunity. Therefore, improving skills levels and confidence is crucial, not only to economic success, but to social cohesion. Offering free support with basic skills is right, but the costs of providing that support will fall on the colleges. Those costs are significant and while money exists to support identified special educational needs, support for general basic skills is not resourced. If the Government is serious about tackling the basic skills problem, there needs

newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn condemnio Llywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad am gyflwyno cynllun gweithredu nad yw'n cydymffurfio â'i pholisi iaith ei hun ac yn methu â bodloni'r gofyn i sicrhau statws cyfartal i'r Gymraeg a'r Saesneg ar draws pob sector.

Cynigiau welliant 6. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn cydnabod bod y cyllid a ddyrannwyd i ddatblygu cymorth sgiliau sylfaenol yn annigonol ac yn cyfarwyddo Llywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad i adolygu'r cyllid ar fyrder.

Cynigiau welliant 7. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn galw ar Lywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad i ymrwmo i system o gyllido addysg ôl-16 na fydd yn achosi rhwystr ariannol i fyfyrwyr ac yn cadarnhau nad yw system sy'n cynnwys ffioedd ychwanegol i fyfyrwyr yn dderbyniol yng Nghymru.

Fel y dywed y ddogfen, mae nifer y swyddi gwag y mae'n anodd eu llenwi wedi gostwng o hanner ers 1998 ac mae Cymru'n cynnal cyfradd cyflogaeth sy'n uwch o lawer na'i chyfartaledd hanesyddol, ac mae hynny'n swnio'n wych, hyd nes y deuir at adran 12, lle y mae'r gwir yn dechrau dod i'r amlwg. Mae'r CMC y pen yng Nghymru'n dal i fod tua 80 y cant o gyfartaledd y DU ac mae enillion cyfartalog yng Nghymru hefyd yn is na chyfartaledd y DU—mae llawer iawn o waith i'w wneud o hyd.

Mae cynnydd mewn cyflogaeth yn cynnig cyfle, ond ni fydd rhai economaidd anweithgar sydd heb sgiliau na hyder yn achub ar y cyfle hwnnw. Felly, mae'n hollbwysig hybu lefelau sgiliau a hyder, nid yn unig er mwyn cael llwyddiant economaidd, ond er mwyn sicrhau cydlynad cymdeithasol. Mae'n briodol cynnig cymorth am ddim ar gyfer sgiliau sylfaenol, ond bydd y gost o gynnig y cymorth hwnnw'n disgyn ar ysgwyddau'r colegau. Mae'r costau hynny'n sylweddol ac er y ceir arian i ddiwallu anghenion addysgol arbennig a ganfyddir, nid oes arian i hybu sgiliau

to be an urgent review of the resources that are available to further education for student support. It cannot be achieved within the budget that is set for ELWa, as that increase is already earmarked for the lecturers' pay framework. Any new work should be funded over and above the existing budget, and that is a major weakness of this strategy—making it a reality is based on achieving its aspirations within budgets that have already been set. There is no scope for growth or for the support and development of student support, even in the increases that are outlined in section 9. Interestingly, section 32 and onwards also talk of using the new ELWa funding formula to shape provision and stimulate demand. The new funding formula could be used in that way, but only if new money is added to the existing ELWa budget. At present, by dividing the total amount available by the number of learning units, ELWa arrives at its learning unit cost. That unit figure does not cover the total cost of providing the courses now, and that overall amount already has to cover the next phase of the much-needed pay deal for lecturers, as I have said. If that overall amount is spread even thinner, by top-slicing to provide bursaries or extra finance to supply certain quotas, the overall effect will be disastrous for the further education sector as a whole. Also, the formula is not yet ready—it is still in a preparatory stage. To do the work that it is charged with, ELWa needs a bigger settlement.

Section 14 talked about encouraging people to stay on in education. The Government lost a great opportunity through its bad handling of the education maintenance allowance scheme to encourage those rising 18-year-olds to continue in education. It could have taken the opportunity of making financial support available to everyone aged over 16 in Wales, by introducing a one-year specific grant. Instead, the Government chose to discriminate against the rising 18-year-olds and follow the path that they were told to follow from England. Section 14 says that 92

sylyfaenol cyffredinol. Os yw'r Llywodraeth o ddifrif yn ei dymuniad i fynd i'r afael â phroblem sgiliau sylfaenol, rhaid cael adolygiad ar frys o'r adnoddau sydd ar gael i addysg bellach i gynorthwyo myfyrwyr. Ni ellir cyflawni hynny o fewn y gyllideb a bennwyd ar gyfer ELWa, gan fod y cynnydd hwnnw wedi'i glustnodi eisoes ar gyfer fframwaith cyflogau'r darlithwyr. Dylid rhoi arian ar gyfer unrhyw waith newydd ar ben y gyllideb bresennol, ac mae hynny'n wendid mawr yn y strategaeth hon—mae'r gwaith o'i gwireddu'n seiliedig ar yr angen i gyflawni'r uchelgeisiau sydd ynddi o fewn cyllidebau sydd wedi'u pennu eisoes. Nid oes lle i dwf neu i hybu a datblygu cymorth i fyfyrwyr, hyd yn oed yn y codiadau a nodir yn adran 9. Yn ddigon diddorol, ceir sôn yn adran 32 ac wedyn am ddefnyddio fformiwla ariannu newydd ELWa i drefnu'r ddarpariaeth ac ysgogi'r galw. Gellid defnyddio'r fformiwla ariannu newydd felly, ond dim ond os ychwanegir arian newydd at gyllideb bresennol ELWa. Ar hyn o bryd, drwy rannu'r cyfanswm sydd ar gael â nifer yr unedau dysgu y mae ELWa yn cyfrifo cost uned dysgu. Nid yw'r ffigur hwnnw am gost yr uned yn ddigon i dalu'r holl gostau am ddarparu cyrsiau'n awr, ac mae gofyn eisoes i'r cyfanswm hwnnw dalu am y cam nesaf yn y fargen cyflogau y mae mawr angen amdani ar gyfer darlithwyr, fel y dywedais. Os taenir y cyfanswm hwnnw'n deneuach byth, drwy frigidori i gynnig bwrsariaethau neu gyllid ychwanegol i gyflawni cwotâu penodol, bydd yr effaith gyffredinol ar y sector addysg bellach cyfan yn drychinebus. Hefyd, nid yw'r fformiwla'n barod eto—mae'n dal i gael ei pharatoi. Er mwyn cyflawni'r gwaith a ymddiriedir iddo, rhaid i ELWa gael setliad mwy.

Ceir sôn yn adran 14 am annog pobl i aros mewn addysg. Collodd y Llywodraeth gyfle gwyach drwy gamdrafod y cynllun lwfans cynhaliaeth addysg i annog y rhai sy'n codi'n 18 mlwydd oed i barhau mewn addysg. Gallasai achub ar y cyfle i gynnig cymorth ariannol i bawb dros 16 oed yng Nghymru, drwy gyflwyno grant penodol ar gyfer un flwyddyn. Yn lle hynny, dewisodd y Llywodraeth wahaniaethu yn erbyn y rhai sy'n codi'n 18 mlwydd oed a dilyn y llwybr y dywedwyd wrthi am ei ddilyn gan Loegr. Dywed adran 14 fod 92 y cant o'n myfyrwyr

per cent of our students in higher education are from non-traditional backgrounds, and 30 per cent come from lower socio-economic backgrounds, but research shows that over 50 per cent of people from those backgrounds will not continue into higher education if they think that they will leave college with debt of more than £20,000. Students leave college now with an average debt of £15,000, and that will double if top-up fees are introduced.

5.00 p.m.

If the Assembly Labour Government means to take its own strategy seriously, it must do all that it can to reduce student debt, and, in doing so, encourage more people from lower socio-economic groups into higher education. To that end, Plaid Cymru calls on the Assembly to support its amendment 7 to work to reduce student debt and not to take measures that would increase it. We should be saying 'no' to the introduction of top-up fees in Wales.

This document clearly shows the contempt that New Labour has for the Welsh language, as it seeks to marginalise it to certain jobs and occupations. The last bullet point in the introduction states that it wants to:

'ensure that there are enough people with Welsh language skills needed for certain jobs and sectors.'

That is a damning statement. Those sectors are clarified as being the creative arts, tourism, hospitality and leisure, and the care sector. That is an appalling marginalisation, even a ghettoisation, of the Welsh language. The future of Wales must be as a fully bilingual nation, where Welsh and English are afforded equal status. This makes a mockery of the Government's own policy 'Iaith Pawb' and seriously draws into question New Labour's commitment to creating a bilingual Wales, where both languages are treated equally. Nowhere in this document is there a feeling of parity created.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Time

mewn addysg uwch yn rhai sydd o gefndiroedd annhraddodiadol, a bod 30 y cant o gefndiroedd cymdeithasol-economaidd is, ond dengys ymchwil y bydd mwy na 50 y cant o rai o'r cefndiroedd hynny na fyddant yn mynd ymlaen i addysg uwch os credant y byddant yn gadael y coleg â dyled o fwy nag £20,000. Mae myfyrwyr yn gadael y coleg yn awr a chanddynt ddyled o £15,000 ar gyfartaledd, a bydd hynny'n dyblu os cyflwynir ffioedd ychwanegol.

Os yw Llywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad yn bwriadu cymryd ei strategaeth ei hun o ddifrif, rhaid iddi wneud popeth yn ei gallu i leihau dyled myfyrwyr, a, drwy wneud hynny, annog mwy o bobl o blith grwpiau cymdeithasol-economaidd is i fynd i addysg uwch. I'r perwyl hwnnw, mae Plaid Cymru'n galw ar y Cynulliad i gefnogi gwelliant 7 o'i heiddo i geisio lleihau dyled myfyrwyr a pheidio â chymryd camau a fyddai'n ei chynyddu. Dylem wrthwynebu cyflwyno ffioedd ychwanegol yng Nghymru.

Mae'r ddogfen hon yn dangos yn glir y dirmyg sydd gan Lafur Newydd tuag at y Gymraeg, gan ei bod yn ceisio ei gwthio i'r cyrion i rai swyddi a galwedigaethau. Yn y pwynt bwled olaf yn y rhagymadrodd dywed ei bod yn dymuno:

'sichrau bod gan ddigon o bobl sgiliau iaith Gymraeg ar gyfer swyddi a sectorau neilltuol.'

Mae hwnnw'n osodiad damniol. Eglurir mai'r sectorau hynny yw'r celfyddydau creadigol, twristiaeth, lletygarwch a hamdden, a'r sector gofal. Dyna wthio'r Gymraeg i'r cyrion, a'i getoeiddio hyd yn oed, mewn modd gwarthus. Rhaid i Gymru'r dyfodol fod yn wlad gwbl ddwyieithog, lle y rhoddir yr un statws i'r Gymraeg a'r Saesneg. Mae hyn yn gwneud hwyl am ben polisi'r Llywodraeth ei hun yn 'Iaith Pawb' ac yn bwrw amheuaeth ddybryd ar ymrwymiad Llafur Newydd i greu Cymru ddwyieithog, lle y caiff y ddwy iaith eu trin yn gyfartal. Ni chreir ymdeimlad o gyfartaledd yn unman yn y ddogfen hon.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mae amser yn

is short; please wind up.

Janet Ryder: On those grounds alone, the action plan should be rejected and rethought.

Peter Black: I propose amendment 8 in the name of Kirsty Williams. Add a new point at the end of the motion:

recognises the vital importance of creating a parity of esteem between vocational and academic qualifications in order to meet Wales's needs.

I welcome this document because, despite some of the shortcomings that Janet Ryder highlighted, we are moving in the right direction in terms of training, not just our youngsters, but the whole workforce, in basic and other skills. However, there is evidence that employers still do not seem to be sufficiently interested in training their staff. We need to put more emphasis on that and invest more in encouraging employers to train their staff and in giving them the tools to do that, particularly small and medium-sized businesses, which may not have the resources to do that. There is also evidence in the Future Skills Wales 2003 Generic Skill Survey that nearly all Welsh employers recruiting school and college leavers report a significant gap between the skills that they require as employers and those that are available in the workforce presented to them. Therefore, there is a long way to go and much work still needs to be done to put this right.

We have been presented with an action plan and ideas on how to implement it, but I will throw up some of the issues that I think need to be considered, particularly the fact that this is not just about training people in the workplace, but about providing skills in higher and further education. Investment in graduate entrepreneurship and more investment in vocational degrees, for example, are crucial to providing the skills that employers require of the people that we turn out to do those jobs.

It is not only literacy and numeracy at pre-16 levels that need to be addressed, as there are

brin; gorffennwch, os gwelwch yn dda.

Janet Ryder: Ar y sail honno'n unig, dylai'r cynllun gweithredu gael ei wrthod a'i ailystyried.

Peter Black: Cynigiaf welliant 8 yn enw Kirsty Williams. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd hanfodol sicrhau parch cydradd i gymwysterau galwedigaethol a chymwysterau academiaidd er mwyn bodloni anghenion Cymru.

Croesawaf y ddogfen hon oherwydd, er gwaethaf rhai o'r diffygion y tynnodd Janet Ryder sylw atynt, yr ydym yn symud i'r cyfeiriad iawn o ran hyfforddi, nid yn unig ein pobl ifanc, ond y gweithlu cyfan, mewn sgiliau sylfaenol a sgiliau eraill. Er hynny, ceir tystiolaeth o hyd sy'n dangos, i bob golwg, nad yw cyflogwyr yn ymddiddori ddigon mewn hyfforddi eu staff. Rhaid inni roi mwy o bwyslais ar hynny a buddsoddi rhagor i annog cyflogwyr i hyfforddi eu staff ac i roi iddynt yr offer y mae eu hangen i wneud hynny, yn enwedig busnesau bach a chanolig eu maint, na fyddant efallai'n meddu ar ddigon o adnoddau i wneud hynny. Mae tystiolaeth hefyd yn Arolwg Sgiliau Generig Sgiliau Dyfodol Cymru 2003 fod bron pob un o'r cyflogwyr sy'n recriwtio rhai sy'n gadael yr ysgol a'r coleg yn adrodd bod bwlch sylweddol rhwng y sgiliau y mae arnynt eu hangen fel cyflogwyr a'r rhai sydd ar gael yn y gweithlu a gyflwynir iddynt. Felly, mae llawer iawn o waith i'w wneud o hyd i gywiro hynny.

Rhodddwyd cynllun gweithredu ger ein bron ynghyd ag awgrymiadau am y modd i'w roi ar waith, ond codaf rai o'r materion y credaf fod angen eu hystyried, yn enwedig y ffaith ei fod yn ymwneud â dysgu sgiliau mewn addysg bellach ac uwch yn ogystal â hyfforddi yn y gweithle. Mae buddsoddi mewn entrepreneuriaeth ymysg graddedigion ac mewn graddau galwedigaethol, er enghraifft, yn hollbwysig er mwyn darparu'r sgiliau y mae cyflogwyr yn eu gofyn yn y rhai a baratown i gyflawni'r swyddi hyn.

Nid llythrennedd a rhifedd ar lefelau cyn-16 yw'r unig faterion y mae'n rhaid eu

also reports of literacy and numeracy problems at further and higher education levels. We need to consider that and invest in it.

Plaid Cymru's amendment 4 is right. We were denied a proper debate on the educational maintenance allowance scheme when it was proposed, and several of us would have liked to have made the point that the scheme should have been made available to 17 and 18-year-olds as well as to 16-year-olds in year 1. It is important that we have an opportunity in this amendment to discuss that and to vote on the scheme. I support that. If we are to encourage people to stay in learning at 16, we should also be encouraging them to stay at 17 and 18. We should not do that in future years; we must introduce the scheme for all those age groups now.

On Plaid Cymru's amendment 7 on top-up fees, in one respect it is invidious that we are encouraging people to go into learning and to gain the skills that employers need while, at the same time, introducing punitive measures that are putting people off going to college and into higher education and coming out with the skills that employers would want to harness. As Janet Ryder said, there is clear evidence that children of 'hard-working families', to coin a phrase that Labour is fond of using, have been put off going to college because of the fear of debt, and that cannot be right.

If we are serious about tackling the skills gap and about providing the experience and education that employers need in the workplace, we must encourage people to go to college, not put them off doing so. That means that we should not be charging them for their higher education. It should be funded by the state, as opposed to fees being imposed upon students.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Thank you for that succinct speech.

Mark Isherwood: I propose amendment 9 in the name of David Melding. Add a new point at the end of the motion:

expresses concern that education policy in

hystyried, gan fod adroddiadau hefyd am broblemau o ran llythrennedd a rhifedd ar lefelau addysg bellach ac uwch. Rhaid inni ystyried hynny a buddsoddi ynddo.

Mae gwelliant 4 o eiddo Plaid Cymru yn gywir. Gwrthodwyd dadl briodol i ni ar y cynllun lwfans cynhaliaeth addysg pan gynigiwyd ef, a byddai nifer ohonom wedi hoffi nodi y dylid bod wedi cynnig y cynllun i rai 17 a 18 mlwydd oed yn ogystal â rhai 16 mlwydd oed ym mlwyddyn 1. Mae'n bwysig inni gael cyfle yn y gwelliant hwn i drafod hynny a phleidleisio ar y cynllun. Cefnogaf hynny. Os ydym i annog pobl i barhau i ddysgu yn 16 oed, dylem eu hannog i aros yn 17 ac yn 18 oed. Nid ym mlynnyddoedd y dyfodol y dylem wneud hynny; rhaid inni gyflwyno'r cynllun ar gyfer y grwpiau oedran hynny'n awr.

Ynghylch gwelliant 7 o eiddo Plaid Cymru ar ffioedd ychwanegol, ar un ystyr, peth atgas yw ein bod yn annog pobl i fynd ymlaen i ddysgu a meithrin y sgiliau y mae ar gyflogwyr eu hangen, ac, ar yr un pryd, ein bod yn cyflwyno mesurau cosbol sy'n troi pobl oddi wrth fynd i goleg ac i addysg uwch a dod oddi yno â'r sgiliau y byddai cyflogwyr am eu defnyddio. Fel y dywedodd Janet Ryder, mae tystiolaeth bendant i ddangos bod plant o 'deuluoedd sy'n gweithio'n galed', os goddefir yr ymadrodd y mae Llafur yn hoff o'i ddefnyddio, wedi'u troi oddi wrth fynd i goleg oherwydd ofn dyled, ac mae'n sicr nad yw hynny'n iawn.

Os ydym o ddiffrif ynghylch cau'r bwllch sgiliau a chynnig y profiad a'r addysg y mae ar gyflogwyr eu hangen yn y gweithle, rhaid inni annog pobl i fynd i'r coleg, nid eu troi oddi wrth wneud hynny. Mae hynny'n golygu na ddylem godi tâl arnynt am eu haddysg uwch. Y wladwriaeth a ddylai ariannu hynny, yn hytrach na gorfodi ffioedd ar fyfyrwyr.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Diolch i chi am yr araith gryno honno.

Mark Isherwood: Cynigiaf welliant 9 yn enw David Melding. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn mynegi pryder nad yw polisi addysg

Wales is not meeting the needs of Welsh enterprise.

Cymru yn diwallu anghenion menter Cymru.

It is because we all want to improve skill levels and help more people into quality jobs and sustainable employment, and because we must work with employers, employees and learners to provide the skills needed for employment, that we note the results of the first skills and employment action plan with regret, but not surprise. For this is a Minister who bestrides the stage like a female Flashman or a Roald Dahl headteacher, crushing dissent beneath her. This is a Minister for whom 'collaboration not competition', means that she knows best and woe betide anyone who questions her vision or delivery. We must therefore consider the 15 new evidence-based actions in the euphemistically 'refreshed' action plan within the evidence-based context within which the Welsh Assembly Government will seek to deliver them. As *The Economist* stated two weeks ago,

Am ein bod oll am wella lefelau sgiliau a helpu mwy o bobl i gael swyddi da a chyflogaeth gynaliadwy, ac am fod rhaid inni weithio gyda chyflogwyr, gweithwyr a dysgwyr i ddarparu'r sgiliau y mae eu hangen ar gyfer cyflogaeth, y nodwn ganlyniadau'r cynllun gweithredu sgiliau a chyflogaeth cyntaf gyda gofid, ond heb syndod. Oherwydd Gweinidog yw hon sy'n rhychwantu'r llwyfan fel Flashman benywaidd neu bennaeth ysgol yn storïau Roald Dahl, gan sathru'r rhai sy'n anghytuno â hi dan draed. Gweinidog yw hon sy'n credu mai ystyr 'cydweithio nid cystadlu' yw mai hi a wŷr orau a gwae'r neb a fo'n amau ei gweledigaeth na'i dull o weithredu. Gan hynny, rhaid inni ystyried y 15 cam gweithredu newydd sy'n seiliedig ar dystiolaeth yn y cynllun gweithredu 'adnewyddedig', fel y'i gelwir, yn y cyddestun sy'n seiliedig ar dystiolaeth lle y bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n ceisio eu cyflawni. Fel y dywedodd *The Economist* bythefnos yn ôl,

'Labour's claims of economic success are dodgy and take the credit for reforms introduced by the Tories. The official unemployment figure may be at its lowest level for 29 years, but that is a tiny part of the employment picture because the economically inactive are not included in the labour force figures, and therefore not counted as jobless?.'

Mae honiadau Llafur am lwyddiant economaidd yn amheus ac maent yn cymryd y clod am ddiwygiadau a gyflwynwyd gan y Torïaid. Dichon fod y ffigur diweithdra swyddogol ar ei isaf ers 29 mlynedd, ond nid yw hynny ond yn rhan fach o'r darlun o gyflogaeth gan nad yw'r rhai economaidd anweithgar wedi'u cynnwys yn ffigurau'r gweithlu, ac felly ni chânt eu cyfrif yn ddi-waith.

The Assembly's key economic statistics bulletin for this month states that Welsh employment has fallen to 72.5 per cent, down from 72.8 per cent in the same period a year earlier, and compared to a UK average of 74.8 per cent. Meanwhile, economic inactivity has risen from 24 to 24.5 per cent, compared to a UK average of 21.4 per cent. According to Professor Dylan Jones-Evans, this equates to 448,000 economically inactive people in Wales as per population of just short of 3 million, equivalent to two thirds of the population of north Wales, and 100,000 more than would be the case if Welsh employment stood at UK levels. Of these, 78 per cent are not seeking a job and some

Mae bwletin ystadegau economaidd allweddol y Cynulliad ar gyfer y mis hwn yn datgan bod cyflogaeth yng Nghymru wedi disgyn i 72.5 y cant, sy'n is na'r 72.8 y cant yn yr un cyfnod y llynedd, ac yn cymharu â chyfartaledd o 74.8 y cant yn y DU. Yn y cyfamser, mae anweithgarwch economaidd wedi codi o 24 i 24.5 y cant, o'i gymharu â chyfartaledd yn y DU o 21.4 y cant. Yn ôl yr Athro Dylan Jones-Evans, mae hynny'n cyfateb i 448,000 o bobl economaidd anweithgar yng Nghymru mewn poblogaeth o ychydig llai na 3 miliwn, sy'n cyfateb i ddwy ran o dair o boblogaeth y Gogledd, ac yn 100,000 yn fwy na phe byddai cyflogaeth yng Nghymru ar lefelau'r DU. O blith y

65,000 are under the age of 25, with only 11,000 of them classed as students. A senior Welsh educationalist has told me that the results of basic skills tests for Welsh students entering college reveal a 'huge-scale problem' with levels of functional literacy and numeracy.

Under Labour, the UK has slipped from fourth to fifteenth position in the world competitiveness league. Inward investment has fallen and the Federation of Small Businesses states that small businesspeople have had to spend 200 per cent more time dealing with red tape, rather than creating economic growth and new jobs. Last year, the UK slipped to twenty-seventh out of the 30 countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development for participation in education among 17-year-olds, with a participation rate in Wales below even the UK figure. That is a disgrace. Welsh further education colleges are suffering deficits and cuts. Future higher education students are being disincentivised from studying. NUT Cymru has stated that sixth-form funding for 2005-06 does not even cover the small increase in teachers' salaries. In north-west Wales, sixth-form headteachers tell me that the sixth-form budget is causing grave concern to schools, and, in north-east Wales, sixth-form headteachers tell me that they are being penalised for delivering cost-effectively, and that they cannot sustain their performance if this trend continues.

ReSolv, author of the authoritative lost children report, based on extensive independent research, stressed that the Welsh Assembly Government agenda for 14 to 19-year-olds does not meet the skills needs of enterprise in Wales because it ignores what children and business are saying. In a speech to the Institute of Economic Affairs yesterday, the director general of the Institute

rhain, mae 78 y cant nad ydynt yn chwilio am swydd ac mae tua 65,000 o dan 25 oed, a dim ond 11,000 ohonynt a ystyrir yn fyfyrwyr. Mae un o uwch addysgwyr Cymru wedi dweud wrthyf fod canlyniadau profion sgiliau sylfaenol ar gyfer myfyrwyr o Gymru sy'n dechrau yn y coleg yn amlygu 'problem aruthrol' o ran lefelau llythrennedd a rhifedd ymarferol.

O dan Lafur, mae'r DU wedi llithro o'r pedwerydd i'r pymthegfed safle o ran ei gallu i gystadlu'n rhyngwladol. Mae mewnfuddsoddi wedi gostwng ac mae Ffederasiwn Busnesau Bach yn dweud bod y rhai sy'n rhedeg busnesau bach wedi gorfod treulio 200 y cant yn fwy o amser yn ymdrin â biwrocratiaeth, yn hytrach na chreu twf economaidd a swyddi newydd. Y llynedd, llithrodd y DU i'r seithfed safle ar hugain o blith y 30 o wledydd yn y Gymdeithas Cydweithrediad a Datblygiad Economaidd o ran cyfranogiad mewn addysg ymysg rhai 17 mlwydd oed, ac mae'r gyfradd cyfranogi yng Nghymru'n is na ffigur y DU, hyd yn oed. Mae hynny'n gywilyddus. Mae colegau addysg bellach Cymru yn dioddef gan ddiffygion a thoriadau. Mae darpar fyfyrwyr addysg uwch yn cael eu cymell i beidio â dilyn eu hastudiaethau. Mae Undeb Cenedlaethol yr Athrawon Cymru wedi datgan nad yw'r cyllid ar gyfer cyfleusterau chweched dosbarth ar gyfer 2005-06 yn ddigon i dalu am y codiad bach yng nghyflogau athrawon, hyd yn oed. Yn y Gogledd-orllewin, dywed penaethiaid cyfleusterau chweched dosbarth wrthyf fod y gyllideb ar gyfer cyfleusterau chweched dosbarth yn peri pryder dybryd i ysgolion, ac, yn y Gogledd-ddwyrain, dywed penaethiaid cyfleusterau chweched dosbarth wrthyf eu bod yn cael eu cosbi am weithredu'n gost-effeithiol, ac na fyddant yn gallu gwneud cystal yn y dyfodol os bydd y tuedd hwn yn parhau.

Gwnaeth ReSolv, sef awdur yr adroddiad awdurdodol ar blant coll, sy'n seiliedig ar ymchwil annibynnol helaeth, bwysleisio nad yw agenda Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer rhai 14 i 19 mlwydd oed yn bodloni anghenion busnesau yng Nghymru o ran sgiliau gan ei bod yn anwybyddu'r hyn y mae plant a busnesau'n ei ddweud. Mewn araith a draddodwyd i'r Sefydliad Materion

of Directors stated that,

‘Government education policies are failing to remedy the UK’s shortage of skilled workers’.

The Institute of Directors Wales has also stated that the split of responsibility for business training between the Minister for Economic Development and Transport and the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning must come to an end, with clear accountability established. The Confederation of British Industry Wales states that the lack of consultation with the business community on the abolition of the Welsh Development Agency, the Wales Tourist Board and ELWa calls into question the nature of the Assembly Government’s partnership with business, but it also recognises the opportunity that now exists to create services that can deliver a better outcome for the learners of Wales and for the individual businesses of Wales, without which economic growth cannot be achieved.

5.10 p.m.

CBI Cymru therefore welcomes the recognition by the Welsh Assembly Government of improved skills levels as a driver of economic development in Wales, but notes that one third of employers are consistently dissatisfied with the basic literacy and numeracy of the school leavers that they recruit and that Wales has poorer basic literacy and numeracy than any other UK nation or region.

CBI Cymru’s key messages for this action plan therefore include the statements that young people must leave the educational system fit for employment, that training providers and colleges must be able to respond to business and individual demand, that employers’ own in-house training programmes could be accredited and opened up for other employers, that the present system of qualifications for modern apprenticeships is too prescriptive and that funding variations between England and Wales should be examined—

Economaidd ddoe, dywedodd cyfarwyddwr cyffredinol Sefydliad y Cyfarwyddwyr fod,

polisiau addysg y Llywodraeth yn methu â gwneud iawn am brinder gweithwyr crefftus yn y DU.

Mae Sefydliad y Cyfarwyddwyr Cymru wedi dweud hefyd fod rhaid i’r rhaniad yn y cyfrifoldeb dros hyfforddiant busnes rhwng y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth a’r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes ddod i ben, a bod rhaid sefydlu atebolrwydd pendant. Dywed Cydffederasiwn Diwydiant Prydain Cymru fod y diffyg ymgynghori â phobl busnes ynghylch diddymu Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru, Bwrdd Croeso Cymru ac ELWa yn bwrw amheuaeth ar natur y bartneriaeth rhwng Llywodraeth y Cynulliad a busnes, ond mae hefyd yn cydnabod bod cyfle yn awr i greu gwasanaethau a all sicrhau gwell canlyniad i ddysgwyr Cymru ac i fusnesau unigol yng Nghymru, na ellir cael twf economaidd hebddynt.

Gan hynny, mae Cydffederasiwn Diwydiant Prydain Cymru yn croesawu’r ffaith bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru’n cydnabod bod lefelau sgiliau uwch yn ysgogi datblygu economaidd yng Nghymru, ond mae’n nodi bod un rhan o dair o’r cyflogwyr yn gyson anfodlon ar lythrennedd a rhifedd sylfaenol y rhai y maent yn eu recriwtio o blith y rhai sy’n gadael yr ysgol a bod y llythrennedd a’r rhifedd sylfaenol yng Nghymru’n waeth nag mewn unrhyw wlad neu ranbarth arall yn y DU.

Felly, ymysg y prif negeseuon sydd gan Gydffederasiwn Diwydiant Prydain Cymru mewn cysylltiad â’r cynllun gweithredu hwn y mae’r datganiadau bod rhaid i bobl ifanc fod yn addas i’w cyflogi pan adawant y system addysg, bod rhaid i ddarparwyr hyfforddiant a cholegau allu ymateb i’r galw gan fusnesau ac unigolion, y gellid achredu rhaglenni hyfforddi mewnol cyflogwyr a’u cynnig i gyflogwyr eraill, bod y system gymwysterau bresennol ar gyfer prentisiaethau modern yn rhy gaeth ac y dylid edrych ar y gwahaniaethau o ran ariannu

rhwng Cymru a Lloegr—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Mark, you have run out of time.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mark, mae'ch amser wedi dod i ben.

Mark Isherwood: Can I have a closing line?

Mark Isherwood: A gaf ddweud un peth i gloi?

The Deputy Presiding Officer: One sentence.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Un frawddeg.

Mark Isherwood: The danger is that this Minister will continue to talk that talk not walk the walk or, in her case, should we say: strut the strut or swagger the swagger.

Mark Isherwood: Y perygl yw y bydd y Gweinidog hwn yn dal i siarad yn hytrach na chymryd y camau y mae eu hangen neu, efallai, yn ei hachos hi, y dylem ddweud: swagro neu dorythu.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I remind backbench Members that they have three minutes in which to speak.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf yn atgoffa Aelodau'r meinciau cefn bod ganddynt dair munud i siarad.

Denise Idris Jones: I welcome the measures in this plan, that will take forward a skills agenda tailored to meet the needs of businesses and learners in Wales. I will concentrate my comments on basic skills and the importance of vocational learning. We have a duty to our children to ensure that they do not leave school without basic literacy and numeracy skills or the generic transferable skills required to live and work in a modern economy. We have a duty to nurture their interests, to empower them with the confidence, skills and knowledge to follow and achieve their ambitions. Over the years, I have taught many disaffected children—academic underachievers, who were talented students, but because they were never successful in a school system, which rests solely on the principles of academic performance, did not have the confidence or self-belief to build and develop their natural flair as a marketable skill. The recommendations, following ELWa's workplace learning review, of greater synergy between current provision, vocational provision from the age of 14 onwards, and good practice in a valued, modern apprenticeship programme are key to motivating and providing many learners with the direction that they are not getting from an academic education.

Denise Idris Jones: Croesawaf y mesurau yn y cynllun hwn, a fydd yn hyrwyddo agenda sydd wedi'i haddasu i ddiwallu anghenion busnesau a dysgwyr yng Nghymru. Canolbwyntiaf yn fy sylwadau ar sgiliau sylfaenol a phwysigrwydd dysgu galwedigaethol. Yr ydym o dan ddyletswydd i'n plant i sicrhau na fyddant yn gadael yr ysgol heb sgiliau llythrennedd neu rifedd sylfaenol neu'r sgiliau trosglwyddadwy cyffredinol y mae eu hangen i fyw a gweithio mewn economi fodern. Yr ydym o dan ddyletswydd i feithrin eu diddordebau, i roi iddynt yr hyder, y sgiliau a'r wybodaeth y mae arnynt eu hangen i allu ceisio a chyflawni eu huchelgais. Dros y blynyddoedd, yr wyf wedi dysgu llawer o blant a oedd wedi'u dadrithio—rhai a oedd yn tangyrredd yn academiaidd, a oedd yn fyfyrwyr talentog, ond, am na fuont erioed yn llwyddiannus mewn system ysgolion sy'n llwyr ddibynnu ar egwyddorion perfformiad academiaidd, nid oedd ganddynt ddigon o hunanhyder i allu meithrin a datblygu eu doniau cynhenid fel sgil y gellid ei farchnata. Mae'r argymhellion, yn sgil adolygiad ELWa o ddysgu yn y gweithle, y dylid cael mwy o synergedd rhwng y ddarpariaeth bresennol, y ddarpariaeth alwedigaethol o 14 oed ymlaen ac arferion da mewn rhaglen prentisiaethau modern a berchir yn hollbwysig i symbylu a chynnig llwybr ymlaen i lawer o ddysgwyr nad ydynt yn ei ganfod mewn addysg academiaidd.

Last week, I attended Llandrillo College with the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning to see case studies of how colleges and the further education sector are responding to learners' needs in Wales with greater vocational emphasis. It is essential that we bridge the ideological gap between basic skills in the classroom and economic achievement. Young people must be able to see the application of classroom learning in the workplace and have a clear vision of the value of basic skills that is over and above the attainment of academic grades for those going on to further and higher education. Action on vocational learning, working with young people's aims, ambitions and talent, not against them, and working with employers and learning providers, is essential to deconstructing the presumption that the only achievement is an academic one, thereby bringing vocational learning the value that it deserves.

Jenny Randerson: I welcome this report and what it promises to do. We all join together in hoping that it will make a difference because the issues that we face in Wales continue to be those of the utmost gravity. The recent figures on economic inactivity, after some progress, show that in the last three months to be measured up until November 2004, economic inactivity in Wales increased by 0.5 per cent, at a time when it decreased in England. Therefore, the gap between Wales and England is now the best part of three percentage points and is a matter of grave concern. Furthermore, today's Eurostat figures show that we are not catching up and that Wales needs to have a strong voice to argue our case with the Treasury.

We will be eligible for the next round of European funding. It is not a matter for congratulation; it is a matter of great concern for us all. If we are eligible, we need to ensure that we get the money. We do not need repatriation, as Gordon Brown proposed. We need to support the European Commission's proposals and ensure that we have good, sound funding for the areas in Wales which need it most.

Yr wythnos diwethaf, bûm yng Ngholeg Llandrillo gyda'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes i weld astudiaethau achos o'r modd y mae colegau a'r sector addysg bellach yn bodloni anghenion dysgwyr yng Nghymru gan roi mwy o bwyslais ar faterion galwedigaethol. Mae'n hollbwysig inni bontio'r bwlch ideolegol rhwng sgiliau sylfaenol yn yr ystafell ddosbarth a chyflawniadau economaidd. Rhaid i bobl ifanc gael gweld y modd y mae'r hyn a ddysgant yn yr ystafell ddosbarth yn cael ei roi ar waith yn y gweithle a chael gweld yn glir fod gwerth i sgiliau sylfaenol heblaw bod yn fodd i'r rhai sy'n mynd ymlaen i addysg bellach ac uwch gael ennill graddau academiaidd. Rhaid cymryd camau ar ddysgu galwedigaethol, gweithio'n unol â nodau, uchelgeisiau a doniau pobl ifanc, nid yn eu herbyn, a gweithio gyda chyflogwyr a darparwyr hyfforddiant er mwyn chwalu'r rhagdybiaeth mai'r unig gyflawniad yw un academiaidd, fel y rhoddir i ddysgu galwedigaethol y parch y mae'n ei haeddu.

Jenny Randerson: Croesawaf yr adroddiad hwn a'r hyn y mae'n addo ei wneud. Yr ydym oll yn gobeithio y gwnaiff wahaniaeth gan ein bod yn dal i wynebu materion sydd o'r pwys mwyaf yng Nghymru. Mae'r ffigurau diweddaraf ar anweithgarwch economaidd, ar ôl peth cynnydd, yn dangos, yn y tri mis diwethaf a fesurwyd hyd at fis Tachwedd 2004, fod anweithgarwch economaidd yng Nghymru wedi codi 0.5 y cant, ar adeg y bu gostyngiad ynddo yn Lloegr. Felly, mae bwlch o bron 3 y cant bellach rhwng Cymru a Lloegr ac mae hynny'n destun pryder mawr. At hynny, mae'r ffigurau a gafwyd heddiw gan Eurostat yn dangos nad ydym yn ennill tir a bod ar Gymru angen llais cryf i ddadlau ein hachos gyda'r Trysorlys.

Byddwn yn gymwys ar gyfer y cylch nesaf o gyllid Ewropeaidd. Nid yw hynny'n destun canmol; mae'n fater sy'n peri pryder mawr i ni i gyd. Os ydym yn gymwys, rhaid inni sicrhau y cawn yr arian. Nid oes arnom eisiau ailwladoli, fel y cynigiodd Gordon Brown. Rhaid inni gefnogi cynigion y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd a sicrhau y cawn gyllid da a dibynadwy ar gyfer yr ardaloedd mwyaf anghenus yng Nghymru.

We have serious economic problems in Wales, and analysis shows that low skills are a major factor in causing economic inactivity. The issue of links with business is important. It is essential that we do our utmost, and continue to do even more than we have done in the past, to persuade businesses that work-based learning pays off, and that encouraging employees to train in work does not mean that it is more likely that they will leave to work somewhere else. It means that you are investing in your pool of workers, and that you are planning for a prosperous future. We are still failing to get that message across to small and medium-sized enterprises in particular. There is a major job of work to be done in this area.

Finally, I point to the irony of the fact that despite all the planning, strategies, and emphasis placed on this issue by the Labour Assembly Government and from all sides of the Chamber, we are still in a situation where further education colleges and other training providers come to us and say that their funding is being cut, and that they are facing a situation where those who most need training are failing to receive it.

Carl Sargeant: The Welsh Assembly Government has already taken important steps to improve the basic skills of Welsh people, and it is through this existing action that we are here today.

Prior to the formation of the Assembly, it was taken for granted that there would always be a market for manual labour that did not require skills, although most required very few skills. Industrial change has proved that opinion wrong, and we can no longer rely on that stereotype to dictate the skills needs in Wales. Vocational qualifications and skills were never promoted to the extent that they should have been. Further education remained the poor relation in the education system, and the collection of data relating to both was never given the priority it deserved.

The skills and employment action plan before us today rightly acknowledges that there is

Mae gennym broblemau economaidd difrifol yng Nghymru, a gwelir drwy ddadansoddi fod sgiliau isel yn ffactor o bwys o ran achosi anweithgarwch economaidd. Mae mater y cysylltiadau â busnes yn bwysig. Mae'n hollbwysig inni wneud ein gorau glas, a gwneud yn fwy hyd yn oed nag a wnaethom yn y gorffennol, i berswadio busnesau bod dysgu sy'n seiliedig ar waith yn talu, ac nad yw annog gweithwyr i hyfforddi yn y gwaith yn golygu ei bod yn fwy tebygol y byddant yn gadael i weithio yn rhywle arall. Mae'n golygu bod rhywun yn buddsoddi yn ei garfan o weithwyr, a'i fod yn cynllunio ar gyfer dyfodol ffyniannus. Yr ydym yn dal i fethu â chyfleu'r neges honno i fusnesau bach a chanolig eu maint yn benodol. Mae gwaith mawr i'w wneud yn y maes hwn.

Yn olaf, tynnaf sylw at yr eironi sydd yn y ffaith ein bod yn dal i fod mewn sefyllfa, er gwaethaf yr holl gynllunio, strategaethau, a'r pwys a roddir ar y pwnc hwn gan Lywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad a chan bob plaid yn y Siambr, lle y mae colegau addysg bellach a darparwyr hyfforddiant eraill yn dod atom ac yn dweud bod eu cyllid yn cael ei dorri, a'u bod yn wynebu sefyllfa lle y mae'r rhai y mae arnynt angen hyfforddiant fwyaf yn methu â'i gael.

Carl Sargeant: Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi cymryd camau pwysig eisoes i wella sgiliau sylfaenol pobl Cymru, ac oherwydd y camau a gymerwyd yr ydym yma heddiw.

Cyn ffurfio'r Cynulliad, cymerwyd yn ganiataol y byddai marchnad bob amser i weithwyr llafuriol nad oedd arnynt angen sgiliau, er bod y rhan fwyaf yn gofyn ychydig iawn o sgiliau. Mae newidiadau mewn diwydiant wedi gwrthbrofi'r farn honno, ac ni allwn ddibynnu bellach ar y stereoteip hwnnw i bennu'r anghenion am sgiliau yng Nghymru. Ni chafodd cymwysterau a sgiliau galwedigaethol erioed eu hyrwyddo i'r graddau y dylid. Yr oedd statws is o hyd i addysg bellach yn y system addysg, ac ni roddwyd erioed flaenoriaeth i gasglu data am y ddau beth hyn fel y dylid.

Mae'r cynllun gweithredu sgiliau a chyflogaeth sydd ger ein bron heddiw yn

more to do in respect of the skills agenda. However, it is only through working with all the relevant parties that we can achieve our ambitions. The need to tackle skills gaps and shortages is pressing, but we must not forget the progress we have made through initiatives such as Future Skills Wales. Wales is at the forefront in identifying skills needs, and it is through better statistical analysis that the Government can better plan and target resources.

The approach to address employer demand through sector skills agreements is welcomed. In my constituency of Alyn and Deeside, an expanding aerospace industry requires a skilled workforce that can work in the high tech and manufacturing sector. Tackling the skills needs of north east Wales promises further investment and more jobs, and therefore a possible aerospace agreement is a must and should be welcomed. I look forward to being kept up to date on developments.

Finally, I welcome the work that the Government is undertaking with trade unions in promoting the skills agenda. Trade unions quite rightly promote the interests of their members, and those interests understandably include skills and training. Working with TUC Wales to develop a more strategic approach to union learning will ensure that the interests of the workforce are not overlooked. Programmes such as those developed by the ISTC should be congratulated. It is only by working together with all our partners, employers and unions, companies and colleges, that we will be able to encourage involvement in skills initiatives and make great strides in the delivery of future skills in Wales.

5.20 p.m.

David Davies: I remind the Member on the other side of the Chamber that it was a Conservative Government in 1994 that started the widening participation agenda. As a result, thousands of people were trained in

cydnabod yn briodol fod mwy i'w wneud mewn cysylltiad â'r agenda ar sgiliau. Fodd bynnag, dim ond drwy weithio gyda'r holl bartïon perthnasol y gallwn gyflawni ein huchelgeisiau. Mae taer angen rhoi sylw i fylchau a phrinder o ran sgiliau, ond ni ddylem anghofio am y cynnydd a wnaethom drwy fentrau fel Sgiliau Dyfodol Cymru. Mae Cymru ar y blaen o ran canfod anghenion am sgiliau, a thrwy ddadansoddi ystadegol gwell bydd y Llywodraeth yn gallu cynllunio a thargeddu adnoddau'n well.

Croesewir y dull o ateb y galw gan gyflogwyr drwy gytundebau sgiliau sector. Yn fy etholaeth i, sef Alun a Glannau Dyfrdwy, mae'r cynnydd yn y diwydiant awyrofod yn galw am weithlu crefftus sy'n gallu gweithio yn y sector uwch dechnoleg a gweithgynhyrchu. Mae rhagolwg am fuddsoddi pellach a rhagor o swyddi os diwellir anghenion o ran sgiliau yn y Gogledd-ddwyrain, ac felly mae'r posibilrwydd o gael cytundeb awyrofod yn bwysig iawn a dylid ei groesawu. Edrychaf ymlaen at gael gwybod am y datblygiadau diweddaraf.

Yn olaf, croesawaf y gwaith y mae'r Llywodraeth yn ei wneud gydag undebau llafur i hybu'r agenda ar sgiliau. Mae undebau llafur yn hyrwyddo buddiannau eu haelodau, fel y dylent, ac, wrth reswm, mae'r buddiannau hynny'n cynnwys sgiliau a hyfforddiant. Drwy weithio gyda TUC Cymru i ddatblygu ymagwedd fwy strategol at ddysgu gan undebau, gellir sicrhau na fydd buddiannau'r gweithlu'n cael eu hesgeuluso. Dylid canmol rhaglenni fel y rhai a ddatblygwyd gan Sefydliad Cyfathrebwyr Gwyddonol a Thechnegol. Dim ond drwy weithio gyda'n holl bartneriaid, yn gyflogwyr ac undebau, yn gwmnïau a cholegau, y gallwn annog pobl i gymryd rhan mewn mentrau ar sgiliau a chymryd camau mawr ymlaen i ddysgu sgiliau'r dyfodol yng Nghymru.

David Davies: Yr wyf yn atgoffa'r Aelod ar yr ochr arall i'r Siambr mai Llywodraeth Geidwadol yn 1994 a gychwynnodd yr agenda ar ehangu cyfranogiad. O ganlyniad, hyfforddwyd miloedd o bobl yn y sgiliau

the basic skills that they needed to gain employment. This scheme was a huge success that grew year upon year, until it was terminated by the New Labour Government.

Carl Sargeant: Thank you for giving way to a fellow directly elected Member. Even though you rave about the success of your scheme, you did not have similar success with employment figures in the 1980s and 1990s.

David Davies: I would be absolutely delighted to debate the economic record of the Government that secured low interest rates and low employment in the 1990s. This was not the Government that gave us interest rates of 15 and 20 per cent in the winter of discontent in the late 1970s. I would be happy to talk about the interest rate of 28 per cent that also occurred under Labour, and about the policy of withdrawing from Europe that kept Labour out of power in the 1980s. However, we are here to talk about the skills and employment action plan.

As amendment 3 says, we do not welcome the plan. We note that the Minister has drawn attention to the grave problems facing education. Many people leave school without the basic literacy and numeracy skills that they need to find employment. The Minister has not told us how she will deal with the problems nor has she come up with feasible solutions. The reality is that she is failing children at every stage of their education. They are being failed at the primary and junior school level. We have seen some of the best schools in this sector closed by Labour councils. One such school is Ponthir Voluntary Controlled Primary School in Torfaen. Ponthir had the best SATs results in the county, but it has been shut down by a council that probably failed to keep its books in order or manage its budgets properly. It therefore decides to close a village school to save itself a few pounds. This is disgusting and has happened in too many places, and it is one of the reasons why pupils do not have the literacy and numeracy skills that they need.

sylyfaenol yr oedd arnynt eu hangen i gael gwaith. Bu'r cynllun hwnnw'n llwyddiannus dros ben a thyfodd o flwyddyn i flwyddyn, hyd nes y cafodd ei ddi-ddymu gan y Llywodraeth Lafur Newydd.

Carl Sargeant: Diolch i chi am ildio i gyd-Aelod a etholwyd yn uniongyrchol. Er eich bod yn canmol llwyddiant eich cynllun i'r cymylau, ni chawsoch lwyddiant tebyg gyda ffigurau cyflogaeth yn y 1980au a'r 1990au.

David Davies: Byddwn wrth fy modd yn trafod record economaidd y Llywodraeth a sicrhaodd gyfraddau llog isel a chyflogaeth isel yn y 1990au. Nid honno oedd y Llywodraeth a roddodd inni gyfraddau llog o 15 a 20 y cant yn y gaeaf anniddig ar ddiwedd y 1970au. Byddwn yn falch o sôn am y gyfradd llog o 28 y cant a gafwyd hefyd o dan Lafur, ac am y polisi o dynnu allan o Ewrop a gadwodd Lafur allan o Lywodraeth ar ddiwedd y 1980au. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym yma i sôn am y cynllun gweithredu sgiliau a chyflogaeth.

Fel y dywed gwelliant 3, nid ydym yn croesawu'r cynllun. Nodwn fod y Gweinidog wedi tynnu sylw at y problemau dirfawr sy'n wynebu addysg. Mae llawer yn gadael yr ysgol heb y sgiliau sylfaenol mewn llythrennedd a rhifedd y mae arnynt eu hangen i gael gwaith. Nid yw'r Gweinidog wedi dweud wrthym sut y bydd yn delio â'r problemau ac nid yw wedi cynnig atebion ymarferol ychwaith. Y gwir yw ei bod yn gwneud cam â phlant ym mhob cyfnod o'u haddysg. Maent yn cael cam ar lefel yr ysgol gynradd a'r ysgol iau. Gwelsom gau rhai o'r ysgolion gorau yn y sector hwn gan gynghorau Llafur. Un ysgol o'r fath yw Ysgol Gynradd Wirfoddol a Reolir Pont-hir yn Nhor-faen. Ysgol Pont-hir a gafodd y canlyniadau gorau mewn TASau yn y sir, ond mae wedi'i chau gan gyngor a fethodd â chadw ei lyfrau mewn trefn neu a fethodd â rheoli ei gyllidebau'n iawn, yn ôl pob tebyg. Felly, penderfynodd gau ysgol bentref er mwyn arbed ychydig o bunnoedd. Mae hyn yn warthus a digwyddodd hynny mewn gormod o leoedd, a dyna un o'r rhesymau nad yw disgyblion yn meddu ar y sgiliau llythrennedd a rhifedd y mae arnynt eu hangen.

At the secondary school level, pupils are failed again because the Government has done nothing to support teachers who wish to impose the disciplinary sanctions that they need to deal with the small, truculent minority that holds back those who want to learn. This is a particular problem in socially deprived areas. The number of university entrants from socially and economically deprived areas is low because schoolchildren in these areas are held back by a small minority of their peers. This is not my opinion, but that of a NASUWT leader who came to see me to talk about the problem and to tell me that school discipline is now a bigger problem than funding. That is saying something, because we know that funding is itself a big problem. Why can the Minister not give teachers the authority to send children out of a classroom? Why is it that children expelled from schools win their appeals almost immediately and are allowed to attend school again, even though they may have committed appalling acts, including acts of violence against teachers?

We are failing pupils who leave school to go into higher education, as it is the Minister's policy to introduce tuition fees. This is a completely wrong-headed policy that will further discriminate against those from the poorest backgrounds. Tuition fees are to be introduced because the Minister has failed to identify the need to fill the skills gap. She will send people to university to follow courses on surf studies or religious studies, where they can learn about God on the internet, or to follow a degree in media studies that will not help graduates to find a job, when what we need are plumbers, electricians and other skilled tradesmen. There is a shortage of these skills. The Minister has papered over the cracks and has not solved the problem.

Irene James: Implementing the measures contained in this plan is vitally important to the regeneration of Valleys areas such as my constituency of Islwyn, where we face employment challenges recognised in the plan. More employment, better enterprise,

Mae disgyblion yn cael cam ar lefel yr ysgol uwchradd hefyd, gan nad yw'r Llywodraeth wedi gwneud dim i gefnogi athrawon sy'n dymuno cymryd y camau disgyblu y mae'n rhaid wrthynt i ddelio â'r lleiafrif bach milain sy'n dal yn ôl y rhai sydd am ddysgu. Ceir y broblem hon mewn ardaloedd cymdeithasol ddifreintiedig yn enwedig. Mae'r nifer sy'n mynd i brifysgol o ardaloedd cymdeithasol ac economaidd ddifreintiedig yn isel gan fod plant ysgol yn yr ardaloedd hynny'n cael eu dal yn ôl gan leiafrif bach o blith eu cyfoedion. Nid fy marn i yw honno, ond un a fynegwyd gan un o arweinyddion Cymdeithas Genedlaethol yr Ysgolfeistri ac Undeb yr Athrawesau a ddaeth i'm gweld i sôn am y broblem ac i ddweud wrthyf fod disgyblaeth yn yr ysgol yn fwy o broblem bellach nag ariannu. Mae hynny'n ddweud mawr, gan y gwyddom fod ariannu'n broblem fawr hefyd. Pam na all y Gweinidog roi hawl i athrawon anfon plant allan o ystafell ddosbarth? Pam y gwelir bod plant a waharddwyd o'r ysgol yn ennill eu hapêl ar unwaith bron, ac yn cael dod yn ôl i'r ysgol, er y gallent fod wedi cyflawni gweithredoedd ofnadwy, gan gynnwys trais yn erbyn athrawon?

Yr ydym yn gwneud cam â disgyblion sy'n gadael yr ysgol i fynd i addysg uwch, gan mai polisi'r Gweinidog yw cyflwyno ffioedd dysgu. Polisi cwbl gyfeiliornus yw hwn a fydd yn gwahaniaethu ymhellach yn erbyn y rhai o'r cefndiroedd tlotaf. Cyflwynir ffioedd dysgu gan fod y Gweinidog wedi methu â chanfod yr angen i lenwi'r bwlch sgiliau. Gwnaiff anfon rhai i'r brifysgol i ddilyn cyrsiau mewn astudiaethau brigdonni neu astudiaethau crefyddol, lle y gallant ddysgu am Dduw ar y rhyngryd, neu i gymryd gradd yn astudiaethau'r cyfryngau na fydd o gymorth i raddedigion ddod o hyd i swydd, a ninnau ag angen plymwyr, trydanwyr a chrefftwyr eraill. Mae sgiliau o'r fath yn brin. Mae'r Gweinidog wedi ceisio cuddio'r beiau ac nid yw wedi datrys y broblem.

Irene James: Bydd yn hollbwysig rhoi ar waith y mesurau a geir yn y cynllun hwn er mwyn adfywio ardaloedd y Cymoedd fel fy etholaeth i, sef Islwyn, lle y wynebwn heriau o ran cyflogaeth a gydnabyddir yn y cynllun. Rhaid cael mwy o gyflogaeth, gwell

education, training and skills are central to improving work and life prospects in the Valleys. As part of the research undertaken for its policy agenda entitled 'Ambitions for the Future', the Bevan Foundation identified the absence of a strong learning culture and lack of confidence as a key barrier to prosperity, to continuing education and, subsequently, to a highly skilled economy. This plan must be a holistic solution to overcome those difficulties, and return the Valleys to a thriving, highly skilled economy in a twenty-first century context.

There are innovative examples, and success stories are increasingly emerging from our communities. In turn, that will help to establish better sectoral development. For example, I recently visited a creative business in my constituency—Bon Bon Buddies—which develops and sells confectionary packaging. That is highly reliant on the IT network and a highly skilled workforce. It is an expanding venture, and is making a huge contribution to the local economy.

Increasing links between education and business, and expanding joint working between university and businesses, such as those through the technium programme, sector development support, including a highly skilled workforce, and building graduate opportunities, are essential to re-establish a thriving learning culture in the Valleys. We must capitalise on our learning strengths, and be responsive to gaps in our skills base. Historically, we are a nation of highly skilled workers, keen on learning and learning in the community.

In some respects, there is still the capacity to maximise advantage from these historic opportunities. For example, there is still a disproportionately large unionised workforce in Wales, which can be targeted through the Wales union learning fund. However, our historic appetite for work and learning must be coupled with innovation and the development of an entrepreneurial culture, to secure prosperity and build on investment in infrastructure, in employment, in our communities and in learning. This document is a vital step closer to a vibrant, thriving, dragon economy.

busnesau, addysg, hyfforddiant a sgiliau i gael gwell rhagolygon o ran bywyd a gwaith yn y Cymoedd. Fel rhan o'r ymchwil a wnaed ar gyfer ei agenda bolisi o'r enw 'Ambitions for the Future', canfu Sefydliad Bevan mai diffyg arferion dysgu cadarn a diffyg hyder oedd rhai o'r prif rwystrau i ffyniant, i addysg barhaus ac, o ganlyniad, i economi hyfedr. Rhaid i'r cynllun hwn gynnig ateb cyfannol er mwyn goresgyn yr anawsterau hynny, ac adfer economi ffyniannus â gweithwyr hyfedr yn y Cymoedd yng nghyd-destun yr unfed ganrif ar hugain.

Ceir enghreifftiau o arloesi, a gwelir mwyfwy o lwyddiannau yn ein cymunedau. Bydd hynny, yn ei dro, yn helpu i sicrhau gwell datblygu sectoraidd. Er enghraifft, ymwelais â busnes creadigol yn fy etholaeth yn ddiweddar—Bon Bon Buddies—sy'n datblygu ac yn gwerthu pagediadau melysion. Mae'r gwaith hwnnw'n dra dibynnol ar y rhwydwaith TG a gweithlu hyfedr. Mae'n fusnes sydd ar gynnydd, ac mae ei gyfraniad i'r economi leol yn aruthrol.

Mae'n hollbwysig cael mwy o gysylltiadau rhwng addysg a busnes, a mwy o weithio ar y cyd rhwng prifysgolion a busnesau, fel yr hyn a geir drwy'r rhaglen technium, a chymorth i ddatblygu sectorau, gan gynnwys gweithlu hyfedr, a chreu cyfleoedd i raddedigion, os ydys i adfer arferion dysgu ffyniannus yn y Cymoedd. Rhaid inni fanteisio ar ein cryfderau o ran dysgu, ac ymateb i lenwi bylchau yn ein sylfaen sgiliau. Yn hanesyddol, yr ydym yn genedl o weithwyr hyfedr, sy'n frwd dros ddysgu a dysgu yn y gymuned.

I ryw raddau, mae lle o hyd i fanteisio i'r eithaf ar y cyfleoedd hanesyddol hyn. Er enghraifft, mae'r gyfran o'r gweithlu yng Nghymru sy'n perthyn i undeb llafur yn uwch na'r cyfartaledd, a gellir ei thargedu drwy gronfa ddysgu undebau Cymru. Fodd bynnag, rhaid i'n hawydd hanesyddol am waith a dysgu fynd law yn llaw ag arloesi a'r gwaith o feithrin arferion entrepreneuriaidd, i sicrhau ffyniant a manteisio ar y buddsoddi yn y seilwaith, mewn cyflogaeth, yn ein cymunedau ac mewn dysgu. Mae'r ddogfen hon yn gam hollbwysig ymlaen tuag at economi ffyniannus a bywiog y ddraig.

Owen John Thomas: Mae'r ddogfen hon yn cynnwys adran ar sgiliau iaith Gymraeg, ac felly mae'n gyfle i ddangos sut mae'r Gweinidog yn hyrwyddo'r amcanion perthnasol yn 'Iaith Pawb'. Mae rhagarweiniad y cynllun yn cyfeirio at yr angen i

'sicrhau bod gan ddigon o bobl sgiliau iaith Gymraeg ar gyfer swyddi a sectorau neilltuol.'

Mae nodyn pellach yn datgan bod mynediad cyfyngedig i hyfforddiant drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Mae'r rhain i gyd yn ffeithiau hirsefydlog. O dan baragraff 42, mae dau amcan arall sy'n cyfeirio at y Gymraeg:

'Bydd y Craidd Dysgu 14-19 yn gosod Sgiliau Allweddol, Sgiliau Sylfaenol a sgiliau Iaith Gymraeg fel hawl i bob un rhwng 14-19 oed...a chanllawiau pellach i'w cyflwyno erbyn Haf 2005.'

Mae'r ail amcan yn addo y bydd

'Uned Sgiliau Dyfodol Cymru yn cyflawni ymchwil ar anghenion y Gymraeg. Targed: adrodd erbyn mis Mawrth 2005.'

Fodd bynnag, ble mae'r sylwedd yn y cynllun gweithredu? Mae rhywbeth cyfarwydd am hyn i gyd—y teimlad o déjà vu. Mae llawer o ailadrodd, ymchwil, cynlluniau peilot ac addewidion. Erbyn hyn, aeth dwy flynedd a hanner heibio ers inni osod argymhellion o'r arolwg Cymraeg yn yr adroddiad 'Ein Hiaith: Ei Dyfodol'. Aeth dwy flynedd heibio ers i argymhellion hynny gael eu gosod yn y cynllun gweithredu, 'Iaith Pawb'. Yn awr, gwelwn yr un amcanion mewn cynllun gweithredu arall, a dim cynnydd i adrodd arno yn y maes hwn tuag at greu Cymru ddwyieithog.

Yr oedd sylfaen i Gymru ddwyieithog yn bodoli cyn yr arolwg iaith. Wrth gwrs, nid oedd strategaeth genedlaethol na Chynulliad Cenedlaethol i hyrwyddo a datblygu'r sail a osodwyd drwy addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg a gwaith Urdd Gobaith Cymru ar draws y wlad. Yng ngeiriau'r Prif Weinidog, a oedd yn Aelod Seneddol ar y pryd,

Owen John Thomas: This document contains a section on Welsh language skills, and therefore is an opportunity to demonstrate how the Minister is promoting the relevant objectives of 'Iaith Pawb'. The introduction to the scheme refers to the need to

'ensure that there are enough people with Welsh language skills needed for certain jobs and sectors.'

It is further noted that access to training through the medium of Welsh is limited. These are all long established facts. Under paragraph 42, two objectives refer to the Welsh language:

'The 14-19 Learning Core will establish Key Skills, Basic Skills, and Welsh Language skills as an entitlement for all 14-19 year olds...and further guidance issued by Summer 2005.'

The second objectives pledges that the

'Future Skills Wales Unit will undertake research on Welsh Language needs. Target: report by March 2005.'

However, where is the substance in the action plan? This sounds all too familiar—there is a feeling of déjà vu. There is much repetition and research, and many pilot schemes and promises. By now, two and a half years have passed since we completed the review of the Welsh language and set out our recommendations in the report 'Our Language: Its Future'. Two years have passed since those recommendations were set out in the action plan, 'Iaith Pawb'. Now, we see the same objectives in yet another action plan, with no progress to report in this area towards creating a bilingual Wales.

The foundation for a bilingual Wales existed before the language review. Of course, we had no national strategy and no National Assembly then to promote and develop the foundation established through Welsh medium education and the work of Urdd Gobaith Cymru across Wales. In the words of the First Minister, who was a Member of Parliament at the time,

'The Welsh language thrives in adversity'.

Yr oedd rhyw wirionedd yn ei sylw, ond byddai wedi bod yn fwy gwir iddo fod wedi dweud bod yr iaith wedi goroesi er yr amgylchiadau anffodus. Pryd ydych chi'n bwriadu peidio â dweud y bydd hyn a'r llall yn cael ei wneud ynghylch y Gymraeg, Weinidog? Pryd y byddwch yn dechrau dweud eich bod wedi ffurfio strategaeth genedlaethol ar gyfer creu Cymru ddwyieithog, a'ch bod wedi gosod targedau ar gyfer awdurdodau addysg lleol, colegau addysg bellach a sefydliadau addysg uwch?

Cefnogwch welliant 5.

5.30 p.m.

Jeff Cuthbert: This second skills and employment action plan is well timed. We need now to focus our efforts on basic skills, employability, and enabling people to update their skills and return to the workforce. Improving skills at all levels is essential if Wales is to remain competitive in the global marketplace, with its rapidly changing economies. The overall impact of skills shortages is clear for all to see, particularly in construction, transport, tourism and hospitality. A skilled and adaptable workforce is vital for our businesses to remain competitive, and it plays a key role in productivity, profitability and expansion.

The presence of a basic skills gap is a big concern, and it is right that the second skills and employment action plan places the emphasis on improving the levels of basic literacy, numeracy and IT skills, and in ensuring that everybody has generic skills sufficient to obtain and sustain employment. Where possible and desirable, employers should provide basic skills learning opportunities in the workplace. It is essential that, in designing long-term solutions, the Assembly Government continues to work in partnership with business, the unions and the new sector skills councils to ensure that we are meeting the modern and ever-changing needs of businesses in Wales. I would, however, stress that businesses need to pull

Mae'r Gymraeg yn ffynnu mewn adfyd.

There was an element of truth in his comment, but it would have been more accurate for him to have said that the Welsh language had prevailed despite the climate of adversity. When do you intend to stop saying that this and that will be done in relation to the Welsh language, Minister? When will you start saying that you have drawn up a national strategy for the creation of a bilingual Wales, and that you have set targets for local education authorities, further education colleges, and higher education institutions?

Support amendment 5.

Jeff Cuthbert: Mae'r ail gynllun gweithredu sgiliau a chyflogaeth hwn yn amserol. Rhaid inni ganoli ein hymdrechion yn awr ar sgiliau sylfaenol, cyflogadwyedd, a galluogi pobl i ddiweddarau eu sgiliau ac ailymuno â'r gweithlu. Mae'n hollbwysig gwella sgiliau ar bob lefel os yw Cymru i aros yn gystadleuol yn y farchnad ryngwladol, y mae ei heconomiâu'n prysur newid. Mae effaith gyffredinol prinder sgiliau yn amlwg i bawb ei gweld, yn enwedig ym meysydd adeiladu, trafniadaeth, twristiaeth a lletygarwch. Rhaid cael gweithlu crefftus a hyblyg os yw ein busnesau i aros yn gystadleuol, ac mae'n chwarae rhan allweddol o ran cynhyrchiant, proffidioldeb ac ehangu.

Mae'r ffaith bod bwlch o ran sgiliau sylfaenol yn peri pryder mawr, ac mae'n briodol bod yr ail gynllun gweithredu sgiliau a chyflogaeth yn rhoi pwys ar wella lefelau sgiliau sylfaenol mewn llythrennedd, rhifedd a TG, ac ar sicrhau bod pawb yn meddu ar sgiliau cyffredinol sy'n ddigonol i'w galluogi i gael gwaith a'i gadw. Os yw'n bosibl ac yn ddymunol, dylai cyflogwyr gynnig cyfleoedd i ddysgu sgiliau sylfaenol yn y gweithle. Mae'n hollbwysig, wrth greu atebion tymor hir, y bydd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn dal i weithio ar y cyd â busnesau, yr undebau a'r cynghorau sgiliau sector newydd i sicrhau ein bod yn bodloni anghenion cyfoes a newidiol busnesau yng Nghymru. Er hynny, carwn bwysleisio y dylai busnesau dynnu eu

their weight and work more proactively with the developing sector skills councils and the unions to ensure that the basic skills gaps become a distant memory.

Education is, of course, of fundamental importance to our young people, but the bridge from education to employment must be maintained and improved. Shifting to a more highly-skilled, better-paid workforce is essential for Wales in the twenty-first century, and this can only be achieved by maintaining close links with business, as was evident in the launch of the CBI ‘Companies & Classrooms’ report last year, as it was with the Global Enterprise Challenge event that I helped launch at Ystrad Mynach College on 2 November. The enterprise challenge saw further education colleges from across Wales take part in a 24-hour innovation challenge where they had to design a business solution to a global threat. We must recognise that different people learn in different ways—I do not accept that there is any young person who is not interested in learning.

The 14-19 Learning Pathways is transforming education for 14 to 19-year-olds in Wales with work-focused experience, individually tailored learning pathways with routes to a range of qualifications and a wide choice of courses and experiences that are not necessarily all in the same setting. It is by tailoring our education system to match the needs of employers that we will, in turn, maximise the benefits to our learners.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Time is running out.

Jeff Cuthbert: The second skills and employment action plan is a welcome report as it signals the Assembly Government’s ongoing commitment to working in partnership with businesses, the unions and sector skills councils to ensure that our education system is fit for purpose, is in step with the needs of businesses and in the best interests of our young people.

The Minister for Education and Lifelong

pwysau a mynd ati i gydweithio â’r cynghorau sgiliau sector newydd a’r undebau i sicrhau mai rhywbeth sy’n perthyn i’r gorffennol fydd y bylchau o ran sgiliau sylfaenol.

Mae addysg o bwys sylfaenol i’n pobl ifanc, wrth gwrs, ond rhaid cynnal a gwella’r bont rhwng addysg a chyflogaeth. Mae’n hollbwysig i Gymru newid fel bod ganddi weithlu mwy hyfedr â chyflogau gwell yn yr unfed ganrif ar hugain, ac ni ellir ond cyflawni hynny drwy gadw cysylltiadau agos â busnes, fel y gwelwyd wrth lansio adroddiad Cydffederasiwn Diwydiant Prydain, ‘Companies & Classrooms’, y llynedd, ac fel y gwelwyd yn nigwyddiad y Global Enterprise Challenge y rhoddais gymorth i’w lansio yng Ngholeg Ystrad Mynach ar 2 Tachwedd. Yn y digwyddiad hwnnw, gwnaeth colegau addysg bellach o bob rhan o Gymru gymryd rhan mewn her arloesi 24 awr lle y bu’n rhaid iddynt greu ateb busnes i fygythiad byd-eang. Rhaid inni gydnabod bod gwahanol bobl yn dysgu drwy wahanol ddulliau—ni dderbyniaf fod unrhyw berson ifanc nad yw’n ymddiddori mewn dysgu.

Mae Llwybrau Dysgu 14-19 yn trawsnewid addysg ar gyfer y rhai 14 i 19 mlwydd oed yng Nghymru gyda phrofiad sy’n canolbwyntio ar waith, llwybrau dysgu sy’n diwallu anghenion unigolion gyda’r dewis o ymgeisio am amryw o gymwysterau a dewis eang o gyrsiau a phrofiadau nad ydynt i gyd yn yr un lleoliad o reidrwydd. Drwy addasu ein system addysg i ddiwallu anghenion cyflogwyr y sicrhawn y buddion mwyaf i’n dysgwyr yn eu tro.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mae’ch amser yn dod i ben.

Jeff Cuthbert: Mae’r ail gynllun gweithredu sgiliau a chyflogaeth yn adroddiad y dylid ei groesawu gan ei fod yn dangos ymrwymiad parhaus Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i weithio ar y cyd â busnesau, yr undebau a’r cynghorau sgiliau sector i sicrhau bod ein system addysg yn addas i’w diben, a’i bod yn bodloni anghenion busnesau ac yn dod â’r budd mwyaf i’n pobl ifanc.

Y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol

Learning (Jane Davidson): I thank Members for their contributions. I will try to ensure that I respond to certain aspects—for example, Janet Ryder challenged us on whether money is in the budget for free support for the basic skills agenda. We launched the draft consultation on this document back in May last year, and have, therefore, been fully able to take account of the actions in this document in setting the budgets that run through for the next three financial years. The additional money in the budget already reflects the actions. Basic skills provision, for example, will be detailed in its own business plan.

It is important to note that, for 18-year-olds and upwards, the Assembly has, uniquely, supported the Assembly learning grants for further education and higher education. That is a commitment to our parity of esteem agenda, which was outlined in ‘The Learning Country’, our strategic plan for education, and we remain unique in the United Kingdom in supporting further education in this way.

With regard to the Welsh language, it is important to note that we are talking about specific actions in this plan. This contributes towards the ‘Iaith Pawb’ action plan, but it is true to say that the 2003 generic skills survey recorded that employers, across Wales placed low importance on Welsh language skills. It was placed next to the bottom, in terms of the skills that employers valued most. With our commitment to the Welsh language, we wanted to revisit that unpalatable statistic and piece of evidence, so we asked ELWa to survey public-sector employees, and found that those employers with a Welsh language scheme recognised the need for the Welsh language. Their recognition was high and the Future Skills Wales partnership is currently undertaking the research to have a better understanding of private sector Welsh language needs. These are specific pieces of action contributing towards the evidence base.

I welcome Peter’s contribution. You have raised the issue around graduate

Oes (Jane Davidson): Diolchaf i Aelodau am eu cyfraniadau. Ceisiaf sicrhau y byddaf yn ymateb i rai pwyntiau—er enghraifft, gwnaeth Janet Ryder ein herio gan ofyn a oes arian yn y gyllideb ar gyfer cymorth am ddim ar gyfer yr agenda ar sgiliau sylfaenol. Gwnaethom lansio’r ymgynghoriad ar ddrafft y ddogfen hon yn ôl ym mis Mai y llynedd, ac yr ydym, felly, wedi gallu ystyried y camau gweithredu a geir yn y ddogfen hon wrth bennu’r cyllidebau a fydd yn rhedeg dros y tair blwyddyn ariannol nesaf. Mae’r arian ychwanegol yn y gyllideb yn adlewyrchu’r camau gweithredu hynny eisoes. Nodir y ddarpariaeth ar gyfer sgiliau sylfaenol, er enghraifft, mewn cynllun busnes ar wahân.

Mae’n bwysig nodi, yn achos rhai 18 mlwydd oed a rhai hŷn, fod y Cynulliad wedi rhoi cymorth, yn unigryw, ar gyfer grantiau dysgu’r Cynulliad ar gyfer addysg bellach ac addysg uwch. Mae hynny’n ymrwymiad i’n hagenda ar barch cydradd, a nodwyd yn ‘Y Wlad sy’n Dysgu’, ein strategaeth ar addysg, a ni’n unig sy’n hybu addysg bellach fel hyn yn y Deyrnas Unedig o hyd.

Gyda golwg ar y Gymraeg, mae’n bwysig nodi ein bod yn sôn am gamau gweithredu penodol yn y cynllun hwn. Mae hyn yn cyfrannu at gynllun gweithredu ‘Iaith Pawb’, ond gwir yw dweud bod yr arolwg o sgiliau generig yn 2003 wedi cofnodi mai ychydig o bwys yr oedd cyflogwyr, ledled Cymru, yn ei roi ar sgiliau iaith Gymraeg. Fe’i rhoddwyd yn nesaf at y gwaelod, o ran y sgiliau y mae cyflogwyr yn eu trysori fwyaf. Yng ngolwg ein hymrwymiad i’r Gymraeg, yr oeddem am ailystyried yr ystadegyn a’r eitem dystiolaeth annymunol honno, felly gofynasom i ELWa wneud arolwg o weithwyr yn y sector cyhoeddus, a chanfod bod y cyflogwyr hynny sydd â chynllun iaith Gymraeg yn cydnabod yr angen am y Gymraeg. Yr oedd y gydnabyddiaeth yn eu mysg yn uchel ac mae partneriaeth Sgiliau Dyfodol Cymru yn ymchwilio ar hyn o bryd er mwyn cael gwell dealltwriaeth o anghenion y sector preifat o ran y Gymraeg. Camau gweithredu penodol yw’r rhain sy’n cyfrannu i’r sylfaen dystiolaeth.

Croesawaf gyfraniad Peter. Yr ydych wedi codi’r mater sy’n ymwneud ag

entrepreneurships with me before. We strongly see that, which is why it is in the GO Wales agenda. A number of Members highlighted basic skills issues. In respect of Mark's points, rather than portraying me as being an individual Minister striding on my own around Wales, perhaps you would want to recognise that the Future Skills Wales partnership, which is behind this agenda, includes ELWa, the WDA, WLGA, Careers Wales, the Employment Service, Estyn, the Heads of Higher Education, the TUC, the CBI, the Federation of Small Businesses, the National Training Federation, the Sector Skills Development Agency, Fforwm, the WCVA, the Secondary Heads Association, and the Basic Skills Agency. Those are the organisations that bestride Wales, alongside me, in ensuring that we can deliver the agenda. I hope that the Conservative Assembly Members would feel that they could sometimes stride Wales in a consensual way, in terms of delivering such an important agenda.

We have had contributions referring to employment statistics. It is easy to trade figures on employment. However, let us take an overarching look at the devolution dividend on employment. We currently have 1,335,000 jobs in Wales, which is the highest figure ever. We have had 115,000 extra jobs since devolution and we have seen the biggest percentage reduction in the level of unemployment of any UK country or English region: a 39 per cent fall, compared to the average of 19 per cent. [*Interruption.*]

Alun Cairns: Will you give way?

Jane Davidson: I am happy to give way, now that I have given you some information. You are not always ready to receive it.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. There is too much noise. There are Members who want to listen to the debate.

Alun Cairns: The Minister mentioned that there were 35,000 extra jobs in the economy over recent years. How many of those jobs are in the public sector and how many in the

entrepreneuriaethau i raddedigion gyda mi o'r blaen. Yr ydym yn ymwymodol iawn o hynny, a dyna pam y mae ar agenda GO Wales. Gwnaeth sawl Aelod dynnu sylw at faterion sy'n ymwneud â sgiliau sylfaenol. Gyda golwg ar y pwyntiau a wnaeth Mark, yn hytrach na'm disgrifio fel un Gweinidog sy'n brasgamu ar fy mhen fy hun o gwmpas Cymru, efallai y carech gydnabod bod partneriaeth Sgiliau Dyfodol Cymru, sy'n pennu'r agenda hon, yn cynnwys ELWa, y WDA, CLILC, Gyrfa Cymru, y Gwasanaeth Cyflogaeth, Estyn, Penaethiaid Addysg Uwch, y TUC, y CBI, Ffederasiwn Busnesau Bach, y Ffederasiwn Hyfforddi Cenedlaethol, yr Asiantaeth Datblygu Sgiliau Sector, Fforwm, Cyngor Gweithredu Gwirfoddol Cymru, Cymdeithas Penaethiaid Ysgolion Uwchradd, a'r Asiantaeth Sgiliau Sylfaenol. Cyrff yw'r rhain sy'n rychwantu Cymru, gyda mi, i sicrhau y gallwn gyflawni'r agenda. Gobeithiaf fod Aelodau Ceidwadol y Cynulliad yn teimlo y gallent hwythau weithiau gerdded Cymru'n gytûn, o ran cyflawni agenda mor bwysig.

Cawsom gyfeiriadau mewn cyfraniadau at ystadegau cyflogaeth. Peth hawdd yw ffeirio ystadegau ar gyflogaeth. Er hynny, gadewch inni fwrw golwg cyffredinol ar yr hyn a enillwyd drwy ddatganoli o ran cyflogaeth. Ar hyn o bryd, mae gennym 1,335,000 o swyddi yng Nghymru, sef y ffigur uchaf erioed. Cawsom 115,000 o swyddi ychwanegol ers datganoli a gwelsom y gostyngiad mwyaf erioed yng nghanran y di-waith o unrhyw wlad yn y DU neu unrhyw ranbarth yn Lloegr: gostyngiad o 39 y cant, o'i gymharu â chyfartaledd o 19 y cant. [*Torri ar draws.*]

Alun Cairns: A wnewch ildio?

Jane Davidson: Yr wyf yn fodlon ildio, gan fy mod wedi rhoi ychydig o wybodaeth i chi. Nid ydych bob amser yn barod i'w derbyn.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mae gormod o sŵn. Mae Aelodau sydd am wrando ar y ddadl.

Alun Cairns: Dywedodd y Gweinidog fod 35,000 o swyddi ychwanegol yn yr economi dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Faint o'r swyddi hynny sydd yn y sector cyhoeddus a

private sector? If there are so many extra jobs, why are we relatively poorer now than we were under the last Conservative Government?

Jane Davidson: There are 30 per cent extra jobs in the public sector. We should be celebrating that employment is at the highest possible levels. However, unless we drive up the skills agenda, we will not be able to drive up the high wage agenda. I am keen to do that, because, under your Government, you drove a low wage, low economy agenda. It has taken us years to work with employers to set their ambitions higher as a result of the training agenda.

Mark made a comment that ReSolv's report showed that it was not happy with our 14-19 action plan. He needs to get his facts in order. The ReSolv report was issued in November 2003, and the action plan issued in July 2004. Therefore, unless it was prescient, the organisation would have been unable to comment on the action plan, which was agreed in consensus, by each Assembly Member, in terms of the guidance in place from July onwards.

Eleanor Burnham: If you are as successful as you say, why are the further education college principals lobbying Members of Parliament for a bigger budget?

5.40 p.m.

Jane Davidson: That sounds like a mistake in approach by the FE principals in Wales, whose dialogue is with the Assembly Government. We have a productive dialogue with them. You sat in the audience at Coleg Llandrillo Cymru last week, where FE college principals paid tribute to the Assembly Government for the support that it has given and the work that is being done.

Denise raised the important issues of support for vocational learning and bridging the ideological gap. Jenny referred to links with business and worked-based learning and how

faint yn y sector preifat? Os oes cynifer o swyddi ychwanegol, pam yr ydym yn gymharol dlotach yn awr nag yr oeddem o dan y Llywodraeth Geidwadol ddiwethaf?

Jane Davidson: Mae 30 y cant yn fwy o swyddi yn y sector cyhoeddus. Dylem ddathlu'r ffaith bod cyflogaeth ar y lefelau uchaf posibl. Er hynny, os na fyddwn yn hyrwyddo'r agenda ar sgiliau, ni fyddwn yn gallu hyrwyddo'r agenda ar gyflogau uchel. Yr wyf yn awyddus i wneud hynny, oherwydd, o dan eich Llywodraeth chi, gwnaethoch hyrwyddo agenda ar gyfer cyflogau isel ac economi isel. Cymerodd flynyddoedd inni weithio gyda chyflogwyr i godi eu golygon o ganlyniad i'r agenda ar hyfforddiant.

Gwnaeth Mark sylw i'r perwyl bod adroddiad ReSolv yn dangos nad oedd yn fodlon ar ein cynllun gweithredu ar gyfer rhai 14-19 oed. Rhaid iddo gael ei ffeithiau'n gywir. Cyhoeddwyd adroddiad ReSolv yn Nhachwedd 2003, a chyhoeddwyd y cynllun gweithredu yng Ngorffennaf 2004. Felly, oni bai ei fod yn gallu gweld i'r dyfodol, ni fyddai'r corff hwnnw wedi gallu gwneud sylw am y cynllun gweithredu, a gytunwyd drwy gonsensws, gan bob Aelod o'r Cynulliad, o ran y canllawiau a fu ar waith o fis Gorffennaf ymlaen.

Eleanor Burnham: Os ydych mor llwyddiannus ag y dywedwch, pam y mae penaethiaid y colegau addysg bellach yn llobio Aelodau Seneddol i gael cyllideb fwy?

Jane Davidson: Mae hynny'n ymddangos yn ymagwedd cyfeiliornus ar ran penaethiaid addysg bellach yng Nghymru, gan mai â Llywodraeth y Cynulliad y maent yn delio. Cawn ddeialog gynhyrchiol â hwy. Buoch yn y gynulleidfa yng Ngholeg Llandrillo Cymru yr wythnos diwethaf, pan wnaeth penaethiaid colegau addysg bellach dalu teyrnged i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad am y cymorth a roddodd a'r gwaith a wneir.

Gwnaeth Denise godi'r materion pwysig o gymorth ar gyfer dysgu galwedigaethol a phontio'r bwloch ideolegol. Cyfeiriodd Jenny at gysylltiadau â busnes a dysgu sy'n

important it is that they are retained.

Jeff Cuthbert: Do you share my concern about the way in which David Davies referred to pupils in schools when he said that we should look after those who want to learn? Does that not suggest to you, as it does to me, the Conservative Party's complete lack of interest in providing other means of learning, such as vocational learning, for those young people who need a different experience?

Jane Davidson: David Davies's contribution suggested to me that either he had not read the report or that he was trying to hide the fact that he had not read the report, as he did not mention any part of it.

David Davies: Will you give way?

Jane Davidson: I am happy to give way. Please demonstrate to me that you have read the report and care about this agenda.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. I am happy for David Davies to intervene. However, I must draw this debate to a close soon.

David Davies: Why do you not demonstrate that you care about funding for pupils in higher education by telling us what you are going to do about ELWa, given the scandal of the fact that it has employed someone as a consultant to whom it previously paid a large redundancy payment? Money that could have been spent on pupils in higher education in Wales is being spent on allowing people to get their snouts in the trough in one of our education quangos. What do you say to that, Minister?

Jane Davidson: I rest my case; he has not read the report.

Irene made an important contribution on the Bevan Foundation. She has clearly read the report and considered the needs. She referred to the real issue regarding developing confidence and the importance of the Wales union learning fund.

seiliedig ar waith ac at y pwysigrwydd o'u cynnal.

Jeff Cuthbert: A ydych yn pryderu, fel minnau, ynghylch y modd y cyfeiriodd David Davies at ddisgyblion mewn ysgolion gan ddweud y dylem ofalu am y rhai sydd am ddysgu? Onid yw hynny'n awgrymu i chi, fel y mae i minnau, nad oes gan y Blaid Geidwadol unrhyw ddiddordeb mewn cynnig dulliau dysgu eraill, fel dysgu galwedigaethol, ar gyfer y bobl ifanc hynny y mae arnynt angen profiad gwahanol?

Jane Davidson: Yr oedd cyfraniad David Davies yn awgrymu i mi un ai nad oedd wedi darllen yr adroddiad neu ei fod yn ceisio celu'r ffaith nad oedd wedi'i ddarllen, gan na chyfeiriodd at unrhyw ran ohono.

David Davies: A wnewch ildio?

Jane Davidson: Yr wyf yn fodlon ildio. Dangoswch i mi, os gwelwch yn dda, eich bod wedi darllen yr adroddiad ac yn poeni am yr agenda hon.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Yr wyf yn fodlon i David Davies ymyrryd. Fodd bynnag, rhaid imi dynnu'r ddadl hon i'w therfyn cyn hir.

David Davies: Pam na ddangoswch chi eich bod yn poeni am arian ar gyfer disgyblion mewn addysg uwch drwy ddweud wrthym beth yr ydych yn ei wneud ynghylch ELWa, yng ngolwg y sgandal ei fod wedi cyflogi rhywun fel ymgynghorydd yr oedd wedi rhoi tâl diswyddo mawr iddo o'r blaen? Mae arian y gallesid ei wario ar ddisgyblion mewn addysg uwch yng Nghymru'n cael ei wario ar ganiatáu i bobl gael at y pot mêl yn un o'n cwangos addysg. Beth a ddywedwch yn ateb i hynny, Weinidog?

Jane Davidson: Nid oes angen imi ddweud rhagor; nid yw wedi darllen yr adroddiad.

Gwnaeth Irene gyfraniad pwysig ar Sefydliad Bevan. Mae'n amlwg ei bod wedi darllen yr adroddiad ac wedi ystyried yr anghenion. Cyfeiriodd at y mater o bwys sy'n ymwneud â meithrin hyder a phwysigrwydd cronfa ddysgu undebau Cymru.

I agree with Jeff that different people learn in different ways. That is why the skills and employment action plan drives forward the agenda jointly, with all providers being engaged.

Cytunaf â Jeff fod gwahanol bobl yn dysgu drwy ddulliau gwahanol. Dyna pam y mae'r cynllun gweithredu sgiliau a chyflogaeth yn hyrwyddo'r agenda ar y cyd ag eraill, gan gynnwys yr holl ddarparwyr.

*Gwelliant 1: O blaid 25, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 30.
Amendment 1: For 25, Abstain 0, Against 30.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
German, Michael
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 2: O blaid 19, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 36.
Amendment 2: For 19, Abstain 0, Against 36.*

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

Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue

Jones, Laura Anne
 Lloyd, David
 Melding, David
 Ryder, Janet
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle

German, Michael
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 James, Irene
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Williams, Kirsty

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment defeated.*

Ni ddetholwyd gwelliant 3.
 Amendment 3 not selected.

*Gwelliant 4: O blaid 16, Ymatal 9, Yn erbyn 30.
 Amendment 4: For 16, Abstain 9, Against 30.*

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

Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Davies, Janet
 Davies, Jocelyn
 German, Michael
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Lloyd, David
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Kirsty

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

Andrews, Leighton
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Butler, Rosemary
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
 Essex, Sue
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 James, Irene
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen

Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Laura Anne
Melding, David
Williams, Brynle

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 5: O blaid 16, Ymatal 9, Yn erbyn 30.
Amendment 5: For 16, Abstain 9, Against 30.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
German, Michael
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lloyd, David
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Laura Anne

Melding, David
Williams, Brynle

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 6: O blaid 19, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 36.
Amendment 6: For 19, Abstain 0, Against 36.*

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

Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Williams, Kirsty

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 7: O blaid 25, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 30.
Amendment 7: For 25, Abstain 0, Against 30.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane

Davies, Glyn
 Davies, Janet
 Davies, Jocelyn
 German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Jones, Laura Anne
 Lloyd, David
 Melding, David
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

Davies, Andrew
 Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
 Essex, Sue
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 James, Irene
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 8: O blaid 25, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 30.
 Amendment 8: For 25, Abstain 0, Against 30.*

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

Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Cairns, Alun
 Davies, David
 Davies, Glyn
 Davies, Janet
 Davies, Jocelyn
 German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Jones, Laura Anne
 Lloyd, David
 Melding, David
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

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

Andrews, Leighton
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Butler, Rosemary
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
 Essex, Sue
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 James, Irene
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda

Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.

Amendment defeated.

*Gwelliant 9: O blaid 25, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 30.
Amendment 9: For 25, Abstain 0, Against 30.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
German, Michael
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Cynnig (NDM2252): O blaid 36, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 19.
Motion (NDM2252): For 36, Abstain 0, Against 19.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine

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

Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John

Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Williams, Kirsty

Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

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

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5.47 p.m.
The meeting ended at 5.47 p.m.*

**Aelodau a'u Pleidiau
Members and their Parties**

Andrews, Leighton (Llafur – Labour)
Barrett, Lorraine (Llafur – Labour)
Bates, Mick (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Black, Peter (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Bourne, Nick (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Burnham, Eleanor (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Butler, Rosemary (Llafur – Labour)
Cairns, Alun (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Chapman, Christine (Llafur – Labour)
Cuthbert, Jeff (Llafur – Labour)
Davidson, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
Davies, Andrew (Llafur – Labour)
Davies, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Davies, Glyn (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Davies, Janet (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Davies, Jocelyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Dunwoody-Kneafsey, Tamsin (Llafur - Labour)
Elis-Thomas, Dafydd (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Essex, Sue (Llafur – Labour)
Francis, Lisa (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
German, Michael (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Graham, William (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Gregory, Janice (Llafur – Labour)
Griffiths, John (Llafur – Labour)
Gibbons, Brian (Llafur – Labour)
Gwyther, Christine (Llafur – Labour)
Hart, Edwina (Llafur – Labour)
Hutt, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
Idris Jones, Denise (Llafur – Labour)
Isherwood, Mark (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
James, Irene (Llafur – Labour)
Jones, Alun Ffred (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Jones, Ann (Llafur – Labour)

Jones, Carwyn (Llafur – Labour)
Jones, Elin (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Jones, Helen Mary (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Jones, Ieuan Wyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Jones, Laura Anne (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Law, Peter (Llafur – Labour)
Lewis, Huw (Llafur – Labour)
Lloyd, David (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Lloyd, Val (Llafur – Labour)
Marek, John (Annibynnol – Independent)
Melding, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Mewies, Sandy (Llafur – Labour)
Morgan, Jonathan (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Morgan, Rhodri (Llafur – Labour)
Neagle, Lynne (Llafur – Labour)
Pugh, Alun (Llafur – Labour)
Randerson, Jenny (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Ryder, Janet (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Sargeant, Carl (Llafur – Labour)
Sinclair, Karen (Llafur – Labour)
Thomas, Catherine (Llafur – Labour)
Thomas, Gwenda (Llafur – Labour)
Thomas, Owen John (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Williams, Brynle (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Williams, Kirsty (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Wood, Leanne (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)