



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

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

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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.*

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio Questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration

Tai Fforddiadwy mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig Affordable Housing in Rural Areas

C1 Elin Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar dai fforddiadwy mewn ardaloedd gwledig? OAQ0048(SJR)

Q1 Elin Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on affordable housing in rural areas? OAQ0048(SJR)

The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration (Edwina Hart): I have today presented a paper to the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee reflecting on current housing policies, including a review of the current situation regarding rural housing and also affordability, and identifying recent research and consultations on this issue.

Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio (Edwina Hart): Heddiw yr wyf wedi cyflwyno papur i'r Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio gan ystyried polisiau tai presennol, gan gynnwys adolygiad o'r sefyllfa bresennol o ran tai mewn ardaloedd gwledig a hefyd fforddiadwyedd, a nodi gwaith ymchwil ac ymgynghoriadau ar y mater hwn.

Elin Jones: Mae prinder tai ar rent fforddiadwy yng nghefn gwlad, a pholisi'r Torïaid o werthu tai cyngor sy'n bennaf cyfrifol am hynny. A ydych o blaid syniad diweddar John Prescott o alluogi tenantiaid cymdeithasau tai i brynu cyfran o'u cartrefi?

Elin Jones: There is a shortage of housing available at an affordable rent in rural Wales, mainly as a result of the Tories' policy of selling off council houses. Are you in favour of John Prescott's latest idea of giving housing association tenants the right to buy a share of their homes?

Edwina Hart: I have looked with interest at some of the suggestions that have been made in England, but it is my view that we have had sufficient use of right to buy in Wales. It has had an impact on the market in terms of individuals who want to access the market, and it is clearly a priority to provide a home for everyone who wants one, whether that is to rent or to buy.

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf wedi ystyried gyda diddordeb rai o'r awgrymiadau a wnaethpwyd yn Lloegr, ond fy marn i yw ein bod wedi gwneud defnydd digonol o'r hawl i brynu yng Nghymru. Cafodd effaith ar y farchnad o ran unigolion sydd am gael mynediad i'r farchnad, ac yn amlwg mae darparu cartref i bawb sydd am gael un, pa un a yw hynny'n golygu rhentu neu brynu, yn flaenoriaeth.

William Graham: You acknowledge that homebuy has been a success. I have asked you this before, and I ask again: would you consider an advertising budget for that, to make sure that everyone is aware of this excellent scheme?

William Graham: Yr ydych yn cydnabod y bu'r cynllun cymorth prynu yn llwyddiannus. Yr wyf eisoes wedi gofyn hyn i chi, ac fe'i gofynnaf eto: a fydddech yn ystyried cyllideb hysbysebu ar gyfer hwnnw, i sicrhau bod pawb yn ymwybodol o'r cynllun rhagorol hwn?

Edwina Hart: I intend to take that useful suggestion forward in my review of homebuy, and I will be making

Edwina Hart: Bwriadaf ddatblygu'r awgrym defnyddiol hwnnw yn fy adolygiad o'r cynllun cymorth prynu, a byddaf yn gwneud

recommendations to the committee on that issue.

Kirsty Williams: When you review homebuy, will you bear in mind the recent correspondence that we have had about a case in Brecon, whereby a young man has been unable to use that scheme to assist him in purchasing a property? Will you consider whether more money could be put into homebuy, and whether the rules on the cost of houses that can be purchased can be changed to reflect the housing market, as, in many parts of my constituency, house prices continue to spiral?

Edwina Hart: I will certainly refer your correspondence to officials, so that it can be taken into account in the review of the system.

argymhellion i'r pwyllgor ar y mater hwnnw.

Kirsty Williams: Pan fyddwch yn adolygu'r cynllun cymorth prynu, a ystyriwch yr ohebiaeth ddiweddar a dderbyniasom am achos yn Aberhonddu, lle nad oedd dyn ifanc wedi gallu defnyddio'r cynllun hwnnw i'w gynorthwyo i brynu tŷ? A ystyriwch pa un a ellir buddsoddi mwy o arian yn y cynllun cymorth prynu, a pha un a ellir newid y rheolau ar gost tai y gellir eu prynu i adlewyrchu'r farchnad dai, gan fod prisiau tai mewn sawl rhan o'm hetholaeth yn parhau i gynyddu?

Edwina Hart: Yn sicr, anfonaf eich gohebiaeth at swyddogion, fel y gellir ei hystyried wrth adolygu'r system.

Rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf The Communities First Programme

Q2 Christine Gwyther: Will the Minister give a progress report on the Communities First programme? OAQ0073(SJR)

Edwina Hart: One hundred and twenty-one Communities First partnerships have been established and others are in the process of being set up.

Christine Gwyther: Will you join me in congratulating Pembroke Monkton Communities First partnership, and Pembroke Dock Lanion Communities First partnership? You were good enough to visit both of those partnerships recently. Will you also join me in welcoming the Co-operative Group for Capacity Building's commitment to those partnerships as their funder? Will you also welcome the fact that the three schools in that area play an active part in the partnerships, and are putting forward youth projects?

Edwina Hart: I thank Christine for her kind invitation to visit that area with her, and to meet the partnerships. I was impressed by the level of activity with the schools, and their involvement in the partnerships. I regard that as first-class community work. I am delighted that we have been able to allocate money to the projects concerned, and to see the role of

C2 Christine Gwyther: A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi adroddiad ar gynnydd rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf? OAQ0073(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Sefydlwyd 121 o bartneriaethau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf ac mae rhai eraill yn y broses o gael eu sefydlu.

Christine Gwyther: A ymunwch â mi i longyfarch partneriaeth Cymunedau yn Gyntaf Cil-maen Penfro, a phartneriaeth Cymunedau yn Gyntaf Llanion Doc Penfro? Buoch mor garedig ag ymweld â'r ddwy bartneriaeth honno yn ddiweddar. A ymunwch â mi hefyd i groesawu ymrwymiad y Grŵp Cydweithredol dros Feithrin Gallu i'r partneriaethau hynny fel eu noddwr? A wnewch chi hefyd groesawu'r ffaith bod y tair ysgol yn yr ardal honno'n chwarae rhan weithredol yn y partneriaethau, a'u bod yn hyrwyddo prosiectau ieuenctid?

Edwina Hart: Diolchaf i Christine am ei gwahoddiad caredig i ymweld â'r ardal honno gyda hi, ac i gwrdd â'r partneriaethau. Gwnaeth lefel y gweithgarwch â'r ysgolion, a'u cyfranogiad yn y partneriaethau, gryn argraff arnaf. Ystyriaf hynny yn waith cymunedol o'r radd flaenaf. Yr wyf yn falch iawn ein bod wedi gallu dyrannu arian i'r

the co-operative movement being reinforced by the group being the grant recipient.

Owen John Thomas: Llanrhymney, in my constituency, showed great enthusiasm for a project that would have seen Henry Morgan's former home, Llanrhymney Hall, used as a tourist attraction and community facility. However, the local authority seemed reluctant to allow residents to play an active role in the project, and it subsequently floundered. Who monitors such Communities First projects?

Edwina Hart: You will have to write to me on that, so that I can be clear about your point and make the necessary inquiries.

David Davies: Despite Communities First projects, there are still significant areas of poverty in Wales, including in rural areas such as Monmouthshire. Do you have any plans to visit Monmouthshire over the next few months, and, if so, will you allow me to show you the poverty that exists there?

Edwina Hart: I would be delighted to accept any invitation from the Assembly Member for Monmouth to visit the area.

prosiectau dan sylw, ac i weld rôl y mudiad cydweithredol yn cael ei hatgyfnerthu gan y grŵp sy'n derbyn y grant.

Owen John Thomas: Dangosodd Llanrhymni, yn fy etholaeth, frwdfrydedd mawr am brosiect a fyddai wedi trawsnewid cyn gartref Henry Morgan, Neuadd Llanrhymni, yn atyniad i ymwelwyr ac yn gyfleuster cymunedol. Fodd bynnag, ymddangosai'r awdurdod lleol yn amharod i ganiatáu i drigolion chwarae rôl weithredol yn y prosiect, ac o ganlyniad ni weithredwyd y prosiect. Pwy sy'n monitro prosiectau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf o'r fath?

Edwina Hart: Bydd yn rhaid i chi ysgrifennu ataf am hynny, er mwyn egluro'r pwynt ac er mwyn i mi allu gwneud yr ymholiadau angenrheidiol.

David Davies: Er gwaethaf prosiectau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, mae ardaloedd sylweddol o dlodi yn bodoli yng Nghymru o hyd, gan gynnwys mewn ardaloedd gwledig fel sir Fynwy. A oes gennych unrhyw gynlluniau i ymweld â Sir Fynwy yn ystod yr ychydig wythnosau nesaf, ac, os felly, a wnewch chi ganiatáu i mi ddangos i chi'r tldi sy'n bodoli yno?

Edwina Hart: Byddwn yn falch iawn o dderbyn unrhyw wahoddiad gan Aelod y Cynulliad dros sir Fynwy i ymweld â'r ardal.

Y Gwasanaethau Tân ac Achub Fire and Rescue Services

C3 David Lloyd: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar gynnal y gwasanaethau tân ac achub cyfredol? OAQ0057(SJR)

Edwina Hart: I have today discussed with the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee the final version of our fire and rescue national framework. The framework has been developed in consultation and sets out our plans and priorities for the service. The framework document will be brought to Plenary before recess.

David Lloyd: Beth yw'r diweddaraf am ymdrechion i gadw gorsaf tân Pontardawe yn wasanaeth llawn amser?

Q3 David Lloyd: Will the Minister make a statement on maintaining current fire and rescue services? OAQ0057(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Heddiw, yr wyf wedi trafod fersiwn terfynol ein fframwaith cenedlaethol tân ac achub gyda'r Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio. Datblygwyd y fframwaith drwy broses ymgynghori ac mae'n nodi ein cynlluniau a'n blaenoriaethau ar gyfer y gwasanaeth. Cyflwynir y ddogfen fframwaith yn y Cyfarfod Llawn cyn y toriad.

David Lloyd: What is the latest on the efforts to keep Pontardawe fire station as a full-time service?

Edwina Hart: I have received a number of representations concerning Pontardawe fire station, but until the framework comes into being, the rules and regulations of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister apply, not those of the Assembly.

The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives (Nick Bourne): Following on from Dai Lloyd's question, the Minister will be aware that there are also proposals, made in the same document from the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, to change the pattern of work at Haverfordwest, which is of concern not just to those who work at Haverfordwest, but to the people of the area, in terms of fire cover. Has the Minister made representations to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister or elsewhere about that, and could she update the Assembly on them?

Edwina Hart: I have received representations from across the parties regarding some of the proposals made by the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service. We cannot get involved at this time, because we have no grounds on which to do so. The framework is not yet in place. When the framework comes before the Assembly, Members will see that it says decisions made prior to the publication of the framework should be reviewed to ensure continued effectiveness. Therefore, there are issues around that. As I say, I have not made any representations to the ODPM, but I have had discussions with the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf wedi derbyn nifer o sylwadau ynglŷn â gorsaf dân Pontardawe, ond nes y bydd y fframwaith yn weithredol, bydd rheolau a rheoliadau Swyddfa'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn gymwys, ac nid rhai'r Cynulliad.

Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru (Nick Bourne): Yn dilyn cwestiwn Dai Lloyd, bydd y Gweinidog yn ymwybodol bod cynigion hefyd, a wnaethpwyd yn yr un ddogfen gan Wasanaeth Tân ac Achub Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru, i newid y patrwm gwaith yn Hwlfordd, sy'n peri pryder nid yn unig i'r rhai sy'n gweithio yn Hwlfordd, ond i bobl yr ardal, o ran y ddarpariaeth gwasanaethau tân. A wnaeth y Gweinidog sylwadau i Swyddfa'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog neu rywle arall ynglŷn â hynny, ac a allai roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r Cynulliad amdanynt?

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf wedi derbyn sylwadau gan yr holl bleidiau o ran rhai o'r cynigion a wnaethpwyd gan Wasanaeth Tân ac Achub Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru. Ni allwn ymwneud â hyn ar hyn o bryd, gan nad oes gennym unrhyw reswm dros wneud hynny. Nid yw'r fframwaith eto ar waith. Pan gyflwynir y fframwaith i'r Cynulliad, bydd Aelodau'n sylweddoli ei fod yn nodi y dylid adolygu penderfyniadau a wnaethpwyd cyn cyhoeddi'r fframwaith er mwyn sicrhau effeithiolrwydd parhaus. Felly, mae pethau i'w hystyried mewn perthynas â hynny. Fel y dywedais, nid wyf wedi gwneud unrhyw sylwadau i Swyddfa'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog, ond yr wyf wedi cynnal trafodaethau â Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru.

Dyfodol y Dreth Stamp The Future of Stamp Duty

Q4 Janet Davies: What discussions has the Minister held with colleagues at Westminster regarding the future of stamp duty? OAQ0063(SJR)

Edwina Hart: UK taxation is a matter for the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the UK Government.

Janet Davies: I take it that you have had no discussions on this subject. You will be

C4 Janet Davies: Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cynnal gyda'i chyd-Weinidogion yn San Steffan ynghylch dyfodol y dreth stamp? OAQ0063(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Mae trethiant y DU yn fater i Ganghellor y Trysorlys a Llywodraeth y DU.

Janet Davies: Cymeraf nad ydych wedi cynnal unrhyw drafodaethau ar y pwnc hwn.

aware that people living in deprived areas do not pay stamp duty on properties below £250,000. However, this constitutes a sledgehammer approach, particularly, for example, in Cardiff bay, where people can buy properties worth up to £250,000 without paying stamp duty. Do you support a strategy of zero stamp duty for lower-cost properties, with graduated tiers for higher-cost properties? Will you put forward this proposal to the relevant Minister in the UK Government?

Edwina Hart: I have not given detailed consideration to the issue of stamp duty, but I will bear in mind the points you made and pass them on when I meet UK Government representatives.

Alun Cairns: Most first-time buyers were excluded from paying any form of stamp duty in the past because property prices were at such a low level in comparison with the stamp duty threshold. Given that house prices have increased dramatically over the last couple of years and that the Chancellor has chosen not to increase stamp duty, what representations will you make to him on this subject? It was recently reported that the average house price in Wales is in excess of £100,000. Do you not think that this would be a more reasonable level for stamp duty to kick in, or should it be at a higher level?

Edwina Hart: These are matters for the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and he hears representations made to him about first-time buyers.

Byddwch yn ymwybodol nad yw pobl sy'n byw mewn ardaloedd difreintiedig yn talu treth stamp ar eiddo o dan £250,000. Fodd bynnag, mae hyn yn ddull anaddas, yn arbennig, er enghraifft, ym mae Caerdydd, lle y gall pobl brynu eiddo gwerth hyd at £250,000 heb dalu'r dreth stamp. A ydych yn cefnogi strategaeth o ddim treth stamp ar gyfer eiddo cost is, gyda haenau graddedig ar gyfer eiddo cost uwch? A gyflwynwch y cynnig hwn i'r Gweinidog perthnasol yn Llywodraeth y DU?

Edwina Hart: Nid wyf wedi ystyried mater y dreth stamp yn fanwl, ond ystyriaf y pwyntiau a wnaethpwyd gennych a'u cyflwyno i gynrychiolwyr Llywodraeth y DU pan fyddaf yn cyfarfod â hwy.

Alun Cairns: Nid oedd yn rhaid i'r rhan fwyaf o bobl oedd yn prynu cartref am y tro cyntaf dalu unrhyw fath o dreth stamp yn y gorffennol oherwydd bod prisiau tai mor isel o'i gymharu â throthwy y dreth stamp. O gofio bod prisiau tai wedi cynyddu'n ddramatig yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf a bod y Canghellor wedi dewis peidio â chynyddu treth stamp, pa sylwadau a wnewch iddo ar y pwnc hwn? Nodwyd yn ddiweddar bod pris tŷ yng Nghymru ar gyfartaledd yn uwch na £100,000. Oni chredwch y byddai hyn yn lefel fwy derbyniol ar gyfer dechrau talu treth stamp, neu a ddylai fod ar lefel uwch?

Edwina Hart: Mae'r rhain yn faterion i Ganghellor y Trysorlys, a bydd yn gwrandao ar sylwadau a wneir iddo am bobl sy'n prynu cartref am y tro cyntaf.

Gorchmynion Ymddygiad Gwrthgymdeithasol yn Sir y Fflint Anti-social Behaviour Orders in Flintshire

Q5 Carl Sergeant: Will the Minister make a statement on anti-social behaviour orders in Flintshire? OAQ0094(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Anti-social behaviour orders are one of the wide range of measures used by the Flintshire community safety partnership to tackle anti-social behaviour. Their use is not rushed into hastily, and they are only invoked when all other means of curbing nuisance behaviour have been tried.

C5 Carl Sergeant: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar y gorchmynion ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yn Sir y Fflint? OAQ0094(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Mae gorchmynion ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yn un o'r ystod eang o fesurau a ddefnyddir gan bartneriaeth diogelwch cymunedol sir y Fflint i fynd i'r afael ag ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol. Ni ddefnyddir y gorchmynion yn fyrbwyll, a dim ond ar ôl rhoi cynnig ar bob dull arall o

reoli ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol y cânt eu defnyddio.

Carl Sargeant: Will you reassure the many ordinary working-class individuals in my constituency whose lives are blighted by the mindless acts of those whose behaviour is anti-social by ensuring that the Welsh Assembly Government provides financial support, and other forms of support, to the relevant agencies, such as Flintshire County Council? This will mean that law-abiding citizens can get on with their lives peacefully.

Carl Sargeant: A roddwch sicrwydd i sawl unigolyn dosbarth gweithiol cyffredin yn fy etholaeth sy'n dioddef o ganlyniad i weithredoedd anystyriol y rhai sy'n ymddwyn yn wrthgymdeithasol drwy sicrhau bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn rhoi cymorth ariannol, a mathau eraill o gymorth, i'r asiantaethau perthnasol, fel Cyngor Sir y Fflint? Golyga hyn y gall dinasyddion sy'n parchu'r gyfraith fyw eu bywydau mewn hedd.

Edwina Hart: Community safety practitioners have never had so many tools at their disposal to tackle anti-social behaviour, and anti-social behaviour orders are only one of the options available to them. We had a good discussion today in committee about the use of acceptable behaviour contracts as well as ASBOs, and about how to start to engage at a much earlier stage with an element of contract between individuals, aimed at improving behaviour. It is important to look in the round at what more can be done to help victims of anti-social behaviour.

Edwina Hart: Nid yw ymarferwyr diogelwch cymunedol erioed wedi cael cymaint o ddulliau i'w defnyddio i fynd i'r afael ag ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, a dim ond un o'r opsiynau sydd ar gael iddynt yw gorchmynion ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol. Cynhaliwyd trafodaeth dda heddiw yn y pwyllgor ynglŷn â defnyddio contractau ymddygiad derbyniol yn ogystal â gorchmynion ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, ac ynglŷn â sut i ddechrau mynd i'r afael â hyn yn gynt o lawer gyda rhyw fath o contract rhwng unigolion, wedi'i anelu at wella ymddygiad. Mae'n bwysig edrych yn gyffredinol ar beth arall y gellir ei wneud i helpu y rhai sy'n dioddef o ganlyniad i ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol.

Brynle Williams: At last week's conference of the North Wales Criminal Justice Board, it was stated that there had been an unusual pattern in the use of ASBOs across north Wales. It is understood that the Home Office is pushing the use of the orders as a first resort, when many front-line staff think that they should be a last resort. What are your views on that?

Brynle Williams: Yn ystod cynhadledd Bwrdd Cyfiawnder Troseddol Gogledd Cymru yr wythnos diwethaf, nodwyd bod patrwm anarferol yn y defnydd o orchmynion ledled y Gogledd. Deellir bod y Swyddfa Gartref yn annog pobl i ddefnyddio'r gorchmynion fel cam cyntaf, er bod llawer o staff rheng flaen yn credu y dylid eu defnyddio pan fod popeth arall yn methu. Beth yw eich barn ar hynny?

Edwina Hart: ASBOs are a very powerful tool, but it is important that they are not used hastily and are regarded as a last resort. Prevention is better than cure. I understand that this is the approach taken by all the chief constables in Wales.

Edwina Hart: Mae'r gorchmynion yn ddull pŵerus iawn, ond mae'n bwysig na chânt eu defnyddio'n fyrbwyll ac y cânt eu hystyried pan fod popeth arall yn methu. Gwell rhwystro'r clwy na'i wella. Deallaf mai dyma'r ymagwedd a fabwysiadwyd gan bob prif gwnstabl yng Nghymru.

Lleihau Flodi Reducing Poverty

C6 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cynnal yn ddiweddar ynghylch cynnydd y Llywodraeth i leihau tlodi? OAQ0055(SJR)

Edwina Hart: I regularly hold discussions with organisations across Wales about the Assembly's agenda to combat poverty in Wales. All our policies—on the economy, health, education, transport, housing—are focused on tackling poverty. We are also developing policies and programmes to increase income, encourage better financial management and stimulate wealth creation.

2.10 p.m.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A fydddech yn cytuno ei bod yn gwbl annerbyniol bod y bwlch rhwng y cyfoethog a'r tlawd yn dal i gynyddu, yn yr un modd ag y mae gweld hyd at draean o blant a phobl ifanc a thraean o bensiywyr yn byw mewn tlodi? A fydddech hefyd yn cytuno nad yw newid y rheolau ychwaith yn dderbyniol, gan y byddai hynny'n golygu y câi pobl eu tynnu oddi ar y rhestrau ystadegol? Mae'n rhaid mynd i'r afael â'r problemau gwirioneddol, a sicrhau bod gan bawb, hyd y gellir, ddigon ar gyfer eu hanghenion sylfaenol.

Edwina Hart: I am particularly concerned about your point on child poverty, which is now part of my portfolio. Across the parties, we would all like to tackle the issue of children living in poverty. I am currently considering the measures that I can introduce to ensure more cross-cutting work and further work with that group. The number of people living in poverty in what is a prosperous country is terrible.

Christine Chapman: Would you agree that poverty is predominantly a geographically concentrated issue? The clustering of children from poverty-affected families exacerbates the problem, and makes it more difficult for those children to escape the poverty trap. At a recent event in Cardiff hosted by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Professor Bruce Katz cited the example of the Murphy Park estate in St Louis, USA,

Q6 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: What recent discussions has the Minister held with regard to the Government's progress in reducing poverty? OAQ0055(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Cynhaliaf drafodaethau â sefydliadau ledled Cymru yn rheolaidd ynghylch agenda'r Cynulliad i wrthsefyll tlodi yng Nghymru. Mae pob un o'n polisiau—ar yr economi, iechyd, addysg, trafniadaeth, tai—yn canolbwyntio ar fynd i'r afael â thlodi. Yr ydym hefyd yn datblygu polisiau a rhaglenni i gynyddu incwm, annog rheolaeth ariannol gwell ac ysgogi'r broses o greu cyfoeth.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Would you agree that the existence of an ever-widening poverty gap is totally unacceptable, as is the fact that up to a third of children and young people and a third of pensioners are living in poverty? Would you further agree that changing the criteria is also unacceptable, as this would simply remove people from the statistics? We must deal with the real problems and ensure that everyone, as far as possible, has enough to meet their basic needs.

Edwina Hart: Mae eich pwynt am dlodi ymhlith plant, sydd erbyn hyn yn rhan o'm portffolio, yn achos pryder arbennig i mi. Ar draws y pleidiau, byddai pob un ohonom am fynd i'r afael â phroblem plant yn byw mewn tlodi. Ar hyn o bryd, yr wyf yn ystyried y mesurau y gallaf eu cyflwyno er mwyn sicrhau gwaith mwy trawsbynciol a rhagor o waith gyda'r grŵp hwnnw. Mae nifer y bobl sy'n byw mewn tlodi mewn gwlad mor ffyniannus yn ofnadwy.

Christine Chapman: A gytunwch fod tlodi yn fater sy'n ymwneud â daearyddiaeth yn bennaf? Mae clystyru plant o deuluoedd yr effeithir arnynt gan dlodi yn gwaethygu'r broblem, ac yn ei gwneud yn anos i'r plant hynny ddianc rhag tlodi. Yn ystod digwyddiad diweddar yng Nghaerdydd a gynhaliwyd gan Sefydliad Joseph Rowntree, cyfeiriodd yr Athro Bruce Katz at enghraifft ystad Murphy Park yn St Louis, USA, sydd

which has advocated a strategy to tackle poverty that involved reconstructing communities and actively seeking to change the way in which poverty is concentrated. Does the Assembly Government endorse this approach? Do you believe that the examples set in some parts of the USA could be replicated in Wales?

Edwina Hart: I agree with your initial analysis, but I was present at Professor Katz's lecture, and, even though the work undertaken in St Louis was imaginative, it precluded certain groups—such as hard-issue families—from being involved in the housing initiatives. We can learn from some experiences from the United States, but not everything imported from the US is wonderful.

The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrat Group (Michael German): Communities First partnerships are a key tool in reducing poverty. You will know that a study into these partnerships shows that some local authorities play an overly heavy hand in trying to manage more than one Communities First partnership. In your view, what are the essential ingredients of a successful Communities First partnership?

Edwina Hart: Mutual respect for all parties involved is essential. You must complement the skills of each other, and all partners should have equal status. That is important. The trouble is that people see this as a battle for funding and power, when, in fact, it should be a battle for dealing with problems that exist within communities.

Michael German: I agree with that. What message would you want to send to local authorities that try to co-ordinate the activities of various Communities First partnerships in their areas?

Edwina Hart: Local authorities must recognise that they are partners. They might consider themselves to be the major partners, but that might not be true in the eyes of the community. If you wish to refer any specific cases to me, I would be delighted to take them up, as I have done on behalf of other Members. The problem does not always lie with local authorities; there can also be

wedi hyrwyddo strategaeth i fynd i'r afael â thlodi a oedd yn cynnwys ail-greu cymunedau a cheisio newid y ffordd y ceir cymaint o dlodi mewn un ardal. A yw Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn cymeradwyo'r ymagwedd hon? A gredwch y gellid ailadrodd yr esiampl a osodwyd mewn rhai rannau o'r UDA yng Nghymru?

Edwina Hart: Cyunaf â'ch dadansoddiad cychwynnol, ond yr oeddwn yn bresennol yn narlith yr Athro Katz, ac, er bod y gwaith a wnaethpwyd yn St Louis yn llawn dychymyg, yr oedd yn eithrio grwpiau penodol—fel teuluoedd sydd â phroblemau penodol—rhag cael eu cynnwys mewn mentrau tai. Gallwn ddysgu o rai profiadau o'r Unol Daleithiau, ond nid yw popeth a fewnforir o'r Unol Daleithiau yn wych.

Arweinydd Grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Michael German): Mae partneriaethau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn ddull allweddol o leihau tlodi. gwyddoch fod astudiaeth o'r partneriaethau hyn yn dangos bod rhai awdurdodau lleol yn rhy lym wrth geisio rheoli mwy nag un bartneriaeth Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Yn eich barn chi, beth yw elfennau hanfodol partneriaeth Cymunedau yn Gyntaf lwyddiannus?

Edwina Hart: Mae'n hanfodol bod pob plaid yn parchu ei gilydd. Mae'n rhaid i chi ategu sgiliau eich gilydd, a dylai fod gan bob partner yr un statws. Mae hynny'n bwysig. Y broblem yw bod pobl yn ystyried hyn yn frwydr am arian a phŵer, pan ddylai fod, mewn gwirionedd, yn frwydr ar gyfer ymdrin â phroblemau sy'n bodoli o fewn cymunedau.

Michael German: Cytunaf â hynny. Pa neges y byddech am ei chyfleu i awdurdodau lleol sy'n ceisio cydgysylltu gweithgareddau amrywiol bartneriaethau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn eu hardaloedd?

Edwina Hart: Mae'n rhaid i awdurdodau lleol gydnabod eu bod yn bartneriaid. Efallai eu bod o'r farn mai hwy yw'r prif bartneriaid, ond efallai nad yw hynny'n wir yn nhyb y gymuned. Os hoffech gyfeirio unrhyw achosion penodol ataf, byddwn yn falch o ymgymryd â hwy, fel yr wyf wedi gwneud eisoes ar ran Aelodau eraill. Nid awdurdodau lleol sydd ar fai bob amser; gellir cael

problems on the other side of partnerships. Local authorities are sometimes good enablers and can facilitate actions when difficulties arise.

problemau ar ochr arall partneriaethau hefyd. Weithiau, mae awdurdodau lleol yn alluogwyr da a gallant hwyluso gweithredoedd pan fydd anawsterau'n codi.

Gwirfoddoli Volunteering

Q7 Sandy Mewies: What is the Welsh Assembly Government doing to support and promote volunteering in Wales? OAQ0107(SJR)

C7 Sandy Mewies: Beth y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ei wneud i gefnogi a hyrwyddo gwirfoddoli yng Nghymru? OAQ0107(SJR)

Edwina Hart: This year, 2005, is the UK year of the volunteer. I am currently awaiting advice on the final structure of events in Wales. The Wales programme will be carefully tailored to create a synergy with existing initiatives, as well as creating a number of events specifically celebrating the year of the volunteer.

Edwina Hart: Y flwyddyn hon, sef 2005, yw blwyddyn y gwirfoddolwr yn y DU. Yr wyf yn aros am gyngor ar hyn o bryd ar y rhaglen derfynol o ddigwyddiadau yng Nghymru. Bydd rhaglen Cymru wedi'i theilwra'n ofalus i greu synergedd gyda mentrau sy'n bodoli eisoes, yn ogystal â chreu nifer o ddigwyddiadau sy'n dathlu blwyddyn y gwirfoddolwr yn benodol.

Sandy Mewies: Our marking of the year of the volunteer in a distinctive way in Wales will be welcomed. You were kind enough to join me last week in visiting Flintshire Local Voluntary Council. Will you congratulate the council on the innovative ways in which it is working to encourage volunteering among people with disabilities and so on, and on its mentoring scheme?

Sandy Mewies: Bydd digwyddiadau penodol yng Nghymru i nodi blwyddyn y gwirfoddolwr yn cael eu croesawu. Buoch cystal ag ymuno â mi ar ymweliad â Chyngor Gwirfoddol Lleol Sir y Fflint yr wythnos diwethaf. A wnewch chi longyfarch y cyngor ar y ffordd arloesol y mae'n mynd ati i annog pobl ag anableddau ac ati i wirfoddoli, ac ar ei gynllun mentora?

Edwina Hart: Yes. I was pleased to visit the council with you, Sandy, and there was a lot of innovation to be seen there. The council also gave me a lot of food for thought about some of the problems that it faces. It is ironic that individuals who work in certain jobs and professions are unable to train people to do that work in the voluntary sector. We must look at the skills that exist in the voluntary sector and maximise their use. We must do more to encourage volunteering. This year, the Assembly wants to get more of its staff involved in volunteering, and we have agreed to increase the allowance for Assembly staff to undertake volunteering work from three to five days, as a positive contribution to the year of the volunteer.

Edwina Hart: Gwnaf. Yr oedd yn bleser gennyf ymweld â'r cyngor gyda chi, Sandy, a gwelsom lawer o arloesi yno. Bu i'r cyngor hefyd wneud imi feddwl o ddifrif am rai o'r problemau y mae'n eu hwynebu. Mae'n eironig nad yw unigolion sy'n gweithio mewn swyddi a phroffesiynau penodol yn gallu hyfforddi pobl i wneud y gwaith hwnnw yn y sector gwirfoddol. Rhaid inni ystyried y sgiliau sydd ar gael yn y sector gwirfoddol a gwneud y defnydd gorau ohonynt. Rhaid inni wneud mwy i annog pobl i wirfoddoli. Eleni, mae'r Cynulliad am annog mwy o'i staff i ddechrau gwirfoddoli, ac yr ydym wedi cytuno i gynyddu'r amser a roddir i staff y Cynulliad ar gyfer gwaith gwirfoddol o dri diwrnod i bum diwrnod, fel cyfraniad cadarnhaol i flwyddyn y gwirfoddolwr.

David Melding: Do you agree that it is important, in relation to any publicly

David Melding: A gytunwch ei bod yn bwysig, o ran unrhyw arian cyhoeddus sydd

accessed funds to promote volunteering, that a value is placed on the contribution that volunteers make so that it can bring in match funding? Voluntary-sector organisations are often far too reluctant to value fully the contribution of their own volunteers.

Edwina Hart: People in the voluntary sector tend to have a degree of modesty that underplays the value that they bring to their tasks, and I concur with your comments.

Helen Mary Jones: Minister, in response to Sandy Mewies's question, you referred to the positive role of a particular county voluntary council in the promotion of volunteering in its own area. I am sure that you agree that county voluntary councils are vital in that regard. What are you doing to ensure that they have sustainable funding on which they can rely, not only annually, but preferably on a three-year basis?

Edwina Hart: This issue has come to the forefront in relation to the issues of volunteer bureaux in particular, and I am mindful that I want to ensure the continuity of funding for those organisations at the grass roots. The voluntary sector partnership council and its various groups are now considering the implementation of the report published by the commission, and we must take that matter forward through discussions there.

ar gael i annog gwirfoddoli, y rhoddir gwerth ar y cyfraniad a wna gwirfoddolwyr fel y gall gael arian cyfatebol? Mae mudiadau yn y sector gwirfoddol yn aml yn llawer rhy amharod i roi gwerth llawn ar gyfraniad eu gwirfoddolwyr eu hunain.

Edwina Hart: Mae pobl yn y sector gwirfoddol yn dueddol o fod yn ddiymhongar ac maent yn tanbrisió'r gwaith a wnânt, a chytunaf â'ch sylwadau.

Helen Mary Jones: Weinidog, mewn ymateb i gwestiwn Sandy Mewies, bu ichi gyfeirio at rôl gadarnhaol cyngor gwirfoddol sirol penodol i annog gwirfoddoli yn ei ardal ei hun. Fe gytunwch, mae'n siŵr, fod cyngorau gwirfoddol sirol yn hanfodol yn hynny o beth. Beth yr ydych yn ei wneud i sicrhau eu bod yn cael cyllid cynaliadwy y gallant ddibynnu arno, nid yn unig am flwyddyn, ond am gyfnod o dair blynedd os oes modd?

Edwina Hart: Mae'r mater hwn wedi dod i'r golwg o ran canolfannau gwirfoddoli yn arbennig, ac yr wyf yn ymwybodol fy mod am sicrhau parhad cyllid i'r mudiadau hynny ar lawr gwlad. Mae cyngor partneriaeth y sector gwirfoddol a'i wahanol grwpiau wrthi'n ystyried sut y gellir gweithredu'r adroddiad a gyhoeddwyd gan y comisiwn, a rhaid inni ystyried y mater hwnnw ymhellach drwy'r trafodaethau hynny.

Addasiadau ar gyfer yr Anabl Disabled Adaptations

Q8 Peter Black: What estimate has the Minister made of the average waiting time for disabled adaptations across Wales? OAQ0082(SJR)

Edwina Hart: This matter is being considered as part of our review of housing adaptations, which is nearing completion. As I promised in committee, we will discuss this at our next meeting in March.

Peter Black: If, as part of your review, you discover that the reduced amount of housing capital going to private-sector renovation has had a marked effect on waiting times, and that the changes that you are seeking to put in

C8 Peter Black: Pa amcangyfrif y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'i wneud o'r amseroedd aros ar gyfartaledd am addasiadau ar gyfer yr anabl ledled Cymru? OAQ0082(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Mae'r mater hwn yn cael ei ystyried fel rhan o'n hadolygiad o addasiadau tai, sydd ar fin cael ei gwblhau. Fel yr addewais yn y pwyllgor, byddwn yn trafod y mater hwn yn ein cyfarfod nesaf ym mis Mawrth.

Peter Black: Os canfyddwch, fel rhan o'ch adolygiad, fod y swm llai o gyfalaf tai a roddir i'r sector preifat ar gyfer gwaith adnewyddu wedi cael effaith sylweddol ar amseroedd aros, ac na fydd y newidiadau yr

place on disabled adaptations will not have the desired effect in reducing those waiting times, will you consider putting more money into these budgets to try to address the problem of the increasing time that people must now wait for these adaptations?

Edwina Hart: There is an issue concerning local authorities' prioritisation of the cash resources that are available for this matter, and my review is considering the legislative framework and the adequacy of funding arrangements, so these various points will come out at that stage.

Jonathan Morgan: I am a little disappointed that the Minister was not able to answer the initial question as to the average waiting time for disabled adaptations in Wales, and whether people are now expected to wait longer than they had to a few years ago. Could the Minister explain what meetings she has had with representatives of local authorities in Wales to explain their responsibilities to them in ensuring that these adaptations are done as quickly as possible?

Edwina Hart: I have regular meetings with the Welsh Local Government Association about matters covered by my portfolio that are linked to Welsh local government. I meet the staff of authorities when I am out and about and hold various discussions with them. I am afraid that the information on waiting times was not available, and I am not sure that we have ever compiled such information, Jonathan. I was not being difficult in not answering Peter Black's question; it is just not information that we hold.

ydych yn ceisio eu cyflwyno o ran addasiadau ar gyfer pobl anabl yn lleihau'r amseroedd aros hynny fel y dymunir, a wnewch chi ystyried rhoi mwy o arian yn y cyllidebau hyn er mwyn ceisio mynd i'r afael â'r broblem o'r amseroedd aros hwy y mae pobl yn gorfod eu hwynebu bellach ar gyfer yr addasiadau hyn?

Edwina Hart: Cyfyd problem o ran sut y mae awdurdodau lleol yn blaenoriaethu'r arian sydd ar gael ar gyfer y mater hwn, ac mae fy adolygiad yn ystyried y fframwaith deddfwriaethol a digonolrwydd y trefniadau ariannu, felly caiff y pwyntiau gwahanol hyn eu gwyntyllu bryd hynny.

Jonathan Morgan: Yr wyf yn siomedig braidd nad oedd y Gweinidog yn gallu ateb y cwestiwn cyntaf o ran faint o amser y mae pobl anabl yng Nghymru yn aros ar gyfartaledd ar gyfer addasiadau, a pha un a ddisgwylir i bobl aros yn hwy yn awr nag y bu raid iddynt ychydig flynyddoedd yn ôl. A allai'r Gweinidog esbonio pa gyfarfodydd a gynhaliodd gyda chynrychiolwyr awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru i egluro eu cyfrifoldebau iddynt o ran sicrhau bod yr addasiadau hyn yn cael eu gwneud mor gyflym â phosibl?

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf yn cyfarfod â Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru yn rheolaidd ynglŷn â materion yn fy mhortffolio sy'n gysylltiedig â llywodraeth leol yng Nghymru. Yr wyf yn cyfarfod â staff awdurdodau yn ystod ymweliadau ac yn cynnal trafodaethau amrywiol gyda hwy. Nid yw'r wybodaeth am amseroedd aros ar gael, mae arnaf ofn, ac nid wyf yn siŵr a ydym erioed wedi casglu gwybodaeth o'r fath, Jonathan. Nid bod yn lletchwith yr oeddwn wrth beidio ag ateb cwestiwn Peter Black; y gwir yw nad yw'r wybodaeth honno gennym.

Effaith Trwyddedu 24 Awr ar Gamddefnyddio Alcohol The Impact of 24-hour Licensing on Alcohol Abuse

Q9 Mick Bates: Will the Minister make a statement on any assessment that she has made of the impact of 24-hour licensing on alcohol abuse? OAQ0084(SJR)

Edwina Hart: This is not a devolved matter.

C9 Mick Bates: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar unrhyw asesiad y mae wedi'i wneud ar effaith trwyddedu 24 awr ar gamddefnyddio alcohol? OAQ0084(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Nid mater datganoledig mo hwn.

Mick Bates: Thank you for that customarily brief answer, Minister. Do you share my concern that 24-hour licensing will offer more opportunities for young people to drink more and, therefore, to become increasingly involved in alcohol abuse? Do you also share my concern that the Government should monitor the impact of this development, in order to be ready to address the issue of young people in most towns and cities today, who often have very little to do, and to provide resources to ensure that they do not go into pubs and clubs all the time?

Edwina Hart: I know that there is concern across the Chamber about this matter. My officials attended a seminar run by the WLGA to discuss licensing arrangements and to provide training for the administration of the provisions of the new Licensing Act 2003, and we will try to consider how we can work together on an all-Wales basis. There are issues surrounding how many people are present in premises and how many seats and chairs are available, and similar issues. If we could get a common approach in Wales, that would mitigate the potential problems.

David Lloyd: Pa dystiolaeth sydd ar gael bod ymestyn oriau agor tafarndai yn helpu pobl i yfed llai?

Edwina Hart: We have not had the legislation long enough in Wales for me to give you any evidence on what has happened; it is something that we would have to consider in 12 months' time. We could look at experiences in Scotland, where different licensing laws have been in operation for a long time, but I do not have any detailed information on that. However, if Members want me to get hold of any research that the Scottish Executive may have considered, I would be more than happy to circulate it.

Brynle Williams: Minister, do you agree that local councils should be given greater discretion over licensing hours, rather than them having to allow the 24-hour free-for-all dictated by Whitehall?

Mick Bates: Diolch am yr ateb byr arferol hwnnw gennyh, Weinidog. A rannwch fy mhryder y bydd trwyddedu 24 awr yn cynnig mwy o gyfleoedd i bobl ifanc yfed mwy ac, felly, i gamdefnyddio alcohol yn fwyfwy? A rannwch hefyd fy mhryder y dylai'r Llywodraeth fonitro effaith y datblygiad hwn er mwyn bod yn barod i fynd i'r afael â'r broblem o ran pobl ifanc yn y rhan fwyaf o drefi a dinasoedd heddiw, nad oes ganddynt fawr ddim i'w wneud yn aml, ac i ddarparu adnoddau er mwyn sicrhau nad ydynt yn mynd i dafarndai a chlybiau drwy'r amser?

Edwina Hart: Gwn fod pryder ar draws y Siambr ynglŷn â'r mater hwn. Mynychodd fy swyddogion seminar a drefnwyd gan CLILC i drafod trefniadau trwyddedu a rhoi hyfforddiant ar weinyddu darpariaethau'r ddeddf newydd sef Deddf Trwyddedu 2003, a byddwn yn ceisio ystyried sut y gallwn weithio gyda'n gilydd ledled Cymru. Cyfyd materion o ran faint o bobl sy'n bresennol mewn tafarndai a chlybiau a faint o seddi a chadeiriau sydd ar gael, a materion cyffelyb. Pe baem yn gallu dod o hyd i ffordd gyffredin o weithredu yng Nghymru, byddai hynny'n lliniaru'r problemau posibl.

David Lloyd: What evidence is there to suggest that extending pub opening hours helps people to drink less?

Edwina Hart: Nid yw'r ddeddfwriaeth wedi bod yn weithredol yng Nghymru yn ddigon hir imi roi unrhyw dystiolaeth ichi am yr hyn sydd wedi digwydd; mae'n rhywbeth y byddai'n rhaid inni ei ystyried ymhen 12 mis. Gallem ystyried profiadau yn yr Alban, lle y bu cyfreithiau trwyddedu gwahanol yn weithredol ers amser maith, ond nid oes gennyf unrhyw wybodaeth fanwl am hynny. Fodd bynnag, os yw Aelodau am imi gael gafael ar unrhyw waith ymchwil y mae Gweithrediaeth yr Alban wedi'i ystyried o bosibl, byddwn yn fwy na pharod i'w dosbarthu.

Brynle Williams: Weinidog, a gytunwch y dylai cynghorau lleol gael mwy o ddisgresiwn ynglŷn ag oriau trwyddedu, yn hytrach na'u gorfodi i ganiatáu yfed 24 awr fel y myn Whitehall?

2.20 p.m.

Edwina Hart: It is important that the roles of the licensing committees are fully understood within local government. It will be up to the licensing committees to consider the impact on an amenity in an area when granting licence applications. That is why it has been useful for the WLGA to look at training in the round, on issues that impact upon local government with the new licensing arrangements.

Edwina Hart: Mae'n bwysig bod rôl y pwyllgorau trwyddedu wedi'i deall yn llawn o fewn llywodraeth leol. Y pwyllgorau trwyddedu fydd yn ystyried yr effaith ar amwynder mewn ardal wrth roi trwyddedau. Dyna pam y bu'n ddefnyddiol i CLILC ystyried hyfforddiant fel rhan o'r holl faterion sy'n effeithio ar lywodraeth leol gyda'r trefniadau trwyddedu newydd.

Perchenogion Tai Home Owners

Q10 Lisa Francis: Will the Minister make a statement on the number of home owners in Wales? OAQ0104(SJR)

C10 Lisa Francis: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar nifer y perchenogion tai yng Nghymru? OAQ0104(SJR)

Edwina Hart: The most recent published estimate is that there were 955,000 owner-occupied dwellings in Wales on 31 March 2004, which represented 74 per cent of all properties.

Edwina Hart: Yn ôl yr amcangyfrif diwethaf a gyhoeddwyd yr oedd 955,000 o anheddau ym meddiant perchenogion yng Nghymru ar 31 Mawrth 2004, sef 74 y cant o'r holl eiddo.

Lisa Francis: It has been revealed that more than 9,000 households, or people, in Wales are considered to be homeless. At least 700 of those were put into bed-and-breakfast accommodation for more than a month. In 2004, the total bill for that accommodation across Wales topped £4 million, and the previous year's bill was £1.5 million. That is a huge increase, but, apart from the expense, bed and breakfasts are not the answer, because many of them are of a poor standard. In terms of facilities, we see situations in which families with young children are expected to share accommodation with people who have drug and alcohol abuse-related problems, which causes much anxiety. What strategic input are you giving to reduce the number of homeless people who must move into bed-and-breakfast accommodation in Wales?

Lisa Francis: Datgelwyd bod mwy na 9,000 o deuluoedd, neu bobl, yng Nghymru yn cael eu hystyried yn ddigartref. Cafodd o leiaf 700 o'r rheini eu rhoi mewn llety gwely a brecwast am fwy na mis. Yn 2004, yr oedd cyfanswm y bil ar gyfer y llety hwnnw yng Nghymru dros £4 miliwn, ac yr oedd bil y flwyddyn cynt yn £1.5 miliwn. Mae hynny yn gynydd enfawr, ond, heb sôn am y gost, nid llety gwely a brecwast yw'r ateb, gan fod llawer ohono o safon wael. O ran cyfleusterau, fe welwn sefyllfaoedd lle y disgwylir i deuluoedd gyda phlant ifanc rannu llety gyda phobl sydd â phroblemau yn ymwneud â chamddefnyddio cyffuriau ac alcohol, sy'n achosi cryn bryder. Beth yr ydych yn ei wneud yn strategol i leihau nifer y bobl ddigartref y mae'n rhaid iddynt symud i lety gwely a brecwast yng Nghymru?

Edwina Hart: We have already agreed across the parties in committee that we will introduce legislation on bed and breakfasts. As a result of Gwenda Thomas winning the ballot for subordinate legislation proposals, under Standing Order No. 31, there will be further legislation in that area on its impact on children. Therefore, we are taking issues forward in terms of secondary legislation. You are right in saying that some bed-and-

Edwina Hart: Yr ydym eisoes wedi cytuno ar draws y pleidiau yn y pwyllgor y byddwn yn cyflwyno deddfwriaeth ynglŷn â llety gwely a brecwast. Enillodd Gwenda Thomas y bleidlais i gynnig is-ddeddfwriaeth, o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 31, ac o ganlyniad, bydd rhagor o ddeddfwriaeth yn y maes hwnnw ar ei effaith ar blant. Felly, yr ydym yn symud ymlaen o ran is-ddeddfwriaeth. Yr ydych yn gywir wrth ddweud bod rhai lleoedd gwely a

breakfast accommodation is totally unsuitable, and that people are kept there for far too long, which is why we are taking forward this legislation and telling local authorities what they must do.

Alun Ffred Jones: Dywedodd yr Athro Dylan Jones-Evans yn ddiweddar na allai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad anwybyddu mater tai fforddiadwy yng nghefn gwlad mwyach os yw economi Cymru i ddatblygu. A gytunwch ag ef?

Edwina Hart: We have not ignored the issue of affordable housing in rural areas, and we have not ignored affordable housing across the board, therefore I do not agree with him.

The Presiding Officer: Question 11, OAQ0109(SJR), has been transferred for written answer.

brechwast yn hollol anaddas, a bod pobl yn gorfod aros yno yn llawer rhy hir, a dyma pam yr ydym yn cyflwyno'r ddeddfwriaeth hon ac yn dweud wrth awdurdodau lleol beth y dylent ei wneud.

Alun Ffred Jones: Professor Dylan Jones-Evans recently claimed that the Assembly Government cannot ignore the issue of affordable housing in rural areas any longer if the Welsh economy is to develop. Do you agree with him?

Edwina Hart: Nid ydym wedi anwybyddu mater tai fforddiadwy yng nghefn gwlad, ac nid ydym wedi anwybyddu tai fforddiadwy yn gyffredinol, felly ni chytunaf ag ef.

Y Llywydd: Mae cwestiwn 11, OAQ0109(SJR), wedi'i drosglwyddo i'w ateb yn ysgrifenedig.

Mynd i'r Afael â Throseddau Gwledig Tackling Rural Crime

Q12 Nick Bourne: What discussions has the Minister had with police chiefs in Wales on tackling rural crime? OAQ0111(SJR)

Edwina Hart: I have regular discussions with the four chief constables and the police authorities of Wales, covering a wide range of issues, including rural crime. Local community safety partnerships are engaged in a range of interventions, which address rural crimes. Between 2002 and 2003, the number of notable offences per 1,000 of the population was 51 for Dyfed-Powys, compared with the Welsh average of 102.

Nick Bourne: Has the Minister had any discussion on sheep rustling specifically, which is a massive problem in parts of rural Wales? If so, could she give us an update on those discussions?

Edwina Hart: This issue has not been brought to my attention. Now that the leader of the Welsh Conservatives has raised it with me, I will put it on the agenda of my next meeting with the chief constables.

C12 Nick Bourne: Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cael â phenaethiaid yr heddlu yng Nghymru ar fynd i'r afael â throseddu gwledig? OAQ0111(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Caf drafodaethau rheolaidd â'r pedwar prif gwnstabl ac awdurdodau'r heddlu yng Nghymru, a thrafodwn ystod eang o faterion, gan gynnwys troseddau gwledig. Mae partneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol lleol yn cymryd nifer o gamau, sy'n mynd i'r afael â throseddau gwledig. Rhwng 2002 a 2003, 51 oedd nifer y troseddau hysbysadwy fesul 1,000 o'r boblogaeth yn Nyfed-Powys, o'i gymharu â 102 ar gyfartaledd yng Nghymru.

Nick Bourne: A yw'r Gweinidog wedi cael unrhyw drafodaeth ynglŷn â dwyn defaid yn benodol, sy'n broblem enbyd mewn rhai rhannau o gefn gwlad Cymru? Os felly, a allai roi'r manylion diweddaraf inni am y trafodaethau hynny?

Edwina Hart: Ni thynnwyd fy sylw at y mater hwn. Gan fod arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru wedi'i godi gyda mi, fe'i rhoddaf ar agenda fy nghyfarfod nesaf â'r prif gwnstablaid.

Cyllido Sefydlog yn y Sector Gwirfoddol The Stability of Funding in the Voluntary Sector

Q13 Michael German: What is the Assembly Government doing to ensure the stability of funding within the voluntary sector? OAQ0044(SJR)

Edwina Hart: We will adopt a minimum three-year period for grants to the voluntary sector wherever possible. In addition, and following the review of the voluntary-sector scheme, progress has been made in developing service level agreements that will provide core funding for the Wales Council for Voluntary Action, the county voluntary councils and volunteer bureaux.

Michael German: I am sure that the Minister is aware that staff in many voluntary organisations spend the six months before their money runs out chasing around trying to find new sources of funding, and many have to leave the projects to which they have given valuable service. Is there any way in which the WCVA can take on a major role in ensuring that funding stability for staff and for training, to ensure a seamless provision from the end of one contract to the next?

Edwina Hart: I would be willing to raise this matter with the WCVA formally, with the Assembly's agreement, for it to make any useful suggestions. It is feeding into all the discussions on funding streams, and I am sure that it will also raise this issue after hearing your contribution.

C13 Michael German: Beth mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ei wneud i sicrhau bod cyllido o fewn y sector gwirfoddol yn sefydlog? OAQ0044(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Lle bynnag y bo modd byddwn yn rhoi grantiau i'r sector gwirfoddol am gyfnod o dair blynedd o leiaf. Yn ogystal, ac yn sgîl yr adolygiad o gynllun y sector gwirfoddol, gwnaed cynnydd o ran datblygu cytundebau lefel gwasanaeth a fydd yn darparu cyllid craidd i Gyngor Gweithredu Gwirfoddol Cymru, y cynghorau gwirfoddol sirol a'r canolfannau gwirfoddoli.

Michael German: Fe wŷr y Gweinidog mae'n siŵr fod staff mewn llawer o fudiadau gwirfoddol yn treulio'r chwe mis cyn bod eu cyllid yn dod i ben yn chwilio am ffynonellau newydd o gyllid, ac mae llawer yn gorfod gadael y prosiectau y maent wedi rhoi gwasanaeth gwerthfawr iddynt. A oes modd i CGGC ymgymryd â rôl sylweddol i sicrhau'r cyllid sefydlog hwnnw i staff ac ar gyfer hyfforddiant, er mwyn sicrhau darpariaeth ddi-dor o un contract i'r llall?

Edwina Hart: Byddwn yn fodlon codi'r mater hwn gyda CGGC yn ffurfiol, gyda chytundeb y Cynulliad, er mwyn iddo wneud unrhyw awgrymiadau defnyddiol. Mae'n rhan o'r holl drafodaethau ynglŷn â ffrydiau cyllido, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd yn codi'r mater hwn hefyd ar ôl clywed eich cyfraniad.

Mynd i'r Afael â Chyffuriau Tackling Drugs

Q14 Nick Bourne: Will the Minister make a statement on her policies for tackling drugs? OAQ0110(SJR)

Edwina Hart: The main thrust of my policies to tackle substance misuse is to focus on the availability of, and access to, treatment services, improving the quality of services, and reducing the number of new people needing treatment through educational prevention programmes.

Nick Bourne: Thank you for that response,

C14 Nick Bourne: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar ei pholisïau i fynd i'r afael â chyffuriau? OAQ0110(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Prif amcan fy mholisïau i fynd i'r afael â chamddefnyddio sylweddau yw canolbwyntio ar y gwasanaethau triniaeth sydd ar gael a'r mynediad iddynt, gwella ansawdd gwasanaethau, a lleihau nifer y bobl newydd y mae angen triniaeth arnynt drwy raglennu atal addysgol.

Nick Bourne: Diolch am yr ymateb hwnnw,

Minister; I know that you take this issue very seriously. Have you had any discussions with the police forces in Wales, specifically on the re-classification of cannabis? I read a report recently—admittedly it was a UK report, but there is no reason why this issue should be any different in Wales—that said that there is great concern among health and police chiefs that its re-classification has led to a great increase in cannabis use and more marketing of the drug.

Edwina Hart: I will have to check, as I cannot tell you at the moment whether this issue has been raised with them over the years. However, I am happy to raise it with them if Members wish me to do so.

Weinidog; gwn eich bod yn cymryd y mater hwn o ddifrif calon. A gawsoch unrhyw drafodaethau gyda'r heddluoedd yng Nghymru, yn enwedig ar ailddosbarthu cannabis? Darllenais adroddiad yn ddiweddar—adroddiad ar y DU rhaid cyfaddef, ond nid oes rheswm pam y dylai'r mater hwn fod yn wahanol yng Nghymru—a nododd fod pryder mawr ymhlith penaethiaid ieuchyd a phenaethiaid yr heddlu fod y defnydd o ganabis wedi cynyddu'n sylweddol a bod y cyffur yn cael ei farchnata'n fwy helaeth yn sgîl y penderfyniad i'w ailddosbarthu.

Edwina Hart: Bydd yn rhaid imi holi ynglŷn â hynny, gan na allaf ddweud wrthyfch yn awr pa un a godwyd y mater hwn gyda hwy dros y blynyddoedd. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn fwy na pharod i'w godi gyda hwy os dymuna'r Aelodau imi wneud hynny.

Trin Pobl sy'n Ddibynol ar Gyffuriau ac Alcohol Treatment for People who are Drug and Alcohol Dependent

Q15 Jeff Cuthbert: What is the Welsh Assembly Government doing to support the provision of treatment for people who are drug and alcohol dependent? OAQ0097(SJR)

C15 Jeff Cuthbert: Beth mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ei wneud i gefnogi'r ddarpariaeth i drin pobl sy'n ddibynol ar gyffuriau ac alcohol? OAQ0097(SJR)

Edwina Hart: The annual substance misuse action fund will increase by over 550 per cent, from £3.3 million in 2002-03 to over £18 million in 2007-08.

Edwina Hart: Bydd y gronfa weithredu flynyddol ar gamddefnyddio sylweddau yn cynyddu dros 550 y cant, o £3.3 miliwn yn 2002-03 i fwy na £18 miliwn yn 2007-08.

Jeff Cuthbert: Would you join me in welcoming the extension of Fusion, the young people's alcohol and drug service, to the Caerphilly area, which has been made possible by a grant from the Big Lottery Fund? What action are you taking to support the needs of young people between the ages of 11 and 18 who experience problems with alcohol and drugs, and what support is being provided for their families during such difficult times?

Jeff Cuthbert: A ymunech â mi i groesawu ymestyn Fusion, sef y gwasanaeth alcohol a chyffuriau i bobl ifanc, i ardal Caerffili, a'i gwnaed yn bosibl drwy grant o'r Gronfa Loteri Fawr? Pa gamau yr ydych yn eu cymryd i ddiwallu anghenion pobl ifanc rhwng 11 a 18 oed sy'n cael problemau gydag alcohol a chyffuriau, a pha gymorth a roddir i'w teuluoedd yn ystod cyfnodau mor anodd?

Edwina Hart: I warmly welcome your comments concerning Fusion; it will be an excellent addition to the other good services that you have in your area, such as Kaleidoscope, which provides a Gwent-wide treatment service. We are looking at what support we can provide for young people when they get off drugs, and also the impact

Edwina Hart: Croesawaf yn gynnes eich sylwadau ynglŷn â Fusion; bydd yn wasanaeth ychwanegol ardderchog ar ben y gwasanaethau da eraill sydd yn eich ardal, megis Kaleidoscope, sy'n darparu gwasanaeth triniaeth i Went gyfan. Yr ydym yn ystyried pa gymorth y gallwn ei roi i bobl ifanc pan roddant y gorau i gymryd cyffuriau, a hefyd

that this has on their families. I will bring to Plenary and committee the 'Hidden Harm' report, a review of which was undertaken on my behalf by the Advisory Panel on Substance Misuse. The report looks at the issues surrounding drug users and what happens to their children. I will also consider implementing recommendations from that review to help with such problems.

William Graham: Minister, do you agree that tremendous support is provided by voluntary agencies in the treatment of drug and other types of dependency? Will you also confirm that you will do your best to ensure adequate funding for such agencies?

Edwina Hart: We have put a lot of additional money into this area, as it is important that we support people on the front line and that money is put into as many services as possible. I agree that excellent work is being done in this area by the voluntary sector across Wales.

The Presiding Officer: Minister, you appear to have answered all of the oral questions and all of the supplementaries that were indicated to me.

effaith hyn ar eu teuluoedd. Cyflwynaf yr adroddiad 'Niwed Cudd' gerbron y Cyfarfod Llawn a'r pwyllgor, sef adolygiad a gynhaliwyd ar fy rhan gan y Panel Cyngori ar Gamddefnyddio Sylweddau. Mae'r adroddiad yn ystyried y materion ynglŷn â defnyddwyr cyffuriau a'r hyn sy'n digwydd i'w plant. Byddaf hefyd yn ystyried gweithredu argymhellion o'r adolygiad hwnnw i helpu gyda phroblemau o'r fath.

William Graham: Weinidog, a gytunwch fod yr asiantaethau gwirfoddol yn rhoi cymorth gwych o ran trin dibyniaeth ar gyffuriau a mathau eraill o ddibyniaeth? A wnewch hefyd gadarnhau y gwnewch eich gorau i sicrhau cyllid digonol ar gyfer asiantaethau o'r fath?

Edwina Hart: Yr ydym wedi rhoi llawer o arian ychwanegol i'r maes hwn, am ei bod yn bwysig ein bod yn cefnogi pobl ar y rheng flaen a bod arian yn cael ei roi i gymaint o wasanaethau â phosibl. Cytunaf fod gwaith ardderchog yn cael ei wneud yn y maes hwn gan y sector gwirfoddol ledled Cymru.

Y Llywydd: Weinidog, ymddengys eich bod wedi ateb yr holl gwestiynau llafar a'r holl gwestiynau atodol a roddwyd imi.

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth Questions to the Minister for Economic Development and Transport

Cyllid Amcan 1 yn Sir Ddinbych Objective 1 Funding in Denbighshire

Q1 Karen Sinclair: Will the Minister make a statement on Objective 1 funding in Denbighshire? OAQ0111(EDT)

The Minister for Economic Development and Transport (Andrew Davies): By 31 January, £22.2 million of Objective 1 grant was committed to 49 local projects in Denbighshire, representing projects worth £48.9 million. All Objective 1 projects in Denbighshire have reported the creation or safeguarding of over 5,900 gross jobs, just over 4,500 small and medium-sized enterprises have been assisted, 125 small and medium-sized enterprises created, and over 7,600 other beneficiaries assisted.

C1 Karen Sinclair: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar gyllid Amcan Un yn Sir Ddinbych? OAQ0111(EDT)

Y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth (Andrew Davies): Erbyn 31 Ionawr, yr oedd £22.2 miliwn o grant Amcan 1 wedi'u neilltuo ar gyfer 49 o brosiectau lleol yn sir Ddinbych, sef prosiectau gwerth £48.9 miliwn. Gyda'i gilydd mae prosiectau Amcan 1 yn sir Ddinbych wedi nodi bod dros 5,900 o swyddi gros wedi cael eu creu neu eu diogelu, bod ychydig dros 4,500 o fusnesau bach a chanolig wedi cael cymorth, bod 125 o fusnesau bach a chanolig wedi'u creu, a bod

dros 7,600 o bobl neu fusnesau eraill wedi cael cymorth.

Karen Sinclair: I am sure that you are aware that Objective 1 funding administered by the Welsh Assembly Government and its partners not only provides the backbone to solid economic growth in Wales but also helps communities like Denbighshire in Clwyd South to tackle crime and promote safety, which is another priority of this Government. Looking at the list of Objective 1 projects that have been approved in Denbighshire since 1999, such as the recent award of £200,000 for a mobile skate park in Llangollen, will the Minister recognise the impact of the scheme and welcome the positive effect that it is having in Denbighshire?

Karen Sinclair: Fe wyddoch mae'n siŵr fod arian Amcan 1 a weinyddir gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a'i phartneriaid nid yn unig yn asgwrn cefn i dwf economaidd cadarn yng Nghymru ond ei fod hefyd yn helpu cymunedau fel sir Ddinbych yn Ne Clwyd i fynd i'r afael â throseddau a hyrwyddo diogelwch, sef un o flaenoriaethau eraill y Llywodraeth hon. O edrych ar y rhestr o brosiectau Amcan 1 a gymeradwywyd yn sir Ddinbych ers 1999, megis y £200,000 a ddyfarnwyd yn ddiweddar ar gyfer parc sgrialu symudol yn Llangollen, a wnaiff y Gweinidog gydnabod dylanwad y cynllun a chrosawu'r effaith gadarnhaol a gaiff yn sir Ddinbych?

Andrew Davies: Yes, indeed. Objective 1, like all the structural fund programmes, is having a huge impact on regenerating communities the length and breadth of Wales. The fact that unemployment has dropped twice as fast in Wales since 1999 compared with the rest of the UK shows that European structural funding programmes are having a real impact on those communities represented by you and by many other Assembly Members.

Andrew Davies: Gwnaf yn wir. Mae Amcan 1, fel pob un o raglenni'r cronfeydd strwythurol, yn cael effaith sylweddol ar adfywio cymunedau o Fôn i Fynwy. Mae'r ffaith bod diweithdra wedi gostwng ddwywaith yn gynt yng Nghymru ers 1999 o'i chymharu â gweddill y DU yn dangos bod rhaglenni cronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd yn cael effaith wirioneddol ar y cymunedau hynny a gynrychiolir gennych chi a chan sawl un arall o Aelodau'r Cynulliad.

2.30 p.m.

Brynle Williams: Objective 1 funding is imperative in certain parts of Wales in order to make things happen, but the Conservative Party's economic development spokesman confirmed that official documents, released under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, clearly show that Labour Ministers in London rejected pleas from Cardiff colleagues for nearly £500 million in match funding. What are your thoughts on this issue, Minister?

Brynle Williams: Mae arian Amcan 1 yn hanfodol mewn rhai rhannau o Gymru er mwyn sicrhau bod pethau'n digwydd, ond cadarnhaodd llefarydd y Blaid Geidwadol dros ddatblygu economaidd fod dogfennau swyddogol, a ryddhawyd o dan Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000, yn dangos yn glir bod Gweinidogion Llafur yn Llundain wedi gwrthod apeliadau cyd-Aelodau yng Nghaerdydd am bron £500 miliwn o arian cyfatebol. Beth yw eich barn ar y mater hwn, Weinidog?

Andrew Davies: You should ask yourself that question, Brynle. The settlement that we have had from the UK Treasury over two comprehensive spending reviews has enabled us to make a success of all the European structural fund rounds. The Barnett-plus settlement has given us public expenditure cover which has enabled us—as I said in

Andrew Davies: Dylech ofyn y cwestiwn hwnnw i chi eich hun, Brynle. Mae'r setliad a gawsom gan Drysorlys y DU dros ddau adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant wedi'i gwneud yn bosibl inni lwyddo ym mhob cylch cronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd. Mae setliad Barnett a mwy wedi rhoi sicrwydd inni o ran gwariant cyhoeddus sydd

response to Karen Sinclair—to make a real success of the Objective 1 programme. I think you that are confused on the match funding issue. The UK Treasury does not give match funding to any part of the UK that is in receipt of Objective 1 or structural fund rounds.

Eleanor Burnham: Despite Education and Learning Wales's announcement a year ago that it could not invest £3 million into Denbighshire's adult training centres, I welcome this recent announcement. However, what are you and the Welsh Assembly Government doing to ensure approval and Objective 1 match funding for this project?

Andrew Davies: Clearly, I cannot comment on this particular project, as it is undergoing the process of accreditation and assessment with the Wales European Funding Office. All I can say is that, overall, the change in culture and performance in WEFO has been significant since we decided to bring it in-house and change the senior management. The fact that the Auditor General last year gave a clean bill of health to the way in which WEFO is now managed, and that we have reached all our targets, shows that, overall, the European structural fund programmes have been very well managed.

wedi ein galluogi—fel y dywedais yn fy ateb i Karen Sinclair—i wneud llwyddiant gwirioneddol o raglen Amcan 1. Credaf eich bod yn drysu ynglŷn â mater arian cyfatebol. Nid yw Trysorlys y DU yn rhoi arian cyfatebol i unrhyw ran o'r DU sy'n cael arian Amcan 1 neu arian cronfeydd strwythurol.

Eleanor Burnham: Er gwaethaf cyhoeddiad Dysgu ac Addysgu Cymru flwyddyn yn ôl na allai fuddsoddi £3 miliwn yng nghanolfannau hyfforddi oedolion sir Ddinbych, croesawaf y cyhoeddiad hwn a wnaed yn ddiweddar. Fodd bynnag, beth yr ydych chi a Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ei wneud i sicrhau y caiff y prosiect hwn ei gymeradwyo a bod arian cyfatebol Amcan 1 ar ei gyfer?

Andrew Davies: Yn amlwg, ni allaf wneud sylwadau ar y prosiect arbennig hwn, gan fod Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru yn y broses o'i achredu a'i asesu. Y cyfan y gallaf ei ddweud yw, yn gyffredinol, fod diwylliant a pherfformiad y swyddfa wedi newid yn sylweddol ers inni benderfynu dod â'r swyddfa o dan adain y Cynulliad a newid yr uwch reolwyr. Mae'r ffaith i'r Archwilydd Cyffredinol y llynedd gymeradwyo'r ffordd y caiff y swyddfa ei rheoli yn awr, a'n bod wedi cyrraedd pob un o'n targedau, yn dangos bod rhaglenni cronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd, at ei gilydd, wedi cael eu rheoli'n dda iawn.

Canolfannau Technium Technium Centres

C2 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar ganolfannau technium? OAQ0072(EDT)

Andrew Davies: The technium centre programme is integral to the Assembly Government's strategy to develop a knowledge-based economy.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Diolch am yr ateb byr ond cynhwysfawr hwnnw. A allwch chi droi eich sylw at ganolfannau technium yn etholaeth Dwyrain Caerfyrddin a Dinefwr? Yr oedd bwriad i ddatblygu dwy ganolfan technium yno, un ar gyfer y cyfryngau a'r llall ar gyfer gwyddoniaeth. Gallai'r ffaith eich bod wedi colli un ymddangos braidd yn

Q2 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Will the Minister make a statement on techniums? OAQ0072(EDT)

Andrew Davies: Mae rhaglen y canolfannau technium yn rhan annatod o strategaeth Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i ddatblygu economi sy'n seiliedig ar wybodaeth.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Thank you for that brief but comprehensive response. Could you turn your attention to techniums in the Carmarthen East and Dinefwr constituency? The intention was to develop two centres there, one for the media and one for science. The fact that you have lost one of these may be regarded as a misfortune, but, to

anffodus, ond, i aralleirio Oscar Wilde, byddai colli'r ddau ohonynt yn awgrymu ychydig o ddiolfalwch gyda'ch portfolio.

Andrew Davies: It is no secret that I had grave concerns about the WDA's management of the technium centre roll-out, and that was one of the reasons why I was losing patience with the WDA, and why we decided to merge the WDA with the Assembly Government. A request for information about how this was handled was recently made by an Assembly Member, and the information will show that I raised this monthly with the former chief executive of the WDA. I had concerns about the way in which the programme was being managed and the WDA and Members will remember that I have consistently said over three years that Assembly sponsored public bodies are not independent organisations. They are funded by the Assembly Government to deliver on our priorities, and do not have separate priorities. I have made that clear on many occasions: in Plenary, in committee and in my party's conference last year. Clearly, it was felt—[*Interruption.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order. The Minister is providing us with a very interesting answer.

Andrew Davies: Clearly, the WDA, in its former incarnation, felt that it had its own priorities, separate from those of the Assembly Government. I disagreed, and I am delighted that next month we will be breaking the ground and starting work on the auto technium at Dafen, near Llanelli, as I promised would be done over a year ago.

Christine Gwyther: I thank you and the Welsh Assembly Government for the commitment to making Pembrokeshire the energy county of Wales. Will you renew that commitment with regard to the energy technium in Pembroke Dock? I know that you were in Navarra last week, where you will have seen at first hand examples of good practice in terms of renewable energy. Will that good practice be brought to Wales, and can the energy technium in Pembroke Dock be instrumental in that?

paraphrase Oscar Wilde, to lose both looks somewhat like carelessness with your portfolio.

Andrew Davies: Nid yw'n gyfrinach bod gennyf bryderon mawr ynglŷn â'r ffordd yr oedd y WDA yn rheoli'r broses o gyflwyno canolfannau technium, ac mai dyna un o'r rhesymau pam yr oeddwn yn colli amynedd gyda'r WDA, a pham y penderfynasom uno'r WDA â Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Gwnaeth Aelod Cynulliad gais am wybodaeth am y ffordd yr ymdriniwyd â hyn yn ddiweddar, a bydd y wybodaeth hon yn dangos imi godi hyn bob mis gyda chyn-brif weithredwr y WDA. Yr oedd gennyf bryderon ynglŷn â'r ffordd yr oedd y rhaglen yn cael ei rheoli a bydd y WDA ac Aelodau yn cofio imi ddweud yn gyson dros dair blynedd nad sefydliadau annibynnol yw'r cyrff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad. Cânt eu hariannu gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad i roi ein blaenoriaethau ar waith, ac nid oes ganddynt eu blaenoriaethau eu hunain. Yr wyf wedi egluro hynny sawl gwaith: mewn Cyfarfodydd Llawn, yn y pwyllgor ac yng nghynhadledd fy mhlaid y llynedd. Yn amlwg, teimlwyd—[*Torri ar draws.*]

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae'r Gweinidog yn rhoi ateb diddorol iawn inni.

Andrew Davies: Yn amlwg, teimlodd y WDA, ar ei hen wedd, fod ganddo ei flaenoriaethau ei hun, a oedd yn wahanol i flaenoriaethau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Anghytunais â hynny, ac yr wyf yn falch y byddwn yn braenaru'r tir ac yn dechrau gwaith ar y technium modorol yn Nafen, ger Llanelli, y mis nesaf, fel yr addewais y câi ei wneud dros flwyddyn yn ôl.

Christine Gwyther: Diolchaf i chi a Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru am yr ymrwymiad i wneud sir Benfro yn sir ynni Cymru. A wnewch chi ailddatgan yr ymrwymiad hwnnw o ran y technium ynni yn Noc Penfro? Gwn ichi ymweld â Navarra yr wythnos diwethaf, lle y byddwch wedi gweld enghreifftiau o arfer da o ran ynni adnewyddadwy. A gaiff yr arfer da hwnnw ei drosglwyddo i Gymru, ac a all y technium ynni yn Noc Penfro fod yn rhan o hynny?

Andrew Davies: Those who have visited Navarra will know that the Government there is committed to renewable energy—by the end of this decade, it intends for the area to be 100 per cent self-sufficient in renewable energy. We can learn a huge amount from how it has taken this forward, through wind power, biomass, photovoltaics, and a range of other technologies. There is huge potential for marine renewable energy technology in Wales, and I am delighted that, under Objective 1 funding, we will fund research and development projects in the Pembrokeshire area. Navarra is keen to work with us, particularly in developing the hydrogen economy, which is one issue that we discussed when I was over there. We want to work closely with Navarra in taking up the huge potential offered by the hydrogen economy.

Jenny Randerson: The total project cost of the technium so far has been around £70 million. Currently, only 236 people are employed directly in the businesses based in the techniums, plus a few who are involved in the management, and there are 57 vacant units. Given that the cost is about £300,000 per job at this point, do you regard this as a successful investment so far, and what are you doing to reduce the vacancy rates, particularly at the Sony, Aberystwyth and optic techniums? I would be grateful if you could avoid blaming the Welsh Development Agency in your reply.

Andrew Davies: The technium centre network is managed by the WDA, so it would be difficult for me to comment without commenting on its performance. I will give you an update, and will write to you with the latest figures. However, in the first technium centre in Swansea, which was funded under the previous European structural fund round, I believe that, in the first two years, there was a 110 per cent increase in employment. Roughly 75 per cent of those employed were graduates, and roughly 75 per cent were also engaged in research and development. However, as I said in my answer to Rhodri Glyn Thomas, I was not happy with the WDA's performance on managing the

Andrew Davies: Bydd y rhai sydd wedi ymweld â Navarra yn gwybod bod y Llywodraeth yno yn ymrwymedig i ynni adnewyddadwy—erbyn diwedd y degawd hwn, bwriada i'r ardal fod yn hollol hunan-gynaliadwy o ran ynni adnewyddadwy. Gallwn ddysgu llawer o'r ffordd y mae wedi datblygu hyn, drwy ynni'r gwynt, bio-màs, ffotofoltäeg, a nifer o dechnolegau eraill. Mae potensial mawr i dechnoleg ynni adnewyddadwy morol yng Nghymru, ac yr wyf yn falch y byddwn yn ariannu prosiectau ymchwil a datblygu yn ardal sir Benfro o dan arian Amcan 1. Mae Navarra yn awyddus i weithio gyda ni, yn enwedig o ran datblygu'r economi hydrogen, sef un mater a drafodwyd gennym pan oeddwn yno. Yr ydym am weithio'n agos gyda Navarra i fanteisio ar y potensial mawr y mae'r economi hydrogen yn ei gynnig.

Jenny Randerson: Mae prosiect y canolfannau technium wedi costio cyfanswm o tua £70 miliwn hyd yma. Ar hyn o bryd, dim ond 236 o bobl a gyflogir yn uniongyrchol yn y busnesau a leolir yn y canolfannau technium, ynghyd ag ychydig o bobl sy'n rheoli, ac mae 57 o unedau gwag. O gofio ei bod yn costio tua £300,000 y swydd ar hyn o bryd, a ydych o'r farn bod hyn yn fuddsoddiad llwyddiannus hyd yma, a beth yr ydych yn ei wneud i leihau nifer yr unedau gwag, yn enwedig yn nhechnium Sony, technium Aberystwyth a'r technium optig? Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallech osgoi rhoi'r bai ar Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru yn eich ateb.

Andrew Davies: Rheolir rhwydwaith y canolfannau technium gan y WDA, felly byddai'n anodd imi wneud sylwadau heb sôn am ei berfformiad. Rhoddaf y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf ichi, ac ysgrifennaf atoch gyda'r ffigurau diweddaraf. Fodd bynnag, yn y ganolfan technium gyntaf yn Abertawe, a ariannwyd o dan gylch blaenorol cronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd, credaf, yn y ddwy flynedd gyntaf, fod cynnydd o 110 y cant mewn cyflogaeth. Yr oedd tua 75 y cant o'r bobl a gyflogwyd yn raddedigion, ac yr oedd tua 75 y cant hefyd yn ymwneud â gwaith ymchwil a datblygu. Fodd bynnag, fel y dywedais yn fy ateb i Rhodri Glyn Thomas, nid oeddwn yn fodlon ar berfformiad y WDA

technium centre roll-out—I make no bones about that, and I said so at the last Economic Development and Transport Committee meeting, if you remember. I have raised this with the WDA on many occasions, and I am now monitoring it in my monthly meetings with the chair and the chief executive.

Alun Cairns: The Minister has some brass neck to blame the WDA for the delay in technium projects. The real reason why the technium projects have been delayed by so much is because of a lack of match funding. I am worried by the fact that the Minister is blaming the WDA—or the former management and chief executive of the WDA—for the delay in those projects. If that is the case, why did the First Minister ask the chief executive, at the time that he resigned, to reconsider his resignation, and why will you not share the documents in which you have written to the chief executive expressing concern on those issues? Publish those documents if you really have criticisms on those aspects, or stop complaining that it was the WDA's fault when in reality it was your fault, because of the lack of match funding.

Andrew Davies: You will have to ask the First Minister about his comments on the resignation of the former chief executive. I wish to put on the record, because you clearly did not hear me say this at the last Economic Development and Transport Committee meeting, that Assembly sponsored public bodies, such as the WDA, are not independent bodies. They do not have separate priorities from that of the Assembly Government. As the Chair of the Economic Development and Transport Committee will confirm, in at least two budget rounds, I have said that European structural funds are my major priority. The committee has agreed with me on that. You cannot have a position whereby a body sponsored by the Assembly Government, and delivering on our priorities, does not see the delivery of European structural funds as a priority. That was clearly the case with the WDA. It saw its own priorities as somehow separate, over and above those of the Assembly Government. That was not our view; it had to deliver on

o ran y ffordd yr oedd yn rheoli'r broses o gyflwyno canolfannau technium—nid wyf yn celu hynny, a dywedais hynny yng nghyfarfod diwethaf y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth, os cofiwch. Yr wyf wedi codi hyn gyda'r WDA sawl gwaith, ac yr wyf wrthi'n monitro'r sefyllfa yn fy nghyfarfodydd misol gyda'r cadeirydd a'r prif weithredwr.

Alun Cairns: Mae wyneb gan y Gweinidog i feio'r WDA am yr oedi wrth gyflwyno prosiectau technium. Y gwir reswm pam y bu cymaint o oedi wrth gyflwyno prosiectau technium yw'r diffyg arian cyfatebol. Pryderaf am y ffaith bod y Gweinidog yn beio'r WDA—neu gyn-reolwyr a chyn-brif weithredwr y WDA—am yr oedi yn y prosiectau hynny. Os felly, pam y gofynnodd y Prif Weinidog i'r prif weithredwr, ar ôl iddo ymddiswyddo, ailystyried ei ymddiswyddiad, a pham na wnewch rannu'r dogfennau lle yr ydych wedi ysgrifennu at y prif weithredwr yn mynegi pryder am y materion hynny? Cyhoeddwch y dogfennau hynny os oes gennych feirniadaeth wirioneddol o'r agweddau hynny, neu rhwch y gorau i gwyno mai'r WDA oedd ar fai er mai chi oedd ar fai mewn gwirionedd am nad oedd arian cyfatebol.

Andrew Davies: Bydd yn rhaid ichi ofyn i'r Prif Weinidog am ei sylwadau ar ymddiswyddiad y cyn-brif weithredwr. Hoffwn gofnodi, oherwydd mae'n amlwg na chlywsoch fi yn dweud hyn yng nghyfarfod diwethaf y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth, nad cyrff annibynnol yw cyrff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad, megis y WDA. Nid oes ganddynt flaenoriaethau sy'n wahanol i flaenoriaethau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Fel y bydd Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth yn cadarnhau, mewn o leiaf ddau gylch cyllideb, dywedais mai cronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd yw fy mhrif flaenoriaeth. Mae'r pwyllgor wedi cytuno â mi o ran hynny. Ni allwch gael sefyllfa lle nad yw corff a noddir gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad, sy'n rhoi ein blaenoriaethau ar waith, yn ystyried sicrhau cronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd yn flaenoriaeth. Dyna oedd y sefyllfa o ran y WDA yn bendant. Ystyriodd ei flaenoriaethau ei hun yn wahanol rywsut, ac yn ychwanegol at flaenoriaethau Llywodraeth

our priorities. There is no shortage of match funding. However, the WDA regarded the Pathway to Prosperity, the match funding pot of last resort, as a pot of first resort instead. That was clearly not sustainable, and I made it clear to the WDA and to the Wales Tourist Board that the delivery of structural funds was my priority, and that therefore they had to use more of their annual grant in aid to deliver that. That is what I said I would do, and that is what I have done, and that is what the WDA and the WTB are now delivering on.

y Cynulliad. Nid oeddem yn cyd-fynd; yr oedd yn rhaid iddo roi ein blaenoriaethau ar waith. Nid oes diffyg arian cyfatebol. Fodd bynnag, ystyriodd y WDA y Ffordd i Ffyniant, sef yr arian cyfatebol a ddefnyddir pan ddaw popeth arall i ben, yn arian i'w ddefnyddio gyntaf. Yn amlwg, nid oedd hynny yn gynaliadwy, ac eglurais i'r WDA a Bwrdd Croeso Cymru mai sicrhau cronfeydd strwythurol oedd fy mlaenoriaeth, ac felly fod yn rhaid iddynt ddefnyddio mwy o'u grant cymorth blynyddol i wneud hynny. Dyna a ddywedais y byddwn yn ei wneud, a dyna a wneuthum, a dyna'r hyn a wna'r WDA a'r bwrdd croeso yn awr.

2.40 p.m.

Y Diwydiant Dur yn Sir y Fflint The Steel Industry in Flintshire

Q3 Carl Sargeant: Will the Minister make a statement on the steel industry in Flintshire? OAQ0125(EDT)

C3 Carl Sargeant: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar y diwydiant dur yn Sir y Fflint? OAQ0125(EDT)

Andrew Davies: Corus's Shotton works continue to be a significant manufacturing industry employer in north-east Wales. Its 700 workers manufacture high-value colour-coated steels for the automotive, construction and white goods industries, and also create factory-built homes using state of the art assembly techniques. Corus invested significantly in its Shotton works in 2004.

Andrew Davies: Mae gwaith Corus yn Shotton yn parhau i fod yn gyflogwr pwysig yn y diwydiant gweithgynhyrchu yn y Gogledd-ddwyrain. Mae'r 700 o weithwyr a gyflogir ganddo yn gweithgynhyrchu dur haen lliw gwerth uchel i'r diwydiannau moduron, adeiladu a nwyddau gwyn, ac maent hefyd yn creu cartrefi wedi'u hadeiladu mewn ffatri gan ddefnyddio'r technegau diweddaraf. Buddsoddodd Corus yn sylweddol yn ei waith yn Shotton yn 2004.

Carl Sargeant: Will you join me in paying tribute to the Community union, formerly the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, and particularly Jim Mullins, for its hard work with the industry and the workforce? Do you agree that the maintenance of a steel industry in Wales, particularly of Corus in my constituency, is paramount, and will you therefore agree to work with the WDA and the Environment Agency to ensure that Corus's environmental issues in relation to the effective management of the site are looked into expeditiously?

Carl Sargeant: A ymunwch â mi i dalu teyrnged i undeb Cymuned, a elwid gynt yn Gydffederasiwn y Crefftau Haearn a Dur, ac i Jim Mullins yn arbennig, am ei waith caled gyda'r diwydiant a'r gweithlu? A gytunwch fod parhad diwydiant dur yng Nghymru, yn arbennig Corus yn fy etholaeth i, yn hollbwysig, ac a wnewch felly gytuno i weithio gyda'r WDA ac Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd i sicrhau y caiff problemau amgylcheddol Corus o ran rheoli'r safle yn effeithiol eu hystyried yn fuan?

Andrew Davies: I will certainly do that. Corus, like other steel manufacturers, such as Alpha Steel and Celsa, are of huge

Andrew Davies: Gwnaf hynny yn sicr. Mae Corus, fel gweithgynhyrchwyr dur eraill, megis Alpha Steel a Celsa, yn hynod bwysig

importance to the Welsh economy. There has been a dramatic transformation in the steel industry over the last two years, partly because of the dynamism in the world economy caused by China, but also because of some of the major changes that Corus itself has undertaken. Therefore, as ever, we remain committed to working with the company in north Wales, and in the rest of Wales.

Brynle Williams: What support are you giving to the future of the Shotton project, and do you agree that business and office development in Flintshire should be on brownfield sites such as that one, rather than in places such as Broughton, against the wishes of local residents?

Andrew Davies: I am not sure what you mean by the Shotton development; I am not sure whether you mean by that the northern gateway development. Carl Sargeant and Sandy Mewies, as the local AMs, and I have held meetings with Flintshire County Council on many occasions. As a result, I have asked for a task and finish group to be set up, which is to include the WDA and all the other major stakeholders, including, obviously, Corus, to see how we might take forward the development of this strategic site in north-east Wales.

i economi Cymru. Trawsnewidwyd y diwydiant dur yn sylweddol yn ystod y ddwy flynedd diwethaf, yn rhannol oherwydd deinamigrwydd yn economi'r byd a achoswyd gan Tsieina, ond hefyd oherwydd rhai o'r newidiadau mawr a wnaeth Corus ei hun. Felly, fel bob amser, yr ydym yn parhau i fod yn ymrwymedig i weithio gyda'r cwmni yn y Gogledd, ac yng ngweddill Cymru.

Brynle Williams: Pa gymorth a roddwch i ddyfodol prosiect Shotton, ac a gytunwch y dylai datblygiadau busnesau a swyddfeydd yn sir y Fflint fod ar safleoedd tir llwyd megis hwnnw, yn hytrach nag mewn lleoedd megis Brychdwn, yn groes i ddyfodiadau trigolion lleol?

Andrew Davies: Nid wyf yn hollol siŵr beth yr ydych yn ei olygu gan ddatblygiad Shotton; nid wyf yn siŵr ai datblygiad y porth gogleddol sydd gennych mewn golwg. Mae Carl Sargeant a Sandy Mewies, fel yr ACau lleol, a minnau wedi cyfarfod â Chyngor Sir y Fflint droeon. O ganlyniad, gofynnais am sefydlu grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen, a fydd yn cynnwys y WDA a phob rhanddeiliad pwysig arall, gan gynnwys Corus, yn amlwg, i weld sut y gallem ddatblygu'r safle strategol hwn yn y Gogledd-ddwyrain.

Dyfodol Cynaliadwy i Drafnidiaeth The Sustainable Future of Transport

Q4 Helen Mary Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the sustainable future of transport in Wales? OAQ0081(EDT)

Andrew Davies: During 2005, the Assembly Government will be working with its partners to develop a statutory Wales transport strategy, in line with the provisions of the Transport (Wales) Bill. The strategy will strike a balance between our environmental, economic and social objectives, in line with our principles of sustainable development.

Helen Mary Jones: I am sure that you would acknowledge that key to a sustainable transport policy is persuading people to stop using their cars and, where practicable, to use

C4 Helen Mary Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar ddyfodol cynaliadwy i drafnidiaeth yng Nghymru? OAQ0081(EDT)

Andrew Davies: Yn ystod 2005, bydd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn gweithio gyda'i phartneriaid i ddatblygu strategaeth drafnidiaeth statudol i Gymru yn unol â darpariaethau Mesur Trafnidiaeth (Cymru). Bydd y strategaeth yn taro cydbwysedd rhwng ein hamcanion amgylcheddol, economaidd a chymdeithasol, yn unol â'n hegwyddorion datblygu cynaliadwy.

Helen Mary Jones: Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddech yn cydnabod mai'r allwedd i bolisi trafndiaeth cynaliadwy yw darbwyllo pobl i roi'r gorau i ddefnyddio eu ceir, ac yn

public transport instead. Will you acknowledge that it is still hard to plan journeys by public transport in Wales, and in and out of Wales, especially if you need to use more than one mode of public transport? Also, will you accept that your Government has failed, so far, to develop an integrated and effective national information system? Can you outline for us what plans the new strategy will contain to improve this situation, and give a timescale for that?

Andrew Davies: I do not accept that we have not made significant progress on delivering on an integrated transport policy. However, I accept that we still have a significant way to go.

The use of buses has increased. Last year, Wales saw, roughly, a 3 per cent increase in bus use. That compares with a decline in bus use in the rest of UK; I believe that only London showed an increase in bus usage. Similarly, rail usage has gone up significantly. Last year, across the whole UK, and for the first time since 1959, passenger use reached 1 billion. However, there is still a great way to go in terms of integration, which is why the Transport (Wales) Bill is so important in terms of driving an integrated transport policy, particularly in areas such as integrating passenger support using passenger services and bringing them together in one committee. Also—as you said—the provision of passenger transport information for bus use is developing strongly, but need greater integration in that area.

Lisa Francis: Your officials have said that there is no provision in the £8 billion, 15-year transport programme that you announced last year, for installing two passing loops at Dyfi junction on the Cambrian coast Aberystwyth to Shrewsbury railway line. That would have introduced a highly sustainable hourly service into Aberystwyth. Did you make that decision because Network Rail advised you not to go ahead with the development?

hytrach, defnyddio trafndiaeth gyhoeddus lle y bo hynny'n ymarferol. A wnewch chi gydnabod ei bod yn parhau i fod yn anodd cynllunio teithiau ar drafnidiaeth gyhoeddus yng Nghymru, ac i mewn ac allan o Gymru, yn enwedig os oes angen defnyddio mwy nag un math o drafnidiaeth gyhoeddus? Hefyd, a dderbyniwch fod eich Llywodraeth, hyd yma, wedi methu â datblygu system wybodaeth genedlaethol integredig ac effeithiol? A allwch ddweud wrthym pa gynlluniau y bydd y strategaeth newydd yn eu cynnwys i wella'r sefyllfa hon a rhoi amserlen ar gyfer hynny?

Andrew Davies: Ni dderbyniaf nad ydym wedi gwneud cynnydd sylweddol o ran cyflawni polisi trafndiaeth integredig. Fodd bynnag, derbyniaf fod gennym dipyn o ffordd i fynd eto.

Mae'r defnydd a wneir o fysiau wedi cynyddu. Y llynedd, yng Nghymru, yn fras, bu cynnydd o 3 y cant yn y defnydd o fysiau. Rhaid cymharu hynny â gostyngiad yn y defnydd o fysiau yng ngweddill y DU; credaf mai dim ond yn Llundain y bu cynnydd yn y defnydd o fysiau. Yn yr un modd, mae'r defnydd a wneir o'r rheilffyrdd wedi cynyddu'n sylweddol. Y llynedd, ar draws y DU gyfan, ac am y tro cyntaf ers 1959, gwnaed 1 biliwn o deithiau ar drenau gan deithwyr. Fodd bynnag, mae cryn ffordd i fynd o hyd o ran integreiddio, sef y rheswm pam mae Mesur Trafnidiaeth (Cymru) mor bwysig o ran hyrwyddo polisi trafndiaeth integredig, yn enwedig mewn meysydd megis integreiddio cymorth i deithwyr gan ddefnyddio gwasanaethau i deithwyr a dod â hwy ynghyd yn un pwyllgor. Hefyd—fel y dywedaso—mae'r ddarpariaeth o wybodaeth drafnidiaeth i deithwyr ar gyfer defnyddio bysiau yn datblygu'n gadarn, ond mae angen mwy o integreiddio yn y maes hwnnw.

Lisa Francis: Mae eich swyddogion wedi dweud nad oes darpariaeth yn y rhaglen drafnidiaeth 15 mlynedd gwerth £8 biliwn, a gyhoeddwyd gennych y llynedd, ar gyfer gosod dwy ddolen basio yng nghyffordd Dyfi ar linell reilffordd arfordir Cambria rhwng Aberystwyth ac Amwythig. Byddai hynny wedi cyflwyno gwasanaeth cynaliadwy iawn bob awr i Aberystwyth. A wnaethoch y penderfyniad hwnnw am fod Network Rail

wedi'ch cynghori i beidio â bwrw ymlaen â'r datblygiad?

Andrew Davies: In line with the answer that I believe was given to you at the committee meeting last week, the Dyfi loop is on hold, in terms of the infrastructure work, because funding is not in place from the Strategic Rail Authority for the service enhancements, in terms of the provision of more frequent services—that is, the doubling of the service to Aberystwyth on the mid Wales line. It would be premature to go ahead with building the Dyfi loop until that service enhancement is in place. Nevertheless, we have provided funding for the upgrade of the infrastructure to complete work on the removal of three level crossings on the Cambrian line.

Andrew Davies: Yn unol â'r ateb a roddais ichi yng nghyfarfod y pwyllgor yr wythnos diwethaf, fe gredaf, mae'r gwaith ar ddolen Dyfi wedi'i ohirio, o ran y seilwaith, am nad oes cyllid ar gael gan yr Awdurdod Rheilffyrdd Strategol ar gyfer y gwelliannau i wasanaethau, o ran darparu gwasanaethau amlach—hynny yw, dyblu'r gwasanaeth i Aberystwyth ar linell y Canolbarth. Mae'n rhy gynnar bwrw ymlaen i adeiladu dolen Dyfi nes bod y gwelliant hwnnw mewn gwasanaethau ar waith. Eto i gyd, yr ydym wedi rhoi cyllid ar gyfer uwchraddio'r seilwaith er mwyn cwblhau gwaith ar gael gwared ar dair croesfan reilffordd ar linell Cambria.

Lefelau Anweithgarwch Economaidd Levels of Economic Inactivity

Q5 Michael German: Will the Minister make a statement on levels of economic inactivity in Wales? OAQ0089(EDT)

C5 Michael German: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar lefelau anweithgarwch economaidd yng Nghymru? OAQ0089(EDT)

Andrew Davies: There were 433,000 economically inactive people in Wales during the three months to December 2004, according to the latest labour force survey. The inactivity rate of 24.4 per cent was 1.2 percentage points lower than when the Assembly started, a period over which the UK inactivity rate remained unchanged.

Andrew Davies: Yr oedd 433,000 o bobl economaidd anweithgar yng Nghymru yn ystod y tri mis tan fis Rhagfyr 2004, yn ôl yr arolwg diwethaf o'r llafurlu. Yr oedd y gyfradd anweithgarwch o 24.4 y cant, 1.2 o bwyntiau canran yn is nag yr oedd pan ddechreuodd y Cynulliad, sef cyfnod pan fu cyfradd anweithgarwch y DU yn aros yn ddigyfnewid.

Michael German: As you know, a recent GMB survey indicated that one in three people of working age in Merthyr were on benefits. Your Government in London is seeking to push people out of benefit rather than seeking to secure more jobs for them. What importance do you place on the community enterprise and on the third sector? Where do you see the funding for that sector coming from? Will the co-ordinated approach—which I was hoping would have happened—be something that might occur in next year's budget round?

Michael German: Fel y gwyddoch, yn ôl arolwg diweddar gan undeb y GMB, mae un o bob tri o bobl o oedran gweithio ym Merthyr yn cael budd-daliadau. Mae eich Llywodraeth yn Llundain yn ceisio gwneud i bobl roi'r gorau i hawlio budd-daliadau yn hytrach na cheisio cael swyddi mwy diogel iddynt. Pa bwys a roddwch ar y fenter gymunedol ac ar ytrydydd sector? O ble y daw'r arian ar gyfer y sector hwnnw, yn eich tyb chi? A fydd yr ymagwedd gydgyssylltiedig—sef yr hyn yr oeddwn yn gobeithio y byddai'n digwydd—yn rhywbeth a allai ddigwydd yng nghylch y gyllideb y flwyddyn nesaf?

Andrew Davies: I take issue with your accusation that the UK Government is

Andrew Davies: Anghytunaf â'ch cyhuddiad bod Llywodraeth y DU yn ceisio gwneud i

pushing people out of benefits. The Government tries to help those people who want to enter or re-enter the employment market to be able to do so. Wales has been in the forefront in this regard, and the Pathways to Work projects in the Rhondda Cynon Taf and Bridgend areas, piloted by the Department for Work and Pensions, demonstrate that we are helping significant numbers of people with that transition into work. Wales is the only region of Great Britain that has seen a reduction in the number of working-age people claiming sickness and disability benefits since 1999; there has been a 7 per cent increase in the rest of Great Britain. Therefore, significant progress is being made.

I take your point about the community enterprise and the community development sector, which is important. The role of the voluntary sector and community enterprise will be important, particularly with the Heads of the Valleys initiative that I announced at the end of last year. I have discussed this with the Wales Council for Voluntary Action and with many individual groups within the voluntary sector, which are important and play a crucial role.

Jeff Cuthbert: My constituency is likely to experience economic inactivity soon, as a result of the decision of St Ives plc, in Ystrad Mynach, to close. Unfortunately, the company confirmed to the Amicus union today that it intends to begin making the men redundant by June and to close the site by the end of August, or thereabouts. Will you join me in expressing support for agencies such as the local council, the Member of Parliament, Wayne David, the Amicus union and me, who are seeking to get the company to change its mind? Will you ensure that Team Wales, particularly Jobcentre Plus, and ELWa, work with St Ives employees to ensure that the impact on them is minimised?

2.50 p.m.

Andrew Davies: Whenever people face redundancy, or where companies face closure or have to slim down, we provide all possible help within our powers and the law. The WDA and Caerphilly County Borough

bobl roi'r gorau i hawlio budd-daliadau. Mae'r Llywodraeth yn ceisio helpu'r bobl hynny sydd am ymuno neu ailymuno â'r farchnad waith i gael gwneud hynny. Bu Cymru ar flaen y gad o ran hyn, ac mae prosiectau Llwybrau at Waith yn ardaloedd Rhondda Cynon Taf a Phen-y-bont ar Ogwr, a dreialwyd gan yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau, yn dangos ein bod yn helpu niferoedd sylweddol o bobl gyda'r broses bontio honno i mewn i waith. Cymru yw'r unig ranbarth o Brydain Fawr lle y bu gostyngiad yn nifer y bobl o oedran gweithio sy'n hawlio budd-daliadau salwch ac anabled ers 1999; bu cynnydd o 7 y cant yng ngweddill Prydain Fawr. Felly, gwneir cynnydd sylweddol.

Derbyniaf eich pwynt ynglŷn â'r fenter gymunedol a'r sector datblygu cymunedol, sy'n bwysig. Bydd rôl y sector gwirfoddol a'r fenter gymunedol yn bwysig, yn enwedig gyda menter Blaenau'r Cymoedd a gyhoeddais ar ddiwedd y llynedd. Yr wyf wedi trafod hyn gyda Chyngor Gweithredu Gwirfoddol Cymru a llawer o grwpiau unigol yn y sector gwirfoddol, sy'n bwysig ac sy'n chwarae rhan allweddol.

Jeff Cuthbert: Mae fy etholaeth yn debygol o brofi anweithgarwch economaidd yn fuan, o ganlyniad i benderfyniad St Ives ccc, yn Ystrad Mynach, i gau. Yn anffodus, rhoes y cwmni gadarnhad i undeb Amicus heddiw ei fod yn bwriadu dechrau dileu swyddi erbyn mis Mehefin a chau'r safle erbyn diwedd mis Awst, neu tua'r adeg hynny. A ymunwch â mi i fynegi eich cefnogaeth i'r asiantaethau megis y cyngor lleol, yr Aelod Seneddol, Wayne David, a minnau, undeb Amicus a minnau, sy'n ceisio cael y cwmni i newid ei feddwl? A sicrhewch y bydd Tîm Cymru, yn enwedig Canolfan Byd Gwaith, ac ELWa, yn gweithio gyda chyflogeion St Ives i sicrhau bod yr effaith arnynt cyn lleied â phosibl?

Andrew Davies: Pan fydd pobl yn wynebu colli eu swyddi, neu lle y mae cwmnïau yn wynebu cau gwaith neu gwtogi ar y gweithlu, yr ydym bob tro yn rhoi pob cymorth posibl o fewn ein gallu ac o dan y gyfraith. Mae'r

Council have been trying to engage with the company for the past eight months, and I believe that, since the announcement earlier this week, the WDA has also been trying to contact the company to discuss its plans. I have not had an update today on the latest position, but Team Wales stands ready, as ever, to help those affected by the redundancies and the company itself to see what can be done to protect its interests in the locality.

The Leader of the Opposition (Ieuan Wyn Jones): I think that you have acknowledged, Minister, that levels of economic inactivity are at their highest, and stubbornly high, in those areas which should have benefited from Objective 1 funds. I would have expected, given the massive injection of over £1 billion during the period that you have indicated, that those areas would have benefited more substantially than you seem to suggest. We know that you were a key member of Alun Michael's Government that was negotiating for those structural funds in 1999, during the time leading up to the vote of no confidence in Alun Michael, in January and February 2000. We regularly made the case that, in order to make the maximum use of Objective 1 funding, the European component had to be over and above the block and that there had to be additional funds for match funding. Now we hear that that was also Alun Michael's view, because in a letter that he sent to Andrew Smith on 24 January 2000 he states:

'we could then consider the additional match funding cover we need by way of an addition to the block.'

Did you agree with Alun Michael at the time?

Andrew Davies: It is interesting that Plaid Cymru is a party based in the past and is condemned to live in the past. You seem to be constantly rehearsing events of five or six years ago. As I said in my earlier reply, there is no shortage of match funding. A total of 30 per cent of match funding for European structural funds comes from the private sector. When I mentioned this last year to Manfred Beschel, a senior European Commission official, he was surprised and

WDA a Chyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili wedi bod yn ceisio cael trafodaethau gyda'r cwmni yn ystod yr wyth mis diwethaf, a chredaf fod y WDA, ers y cyhoeddiad yn gynharach yr wythnos hon, hefyd wedi bod yn ceisio cysylltu â'r cwmni i drafod ei gynlluniau. Nid wyf wedi cael gwybodaeth heddiw ar y sefyllfa ddiweddaraf, ond mae Tîm Cymru yn barod, fel bob amser, i helpu'r rhai sy'n colli eu swyddi a'r cwmni ei hun i weld beth y gellir ei wneud i ddiogelu ei fuddiannau yn yr ardal leol.

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Credaf ichi gydnabod, Weinidog, fod lefelau anweithgarwch economaidd ar eu mwyaf, ac yn gyndyn o newid, yn yr ardaloedd hynny y dylent fod wedi elwa ar arian Amcan 1. Byddwn wedi disgwyl, o gofio'r swm enfawr o fwy na £1 biliwn a ddarparwyd yn ystod y cyfnod a nodwyd gennych, y byddai'r ardaloedd hynny wedi elwa'n fwy nag yr awgrymwch i bob golwg. Gwyddom ichi fod yn aelod allweddol o Lywodraeth Alun Michael a oedd yn negodi ynglŷn â'r cronfeydd strwythurol hynny yn 1999, yn ystod y cyfnod yn arwain at y bleidlais dim hyder yn Alun Michael, ym mis Ionawr a mis Chwefror 2000. Dadleuasom yn gyson, er mwyn gwneud y defnydd gorau o arian Amcan 1, y byddai'n rhaid i'r elfen Ewropeaidd fod yn ychwanegol at y bloc a bod yn rhaid cael arian ychwanegol ar gyfer arian cyfatebol. Clywn yn awr mai dyna oedd barn Alun Michael hefyd, oherwydd mewn llythyr a anfonodd at Andrew Smith ar 24 Ionawr 2000 noda:

yna gallem ystyried y ddarpariaeth ychwanegol o arian cyfatebol sydd ei hangen arnom ar ben y bloc.

A gytunasoch ag Alun Michael ar y pryd?

Andrew Davies: Mae'n ddiddorol mai plaid wedi'i gwreiddio yn y gorffennol yw Plaid Cymru a byw yn y gorffennol yw ei thynged hi. Ymddengys eich bod yn cyfeirio o hyd at bethau a ddigwyddodd bump neu chwe blynedd yn ôl. Fel y dywedais yn fy ateb cynharach, nid oes diffyg arian cyfatebol. Daw cyfanswm o 30 y cant o arian cyfatebol ar gyfer cronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd o'r sector preifat. Pan soniais am hyn y llynedd wrth Manfred Beschel, uwch

believed that that was probably the highest proportion of anywhere in the UK. Therefore, there is no shortage of match funding. As I said in my earlier reply about ASPBs, they also have a duty to ensure that their funding is used to maximise the benefits of European structural funds. On economic inactivity and unemployment, the fall in unemployment in the Objective 1 area of west Wales and the Valleys has been faster than that in the rest of the UK. I think that that is a significant achievement for those communities, as I said in my reply to Karen Sinclair earlier.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: As was the case with Alun Michael, you are saying one thing in public but something else in private. Alun Michael was saying exactly what you are saying in the run up to that vote in 2000, namely that match funding in addition to the block was not needed because enough funding was already available. However, in a private letter that he wrote on 24 January 2000, which he never intended anyone to read as it has had to be published under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, he makes it clear that he believed that the Treasury needed to pay match funding over and above the Barnett block. We also have a private minute, which has been disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, in which it is stated that, if sufficient funding was not made available, there would be no alternative, given the nature of the block, but to hit key services such as health, education and transport. We were saying that in public. You were disagreeing with it in public but agreeing with it in private. Why do you not come clean on this?

Andrew Davies: As I said, we have received generous settlements from the UK Treasury, which have given us Barnett plus, in terms of public expenditure cover. We have had the additional funding that we requested in order to maximise European structural funds. You may be disappointed about that, Ieuan, but that is a fact. Even communities such as those that you represent in north-west Wales are benefiting from the additional resources that have been made available through the UK

swyddog yn y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd, yr oedd yn syn gan dybio mai hon oedd y ganran uchaf unrhyw le yn y DU yn ôl pob tebyg. Felly, nid oes diffyg arian cyfatebol. Fel y dywedais yn fy ateb cynharach ynglŷn â CCNC, mae dyletswydd arnynt hwy hefyd i sicrhau y caiff eu cyllid ei ddefnyddio i fanteisio i'r eithaf ar gronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd. O ran anweithgarwch economaidd a diweithdra, bu'r gostyngiad mewn diweithdra yn ardal Amcan 1 gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd yn gynt nag yng ngweddill y DU. Credaf fod hynny'n gyflawniad sylweddol i'r cymunedau hynny, fel y dywedais yn fy ateb i Karen Sinclair yn cynharach.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Fel y digwyddodd yng nghyfnod Alun Michael, yr ydych yn dweud un peth yn gyhoeddus ond rhywbeth arall yn breifat. Yr oedd Alun Michael yn dweud yn union beth yr ydych chi'n ei ddweud yn y cyfnod cyn y bleidlais honno yn 2000, sef nad oedd angen arian cyfatebol yn ychwanegol at y bloc am fod digon o arian ar gael eisoes. Fodd bynnag, mewn llythyr preifat a ysgrifennodd ar 24 Ionawr 2000, nad oedd erioed yn bwriadu i neb ei ddarllen oherwydd bu'n rhaid iddo gael ei gyhoeddi o dan Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000, mae'n ei gwneud yn amlwg ei fod yn credu bod angen i'r Trysorlys dalu arian cyfatebol yn ychwanegol at floc Barnett. Mae gennym gofnod preifat hefyd, a ddatgelwyd o dan y Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000, lle y nodwyd na fyddai dewis, o gofio natur y bloc, ond mynd ag arian gwasanaethau allweddol megis iechyd, addysg a thrafnidiaeth os na ddarparwyd digon o arian. Yr oeddem yn dweud hynny yn gyhoeddus. Yr oeddech yn anghytuno â hynny yn gyhoeddus ond yn cytuno yn breifat. Pam na wnewch chi fod yn agored ynglŷn â hyn?

Andrew Davies: Fel y dywedais, yr ydym wedi cael setliadau hael gan Drysorlys y DU, sydd wedi rhoi Barnett a mwy inni o ran cyllid ar gyfer gwariant cyhoeddus. Yr ydym wedi cael yr arian ychwanegol a geisiwyd gennym er mwyn manteisio i'r eithaf ar gronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd. Efallai eich bod yn siomedig am hynny, Ieuan, ond mae hynny'n ffaith. Mae hyd yn oed gymunedau megis y cymunedau a gynrychiolir gennych chi yn y Gogledd-

Treasury for us to make a success of Objective 1. I know that Plaid Cymru always wants to whinge for Wales and talk Wales down but this has been a real success story that has been recognised by the Government, the European Commission and by the Auditor General for Wales.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: If you say that we are whinging for Wales, Alun Michael was also doing so because he agreed with everything that we said. Alun Michael is now the whinger, not Plaid Cymru. Minister, cut the waffle. Did you not agree with us that we needed match funding? Alun Michael believed it and said so in this private letter and in this private minute. This is not an academic issue, because it is an issue that you will soon be facing again. We hope that there will be a decision in June this year on the next round of match funding and the Barnett block grant. Can you answer the next question without any waffle, with 'yes' or 'no'? Will you now ask the Treasury for the European component and match funding for the next round?

Andrew Davies: We have made our position clear on the next round. There have been many discussions on this matter in the Chamber and in committee, and the First Minister has taken questions on the subject. We are seeking the best deal that we can get for Wales. We stand by that and we will deliver on that. There has not been a cut in health or in education, or in any other service; in fact, there has been a record level of investment. There has been increased investment in public services in Wales since 1999. On top of that, we have been given additional resources by the UK Treasury through public expenditure cover in order to deliver on European structural funds. You may not like that achievement and success, delivered by Labour working successfully in the Assembly and at Westminster, but it is a fact.

Nick Bourne: The Minister was honest enough to admit—he could scarcely do otherwise because they are his statistics—that figures for economic inactivity have gone up from last month, the number of people in

orllewin yn elwa ar yr adnoddau ychwanegol a ddarparwyd drwy Drysorlys y DU er mwyn inni gael llwyddiant gydag Amcan 1. Gwn fod Plaid Cymru am gwyno o hyd a lladd ar Gymru ond bu hwn yn llwyddiant gwirioneddol a gydnabwyd gan y Llywodraeth, y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd ac Archwilydd Cyffredinol Cymru.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Os ydych yn dweud ein bod yn cwyno o hyd, yr oedd Alun Michael yn gwneud hynny hefyd oherwydd cytunodd â phopeth a ddywedasom. Alun Michael sy'n cwyno yn awr, nid Plaid Cymru. Weinidog, siaradwch yn blaen. Oni chytunasoch â ni fod angen arian cyfatebol? Credai Alun Michael hynny a dywedodd hynny yn y llythyr preifat hwn ac yn y cofnod preifat hwn. Nid yw hwn yn fater amherthnasol, oherwydd mae'n fater y byddwch yn ei wynebu eto cyn hir. Gobeithiwn y bydd penderfyniad ym mis Mehefin eleni ar y cylch nesaf o arian cyfatebol a grant bloc Barnett. A allwch ateb y cwestiwn nesaf heb falu awyr, gyda 'ie' neu 'na'? A wnewch yn awr ofyn i'r Trysorlys am yr elfen Ewropeaidd a'r arian cyfatebol ar gyfer y cylch nesaf?

Andrew Davies: Yr ydym wedi egluro ein safbwynt ar y cylch nesaf. Bu llawer o drafodaethau ar y mater hwn yn y Siambr ac mewn cyfarfodydd pwyllgorau, ac mae'r Prif Weinidog wedi derbyn cwestiynau ar y pwnc. Yr ydym yn ceisio'r fargen orau bosibl i Gymru. Yr ydym yn cadw at hynny a byddwn yn cyflawni o ran hynny. Ni fu toriad ym maes iechyd nac addysg, nac mewn unrhyw wasanaeth arall; yn wir, cafwyd y lefel orau o fuddsoddiad erioed. Bu buddsoddiad cynyddol yn y gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru ers 1999. Ar ben hynny, rhoddwyd adnoddau ychwanegol inni gan Drysorlys y DU drwy sicrwydd gwariant cyhoeddus er mwyn cyflawni o ran cronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd. Efallai nad ydych yn hoffi'r cyflawniad a'r llwyddiant hwnnw, a gyflawnwyd drwy Lafur yn gweithio'n llwyddiannus yn y Cynulliad ac yn San Steffan, ond mae'n ffaith.

Nick Bourne: Yr oedd y Gweinidog yn ddigon gonest i gyfaddef—prin y gallai beidio oherwydd ei ystadegau yntau ydynt—fod ffigurau anweithgarwch economaidd wedi cynyddu o'u cymharu â ffigurau'r mis

employment is down on last month, and that we compare unfavourably with the UK average. In the light of that, and given Objective 1's record of not taking us further forward, will the Minister update us on his negotiation position and that of the First Minister in relation to the next round of structural funds, so that we know exactly where they stand on this issue? We have not been updated on this matter. Indeed, we do not as yet know what case they will be putting forward.

Andrew Davies: I take issue with you when you say that the Welsh economy has been underperforming compared with that of the UK. You can choose to take the figures on a monthly, or even a quarterly basis, but if you consider the figures since 1999, the fall in unemployment in Wales has been twice that of the UK—around 2.8 per cent in Wales compared with 1.2 per cent in the rest of the UK. As I said earlier, there has been a reduction in economic inactivity in Wales, whereas the UK rate has remained unchanged. You are factually incorrect, Nick. There have been significant reductions in unemployment and economic inactivity. That is not to say that there is not a substantial way to go, but you must bear in mind that, as the Economic Development and Transport Committee reported, of those who are defined as being economically inactive, only 6 per cent are looking for work in the next 12 months and the figure only rises to 12 per cent if you also look at the year after that.

On our post-2006 position, the First Minister and I have made it clear that we are seeking to get the best deal for Wales. We have said that, and we will continue to work with the Treasury to deliver on that. There is clearly still a long way to go, but it is not a matter only for us and the UK Treasury. There must also be negotiations at a European level between the member states and the European Commission. There is still a significant way to go and we must bear in mind that this is a long-term issue and it will not be conducted as a short-term sprint.

diwethaf, bod nifer y bobl mewn cyflogaeth wedi gostwng o'i gymharu â'r mis diwethaf a'n bod yn cymharu'n anffafriol â chyfartaledd y DU. Yng ngoleuni hynny, ac o gofio record Amcan 1 o fethu â'n symud yn ein blaen, a wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf inni am ei safbwynt negodi a safbwynt y Prif Weinidog o ran y cylch nesaf o gronfeydd strwythurol, fel y gwyddom yn union lle maent yn sefyll ar y mater hwn? Nid ydym wedi cael y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf ar y mater hwn. Yn wir, ni wyddom eto pa ddadl y byddant yn ei chyflwyno.

Andrew Davies: Anghytunaf â chi pan ddywedwch fod economi Cymru wedi bod yn tangyflawni o'i chymharu ag economi'r DU. Gallwch ddewis cymryd y ffigurau yn fisol, neu hyd yn oed yn chwarterol, ond os ystyriwch y ffigurau ers 1999, mae diweithdra yng Nghymru wedi gostwng ddwywaith yn fwy nag a wnaeth yn y DU—tua 2.8 y cant yng Nghymru o gymharu ag 1.2 y cant yng ngweddill y DU. Fel y dywedais yn gynharach, bu gostyngiad mewn anweithgarwch economaidd yng Nghymru, ond mae'r gyfradd yn y DU wedi aros yn ddigyfnewid. Mae'r ffeithiau yn anghywir gennych, Nick. Bu gostyngiadau sylweddol mewn diweithdra ac anweithgarwch economaidd. Nid yw hynny yn golygu nad oes tipyn o ffordd i fynd eto, ond rhaid ichi gofio, fel y nododd y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth, o'r rhai sydd wedi'u diffinio'n economaidd anweithgar, dim ond 6 y cant sy'n chwilio am waith yn y 12 mis nesaf a dim ond os edrychwch hefyd ar y flwyddyn wedyn y mae'r ffigurau yn codi i 12 y cant.

O ran ein safbwynt ar y sefyllfa ar ôl 2006, eglurodd y Prif Weinidog a minnau ein bod yn ceisio'r fargen orau i Gymru. Yr ydym wedi dweud hynny, a byddwn yn parhau i weithio gyda'r Trysorlys i sicrhau hynny. Yn amlwg mae tipyn o ffordd i fynd o hyd, ond nid mater i ni a Thrysorlys y DU yn unig ydyw. Rhaid bod negodiadau hefyd ar lefel Ewropeaidd rhwng yr aelod wladwriaethau a'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd. Mae tipyn o ffordd i fynd o hyd a rhaid inni gofio mai mater hirdymor yw hwn ac ni chaiff ei drafod ar ruther.

Nick Bourne: Let me put you right on the figures. I chose my words carefully and said that we compared unfavourably with the rest of the UK on inactivity: our level is 24.2 per cent and the UK average is 21.5 per cent. I was referring to your figures, so there cannot be a question of my trying to fiddle those figures.

Secondly, I asked specifically what your position and that of the First Minister is on what you are requesting in terms of European funding. We do not need the soundbite position that you want the best deal for Wales—I should hope that you do. What is your position? What are you asking for?

3.00 p.m.

Andrew Davies: I am not saying that Wales does not have a higher rate of economic inactivity than the rest of the UK, but that there has been a fall of 1.2 per cent in Wales since 1999, whereas it has remained unchanged at the UK level. I have said that there was still a long way to go. Our position on the situation post 2006 is clear. We will aim to get the best deal for Wales. We did it previously. I remember Mike German asking a similar question about our making our negotiating position clear. It is almost like—as he described it—a game of poker. If you are playing poker by the rules of the opposition parties you would start showing your hand to them. That is certainly not how we would regard our negotiations, and we are not going to start doing so now.

Nick Bourne: I wish I could play poker against the Minister—it would be a very easy game. We have heard the First Minister speak in Europe, where he has had a platform to discuss structural funds with everyone concerned, but we always have the usual Westminster line from him. The speech could have been written by the Prime Minister; sadly it was not, because it seemed as though it had been scrawled on the back of an envelope. However, the position that you are adopting is, 'We want the best deal for Wales'. We want some reassurance with regard to your stance. I am not asking for a line-by-line analysis of the bargaining

Nick Bourne: Gadewch imi egluro'r ffigurau. Dewisais fy ngeiriau'n ofalus a dywedais ein bod yn cymharu'n anffafriol â gweddill y DU o ran anweithgarwch: ein lefel ni yw 24.2 y cant a chyfartaledd y DU yw 21.5 y cant. Yr oeddwn yn cyfeirio at eich ffigurau chi, felly nid oes posibilrwydd fy mod yn ceisio newid y ffigurau hynny.

Yn ail, gofynnais yn benodol ynglŷn â'ch safbwynt chi a safbwynt y Prif Weinidog ar yr hyn yr ydych yn ei geisio o ran arian Ewropeaidd. Nid oes angen inni glywed y neges fachog eich bod am gael y fargen orau i Gymru—gobeithiwn eich bod am gael hynny. Beth yw eich safbwynt? Beth yr ydych yn ei geisio?

Andrew Davies: Nid wyf yn dweud nad oes gan Gymru gyfradd uwch o anweithgarwch economaidd na gweddill y DU. Dweud yr oeddwn bod gostyngiad o 1.2 y cant yng Nghymru ers 1999, er bod y gyfradd wedi aros yn ddigyfnewid yn y DU. Dywedais fod tipyn o ffordd i fynd o hyd. Mae ein safbwynt ar y sefyllfa ar ôl 2006 yn glir. Anelwn at gael y fargen orau i Gymru. Gwnaethom hynny o'r blaen. Cofiaf Mike German yn gofyn cwestiwn tebyg ynglŷn ag egluro ein safbwynt negodi. Mae bron â bod fel gêm o bocer—fel y'i disgrifiodd. Os ydych yn chwarae pocer yn ôl rheolau'r gwrthbleidiau byddech yn dechrau dangos eich cardiau iddynt. Yn sicr nid felly y byddem yn ystyried ein negodiadau, ac ni fwriadwn ddechrau gwneud hynny yn awr.

Nick Bourne: Byddai'n dda gennyf pe bawn yn gallu chwarae pocer yn erbyn y Gweinidog—byddai'n gêm hawdd iawn. Yr ydym wed clywed y Prif Weinidog yn siarad yn Ewrop, lle y bu ganddo lwyfan i drafod cronfeydd strwythurol gyda phawb dan sylw, ond yr ydym bob amser yn clywed polisi San Steffan ganddo. Gallai'r araith fod wedi'i hysgrifennu gan Brif Weinidog y DU; yn anffodus, nid ei waith yntau ydoedd, oherwydd ymddengys fel petai wedi'i hysgrifennu ar frys gwyllt. Fodd bynnag, y safbwynt yr ydych yn ei arddel yw, 'Yr ydym am gael y fargen orau i Gymru'. Hoffem gael rhywfaint o sicrwydd o ran eich safbwynt.

position, but, when you debate these issues at Westminster in meetings with the Chancellor—which I hope that you will do, and I seek reassurance on that—what is the bottom line for Wales? Let us have some indication—not the details—of your bargaining position.

Andrew Davies: First, your slur on the First Minister's speech at the conference that you also attended was just that—a slur. As the First Minister just said, that is what you always do. [*Interruption.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order. I did not hear the First Minister say anything.

Andrew Davies: As to independent observers at that conference, like the WLGA—[*Interruption.*]

Had you paid attention to the discussions and debates on the post-2006 agenda, you would know that the WLGA takes a different view from us on many issues. The First Minister and other representatives at the conference clearly stated the Welsh Assembly Government's position in terms of our negotiating stance and the future, post 2006. I stand by what I said previously—when you are negotiating, you do not declare your hand publicly. We will stand by that position. I say to Nick—[*Interruption.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order. I have made it quite clear that I will not allow interventions from Members while they are seated, be they the First Minister, the leader of the Welsh Conservatives or any other Member.

Andrew Davies: I conclude by saying that we have to ask why Wales is eligible for Objective 1 funding now. [*Interruption.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order. My previous comments also apply to the leader of the opposition.

Andrew Davies: Why did we have mass unemployment in the 1980s? Why did we

Nid wyf yn gofyn am ddadansoddiad fesul llinell o'r safbwynt negodi, ond, pan fyddwch yn trafod y materion hyn yn San Steffan mewn cyfarfodydd gyda'r Canghellor—a gobeithio y byddwch yn gwneud hynny, a hoffwn gael sicrwydd ar hynny—beth yr ydych yn ei geisio dros Gymru? Rhowch ryw arwydd inni—nid y manylion—o'ch safbwynt negodi.

Andrew Davies: Yn gyntaf, bwrw sen ar araith y Prif Weinidog yn y gynhadledd a fynychwyd gennych chithau hefyd yr oedd byrdwn eich sylwadau—a dim byd arall. Fel y mae'r Prif Weinidog newydd ei ddweud, yr ydych bob amser yn gwneud hynny. [*Torri ar draws.*]

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Ni chlywais y Prif Weinidog yn dweud unrhyw beth.

Andrew Davies: O ran arsylwyr annibynnol yn y gynhadledd honno, fel CLILC—[*Torri ar draws.*]

Pe baech wedi tynnu sylw at y trafodaethau ynglŷn â'r agenda ar ôl 2006, fe wyddech nad yw CLILC yn cyd-fynd â ni o ran sawl mater. Nododd y Prif Weinidog a chynrychiolwyr eraill yn y gynhadledd safbwynt Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn glir iawn o ran y negodiadau a'r dyfodol ar ôl 2006. Cadwaf at yr hyn a ddywedais o'r blaen—pan ydych yn negodi, nid ydych yn dangos eich cardiau yn gyhoeddus. Byddwn yn cadw at y sefyllfa honno. Dywedaf wrth Nick—[*Torri ar draws.*]

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Yr wyf wedi'i gwneud yn hollol glir na chaniatâf ymyriadau gan Aelodau pan fyddant ar eu heistedd, boed hynny gan y Prif Weinidog, arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru neu unrhyw Aelod arall.

Andrew Davies: Gorffennaf drwy ddweud bod yn rhaid inni ofyn pam mae Cymru yn gymwys i gael arian Amcan 1 yn awr. [*Torri ar draws.*]

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae fy sylwadau blaenorol yn berthnasol hefyd i arweinydd yr wrthblaid.

Andrew Davies: Pam yr oedd diweithdra mawr gennym yn y 1980au? Pam y

have the decimation of the manufacturing industry in Wales? That is why we are eligible for Objective 1 funding. We are delivering on it.

crebachodd y diwydiant gweithgynhyrchu yng Nghymru? Dyna pam yr ydym yn gymwys i gael arian Amcan 1. Yr ydym yn cyflawni yn hynny o beth.

Cwestiynau i'r Trefnydd ar ei Chyfrifoldebau Eraill Questions to the Business Minister on her Other Responsibilities

Gwasanaethau i Blant Children's Services

Q1 Jocelyn Davies: Will the Minister make a statement on her role in the co-ordination of policies regarding services for children? OAQ0007(BM)

C1 Jocelyn Davies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar ei rôl wrth gydgyssylltu polisiau sy'n ymwneud â gwasanaethau i blant? OAQ0007(BM)

Q10 Kirsty Williams: Will the Minister make a statement on her responsibilities as Minister for children? OAQ0003(BM)

C10 Kirsty Williams: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar ei chyfrifoldebau yn rhinwedd ei swydd fel y Gweinidog dros blant? OAQ0003(BM)

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): As chair of the Cabinet sub-committee on children and young people, I promote a strategic approach connecting all Assembly Government policies that affect children. My role enables me to ensure that their rights, wellbeing and views are given appropriate priority across portfolios.

Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt): Fel cadeirydd is-bwyllgor y Cabinet ar blant a phobl ifanc, anogaf ymagwedd strategol sy'n cydgyssylltu pob un o bolisiau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad sy'n effeithio ar blant. Mae fy rôl yn fy ngalluogi i sicrhau y caiff eu hawliau, eu lles a'u safbwyntiau flaenoriaeth briodol ar draws portffolios.

Jocelyn Davies: We know that you are not held in high regard by your Westminster colleagues and that you have a poor record on influencing primary legislation on children's issues. Therefore, how do you intend to improve your standing with Labour Members of Parliament and thus be effective in this role?

Jocelyn Davies: Gwyddom nad oes gan eich cyd-Aelodau yn San Steffan fawr o barch tuag atoch a bod gennych record wael o ran dylanwadu ar ddeddfwriaeth sylfaenol ynglŷn â materion plant. Felly, sut y bwriadwch ennyn mwy o barch ymhlith Aelodau Seneddol Llafur a thrwy hynny fod yn effeithiol yn y rôl hon?

Jane Hutt: I find that an extraordinary statement, when you consider that I, along with my colleague, Paul Murphy, the then Secretary of State for Wales, was responsible for the first piece of primary legislation sought by the Assembly, which was the Children's Commissioner for Wales Act 2001. We started by amending the Care Standards Bill, and then we got our own Bill to extend the powers and responsibilities of the children's commissioner in Wales. I am proud that I achieved that in my capacity as Minister for Health and Social Services.

Jane Hutt: Mae'r gosodiad hwnnw yn un rhyfeddol yn fy marn i, o ystyried mai fi, ynghyd â'm cyd-aelod, Paul Murphy, Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ar y pryd, oedd yn gyfrifol am y darn cyntaf o ddeddfwriaeth sylfaenol a geisiwyd gan y Cynulliad, sef Deddf Comisiynydd Plant Cymru 2001. Dechreuasom drwy gynnig gwelliannau i'r Mesur Safonau Gofal, ac yna cawsom ein Mesur ein hunain i estyn pwerau a chyfrifoldebau'r comisiynydd plant yng Nghymru. Yr wyf yn ymfalehio yn y ffaith imi gyflawni hynny yn rhinwedd fy swydd fel y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol.

Kirsty Williams: A large number of children in Powys receive their education out of the county because of their special educational needs, and there are also a large number of out-of-county placements for specialist health services. That can lead to those children being isolated and potentially puts them at increased risk of abuse. What will you be doing, in your role as Minister with responsibility for children, to liaise with local authorities to ensure that as many children as possible with special health and educational needs receive services in their home counties?

Jane Hutt: Your point about the need to join up health policy and provision, and provision for special educational needs is pertinent. On Monday, I chaired the Cabinet committee that discussed a paper on specialist placements for children, particularly looked-after children. We also touched on the needs of children with special educational needs, and my colleague, Brian Gibbons, and I then met representatives of the Welsh Local Government Association to discuss how we can work more closely with the association to ensure that we reach those specialist needs. When cross-border issues are involved, I would also co-operate with my colleagues in Westminster.

David Melding: Mental health is a hugely important, cross-cutting issue in relation to children and adolescents, from attainment at school to 50 per cent of people in care having a mental health issue, and to the fact that many of those who unfortunately enter the criminal justice system are admitted to inappropriate custody because the type of secure unit that we need is not available. I hope that your committee will make that an issue and drive up the standard of mental health care for young people.

Jane Hutt: That was the message of several papers that we discussed at the Cabinet committee on Monday, which will be available in due course. As I said, we discussed specialist placements for children, particularly looked-after children, a high number of whom need the child and

Kirsty Williams: Mae nifer fawr o blant ym Mhowys yn cael eu haddysgu y tu allan i'r sir oherwydd eu hanghenion addysgol arbennig, ac mae nifer fawr o leoliadau y tu allan i'r sir hefyd ar gyfer gwasanaethau iechyd arbenigol. Gall hynny beri i'r plant hynny fod yn ynysig a gall o bosibl gynyddu'r perygl y cânt eu cam-drin. Beth y byddwch yn ei wneud, yn eich rôl fel y Gweinidog â chyfrifoldeb dros blant, i gydgyssylltu ag awdurdodau lleol i sicrhau bod cynifer o blant â phosibl ag anghenion arbennig o ran iechyd ac addysg yn cael gwasanaethau yn eu siroedd brodorol?

Jane Hutt: Mae eich pwynt ynglŷn â'r angen i gydgyssylltu polisïau a darpariaeth iechyd, a darpariaeth ar gyfer anghenion addysgol arbennig yn un perthnasol. Ddydd Llun, cadeiriais bwyllgor y Cabinet a drafododd bapur ar leoliadau arbenigol i blant, yn enwedig plant sy'n derbyn gofal. Bu inni ystyried yn fras anghenion plant ag anghenion addysgol arbennig hefyd, ac wedyn cyfarfu fy nghyd-Weinidog, Brian Gibbons, a minnau â chynrychiolwyr o Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru i drafod sut y gallwn weithio'n agosach â'r gymdeithas i sicrhau ein bod yn cyrraedd yr anghenion arbenigol hynny. Pan fydd materion trawsffiniol dan sylw, byddwn hefyd yn cydweithredu â'm cyd-Weinidogion yn San Steffan.

David Melding: Mae iechyd meddwl yn fater trawsbynciol hynod bwysig o ran plant a'r glasoed, o gyrhaeddiad yn yr ysgol i'r ffaith bod gan 50 y cant o bobl mewn gofal broblem iechyd meddwl, ac i'r ffaith y caiff llawer o'r rheini sydd, yn anffodus, yn mynd yn rhan o'r system cyfiawnder troseddol eu derbyn i fath amhriodol o warchodaeth am nad yw'r math o uned ddiogel y mae angen inni ei chael ar gael. Gobeithiaf y bydd eich pwyllgor yn rhoi sylw i hynny ac yn gwella safon gofal iechyd meddwl i bobl ifanc.

Jane Hutt: Dyna oedd neges sawl papur a drafodwyd gennym ym mhwyllgor y Cabinet ddydd Llun, a fydd ar gael maes o law. Fel y dywedais, bu inni drafod lleoliadau arbenigol i blant, yn enwedig plant sy'n derbyn gofal, y mae angen gwasanaeth iechyd meddwl plant a'r glasoed ar nifer fawr ohonynt. Bu inni

adolescent mental health service. We also discussed homelessness for care leavers and issues around transition, the interface with child and adolescent mental health services, and pupil support and inclusion. The key point in all of the papers discussed was the need for adolescent services to be strategically geared towards the needs of children and young people, and I assure you that that will be a priority for the committee.

William Graham: Thank you for your reassurance. In the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee meeting this morning, we discussed the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service becoming part of the Welsh Assembly Government on 1 April and the way in which we are determined that there should be no concern about this and that it should always be the direct responsibility of one Minister. Do you share that concern and can you assure the Assembly that there will be no falling between two stools on CAF/CASS?

Jane Hutt: That is absolutely clear. You know that that responsibility now rests with the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration; it formerly rested with me as Minister for Health and Social Services. As Minister, Mrs Hart has clear responsibilities for this, but when issues relating to children needing CAF/CASS services interface with other policy areas, I am sure that they will come before the Cabinet committee.

hefyd drafod digartrefedd ymhlith y rhai sy'n gadael gofal a materion o ran pontio, y rhyngwyneb â gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl plant a'r glasoed, a chymorth i ddisgyblion a chynhwysiant. Y pwynt allweddol ym mhob un o'r papurau a drafodwyd oedd yr angen i wasanaethau i'r glasoed fod wedi'u hanelu'n strategol tuag at anghenion plant a phobl ifanc, a gallaf roi sicrwydd ichi y bydd hynny yn flaenoriaeth i'r pwyllgor.

William Graham: Diolch ichi am roi sicrwydd inni. Yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio y bore yma, bu inni drafod y Gwasanaeth Cynghori a Chynorthwyo Llys i Blant a Theuluoedd yn dod yn rhan o Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar 1 Ebrill a'r ffordd yr ydym yn benderfynol na ddylai fod pryder ynglŷn â hyn ac y dylai bob amser fod yn gyfrifoldeb uniongyrchol un Gweinidog. A rannwch y pryder hwnnw a allwch roi sicrwydd i'r Cynulliad na fydd unrhyw ansicrwydd ynglŷn â phwy sy'n gyfrifol am CAF/CASS?

Jane Hutt: Mae hynny yn hollol glir. Fe wyddoch mai'r Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio sy'n gyfrifol am hynny bellach; myfi fel y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol oedd yn gyfrifol gynt. Fel Gweinidog, mae gan Mrs Hart gyfrifoldebau clir dros hyn, ond pan fydd materion yn ymwneud â phlant y mae angen gwasanaethau CAF/CASS arnynt yn cyffwrdd â meysydd polisi eraill, yr wyf yn siŵr y deuant gerbron pwyllgor y Cabinet.

Bod yn Agored mewn Llywodraeth Openness in Government

Q2 Janet Davies: Will the Minister make a statement on openness in Government? OAQ0009(BM)

Jane Hutt: Our principles for maximising openness are set out in the Assembly's Code of Practice on Public Access to Information. The third edition of our code continues to go beyond the requirements imposed by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and builds on the considerable progress that we made before its commencement.

Janet Davies: The Labour Assembly Government has claimed to be a beacon of

C2 Janet Davies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar fod yn agored yn y Llywodraeth? OAQ0009(BM)

Jane Hutt: Nodir ein hegwyddorion ar gyfer sicrhau ein bod mor agored â phosibl yng Nghod Ymarfer y Cynulliad ar Ganiatáu i'r Cyhoedd Weld Gwybodaeth. Mae trydydd argraffiad ein cod yn parhau i fynd y tu hwnt i'r gofynion a osodir gan Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000 ac yn datblygu'r cynnydd sylweddol a wnaethom cyn iddi gychwyn.

Janet Davies: Mae Llywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad wedi honni ei bod yn esiampl o

open government, but that has been repeatedly disproved recently by revelations through the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Can you guarantee that the Labour Assembly Government will now become a truly open and transparent Government by, for example, putting all successful applications for public funds on a public website?

3.10 p.m.

Jane Hutt: The Labour-led Welsh Assembly Government has been releasing information for almost four years in a way that goes beyond what the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires, despite the fact that the Act was only fully commenced on 1 January 2005. The new code, which commenced on 1 January, goes even further by applying our successful approach to the Data Protection Act 1998 and new environmental information regulations. Therefore, this Government is at the forefront in terms of openness, and I am proud of that. Clearly, the issues that are arising in terms of freedom of information requests are being dealt with, and I am sure that that will include the information that you request.

Nick Bourne: Given the Minister's and the Government's commitment to open government, I wonder whether the Minister could answer the following written question, for which an answer is overdue: will she confirm or deny rumours that the idea of appointing a new Counsel General has now been dropped?

Jane Hutt: This is not a matter for me. Clearly, you have put that question through the right and normal processes and you will get a response.

Nick Bourne: As I said, the response is overdue, and I believed that you were responsible for open government. Presumably, it would have been a Cabinet decision, so I repeat the question: do you now intend to appoint a new Counsel General or not?

lywodraeth agored, ond mae hynny wedi'i wrthbrofi droeon yn ddiweddar yn sgîl datgeliadau drwy Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000. A allwch sicrhau y bydd Llywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad yn Llywodraeth wirioneddol agored a thryloyw o hyn ymlaen, er enghraifft, drwy roi pob cais llwyddiannus am arian cyhoeddus ar wefan gyhoeddus?

Jane Hutt: Bu Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru o dan arweiniad Llafur yn rhyddhau gwybodaeth am bron bedair blynedd mewn ffordd sy'n mynd y tu hwnt i'r hyn sy'n ofynnol o dan Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000, er gwaethaf y ffaith mai dim ond ar 1 Ionawr 2005 y cychwynwyd y Ddeddf yn llawn. Mae'r cod newydd, a gychwynodd ar 1 Ionawr, yn mynd hyd yn oed ymhellach drwy gymhwyso ein hymagwedd llwyddiannus tuag at Ddeddf Diogelu Data 1998 a'r rheoliadau gwybodaeth amgylcheddol newydd. Felly, mae'r Llywodraeth hon ar flaen y gad o ran bod yn agored, ac yr wyf yn falch o hynny. Mae'n amlwg yr ymdrinnir â'r materion sy'n codi mewn perthynas â cheisiadau o dan ryddid gwybodaeth, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd hynny'n cynnwys y wybodaeth y gofynnwch amdani.

Nick Bourne: O gofio ymrwymiad y Gweinidog a'r Llywodraeth i lywodraeth agored, tybed a allai'r Gweinidog ateb y cwestiwn ysgrifenedig canlynol, yr ydym wedi aros amser hir am ateb iddo: a wnaiff gadarnhau neu wadu'r sïon y rhoddwyd y gorau yn awr i'r syniad o benodi Cwnsler Cyffredinol newydd?

Jane Hutt: Nid mater i mi yw hyn. Mae'n amlwg eich bod wedi cyflwyno'r cwestiwn hwnnw drwy'r prosesau arferol cywir ac fe gewch ateb.

Nick Bourne: Fel y dywedais, yr ydym wedi aros amser hir am yr ateb, a chredais mai chi oedd yn gyfrifol am lywodraeth agored. Gellid tybio mai penderfyniad y Cabinet oedd hynny, felly ailadroddaf y cwestiwn: a fwriadwch benodi Cwnsler Cyffredinol newydd ai peidio?

Jane Hutt: It is not for me to answer that question. This is about how we are maximising the principles of openness. Your question relates to an operational matter for the Government, and it is not for me to respond.

Nick Bourne: I would have thought, given your Government's commitment to being an exemplar of open government—you are the Minister responsible for this—that you would be able to answer that question, if it has been decided at Cabinet level, as I presume it has. Are you going to appoint a new Counsel General, or has that idea been dropped in favour of appointing a senior Government lawyer?

Jane Hutt: This is unfortunate. I do not recall your party ever seeking to develop a freedom of information Act in all the years that you were in power. You never sought to develop the openness that we have developed with the code of practice on access to information, prior to the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Since 1 January, we have received 238 freedom of information requests, and they will be dealt with in due course.

Michael German: I am afraid that you failed to answer that question, so let us try another one. On 16 May 2002, you said, in respect of free personal care, that you were going to press the UK Government for the powers and resources to consider the matter in Wales. My colleague, Kirsty Williams, wrote to you on 19 January and Brian Gibbons replied on 18 February, stating that it had not been possible to collate the information to date. Why is it so difficult to find this correspondence?

Jane Hutt: It would be unfortunate if my questions in Plenary turned into another route for freedom of information requests. There is a due process, and we have a code of practice on access to information. As I said, we have received 238 requests since 1 January, which are being actively dealt with. You know that there is a timescale in terms of the code and the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and you also know that there is a procedure and process to be followed with regard to the

Jane Hutt: Nid fy nghyfrifoldeb i yw ateb y cwestiwn hwnnw. Mae a wnelo hyn â sut yr ydym yn sicrhau ein bod mor agored â phosibl. Mae a wnelo eich cwestiwn â mater gweithredol i'r Llywodraeth, ac nid fy lle i yw ymateb iddo.

Nick Bourne: Byddwn wedi credu, o gofio ymrwymiad eich Llywodraeth i fod yn esiampl o lywodraeth agored—chi yw'r Gweinidog sy'n gyfrifol am hyn—y gallech ateb y cwestiwn hwnnw, pe bai'r Cabinet wedi gwneud penderfyniad arno, a thylbiaf fod hynny wedi digwydd. A fyddwch yn penodi Cwnsler Cyffredinol newydd, neu a roddwyd y gorau i'r syniad hwnnw gan benderfynu penodi uwch gyfreithiwr y Llywodraeth yn lle hynny?

Jane Hutt: Mae hyn yn anffodus. Ni chofiaf eich plaid erioed yn ceisio datblygu Deddf rhyddid gwybodaeth yn yr holl flynyddoedd y buoch mewn grym. Ni wnaethoch erioed geisio datblygu'r natur agored yr ydym wedi'i datblygu drwy'r cod ymarfer ar ganiatáu i'r cyhoedd weld gwybodaeth, cyn Deddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000. Ers 1 Ionawr, yr ydym wedi cael 238 o geisiadau o dan ryddid gwybodaeth, ac ymdrinnir â hwy maes o law.

Michael German: Mae arnaf ofn ichi fethu ag ateb y cwestiwn hwnnw, felly byddaf yn gofyn un arall. Ar 16 Mai 2002, dywedasoch, mewn perthynas â gofal personol am ddim, eich bod yn mynd i bwysu ar Lywodraeth y DU am y pwerau a'r adnoddau i ystyried y mater yng Nghymru. Ysgrifennodd fy nghyd-Aelod, Kirsty Williams, atoch ar 19 Ionawr ac atebodd Brian Gibbons ar 18 Chwefror, gan nodi nad oedd wedi bod yn bosibl casglu'r wybodaeth hyd yma. Pam mae mor anodd dod o hyd i'r ohebiaeth hon?

Jane Hutt: Byddai'n anffodus pe bai fy nghwestiynau yn y Cyfarfod Llawn yn dod yn ffordd arall o wneud cais o dan ryddid gwybodaeth. Mae proses briodol, ac mae cod ymarfer ar ganiatáu i'r cyhoedd weld gwybodaeth gennym. Fel y dywedais, yr ydym wedi cael 238 o geisiadau ers 1 Ionawr, yr ydym wrthi'n ymdrin â hwy. Fe wyddoch fod amserlen o ran y cod a Deddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000, ac fe wyddoch hefyd fod gweithdrefn a phroses i'w dilyn o ran

complexity of the information requested. I am sure that you will receive the information that you require.

Michael German: The likelihood, Minister, is that you wrote one letter to the UK Government saying that you wanted the powers and the resources to introduce free personal care in Wales. However, Kirsty's letter was written a month ago and we are still waiting for an answer. If the freedom of information request cannot provide the answer in time, I would have thought that you would remember where the letter was sent and in which filing cabinet it was stored.

Jane Hutt: I know that you are trying to make mischief here, but what is important are the principles of openness. *[Interruption.]* Those principles are also for the people—*[Interruption.]*

The Presiding Officer: Order. I have already warned Members about shouting while they are seated. Members who do so in future will not be called if they try to catch my eye for further supplementary questions.

Jane Hutt: As I said, the Welsh Assembly Government has been at the forefront in maximising openness, and our code of practice was implemented well in advance of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provisions. You will get your information.

cymhlethdod y wybodaeth y gofynnir amdani. Yr wyf yn siŵr y cewch y wybodaeth sydd ei hangen arnoch.

Michael German: Mae'n debyg, Weinidog, ichi ysgrifennu un llythyr at Lywodraeth y DU yn nodi eich bod am gael y pwerau a'r adnoddau i gyflwyno gofal personol am ddim yng Nghymru. Fodd bynnag, ysgrifennwyd llythyr Kirsty fis yn ôl ac yr ydym yn dal i aros am ateb. Os na all y cais o dan ryddid gwybodaeth roi'r ateb mewn pryd, byddwn wedi credu y byddech yn cofio lle yr anfonwyd y llythyr ac ym mha gwprdd ffeilio y cafodd ei gadw.

Jane Hutt: Gwn eich bod yn ceisio creu trafferth yma, ond yr hyn sy'n bwysig yw egwyddorion bod yn agored. *[Torri ar draws.]* Mae'r egwyddorion hynny hefyd ar gyfer y bobl—*[Torri ar draws.]*

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Yr wyf wedi rhybuddio Aelodau eisoes ynghylch gweiddi pan fyddant ar eu heistedd. Ni chaiff Aelodau sy'n gwneud hynny yn y dyfodol eu galw os ceisiant ddal fy llygad er mwyn gofyn cwestiynau atodol eraill.

Jane Hutt: Fel y dywedais, bu Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar flaen y gad o ran sicrhau ein bod mor agored â phosibl, a rhoddwyd ein cod ymarfer ar waith ymhell cyn darpariaethau Deddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000. Fe gewch y wybodaeth honno.

Camwahaniaethu yn y Gweithle Discrimination in the Workplace

Q3 Janice Gregory: Will the Minister make a statement on discrimination in the workplace? OAQ0019(BM)

Jane Hutt: The Welsh Assembly Government is committed to eliminating discrimination in the workplace. The Assembly Government has a range of policies and has supported training for all staff, covering induction, dignity at work and grievance, to underpin this commitment.

Janice Gregory: We know that pregnancy should be an exciting and happy experience for all—*[Interruption.]* Shall I start again,

C3 Janice Gregory: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar wahaniaethu yn y gweithle? OAQ0019(BM)

Jane Hutt: Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ymrwymedig i ddileu gwahaniaethu yn y gweithle. Mae gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad amrywiaeth o bolisiau ac mae wedi cefnogi hyfforddiant i bob aelod o staff, yn cwmpasu sefydlu, urddas yn y gweithle a chwyno, i ategu'r ymrwymiad hwn.

Janice Gregory: Gwyddom y dylai bod yn feichiog fod yn brofiad cyffrous a hapus i bob—*[Torri ar draws.]* A ddylwn ddechrau

Llywydd? I do not know whether Members heard.

The Presiding Officer: I see no reason why you should start again, but I see every reason for Members to allow you to ask your question in relatively courteous silence.

Janice Gregory: Pregnancy should be an exciting and happy experience for all women. However, according to a recent report published by the Equal Opportunities Commission, the treatment of many pregnant women at work in Wales is unfair, unsafe and unlawful. The report highlights the harrowing experiences of pregnant women who are sacked, demoted, who receive pay cuts, are refused jobs or are bullied out of work after telling their employer about their pregnancy. Over 40 per cent of calls made to the EOC's advice line in Wales concern pregnancy discrimination. What plans does the Welsh Assembly Government have to implement the recommendations of the EOC's 'Time to Deliver' report?

Jane Hutt: That was an important report in terms of its findings. Each year, 30,000 working women in Britain are sacked as a result of their pregnancy. I can assure you that I have already received correspondence from Kate Bennett, the director of the Equal Opportunities Commission in Wales, and I am responding to her on the key recommendations that affect the Welsh Assembly Government. I want us to be an exemplar employer in this respect.

Jocelyn Davies: Would you agree that recruiting staff via agencies onto temporary contracts can amount to discrimination in the workplace? Such staff have poor employment protection, fewer rights, including rights during pregnancy, no pension, no prospect of promotion and lower wages. Will you outline your Government's policy in this respect—although I can see you nodding in agreement—as it seems that you are employing many staff on temporary contracts, some of whom have several years

eto, Lywydd? Ni wn a glywodd yr Aelodau yr hyn a ddywedais.

Y Llywydd: Ni welaf unrhyw reswm pam y dylech ddechrau eto, ond gwelaf bob rheswm pam y dylai Aelodau ganiatáu ichi ofyn eich cwestiwn gan fod yn gwrtais ac aros yn weddol dawel.

Janice Gregory: Dylai bod yn feichiog fod yn brofiad cyffrous a hapus i bob merch. Fodd bynnag, yn ôl adroddiad a gyhoeddwyd gan y Comisiwn Cyfle Cyfartal yn ddiweddar, mae'r ffordd y caiff llawer o ferched beichiog eu trin yng Nghymru yn annheg, yn anniogel ac yn anghyfreithlon. Mae'r adroddiad yn amlygu profiadau erchyll merched beichiog a gaiff eu diswyddo, a gaiff eu diraddio, a gaiff ostyngiad mewn cyflog, y gwrthodir rhoi swyddi iddynt neu a gaiff yn bwlio ar ôl dweud wrth eu cyflogwr eu bod yn feichiog ac felly maent yn penderfynu gadael y gwaith. Mae dros 40 y cant o alwadau a wneir i linell gyngor y Comisiwn yng Nghymru yn ymwneud â gwahaniaethu ar sail bod yn feichiog. Pa gynlluniau sydd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i weithredu argymhellion adroddiad y Comisiwn, 'Amser i Wireddu Addewidion'?

Jane Hutt: Yr oedd yr adroddiad hwnnw'n bwysig o ran ei ganfyddiadau. Bob blwyddyn, caiff 30,000 o ferched sy'n gweithio eu diswyddo o ganlyniad i'w bechiogrwydd. Gallaf eich sicrhau fy mod eisoes wedi cael gohebiaeth gan Kate Bennett, cyfarwyddwr y Comisiwn Cyfle Cyfartal yng Nghymru, ac yr wyf yn ymateb iddi ar yr argymhellion allweddol sy'n effeithio ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Yr wyf am inni fod yn gyflogwr enghreifftiol yn hyn o beth.

Jocelyn Davies: A fyddech yn cytuno y gall recriwtio staff drwy asiantaethau ar gcontractau dros dro fod yn enghraifft o wahaniaethu yn y gweithle? Mae gan staff o'r fath ddiogelwch cyflogaeth gwael, llai o hawliau, gan gynnwys hawliau yn ystod bechiogrwydd, dim pensiwn, dim gobaith o ddyrchafiad a chyflogau is. A amlinellwch bolisi eich Llywodraeth yn hyn o beth—er y gallaf weld eich bod yn nodio eich pen i gyntuno—oherwydd ymddengys eich bod yn cyflogi llawer o staff ar gcontractau dros dro,

of service? Will you undertake to publish the numbers and the length of service of those employed on temporary contracts by the Welsh Assembly Government?

Jane Hutt: I will look into that issue, as it is a key point in terms of recommendations to safeguard the rights of pregnant women for us as employers. That would involve giving pregnant women a written statement including, for example, their maternity rights and a key indication of our responsibilities as employers. I will explore the issue relating to temporary contracts, and the length of time that women employed by the Assembly are in that position.

Jonathan Morgan: For those people who suffer bullying in the workplace, it can be a most harrowing affair. It is important that employers can indicate what they are doing to prevent bullying in the workplace, and to stamp it out. As a major employer in Wales, will you give us an assurance that the Assembly Government is doing everything possible to set an example to other employers in Wales of stamping out any incidences of bullying or a bullying culture in the workplace?

Jane Hutt: As I am sure you are aware, our dignity at work policy was established to tackle all aspects of bullying, harassment, victimisation and discrimination in the workplace. Employment law policies support our dignity at work policy, therefore I will look at that issue in relation to our record.

y mae rhai ohonynt wedi gweithio sawl blwyddyn yma? A wnewch ymrwymo i gyhoeddi nifer y bobl a gyflogir ar contractau dros dro gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a hyd eu gwasanaeth?

Jane Hutt: Ymchwiliad i'r mater hwnnw, am ei fod yn bwynt allweddol o ran argymhellion i ddiogelu hawliau merched beichiog i ni fel cyflogwyr. Byddai hynny'n golygu rhoi datganiad ysgrifenedig i ferched beichiog gan gynnwys, er enghraifft, eu hawliau mamolaeth ac arwydd allweddol o'n cyfrifoldebau fel cyflogwyr. Archwiliad y mater o ran contractau dros dro, a'r hyd y mae merched a gyflogir gan y Cynulliad yn y sefyllfa honno.

Jonathan Morgan: I'r bobl hynny sy'n cael eu bwlio yn y gweithle, gall fod yn brofiad erchyll. Mae'n bwysig y gall cyflogwyr nodi'r hyn y maent yn ei wneud i atal bwlio yn y gweithle, a'i ddileu. Fel un o gyflogwyr mawr Cymru, a roddwch sicrwydd inni fod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn gwneud popeth o fewn ei gallu i osod esiampl i gyflogwyr eraill yng Nghymru drwy ddileu unrhyw achosion o fwlio neu ddiwylliant bwlio yn y gweithle?

Jane Hutt: Fel y gwyddoch, mae'n siŵr, sefydlwyd ein polisi urddas yn y gweithle i fynd i'r afael â phob agwedd ar fwlio, aflonyddu, erledigaeth a gwahaniaethu yn y gweithle. Mae polisiau cyfraith cyflogaeth yn ategu ein polisi urddas yn y gweithle, ac felly byddaf yn ystyried y mater hwnnw mewn perthynas â'n record.

Cyfle Cyfartal yn y Gweithle i Fenywod Equal Employment Opportunities For Women

Q4 Eleanor Burnham: Will the Minister make a statement on equal employment opportunities for women? OAQ0023(BM)

Jane Hutt: The Sex Discrimination Act 1975 makes it unlawful to discriminate against women in arrangements offering employment and promotion opportunities. The Assembly Government is an equal opportunities employer, offering a series of flexible working practices and supporting the Wales Trades Union Congress and Equal

C4 Eleanor Burnham: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar gyfle cyfartal yn y gweithle i fenywod? OAQ0023(BM)

Jane Hutt: Mae Deddf Gwahaniaethu ar sail Rhyw 1975 yn ei gwneud yn anghyfreithlon i wahaniaethu yn erbyn menywod mewn trefniadau sy'n cynnig cyfleoedd cyflogaeth a dyrchafiad. Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn gyflogwr cyfle cyfartal, sy'n cynnig cyfres o arferion gweithio hyblyg ac sy'n cefnogi Cynghres Undebau Llafur Cymru a'r

Opportunities Commission in their Close the Pay Gap campaign.

Eleanor Burnham: According to the Equal Opportunities Commission in Wales, of which I am sure you are aware, public, political and business life in Wales is massively under-representative of our society. Despite its toolkit to help firms to undertake pay audits and to review their pay systems in an holistic sense, a 14 per cent pay gap still exists between men and women. Only 20 per cent of senior civil servants, 9 per cent of local authority chief executives and 14 per cent of council leaders are women. What are you and the Welsh Assembly Government doing to address this imbalance and injustice, and to encourage organisations to address this issue in Wales?

Jane Hutt: As a gender-equal Assembly in terms of elected Members, we should be at the forefront of demonstrating and promoting equality. However, it is true that, not only in terms of looking at our staffing and our partners, we have a long way to go in Wales. I met the Women's National Commission earlier today, as I am sure many other Members did, and we discussed these issues. I will take this work forward in my new role.

3.20 p.m.

Alun Ffred Jones: On equality of opportunity, the Government will request an amendment to the Government of Wales Act 1998 to prevent candidates from standing both as constituency and as regional Assembly Members, in the interests of fairness. Will you also request to amend the Act to ensure that women-only shortlists are unchallengeable under the law?

Jane Hutt: This is a party-political issue; it does not relate to this question. The Labour Party has been extremely successful and has led the way in terms of its positive action on this front, which has enabled us not only to have such representation in the Assembly, but has also affected the selection of candidates across Wales for election to

Comisiwn Cyfle Cyfartal yn eu hymgyrch Cau'r Bwlch Cyflog.

Eleanor Burnham: Yn ôl y Comisiwn Cyfle Cyfartal yng Nghymru, y gwyddoch amdano, mae'n siŵr, nid yw bywyd cyhoeddus, gwleidyddol a busnes yng Nghymru yn cynrychioli ein cymdeithas o gwbl. Er gwaethaf ei becyn i helpu cwmnïau i gynnal archwiliadau o gyflogau ac i adolygu eu systemau cyflogau mewn ffordd gyfannol, mae bwlch cyflog o 14 y cant yn dal i fodoli rhwng dynion a menywod. Dim ond 20 y cant o uwch weision sifil, 9 y cant o brif weithredwyr awdurdodau lleol a 14 y cant o arweinwyr cynghorau sy'n fenywod. Beth yr ydych chi a Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ei wneud i ymdrin â'r anghydwysedd hwn a'r anghyfiawnder hwn, ac i annog sefydliadau i fynd i'r afael â'r mater hwn yng Nghymru?

Jane Hutt: Fel Cynulliad lle y ceir cydraddoldeb rhwng y rhywiau o ran Aelodau etholedig, dylem fod ar flaen y gad o ran dangos a hyrwyddo cydraddoldeb. Fodd bynnag, mae'n wir, nid dim ond o ran ystyried ein staff a'n partneriaid, fod llawer gennym i'w wneud yng Nghymru. Cyfarfûm â Chomisiwn Cenedlaethol y Merched yn gynharach heddiw, fel y gwnaeth sawl Aelod arall, mae'n siŵr, a bu inni drafod y materion hyn. Byddaf yn datblygu'r gwaith hwn yn fy rôl newydd.

Alun Ffred Jones: O ran cyfle cyfartal, bydd y Llywodraeth yn gofyn am i Ddeddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998 gael ei diwygio er mwyn atal ymgeiswyr rhag sefyll fel Aelodau Cynulliad etholaethol a rhanbarthol, er budd tegwch. A ofynnwch hefyd am i'r Ddeddf gael ei diwygio i sicrhau na ellir herio rhestr byrion sy'n cynnwys menywod yn unig o dan y gyfraith?

Jane Hutt: Mae hwn yn fater pleidiol; nid yw'n ymwneud â'r cwestiwn hwn. Bu'r Blaid Lafur yn hynod o lwyddiannus ac mae wedi arwain y ffordd o ran y camau cadarnhaol y mae wedi'u cymryd yn hyn o beth, sydd wedi ein galluogi i gael cynrychiolaeth o'r fath yn y Cynulliad, ac sydd hefyd wedi effeithio ar y ffordd y caiff ymgeiswyr eu dewis ledled

Westminster and other bodies.

Cymru i'w hethol i San Steffan a chyrrff eraill.

Lisa Francis: Childcare is important in ensuring that more women are able to work, and also in terms of equal opportunities. In the past, you said that Clybiau Plant Cymru is a vital partner to the Assembly Government, that you are working towards shared objectives and that you were confident that Clybiau Plant Cymru would be a vocal force within the wider childcare sector. What has changed since then, Minister, as its funding will now be cut from £1 million to £400,000?

Lisa Francis: Mae gofal plant yn bwysig i sicrhau y gall mwy o fenywod weithio, a hefyd o ran cyfle cyfartal. Yn y gorffennol, dywedasoch fod Clybiau Plant Cymru yn un o bartneriaid hollbwysig Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, eich bod yn gweithio tuag at amcanion a rennir a'ch bod yn hyderus y byddai Clybiau Plant Cymru yn llais amlwg yn y sector gofal plant ehangach. Beth sydd wedi newid ers hynny, Weinidog, oherwydd caiff yr arian a roddir iddynt ei ostwng o £1 filiwn i £400,000 yn awr?

Jane Hutt: Childcare is key to promoting equal opportunities and ensuring that children have the best start in life. That is why we appointed Brian Gibbons as chair of a childcare working-group. This group has now published its report, which is being consulted upon, and it will shortly be debated in this Chamber. I can assure you that Dr Brian Gibbons has met the staff of Clybiau Plant Cymru and has discussed the issue in relation to its funding.

Jane Hutt: Mae gofal plant yn allweddol i hyrwyddo cyfle cyfartal a sicrhau y caiff plant y cychwyn gorau mewn bywyd. Dyna pam y bu inni benodi Brian Gibbons fel cadeirydd gweithgor gofal plant. Mae'r gweithgor hwn wedi cyhoeddi ei adroddiad erbyn hyn, y cynhelir ymgynghoriad arno, a chynhelir dadl arno yn y Siambr hon cyn bo hir. Gallaf eich sicrhau bod Dr Brian Gibbons wedi cyfarfod â staff Clybiau Plant Cymru ac wedi trafod y sefyllfa o ran arian.

Statws Iaith Arwyddion Prydain The Status of British Sign Language

Q5 Peter Black: What dialogue has the Minister had with her colleagues in Westminster regarding the status of British sign language? OAQ0017(BM)

C5 Peter Black: Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cael gyda'i chydweinigion yn San Steffan ynghylch statws iaith arwyddion Prydain? OAQ0017(BM)

Jane Hutt: In March 2003, the UK Government recognised British sign language as a language in its own right. Responsibility for equality legislation is not devolved. In 2004, the Assembly Government established a BSL task and finish group, and I will now develop a project partnership to deliver a BSL apprenticeship scheme for Wales.

Jane Hutt: Ym mis Mawrth 2003, cydnabu Llywodraeth y DU iaith arwyddion Prydain fel iaith yn ei rhinwedd ei hun. Nid yw'r cyfrifoldeb dros ddeddfwriaeth cydraddoldeb wedi'i ddatganoli. Yn 2004, sefydlodd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen BSL, a byddaf yn datblygu partneriaeth brosiect yn awr i gyflwyno cynllun prentisiaeth BSL i Gymru.

Peter Black: Will you ask your task and finish group to consider the provision of education through BSL for children around Wales, which appears to be quite patchy? One of my constituents had to move their family to Bristol as they were not able to educate their child through the medium of BSL. When, after five or six years, they moved back to Swansea, they found that the

Peter Black: A ofynnwch i'ch grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen ystyried darpariaeth addysg drwy BSL i blant ledled Cymru, yr ymddengys ei bod yn eithaf anghyson? Bu'n rhaid i un o'm hetholwyr symud y teulu i Fryste oherwydd na allent addysgu eu plentyn drwy gyfrwng BSL. Pan symudasant yn ôl i Abertawe, ar ôl pump neu chwe blynedd, ailysgrifennodd y cyngor y

council virtually re-wrote the statement, because it was unable to match the level of provision that was available in Bristol. Do you agree that this postcode lottery in terms of BSL provision is unacceptable, and will you look at this as part of your deliberations?

Jane Hutt: Yes, that is precisely why the working party, chaired by Karen Sinclair, was set up. The recommendations that came forward from that were approved by the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration. There will be a broad-based project partnership, and four regional conferences are being organised. I will take forward the issues relating to education, not just for children but across the board, ensuring that the 400 people now training in BSL make a difference.

datganiad i raddau helaeth, gan na allai roi'r un lefel o ddarpariaeth a oedd ar gael ym Mryste. A gytunwch fod y loteri cod post hon o ran darpariaeth BSL yn annerbyniol, ac a ymchwiliwch i hyn fel rhan o'ch ystyriaethau?

Jane Hutt: Gwnaf, dyna pam y sefydlwyd y gweithgor, o dan gadeiryddiaeth Karen Sinclair. Cymeradwyodd y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio yr argymhellion a gynigwyd. Bydd partneriaeth brosiect eang, a threfnir pedair cynhadledd ranbarthol. Byddaf yn ymdrin â'r materion o ran addysg, nid dim ond i blant ond hefyd yn gyffredinol, gan sicrhau bod y 400 o bobl sy'n gwneud hyfforddiant BSL ar hyn o bryd yn gwneud gwahaniaeth.

Gweithredu Deddf Camwahaniaethu ar Sail Anabledd 1995 The Implementation of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995

Q6 Helen Mary Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the implementation of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 by public bodies? OAQ0012(BM)

Jane Hutt: Responsibility for implementing the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 is not devolved to the Assembly; it is the responsibility of the Department for Work and Pensions. The Assembly Government sought to raise awareness of the rights of access contained in the Act by funding conferences throughout Wales in 2002. It also works closely with the Disability Rights Commission and Disability Wales.

Helen Mary Jones: While you do not have responsibility for implementing the Act, your Government is responsible for resourcing public bodies in general. With regard to resourcing such bodies so that they can meet their requirements under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, I hope that you will acknowledge that major issues need to be addressed. For example, the City and County of Swansea council estimates that it needs £40 million to bring just its schools—without considering other public buildings for which it is responsible—into compliance with the Act. Given your new cross-cutting portfolio, will you undertake to hold discussions with Ministers across their range of

C6 Helen Mary Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar weithredu'r Ddeddf Gwahaniaethu ar sail Anabledd mewn cyrff cyhoeddus? OAQ0012(BM)

Jane Hutt: Nid yw'r cyfrifoldeb dros weithredu Deddf Gwahaniaethu ar sail Anabledd wedi'i ddatganoli i'r Cynulliad; cyfrifoldeb yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau ydyw. Ceisiodd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad godi ymwybyddiaeth o'r hawliau mynediad a gynhwysir yn y Ddeddf drwy ariannu cynadleddau ledled Cymru yn 2002. Mae hefyd yn cydweithio'n agos â'r Comisiwn Hawliau Anabledd ac Anabledd Cymru.

Helen Mary Jones: Er nad ydych yn gyfrifol am weithredu'r Ddeddf, mae eich Llywodraeth yn gyfrifol am gyllido cyrff cyhoeddus yn gyffredinol. O ran cyllido cyrff o'r fath fel y gallant fodloni eu gofynion o dan Ddeddf Gwahaniaethu ar sail Anabledd 1995, gobeithiaf y byddwch yn cydnabod bod angen ymdrin â materion pwysig. Er enghraifft, mae cyngor Dinas a Sir Caerdydd yn amcangyfrif bod angen £40 miliwn arno i sicrhau bod ei ysgolion—heb ystyried adeiladau cyhoeddus eraill y mae'n gyfrifol amdanynt—yn cydymffurfio â'r Ddeddf. O gofio eich portffolio trawsbynciol newydd, a wnewch ymrwymo i gynnal trafodaethau gyda Gweinidogion ar draws eu hystod o

responsibilities to consider how you can support public bodies in Wales to meet their full needs with regard to compliance?

Jane Hutt: It is important that this relates to Part III of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, which was extended in October. The Department for Work and Pensions is presently consulting about this, and I will certainly discuss these issues with my colleagues. You know, of course, that the UK Government is not providing financial aid to service providers, but it is an issue that we need to consider together.

gyfrifoldebau er mwyn ystyried sut y gallwch helpu cyrff cyhoeddus yng Nghymru i ddiwallu eu hanghenion llawn o ran cydymffurfiaeth?

Jane Hutt: Mae'n bwysig bod hyn yn ymwneud â Rhan III Deddf Gwahaniaethu ar sail Anabledd 1995, a estynnwyd ym mis Hydref. Mae'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau yn cynnal ymgynghoriad ar hyn ar hyn o bryd, a byddaf yn sicr yn trafod y materion hyn gyda fy nghyd-Weinidogion. Fe wyddoch, wrth gwrs, nad yw Llywodraeth y DU yn rhoi cymorth ariannol i ddarparwyr gwasanaethau, ond mae'n fater y mae angen inni ei ystyried gyda'n gilydd.

Cyhoeddiadau yn Ieithoedd Cymunedau Lleiafrifoedd Ethnig Cymru Publications in the Languages of Wales's Ethnic Minority Communities

Q7 Jenny Randerson: Will the Minister make a statement on making Assembly Government publications available in the languages of Wales's ethnic minority communities? OAQ0018(BM)

Jane Hutt: The Assembly Government will endeavour to use minority languages and is committed to increasing their use as much as possible in its publications.

Jenny Randerson: It is important that we cater for the needs of ethnic minorities as part of treating those communities with respect. Do you agree that, in view of the prospect of a forthcoming election, it is more important than ever for us to be sensitive to this issue and election literature should avoid racist campaigning? In your role as co-ordinator on equal opportunities and open government, will you undertake to engage all the parties represented here in an agreement to that effect, and to discuss how political parties can ensure that there are robust sanctions against any Members who break this commitment?

Jane Hutt: That is a welcome suggestion, which I will follow up.

C7 Jenny Randerson: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar ryddhau cyhoeddiadau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ieithoedd cymunedau lleiafrifoedd ethnig Cymru? OAQ0018(BM)

Jane Hutt: Bydd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ceisio defnyddio ieithoedd lleiafrifol ac mae'n ymrwymedig i gynyddu'r defnydd a wneir ohonynt yn ei chyhoeddiadau gymaint â phosibl.

Jenny Randerson: Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn diwallu anghenion lleiafrifoedd ethnig fel rhan o'r broses o barchu'r cymunedau hynny. O ystyried y caiff etholiad ei gynnal yn fuan, a gytunwch ei bod yn bwysicach nag erioed inni fod yn ystyriol o'r mater hwn ac na ddylai deunyddiau'r etholiad gynnwys ymgyrchu hiliol? Yn eich rôl fel cydgysylltydd cyfle cyfartal a llywodraeth agored, a wnewch addo cynnwys pob plaid a gynrychiolir yma mewn cytundeb i'r perwyl hwnnw, a thrafod sut y gall pleidiau gwleidyddol sicrhau y caiff unrhyw Aelod sy'n torri'r addewid hon ei gosbi'n llym?

Jane Hutt: Croesawaf yr awgrym hwnnw, a byddaf yn ymchwilio iddo.

Dolenni Sain Cludadwy Portable Induction Loops

Q8 Ann Jones: Will the Minister make a

C8 Ann Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog

statement about the availability of portable induction loops? OAQ0015(BM)

Jane Hutt: The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 requires service providers to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate the needs of disabled people. This includes the provision of auxiliary aids or services, such as portable induction loops.

Ann Jones: I thank you for your interest in deaf issues when in your previous post, and I hope that the all-party group on deaf issues enjoys good relations with you as part of your new responsibilities. Would you look into a situation that arose recently, in which the only conference room in this building with a fixed loop system was booked and so group members were unable to avail themselves of the portable induction loop system currently held by the Welsh Assembly Government at Cathays park? The all-party group is now faced with having to hire one of these systems in order to hold a meeting. It seems rather silly that taxpayers' money is being used in that way, when there is a system over at Cathays park that is not in use.

Jane Hutt: I would like to hear more of your experience of being unable to access the loop system. I understand that the new building will be an exemplar in terms of accessibility for all, but I will certainly inquire into the issue of portable induction loops in this building via the House Committee.

ddatganiad am y dolenni sain cludadwy sydd ar gael? OAQ0015(BM)

Jane Hutt: Mae Deddf Gwahaniaethu ar sail Anabledd 1995 yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i ddarparwyr gwasanaethau wneud addasiadau rhesymol i ddiwallu anghenion pobl anabl. Mae hyn yn cynnwys darparu cymhorthion neu wasanaethau ategol, megis dolenni sain cludadwy.

Ann Jones: Diolchaf ichi am eich diddordeb mewn materion pobl fyddar pan oeddech yn eich swydd flaenorol, a gobeithiaf fod gan y grŵp hollbleidiol ar faterion pobl fyddar gydberthynas dda â chi fel rhan o'ch cyfrifoldebau newydd. A wnewch ymchwilio i sefyllfa a gododd yn ddiweddar, lle yr oedd yr unig ystafell gynadledda yn yr adeilad hwn sydd â system dolen sefydlog yn cael ei defnyddio ac felly ni allai aelodau'r grŵp ddefnyddio'r system dolenni sain cludadwy sydd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ym mharc Cathays ar hyn o bryd? Mae'r grŵp hollbleidiol bellach yn gorfod llogi un o'r systemau hyn er mwyn cynnal cyfarfod. Ymddengys ei bod yn hurt braidd bod arian trethdalwyr yn cael ei ddefnyddio yn y ffordd honno, pan fo system ym mharc Cathays na chaiff ei defnyddio.

Jane Hutt: Hoffwn glywed mwy am eich profiad o beidio â gallu defnyddio'r system dolenni. Deallaf y bydd yr adeilad newydd yn esiampl o ran hygyrchedd i bawb, ond byddaf yn sicr yn holi ynghylch y dolennu sain cludadwy yn yr adeilad hwn drwy Bwyllgor y Tŷ.

Cymorth â Chyfathrebu i Bobl Fyddar Communication Support Services for Deaf People

Q9 Ann Jones: Will the Minister make a statement about the availability of British sign language, lip speaking, palantype and other communication support services for deaf people in Wales? OAQ0014(BM)

Jane Hutt: In June 2004, the Assembly Government established a task and finish group, to which I referred when answering Peter Black, to increase the numbers of qualified British sign language interpreters in Wales, and to make recommendations for improvements to services. I am developing a

C9 Ann Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar y gwasanaethau BSL, gwefus-lefaru, palandeipio a'r gwasanaethau eraill sydd ar gael i roi cymorth â chyfathrebu i bobl fyddar yng Nghymru? OAQ0014(BM)

Jane Hutt: Ym mis Mehefin 2004, sefydlodd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad grŵp gorchwyl a gorffenn, y cyfeiriaais ato wrth ateb cwstiwn Peter Black, i gynyddu nifer y dehonglwyr iaith arwyddion Prydain cymwysedig yng Nghymru, ac i gynnig argymhellion i wella gwasanaethau. Yr wyf yn datblygu

project partnership to deliver the BSL interpreter service.

Ann Jones: You will recall that we had discussions following the publication of 'A Simple Cure', which states that many deaf people are excluded from health services. However, we also found that that was true of public services in general, because of a perceived lack of provision for the needs of deaf people. You will be familiar with the example of Cardiff Local Health Board, which employed a sign language translator and, once the deaf community found out about that, the use of the service shot up drastically. That then leads to the problem of unmet demand in the community. Will you ask your colleagues to undertake an audit of the communication support services offered by our essential public services, and, equally important, of how effectively they are publicised and what sort of notice is required by people in the deaf community to avail themselves of those services?

Jane Hutt: That builds on the work that the BSL task and finish group developed. Certainly, it is a question of mainstreaming equality across the Assembly in partnership with local government, the health service and the voluntary sector, and I will follow it through with those bodies.

The Presiding Officer: No doubt these questions to the Business Minister on her other responsibilities will settle down one of these days.

3.30 p.m.

Datganiad gan y Gweinidog Cyllid ar y Strategaeth Leoli Statement by the Finance Minister on the Location Strategy

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I am pleased to report on the progress being made under our location strategy. The key aims of the strategy are to move our functions and delivery of services closer to the citizens of Wales, to bring together functions that fit the social and economic features of an area and provide a first-stop shop for everyone, and to

partneriaeth brosiect i darparu gwasanaeth dehonglwyr BSL.

Ann Jones: Fe gofiwch inni gael trafodaethau ar ôl i'r ddogfen 'A Simple Cure' gael ei chyhoeddi, sy'n nodi y caiff llawer o bobl fyddar eu heithrio o wasanaethau iechyd. Fodd bynnag, bu inni ganfod hefyd bod hynny'n wir am wasanaethau cyhoeddus yn gyffredinol, oherwydd y diffyg canfyddedig yn y ddarpariaeth ar gyfer anghenion pobl fyddar. Byddwch yn gyfarwydd ag enghraifft Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Caerdydd, a gyflogodd gyfieithydd iaith arwyddion. Ar ôl i bobl fyddar ddod i wybod am hynny, defnyddiwyd y gwasanaeth llawer mwy. Mae hynny'n arwain wedyn at alw nas bodlonir ymhlith pobl fyddar. A ofynnwch am archwiliad o'r gwasanaethau sy'n rhoi cymorth â chyfathrebu a gynigir gan ein gwasanaethau cyhoeddus hanfodol, ac, yr un mor bwysig, o ba mor effeithiol y rhoddir cyhoeddusrwydd iddynt a pha fath o rybudd sydd ei angen ar bobl fyddar i fanteisio ar y gwasanaethau hynny?

Jane Hutt: Mae hynny'n adeiladu ar y gwaith a ddatblygodd grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen iaith arwyddion Prydain. Yn sicr, mae a wnelo â phrif ffrydio cydraddoldeb ar draws y Cynulliad mewn partneriaeth â llywodraeth leol, y gwasanaeth iechyd a'r sector gwirfoddol, a byddaf yn mynd ar drywydd hynny drwy'r cyrff hynny.

Y Llywydd: Yn ddi-au, bydd y cwestiynau hyn i'r Trefnydd ar ei chyfrifoldebau eraill yn dod i ben rywbryd.

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Sue Essex): Mae'n bleser gennyf gyflwyno adroddiad ar y cynnydd a wneir o dan ein strategaeth leoli. Nodau allweddol y strategaeth yw sicrhau bod ein swyddogaethau a'r broses o ddarparu gwasanaethau yn agosach at ddinasyddion Cymru, dod â swyddogaethau sy'n gweddu i nodweddion cymdeithasol ac economaidd

achieve greater dispersal of Welsh Assembly Government offices to relieve pressures on the Cardiff offices.

In 2002, the Assembly undertook a strategic review to identify the direction for the future organisation. The result was the Fullerton report, which set out several basic findings and recommendations for organisational change. One of the core recommendations was that the Assembly could no longer sustain having the majority of its operational functions located in and around Cardiff.

This approach is at the heart of our policy set out in 'Making the Connections: Delivering Better Services for Wales', published in October last year. The underpinning principle of this is that the way forward for public services in Wales is through collaboration and co-operation, not competition. A second big theme is putting the citizen and community centre stage. Moving functions in this way will provide good career opportunities in local areas and will better reflect the diversity of the people of Wales. It will contribute to improving the local economies of those Objective 1 areas at which the strategy is directed.

Good progress has been made. My colleague, the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport, recently opened the new Cadw offices at Nantgarw, which has freed up much needed space in Cathays park. The Merthyr office is the next step in the implementation of the strategy. Work is expected to start on site soon, and occupation is planned for mid 2006. In November last year I reconfirmed the functions that would be moving to Merthyr Tydfil as the Communities Directorate, the Community Safety Unit, the Housing Directorate, the Welsh European Funding Office, the Rent Officer Service and the Voluntary Sector Unit. About 450 posts will move into the new office, of which 345 are being relocated from Cardiff.

ardal ynghyd, a darparu siop un stop i bawb, a sicrhau bod swyddfeydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cael eu gwasgaru'n ehangach er mwyn lleihau'r pwysau ar swyddfeydd Caerdydd.

Yn 2002, cynhaliodd y Cynulliad adolygiad strategol er mwyn nodi cyfeiriad y sefydliad yn y dyfodol. O ganlyniad, cyhoeddwyd adroddiad Fullerton a nododd sawl canfyddiad sylfaenol ac argymhellion ar gyfer newid trefniadol. Un o'r argymhellion craidd oedd na allai'r Cynulliad barhau i leoli mwyafrif ei swyddogaethau gweithredol yng Nghaerdydd ac o'i hamgylch.

Mae'r ymagwedd hon wrth wraidd ein polisi a nodir yn 'Creu'r Cysylltiadau: Gwell Gwasanaethau i Gymru', a gyhoeddwyd ym mis Hydref y llynedd. Egwyddor sylfaenol yr ymagwedd hon yw mai drwy gydweithredu a chydweithio, nid cystadleuaeth, y gall gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru symud ymlaen. Ail thema fawr yw canolbwyntio ar y dinesydd a'r gymuned. Bydd symud swyddogaethau yn y ffordd hon yn darparu cyfleoedd gyrfa da mewn ardaloedd lleol ac yn adlewyrchu'n well yr amrywiaeth o bobl a geir yng Nghymru. Bydd yn cyfrannu at wella economïau lleol yr ardaloedd Amcan 1 hynny y mae'r strategaeth yn eu targedu.

Gwnaethpwyd cynnydd da. Yn ddiweddar, agorodd fy nghyd-Weinidog, y Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon, swyddfeydd newydd Cadw yn Nantgarw, sydd wedi rhyddhau lle ym mharc Cathays yr oedd ei angen yn fawr. Swyddfa Merthyr yw'r cam nesaf wrth weithredu'r strategaeth. Disgwylir i'r gwaith ddechrau ar y safle yn fuan, a bwriedir i'r swyddfa fod yn barod i'w defnyddio erbyn canol 2006. Fis Tachwedd diwethaf ailgadarnheais y swyddogaethau a fyddai'n symud i Ferthyr Tudful sef y Gyfarwyddiaeth Gymunedau, yr Uned Diogelwch Cymunedol, y Gyfarwyddiaeth Dai, Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru, Gwasanaeth y Swyddogion Rhenti ac Uned y Sector Gwirfoddol. Bydd tua 450 o swyddi yn symud i'r swyddfa newydd, y mae 345 ohonynt yn cael eu hadleoli o Gaerdydd.

Work has been ongoing to identify the precise functions that should be located in the new offices in north Wales at Llandudno Junction, and in mid Wales at the Aberystwyth offices. Decisions have now been taken on what these should be. I am conscious of time, so I will not read out the list of those functions to be transferred, but this information should now be before all Members. The Permanent Secretary informed staff members of the posts to be transferred earlier this afternoon, and it is only right that those affected should be the first to know.

In November, I announced that the main focus of the Llandudno Junction office will be those parts of the education and lifelong learning, and economic development and transport, departments most closely related to the services provided by Education and Learning Wales, the Welsh Development Agency and the Wales Tourist Board. In addition to those functions, I previously identified several other functions, including the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales, the Health and Social Care Department and parts of the Finance Division, which will also be located in Llandudno. Around 525 posts will be located in the north Wales office, with room for expansion. Around 130 of these posts will be relocated from Cardiff, with scope for further posts to be relocated in the future.

The Aberystwyth office will focus on countryside and rural functions and services. In broad terms, the functions that will be housed there will relate to environment, planning and countryside, Cymru Ar-lein, WEFO and existing WDA posts. The Forestry Commission, which is based in Aberystwyth, will also move into the new office, as will the Countryside Council for Wales, which is currently based in two separate offices in Aberystwyth. Full details are contained in the list before you.

In total, around 500 posts will be based in Aberystwyth, with room for expansion. Approximately 179 of these will be relocated from Cardiff. Both offices will house a

Mae gwaith wedi bod yn mynd rhagddo i nodi'r union swyddogaethau y dylid eu lleoli yn y swyddfeydd newydd yn y Gogledd yng Nghyffordd Llandudno, ac yn y Canolbarth yn swyddfeydd Aberystwyth. Gwnaethpwyd penderfyniadau yn eu cylch bellach. Yr wyf yn ymwybodol o amser, felly ni wnaif ddarllen y rhestr o'r swyddogaethau hynny i'w trosglwyddo, ond dylai'r wybodaeth hon fod gerbron pob Aelod erbyn hyn. Hysbysodd yr Ysgrifennydd Parhaol aelodau o staff o'r swyddi i'w trosglwyddo yn gynharach y prynhawn yma, ac nid yw ond yn deg hysbysu'r rhai yr effeithir arnynt yn gyntaf.

Ym mis Tachwedd, cyhoeddais mai prif ffocws y swyddfa yng Nghyffordd Llandudno fydd y rhannau hynny o'r adrannau addysg a dysgu gydol oes a datblygu economaidd a thrafnidiaeth sydd â'r cysylltiad agosaf â'r gwasanaethau a ddarperir gan Dysgu ac Addysgu Cymru, Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru a Bwrdd Croeso Cymru. Yn ogystal â'r swyddogaethau hynny, nodais sawl swyddogaeth arall yn flaenorol, gan gynnwys Arolygiaeth Safonau Gofal Cymru, yr Adran Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol a rhannau o'r Is-adran Cyllid, a fydd hefyd yn cael eu lleoli yn Llandudno. Caiff tua 525 o swyddi eu lleoli yn y swyddfa yn y Gogledd, gyda'r posibilrwydd o ehangu. Bydd tua 130 o'r rhain yn cael eu hadleoli o Gaerdydd, gyda'r posibilrwydd o adleoli swyddi eraill yn y dyfodol.

Bydd swyddfa Aberystwyth yn canolbwyntio ar swyddogaethau a gwasanaethau cefn gwlad a gwledig. Yn gyffredinol, bydd y swyddogaethau a leolir yno yn ymwneud â'r amgylchedd, cynllunio a chefn gwlad, Cymru Ar-lein, Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru a swyddi sy'n bodoli eisoes o fewn y WDA. Bydd y Comisiwn Coedwigaeth, a leolir yn Aberystwyth, hefyd yn symud i'r swyddfa newydd, yn ogystal â Chyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru, a leolir mewn dwy swyddfa ar wahân yn Aberystwyth ar hyn o bryd. Ceir manylion llawn yn y rhestr o'ch blaenau.

Bydd cyfanswm o tua 500 o swyddi yn cael eu lleoli yn Aberystwyth, gyda'r posibilrwydd o ehangu. Bydd tua 179 o'r rhain yn cael eu hadleoli o Gaerdydd. Bydd y

generic element that will serve as a first-stop shop for the public. Our approach in identifying the functions to relocate has been to improve efficiency by bringing together existing functions and services in the local area, making savings through the rationalisation of local offices, and achieving the aims that I set out above by relocating posts from Cardiff.

In total, around 750 posts will have moved from Cardiff to Objective 1 areas within the next three years. The relocation of a mixture of front-line and policy functions on this scale will provide a major boost for the local economies, and a good career structure for staff. It is a big step in our plan to spread the benefits of Assembly employment more evenly throughout Wales. It will bring the planning and delivery of Assembly Government policy and services closer to where it needs to be.

The decision to merge several Assembly sponsored public bodies with the relevant departments has increased the opportunity to provide an effective service for all, from individuals to community businesses, social enterprise and major investors. It will contribute to our aim of providing a service that responds to the individual needs of different communities, and provides accessible services tailored to users' needs.

Today, the Permanent Secretary issued a letter to the trade union side outlining the details of the human resources package that will be made available to support staff. I hope that most of the staff in the posts affected will choose to move with their work. We will work with those staff who decide not to move with their posts to help them to secure alternative posts in the Assembly or in the wider public sector. Under a new relocation contract that will be tendered, provision will be made to support the partners of staff relocating to either Llandudno Junction or Aberystwyth to find employment in the new location. In addition, we will provide staff and their families with access to a helpline service, a drop-in centre and a confidential stress and personal support service. We are

ddwy swyddfa yn cynnwys elfen gyffredinol a fydd yn gweithredu fel siop un stop i'r cyhoedd. Ein hymagwedd wrth nodi'r swyddogaethau i'w hadleoli fu gwella effeithlonrwydd drwy ddod â swyddogaethau a gwasanaethau presennol ynghyd yn yr ardal leol, gwneud arbedion drwy ad-drefnu swyddfeydd lleol, a chyflawni'r nodau a nodais uchod drwy adleoli swyddi o Gaerdydd.

Bydd cyfanswm o tua 750 o swyddi wedi symud o Gaerdydd i ardaloedd Amcan 1 o fewn y tair blynedd nesaf. Bydd y broses o adleoli cymysgedd o swyddogaethau rheng flaen a pholisi ar y raddfa hon yn rhoi hwb mawr i economïau lleol, ac yn rhoi strwythur gyrfa da i staff. Mae'n gam mawr yn ein cynllun i ledaenu manteision cyflogaeth yn y Cynulliad yn fwy cyfartal ledled Cymru. Bydd yn sicrhau bod y gwaith o gynllunio a chyflwyno polisiau a gwasanaethau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn agosach at y man y mae angen iddo fod.

Mae'r penderfyniad i uno sawl corff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad â'r adrannau perthnasol wedi cynyddu'r cyfle i ddarparu gwasanaeth effeithiol i bawb, o unigolion i fusnesau cymunedol, mentrau cymdeithasol a buddsoddwyr mawr. Bydd yn cyfrannu at ein nod o ddarparu gwasanaeth sy'n diwallu anghenion unigol cymunedau gwahanol, ac yn darparu gwasanaethau hygyrch sydd wedi'u teilwra i anghenion defnyddwyr.

Heddiw, anfonodd yr Ysgrifennydd Parhaol lythyr at yr undebau llafur yn amlinellu manylion y pecyn adnoddau dynol a fydd ar gael i staff cymorth. Gobeithiaf y bydd y rhan fwyaf o'r staff yn y swyddi yr effeithir arnynt yn dewis symud gyda'u gwaith. Byddwn yn gweithio gyda'r staff hynny sy'n penderfynu peidio â symud gyda'u swyddi er mwyn eu helpu i sicrhau swyddi eraill yn y Cynulliad neu yn y sector cyhoeddus ehangach. O dan gontract adleoli newydd a gaiff ei dendro, byddwn yn rhoi cymorth i bartneriaid staff sy'n adleoli i naill ai Cyffordd Llandudno neu Aberystwyth er mwyn iddynt ddod o hyd i waith yn y lleoliad newydd. Yn ogystal, byddwn yn darparu gwasanaeth llinell gymorth, canolfan galw heibio a gwasanaeth straen a chymorth personol cyfrinachol ar

managing the move in close discussions with the trade union, and have agreed with it the approach that underpins this statement. We are encouraging staff to contribute their views and to become closely involved in the delivery of all moves under the location strategy.

Elin Jones: Yr wyf yn falch o glywed eich datganiad manwl, sy'n rhoi mwy o eglurder ar eich strategaeth adleoli nag a gawsom hyd yn hyn. Gwyddoch fod Plaid Cymru, o'r cychwyn, wedi cefnogi y strategaeth hon i adleoli swyddi o Gaerdydd, er y byddwn wedi hoffi gweld strategaeth mwy sylweddol, gyda mwy o swyddi yn cael eu datganoli o Gaerdydd na'r 654 a gadarnhawyd heddiw. Cawn weld a fydd hynny'n bosibl yn y dyfodol. Yn bersonol, yr wyf yn falch iawn bod Aberystwyth ymhlith y tri lleoliad, gan wyrddroi polisi'r Torïaid yn nechrau'r 1990au o ganoli, pan symudwyd swyddfa amaeth Aberystwyth o Drawscoed i Gaerdydd.

Er ein bod yn cytuno â bwriad y strategaeth, tynnaf eich sylw at un gwendid yn eich datganiad, sy'n effeithio ar y swyddfeydd yn Llandudno ac Aberystwyth yn benodol, sef eich bwriad i adleoli swyddi o gymunedau eraill yn ardal Amcan 1 i Llandudno ac Aberystwyth. Yn benodol, bydd swyddi yn cael eu symud o Aberaeron a Machynlleth i Aberystwyth, gan gau swyddfeydd Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru a Bwrdd Croeso Cymru ym Machynlleth. Bydd hyn yn siŵr o gael effaith andwyol ar y trefi hyn, ac ar y staff yno, sy'n byw hyd at awr a hanner i ffwrdd o Aberystwyth. Mae hynny'n wir hefyd am symud swyddi o Gaernarfon i Gyffordd Llandudno. Bydd hynny yn cael effaith negyddol ar Gaernarfon, sy'n ddwfn o fewn ardal Amcan 1. A ydych wedi cael trafodaethau â'r cynghorau sir perthnasol ar y newidiadau hyn, a beth oedd eu hymateb?

O ran Aberystwyth, pryd y gallwch gadarnhau union leoliad y swyddfa newydd yno? Hwnnw yw'r unig leoliad yr ydych heb ei gadarnhau hyd yn hyn, ac nid oedd yn eich datganiad heddiw.

O ran yr amserlen ar gyfer hyn i gyd, pryd bydd y swyddfeydd yn Aberystwyth a

gyfer staff a'u teuluoedd. Yr ydym yn rheoli'r adleoli hwn drwy gynnal trafodaethau â'r undeb llafur, ac yr ydym wedi cytuno ag ef ar yr ymagwedd sy'n ategu'r datganiad hwn. Yr ydym yn annog staff i leisio eu barn a bod yn rhan fawr o'r holl broses symud o dan y strategaeth leoli.

Elin Jones: I was pleased to hear your detailed statement, which provides more clarity on your relocation strategy than we have had so far. As you know, Plaid Cymru has supported this strategy to relocate jobs from Cardiff from the outset, although we would have liked to see a more substantial strategy, with more than the 654 jobs confirmed today decentralised from Cardiff. We will see whether that will be possible in the future. Personally, I am pleased that Aberystwyth is among the three locations, thereby overturning the Tories' policy of centralisation at the beginning of the 1990s, when the Aberystwyth agricultural office was moved from Trawscoed to Cardiff.

Although we agree with the aim of the strategy, I draw your attention to a flaw in your statement, which specifically affects the offices at Llandudno and Aberystwyth, namely your intention to relocate posts from other communities in the Objective 1 area to Llandudno and Aberystwyth. Jobs are to be moved from Aberaeron and Machynlleth to Aberystwyth, leading to the closure of the Welsh European Funding Office and the Wales Tourist Board offices in Machynlleth. This is sure to have a detrimental effect on those towns, and on the staff there, who live up to an hour and a half from Aberystwyth. The same is true of the relocation of jobs from Caernarfon to Llandudno Junction. That will have a negative effect on Caernarfon, which is well within the Objective 1 area. Have you held discussions with the relevant county councils on these changes, and what was their response?

With regard to Aberystwyth, when will you be able to confirm the exact location of the new office there? That is the only location that you have not confirmed so far, and you did not do so in your statement today.

With regard to the timetable for all this, when will the offices in Aberystwyth and

Chyffordd Llandudno yn agor eu drysau? I gloi ar nodyn personol, i'r staff yng Nghaerdydd a glywodd heddiw y bydd eu swyddi yn trosglwyddo i Aberystwyth, ac a fydd yn ystyried maes o law a ydynt am symud yno, dywedaf ei bod yn dref fach 'olreit', a'i bod yn lle digon neis i fyw ynddo.

Sue Essex: I am sure that it is. I was there only recently.

You raised several points. Yes, some small offices will be closed, and I appreciate the worries and, perhaps, sadness associated with that. There are aspects of concentration to this, but, if you look at this in the wider context, we will be able to provide, in purpose-made accommodation, the ability for people to work and network together, which is part of 'Making the Connections'. There is also the issue of career progression and being able to progress and perhaps to move from organisation to organisation, which is important in our public sector initiative. I hope that we will also send out a message to young people, in particular, but not exclusively, that it is possible to have a career in the public service over a wide range of subject areas. I hope that both these new buildings will be a credit to us in that regard.

3.40 p.m.

In terms of the involvement of local authorities, they know about the wider aims of the location strategy, and have been in touch with us. There has been some dialogue. I cannot, hand on heart, say whether every one of these small office closures has been flagged up to the local authorities. I will find out and let you know.

I hope to announce the exact location of the office in Aberystwyth fairly soon. Negotiations are ongoing. We hope that the building will be ready by spring 2008. This is in line with our aspirations in the Wales spatial plan: Aberystwyth has been selected, as you know, as an area where we see an opportunity for growth, and it has grown enormously in recent years. As you say, Aberystwyth has much to offer. I hope that those whose jobs are concerned will want to move, as you said. We will work with them

Llandudno Junction open their doors? To end on a personal note, for the staff in Cardiff who heard today that their jobs are to be transferred to Aberystwyth, and who may soon have to decide whether they want to move there, I say that it is an all right little town, and a nice enough place in which to live.

Sue Essex: Yr wyf yn siŵr ei bod hi. Yr oeddwn yno yn ddiweddar iawn.

Codasoch sawl pwynt. Mae'n wir y bydd rhai swyddfeydd bach yn cau, a gwerthfawrogaf y pryderon a fynegir ac, efallai, y tristwch sy'n gysylltiedig â hynny. Ceir elfennau o grynhoi staff yn hyn o beth, ond, os edrychwch ar hyn yn y cyd-destun ehangach, byddwn yn gallu darparu, mewn llety pwrpasol, y gallu i bobl weithio a rhwydweithio gyda'i gilydd, sy'n rhan o 'Creu'r Cysylltiadau'. Ceir y mater hefyd o ran datblygiad gyrfa a'r gallu i gamu ymlaen ac efallai symud o sefydliad i sefydliad, sy'n bwysig yn ein menter sector cyhoeddus. Gobeithiaf y byddwn hefyd yn cyfleu neges i bobl ifanc, yn arbennig, ond nid yn unig, ei bod yn bosibl cael gyrfa yn y gwasanaeth cyhoeddus mewn ystod eang o feysydd pwnc. Gobeithiaf y bydd y ddau adeilad newydd hyn yn glod inni yn hynny o beth.

O ran cyfranogiad awdurdodau lleol, maent yn ymwybodol o nodau ehangach y strategaeth leoli, ac maent wedi cysylltu â ni. Cynhaliwyd rhywfaint o drafodaeth. Ni allaf, â'm llaw ar fy nghalon, ddweud pa un a yw'r awdurdodau lleol wedi'u hysbysu am bob un o'r swyddfeydd bach hyn sy'n cau. Byddaf yn holi am hynny a'ch hysbysu maes o law.

Gobeithiaf gyhoeddi union leoliad y swyddfa yn Aberystwyth cyn bo hir. Mae trafodaethau'n mynd rhagddynt. Gobeithiwn y bydd yr adeilad yn barod erbyn gwanwyn 2008. Mae hyn yn unol â'n dyheadau yng nghynllun gofodol Cymru: mae Aberystwyth wedi'i dewis, fel y gwyddoch, fel ardal lle y gwelwn gyfle i dyfu, ac mae wedi tyfu'n aruthrol yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Fel y dywedwch, mae gan Aberystwyth lawer i'w gynnig. Gobeithiaf y bydd y rhai yr effeithir ar eu swyddi am symud, fel y

to provide support. For those who choose not to move, we will provide other support and see what other jobs are on offer.

Glyn Davies: I welcome the Minister's announcement today. We welcome the trend of moving jobs out of Cardiff to other parts of Wales, and the spreading of the economic prosperity that we need to see throughout Wales across the country.

The Government is making a virtue out of a necessity, to some extent, because it has employed huge numbers of additional staff. There is no room for them in Cardiff, and the Government is therefore moving them to other parts of Wales. It would be interesting to look at the percentage of people employed in Cardiff in the future, and whether that figure will also decline, showing that you have a genuine commitment to spreading jobs throughout Wales, rather than this just being a matter of expanding elsewhere because the offices in Cardiff are too full.

I have two specific questions. First, what plans do you have to extend this to west Wales? Today, you have talked about mid and north Wales. There is a significant need for the same kind of principle to operate in west Wales. We have talked in a number of areas about creating employment in all parts of Wales. The Government itself is creating a lot of the extra employment and it is important that it recognises that 'all parts of Wales' includes west Wales.

My second question relates to the number of jobs that are moving from Machynlleth to Aberystwyth. This causes me particular concern. Machynlleth has experienced quite a lot of difficulty, and many morale-sapping and negative things have happened, such as the threat to the local hospital, and difficulties in recruiting people to carry out the mental health aspects of the hospital's work. This announcement is depressing for the people of Machynlleth. So, within the good news, there is this element of bad news. Can you tell us how many jobs will move from Machynlleth to Aberystwyth, so that when I, inevitably, have calls following this announcement today

dywedasoeh. Byddwn yn gweithio gyda hwy i roi cymorth iddynt. Ar gyfer y rhai sy'n dewis peidio â symud, byddwn yn rhoi mathau eraill o gymorth iddynt a gweld pa swyddi eraill sydd ar gael.

Glyn Davies: Croesawaf gyhoeddiad y Gweinidog heddiw. Croesawn y duedd o symud swyddi allan o Gaerdydd i rannau eraill o Gymru, a lledaenu'r ffyniant economaidd y mae angen inni ei weld ledled Cymru.

Mae'r Llywodraeth yn troi rhaid yn rhinwedd, i ryw raddau, oherwydd mae wedi cyflogi niferoedd mawr o staff ychwanegol. Nid oes lle iddynt yng Nghaerdydd, ac felly mae'r Llywodraeth yn eu symud i rannau eraill o Gymru. Byddai'n ddiddorol edrych ar y ganran o bobl a gyflogir yng Nghaerdydd yn y dyfodol, a pha un a fydd y ffigur hwnnw hefyd yn gostwng, gan ddangos bod gennyh ymrwymiad gwirioneddol i ledaenu swyddi ledled Cymru, yn hytrach na gweld hwn fel mater o ehangu rywle arall am fod y swyddfeydd yng Nghaerdydd yn rhy llawn.

Mae gennyf ddau gwestiwn penodol. Yn gyntaf, pa gynlluniau sydd gennyh i ymestyn hyn i'r Gorllewin? Heddiw, yr ydych wedi sôn am y Canolbarth a'r Gogledd. Mae angen sylweddol i'r un fath o egwyddor weithredu yn y Gorllewin. Yr ydym wedi siarad mewn nifer o feysydd am greu swyddi ym mhob rhan o Gymru. Mae'r Llywodraeth ei hun yn creu llawer o'r swyddi ychwanegol ac mae'n bwysig ei bod yn cydnabod bod 'pob rhan o Gymru' yn cynnwys y Gorllewin.

Mae fy ail gwestiwn yn ymwneud â nifer y swyddi sy'n symud o Fachynlleth i Aberystwyth. Mae hyn yn peri pryder arbennig imi. Mae Machynlleth wedi wynebu cryn anhawster, ac mae llawer o bethau wedi digwydd sydd wedi tanseilio morâl ac sydd wedi bod yn negyddol, megis y bygythiad i'r ysbyty lleol, ac anawsterau wrth recriwtio pobl i gyflawni'r agweddau iechyd meddwl ar waith yr ysbyty. Mae'r cyhoeddiad hwn yn dorcalonnus i bobl Machynlleth. Felly, yn y newyddion da, ceir yr elfen hon o newyddion drwg. A allwch ddweud wrthym faint o swyddi a fydd yn symud o Fachynlleth i Aberystwyth, er mwyn imi feddu ar ddarlun

I have a clear picture as to the number of jobs that will move, and the impact on Machynlleth?

Sue Essex: Thank you, Glyn, for your overall support—albeit that you qualified it a little as you went on. Once the relocation is complete, there will be roughly a 60:40 split, with 60 per cent of staff in Cardiff and 40 per cent elsewhere. This has been fully thought out. My predecessor as Finance Minister, Edwina Hart, started the ball rolling on it. It is set within a wider context, and is not just a matter of places being picked off the map and of functions being picked out of nowhere. It is a comprehensive view of how modern governance needs to be in a country such as Wales post devolution. We recognise the economic and social benefits of public-sector offices. I share your views about Machynlleth, and I know that it will hurt the local community. However, there is an issue, as you know, with having a scattering of small offices, and, in many cases, there are issues of economic substance associated with that dispersal. There are benefits to be gained from people working together in the way that I described to Elin. Therefore, we have offered various organisations the option to come in and join us in those offices.

In terms of where this might go in the future—and Elin also highlighted this point—it is difficult to say. This is currently phase 1 and is a big move for us to make as a Government. It affects a lot of the staff and we need to do this sensibly and carefully. We have three years in which to achieve this. There are public offices in west Wales—I think that there is an agriculture office in Carmarthen and the WDA has offices on Edwina's patch, and there are various other offices. When you consider the map of Wales, we want to ensure that there is reasonable distribution throughout the country. However, on the Merthyr Tydfil office and the Cadw office in Nantgarw in the Valleys, there was a commitment to try to move more public sector jobs into that area. The Cadw move has taken place, the Merthyr Tydfil move is about to start with the work on site beginning in a week or two, and then

clir o nifer y swyddi a fydd yn symud, a'r effaith ar Fachynlleth, pan fyddaf yn anochel yn derbyn galwadau yn dilyn y cyhoeddiad hwn heddiw?

Sue Essex: Diolch, Glyn, am eich cefnogaeth gyffredinol—er nad cefnogaeth ddiamod ydoedd yn y pen draw. Unwaith y caiff y broses adleoli ei chwblhau, bydd rhaniad 60:40 yn fras, gyda 60 y cant o staff yng Nghaerdydd a 40 y cant mewn lleoliadau eraill. Ystyriwyd hyn yn llawn. Edwina Hart, fy rhagflaenydd fel Gweinidog Cyllid, a ddechreuodd ar y broses hon. Fe'i gosodir mewn cyd-destun ehangach, ac nid dim ond mater o ddewis lleoedd oddi ar y map a dewis swyddogaethau ar hap ydyw. Mae'n ddarlun cynhwysfawr o sut y mae angen i lywodraethu modern fod mewn gwlad fel Cymru ar ôl datganoli. Cydnabyddwn fanteision economaidd a chymdeithasol swyddfeydd y sector cyhoeddus. Rhannaf eich barn ynghylch Machynlleth, a gwn y bydd yn niweidio'r gymuned leol. Fodd bynnag, ceir dadl, fel y gwyddoch, dros wasgaru swyddfeydd bach, ac, mewn sawl achos, mae materion o ran sylwedd economaidd yn gysylltiedig â'r gwasgaru hwnnw. Ceir manteision sy'n deillio o bobl yn cydweithio yn y modd a ddisgrifiais i Elin. Felly, yr ydym wedi rhoi'r cyfle i sefydliadau amrywiol ymuno â ni yn y swyddfeydd hynny.

O ran y cyfeiriad yn y dyfodol—ac amlygodd Elin y pwynt hwn hefyd—mae'n anodd dweud. Cam 1 yw hwn ar hyn o bryd ac mae'n gam mawr inni ei gymryd fel Llywodraeth. Mae'n effeithio ar lawer o'r staff ac mae angen inni wneud hyn mewn modd synhwyrol a gofalus. Mae gennym dair blynedd i gyflawni hyn. Ceir swyddfeydd cyhoeddus yn y Gorllewin—credaf fod swyddfa amaethyddol yng Nghaerfyrddin ac mae gan y WDA swyddfeydd yn ardal Edwina, a cheir swyddfeydd amrywiol eraill. Pan ystyriwch y map o Gymru, yr ydym am sicrhau dosbarthiad rhesymol ledled y wlad. Fodd bynnag, o ran y swyddfa ym Merthyr Tudful a swyddfa Cadw yn Nantgarw yn y Cymoedd, yr oedd ymrwymiad i geisio symud mwy o swyddi'r sector cyhoeddus i'r ardal honno. Mae swyddfa Cadw wedi symud, mae'r broses o symud i swyddfa Merthyr Tudful ar fin dechrau gyda'r gwaith

there will be the move to Llandudno Junction and Aberystwyth. Therefore, this is a substantial change and move. It is important to us that we keep an eye on things and think about where this might lead in the future.

On your comment on public sector jobs, I am happy with, and will defend, the public sector jobs that we have. We have the care standards service, which has created new jobs and has an important role. Devolution requires effective government. We need civil servants if only to answer the many Assembly questions that are asked. I am happy to defend the number of staff that we have and I hope that everyone agrees with that. I think that there is a general accord that it is sensible to follow this process of dispersal and relocation.

Michael German: The thrust of the strategy is correct. The Liberal Democrats would support the notion that you must devolve Government beyond the river Taff. It is a welcome move and I particularly welcome the move to Merthyr Tydfil. However, there are two tests to carry out when you consider the three key sections of the strategy that you highlighted in your statement. First, you must test how much devolution will take place out of Cardiff, because that is the principal thrust of your statement, which you took from the Fullerton report. Secondly, you must test what impact this will have on regional centres within Wales where people are moving within a region. For that reason, I will concentrate my remarks on Aberystwyth and Llandudno Junction. If you take Aberystwyth and Llandudno Junction together, then you have told us today that there will be 1,025 jobs accountable to the Welsh Assembly Government in those places. Of those, 304 will move from Cardiff. Therefore, the percentage of jobs moving out of Cardiff to those two offices is 30 per cent. I admit that the figures are a lot higher for Merthyr Tydfil—345 out of 450 jobs are moving there—and that is to be welcomed. However, having only a 30 per cent outward migration from Cardiff does not generate a

ar y safle yn dechrau mewn wythnos neu ddwy, ac yna ceir y broses o symud swyddfeydd i Gyffordd Llandudno ac Aberystwyth. Felly, mae hwn yn newid sylweddol ac yn symud sylweddol. Mae'n bwysig inni gadw llygad ar bethau ac ystyried at beth y gallai hyn arwain yn y dyfodol.

O ran eich sylw ar swyddi'r sector cyhoeddus, yr wyf yn fodlon ar swyddi'r sector cyhoeddus sydd gennym, a byddaf yn eu hamddiffyn. Mae gennym y gwasanaeth safonau gofal, sydd wedi creu swyddi newydd ac sy'n chwarae rhan bwysig. Mae datganoli yn gofyn am lywodraethu effeithiol. Mae arnom angen gweision sifil petai ond i ateb y lliaws o gwestiynau Cynulliad a ofynnir. Yr wyf yn barod i amddiffyn nifer y staff sydd gennym a gobeithiaf fod pawb yn cytuno â hynny. Credaf fod cytundeb cyffredinol ei bod yn synhwyrol ymgymryd â'r broses hon o wasgaru ac adleoli.

Michael German: Mae byrdwn y strategaeth yn gywir. Byddai'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn cefnogi'r cysyniad bod yn rhaid ichi ddatganoli Llywodraeth y tu hwnt i afon Taf. Croesewir y cam hwn a chroesawaf yn arbennig symud swyddi i Ferthyr Tudful. Fodd bynnag, mae angen cynnal dau brawf wrth ystyried tair adran allweddol y strategaeth a amlygwyd gennych yn eich datganiad. Yn gyntaf, rhaid ichi brofi faint o ddatganoli a fydd yn digwydd y tu allan i Gaerdydd, oherwydd dyna brif fyrddwn eich datganiad, a ddeilliodd o adroddiad Fullerton. Yn ail, rhaid ichi brofi'r effaith a gaiff hyn ar ganolfannau rhanbarthol o fewn Cymru lle y mae pobl yn symud o fewn rhanbarth. Am y rheswm hwnnw, bydd fy sylwadau yn canolbwyntio ar Aberystwyth a Chyffordd Llandudno. Os ystyriwch Aberystwyth a Chyffordd Llandudno gyda'i gilydd, yna yr ydych wedi dweud wrthym heddiw y bydd 1,025 o swyddi yn atebol i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn y lleoedd hynny. O'r rheini, bydd 304 yn symud o Gaerdydd. Felly, 30 y cant yw'r ganran o swyddi sy'n symud o Gaerdydd i'r ddwy swyddfa hynny. Cyfaddefaf fod y ffigurau'n llawer uwch ar gyfer Merthyr Tudful—mae 345 o 450 o swyddi yn symud yno—a chroesewir hynny. Fodd bynnag, nid yw dim ond 30 y cant o

greater emphasis on moving core services out than it does in Merthyr Tydfil. Can you comment on the impact that this will have and whether or not this is a first stage?

Perhaps more worrying and concerning—and I note the comments made by Elin and Glyn—is the subject of my second query, which is the impact on areas in Wales where current jobs will be lost. If you look around Wales, and mid Wales in particular, we have centres in Carmarthen, Llandrindod Wells, Newtown and Machynlleth. Moving jobs to Llandrindod Wells from the surrounding region could have been achieved slightly differently. I am quite familiar with the WEFO offices in Machynlleth as I have visited them for many meetings. They are comfortable offices and there is a pleasant environment in which to work. Given the population of Machynlleth and the number of jobs at a fairly high level that it sustains, and the number of people who live in Machynlleth or thereabouts, it will have a fairly major impact on that community when jobs are moved out. Can you give us an assessment of your expectation that people will eventually want to move closer to their place of work—as we know from experience—and what impact that would have on Machynlleth?

3.50 p.m.

The second area is Llandrindod Wells where there is a Government office that is a substantive part of the local economy. The economy could have been boosted in that central location, which is known and loved by all of us because of the meetings that we regularly attend there. Llandrindod Wells could have become a centre for the part of Wales that is not receiving any net new jobs out of Cardiff. Could the common agricultural policy management and rural affairs divisions not have been located there? What discussions did you have with departmental officials and unions about that relocation?

I wonder whether a 30 per cent move out of Cardiff will achieve more than the

ymfudo allan o Gaerdydd yn rhoi mwy o bwyslais ar symud gwasanaethau craidd allan o gymharu â Merthyr Tudful. A allwch ddweud rhywbeth am yr effaith y bydd hyn yn ei chael a pha un ai dyma'r cam cyntaf ai peidio?

Efallai mai'r hyn sy'n peri mwy o bryder—a nodaf y sylwadau a wnaed gan Elin a Glyn—yw pwnc fy ail ymholiad, sef yr effaith ar ardaloedd yng Nghymru lle y collir swyddi presennol. Os edrychwch o amgylch Cymru, ac ar y Canolbarth yn arbennig, mae gennym ganolfannau yng Nghaerfyrddin, Llandrindod, y Drenewydd a Machynlleth. Byddai wedi bod yn bosibl symud swyddi i Landrindod o'r rhanbarth cyfagos mewn ffordd ychydig yn wahanol. Yr wyf yn eithaf cyfarwydd â swyddfeydd Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru ym Machynlleth gan fy mod wedi ymweld â hwy ar gyfer sawl cyfarfod. Maent yn swyddfeydd braf a cheir amgylchedd gwaith dymunol yno. O ystyried poblogaeth Machynlleth a nifer y swyddi ar lefel eithaf uchel a geir yno, a nifer y bobl sy'n byw ym Machynlleth a'r cyffiniau, bydd yn cael effaith eithaf mawr ar y gymuned honno pan symudir swyddi oddi yno. A allwch roi asesiad inni o'ch disgwyliad y bydd pobl yn y pen draw am symud yn agosach at eu gweithle—fel y gwyddom o brofiad—a pha effaith y byddai hynny yn ei chael ar Fachynlleth?

Yr ail ardal yw Llandrindod lle ceir un o swyddfeydd y Llywodraeth sy'n rhan sylweddol o'r economi leol. Gellid bod wedi hybu'r economi yn y lleoliad canolog hwnnw, sy'n gyfarwydd i bob un ohonom ac yr ydym oll yn hoff ohono oherwydd y cyfarfodydd yr ydym yn eu mynychu yno'n rheolaidd. Gellid bod wedi datblygu Llandrindod yn ganolfan ar gyfer y rhan o Gymru nad yw'n cael unrhyw swyddi net newydd o Gaerdydd. Oni ellid bod wedi lleoli is-adran rheoli'r polisi amaethyddol cyffredin a'r is-adran materion gwledig yno? Pa drafodaethau a gawsoch gyda swyddogion yr adrannau a'r undebau ynghylch yr adleoli hwnnw?

Tybed a fydd symud 30 y cant o swyddi allan o Gaerdydd yn cyflawni mwy na'r

redistribution within mid Wales, which will achieve losses in communities that could well have been supported. People will now have to travel huge distances. They will have to travel to Aberystwyth when there are clearly other centres of economic activity in mid Wales.

Sue Essex: You could have any permutation of these offices, and if we had followed your line, other people would be asking 'Did you ever consider doing it this way?'. That is the issue. There are many different permutations. However, if you go back to the guiding principles of what we are trying to do with 'Making the Connections', you must admit that there are benefits at times of being slightly bigger and being together. That is a key cornerstone of this matter. There are benefits to doing this in terms of trying to develop a public sector presence and an ability to work together that will be big enough to make a real impact. That is a judgment call that we have been playing through the spatial plan.

On Machynlleth, I quite understand that people working there may not want to work in Aberystwyth, but it is do-able as many people already live in Machynlleth and work in Aberystwyth. We considered Aberystwyth to be not only 'nice', in Elin's terms, but a hub that could support a range of things and could be a very accessible centre. This is about making judgments about centres that could acquire added benefits, if we gave them part of the growth strategy. On Llandrindod, we are not moving any jobs away. We could have used that centre and made it a central focus, but that was not picked out in the spatial plan as something that needed to be done in that way. Different people would make different decisions.

On whether this move out of Cardiff is enough, I think that substantial figures are coming out. We must bear in mind that we are talking about people's lives. We are

aiddosbarthu yn y Canolbarth, a fydd yn arwain at golledion o fewn cymunedau y gellid bod wedi'u cynnal. Bydd yn rhaid i bobl deithio'n bell yn awr. Bydd yn rhaid iddynt deithio i Aberystwyth pan geir canolfannau eraill o weithgarwch economaidd yn y Canolbarth, a hynny'n amlwg.

Sue Essex: Gallech gael unrhyw gyfuniad o'r swyddfeydd hyn, a phe byddem wedi gweithredu yn unol â'ch awgrym chi, byddai pobl eraill yn holi 'A wnaethoch erioed ystyried ei wneud fel hyn?'. Dyna graidd y mater. Ceir llawer o gyfuniadau. Fodd bynnag, os cyfeiriwch yn ôl at yr egwyddorion sylfaenol o ran yr hyn yr ydym yn ceisio ei wneud gyda 'Creu'r Cysylltiadau', rhaid ichi gyfaddef bod manteision ar adegau yn sgîl bod ychydig yn fwy ac yn unedig. Mae hynny'n gonglfaen allweddol o ran y mater hwn. Ceir manteision yn sgîl gwneud hyn o ran ceisio datblygu presenoldeb y sector cyhoeddus a gallu i gydweithio a fydd yn ddigon mawr i gael effaith wirioneddol. Dyna'r mater yr ydym wedi bod yn ei bwysu a'i fesur drwy'r cynllun gofodol.

O ran Machynlleth, deallaf efallai na fydd pobl sy'n gweithio yno am weithio yn Aberystwyth, ond mae'n bosibl gan fod llawer o bobl eisoes yn byw ym Machynlleth ac yn gweithio yn Aberystwyth. Yn ein barn ni yr oedd Aberystwyth nid yn unig yn 'neis', fel y dywedodd Elin, ond yn ganolbwynt a allai gynnal amrywiaeth o bethau ac a allai fod yn ganolfan hygyrch iawn. Mae hyn yn ymwneud â llunio barn ynghylch canolfannau a allai gael manteision ychwanegol, pe byddem yn rhoi rhywfaint o'r strategaeth twf iddynt. O ran Llandrindod, nid ydym yn symud unrhyw swyddi oddi yno. Gallem fod wedi defnyddio'r ganolfan honno a'i gwneud yn ganolbwynt, ond ni nodwyd hynny yn y cynllun gofodol fel rhywbeth yr oedd angen ei wneud yn y ffordd honno. Byddai pobl wahanol yn gwneud penderfyniadau gwahanol.

O ran pa un a yw nifer y swyddi a gaiff eu symud o Gaerdydd yn ddigon, credaf fod ffigurau sylweddol yn cael eu nodi. Rhaid inni gofio ein bod yn sôn am fywydau pobl.

conscious that for posts to move there will be an impact on families, and that is why we also included the issue about partners' jobs because, increasingly, there is not a sole breadwinner. We are aware of that and we are trying to do this in a manageable way, as part of a package that was agreed and supported by the trade unions.

On the rural functions that are to be transferred, I have had good and detailed discussions with Carwyn Jones, the Minister with responsibility for the countryside. We are reassuring everyone in terms of business continuity, and having a three-year transfer period will provide enough time to enable people to adjust and make the necessary changes in their lives. We certainly want to be sensitive about issues concerning change. The way that we have carried this strategy so far, and the fact that we have the support of the trade unions, illustrates that we are being sensitive and cognisant of individual circumstances.

Alun Ffred Jones: Pwrpas yr adleoli hwn oedd symud swyddi allan o Gaerdydd, nid canoli swyddi'r Gogledd mewn un lle. Ni fydd symud pobl o Gaernarfon neu Fangor i Llandudno o help i lefel gwerth ychwanegol crynswth Gwynedd, er enghraifft. O ran swyddi Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, er enghraifft, bydd swyddfa Llandudno awr a hanner oddi wrth ardal Cymunedau yn Gyntaf Pen Llŷn. Gofynnaf ddau gwestiwn yn benodol. Mae 10 swydd yn mynd o'r arolygiaeth safonau gofal yng Nghaernarfon. Mae hynny'n gadael tua 20 swydd yno. A ellwch sicrhau y bydd y swyddi hynny yn ddiogel i Gaernarfon yn y dyfodol? Yn ail, faint o swyddi fydd yn mynd o swyddfa Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru ym Mangor i Llandudno, a beth fydd dyfodol gweddill y swyddi yn swyddfa Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru ym Mangor, gan ei fod yn chwilio am gartref newydd ar hyn o bryd?

Sue Essex: If organisations want to take advantage of this, that is a matter for them. We are providing the strategic base, and interest has been shown by other organisations regarding relocating their offices there. I cannot give you the exact

Yr ydym yn ymwybodol o'r ffaith y bydd symud swyddi yn cael effaith ar deuluoedd, a dyna'r rheswm y cynhwyswyd y mater ynghylch swyddi partneriaid oherwydd, yn gynyddol, nid un enillydd cyflog yn unig a geir mewn teulu. Yr ydym yn ymwybodol o hynny ac yr ydym yn ceisio gwneud hyn mewn modd y gellir ei reoli, fel rhan o becyn y cytunwyd arno ac a gefnogwyd gan yr undebau llafur.

O ran y swyddogaethau gwledig a gaiff eu trosglwyddo, yr wyf wedi cael trafodaethau da a manwl gyda Carwyn Jones, y Gweinidog sy'n gyfrifol am gefn gwlad. Yr ydym wrthi'n tawelu meddyliau pawb o ran parhad busnes, a bydd cyfnod trosglwyddo tair blynedd yn rhoi digon o amser i bobl addasu a gwneud y newidiadau angenrheidiol i'w bywydau. Yn sicr, yr ydym am fod yn sensitif ynghylch materion sy'n ymwneud â newid. Mae'r ffordd yr ydym wedi cyflwyno'r strategaeth hon hyd yma, a'r ffaith bod yr undebau llafur yn ein cefnogi, yn dangos ein bod yn sensitif ac yn ymwybodol o amgylchiadau unigol.

Alun Ffred Jones: The purpose of this relocation was to move jobs out of Cardiff, not to centralise north Wales's jobs in one place. Moving people from Caernarfon or Bangor to Llandudno will not help Gwynedd's gross value added levels, for example. On Communities First jobs, for example, the Llandudno office is an hour and a half away from the Llein Peninsula Communities First area. I have two specific questions. There are 10 jobs moving from the care standards inspectorate at Caernarfon, which leaves around 20 jobs there. Can you ensure that those 20 jobs in Caernarfon are safe for the future? Secondly, how many jobs are being relocated from the Countryside Council for Wales office in Bangor to Llandudno, and what will happen to the rest of the jobs at the Countryside Council for Wales office in Bangor, given that it is currently looking for a new home?

Sue Essex: Os yw sefydliadau am fanteisio ar hyn, eu penderfyniad hwy yw hynny. Yr ydym yn darparu'r sylfaen strategol, a dangoswyd diddordeb gan sefydliadau eraill ynghylch adleoli eu swyddfeydd yno. Ni allaf roi'r union ffigur ichi ar gyfer y swyddi yng

figure for the jobs at Caernarfon, but I think that 11 posts are involved in the CCW move. You have to be realistic in the modern world. There are advantages to concentration, in terms of conditions and opportunities for staff, in the way that I have set out; and there has been a great deal of interest from organisations in being part and parcel of a central service. As I said to Mike, this is about getting a balance, not saying that everything has to go to one place, whether that is north Wales or mid Wales. It is about setting up developments that are large enough to be a driver within the local economy—that is certainly true in terms of Merthyr. It is not, however, the whole story; there are many other offices that will be distributed, and will remain distributed, throughout Wales. However, I will get an answer on the Caernarfon question to you. I am sure that I have the information in my papers, but, rather than get it wrong, I will check and ensure that you receive it.

Lisa Francis: Regarding mid Wales, you did not say how many jobs would move from Machynlleth to Aberystwyth.

Sue Essex: Again, I have the figures on that somewhere, and I will make sure that you receive them.

Mick Bates: I am sure that we all appreciate the difficulties in making these decisions in terms of a location strategy. However, it appears to me that, far from being a location strategy, it has become a devastation strategy for Machynlleth. As the constituency Member, I ask what discussions you have held with Ministers dealing with other portfolios—such as economic development and transport, and, possibly, environment, planning and countryside—in order to undertake an assessment of the economic impact of losing what I believe will be over 30 jobs from Machynlleth. The Welsh European Funding Office currently employs about 27 staff there, and there are five or six staff employed by the Wales Tourist Board there. Both those offices have provided an excellent service and I am concerned that you should talk to the other Ministers so that you can give us some indication of how you will assist this town. We have lost many

Nghaernarfon, ond credaf fod 11 o swyddi yn gysylltiedig â symud swyddfa Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru. Rhaid ichi fod yn realistig yn y byd modern. Ceir manteision yn sgîl crynhoi staff, o ran amodau a chyfleoedd i staff, yn y ffordd yr wyf wedi'i nodi; ac mae sefydliadau wedi dangos llawer o ddiddordeb mewn bod yn rhan o wasanaeth canolog. Fel y dywedais wrth Mike, mae hyn yn ymwneud â sicrhau cydbwysedd, nid dweud bod yn rhaid i bopeth fynd i un man, boed hynny yn y Gogledd neu'r Canolbarth. Mae a wnelo â rhoi datblygiadau ar waith sy'n ddigon mawr i lywio'r economi leol—mae hynny'n wir ym Merthyr yn bendant. Fodd bynnag, nid dyma'r stori gyfan; bydd llawer o swyddfeydd eraill yn cael eu dosbarthu, ac yn parhau i gael eu dosbarthu, ledled Cymru. Fodd bynnag, cysylltaf â chi gydag ateb ar y cwestiwn ynghylch Caernarfon. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod y wybodaeth yn fy mhapurau ond, yn hytrach na rhoi'r wybodaeth anghywir ichi, byddaf yn ei gwirio ac yn sicrhau eich bod yn ei derbyn.

Lisa Francis: O ran y Canolbarth, ni ddywedasoch faint o swyddi a fyddai'n symud o Fachynlleth i Aberystwyth.

Sue Essex: Unwaith eto, mae gennyf y ffigurau ar gyfer hynny rywle, a byddaf yn sicrhau eich bod yn eu derbyn.

Mick Bates: Yr wyf yn siŵr ein bod oll yn gwerthfawrogi'r anawsterau wrth wneud y penderfyniadau hyn o ran strategaeth adleoli. Fodd bynnag, ymddengys imi, yn hytrach na bod yn strategaeth adleoli, ei bod yn strategaeth ddinistrio i Fachynlleth. Fel yr Aelod etholaethol, gofynnaf pa drafodaethau yr ydych wedi'u cael gyda Gweinidogion sy'n ymdrin â phortffolios eraill—fel datblygu economaidd a thrafnidiaeth, ac, efallai, yr amgylchedd, cynllunio a chefn gwlad—er mwyn cynnal asesiad o effaith economaidd colli dros 30 o swyddi ym Machynlleth, yn ôl yr hyn y deallaf. Mae Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru yn cyflogi tua 27 aelod o staff yno ar hyn o bryd, a chyflogir pump neu chwe aelod o staff gan Fwrdd Croeso Cymru yno. Mae'r ddwy swyddfa hyn wedi darparu gwasanaeth ardderchog a chredaf y dylech siarad â'r Gweinidogion eraill er mwyn ichi allu rhoi rhyw fath o syniad inni o sut y byddwch yn

manufacturing jobs in mid Wales, and this will come as yet another blow to the morale of this area. You will be well aware that, when a decline sets in, it is very difficult to reverse, and I am sure that there will be allegations that Labour is not taking any notice of the problems that we face in mid Wales. Finally, what does this say about the future of the jobs in Newtown? I would like to hear what you are going to do with regard to those jobs, because this announcement will spread anxiety among many people who hold jobs in Newtown.

Sue Essex: In order to ease that anxiety, I can say that there are no plans to close the current Welsh Development Agency and the Education and Learning Wales offices in Newtown; I hope that helps you. With respect to Machynlleth, I will be guided by the people who know the area better than I do, but I think that to use the word 'devastation' is rather extreme, as Machynlleth has a lot going for it. Aberystwyth is already a commuting destination for many people who live in Machynlleth. Inevitably, change is difficult and hurts; I understand that. However, this has been worked through very carefully over time. You asked about the views of other Ministers; this is a Cabinet decision. I mentioned that I had had close discussions with Carwyn Jones, who has responsibility for environment and agriculture, and Andrew Davies, as Minister for Economic Development and Transport, was also part of that arrangement and is a member of the Cabinet that made the decision.

4.00 p.m.

Datganiad ar y Strategaeth ar gyfer Pobl Hŷn Statement on the Older Persons Strategy

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Brian Gibbons): I am pleased to make this statement on the strategy for older people in Wales, now that it is two years since its launch. The context of this strategy, the first of its kind in the UK, is that Wales has a higher concentration of older people

cynorthwyo'r dref hon. Yr ydym wedi colli llawer o swyddi gweithgynhyrchu yn y Canolbarth, a bydd hyn yn ergyd arall i forâl yr ardal hon. Fe wyddoch yn iawn, pan fo dirywiad yn dechrau, ei bod yn anodd iawn gwrthdroi hynny, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd cyhuddiadau nad yw Llafur yn talu unrhyw sylw i'r problemau yr ydym yn eu hwynebu yn y Canolbarth. Yn olaf, beth y mae hyn yn ei ddweud am ddyfodol y swyddi yn y Drenewydd? Hoffem glywed yr hyn yr ydych yn bwriadu ei wneud o ran y swyddi hyn, oherwydd bydd y cyhoeddiad hwn yn peri pryder ymhlith llawer o bobl sydd â swyddi yn y Drenewydd.

Sue Essex: Er mwyn lleddfu'r pryder hwnnw, gallaf ddweud nad oes unrhyw gynlluniau i gau swyddfeydd presennol Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru a Dysgu ac Addysgu Cymru yn y Drenewydd; gobeithiaf fod hynny yn eich helpu. O ran Machynlleth, caf fy arwain gan y bobl sy'n fwy cyfarwydd â'r ardal nag yr wyf innau, ond credaf ei bod braidd yn eithafol defnyddio'r gair 'dinistrio', gan fod llawer o bosibiliadau yn bodoli ym Machynlleth. Mae Aberystwyth eisoes yn lleoliad cymudo i lawer o bobl sy'n byw ym Machynlleth. Yn anochel, mae newid yn anodd ac yn boenus; deallaf hynny. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym wedi ystyried hyn yn ofalus dros amser. Gofynasoch am farn Gweinidogion eraill; penderfyniad y Cabinet yw hwn. Crybwyllais y ffaith fy mod wedi cael trafodaethau manwl gyda Carwyn Jones, sy'n gyfrifol am yr amgylchedd ac amaethyddiaeth, ac yr oedd Andrew Davies, y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth, hefyd yn rhan o'r trefniant hwnnw ac mae'n aelod o'r Cabinet a wnaeth y penderfyniad.

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Brian Gibbons): Yr wyf yn falch o wneud y datganiad hwn ar y strategaeth ar gyfer pobl hŷn yng Nghymru, a lanswyd ddwy flynedd yn ôl. Cyd-destun y strategaeth hon, y gyntaf o'i bath yn y DU, yw bod cyfran uwch o bobl hŷn yng

than the rest of the United Kingdom does. Over the next 20 years or so, the number of people aged over 60 in Wales will increase to nearly one third of the population, and the number aged over 85 will increase in parallel.

A key aspect of the strategy is that it is evidence based, using research available on older people's lives. An advisory group, which I chaired, reported in 2002, and its report, 'When I'm 64... and More', helped to shape the strategy. The Assembly Government then undertook an extensive consultation exercise on the strategy and ensured that as wide a range of views as possible was heard from people across Wales.

The strategy was launched in January 2003 and provides a structured basis for the Assembly and other public bodies in Wales to develop future policies and plans that better reflect the needs of older people and recognise Wales's changing demography and social circumstances. One of its key principles is that, as we move away from a model that sees old age as a problem and a burden and towards a model of encouragement and citizenship for older people, it is an enabling document. Through the strategy, we must also address age stereotyping and discrimination and promote positive images of ageing.

The strategy and its structured implementation programme is helping to ensure that, in Wales, we are proactive in planning for an ageing population and that policies better meet the needs of older people. An important feature of this strategy is that citizenship for older people is at its heart, including measures to improve older people's engagement and participation in society. This is a strategy for all older people in Wales and provides a basis for healthy, active and successful ageing.

The strategy is making good progress and has a firm foundation across Wales. Some of its key aspects are that a Deputy Minister—John Griffiths—with specific responsibility for older people was appointed in July 2003, and

Nghymru nag yng ngweddill y DU. Yn ystod yr 20 mlynedd nesaf, bydd nifer y bobl dros 60 oed yng Nghymru yn cynyddu i bron draean o'r boblogaeth, a bydd nifer y bobl dros 85 oed yn cynyddu ochr yn ochr â hynny.

Un o agweddau allweddol y strategaeth yw ei bod yn seiliedig ar dystiolaeth, gan ddefnyddio ymchwil sydd ar gael ar fywydau pobl hŷn. Cyflwynodd grŵp cynghori, a gadeiriais, adroddiad yn 2002, a helpodd ei adroddiad, 'Pan fwyf yn hen a pharchus...', i lunio'r strategaeth. Yna cynhaliodd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ymgynghoriad helaeth ar y strategaeth gan sicrhau ei bod yn clywed amrywiaeth mor eang â phosibl o sylwadau gan bobl ledled Cymru.

Lansiwyd y strategaeth ym mis Ionawr 2003 ac mae'n darparu sail strwythuredig i'r Cynulliad a chyrff cyhoeddus eraill yng Nghymru ddatblygu polisiau a chynlluniau yn y dyfodol sy'n adlewyrchu anghenion pobl hŷn yn well ac sy'n cydnabod bod demograffeg ac amgylchiadau cymdeithasol Cymru yn newid. Un o'i hegwyddorion allweddol yw, wrth inni symud i ffwrdd o fodel sy'n ystyried henaint yn broblem ac yn faich a thuag at fodel o anogaeth a dinasyddiaeth i bobl hŷn, ei bod yn ddogfen galluogi. Drwy'r strategaeth, rhaid inni ymdrin â stereoteipio a gwahaniaethu ar sail oedran a hyrwyddo delweddau cadarnhaol o'r broses heneiddio.

Mae'r strategaeth a'i rhaglen weithredu strwythuredig yn helpu i sicrhau ein bod yn mabwysiadu ymagwedd ragweithiol yng Nghymru tuag at gynllunio ar gyfer poblogaeth sy'n heneiddio a bod polisiau yn diwallu anghenion pobl hŷn yn well. Un o nodweddion pwysig y strategaeth hon yw ei bod yn seiliedig ar ddinasyddiaeth i bobl hŷn, gan gynnwys mesurau i wella ymgysylltiad pobl hŷn â'r gymdeithas a'u cyfranogiad ynddi. Dyma strategaeth i holl bobl hŷn Cymru ac mae'n sail ar gyfer heneiddio'n iach, yn egnïol ac yn llwyddiannus.

Mae'r strategaeth yn gwneud cynnydd da ac mae ganddi sylfaen gadarn ledled Cymru. Rhai o'i hagweddau allweddol yw bod Dirprwy Weinidog—John Griffiths—sydd â chyfrifoldeb penodol dros bobl hŷn wedi'i

that the new Assembly Cabinet sub-committee on the needs of older people ensures a cross-cutting and coherent policy approach. A national partnership forum for older people has been established to provide a focus for debate on ageing and to be a source of expert advice for the Assembly. It met for the first time in January 2005 and is due to meet again in April. The Assembly Government has made a manifesto commitment to establish an older people's commissioner for Wales. The UK Government has announced that a Wales-only scrutiny Bill to introduce primary legislation for a commissioner will be introduced into Parliament in 2005.

A large majority of local authorities are making good progress in implementing the strategy, engaging more effectively with older people. All have strategy co-ordinators, and nearly all have champions at a political level. All councils are putting in place effective structures to support implementation, through strategy development plans, setting up local fora for older people and establishing older people partnership groups as part of their planning arrangements.

The voluntary sector, through Age Alliance Wales, has also made excellent progress. With nearly £1 million in March 2007 to support its input into strategy implementation, it has established a co-ordination and development unit. It has already taken forward some practical and worthwhile projects.

Intergenerational practice forms an important and exciting element of the strategy agenda. The Beth Johnson Foundation is being funded to develop and implement a strategy for intergenerational practice in Wales, and a new IP centre has already been established. Our free bus travel policy for over 60s and the disabled has also been successful, and all authorities in Wales commenced the Assembly-funded free swimming scheme for people aged over 60 on a pilot basis in November 2004.

Among the strategy's new policies, which are

benodi ym mis Gorffennaf 2003, a bod is-bwyllgor newydd Cabinet y Cynulliad ar anghenion pobl hŷn yn sicrhau ymagwedd bolisi drawsbynciol a chydlynol. Mae fforwm partneriaeth cenedlaethol ar gyfer pobl hŷn wedi'i sefydlu i roi ffocws i drafodaeth ar heneiddio ac i fod yn ffynhonnell cyngor arbenigol i'r Cynulliad. Cyfarfu am y tro cyntaf ym mis Ionawr 2005 a bydd yn cyfarfod eto ym mis Ebrill. Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi gwneud ymrwymiad yn ei maniffesto i benodi comisiynydd ar gyfer pobl hŷn yng Nghymru. Mae Llywodraeth y DU wedi cyhoeddi y caiff Mesur craffu i Gymru'n unig i gyflwyno deddfwriaeth sylfaenol i gael comisiynydd ei gyflwyno i'r Senedd yn 2005.

Mae mwyafrif helaeth yr awdurdodau lleol yn gwneud cynnydd da wrth weithredu'r strategaeth, gan ymgysylltu â phobl hŷn yn fwy effeithiol. Mae gan bob un ohonynt gydgyssylltwyr strategaeth, ac mae gan bron bob un ohonynt eiriolwyr ar lefel wleidyddol. Mae pob cyngor yn rhoi strwythurau effeithiol ar waith i gefnogi'r broses weithredu, drwy gynlluniau datblygu strategaeth, gan sefydlu fforymau lleol ar gyfer pobl hŷn a chan sefydlu grwpiau partneriaeth ar gyfer pobl hŷn fel rhan o'u trefniadau cynllunio.

Mae'r sector gwirfoddol, drwy Gynghrair Henoed Cymru, wedi gwneud cynnydd ardderchog hefyd. Gyda bron £1 filiwn ym mis Mawrth 2007 i ategu ei gyfraniad i'r broses o roi'r strategaeth ar waith, mae wedi sefydlu uned cydgysylltu a datblygu. Mae eisoes wedi rhoi rhai prosiectau ymarferol a gwerthfawr ar waith.

Mae pontio'r cenedlaethau yn elfen bwysig a chyffrous o agenda'r strategaeth hefyd. Caiff Sefydliad Beth Johnson ei ariannu i ddatblygu a gweithredu strategaeth Cymru ar gyfer pontio'r cenedlaethau, ac mae canolfan ar gyfer pontio'r cenedlaethau wedi'i sefydlu eisoes. Bu ein polisi teithiau bws am ddim i bobl dros 60 oed a'r anabl yn llwyddiannus iawn hefyd, a dechreuodd pob awdurdod yng Nghymru gynllun treialu nofio am ddim wedi'i ariannu gan y Cynulliad i bobl dros 60 oed ym mis Tachwedd 2004.

Ymhlith polisïau newydd y strategaeth, a

being developed, is a national service framework for older people in Wales—work is well advanced on this—to achieve consistency in the availability and quality of health and social care for older people. Consultation will commence in the summer. Another policy is a health promotion action plan for older people, which has been developed and consultation completed. It is intended to provide guidance for use at a local level on key evidence-based health promotion interventions with older people, and it will be published in the spring. The strategy also includes measures to tackle poverty and the social exclusion of older people.

In addition to action that is under way with Communities First, we are looking to improve access to, and information on, services for older people through the development of an integrated one-stop service that will help to maximise incomes and pensions and increase benefit take-up. The Department for Work and Pensions and the Assembly Government will commence consultation by the summer on how we might best implement this initiative, which is called Link-Age, to meet the needs of older people in Wales.

We have announced today the distribution of strategy funds for 2005-06. The sum of £2.4 million will go to local authorities, and the balance of the £3 million will go to the voluntary sector, particularly Age Alliance Wales and some central projects. This is another important step in implementing this 10-year framework for action. The strategy is being strongly led by the Welsh Assembly Government, but it is being driven from a local approach to implementation through local government. There is still much to be done, but we have a strategy of which we can be proud, and it has already gained both a national and international reputation for best practice. It has been warmly welcomed by older people and their representatives. Overall, therefore, the implementation of the strategy has got off to a good start and promises much more for the future.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Croesawaf y

gaiff eu datblygu, mae fframwaith gwasanaeth cenedlaethol ar gyfer pobl hŷn yng Nghymru—mae llawer o waith wedi'i wneud ar hyn—i sicrhau cysondeb o ran argaeledd ac ansawdd iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol i bobl hŷn. Bydd y broses ymgynghori yn dechrau yn yr haf. Polisi arall yw cynllun gweithredu hybu iechyd ar gyfer pobl hŷn, sydd wedi'i ddatblygu ac yr ymgynghorwyd arno. Bwriedir iddo roi canllawiau i'w defnyddio'n lleol ar ymyriadau hybu iechyd allweddol yn seiliedig ar dystiolaeth ymhlith pobl hŷn, a chaiff ei gyhoeddi yn y gwanwyn. Mae'r strategaeth hefyd yn cynnwys mesurau i fynd i'r afael â thlodi ac allgáu cymdeithasol ymhlith pobl hŷn.

Yn ogystal â chymau a gymerir o dan Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, bwriadwn wella mynediad i wasanaethau ar gyfer pobl hŷn a'r wybodaeth sydd ar gael amdanynt drwy ddatblygu gwasanaeth un stop integredig a fydd yn helpu i gynyddu incwm a phensiynau i'r eithaf posibl a chynyddu nifer y bobl sy'n hawlio budd-daliadau. Bydd yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau a Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn dechrau proses ymgynghori erbyn yr haf ar sut y gellid gweithredu'r fenter hon orau, sef Link-Age, er mwyn diwallu anghenion pobl hŷn yng Nghymru.

Yr ydym wedi cyhoeddi dosbarthiad cronfeydd y strategaeth ar gyfer 2005-06 heddiw. Caiff awdurdodau lleol £2.4 miliwn a chaiff y sector gwirfoddol y swm sy'n weddill o'r £3 miliwn, yn arbennig Cynghrair Henoed Cymru a rhai prosiectau canolog. Mae hwn yn gam pwysig arall wrth roi'r fframwaith gweithredu 10 mlynedd hwn ar waith. Caiff y strategaeth ei harwain yn gryf gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, ond caiff ei hysgogi gan ymagwedd leol tuag at weithredu drwy lywodraeth leol. Erys llawer i'w wneud, ond mae gennym strategaeth y gallwn fod yn falch ohoni, ac mae eisoes wedi ennill enw da yn genedlaethol ac yn rhyngwladol ar gyfer arfer gorau. Mae pobl hŷn a'u cynrychiolwyr wedi rhoi croeso cynnes iddi. Felly, ar y cyfan, mae'r broses o roi'r strategaeth ar waith wedi dechrau'n dda ac mae'n addo llawer mwy ar gyfer y dyfodol.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: On the whole, I

datganiad hwn yn gyffredinol, er gwaethaf y ffaith bod y cynnwys ei hunan braidd yn brin. Mae perygl bod y Llywodraeth hon yn cyfeirio'n rhy aml at strategaethau—cyfeiriodd y Gweinidog at 'strategaeth' nifer o weithiau yn ystod ei ddatganiad. Ni chyfrais bob cyfeiriad, ond yr oedd lliaws ohonynt. Nid yw nifer o bolisiau a mentrau unigol bob amser yn creu strategaeth. Rhaid cael prawf a thystiolaeth bod y cyfan yn strategaeth gydlynol, clir a thryloyw. Croesawaf y trafodaethau gyda'r gwahanol gyrff a'r dyraniad ariannol a gyhoeddwyd heddiw.

Ein pryder yw y gallai hyn oll fod yn ddim byd mwy na gweithred o symboliaeth i gydnabod yr angen i wasanaethu pobl hŷn. Cyfeiriodd y Gweinidog at y ffaith bod y ganran o bobl hŷn yn ein cymdeithas yn cynyddu, a bod yr holl ragolygon yn datgan y bydd y ganran honno'n cynyddu'n ddirfawr yn ystod y blynyddoedd nesaf. A yw'r Gweinidog yn cytuno bod tystiolaeth yn dangos yn glir fod y bwlch rhwng y cyfoethog a'r tlawd hefyd yn cynyddu, a bod nifer helaeth o bobl sy'n byw mewn tlodi yn ein cymdeithas yn bobl hŷn? Mae rhai adroddiadau yn datgan bod hyd at 30 y cant o bobl hŷn yn byw mewn tlodi. Mae gwir angen gweithredu i'w cynorthwyo.

Yr ydym yn ddigon hapus i gefnogi'r egwyddor o sefydlu comisiynydd ar gyfer pobl hŷn, ac yn derbyn bod mudiadau sy'n cynrychioli pobl hŷn wedi galw am hyn ac yn cefnogi'r cynnig yn frwd. Yr wyf i, ac Aelodau o bleidiau eraill, wedi gofyn y cwestiwn hwn nifer o weithiau, ond sut yn union y bydd y comisiynydd hwn yn gweithredu'n wahanol i'r bobl a benodir i'r corff cydraddoldeb sengl? Sut fydd y comisiynydd yn gweithredu yn annibynnol ar y comisiwn? Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai'r Gweinidog yn derbyn bod y ddadl dros gomisiynydd plant yn un dra gwahanol. Nid oes gan blant a phobl ifanc y gallu i ddylanwadu'n uniongyrchol ar bolisi'r Llywodraeth, ond mae'r gallu hwn gan bobl hŷn. Gwerthfawrognw ateb i'r cwestiwn hwnnw er mwyn eglurder.

Dychwelaf at y pwynt canolog o dlodi ymysg pobl hŷn. Hwyrach fod y Gweinidog yn ymwybodol bod pensïynwyr o sir

welcome this statement, in spite of the fact that it is a little lacking in content. This Government is in danger of referring too frequently to strategies—the Minister made several references to 'a strategy' during his statement. I did not count every reference, but they were myriad. Numerous policies and individual initiatives do not always make for a strategy. We need evidence that this is a joined-up, clear and transparent strategy. I welcome the discussions held with various bodies and the financial allocation announced today.

Our concern is that this could become little more than an act of tokenism to acknowledge the need to serve older people. The Minister referred to the fact that the percentage of older people in our society is increasing, and it is widely anticipated that that percentage will increase dramatically over the next few years. Does the Minister agree that there is clear evidence that the poverty gap continues to widen, and that a significant number of people who live below the poverty line in our society are older people? Some reports claim that as many as 30 per cent of older people live below the poverty line. Real action is needed to help them.

We are happy enough to support the principle of establishing the role of commissioner for older people, and we accept that organisations representing older people have called for this and have actively supported the proposal. I, and Members from other parties, have asked this question a number of times, but how exactly will this commissioner work differently from those appointed to the single equality body? How will the commissioner work independently of the commission? I am sure that the Minister would accept that the argument for a children's commissioner is completely different. Children and young people do not have the ability to directly influence Government policy, but older people do. I would appreciate a response to that question for the purposes of clarity.

I return to the central point of poverty among older people. Perhaps the Minister is aware that pensioners from Carmarthenshire have

Gaerfyrddin wedi bod yn lobïo Llywodraeth y Cynulliad heddiw, ac yr oedd nifer ohonynt o'm hetholaeth i sef Dwyrain Caerfyrddin a Dinefwr. Daethant yma i sôn am rywbeth sy'n ganolog i'w hanghenion, sef y ffaith bod y ganran o'u pensiwn y mae'n rhaid iddynt ei thalu ar y dreth gyngor wedi cynyddu yn ddifrifol. Yn 1997, pan ddaeth Llywodraeth Lafur i rym yn San Steffan, yr oedd y dreth gyngor yng Nghymru, ar gyfartaledd, yn cynrychioli 13.4 y cant o'r pensiwn gwladol. Yr oedd y ffigur yn 2003-04, sef y ffigur diweddaraf sydd gennym, yn 19.4 y cant. Mae hwn yn gynydd mawr. Bydd ailfandio yng Nghymru yn effeithio ar hynny ymhellach. Gwn fod y Llywodraeth yn gwneud ymdrech i sicrhau na fydd pobl yn codi mwy nag un band, ond dim ond am flwyddyn y maent wedi gwarantu hynny. Mae'n bosibl y bydd pobl yn wynebu cynnydd sylweddol ym miliau'r dreth gyngor. A all y Gweinidog ein sicrhau y bydd y Llywodraeth yn cynorthwyo pobl fydd yn y sefyllfa honno?

4.10 p.m.

Gwn fod y Gweinidog yn cefnogi gweithredu argymhellion Wanless cyn gynted ag y bo modd. Cyfeiriodd Derek Wanless yn ei adroddiad at y broblem fawr sy'n bodoli o ran nifer y gwelyau sydd ar gael yn y sector gofal. A wnaiff y Gweinidog gadarnhau ein bod yn parhau i wynebu problemau yn y sector hwnnw? Mae 76 o gartrefi gofal wedi cau yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf, a chollwyd 377 o welyau oherwydd hynny. Os edrychwn ar y ffigurau ers 1999, pan ddaeth Llywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad i fodolaeth, gwelwn fod nifer y gwelyau yn y sector gofal wedi gostwng o 29,041 i 27,745. O ystyried y cynnydd a ragwelir yn nifer y bobl hŷn yn ein cymdeithas, onid yw'r Gweinidog yn derbyn y bydd yn rhaid cynyddu capasiti yn y sector pwysig hwn? Beth fydd yn ei wneud am hynny? Yr ydym yn croesawu'r strategaeth, ond hoffem eglurhad am nifer o bethau sydd ynddi.

Brian Gibbons: I suppose Rhodri Glyn's contribution could be summarised as faint praise. If Rhodri Glyn talked to representatives in the voluntary sector and to older people they would not take his down-in-the-mouth attitude to this issue. This is a

been lobbying the Assembly Government today, and many of them were from my constituency of Carmarthen East and Dinefwr. They were here to discuss something that is central to their needs, namely the fact that the percentage of their pension that goes on council tax has increased dramatically. In 1997, when a Labour Government came to power in Westminster, council tax in Wales represented 13.4 per cent of the state pension on average. In 2003-04, which is the latest year for which figures are available, it was 19.4 per cent. This is a huge increase. Rebanding in Wales will have a further effect on that. I am aware that the Government is seeking to ensure that people will not go up more than one band, but they can only guarantee that for a year. It is possible that people will face significant increases in their council tax bills. Can the Minister assure us that the Government will help people who find themselves in this situation?

I am aware that the Minister is supportive of implementing the Wanless recommendations as soon as possible. In his report, Derek Wanless referred to the huge problem of the shortage of beds available in the care sector. Will the Minister confirm that we continue to face problems in that sector? During the last year, 76 care homes closed, and 377 beds were lost as a result. If we look at the figures since 1999, when the Labour Assembly Government took office, we see that the number of care-sector beds has fallen from 29,041 to 27,745. Given the anticipated increase in the number of elderly people in our society, does the Minister not accept that more capacity will be required in this important sector? What will he do about that? We welcome the strategy, but we require further clarification on several aspects of it.

Brian Gibbons: Tybiaf y gellid crynhoi cyfraniad Rhodri Glyn fel rhywfaint o ganmoliaeth. Pe bai Rhodri Glyn yn siarad â chynrychiolwyr yn y sector gwirfoddol ac â phobl hŷn, ni fyddent yn mabwysiadu'r agwedd ddigalon hon tuag at y mater hwn.

great new opportunity for older people to engage in a new type of active citizenship in Wales, and we are the only part of the United Kingdom doing this. One would have thought that Rhodri Glyn would be taking delight in celebrating something new and innovative that has been warmly welcomed by older people in Wales. However, his attitude is just par for the course.

On the specific points, there is a debate as to what is happening in relation to the gap between rich and poor. Many of the richest people are probably getting richer than the bulk of the population. Equally, the standard of living of the poorest elements in our society is increasing quite dramatically. Therefore, the situation you depict about older people living in a neglected state is totally untrue.

On council tax, I have mentioned the Link-Age initiative with the Department for Work and Pensions, and this is to help the poorest pensioners in Wales with very low incomes, so that they will be able to benefit from council tax and housing benefits. We are aware that these are seriously under-claimed benefits. I am sure that Rhodri Glyn would welcome any initiative to improve benefit take-up in this area, which is precisely what we are doing. We have seen Gordon Brown give £100 in the autumn, which was specifically targeted to address council tax issues. For people on low incomes, this is welcome money. I did not hear anything in Rhodri Glyn's statement to welcome that. There are a wide range of initiatives being undertaken.

Some 85 per cent to 90 per cent of equality issues and issues relevant to older people, will not be dealt with by this new equality commission. Insofar as the equality commission will impinge in any sort of generic way on older people, it will be in relation to areas of employment, and so forth. The rest of the older people's agenda in Wales will be part of what the commissioner for older people will do. Therefore, there is a vast area of work and responsibility for a commissioner for older people. Again, I am sure that, once the post of commissioner is up and running, we will see other parts of the

Mae hwn yn gyfle newydd gwych i bobl hŷn gymryd rhan mewn math newydd o ddinasyddiaeth weithredol yng Nghymru, ac ni yw'r unig ran o'r Deyrnas Unedig sy'n gwneud hyn. Byddech wedi meddwl y byddai Rhodri Glyn yn ymhyfrydu mewn dathlu rhywbeth newydd ac arloesol a groesawyd yn gynnes gan bobl hŷn yng Nghymru. Fodd bynnag, mae ei agwedd i'w disgwyl.

O ran y pwyntiau penodol, trafodir yr hyn sy'n digwydd mewn perthynas â'r bwch rhwng y cyfoethog a'r tlawd. Mae'n debyg bod llawer o'r bobl fwyaf cyfoethog yn mynd yn fwy cyfoethog na mwyafrif y boblogaeth. Yn yr un modd, mae safon byw y bobl dlotaf yn ein cymdeithas yn cynyddu'n eithaf sylweddol. Felly, mae'r sefyllfa a ddisgrifiwch ynghylch pobl hŷn yn cael eu hesgeuluso yn gwbl anghywir.

O ran y dreth gyngor, yr wyf wedi cyfeirio at y fenter Link-Age gyda'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau, a bwriad y fenter hon yw helpu'r pensiynwyr tlotaf yng Nghymru sydd ag incwm isel iawn, fel y gallant fanteisio ar fudd-dal y dreth gyngor a'r budd-dal tai. Gwyddom nad yw llawer o bobl a ddylai hawlio'r budd-daliadau hyn yn gwneud hynny. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai Rhodri Glyn yn croesawu unrhyw fenter i gynyddu nifer y bobl sy'n hawlio'r budd-dal hwn yn ei ardal, sef yn union yr hyn yr ydym yn ei wneud. Yr ydym wedi gweld Gordon Brown yn rhoi £100 yn yr hydref, a dargedwyd yn benodol i ymdrin â materion o ran y dreth gyngor. I bobl ar incwm is, croesewir yr arian hwn. Ni chlywais ddim yn natganiad Rhodri Glyn i groesawu hynny. Mae amrywiaeth eang o fentrau yn cael eu cynnal.

Ni fydd y comisiwn cydraddoldeb newydd hwn yn ymdrin â rhwng 85 y cant a 90 y cant o faterion cydraddoldeb a materion sy'n berthnasol i bobl hŷn. I'r graddau y bydd y comisiwn cydraddoldeb yn berthnasol i bobl hŷn mewn unrhyw fath o ffordd gyffredinol, bydd hynny mewn perthynas â meysydd cyflogaeth, ac ati. Bydd gweddill agenda pobl hŷn yng Nghymru yn rhan o'r hyn y bydd y comisiynydd ar gyfer pobl hŷn yn ei wneud. Felly, mae llawer iawn o waith a chyfrifoldeb i gomisiynydd pobl hŷn. Unwaith eto, yr wyf yn siŵr, ar ôl i gomisiynydd gael ei benodi, y bydd rhannau eraill o'r Deyrnas Unedig yn

United Kingdom learning from our experience, as they did with the children's commissioner.

On care homes, there is a mixed picture across Wales, and there is no doubt that some parts of Wales have serious under-provision. However, it is not simply a case of counting up the number of care homes. We must look at the overall range of packages of services that are available to older people. If we look at the statistics, we see that the amount of intensive care that is being given in a domiciliary setting is also increasing dramatically in Wales. I am sure that Rhodri Glyn knows that 80 per cent to 90 per cent of older people want to be treated in their own homes, among their family and friends, for as long as possible. This is why our manifesto commitment to provide free personal care at home proved so popular at the last election.

Lisa Francis: The older persons strategy apparently represents a joined-up approach, and reinforces your Government's development of wellbeing in Wales for older people, with an integrated approach to policies and programmes. However, my take on it is that everything thus far seems to be slow getting off the ground. I was not yet an Assembly Member when this strategy was established in January 2003, but Jane Hutt announced then that the older people's national partnership forum would be the driving force behind that strategy. However, for the first time, in January of this year—two years after the strategy was announced—we still do not know when the older people's national service framework will get off the ground. I do not doubt that older people welcome this strategy and the fact that it is happening in Wales, but why is everything so slow in coming to fruition?

Returning to the national service framework for older people, which is linked to health promotion for older people, it is supposed to look at variations in standards of care to achieve greater consistency in the availability and quality of services, particularly at a diagnostic level. You say that work on this is well advanced to achieve consistency in health and social care, but it is still slow

dysgu o'n profiad, fel y digwyddodd gyda'r comisiynydd plant.

O ran cartrefi gofal, mae darlun cymysg ledled Cymru, ac, yn ddi-au, nid oes darpariaeth ddigonol o bell ffordd mewn rhai rhannau o Gymru. Fodd bynnag, nid dim ond cyfrif nifer y cartrefi gofal sy'n bwysig. Rhaid inni ystyried yr holl becynnau o wasanaethau sydd ar gael i bobl hŷn. Os edrychwn ar yr ystadegau, gwelwn fod y gofal dwys a roddir yn y cartref yn cynyddu'n sylweddol yng Nghymru hefyd. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod Rhodri Glyn yn gwybod bod rhwng 80 y cant a 90 y cant o bobl hŷn am gael eu trin yn eu cartrefi eu hunain, gyda'u teulu a'u ffrindiau, am gyhyd ag y bo modd. Dyma pam y bu'r ymrwymiad yn ein maniffesto i ddarparu gofal personol am ddim yn y cartref mor boblogaidd yn yr etholiad diwethaf.

Lisa Francis: Mae'r strategaeth ar gyfer pobl hŷn i bob golwg yn enghraifft o ymagwedd gydgyssylltiedig, ac yn atgyfnerthu datblygiad eich Llywodraeth o les yng Nghymru i bobl hŷn, gydag ymagwedd integredig tuag at bolisiau a rhaglenni. Fodd bynnag, yn fy marn i, ymddengys bod popeth wedi bod yn llawer rhy araf i ddatblygu hyd yma. Nid oeddwn yn Aelod Cynulliad pan luniwyd y strategaeth hon ym mis Ionawr 2003, ond cyhoeddodd Jane Hutt bryd hynny mai'r fforwm partneriaeth cenedlaethol ar gyfer pobl hŷn a fyddai'n llywio'r strategaeth honno. Fodd bynnag, am y tro cyntaf, ym mis Ionawr eleni—ddwy flynedd ar ôl cyhoeddi'r strategaeth—ni wyddom o hyd pryd y bydd y fframwaith gwasanaeth cenedlaethol ar gyfer pobl hŷn yn cael ei roi ar waith. Nid oes amheuaeth gennyf fod pobl hŷn yn croesawu'r strategaeth hon a'r ffaith ei bod yn digwydd yng Nghymru, ond pam mae popeth mor araf i ddwyn ffrwyth?

Gan ddychwelyd at y fframwaith gwasanaeth cenedlaethol ar gyfer pobl hŷn, sy'n gysylltiedig â hybu iechyd ar gyfer pobl hŷn, dylai ystyried amrywiadau mewn safonau gofal i sicrhau mwy o gysondeb yn y gwasanaethau sydd ar gael ac ansawdd y gwasanaethau hynny, yn arbennig ar lefel ddiagnostig. Fe ddywedwch fod llawer o waith wedi'i wneud yn hyn o beth i sicrhau

getting off the ground. You say that consultation will commence in the summer but, again, this strategy was announced two years ago, so why are things moving so slowly?

Brian Gibbons: It could all be implemented in a week if we decided to take the top-down, diktat approach. The form that the national forum for older people has taken has been to consult with older people. The strategy agreed to the principle that there should be a national forum. We could have dictated the shape of the precise form then, but we decided to engage with older people so that they could tell us how they would like that national forum to take shape. Yes, consultation takes time, but the alternative is top-down diktat, which is not how we, as an Assembly Government, want to run our business.

The same argument can be made regarding many of your other points. The issue of a commissioner for older people also involved a long discussion with interest groups across Wales. We could have written our wish list as to what the commissioner would do and what his or her responsibilities would be at least two years ago, and we could have engaged with the UK Government to get the necessary legislation. However, we did not do that; we wanted to engage with older people to get them to decide on the priorities, the range of powers, and so forth. That is a good way of governing. The price that you pay is that consultation takes time, and it often takes money. However, that is how we want to do it and that is the way an open, democratic government such as the Assembly Government should try to act. It will involve some cost and time, but that is preferable and better in the end.

4.20 p.m.

Kirsty Williams: Thank you for your statement, Minister. However, I remind you that, usually, statements are made in Plenary because there is some big new announcement

cysondeb ym meysydd iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol, ond mae'n dal i fod yn araf yn datblygu. Fe ddywedwch y bydd proses ymgynghori yn dechrau yn yr haf ond, unwaith eto, cyhoeddwyd y strategaeth hon ddwy flynedd yn ôl, felly pam y mae pethau'n symud mor araf?

Brian Gibbons: Gellid gweithredu popeth o fewn wythnos pe baem yn penderfynu gweithredu o'r brig i lawr. Penderfynodd y fforwm cenedlaethol ar gyfer pobl hŷn fynd ati i ymgynghori â phobl hŷn. Cytunodd y strategaeth ar yr egwyddor y dylid sefydlu fforwm cenedlaethol. Gallem fod wedi gosod yr union ffurf bryd hynny, ond bu inni benderfynu ymgysylltu â phobl hŷn er mwyn iddynt ddweud wrthym sut yr hoffent i'r fforwm cenedlaethol hwnnw ddatblygu. Mae'n wir bod ymgynghori yn cymryd amser, ond y dewis arall yw gweithredu o'r brig i lawr, ac nid dyna'r ffordd yr ydym ni, fel Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, am gynnal ein busnes.

Gellir gwneud yr un ddadl o ran llawer o'ch pwyntiau eraill. Mae'r mater o ran comisiynydd ar gyfer pobl hŷn wedi golygu trafodaeth hir gyda charfanau â diddordeb ledled Cymru. Gallem fod wedi ysgrifennu ein rhestr o'r pethau yr hoffem i'r comisiynydd eu gwneud a beth fyddai ei gyfrifoldebau neu ei chyfrifoldebau o leiaf ddwy flynedd yn ôl, a gallem fod wedi trafod â Llywodraeth y DU i gael y ddeddfwriaeth angenrheidiol. Fodd bynnag, ni wnaethom hynny; yr oeddem am ymgysylltu â phobl hŷn i ofyn iddynt benderfynu ar y blaenoriaethau, y pwerau, ac ati. Dyna ffordd dda o lywodraethu. Mae'r pris a dalwch yw bod ymgynghori yn cymryd amser, ac mae cost yn gysylltiedig ag ef yn aml. Fodd bynnag, dyna sut yr ydym am wneud pethau a dyna sut y dylai llywodraeth ddemocrataidd agored megis Llywodraeth y Cynulliad geisio gweithredu. Bydd yn golygu rhywfaint o gost a bydd yn cymryd rhywfaint o amser, ond mae hynny'n well yn y pen draw.

Kirsty Williams: Diolch am eich datganiad, Weinidog. Fodd bynnag, hoffwn eich atgoffa y caiff datganiadau eu gwneud mewn Cyfarfod Llawn fel arfer am fod cyhoeddiad

to be made. We had hoped and expected to hear some big news on the implementation of this strategy, but I am afraid that, once again, we have been disappointed. I can only trust that, in future, the Business Minister will liaise more closely with her colleagues on the content of statements before she allocates precious Plenary time to them.

The older persons' strategy is definitely a new way of looking at creating a holistic approach to delivering services for this section of the population, which quite rightly has demanded that due attention be paid to its needs. In the past, we have been slow to recognise the needs of older patients and their interests in all aspects of policy. It is not just a matter of talking about some of the more obvious policies; it is a matter of developing opportunities across all areas of policy that older people want to participate in and benefit from. However, the strategy is in danger of reinventing the wheel.

In your statement, Brian, you mentioned the development of the voluntary sector, and perhaps I could give you an example from my constituency. Age Concern in Powys runs two valuable information services in Montgomeryshire and Breconshire. Those services are about to fold because they have been unable to secure funding from the local authority to continue to provide an information service for older people. Why, then, are we pouring money into new initiatives when proven initiatives throughout the country, which already exist and have provided services for many years, are unable to find funding to continue their work? Would you be good enough to liaise with Powys County Council to find out why it is the only local authority in Wales that does not provide core funding to Age Concern projects in its locality?

'When I'm 64... and More' touched on several subjects of concern to older people, but you, Minister, will remember that a key concern was free personal care. That strategy was another opportunity for older people to say that what they really wanted was for the Westminster Government to implement the

newydd pwysig i'w wneud. Yr oeddem wedi gobeithio a disgwyl clywed newyddion pwysig ar weithredu'r strategaeth hon, ond, unwaith eto, cawsom ein siomi, mae arnaf ofn. Ni allaf ond gobeithio y bydd y Trefnydd yn cydweithio'n agosach â'i chyd-Weinidogion yn y dyfodol o ran cynnwys datganiadau cyn iddi ddyrannu amser gwerthfawr mewn Cyfarfod Llawn iddynt.

Mae'r strategaeth ar gyfer pobl hŷn yn bendant yn ffordd newydd o geisio creu ymagwedd gyfannol tuag at ddarparu gwasanaethau ar gyfer y rhan hon o'r boblogaeth, sydd wedi gofyn i sylw priodol gael ei roi i'w hanghenion, a hynny'n gwbl deg. Yn y gorffennol, buom yn araf i gydnabod anghenion cleifion hŷn a'u buddiannau ym mhob agwedd ar bolisi. Nid oes a wnelo hyn â sôn am rai o'r polisïau mwy amlwg yn unig; mae a wnelo â datblygu cyfleoedd ar draws meysydd polisi y mae pobl hŷn am gymryd rhan ynddynt ac elwa arnynt. Fodd bynnag, mae'r strategaeth mewn perygl o wneud rhywbeth sydd wedi'i wneud eisoes.

Yn eich datganiad, Brian, bu ichi gyfeirio at ddatblygiad y sector gwirfoddol, ac efallai y gallwn roi enghraifft ichi o'm hetholaeth i. Mae Age Concern ym Mhowys yn rhedeg dau wasanaeth gwybodaeth gwerthfawr yn sir Drefaldwyn a sir Frycheiniog. Mae'r gwasanaethau hynny ar fin dod i ben oherwydd nid ydynt wedi llwyddo i gael arian gan yr awdurdod lleol i barhau i ddarparu gwasanaeth gwybodaeth i bobl hŷn. Pam, felly, y rhoddwn arian i fentrau newydd er na all mentrau da ledled y wlad, sy'n bodoli eisoes ac sydd wedi darparu gwasanaethau ers sawl blwyddyn, ddod o hyd i arian i barhau â'u gwaith? A fydddech cystal â chysylltu â Chyngor Sir Powys i ganfod pam mai ef yw'r unig awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru nad yw'n rhoi arian craidd i brosiectau Age Concern yn ei ardal?

Ymdriniodd 'Pan fwyf yn hen a pharchus...' â sawl maes sy'n peri pryder i bobl hŷn, ond byddwch chi, Weinidog, yn cofio bod gofal personol am ddim yn un o'r pryderon allweddol. Yr oedd y strategaeth honno yn gyfle arall i bobl hŷn ddweud mai'r hyn yr oeddent am ei weld mewn gwirionedd oedd

findings of the Royal Commission on Long Term Care for the Elderly. However, the statement on the strategy to date shows nothing of how you intend to implement that desire, which was clearly outlined in that document.

Council tax, to which Rhodri Glyn alluded, is a huge issue for pensioners, many of whom find it increasingly difficult, on fixed incomes, to fund the annual increases. It will be made much worse by the rebanding exercise to be implemented in April. Even at this late stage, will you discuss the issue with your local government colleague and call off the rebanding exercise until we have had a proper review of how local government can be funded in future?

Finally, with regard to benefits for pensioners, are you aware, Minister, that up to 40 per cent of pensioners entitled to claim pension credit are not doing so? The result of this continual focus by Welsh Labour and London Labour on means-tested benefits and their means of support is that these benefits are not getting to the people who really need them. The most vulnerable people are simply not availing themselves of that opportunity because of the bureaucracy involved. Instead of continuing with this obsession with means-tested benefits, what will you do, Minister, to ensure that pensioners in Wales have access to a basic, decent level of pension?

Brian Gibbons: Obviously, that last point was political and is essentially a matter for the Westminster Government, so I will not get involved.

However, campaigning to increase the uptake of benefits is a practical measure that we can take in Wales. Many older people or pensioners are not getting their entitlement, many of whom have contributed to society over the years. This is their right and entitlement. As an Assembly Government, we should be doing all that we can to ensure that older people are not in that 40 per cent because, if they do receive their council tax benefit, their total council tax bill can often be written off if their income levels are that

bod Llywodraeth San Steffan yn rhoi canfyddiadau'r Comisiwn Brenhinol ar Ofal Hirdymor i'r Henoed ar waith. Fodd bynnag, dengys y datganiad ar y strategaeth hyd yma ddim byd am y ffordd y bwriadwch weithredu'r dymuniad hwnnw, a amlinellwyd yn glir yn y ddogfen honno.

Mae'r dreth gyngor, y cyfeiriodd Rhodri Glyn ati, yn broblem enfawr i bensiynwyr. Mae llawer ohonynt yn cael anhawster cynyddol, ar incwm sefydlog, i ariannu'r codiadau blynyddol. Bydd hynny'n llawer gwaeth yn sgîl yr ymarfer ailfandio sydd i'w weithredu ym mis Ebrill. Hyd yn oed ar y cam hwyr hwn, a drafodwch y mater gyda'ch cyd-Weinidog dros lywodraeth leol a gohirio'r ymarfer ailfandio hyd nes ein bod wedi cael adolygiad priodol o'r ffordd y gellir ariannu llywodraeth leol yn y dyfodol?

I gloi, o ran budd-daliadau i bensiynwyr, a wyddoch, Weinidog, nad yw hyd at 40 y cant o bensiynwyr sy'n gymwys i hawlio credyd pensiwn yn gwneud hynny? Oherwydd y pwyslais parhaus hwn gan Lafur Cymru a Llafur yn Llundain ar fudd-daliadau ar sail prawf modd a'u hincwm nid yw'r bobl y mae gwir angen y budd-daliadau hyn arnynt yn eu cael. Nid yw'r bobl fwyaf diamddiffyn yn manteisio ar y cyfle hwn oherwydd y fiwrocratiaeth dan sylw. Yn lle parhau â'r obsesiwn hwn gyda budd-daliadau ar sail prawf modd, beth a wnewch, Weinidog, i sicrhau y caiff pensiynwyr yng Nghymru bensiwn sylfaenol da?

Brian Gibbons: Mae'n amlwg bod y pwynt olaf yn un gwleidyddol ac yn fater i Lywodraeth San Steffan yn y bôn, felly ni fyddaf yn trafod hynny.

Fodd bynnag, mae ymgyrchu i gynyddu nifer y bobl sy'n hawlio budd-daliadau yn fesur ymarferol y gallwn ei gymryd yng Nghymru. Mae llawer o bobl hŷn a phensiynwyr yn methu â chael yr hyn y mae hawl ganddynt iddo, ac mae llawer ohonynt wedi cyfrannu at gymdeithas dros y blynyddoedd. Dyma eu hawl. Fel Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, dylem fod yn gwneud popeth o fewn ein gallu i sicrhau nad yw pobl hŷn yn rhan o'r 40 y cant hwnnw oherwydd, os cânt fudd-dal y dreth gyngor, yn aml gellir dileu eu bil treth

low. Instead of sniping from the sidelines, the challenge for you and your colleagues, Kirsty, is to join us in trying to be positive and active, and join in with the Link-Age campaign which, hopefully, will be worked through from the summer. Let us join together and try to ensure that older people get the benefit.

In respect of Powys County Council, the people who should be engaging with the council are the electorate in Powys. The council is a democratically accountable body. If that is all that the council thinks of its older people, as an exception throughout Wales, I hope that, when the older people in Powys next cast their ballot, they will show their councillors and the council what they think. As an Assembly Government, we will not work to undermine local government in the way that you suggest. The way to convey such a message loudly and clearly is through the ballot box, through the democratic process.

My final point—and we probably did not mention this enough initially—is that one of the big challenges in delivering the citizenship agenda for older people is to ensure that the needs of older people are mainstreamed into the main types of activities in local government, and in our local sports and education facilities. As was shown in ‘When I’m 64... and More’, often, older people are not looking for anything different or specific for themselves; they are just looking for a fair and equal chance to partake in all of the opportunities that society offers.

Helen Mary Jones: In respect of social services support in care for the elderly, do you accept the Wanless figures that showed that the percentage of social services expenditure on supporting people in their own homes had fallen from 46 per cent in 1996-97 to 42 per cent in 2000-01, and do you accept the fact that this trend is continuing? How will your Government reverse this trend in the context of your strategy, which is to support people, as far as is possible, in their own homes?

gyngor yn gyfan gwbl os yw eu hincwm mor isel â hynny. Yn lle cynnig sylwadau beirniadol o’r cyrion, yr her i chi a’ch cyd-Aelodau, Kirsty, yw ymuno â ni i geisio bod yn gadarnhaol ac yn weithredol, ac ymuno â’r ymgyrch Link-Age a gaiff ei rhoi ar waith yn yr haf, fe obeithiaf. Gadewch inni ddod ynghyd i geisio sicrhau bod pobl hŷn yn cael budd.

O ran Cyngor Sir Powys, yr etholwyr ym Mhowys yw’r bobl a ddylai godi hyn gyda’r cyngor. Mae’r cyngor yn gorff sy’n ddemocrataidd atebol. Os dyna farn y cyngor am ei bobl hŷn, fel eithriad yng Nghymru, gobeithiaf, pan fydd pobl hŷn Powys yn bwrw eu pleidlais yn yr etholiad nesaf, y byddant yn dangos i’w cynghorwyr a’r cyngor beth yw eu barn hwythau. Fel Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, ni fyddwn yn ceisio tanseilio llywodraeth leol yn y ffordd a awgrymwch. Y ffordd o gyfleu neges o’r fath yn glir yw drwy’r blwch pleidleisio, drwy’r broses ddemocrataidd.

Fy mhwynt terfynol—ac mae’n debyg inni beidio â chyfeirio at hyn ddigon ar y dechrau—yw mai un o’r heriau mawr wrth gyflwyno’r agenda ddinasyddiaeth ar gyfer pobl hŷn yw sicrhau y caiff anghenion pobl hŷn eu prif ffrydio yn y prif fathau o weithgareddau mewn llywodraeth leol, ac yn ein cyfleusterau chwaraeon ac addysg lleol. Fel y dangoswyd yn ‘Pan fwyf yn hen a pharchus...’, yn aml, nid yw pobl hŷn yn chwilio am unrhyw beth gwahanol neu benodol iddynt hwy eu hunain; dim ond chwilio am gyfle teg a chyfartal i fanteisio ar yr holl gyfleoedd a gynigir gan gymdeithas y maent.

Helen Mary Jones: O ran cymorth gwasanaethau cymdeithasol wrth ofalu am yr henoed, a dderbyniwch ffigurau Wanless a ddangosodd bod canran gwariant gwasanaethau cymdeithasol ar roi cymorth i bobl yn eu cartrefi eu hunain wedi gostwng o 46 y cant yn 1996-7 i 42 y cant yn 2000-01, ac a dderbyniwch fod y duedd hon yn parhau? Sut y bydd eich Llywodraeth yn gwrthdroi’r duedd hon yng nghyd-destun eich strategaeth, sef rhoi cymorth i bobl, cyhyd ag y bo modd yn eu cartrefi eu hunain?

Brian Gibbons: The one thing that you must ask about percentage figures is to what do they relate. If you look at the annual report of the chief inspector, published a few months ago, you will see a fairly significant increase in the level of spending on older people. I do not have the figure to hand, but the increase in expenditure in adult social services is dramatic. It surprised me that those increases were quite as dramatic, though they were not as steep as those for children's social services. The number of packages of care, particularly intensive ones, being delivered for older people continues to increase. These intensive packages of care allow people to stay in their own homes with their families and in their communities rather than being admitted to nursing or residential homes. There is no doubt that, overwhelmingly, that is the preferred option of older people, and we are trying to deliver on it.

Jonathan Morgan: Minister, you said in your statement that a key principle is to move away from a model that sees old age as a problem and a burden and move towards a model of encouragement and citizenship for older people. I am pleased to see that in the statement. I would have preferred—but it is a personal preference—for the issue of dignity in old age also to have been a theme that could have run throughout the strategy. I do not think that, as a country, we deal with older people in a dignified way. Somehow, it is easy for society and Government agencies to ignore older people, as you have outlined, and to see them as a burden. The concept of preserving and enhancing dignity in old age should be a priority. Can you assure us that the older persons' commissioner will have the same, if not more, clout than the successful Children's Commissioner for Wales, and that the person appointed to that post will be truly independent of Government and will be able to tackle the sort of problems that need to be tackled, such as the sensitive issue that Kirsty Williams highlighted of means testing benefits, and council tax levels, pension levels and so on, even if they do not sit comfortably with you as Minister or with your Cabinet colleagues? We need that reassurance. Older people in Wales will have more confidence in this strategy if they know that they will have a real champion to stick up for them.

Brian Gibbons: Y peth y mae'n rhaid ichi ei ofyn am ganrannau yw beth y maent yn ymwneud ag ef. Os edrychwch ar adroddiad blynyddol y prif arolygydd, a gyhoeddwyd ychydig fisoedd yn ôl, fe welwch gynnydd cymharol fawr yn y gwariant ar bobl hŷn. Nid oes gennyf y ffigur wrth law, ond mae'r cynnydd mewn gwariant ym maes gwasanaethau cymdeithasol i oedolion yn sylweddol. Fe'm synnwyd bod y codiadau hynny mor sylweddol, er nad oeddent gymaint â'r codiadau ym maes gwasanaethau cymdeithasol i blant. Mae nifer y pecynnau gofal, yn enwedig rhai gofal dwys, a gyflwynir i bobl hŷn yn parhau i gynyddu. Mae'r pecynnau gofal dwys hyn yn galluogi pobl i aros yn eu cartrefi eu hunain gyda'u teuluoedd ac yn eu cymunedau yn hytrach na gorfod mynd i gartrefi nyrsio neu breswyl. Yn ddiau, dyna ddymuniad y rhan fwyaf o bobl hŷn, ac yr ydym yn ceisio ei gyflawni.

Jonathan Morgan: Weinidog, dywedasoeh yn eich datganiad mai un o'r egwyddorion allweddol yw symud i ffwrdd oddi wrth fodel sy'n ystyried henaint yn broblem ac yn faich a symud tuag at fodel o anogaeth a dinasyddiaeth i bobl hŷn. Yr wyf yn falch o weld hynny yn y datganiad. Byddai wedi bod yn well gennyf—ond dewis personol ydyw—pe bai urddas wrth henaint wedi bod yn un o themâu'r strategaeth hefyd. Ni chredaf ein bod yn trin pobl hŷn ag urddas yn y wlad hon. Rywsut, mae'n hawdd i gymdeithas ac asiantaethau'r Llywodraeth anwybyddu pobl hŷn, fel yr amlinellwyd gennych, a'u hystyried yn faich. Dylai'r cysyniad o gadw urddas a chael mwy o urddas wrth fynd yn hŷn fod yn flaenoriaeth. A allwch ein sicrhau y bydd gan y comisiynydd ar gyfer pobl hŷn yr un dylanwad, os nad mwy, â Chomisiynydd Plant Cymru a fu'n llwyddiannus, ac y bydd yr unigolyn a benodir i'r swydd honno yn gwbl annibynnol ar Lywodraeth ac y bydd yn gallu mynd i'r afael â'r math o broblemau y mae angen mynd i'r afael â hwy, megis y mater sensitif a amlygodd Kirsty Williams o ran budd-daliadau ar sail prawf modd, a lefelau'r dreth gyngor, lefelau pensiwn ac ati, hyd yn oed os nad ydych chi na'ch cyd-Weinidogion yn teimlo'n gyfforddus iawn yn eu trafod? Mae angen y sicrwydd hwnnw arnom. Bydd gan bobl hŷn yng Nghymru fwy o hyder yn y strategaeth hon os gwyddant y bydd ganddynt

eiriolwr gwirioneddol i'w cefnogi.

4.30 p.m.

Brian Gibbons: On the issue of dignity, the whole strategy has been based on the 'United Nations Principles for Older Persons'. If you are familiar with that document, you will know that the dignity of older people is central to it. We stated at the beginning that that document is one of the key source documents, or the inspiration, for this strategy. Therefore, while I cannot comment on the number of times that the word dignity appears in the strategy document, it is intrinsic to it and is encapsulated by the commitment that we made vis-à-vis the 'United Nations Principles for Older Persons'. Our track record speaks for itself. The children's commissioner, in his various reports, has not pulled any punches regarding the way in which he thinks that the Assembly Government is responding on a number of issues. We do not envisage that the older persons' commissioner will do the job any differently. We will not know about the specifics until the Bill is published for scrutiny. We must wait to see the specific details of how it will be delivered, because it is a parliamentary Bill even though we are involved in discussions with Westminster. The Bill will be subject to scrutiny by the Welsh Assembly Government and the UK Government so that those people who feel that it is not fit for purpose will have a role to play through that process to try to strengthen its powers.

Brian Gibbons: O ran urddas, bu'r strategaeth gyfan yn seiliedig ar 'Egwyddorion y Cenhedloedd Unedig ar gyfer Pobl Hŷn'. Os ydych yn gyfarwydd â'r ddogfen honno, fe wyddoch fod i urddas pobl hŷn le canolog ynddi. Bu inni nodi ar y dechrau bod y ddogfen honno yn un o'r dogfennau ffynhonnell allweddol, neu'r ysbrydoliaeth, ar gyfer y strategaeth hon. Felly, er na allaf ddweud sawl gwaith y mae'r gair urddas yn ymddangos yn y strategaeth, mae'n rhan annatod ohoni ac yn rhan o'r ymrwymiad a wnaethom mewn perthynas ag 'Egwyddorion y Cenhedloedd Unedig ar gyfer Pobl Hŷn'. Mae ein record yn siarad drosti'i hun. Mae'r comisiynydd plant wedi bod yn ddi-flewyn-ar-dafod yn ei adroddiadau gwahanol ynghylch y ffordd y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ymateb i nifer o faterion, yn ei farn ef. Ni ragwelwn y bydd y comisiynydd ar gyfer pobl hŷn yn gweithredu mewn ffordd wahanol. Ni fyddwn yn gwybod y manylion hyd nes y cyhoeddir y Mesur i graffu arno. Rhaid inni aros i weld y manylion penodol ynghylch sut y cyflwynir hyn, oherwydd Mesur seneddol ydyw er ein bod yn rhan o'r trafodaethau gyda San Steffan. Bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a Llywodraeth y DU yn craffu ar y Mesur er mwyn sicrhau y bydd gan y bobl hynny sydd o'r farn nad yw'n addas at y diben ran i'w chwarae drwy'r broses honno i atgyfnerthu ei bwerau.

Pwynt o Drefn Point of Order

William Graham: I raise a point of order under Standing Order No. 6.39 regarding item 8 on today's agenda. I seek clarification on three issues. First, as we all know, the short debate is a unique opportunity protected by Standing Orders for private Members to raise a subject of their choice in Plenary. It is, therefore, not an opportunity to be squandered and is one which most Members treasure. It is fundamental to the way in which we operate in the Assembly and we look to you, Llywydd, to be the guardian of private Members' rights. Will you direct

William Graham: Codaf bwynt o drefn o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 6.39 ynghylch eitem 8 ar yr agenda heddiw. Gofynnaf am eglurhad ar dri mater. Yn gyntaf, fel y gŵyr pob un ohonom, mae'r ddadl fer yn gyfle unigryw a ddiogelir gan Reolau Sefydlog i Aelodau preifat godi pwnc o'u dewis mewn Cyfarfod Llawn. Felly, nid yw'n gyfle i'w wastraffu ac mae'r rhan fwyaf o Aelodau yn gwerthfawrogi'r cyfle hwnnw. Mae'n rhan hanfodol o'r ffordd yr ydym yn gweithredu yn y Cynulliad a dibynnwn arnoch chi, Lywydd, i warchod hawliau Aelodau preifat.

Members to notify the Table Office as soon as possible whenever they are unable to take up their allocated short debate slot and to withdraw their names from the ballots for dates when they know that they are unable to be present? Secondly, is it possible, on such occasions, for the short debate to be allocated to the next Member on the ballot list? Thirdly, would you clarify whether the loss of private Members' time should be utilised on future occasions to create more time for Government business? Can I persuade you not to give a full judgment today to enable the Member in question to explain her absence and to perhaps apologise to the Assembly? I ask, through you, that the First Minister or the Business Minister give an undertaking that this is not a device to delay Assembly business, and allow opposition Members to present short debates so that time is not occupied entirely by the Government.

The Presiding Officer: I am grateful to William Graham—[*Interruption.*] Order. I am replying to a point of order and I will be listened to, as should all Members when they are speaking in the Chamber.

I am grateful to William Graham for giving me advance notice of this point of order. This matter does not refer to the conduct of an individual Assembly Member; it is an issue of general principle. I have indicated on a number of occasions that it is important that Assembly Members who are elected to represent the Assembly on external bodies, whatever they may be, on mainland Europe or elsewhere, are able to do so. I regret that we have not always been able to secure the arrangements to enable that to happen.

However, I fully agree with what William Graham has said. The short debate is, as William Graham described it, an essential facility in our Standing Orders, protected uniquely in amendments to our Standing Orders, to allow those whom I will ineloquently call Assembly Members who are neither elected nor appointed as office holders—Members will notice that I am trying to avoid using the words 'backbench', 'ordinary Members' or any other description, therefore I will use the expression 'Members generally' until I can find a better one—to

A wnewch gyfarwyddo Aelodau i hysbysu'r Swyddfa Gyflwyno cyn gynted â phosibl pan na allant ddefnyddio'r amser ar gyfer dadleuon byrion a ddyrannwyd iddynt ac i beidio â chynnwys eu henwau pan dynnir enwau ar gyfer dyddiadau os gwyddant na allant fod yn bresennol? Yn ail, a yw'n bosibl, ar adegau o'r fath, i'r ddadl fer gael ei dyrannu i'r Aelod nesaf ar y rhestr o enwau? Yn drydydd, a wnewch egluro pa un a ddylid defnyddio amser Aelodau preifat a gollir yn y dyfodol i greu mwy o amser i fusnes y Llywodraeth? A allaf eich darbwyllio i beidio â rhoi dyfarniad llawn heddiw er mwyn galluogi'r Aelod dan sylw i egluro pam na fu'n bresennol ac efallai i ymddiheuro i'r Cynulliad? Drwoch chi, gofynnaf i'r Prif Weinidog neu'r Trefnydd addo nad yw hyn yn ffordd o oedi busnes y Cynulliad, a chaniatáu i Aelodau'r gwrthbleidiau gyflwyno dadleuon byrion fel nad yw'r Llywodraeth yn defnyddio'r holl amser.

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i William Graham—[*Torri ar draws.*] Trefn. Yr wyf yn ymateb i bwynt o drefn a disgwyliaf i bawb wrando arnaf, fel y dylai ddigwydd pan fydd unrhyw Aelod yn siarad yn y Siambr.

Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i William Graham am roi rhybudd o'r pwynt o drefn hwn ymlaen llaw. Nid yw'r mater hwn yn cyfeirio at ymddygiad Aelod Cynulliad unigol; mae'n egwyddor gyffredinol. Yr wyf wedi nodi sawl gwaith ei bod yn bwysig bod Aelodau Cynulliad sydd wedi'u hethol i gynrychioli'r Cynulliad ar gyffwrdd allanol, beth bynnag y bônt, ar dir mawr Ewrop neu rywle arall, yn gallu gwneud hynny. Gresynaf nad ydym bob amser wedi llwyddo i gael y trefniadau er mwyn sicrhau bod hynny'n digwydd.

Fodd bynnag, cytunaf yn llwyr â'r hyn a ddywedodd William Graham. Mae'r ddadl fer, fel y'i disgrifiwyd gan William Graham, yn gyfleuster hanfodol yn ein Rheolau Sefydlog, a ddiogelwyd mewn ffordd unigryw yn y diwygiadau i'n Rheolau Sefydlog, i ganiatáu i'r rhai y byddaf yn eu galw yn drwsgl braidd yn Aelodau Cynulliad nad ydynt wedi eu hethol neu'u penodi'n ddeiliaid swyddi—bydd Aelodau yn sylwi fy mod yn ceisio osgoi defnyddio'r geiriau 'meinciau cefn', 'Aelodau cyffredin' neu unrhyw ddisgrifiad arall, felly byddaf yn

raise issues and hold Ministers to account on matters that might not otherwise receive significant Plenary time. It is important, therefore—I reply directly to William Graham’s point—that when Members are aware that they will not be able to attend a Plenary meeting, they and their support staff should make every effort to ensure that their name is withdrawn from the ballot for that particular day. Members should also ensure that the Table Office is informed at the earliest possible opportunity after they have won a ballot, if it becomes clear that they will not be able to take part in the debate concerned, so that other Members can take up the opportunity.

I agree, in principle, with the view that the short debate be allocated to the next Member on the list, as William Graham asked. Indeed, I can confirm that this has been done on previous occasions when the ballot-winning Member has had to withdraw from a debate. However, this can only be done when Members notify the Table Office within the relevant deadline for tabling a topic for debate. The fact that we had a recess last week—we seem to have half-term recesses these days, something which also seems to be afflicting Westminster, although that is a personal opinion—meant that Members and their support staff were not available in the Chamber to respond in the usual way. A more general provision on this matter, in relation to notification and so on, would require a change to our Standing Orders.

I believe that our Standing Orders are clear on this matter and it is important that we should adhere to them. I am sure that all Assembly Members would agree, even those who are not elected or appointed as office holders, that the important platform of the short debate provides for Members generally an important opportunity to raise issues, and it should not be used for other purposes. I take very seriously my role as the guardian of the time of Members generally, while recognising that the Government wishes to take its business through. An Assembly functions to provide for legislation and for Government statements, such as those we

defnyddio’r ymadrodd ‘Aelodau yn gyffredinol’ hyd nes y gallaf ddod o hyd i ymadrodd gwell—godi materion a dwyn Gweinidogion i gyfrif ar faterion na fyddent fel arall yn cael llawer o amser mewn Cyfarfod Llawn o bosibl. Mae’n bwysig felly—atebaf bwynt William Graham yn uniongyrchol—pan fydd Aelodau yn ymwybodol na allant fynychu Cyfarfod Llawn, y dylent hwy a’u staff cymorth wneud pob ymdrech i sicrhau na chaiff eu henw ei gynnwys wrth dynnu enwau ar gyfer y diwrnod penodol hwnnw. Dylai Aelodau sicrhau hefyd y caiff y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ei hysbysu cyn gynted â phosibl ar ôl i’w henwau gael eu tynnu os daw i’r amlwg na allant gymryd rhan yn y ddadl dan sylw, fel y gall Aelodau eraill fanteisio ar y cyfle.

Cytunaf, mewn egwyddor, â’r farn y dylid dyrannu’r ddadl fer i’r Aelod nesaf ar y rhestr, fel y gofynnodd William Graham. Yn wir, gallaf gadarnhau bod hyn wedi’i wneud o’r blaen pan fu’n rhaid i’r Aelod y tynnwyd ei enw dynnu’n ôl o ddadl. Fodd bynnag, dim ond pan fydd Aelodau yn hysbysu’r Swyddfa Gyflwyno o fewn y terfyn amser perthnasol ar gyfer cyflwyno pwnc ar gyfer dadl y gellir gwneud hyn. Golygodd y ffaith inni gael toriad yr wythnos diwethaf—ymddengys ein bod yn cael toriadau hanner tymor erbyn hyn, sef rhywbeth y mae San Steffan yn ei ddioddef hefyd yn ôl pob golwg, er mai barn bersonol yw honno—nad oedd Aelodau a’u staff cymorth ar gael yn y Siambr i ymateb yn y ffordd arferol. Byddai angen newid ein Rheolau Sefydlog er mwyn cael darpariaeth fwy cyffredinol ar y mater hwn, mewn perthynas â hysbysu ac ati.

Credaf fod ein Rheolau Sefydlog yn glir yn hyn o beth ac mae’n bwysig y dylem lynu wrthynt. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai pob Aelod Cynulliad yn cytuno, hyd yn oed y rhai nad ydynt wedi’u hethol neu’u penodi’n ddeiliaid swyddi, fod llwyfan pwysig y ddadl fer yn rhoi cyfle pwysig i Aelodau yn gyffredinol godi materion, ac ni ddylid ei defnyddio at ddibenion eraill. Cymeraf fy rôl fel gwarcheidwad amser Aelodau yn gyffredinol yn hollol o ddifrif, tra’n cydnabod bod y Llywodraeth am gynnal ei busnes. Mae Cynulliad yn gweithredu i ddarparu ar gyfer deddfwriaeth a datganiadau’r Llywodraeth, megis y rhai a gawsom heddiw, ond hefyd er

have had today, but also for Members to be able to scrutinise whoever is in Government. It is in all our interests that these principles are maintained.

mwyn i Aelodau graffu ar weithredodd pwy bynnag sydd mewn grym. Mae er budd pob un ohonom fod yr egwyddorion hyn yn cael eu cynnal.

**Dirprwyo Swyddogaethau o dan Orchymyn Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
(Trosglwyddo Swyddogaethau) 2004 i'r Prif Weinidog
Delegation of Functions under the National Assembly for Wales (Transfer of
Functions) Order 2004 to the First Minister**

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

the National Assembly for Wales acting under section 62(1)(b) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, resolves to delegate all functions transferred to it by the National Assembly for Wales (Transfer of Functions) Order 2004 (S.I. 2004 No. 3044) to the Assembly First Minister, save those which by law cannot be so delegated.

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

This delegation will be made in the knowledge that those functions will, as appropriate, be further delegated to the appropriate Assembly Minister and to staff. (NDM2303)

Helen Mary Jones: Plaid Cymru—The Party of Wales welcomes these additional powers, which have been devolved to the National Assembly, being put into operation. One always feels some trepidation about delegating any additional powers to the Government since it is occasionally rather lackadaisical about using the ones that it already has. However, that said, I am sure that we can trust the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside to make best use of the opportunity that this delegation of powers provides him with.

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

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, gan weithredu'n unol ag adran 62(1)(b) o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998, yn penderfynu dirprwyo'r holl swyddogaethau a drosglwyddwyd iddo trwy rinwedd Gorchymyn Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru (Trosglwyddo Swyddogaethau) 2004 (OS 2004 Rhif 3044), i'r Prif Weinidog, heblaw am y rhai hynny na ellir eu dirprwyo yn gyfreithiol.

Ni fydd unrhyw beth yn y cynnig hwn yn golygu y caiff goruchafiaeth awdurdod y Cynulliad llawn na rôl Pwyllgorau'r Cynulliad o ran gweithredu'r swyddogaethau uchod eu lleihau.

Caiff y swyddogaethau hyn eu dirprwyo gan ei gwneud yn hysbys y byddant yn cael eu dirprwyo ymhellach i'r Gweinidog priodol yn y Cynulliad ac i staff, fel y bo hynny'n briodol. (NDM2303)

Helen Mary Jones: Mae Plaid Cymru—The Party of Wales yn croesawu'r pwerau ychwanegol hyn, sydd wedi'u datganoli i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, yn cael eu rhoi ar waith. Teimlir rhywfaint o anniddigrwydd bob amser ynghylch dirprwyo unrhyw bwerau ychwanegol i'r Llywodraeth am ei bod braidd yn ddifater o bryd i'w gilydd o ran defnyddio'r rhai sydd ganddi eisoes. Fodd bynnag, wedi dweud hynny, yr wyf yn siŵr y gallwn ymddiried yn y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad i fanteisio i'r eithaf ar y cyfle a roddir iddo yn sgîl dirprwyo'r pwerau hyn.

4.40 p.m.

I will raise two specific issues with him. First, will the Minister now consider reviewing the six-day standstill rule? I believe that that has already happened in Northern Ireland. The rule puts considerable pressure on the industry, and, although I would not expect the Minister to give us a commitment today to abolish the rule, I would welcome his commitment to review it.

I believe that the Minister would have to discuss broader animal health and welfare issues with his colleague, the Minister for Health and Social Services, and with the British Government because they relate to Her Majesty's Customs and Excise, but many of us are still extremely concerned that there is no effective measure in place for ensuring that illegal meat imports are not brought into Wales. Neither is there any effective monitoring of animal food that is brought in to see whether or not its genetically modified contents meet current requirements. I understand that local authorities are being asked to deal with the second matter, but they are not resourced and there is no laboratory in Wales for this purpose, so these checks and balances are not happening. Given the commitments that the Minister has given us in the past and the concern that he has shown about the damage that can be caused by illegal meat imports and the efforts that he has made to keep Wales as GM free as possible within the law, will he consider both of those issues with relevant colleagues and with other British Government departments if necessary?

The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside (Carwyn Jones): The question of meat imports is not wholly within this transfer of functions, but, nevertheless, we consider this matter continuously. HM Customs and Excise is heavily dependent on intelligence to understand when illegal meat imports may be coming into the country, and it is a matter for it to examine the situation and to act as appropriate. I have visited Cardiff international airport and have seen a demonstration of a dog being used to detect illegal meat. The airport takes this matter seriously and seizes a significant quantity of

Codaf ddau fater penodol gydag ef. Yn gyntaf, a wnaiff y Gweinidog ystyried adolygu'r rheol cyfnod cadw chwe diwrnod yn awr? Credaf fod hynny wedi digwydd yng Ngogledd Iwerddon eisoes. Mae'r rheol yn rhoi pwysau sylweddol ar y diwydiant, ac, er na fyddwn yn disgwyl i'r Gweinidog roi ymrwymiad inni heddiw i ddiddymu'r rheol, byddwn yn croesawu ei ymrwymiad i'w hadolygu.

Credaf y byddai'n rhaid i'r Gweinidog drafod materion ehangach o ran iechyd a lles anifeiliaid gyda'i gyd-Weinidog, y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, a chyda Llywodraeth Prydain am eu bod yn ymwneud a Thollau Tramor a Chartref Ei Mawrhydi, ond mae llawer ohonom yn dal i bryderu'n fawr nad oes mesur effeithiol ar waith i sicrhau nad yw mewnfurion cig anghyfreithlon yn dod i mewn i Gymru. Nid oes unrhyw broses effeithiol ychwaith o fonitro bwyd anifeiliaid sy'n dod i mewn i'r wlad i weld a yw ei gynnwys a addaswyd yn enynnol yn bodloni'r gofynion presennol ai peidio. Deallaf y gofynnir i awdurdodau lleol ymddrin â'r ail fater, ond nid oes adnoddau ganddynt ac nid oes labordy yng Nghymru at y diben hwn, ac felly nid oes rhwystrau a gwrthbwsau. O gofio'r ymrwymadau a wnaeth y Gweinidog yn y gorffennol a'r pryder a fu ganddo ynghylch y niwed y gall mewnfurion cig anghyfreithlon ei achosi a'r ymdrechion a wnaeth i sicrhau bod Cymru yn aros yn rhydd o addasu genynnol gymaint ag sy'n bosibl o dan y gyfraith, a wnaiff ystyried y ddau fater hynny gyda chyd-Weinidogion perthnasol a chydag adrannau eraill yn Llywodraeth Prydain os bydd angen?

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad (Carwyn Jones): Nid yw'r swyddogaethau a drosglwyddir yn yr achos hwn yn cwmpasu mewnfurion cig yn gyfan gwbl, ond, serch hynny, yr ydym yn cymryd y mater hwn o ddifrif. Mae Tollau Tramor a Chartref EM yn dibynnu ar guddwybodaeth i raddau helaeth i ddeall pryd y mae mewnfurion cig anghyfreithlon yn cyrraedd y wlad o bosibl, a'm cyfrifoldeb i yw ystyried y sefyllfa a chymryd camau priodol. Yr wyf wedi ymweld â maes awyr rhyngwladol Caerdydd a dangoswyd imi sut y defnyddir ci i ganfod cig anghyfreithlon.

meat; most of that meat is seized from people who bring it in unwittingly and involuntarily, but at least it is being seized.

Mae'r maes awyr yn cymryd y mater hwn o ddifrif ac yn atafaelu llawer o gig; atafaelir y rhan fwyaf o'r cig hwnnw oddi wrth bobl sy'n dod ag ef i mewn i'r wlad yn ddiarwybod ac yn anfwriadol, ond o leiaf caiff ei atafaelu.

I can take no action with regard to the six-day standstill until this transfer of functions is passed and the powers subsequently come to me. Farmers' representatives have raised the issue with me and I will discuss it with veterinary officers to gauge their view on it.

Ni allaf gymryd unrhyw gamau o ran y cyfnod cadw chwe diwrnod oni chymeradwyir trosglwyddo'r swyddogaethau hyn a daw'r pwerau imi o ganlyniad i hynny. Mae cynrychiolwyr ffermwyr wedi codi'r mater gyda mi a byddaf yn ei drafod gyda milfeddygon i weld beth yw eu barn arno.

*Cynnig (NDM2303): O blaid 44, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM2303): 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
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
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, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Helen Mary
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn

Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd i'r Gadair am 4.44 p.m.
The Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair at 4.44 p.m.*

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

**Adrannau Damweiniau ac Achosion Brys
Accident and Emergency Departments**

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendment 1 in the name of Jocelyn Davies and amendment 2 in the name of David Melding.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliant 1 yn enw Jocelyn Davies a gwelliant 2 yn enw David Melding.

Kirsty Williams: I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales directs the Minister for Health and Social Services to present a plan by 9 March 2005 to this Assembly setting out his actions to end the crisis in accident and emergency.
(NDM2302)

Kirsty Williams: Cynigiaf fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn cyfarwyddo'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol i gyflwyno cynllun erbyn 9 Mawrth 2005 i'r Cynulliad hwn yn nodi'r camau y bydd yn eu cymryd i ddod â'r argyfwng mewn adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys i ben.
(NDM2302)

I am glad that we have been able to give the Assembly an opportunity to discuss this important issue. Despite repeated calls from the opposition, the Government has failed to table a debate on this subject in its own time, so it has once again fallen to the opposition to give the people of Wales the opportunity to see elected politicians debate such issues of prime importance.

Yr wyf yn falch ein bod wedi gallu rhoi cyfle i'r Cynulliad drafod y mater pwysig hwn. Er gwaethaf galwadau niferus gan y gwrthbleidiau, mae'r Llywodraeth wedi methu â chyflwyno dadl ar y pwnc hwn yn ei hamser ei hun, ac mae felly'n gyfrifoldeb unwaith eto ar y gwrthbleidiau i roi cyfle i bobl Cymru weld gwleidyddion etholedig yn trafod materion hollbwysig o'r fath.

Our accident and emergency departments provide a service that each of us will have used, or visited with a friend or relative, at some stage in our lives. These units are at the sharp end of the NHS, where life and death hang in the balance on a daily basis. Here, waiting times are often measured in seconds and minutes because anything more can be too long. It should be of concern to us all when these life-saving departments are forced to shut their doors to all but the most urgent of cases. However, what has happened in recent weeks? We have seen stacked ambulances, trolley waits that have run into

Mae ein hadrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys yn darparu gwasanaeth y bydd pob un ohonom wedi'i ddefnyddio, neu wedi ymweld ag ef gyda ffrind neu berthynas, ar ryw adeg yn ein bywydau. Mae'r unedau hyn yn rheng flaen y GIG, lle y mae bywydau yn y fantol yn feunyddiol. Yma, caiff amseroedd aros eu mesur yn aml mewn eiliadau a munudau gan y gall unrhyw beth yn rhagor fod yn rhy hir. Dylai'r ffaith bod yr adrannau hyn sy'n achub bywydau yn cael eu gorfodi i gau eu drysau i bob achos ond yr achosion mwyaf dybryd beri pryder i bob un ohonom. Fodd bynnag, beth a ddigwyddodd yn ystod

days for some patients, and staff speaking out publicly on behalf of themselves and, more importantly, their patients. It is a shocking indictment of the Welsh Assembly Government's policy, and distressing to all those, staff and patients, who have been caught up in it.

The problems of accident and emergency departments are a symptom of Welsh Labour's failure in other areas of the NHS in Wales, and it is ironic that accident and emergency, so often used by the First Minister as a shield against his Government's disastrous performance in other areas, is now also suffering as a result of policy failures on waiting lists, access to primary care and bedblocking. People who attend accident and emergency departments should be just that—an accident or an emergency. When they attend, and it is not under those circumstances, it is not because they want to be difficult or do not know where else to go, but because they often have nowhere else to go. In a desperate situation, for example when a child with a temperature cannot see a GP, people turn to their local accident and emergency unit.

The Government has constantly stated that it wants a primary-care-led service, but it has done little to actively achieve this in Wales. Changes to the GP contract gave Government an opportunity to improve access and the range of services available in communities. Better disease management in the community, especially with regard to respiratory illnesses, can keep emergency admissions down and people out of hospital. Timely access to a GP, whether in or out of hours, is vital. It is no surprise that the crisis came to a head on a Monday, which is probably the busiest day of a GP's life, when people rush to get appointments after the weekend because they have been unable to access out-of-hours services. The development of walk-in centres could play a huge part in tackling the pressure in our accident and emergency departments. I recently visited, with Royal College of Nursing representatives, two centres in

yr wythnosau diwethaf? Gwelsom ambiwlansys mewn rhesi, rhai cleifion yn aros ar droliau am ddiwrnodau, a staff yn siarad yn gyhoeddus ar eu rhan hwy eu hunain ac, yn bwysicach, ar ran eu cleifion. Mae'n gondemniad echrydus o bolisi Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, ac yn achosi gofid i bawb, boed yn aelodau o staff neu'n gleifion, a fu'n rhan ohono.

Mae problemau adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys yn deillio o fethiant Llafur Cymru mewn meysydd eraill o'r GIG yng Nghymru, ac mae'n eironig bod adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys, a ddefnyddir mor aml gan y Prif Weinidog fel tarian yn erbyn perfformiad trychinebus ei Lywodraeth mewn meysydd eraill, yn awr hefyd yn dioddef o ganlyniad i fethiannau polisi ar restrau aros, mynediad i ofal sylfaenol a blocio gwelyau. Dylai'r bobl sy'n mynychu adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys fodloni'r disgrifiad—damwain neu achos brys. Pan fyddant yn mynychu, ac na fydd o dan yr amgylchiadau hynny, ni wnânt hynny am eu bod am fod yn drafferthus neu am na wyddant lle arall i fynd, ond oherwydd yn aml nad oes ganddynt unrhyw le arall i fynd. Mewn sefyllfa daer, er enghraifft, pan na all plentyn â thymheredd uchel weld meddyg teulu, bydd pobl yn troi at eu huned damweiniau ac achosion brys leol.

Mae'r Llywodraeth wedi datgan yn gyson ei bod am weld gwasanaeth wedi'i arwain gan ofal sylfaenol, ond prin yw'r camau gweithredu a gymerodd i gyflawni hyn yng Nghymru. Rhoddodd newidiadau i gontract y meddygon teulu gyfle i'r Llywodraeth wella mynediad ac amrywiaeth y gwasanaethau sydd ar gael o fewn cymunedau. Gall dulliau gwell ar gyfer rheoli afiechydon yn y gymuned, yn arbennig o ran mathau o salwch anadlol, leihau nifer y cleifion a dderbynnir fel achosion brys a chadw pobl allan o'r ysbyty. Mae mynediad amserol i feddyg teulu, boed yn ystod oriau meddygfeydd neu'r tu allan iddynt, yn hanfodol. Nid yw'n syndod i'r argyfwng fynd i'r pen ar ddydd Llun, sef y diwrnod prysuraf ym mywyd meddyg teulu fwy na thebyg, pan fydd pobl yn rhuthro i gael apwyntiadau ar ôl y penwythnos am nad ydynt wedi gallu cael gafael ar wasanaethau y tu allan i oriau. Gallai'r broses o ddatblygu canolfannau galw

Bristol. They have become a much-valued part of the family of services available to the local population. They are much valued by local GPs and by the staff of accident and emergency departments, who now state that the patients they previously saw and who did not need to be in accident and emergency departments, are now able to access services at walk-in centres. The staff, therefore, are able to get on with treating the patients who truly need to be in accident and emergency departments.

The failure on waiting lists has contributed to the problem in two ways. Unstable, one-off initiatives, without planned increases in capacity, and bed occupancy levels that run at an unsustainable 95 per cent, make the system unable to respond to upsurges in demand, whatever the season. Secondly, and more distressingly, long waiting lists inevitably mean that individuals' conditions often deteriorate, which leads to them having to be admitted to hospital as an emergency because their place on the list never comes up. Significant problems in the inability to admit patients to wards from accident and emergency departments due to a lack of bed capacity leads to huge problems and to the inability of ambulances to offload their patients. Yet, at any one time, approximately 500 beds in Welsh hospitals are occupied by people who do not need or want to be there. There are 53 such beds in Gwent, 59 in Swansea and 130 in Cardiff and the Vale. The National Audit Office's report, which the First Minister believes is out of date but the rest of Wales seems to believe is a true and accurate reflection of how things are in the NHS, states that local authorities are doing a good job, but that much of the problem is the responsibility of the NHS. Derek Wanless, in the report that he delivered some years ago, pointed to how the better use of community hospital facilities to provide step-down beds and rehabilitation resources demonstrated that a better balance within the system could take pressure off our hospitals, and free up

i mewn chwarae rhan enfawr wrth fynd i'r afael â'r pwysau yn ein hadrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys. Yn ddiweddar, ymwelais â dwy ganolfan ym Mryste, yng nghwmni cynrychiolwyr Coleg Brenhinol y Nyrsys. Maent erbyn hyn yn rhan a werthfawrogir yn fawr o'r teulu o wasanaethau a gynigir i'r boblogaeth leol. Cânt eu gwerthfawrogi'n fawr gan feddygon teulu lleol a staff yr adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys, sydd bellach yn datgan y gall cleifion a oedd yn dod i'w gweld yn y gorffennol ac nad oedd angen iddynt ymweld ag adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys, yn awr fanteisio ar wasanaethau mewn canolfannau galw i mewn. Felly, gall y staff barhau â'r gwaith o drin cleifion y mae gwir angen iddynt gael eu trin gan adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys.

Mae'r methiant o ran rhestrau aros wedi cyfrannu at y broblem mewn dwy ffordd. Mae mentrau unigol, ansefydlog, heb unrhyw gynnydd bwriadedig mewn adnoddau, a lefelau llenwi gwelyau ar ganran anghynaliadwy o 95 y cant, yn golygu na all y system ymateb i unrhyw gynnydd mewn galw, waeth pryd y bydd yn digwydd. Yn ail, ac yn fwy gofidus, mae rhestrau aros hir yn golygu'n anochel bod cyflyrau unigolion yn aml yn gwaethygu, sy'n golygu bod yn rhaid eu derbyn i'r ysbyty fel achos brys gan na chânt byth gynnig eu lle ar y rhestr. Mae problemau sylweddol o ran yr anallu i dderbyn cleifion i wardiau o adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys oherwydd diffyg gwelyau yn arwain at broblemau enfawr ac at anallu ambiwlansys i ollwng eu cleifion. Eto, ar unrhyw un adeg, mae tua 500 o welyau mewn ysbytai yng Nghymru wedi'u llenwi gan bobl nad oes angen iddynt fod yno neu nad ydynt am fod yno. Mae 53 o welyau o'r fath yng Ngwent, 59 yn Abertawe a 130 yng Nghaerdydd a'r Fro. Noda adroddiad y Swyddfa Archwilio Genedlaethol, sydd, ym marn y Prif Weinidog, yn cynnwys gwybodaeth nad yw'n gyfredol bellach ond sydd, ym marn gweddill Cymru, yn adlewyrchiad gwir a chywir o'r sefyllfa yn y GIG, fod awdurdodau lleol yn gwneud gwaith da, ond mai cyfrifoldeb y GIG yw cyfran helaeth o'r broblem. Nododd Derek Wanless, yn yr adroddiad a gyflwynodd ganddo rai blynyddoedd yn ôl, sut yr oedd gwell defnydd o gyfleusterau ysbytai

beds in the acute sector.

cymunedol i ddarparu gwelyau gofal llai dwys ac adnoddau adsefydlu yn dangos y gallai gwell cydbwysedd o fewn y system leihau'r pwysau ar ein hysbytai, a rhyddhau gwelyau yn y sector aciwt.

4.50 p.m.

The Welsh Liberal Democrats believe that introducing free personal care would help solve many of the problems faced by people who are worried about their ability to pay for care should they or any of their relatives be discharged.

Cred Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru y byddai cyflwyno gofal personol am ddim yn helpu i ddatrys llawer o'r problemau sy'n wynebu pobl sy'n pryderu am eu gallu i dalu am ofal pe baent hwy neu unrhyw rai o'u perthnasau yn cael eu rhyddhau o'r ysbty.

What do we want you to do, Minister? We want you to come up with a plan of action. Brian, your tour around accident and emergencies departments during the half-term recess was hopefully not just a day out. I trust that you undertook the tour because you wanted to find out what the problem was, and therefore I do not think that it is too much to expect you to come up with a plan about what you will do.

Beth yr ydym am ichi ei wneud, Weinidog? Yr ydym am ichi gyflwyno cynllun gweithredu. Brian, gobeithio nad dim ond jollihoetan oedd eich taith o amgylch adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys yn ystod y toriad hanner tymor. Gobeithiaf mai am eich bod yn awyddus i ganfod beth oedd y broblem y bu ichi ymgymryd â'r daith, ac felly ni chredaf ei bod yn ormod disgwyl ichi gyflwyno cynllun yn nodi'r hyn y bwriadwch ei wneud.

Many people—and I am perhaps guilty of this also—do not work particularly well until they are faced with a deadline. Perhaps Government should not be like that but, sadly, we have an Assembly Government that has failed time and again to do its work within a right and proper timescale. Perhaps the deadline that we have proposed today is one of the few mechanisms that the Assembly has left to hold Ministers to account.

Mae llawer o bobl—ac efallai fy mod i'n euog o hyn—nad ydynt yn gweithio'n arbennig o dda onid ydynt yn wynebu amserlen benodol. Efallai na ddylai'r Llywodraeth weithredu felly ond, yn anffodus, mae gennym Lywodraeth Cynulliad sydd wedi methu dro ar ôl tro i weithredu o fewn amserlen addas a phriodol. Efallai fod yr amserlen a gynigiwyd gennym heddiw yn un o'r dulliau prin sy'n weddill gan y Cynulliad i ddwyn Gweinidogion i gyfrif.

There is a reason why television programmes such as *ER* and *Casualty* regularly top ratings on both sides of the Atlantic. The quality of writing and acting is one reason, but it is with the dramatic events that take place in these emergency areas that we can all connect. We have all been at the bedside of someone in great pain or in need of treatment, if we have not been patients ourselves. This is why Labour's failure to provide a strategic plan to ensure that this kind of crisis does not happen again is so worrying. It is symptomatic of what is wrong with Labour's management of the NHS. The staff who work so hard in our accident and emergency departments never

Mae rheswm pam mae rhaglenni teledu megis *ER* a *Casualty* ymhlith y rhaglenni teledu mwyaf poblogaidd y naill ochr a'r llall i'r Atlantig. Mae ansawdd yr ysgrifennu a'r actio yn un rheswm, ond y prif reswm yw'r ffaith bod pob un ohonom yn gallu uniaethu â'r digwyddiadau dramatig a welir yn yr unedau brys hyn. Mae pob un ohonom wedi bod wrth ymyl gwely unigolyn a oedd yn dioddef poen ddifrifol neu yr oedd angen triniaeth arno, os na fuom yn gleifion ein hunain. Dyna pam mae methiant Llafur i ddarparu cynllun strategol i sicrhau na welwn y math hwn o argyfwng eto yn peri cymaint o ofid. Mae'n enghraifft o fethiannau Llafur o

let us down. Over the next two weeks, Minister, we ask you to ensure that you do not let them down.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Cynigiau welliant 1 yn enw Jocelyn Davies. Dileu popeth ar ôl 'Cymru' a rhoi yn ei le:

1. yn cydnabod bod yr argyfwng presennol mewn adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys yn symptom o'r ffaith na lwyddwyd i fynd i'r afael â phroblemau sylfaenol o fewn y GIG.

2. yn cyfarwyddo'r Gweinidog i gyflwyno cynllun strategol cenedlaethol ar gyfer y GIG yng Nghymru.

Yr wyf yn cytuno â phopeth a ddywedodd Kirsty Williams. Nid y gwrthbleidiau sy'n dweud y pethau hyn yn unig—mae gweithwyr iechyd proffesiynol y gwasanaeth iechyd yng Nghymru yn mynegi barn yn huawdl ac yn aml. Dylai'r Gweinidog wrando ar yr hyn sydd ganddynt i'w ddweud, a'i barchu. Fel y dywed David Melding yn ei welliant, mae angen cydnabod gwaith y bobl hyn gan eu bod yn gweithio o dan amodau hynod o anodd.

Mae ein gwelliannau yn ymgais i gryfhau cynnig Kirsty Williams, a hynny am ddau reswm. Gwrandewais â diddordeb ar yr hyn a ddywedodd Kirsty wrth geisio cyfiawnhau 9 Mawrth fel terfyn amser i orfodi'r Llywodraeth i gyflwyno cynllun gweithredu. Yr oedd y dyddiad wedi creu ychydig o benbleth i mi, hyd nes i mi sylweddoli bod cynhadledd wanwyn y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol ar y penwythnos canlynol, rhwng 11 ac 13 Mawrth. Pe bai cynllun gweithredu wedi ei gyflwyno erbyn hynny, gallai Kirsty, gyda'i huoddedd arferol, fod wedi dweud wrth y gynhadledd ei bod wedi llwyddo i orfodi'r Llywodraeth i gyflwyno cynllun. Os na chyflwynir cynllun, yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd Kirsty yn dadlau gyda'r un huoddedd y dylai'r Llywodraeth fod wedi gwneud hynny, ac y dylent wrando arni hi.

Mae gennyf ychydig o bryder ynghylch ceisio gorfodi amserlen. Mae angen cynllun

ran rheoli'r GIG. Nid yw'r staff sy'n gweithio mor galed yn ein hadrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys fyth yn ein siomi. Yn ystod y pythefnos nesaf, Weinidog, gofynnwn ichi sicrhau na fyddwch yn eu siomi hwy.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I propose amendment 1 in the name of Jocelyn Davies. Delete all after 'Wales' and insert:

1. recognises that the current crisis in accident and emergency departments is symptomatic of the failure to address fundamental problems within the NHS.

2. directs the Minister to bring forward a national strategic plan for the NHS in Wales.

I agree with all of Kirsty Williams's comments. It is not only opposition parties who are expressing these views—national health service professionals in Wales are also making their views known on a regular basis. The Minister should listen to what they have to say, and respect their views. As David Melding says in his amendment, the work of these people, who work under extremely difficult circumstances, must be recognised.

Our amendments are an attempt to bolster Kirsty Williams's motion, and we have tabled them for two reasons. I listened with interest to what Kirsty said in attempting to justify imposing 9 March as a deadline to force the Government to introduce an action plan. The date perplexed me somewhat, until I realised that the Liberal Democrats' spring conference will be held on the following weekend, between 11 and 13 March. If an action plan had been introduced by that time, Kirsty, with her usual eloquence, could tell conference that she had succeeded in forcing the Government to introduce a plan. If a plan is not introduced, I am sure that Kirsty will argue just as eloquently that the Government should have done so, and that they should listen to her.

I have some concerns about attempting to impose a timescale. An holistic strategic plan

strategol cyfannol, ac nid wyf o'r farn bod hyd yn oed y Gweinidog newydd dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, er ei fod yn fwy parod na'i ragflaenydd i gydnabod problemau'r gwasanaeth iechyd, mewn sefyllfa i gyflwyno cynllun strategol cyfannol mewn cyfnod mor fyr.

Y broblem arall gyda chynnig y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yw ei fod yn awgrymu bod modd canfod ateb i'r broblem yn yr adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys ar wahân i'r problemau ehangach sy'n wynebu'r gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol. Dywedodd Kirsty fod rhaid cael strategaeth gyfannol ac ymateb sy'n defnyddio'r holl systemau—yr ymagwedd system gyfan—a chytunaf â hynny. Dyna'r rheswm y tu ôl i welliant 1. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym yn cydnabod yr angen i gael y ddadl hon a'r ffaith bod y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol wedi cael eu gorfodi i wneud hyn gan fod y Llywodraeth yn gwrthod defnyddio ei hamser ei hun i drafod y mater pwysig hwn.

There is a general acceptance by the professional bodies in the health sector that we need a whole-system approach to deal with the problems in the health service, including the problems in accident and emergency. It is fair to say that there has been general criticism from those health bodies that the Government of Wales has failed to come up with that whole-system approach. We have had several initiatives, but they were not put together strategically or holistically.

Normally, a new Minister for Health and Social Services could say, 'Give me some time, because this is the first opportunity that I have had to deal with some of these problems'. However, unfortunately, Brian Gibbons cannot say that. I was kindly given a copy of the minutes of the Labour Party group meeting at the Assembly on 27 November 2001. When Members raised concerns during that meeting about the situation in the health service, Jane Hutt noted the importance of primary care, and stressed that Brian Gibbons would take on the role of rooting out inefficiency in the health service. I am told by Cabinet staff that his prime responsibility was to discuss waiting times and waiting lists with trusts. I

is required, and I do not believe that the new Minister for Health and Social Services, even though he is more willing than his predecessor to acknowledge the problems within the health service, is in a position to introduce an holistic strategic plan within such a short period.

The other problem with the Liberal Democrat motion is that it suggests that a solution can be found to the problems in accident and emergency departments independently of the wider problems facing the national health service. Kirsty said that we need an holistic strategy and a response that uses all systems—the whole-system approach—and I agree with that. That is the rationale behind amendment 1. However, we recognise the need for this debate and the fact that the Liberal Democrats were forced to do this because the Government refuses to use its own time to debate this important issue.

Derbynnir yn gyffredinol gan y cyrff proffesiynol yn y sector iechyd bod angen ymagwedd system gyfan arnom er mwyn ymdrin â phroblemau'r gwasanaeth iechyd, gan gynnwys problemau o fewn adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys. Mae'n deg dweud y bu beirniadaeth gyffredinol gan y cyrff iechyd hynny bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi methu â gweithredu'r ymagwedd system gyfan honno. Cyflwynwyd sawl menter, ond ni chawsant eu cydgyssylltu mewn ffordd strategol na chyfannol.

Fel arfer, gallai Gweinidog newydd dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ddweud, 'Rhowch ryw faint o amser imi, gan mai dyma'r cyfle cyntaf a gefais i ymdrin â rhai o'r problemau hyn'. Fodd bynnag, yn anffodus, ni all Brian Gibbons ddweud hynny. Bûm yn ffodus i dderbyn copi o gofnodion cyfarfod grŵp y Blaid Lafur yn y Cynulliad ar 27 Tachwedd 2001. Pan gododd Aelodau bryderon yn ystod y cyfarfod hwnnw ynghylch sefyllfa'r gwasanaeth iechyd, nododd Jane Hutt bwysigrwydd gofal sylfaenol, a phwysleisiodd y byddai Brian Gibbons yn ymgymryd â'r gwaith o gael gwared ar aneffeithlonrwydd yn y gwasanaeth iechyd. Dywedir wrthyf gan staff y Cabinet mai ei brif gyfrifoldeb oedd trafod

ask Brian what happened between November 2001 and March 2003, when he handed them on to the regional offices. In November 2001, 68,000 people were on in-patient waiting lists, and 3,951 of them had been waiting over 18 months. By March 2003, 74,000 people were on the list, with 5,238 waiting over 18 months. On out-patient lists, in November 2001, 111,504 people were waiting, and 63,717 of them had been waiting over six months. By the end of March 2003, 216,370 were on the list, with 70,000 waiting over six months. The Minister failed last time, therefore what confidence can we have that he can succeed this time?

Jonathan Morgan: I propose amendment 2 in the name of David Melding. At the end of the motion, add a new point:

congratulates the staff at the accident and emergency department of the Heath hospital on their hard work despite the continuing problems.

I thank the Liberal Democrat group for bringing forward this important debate this afternoon. Kirsty Williams is right that, had the Liberal Democrats not used the mechanism of the minority party debate, there is no way that the Labour Government would have allowed a debate on the crisis in accident and emergency. This demonstrates the Labour Government's thinking. It is happy to have a bit of knockabout during questions between opposition Members and the First Minister, but it is not keen on the detailed scrutiny and detailed debate that we can have on matters of great importance. It is shameful that the Government was not willing to schedule a debate in Government time to examine the problems facing accident and emergency departments in Wales.

I am saddened that the First Minister is not here to listen to the debate. He was quick to visit the accident and emergency department at the University Hospital of Wales—indeed, he was quoted in the *South Wales Echo* as having said that he was missing the first

amseroedd aros a rhestrau aros gydag ymddiriedolaethau. Gofynnaf i Brian beth ddigwyddodd rhwng mis Tachwedd 2001 a mis Mawrth 2003, pan gawsant eu trosglwyddo ganddo i'r swyddfeydd rhanbarthol. Ym mis Tachwedd 2001, yr oedd 68,000 o bobl ar restrau aros cleifion mewnol, ac yr oedd 3,951 ohonynt wedi bod yn aros dros 18 mis. Erbyn mis Mawrth 2003, yr oedd 74,000 o bobl ar y rhestr, gyda 5,238 yn aros dros 18 mis. O ran rhestrau cleifion allanol, ym mis Tachwedd 2001, yr oedd 111,504 o bobl yn aros, ac yr oedd 63,717 ohonynt wedi bod yn aros dros chwe mis. Erbyn diwedd mis Mawrth 2003, yr oedd 216,370 ar y rhestr, gyda 70,000 yn aros dros chwe mis. Methodd y Gweinidog y tro diwethaf, felly sut y gallwn fod yn hyderus y gall lwyddo y tro hwn?

Jonathan Morgan: Cynigiau welliant 2 yn enw David Melding. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn llongyfarch staff adran damweiniau ac achosion brys Ysbyty Athrofaol Cymru am eu gwaith caled er gwaethaf y problemau sy'n parhau.

Diolchaf i grŵp y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol am gyflwyno'r ddadl bwysig hon y prynhawn yma. Mae Kirsty Williams yn llygad ei lle wrth nodi pe na fyddai'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol wedi defnyddio system y ddadl plaid leiafrifol, yna ni fyddai unrhyw ffordd y byddai'r Llywodraeth Lafur wedi caniatáu dadl ar argyfwng yr adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys. Mae hyn yn arwydd o ffordd o feddwl y Llywodraeth Lafur. Mae'n fwy na pharod i ymryson pan fydd cwestiynau'n codi rhwng Aelodau'r gwrthbleidiau a'r Prif Weinidog, ond nid yw'n hoff o'r craffu manwl a'r dadleuon manwl y gallwn eu cael ar faterion hollbwysig. Mae'n gywilyddus nad oedd y Llywodraeth yn fodlon trefnu dadl o fewn amser y Llywodraeth i archwilio'r problemau sy'n wynebu adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys yng Nghymru.

Yr wyf yn siomedig nad yw'r Prif Weinidog yn bresennol i wrando ar y ddadl. Yr oedd ar ruthr i ymweld ag adran damweiniau ac achosion brys Ysbyty Athrofaol Cymru—yn wir, fe'i dyfynnwyd yn y *South Wales Echo* yn dweud ei fod yn methu cwrs cyntaf ei

course of dinner with his wife to go to visit nurses and doctors at the accident and emergency department.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I am glad that you have raised the First Minister's visit to the accident and emergency department at the University Hospital of Wales. I refer again to the minutes of that interesting meeting of the Assembly Labour group, which note that the First Minister expressed shock at the workload that hospitals have to cope with on a Monday morning, which he discovered after going for an x-ray the day before that meeting. In 2001, he was shocked by the workload but, by 2005, his shock had turned into some sort of complacency about a blip in seasonal numbers.

Jonathan Morgan: What is worrying is that the First Minister, back in 2001, was shocked by the concept of doctors and nurses being so busy in accident and emergency departments on a Monday morning, but did nothing about it at that time. However, in 2005, blind panic sets in, a matter of weeks before a suspected general election date is announced, and Labour politicians are running around the accident and emergency departments trying to reassure doctors, nurses, and patients languishing on trolleys that they are there to help.

5.00 p.m.

In supporting this motion, the Assembly Government should not only set out a plan of action to solve the problems in accident and emergency departments—and the First Minister and the new Minister for Health and Social Services have paid them a visit, so they must have some idea of the problems—but should now accept that, since 1999, it is directly responsible for those problems. I will take the Heath hospital in the Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust area as an example, given that the First Minister and the Minister for health have both visited its crisis-hit department. The hospital has a huge number of nurse vacancies. Of the 700 nurse vacancies across Wales, half of those are in the Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust area. One

swper gyda'i wraig er mwyn ymweld â nyrsys a meddygon yn yr adran damweiniau ac achosion brys.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Yr wyf yn falch ichi sôn am ymweliad y Prif Weinidog ag adran damweiniau ac achosion brys Ysbyty Athrofaol Cymru. Cyfeiriaf eto at gofnodion y cyfarfod diddorol hwnnw a gynhaliwyd gan grŵp Llafur y Cynulliad, sy'n nodi i'r Prif Weinidog ddatgan syndod o weld y llwyth gwaith y mae'n rhaid i ysbytai ymdopi ag ef ar fore dydd Llun, a welodd ar ôl mynd am archwiliad pelydr-x y diwrnod cyn y cyfarfod hwnnw. Yn 2001, fe'i synnwyd gan y llwyth gwaith ond, erbyn 2005, yr oedd ei syndod wedi troi'n rhyw fath o hunanfodddhad ynghylch datblygiad annisgwyl o ran niferoedd tymhorol.

Jonathan Morgan: Yr hyn sy'n ofidus yw'r ffaith bod y Prif Weinidog, yn ôl yn 2001, wedi cael syndod o weld bod meddygon a nyrsys mor brysur mewn adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys ar fore dydd Llun, ac na wnaeth ddim i wella'r sefyllfa ar y pryd. Fodd bynnag, yn 2005, gwelir panig llwyr, namyn wythnosau cyn cyhoeddi dyddiad posibl ar gyfer yr etholiad cyffredinol, a dyma wleidyddion Llafur yn rhedeg ar ras i ymweld â'r adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys i geisio sicrhau meddygon, nyrsys, a chleifion sy'n gorfod aros hydroedd ar droliâu eu bod yno i'w helpu.

Wrth gefnogi'r cynnig hwn, dylai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad nid yn unig lunio cynllun gweithredu i ddatrys problemau adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys—ac mae'r Prif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog newydd dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol wedi ymweld â hwy, felly rhaid bod ganddynt ryw syniad o'r problemau—ond dylai hefyd dderbyn, ers 1999, ei bod yn uniongyrchol gyfrifol am y problemau hynny. Defnyddiaf ysbyty'r Mynydd Bychan yn ardal Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Caerdydd a'r Fro yn enghraifft, o gofio bod y Prif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros iechyd ill dau wedi ymweld â'i hadran sy'n wynebu argyfwng. Mae gan yr ysbyty nifer enfawr o swyddi nyrsio gwag. O blith y 700 o swyddi nyrsio gwag yng

ward is closed because it cannot be staffed—I suspect because we lack the number of nurses needed in that hospital—and some 130 beds in the Heath hospital are blocked.

When the leader of the Liberal Democrat group tackled him on this issue, the First Minister mentioned Cardiff County Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Council, which is convenient because both authorities are led by political parties not represented in the Assembly Government. However, when I tackled the previous Minister for health prior to the elections in June last year about the Government's reluctance to get local government to act on the issue of bedblocking, particularly Cardiff County Council, Jane Hutt was reluctant to issue any condemnation of local government in not getting people out of hospital beds and into an appropriate care setting. Therefore, the Government's hypocrisy really is breathtaking, and now we have the most incredible party politics from the First Minister—the man charged with looking after the Government of Wales and our public services.

I am concerned that, over the past six years, we have seen developments in England that have not been thought of in Wales, such as walk-in centres, which would alleviate pressures here. A walk-in centre would work in Newport, Cardiff, and certainly in Swansea. There are areas of Wales that would truly benefit from such innovation, and the Government is only now considering this option, because the Royal College of Nursing is jumping up and down to suggest it. Others have suggested it, but, as a Government, you have ignored those suggestions. Diagnostic and treatment centres are other examples, but nothing has been mentioned about that in Wales. This idea has been pioneered in England, and has worked in certain areas, but you have not bothered to introduce any aspect of these new innovations in the past six years.

Nghymru, mae eu hanner yn ardal Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Caerdydd a'r Fro. Mae un ward wedi'i chau am nad oes digon o staff i weithio yno—amheuaf mai'r rheswm am hynny yw nad oes gennym ddigon o nyrsys i fodloni'r nifer sydd ei angen yn yr ysbyty hwnnw—ac mae tua 130 o welyau wedi'u blocio yn ysbyty'r Mynydd Bychan.

Pan geisiodd arweinydd grŵp y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol gael ymateb ganddo ar y mater hwn, soniodd y Prif Weinidog am Gyngor Sir Caerdydd a Chyngor Bro Morgannwg, sy'n gyfleus gan fod y ddau awdurdod yn cael eu harwain gan bleidiau gwleidyddol nas cynrychiolir yn Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Fodd bynnag, pan ofynnais i'r Gweinidog blaenorol dros iechyd cyn yr etholiadau ym mis Mehefin y llynedd am ei hymateb i amharodrwydd y Llywodraeth i annog llywodraeth leol i weithredu ar y broblem yn deillio o flocio gwelyau, yn arbennig Cyngor Sir Caerdydd, yr oedd Jane Hutt yn amharod i farnu llywodraeth leol am beidio â chael pobl allan o welyau ysbyty ac i leoliadau gofal priodol. Felly, mae rhagrith y Llywodraeth yn gwbl anhygoel, ac yn awr gwelwn enghraifft o'r wleidyddiaeth plaid fwyaf anghredadwy gan y Prif Weinidog—y dyn sy'n gyfrifol am edrych ar ôl Llywodraeth Cymru a'n gwasanaethau cyhoeddus.

Yr wyf yn pryderu, yn ystod y chwe blynedd diwethaf, ein bod wedi gweld datblygiadau yn Lloegr na feddylwyd amdanynt yng Nghymru, megis canolfannau galw i mewn, a fyddai'n ysgafnhau'r pwysau yma. Gellid gweithredu canolfan galw i mewn yng Nghasnewydd, yng Nghaerdydd, ac yn sicr yn Abertawe. Mae sawl ardal yng Nghymru a fyddai'n elwa'n sylweddol ar arloesedd o'r fath, a dim ond yn awr y mae'r Llywodraeth yn ystyried yr opsiwn hwn, am fod Coleg Brenhinol y Nyrsys yn gadarn o blaid yr awgrym. Mae eraill wedi'i awgrymu hefyd, ond, fel Llywodraeth, yr ydych wedi anwybyddu'r awgrymiadau hynny. Mae canolfannau diagnostig a chanolfannau triniaeth ymhlith yr enghreifftiau eraill, ond ni soniwyd am hynny yng Nghymru. Rhoddwyd y syniad hwn ar brawf yn Lloegr, a bu'n llwyddiannus mewn rhai ardaloedd, ond nid ydych wedi ffwdanu cyflwyno unrhyw agwedd ar y datblygiadau arloesol

newydd hyn yn ystod y chwe blynedd diwethaf.

Lorraine Barrett: Your short debate topic last week, to which I contributed, was on drinking and the effects of drinking in the capital in particular, but you did not seem too happy about field hospitals. Do you think that the breweries should contribute to some of the NHS's costs, given the difficulties that people who drink and get into fights and so on cause in our accident and emergency departments? Also, do you not think that field hospitals have a part to play in alleviating some of the pressure on our accident and emergency departments over the weekends?

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Jonathan, this is what happens when you give way after five minutes—you now have only seven seconds left. However, I will allow you an extra half a minute.

Jonathan Morgan: I am grateful.

It demonstrates the lack of priorities when, the Saturday before Christmas, field hospitals were set up to deal with drunken people. There is a wider debate that we should have on that issue.

In conclusion, we have seen innovations in England, but we are not getting them in Wales. Is it any wonder, therefore, that, with a Government that has not increased capacity in Cardiff to deal with increased demand, we have this blockage at accident and emergency departments, in the Heath hospital in particular, and elsewhere? The Government must get to grips with this crisis, otherwise it will get worse, which is why we need this action plan, and we need it quickly.

Jenny Randerson: Last Sunday, from 8 p.m. until midnight, I went out with ambulance crews in Cardiff, and watched as up to five ambulances at a time queued outside the accident and emergency department at the University Hospital of Wales. That night illustrated how vital it is for the ambulance service and accident and emergency units to be prepared for the unpredictable. Sadly, on

Lorraine Barrett: Yr oedd testun eich dadl fer yr wythnos diwethaf, y bu imi gyfrannu ati, yn ymwneud ag yfed ac effeithiau yfed yn y brifddinas yn arbennig, ond ni roesoch yr argraff eich bod yn rhy fodlon ynghylch ysbytai maes. A gredwch y dylai'r bragdai gyfrannu at gyfran o gostau'r GIG, o ystyried yr anawsterau y mae pobl sy'n yfed ac yn dechrau ymladd ac ati yn eu hachosi yn ein hadrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys? Hefyd, oni chredwch fod gan ysbytai maes ran i'w chwarae wrth leihau rhywfaint o'r pwysau ar ein hadrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys ar benwythnosau?

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Jonathan, dyma sy'n digwydd pan fyddwch yn ildio ar ôl pum munud—dim ond saith eiliad sy'n weddill gennych yn awr. Fodd bynnag, caniatâf hanner munud ychwanegol ichi.

Jonathan Morgan: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar.

Mae'n dangos y diffyg blaenoriaethau pan sefydlwyd ysbytai maes, ar y dydd Sadwrn cyn Nadolig, i ymdrin â phobl feddw. Dylem gynnal dadl ehangach ar y mater hwnnw.

I gloi, gwelsom ddatblygiadau arloesol yn Lloegr, ond nid ydym yn eu gweld yng Nghymru. A yw'n syndod, felly, gyda Llywodraeth nad yw wedi cynyddu'r adnoddau yng Nghaerdydd i ymdrin â galw cynyddol, ein bod yn wynebu'r rhwystrau hyn mewn adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys, yn ysbyty'r Mynydd Bychan yn arbennig, ac mewn ysbytai eraill? Rhaid i'r Llywodraeth fynd i'r afael â'r argyfwng hwn, neu gwaethygu a wnaiff, a dyna pam mae angen y cynllun gweithredu hwn, ac y mae ei angen yn gyflym.

Jenny Randerson: Nos Sul diwethaf, o 8 p.m. tan ganol nos, euthum allan gyda chriwiau ambiwlans yng Nghaerdydd, a gwyliais wrth i hyd at bum ambiwlans ar y tro orfod aros mewn rhes y tu allan i adran damweiniau ac achosion brys Ysbyty Athrofaol Cymru. Dangosodd y noson honno ei bod yn hanfodol i'r gwasanaeth ambiwlans ac unedau damweiniau ac achosion brys fod

that night, there were five major road-traffic accidents, even though it was a dry night, it was not icy and visibility was good. There were three fatalities in those accidents. Up to four ambulances were needed at one of those accidents. I was told earlier that day that one ambulance crew had to wait an hour and a half at the University Hospital of Wales in order to discharge its patient into the care of staff at the accident and emergency department. It was said in a way that suggested that it was normal practice.

In the view of the ambulance crews to whom I spoke, the causes of the problems that they face are complex. It is not just about bedblocking. Cardiff currently has a particular problem because 120 care home beds were lost in the three weeks before Christmas. It is also a case of not enough doctors on duty at accident and emergency departments. Also, many people dial 999 inappropriately and end up at the accident and emergency department unnecessarily.

There are issues in Cardiff with the out-of-hours service. The service received 43 per cent more calls this year than received the previous service at the same time last year, and so it is also overstretched. It is time that we woke up to the fact that people are increasingly adopting a supermarket approach to the national health service. Ironically, at a time when the general practitioners' contract has reduced their duty hours, patients increasingly want and need a more flexible service. There needs to be somewhere for people to go.

In England, there are already 42 centrally funded walk-in centres, primarily based in city centres. They are centrally funded as they do not just serve the local population; in many cases, it is people working in the area, as well as tourists, who use these centres. There is great evidence of their success. For example, 26 per cent of the people who have attended walk-in centres say that they would

yn barod ar gyfer digwyddiadau annisgwyl. Yn anffodus, ar y noson honno, bu pum damwain ffordd ddifrifol, er mai noson sych ydoedd, nad oedd wedi rhewi a bod gweledd da. Bu farw tri pherson yn y damweiniau hynny. Yr oedd angen hyd at bedwar ambiwlans ar gyfer un o'r damweiniau hynny. Dywedwyd wrthyf yn gynharach y diwrnod hwnnw y bu'n rhaid i un criw ambiwlans aros am awr a hanner yn Ysbyty Athrofaol Cymru er mwyn rhyddhau ei glaf i ofal staff yn yr adran damweiniau ac achosion brys. Dywedwyd hynny mewn ffordd a oedd yn awgrymu ei fod yn sefyllfa gyffredin.

Ym marn y criwiau ambiwlans y siaradais â hwy, mae achosion y problemau a wynebir ganddynt yn gymhleth. Nid mater syml o flocio gwelyau ydyw. Ar hyn o bryd, mae problem arbennig yng Nghaerdydd am iddynt golli 120 o welyau mewn cartrefi gofal yn ystod y tair wythnos cyn Nadolig. Ar ben hynny, nid oes digon o feddygon ar ddyletswydd mewn adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys. Hefyd, mae llawer o bobl yn ffonio 999 mewn achosion amhriodol ac yn cael eu cludo i'r adran damweiniau ac achosion brys yn ddiangen.

Mae problemau yng Nghaerdydd gyda'r gwasanaeth y tu allan i oriau. Derbyniodd y gwasanaeth 43 y cant yn fwy o alwadau eleni o gymharu â'r nifer a dderbyniwyd gan yr un gwasanaeth yr un adeg y llynedd, ac felly mae hefyd o dan bwysau. Mae'n bryd inni ddefro i'r ffaith bod pobl yn gynyddol yn mabwysiadu ymagwedd archfarchnad tuag at y gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol. Yn eironig, ar adeg pan fo contract y meddygon teulu wedi lleihau eu horiau ar ddyletswydd, mae cleifion yn gynyddol am gael gwasanaeth mwy hyblyg ac mae angen gwasanaeth o'r fath arnynt. Mae angen sicrhau bod rhywle y gall pobl fynd iddo.

Yn Lloegr, mae 42 o ganolfannau galw i mewn wedi'u hariannu'n ganolog eisoes ar waith, wedi'u lleoli'n bennaf yng nghanol dinasoedd. Cânt eu hariannu'n ganolog gan nad dim ond y boblogaeth leol a wasanaethir ganddynt, mewn sawl achos, ond pobl sy'n gweithio yn yr ardal, yn ogystal â thwristiaid, sy'n defnyddio'r canolfannau hyn. Ceir tystiolaeth amlwg o'u llwyddiant. Er

otherwise have gone to an accident and emergency department. Given that 2 million people have used these walk-in centres so far, 0.5 million have been diverted from accident and emergency departments. Yet, it is only now that the Labour Assembly Government is starting to think of the first walk-in centre on the site of the old Cardiff Royal Infirmary. The site has stood unused since it was closed in 1998 by the then Minister for health in Wales, Jon Owen Jones.

Yesterday, I asked the First Minister for assurances on funding for this proposed walk-in centre, and he declined to give such an assurance. I say to Brian Gibbons today that it is essential that this walk-in centre goes ahead quickly and that it is centrally funded. Cardiff has a growing population, with 25,000 students, a large black and ethnic minority population, many homeless people, and approximately 80,000 people who come into the city daily to work and play. You have already acknowledged that the local health board is £8 million underfunded and that the Townsend formula needs to be updated. The local health board simply cannot pay for the walk-in centre.

The ambulance crews also told me that they need to triage patients, to divert them to a walk-in centre so that they do not admit patients inappropriately. Ambulance crews are functioning in a hand-to-mouth situation. They showed me oxygen cylinders that were supposed to last for a week, but would run out by Wednesday because patients have to stay in the corridors of the University Hospital of Wales for so long, using oxygen cylinders from ambulances. The crews have to go to nearby ambulance services to beg, borrow and steal oxygen cylinders.

We have a nineteenth century health service and we need one for the twenty-first century. This is no way to run a modern health service. It is time that the Labour Assembly Government abandoned its sticking-plaster solutions and accepted that there are gaping

enghraifft, dywed 26 y cant o'r bobl sydd wedi mynychu canolfannau galw i mewn y byddent fel arall wedi mynd i adran damweiniau ac achosion brys. O ystyried bod 2 filiwn o bobl wedi defnyddio'r canolfannau galw i mewn hyn hyd yma, mae hynny'n 0.5 miliwn o bobl nad aethant i adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys. Eto, dim ond yn awr y mae Llywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad yn dechrau ystyried y ganolfan galw i mewn gyntaf ar safle hen Ysbyty Brenhinol Caerdydd. Bu'r safle'n segur ers i'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd ar y pryd yng Nghymru, Jon Owen Jones, ei gau yn 1998.

Ddoe, gofynnais i'r Prif Weinidog am sicrwydd y byddai cyllid yn cael ei ddarparu ar gyfer y ganolfan galw i mewn arfaethedig hon, a gwrthododd roi sicrwydd o'r fath. Dywedaf wrth Brian Gibbons heddiw ei bod yn hanfodol i'r ganolfan galw i mewn hon gael ei datblygu ar fyrder ac iddi gael ei hariannu'n ganolog. Mae poblogaeth Caerdydd yn tyfu, gyda 25,000 o fyfyrwr, poblogaeth ddu a lleiafrifoedd ethnig fawr, llawer o bobl ddigartref, a thua 80,000 o bobl a ddaw i'r ddinas bob dydd i weithio ac i chwarae. Yr ydych eisoes wedi cydnabod bod y bwrdd iechyd lleol yn wynebu diffyg ariannol o £8 miliwn a bod angen diweddarau fformiwla Townsend. Yn syml, ni all y bwrdd iechyd lleol dalu am y ganolfan galw i mewn.

Dyweddodd y criwiau ambiwlans wrthyf hefyd fod angen iddynt flaenoriaethu cleifion, er mwyn eu gwyrto i ganolfan galw i mewn er mwyn sicrhau na fyddant yn mynd â chleifion i'r ysbyty yn amhriodol. Mae criwiau ambiwlans yn gorfod byw wrth fin y gyllell. Dangosont silindrau ocsigen imi a ddylai bara am wythnos, ond a fyddai'n wag erbyn dydd Mercher am fod cleifion yn gorfod aros yng nghoridorau Ysbyty Athrofaol Cymru cyhyd, yn defnyddio silindrau o ambiwlansys. Mae'r criwiau'n gorfod mynd at y gwasanaethau ambiwlans cyfagos i ymbil am silindrau ocsigen.

Mae gennym wasanaeth iechyd sy'n perthyn i'r bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg ac mae angen gwasanaeth i'r unfed ganrif ar hugain arnom. Nid dyma'r ffordd i redeg gwasanaeth iechyd modern. Mae'n bryd i Lywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad roi'r gorau i'w hatebion

wounds that require major surgery.

David Melding: Like many other Members, I was struck by how the First Minister described his visit to the accident and emergency department at the University Hospital of Wales. He said something along the lines of it being the most interesting half-hour of his political life, that he was pleased that his visit confirmed that his Government's policies were the right ones, and that they were on track to sort out the health service. The First Minister probably found it fascinating because, in his interpretation, it confirmed that he was doing the right thing. There was not much intellectual curiosity or analysis happening; it was as if the famous Dr Pangloss had visited Lisbon in the 1750s after the earthquake and said, 'I am happy to confirm that we do indeed live in the best of all possible worlds'. However, most people in the outside world regard this as fairly flimsy thinking and not what we need to firm up the health service, to make it excellent and able to manage the flows through secondary care.

5.10 p.m.

Despite some prompting and a bit of a gaff when he said that it was just such a situation as you would expect in January, at least the First Minister went to the accident and emergency department in question. Brian Gibbons also spent a fair part of last week visiting various accident and emergency departments—I am not sure how many, but he was pictured in the local evening paper that I read, and I suspect in others also. I do not knock it, because I am glad that he is doing it. I have been told by some health staff that you can now see a queue of ministerial cars outside each accident and emergency department, and that that queue is only outnumbered by the number of ambulances waiting to disgorge their poor patients. At least when Brian visits, given his professional background, he can lend a hand, whereas I do not know what people must say when they cannot get a hospital bed and then they have Rhodri Morgan gawking at them. That is something for us to think about.

dros dro a derbyn bod clwyfau agored y mae angen llawdriniaeth fawr i'w gwella.

David Melding: Fel sawl Aelod arall, fe'm synwyd gan y ffordd y bu i'r Prif Weinidog ddisgrifio ei ymweliad ag adran damweiniau ac achosion brys Ysbyty Athrofaol Cymru. Dywedodd rywbeth i'r perwyl mai dyna oedd hanner awr fwyaf diddorol ei fywyd gwleidyddol, ei fod yn falch bod ei ymweliad yn cadarnhau priodoldeb polisiau ei Lywodraeth, a'u bod ar y trywydd cywir i wella'r gwasanaeth iechyd. Fwy na thebyg mai'r rheswm pam y bu'n ymweliad diddorol i'r Prif Weinidog oedd iddo gadarnhau, yn ei dyb ef, ei fod yn gwneud y peth iawn. Ni fanteisiodd ar yr ymweliad i fodloni unrhyw chwilfrydedd deallusol nac i ddadansoddi'r sefyllfa; yr oedd fel pe bai'r Dr Pangloss enwog wedi ymweld â Lisbon yn y 1750au ar ôl y daeargryn gan ddatgan, 'Mae'n bleser gennyf gadarnhau ein bod, yn wir, yn byw yn y byd gorau posibl'. Fodd bynnag, byddai'r rhan fwyaf o bobl yn y byd y tu allan yn ystyried y farn hon fel barn gymharol ddi-sail sy'n groes i'r hyn sydd ei angen arnom i atgyfnerthu'r gwasanaeth iechyd, i'w wneud yn ardderchog ac i allu rheoli'r llifoedd drwy ofal eilaidd.

Er gwaethaf rhywfaint o anogaeth a sylw anffodus pan ddatganodd mai dyma'r math o sefyllfa y byddech yn disgwyl ei weld ym mis Ionawr, o leiaf yr aeth y Prif Weinidog i'r adran damweiniau ac achosion brys dan sylw. Treuliodd Brian Gibbons hefyd gyfran helaeth o'r wythnos diwethaf yn ymweld ag amrywiol adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys—nid wyf yn siŵr sawl un, ond yr oedd ei lun yn y papur hwyrnos lleol a ddarllenaf, ac mewn papurau eraill hefyd mae'n siŵr. Nid wyf yn ei fychanu, am fy mod yn falch ei fod yn ei wneud. Dywedwyd wrthyf gan rai staff ym maes iechyd y gallwch bellach weld rhes o geir gweinidogol y tu allan i bob adran damweiniau ac achosion brys, ac mai dim ond y rhes o ambiwlansys sy'n aros i ollwng eu cleifion truan sy'n hirach na'r rhes honno. O leiaf pan fydd Brian yn ymweld, o ystyried ei gefndir proffesiynol, gall roi help llaw. Ni wn beth y bydd pobl yn ei ddweud pan nad oes gwely ar gael iddynt mewn ysbyty a bod Rhodri Morgan yn dod i sylu arnynt. Mae

hynny'n rhywbeth i'w ystyried.

In his reply today, the Minister for Health and Social Services must tell us whether these problems are somehow going to be tackled by current general policies, that the solution is inevitable and will come piecemeal and fairly soon, or whether he has to have a special policy, consider the current situation in accident and emergency units, acknowledge that it is dysfunctional, acknowledge that the current state of patient flows cannot be sustained, and that we need to take corrective action now. Unless you give us the assurance that that is your diagnosis, Minister, you will certainly not have the confidence of this side of the Assembly that you are taking this problem seriously.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I call Mick Bates. However, I will have to call the Minister at 5.16 p.m..

Mick Bates: I think that it was someone called Kinnock who said of Britain in the Thatcher era, 'Do not be poor, sick or old'. It appears to me that, today, we can change that a little and say, 'Do not be sick or old in Wales'. That is the state of the health service today. You cannot cope.

If you want more evidence than you found on your visits, Minister, and we have heard the eloquent David Melding describe how the ministerial cars are queuing up outside accident and emergency departments, you should come to a place that has no district general hospital and see what it is like when the constituents come to Members' surgeries week after week, because they can compare their situation directly with that of patients in England. When you live on the border, the situation is stark and frightening. I cannot believe that you and your fellow Labour Members do not experience the same pressure in your surgeries from constituents who cannot get treatment.

Once we start to look at the accident and emergency issue, it is like peeling the layers of an onion: bedblocking, delayed discharge,

Yn ei ymateb heddiw, rhaid i'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ddweud wrthym pa un a fydd y polisiau cyffredinol presennol rywfodd yn mynd i'r afael â'r problemau hyn, bod yr ateb yn anochel ac y caiff ei gyflwyno fesul rhan ac yn gymharol gyflym, neu pa un a fydd yn rhaid iddo lunio polisi arbennig, ystyried y sefyllfa sydd ohoni mewn unedau damweiniau ac achosion brys, cydnabod ei bod yn gamweithredol, cydnabod na ellir cynnal lliffoedd cleifion ar y lefel bresennol, a bod angen inni gymryd camau adferol yn awr. Oni allwch roi sicrwydd inni mai dyna yw eich diagnosis, Weinidog, yn sicr ni fydd yr ochr hon o'r Cynulliad yn hyderus eich bod yn cymryd y broblem hon o ddifrif.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Galwaf ar Mick Bates. Fodd bynnag, bydd yn rhaid imi alw ar y Gweinidog am 5.16 p.m..

Mick Bates: Credaf mai rhywun o'r enw Kinnock a ddywedodd wrth sôn am Brydain yn oes Thatcher, 'Peidiwch â bod yn dlawd, yn sâl nac yn hen'. Ymddengys imi, heddiw, y gallwn newid y dywediad hwnnw rywfaint gan ddatgan, 'Peidiwch â bod yn sâl nac yn hen yng Nghymru'. Dyna gyflwr y gwasanaeth iechyd heddiw. Ni allwch ymdopi.

Os ydych am weld mwy o dystiolaeth na'r hyn a welsoch ar eich ymweliadau, Weinidog, ac yr ydym wedi clywed David Melding yn disgrifio'n huawdl sut y mae rhesi o geir gweinidogol yn aros y tu allan i adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys, dylech ymweld ag ardal lle nad oes ysbyty cyffredinol dosbarth i weld sefyllfa lle y daw'r etholwyr i gyngorfeydd Aelodau wythnos ar ôl wythnos, am y gallant gymharu eu sefyllfa'n uniongyrchol â sefyllfa cleifion yn Lloegr. Pan fyddwch yn byw ar y gorau, mae'r sefyllfa yn edrych yn ddu ac yn frawychus. Ni allaf gredu nad ydych chi a'ch cyd-Aelodau Llafur yn profi'r un pwysau yn eich cyngorfeydd gan etholwyr na allant gael triniaeth.

Unwaith y dechreuwn edrych ar adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys, mae'n debyg i blicio haenau nionyn: blocio gwelyau, oedi

lack of capacity and a lack of consultants. The whole thing is in a mess. How can you stand up in debate after debate and say, 'Join us'? Join you in what? In causing further distress for people in Wales, perhaps. You had an opportunity as a new Minister to turn over a new leaf and set a target date, as we have done in our motion today. However, you have not done that. Are you waiting for the Labour Party conference, when you will stand up and say, 'Yes, we will follow England and go to an 18-week waiting time in the year 2050'? Is that your type of goal? That is your track record.

Along the row from you is the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning who is always going on about evidence. Let us look at the evidence. I have in my hand the Auditor General for Wales's report on waiting times in Wales. Read its recommendations please, because they highlight the actions that you, your Cabinet and your Government need to take to make sure that, when I go to my surgery on a Saturday morning, I can at least say to my constituents, 'You will have parity with patients in England'. Please, make that commitment today.

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Brian Gibbons): I welcome the opportunity to respond to the debate by updating Members on actions that are under way to deliver effective emergency care services in Wales in the short and longer term. It is crucial to acknowledge that, as other Members have said, the difficulties faced by accident and emergency departments are part of a wider range of issues that must all be addressed to deliver a sustainable solution. We must begin by ensuring that only those patients who need to be at accident and emergency departments are there. That group should have access, their needs should be responded to as quickly as possible, and appropriate discharge and transfer arrangements must be in place to meet the Government's four-hour target.

wrth ryddhau cleifion, diffyg adnoddau a diffyg meddygon ymgynghorol. Mae'r holl beth yn llanastr. Sut y gallwch sefyll mewn dadl ar ôl dadl gan ddweud 'Ymunwch â ni'? Ymunwch â chi i wneud beth? I achosi mwy o ofid i bobl Cymru, efallai. Yr oedd gennych gyfle fel Gweinidog newydd i droi dalen newydd a phennu dyddiad targed, fel y gwnaethom yn ein cynnig heddiw. Fodd bynnag, ni wnaethoch hynny. A ydych yn aros i gynhadledd y Blaid Lafur, pan fyddwch yn sefyll ac yn datgan, 'Gwnawn, fe ddilynwn Loegr a chyflwyno rhestrau aros o 18 wythnos yn y flwyddyn 2050'? Ai dyna eich nod delfrydol? Dyna a wnaethoch hyd yma.

Ar hyd eich rhes gwelwn y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes sy'n sôn yn rheolaidd am dystiolaeth. Gadewch inni edrych ar y dystiolaeth. Mae gennyf yn fy llaw adroddiad Archwilydd Cyffredinol Cymru ar amseroedd aros yng Nghymru. Darllenwch ei argymhellion, gan eu bod yn amlygu'r camau y mae angen ichi, eich Cabinet a'ch Llywodraeth eu cymryd er mwyn sicrhau, pan af i'm meddygfa ar fore dydd Sadwrn, y gallaf o leiaf ddweud wrth fy etholwyr, 'Cewch eich trin yn yr un modd â chleifion yn Lloegr'. Gwnewch yr ymrwymiad hwnnw heddiw.

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Brian Gibbons): Croesawaf y cyfle i ymateb i'r ddadl drwy roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i Aelodau am y camau gweithredu sy'n mynd rhagddynt i gyflwyno gwasanaethau gofal brys effeithiol yng Nghymru yn y byrdymor a'r tymor hwy. Mae'n hanfodol cydnabod, fel y dywedodd Aelodau eraill, bod yr anawsterau a wynebwr gan adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys yn rhan o broblemau ehangach y mae'n rhaid ymdrin â phob un ohonynt er mwyn sicrhau ateb cynaliadwy. Rhaid inni ddechrau drwy sicrhau mai dim ond y cleifion hynny y mae angen iddynt gael eu trin gan adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys fydd yn ymweld â hwy. Dylid sicrhau y gall y grŵp hwnnw fanteisio ar y gwasanaeth, dylid ymateb mor gyflym â phosibl i'w hanghenion, a dylid sicrhau bod trefniadau rhyddhau a throsglwyddo priodol ar waith i gyrraedd targed pedair awr y Llywodraeth.

I have spent a significant amount of time recently visiting hospitals, on which people have commented on, and meeting front-line staff, not only to hear about the challenges that they face, but to learn about developments that are taking place to deliver effective and timely services for patients. I will take this opportunity to commend everyone who works in the health service on their hard work and dedication in the face of the pressures that they experience. In that spirit, I welcome amendment 2 in the name of David Melding, even if it only mentions the Heath hospital, and I extend that congratulation to all accident and emergency staff across Wales.

Analysis of the data tells us that while the demands on accident and emergency services have increased year on year, there has been a significant rise in demand in the past year, with many departments seeing unprecedented increases of 5 to 10 per cent over recent months. This has led to emergency care services facing enormous challenges during periods of peak demand, particularly along the M4 corridor, but not exclusively so. Despite the increased demand, and the rhetoric of Mick Bates, it is important to note that the vast majority of people who attend accident and emergency departments—regularly in excess of 85 per cent of them—are seen within the four-hour target. As the First Minister said yesterday, elective work continues to be done in virtually all hospitals on the same basis as before, despite these difficult circumstances. We must all acknowledge that this is a massive step forward on from the situation that we found ourselves in four or five years ago. No-one can deny the fact that our health service has coped with this unprecedented demand within the four-hour timescale, while maintaining elective capacity, and that must speak for itself.

Mick Bates: I am intrigued by this analysis because, if we consider bedblocking, we have 30 per cent more beds per patient in Wales than is the case in England, yet the management is worse and 4 per cent of beds in Wales are blocked. Why is this?

Yr wyf wedi treulio cryn dipyn o amser yn ddiweddar yn ymweld ag ysbytai, ac mae pobl wedi nodi hynny, ac yn cyfarfod â staff rheng flaen, nid yn unig er mwyn clywed am yr heriau sy'n eu hwynebu, ond er mwyn cael gwybod am ddatblygiadau sydd ar y gweill i gyflwyno gwasanaethau effeithiol ac amserol i gleifion. Manteisiaf ar y cyfle hwn i ganmol pawb sy'n gweithio yn y gwasanaeth iechyd am eu gwaith caled a'u hymroddiad o ystyried y pwysau a brofir ganddynt. Yn yr ysbryd hwnnw, croesawaf welliant 2 yn enw David Melding, hyd yn oed os mai dim ond ysbyty'r Mynydd Bychan a gaiff ei enwi, a hoffwn estyn y llongyfarchiadau hynny i aelodau staff pob adran damweiniau ac achosion brys ledled Cymru.

O ddadansoddi'r data, gwelwn er bod y galw ar wasanaethau damweiniau ac achosion brys wedi cynyddu flwyddyn ar ôl blwyddyn, y bu cynnydd sylweddol o ran galw yn ystod y flwyddyn diwethaf, gyda sawl adran yn gweld y cynnydd mwyaf erioed o hyd at 5 i 10 y cant yn ystod y misoedd diwethaf. O ganlyniad, bu'r gwasanaethau gofal brys yn wynebu heriau aruthrol yn ystod y cyfnodau o alw mwyaf, yn arbennig ar hyd coridor yr M4, ond nid dim ond yn yr ardal honno. Er gwaethaf y galw cynyddol, a rhethreg Mick Bates, mae'n bwysig nodi bod mwyafrif helaeth y bobl sy'n mynychu adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys—dros 85 y cant ohonynt yn rheolaidd—yn cael eu gweld o fewn y targed o bedair awr. Fel y dywedodd y Prif Weinidog ddoe, mae gwaith dewisol yn parhau ymron pob ysbyty ar yr un sail ag o'r blaen, er gwaethaf yr amgylchiadau anodd hyn. Rhaid i bob un ohonom gydnabod ein bod wedi cymryd cam enfawr o gymharu â'r sefyllfa a oedd ohoni bedair neu bum mlynedd yn ôl. Ni ellir gwadu bod ein gwasanaeth iechyd wedi ymdopi â'r galw aruthrol hwn o fewn y terfyn amser o bedair awr, tra'n parhau i gynnal triniaeth ddewisol, a rhaid i hynny fod yn dystiolaeth ynddi'i hun.

Mick Bates: Mae'r dadansoddiad hwn yn hynod ddiddorol imi oherwydd, os ystyriwn y sefyllfa o ran blocio gwelyau, mae gennym 30 y cant yn fwy o welyau fesul claf yng Nghymru na'r nifer yn Lloegr, ond serch hynny mae ein dulliau rheoli yn waeth ac mae 4 y cant o welyau yng Nghymru wedi'u

bloccio. Pam hynny?

Brian Gibbons: The reasons are well documented and that is a subject for another debate.

Brian Gibbons: Mae'r rhesymau wedi'u dogfennu'n helaeth ac mae hynny'n destun ar gyfer dadl arall.

As the First Minister mentioned yesterday, in the face of pressures, and despite the fact that there have been unprecedented increases in accident and emergency attendance, more than 85 per cent of patients are regularly seen within the four-hour target, and elective work has continued.

Fel y soniodd y Prif Weinidog ddoe, gan wynebu pwysau, ac er gwaethaf y ffaith y bu cynnydd uwch nag erioed yn nifer y cleifion sy'n ymweld ag adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys, caiff mwy nag 85 y cant o gleifion eu gweld yn rheolaidd o fewn y targed o bedair awr, ac mae gwaith dewisol wedi parhau.

This morning saw the publication of waiting-time figures that show continuing reductions in long waits. These reductions have been achieved during one of the most pressured periods in the history of the health service in Wales. We are determined that this progress will continue. The targets that we have set for the health service in the next year will show further reductions in the maximum waiting times. In order to support that work, I announce today that an additional £32 million will be made available in 2005-06 in order to achieve the targets that we have set. This money will be used to support Welsh trusts when they are able to undertake additional activity in order to treat more patients more quickly. Where capacity does not exist, we will extend the principles of the second offer scheme to secure treatment elsewhere. The sum of £32 million is very substantial and, where trusts can make good use of it, their performance will be rewarded. However, where performance fails to deliver, action will be taken. There will be a price to pay for failure in the health service in Wales. Taxpayers and patients have every right to expect that this massive investment of their money will deliver tangible results to the front line of patient care.

Y bore yma cyhoeddwyd ffigurau amseroedd aros sy'n dangos gostyngiadau parhaus o ran cyfnodau aros hir. Cyflawnwyd y gostyngiadau hyn yn ystod un o'r cyfnodau o bwysau mwyaf yn hanes y gwasanaeth iechyd yng Nghymru. Yr ydym yn benderfynol y bydd y cynnydd hwn yn parhau. Bydd y targedau a bennwyd gennym ar gyfer y gwasanaeth iechyd yn ystod y flwyddyn nesaf yn dangos gostyngiadau pellach yn yr uchafswm amser aros. Er mwyn ategu'r gwaith hwnnw, cyhoeddaf heddiw y caiff £32 miliwn ychwanegol ei ryddhau yn ystod 2005-06 er mwyn cyflawni'r targedau a bennwyd gennym. Defnyddir yr arian hwn i gynorthwyo ymddiriedolaethau yng Nghymru pan fyddant yn gallu ymgymryd â gweithgaredd ychwanegol er mwyn trin mwy o gleifion yn gyflymach. Lle nad yw'r adnoddau yn bodoli, byddwn yn ymestyn egwyddorion cynllun yr ail gynnig i sicrhau triniaeth mewn lleoliad arall. Mae £32 miliwn yn swm sylweddol iawn a, lle y gall ymddiriedolaethau wneud defnydd da ohono, caiff eu perfformiad ei wobrwyo. Fodd bynnag, lle y bydd perfformiad yn methu â chyflawni, cymerir camau. Bydd pris i'w dalu am fethu yn y gwasanaeth iechyd yng Nghymru. Mae gan drethdalwyr a chleifion bob hawl i ddisgwyl y bydd y buddsoddiad enfawr hwn o'u harian hwy yn sicrhau canlyniadau amlwg yn rheng flaen gofal cleifion.

5.20 p.m.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Will you give way?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A ildiwch?

Brian Gibbons: No, I am sorry.

Brian Gibbons: Na wnaif, mae'n ddrwg gennyf.

The overall high levels of performance in accident and emergency departments cannot hide the fact that, at peak times, 10 to 15 per cent of patients are not being seen. That means that hundreds of people are facing delays, which we cannot regard as acceptable. For those patients, the service is not good enough and that is why the Assembly Government is continuing to co-ordinate actions that are intended to assist and support commissioning bodies in delivering effective and timely care.

Our emergency planning guidance has been issued and sets out a range of comprehensive action that needs to be taken, including the establishment of assessment units, bed management programmes and effective hospital discharge planning arrangements. More recently, the Assembly has funded a co-ordinator to work with local health boards and trusts along the M4 corridor in the first instance—

Eleanor Burnham: Will you give way?

Brian Gibbons: No; I do not have time.

In order to underpin the implementation of the guidance as routine practice and to find better ways of managing peak demands across all trusts in the region, a greater sense of collaboration and common ownership is needed to cope with unprecedented or unexpected levels of demand, which can be difficult to predict in terms of individual hospitals and particular days of the week.

The Assembly has also funded the implementation of the Welsh emergency care access collaborative. During my visits to accident and emergency departments, I found that many senior staff members were positive about that scheme and about what it is doing to produce a more ordered response to the growing demand on accident and emergency services. Longer-term planning must be in place to ensure that the sustainable delivery of emergency care services is embedded into everyday practice. I intend to consult on such a policy, which will recognise the complex inter-relationships that exist across a wide

Ni all lefelau perfformiad cyffredinol uchel adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys gelu'r ffaith, ar adegau o alw mawr, nad yw 10 i 15 y cant o'r cleifion yn cael eu gweld. Mae hynny'n golygu bod cannoedd o bobl yn wynebu oedi, na allwn ei ystyried yn sefyllfa dderbyniol. I'r cleifion hynny, nid yw'r gwasanaeth yn ddigon da a dyna pam mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn parhau i gydlynu camau gweithredu â'r bwriad o gynorthwyo a chefnogi cyrff comisiynu i gyflwyno gofal effeithiol ac amserol.

Cyhoeddwyd ein canllawiau cynllunio brys ac maent yn nodi amrywiaeth o gamau gweithredu cynhwysfawr y mae angen eu cymryd, gan gynnwys sefydlu unedau asesu, rhaglenni rheoli gwelyau a threfniadau effeithiol ar gyfer cynllunio'r broses o ryddhau cleifion o'r ysbyty. Yn fwy diweddar, ariannodd y Cynulliad gydlynnydd i weithio gyda byrddau iechyd lleol ac ymddiriedolaethau ar hyd coridor yr M4 i ddechrau-

Eleanor Burnham: A ildiwch?

Brian Gibbons: Na wnaif, nid oes amser gennyf.

Er mwyn ategu'r broses o weithredu'r canllawiau fel arfer cyffredin a dod o hyd i well ffyrdd o reoli cyfnodau o alw mawr ar draws pob ymddiriedolaeth yn y rhanbarth, mae angen gwell ymdeimlad o gydweithredu a chydberchnogaeth er mwyn ymdopi â lefelau galw uwch nag erioed neu annisgwyl, a all fod yn anodd eu rhagweld o ran ysbytai unigol a diwrnodau penodol o'r wythnos.

Mae'r Cynulliad hefyd wedi ariannu'r broses o weithredu rhaglen gydweithredol Cymru ar gyfer mynediad i ofal brys. Yn ystod fy ymweliadau ag adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys, canfŷm fod llawer o uwch aelodau o staff yn gadarnhaol ynghylch y cynllun hwnnw ac am yr hyn y mae'n ei wneud i gynhyrchu ymateb mwy trefnus i'r galw cynyddol ar wasanaethau damweiniau ac achosion brys. Rhaid sicrhau bod cynlluniau tymor hwy ar waith er mwyn sicrhau y caiff y broses o gyflwyno gwasanaethau gofal brys mewn ffordd gynaliadwy ei chynnwys o fewn arfer

range of services, including the ambulance service, primary care services, accident and emergency services and social care. Maintaining a consistent range of clinical pathways is crucial to ensuring that patients who turn up at accident and emergency departments need to be there and that alternative pathways are available to those who need them. It is vital that patients are properly informed of those pathways and that they move through the system in an orderly and smooth way towards discharge or an appropriate alternative transfer.

The events of the last few weeks highlight the acute pressures to which the NHS in Wales has been subject. The solution for addressing those severe pressures cannot be found in the acute sector alone; we must work across the whole of the NHS and the whole of the social care field, on a local and regional basis, if we are to make genuine progress. The measures and increased investment that we have put in place, and are now putting in place, will provide us with the tools to make a real difference in this important area and to meet the acute daily demand on NHS places and to ensure that meeting that demand does not adversely effect the smooth delivery of services to other patients. Therefore, I urge Members to reject the motion and Plaid Cymru's amendment.

Michael German: It is interesting, and I am sure that Assembly Members will have noticed, that Labour could only put forward the Minister, and no other speaker, to speak in this debate. Some may wonder why that is, but I leave that to them. From what we have just heard, one may also wonder whether it is Jane Hutt who writes Brian Gibbons's speeches.

Are we seeing Labour in denial? Many Labour Members—and I have often heard them say this—think that the health service is not a real problem, and because the opposition goes on and on, focusing on it, they believe that it is only a case of the

beunyddiol. Bwriadaf ymgynghori ar bolisi o'r fath, a fydd yn cydnabod y rhyngberthnasau cymhleth sy'n bodoli ar draws amrywiaeth eang o wasanaethau, gan gynnwys y gwasanaeth ambiwlans, gwasanaethau gofal sylfaenol, gwasanaethau damweiniau ac achosion brys a gofal cymdeithasol. Mae cynnal amrywiaeth cyson o lwybrau clinigol yn hanfodol er mwyn sicrhau bod angen i'r cleifion sy'n dod i adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys fod yno a bod llwybrau amgen ar gael i'r rheini sydd eu hangen. Mae'n hanfodol bod cleifion yn derbyn gwybodaeth briodol am y llwybrau hynny a'u bod yn symud mewn ffordd drefnus a didrafferth tuag at gael eu rhyddhau neu eu trosglwyddo i leoliad amgen priodol.

Mae digwyddiadau'r wythnosau diwethaf yn amlygu'r pwysau aruthrol y bu'r GIG yng Nghymru yn eu hwynebu. Nid dim ond yn y sector aciwt y ceir yr ateb o ran ymdrin â'r pwysau difrifol hwn; rhaid inni gydweithio ar draws y GIG cyfan a'r maes gofal cymdeithasol cyfan, yn lleol ac yn rhanbarthol, er mwyn gwneud cynnydd gwirioneddol. Bydd y mesurau a'r buddsoddiad cynyddol yr ydym wedi'u rhoi ar waith, ac yr ydym yn eu rhoi ar waith yn awr, yn sail ar gyfer gwneud gwahaniaeth gwirioneddol yn y maes pwysig hwn ac ar gyfer ateb y galw beunyddiol aruthrol ar leoedd yn y GIG gan sicrhau na fydd ateb y galw hwnnw yn cael effaith andwyol ar sut y caiff gwasanaethau eu cyflwyno i gleifion eraill. Felly, erfyniaf ar Aelodau i wrthod y cynnig a gwelliant Plaid Cymru.

Michael German: Mae'n ddiddorol, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd Aelodau'r Cynulliad wedi sylwi, mai dim ond y Gweinidog a gynrychiolodd Llafur yn y ddadl hon ac na chyflwynwyd unrhyw siaradwr arall ganddynt. Bydd rhai yn meddwl tybed pam, ond gadawaf hynny iddynt hwy. O'r hyn yr ydym newydd ei glywed, gellid holi hefyd tybed ai Jane Hutt sy'n ysgrifennu areithiau Brian Gibbons.

A yw Llafur yn gwadu'r sefyllfa? Cred sawl Aelod Llafur—ac yr wyf wedi eu clywed yn sôn yn aml—nad yw'r gwasanaeth iechyd yn broblem go iawn, ac am fod y gwrthbleidiau yn rhygnu ymlaen, gan ganolbwyntio'n barhaus arno, mai mater syml o gŵyn ddi-

opposition continually whinging about things. However, we are not alone in this; we are reflecting the views of the patients of Wales of the staff in our hospitals, the nurses and the doctors, the views of those people who are left on trolleys and the views of ambulance service personnel who find it difficult to do their job. The First Minister yesterday talked of tomorrow and of problems for the future. It is right to address the future, but what about the problems of today? He neglects the problems of today.

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): To correct you, I referred to what had already been done a week ago. The divert mechanism has now been introduced and was used on Monday of last week, I believe. That is an action already taken, and Brian listed several others. We are not talking about tomorrow—it has already happened.

Michael German: I will talk about the diversion of ambulances in a moment. However, the accident and emergency problems that we are seeing today and yesterday, and which we have been seeing for the past few months, are a symptom of wider problems in the health service as a whole. The Minister has started to recognise that. The problem that we have seen over recent weeks has manifested itself in ambulance delays, where many ambulance personnel are locked up outside hospitals and cannot serve other people in their areas. It has manifested itself in trolley waits and in the shortage of beds because people are inappropriately placed in them. The First Minister talked yesterday about diverting ambulances from the University Hospital of Wales when it was full. That may well be the right thing to do, and the only thing that you can do, but is that not just a sticking-plaster solution? It is not a realistic, achievable strategy for services that our patients should rightly and justifiably expect over the coming months and years.

baid gan y gwrthbleidiau ydyw. Fodd bynnag, nid ein barn ni yn unig mohoni; yr ydym yn adlewyrchu safbwyntiau cleifion Cymru, aelodau o staff yn ein hysbytai, y nyrsys a'r meddygon, safbwyntiau'r bobl hynny a gaiff eu gadael ar droliâu a safbwyntiau personél y gwasanaeth ambiwlans sy'n ei chael yn anodd gwneud eu gwaith. Ddoe, bu i'r Prif Weinidog sôn am yfory a phroblemau'r dyfodol. Mae'n briodol ymdrin â'r dyfodol, ond beth am broblemau heddiw? Mae'n anwybyddu'r problemau sy'n ein hwynebu heddiw.

Y Prif Weinidog (Rhodri Morgan): I'ch cywiro, cyfeiriais at yr hyn a wnaed eisoes wythnos yn ôl. Mae'r system wyro bellach wedi'i chyflwyno ac fe'i defnyddiwyd ddydd Llun yr wythnos diwethaf, fe gredaf. Mae hynny'n gam a gymerwyd eisoes, a bu i Brian restru sawl cam arall. Nid ydym yn sôn am yfory—dyma'r sefyllfa sydd ohoni yn barod.

Michael German: Soniaf am wyro ambiwlansys maes o law. Fodd bynnag, mae'r problemau yr ydym yn eu gweld heddiw a ddoe, ac y buom yn eu gweld yn ystod yr ychydig fisoedd diwethaf, o fewn adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys, yn deillio o broblemau ehangach yn y gwasanaeth iechyd yn gyffredinol. Mae'r Gweinidog wedi dechrau cydnabod hynny. Mae'r broblem a welsom yn ystod yr wythnosau diwethaf wedi amlygu ei hun drwy enghreifftiau o oedi wrth ddarparu ambiwlansys, lle y caiff sawl aelod o staff ambiwlansys eu dal y tu allan i ysbytai gan fethu â gwasanaethu pobl eraill yn eu hardaloedd. Amlygodd ei hun drwy enghreifftiau o bobl yn aros ar droliâu a phrinder gwelyau am fod pobl yn cael eu gosod ynddynt heb fod angen. Soniodd y Prif Weinidog ddoe am wyro ambiwlansys o Ysbyty Athrofaol Cymru pan oedd yn llawn. Efallai mai dyna'r ateb priodol, a'r unig ateb, ond onid ateb dros dro ydyw? Nid yw'n strategaeth realistig a chyflawnadwy ar gyfer gwasanaethau y dylai ein cleifion eu disgwyl yn ystod y misoedd a'r blynyddoedd nesaf, a hwnnw'n ddisgwyliad priodol a chyfiawn.

You also spoke of bedblocking as a declining problem, apart from in Cardiff and the Vale—and we know why that is, because you believe that you can lay the problem off on the opposition parties who run councils in those areas. However, the figures that I obtained from the Office for National Statistics state that the figures for Gwent, on a month on month basis, have risen—126 beds are now blocked, compared with 118 beds last month. Nearly 5.5 per cent of all the beds in Gwent are blocked by people who are inappropriately placed in them. Should you want balance in this matter, the principal local authority areas where bedblocking is a problem are Newport, Caerphilly, Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent. All four of those authorities are run by Labour. Bedblocking is not just a Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan problem.

This NHS is strengthening and trying to do the right things, with dedicated staff, but is doing that in the wrong places and at the wrong times. Our resources are not being best used. We are not saying anything dramatically different from what reports into the NHS have told us. Report after report is sitting on a shelf, in Brian Gibbons's office no doubt, and perhaps also in his home, and they all say the same thing. We have invested the right resources into the health service, but we are not using the money in the right way. One after another, we see these resources coming in. I question the Minister on his announcement of £32 million. Is that £32 million for next year, with an additional £32 million the year after? Will it go on year-on-year, or is it another one-off event for next year alone? Will we see an additional £32 million? More importantly, if we believe what the reports tell us, we must ensure that we spend that money properly and in the right places.

I also visited a walk-in centre, in Southampton, a city with a population of 125,000, which is about the same size as Newport. The centre deals with 140 patients a

Bu ichi sôn hefyd am flocio gwelyau fel problem sy'n gwella, ac eithrio yng Nghaerdydd a'r Fro—a gwyddom y rheswm dros hynny, am eich bod yn credu y gallwch feio'r gwrthbleidiau sy'n rhedeg cynghorau yn yr ardaloedd hynny am y broblem. Fodd bynnag, dengys y ffigurau a gefais gan y Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol fod ffigurau Gwent, o fis i fis, wedi cynyddu—mae 126 o welyau bellach wedi'u blocio, o gymharu ag 118 o welyau fis diwethaf. Mae bron i 5.5 y cant o'r holl welyau yng Ngwent wedi'u blocio gan bobl sydd wedi'u gosod yno yn amhriodol. Os hoffech ystyried y mater hwn mewn ffordd gytbwys, y prif ardaloedd awdurdod lleol lle y mae blocio gwelyau yn broblem yw Casnewydd, Caerffili, Torfaen a Blaenau Gwent. Caiff y pedwar awdurdod hyn eu rhedeg gan Lafur. Nid dim ond yng Nghaerdydd a Bro Morgannwg y mae blocio gwelyau yn broblem.

Mae'r GIG hwn yn atgyfnerthu ac yn ceisio gwneud y pethau cywir, gyda staff ymroddedig, ond mae'n gwneud hynny yn y lleoedd anghywir ac ar yr adegau anghywir. Nid ydym yn manteisio i'r eithaf ar ein hadnoddau. Nid ydym yn dweud unrhyw beth sy'n sylweddol wahanol i'r hyn a nodir mewn adroddiadau ar y GIG. Mae adroddiadau niferus yn eistedd ar silff, yn swyddfa Brian Gibbons fwy na thebyg, ac efallai yn ei gartref hefyd, ac maent oll yn datgan yr un peth. Yr ydym wedi buddsoddi'r adnoddau cywir yn y gwasanaeth iechyd, ond nid ydym yn defnyddio'r arian yn y ffordd gywir. Un ar ôl y llall, gwelwn yr adnoddau hyn yn cael eu cyflwyno. Holaf y Gweinidog ynghylch ei gyhoeddiad gwerth £32 miliwn. Ai £32 miliwn ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf, a £32 miliwn ychwanegol y flwyddyn wedi hynny yw'r swm hwnnw? A gaiff ei fuddsoddi flwyddyn ar ôl blwyddyn, neu ai digwyddiad unigol arall ydyw ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf yn unig? A welwn £32 miliwn ychwanegol? Yn bwysicach na hynny, os credwn yr hyn a ddywed yr adroddiadau, rhaid inni sicrhau ein bod yn gwario'r arian hwnnw yn briodol ac yn y lleoedd cywir.

Ymwelais i hefyd â chanolfan galw i mewn, yn Southampton, dinas â phoblogaeth o 125,000, sydd tua'r un faint â Chasnewydd. Mae'r ganolfan yn ymdrin â 140 o gleifion y

day, it is linked to the out-of-hours services and it has an ambulance triaging service, so the ambulances themselves can take patients to different places. What we need now, First Minister and Minister for Health and Social Services, is action, not just recognition of the problem. The current position, as Wanless stated, is unsustainable. The scenes in accident and emergency departments across Wales over these last few weeks have been a shocking indictment of this Labour Government's health policies. It took a while, but gradually the penny dropped that this was not just about January pressures, as the First Minister initially claimed. Something more serious was happening, and over the course of hospital visits by the Minister for Health and Social Services and the First Minister, the problem has now been recognised. However, we want to see action today, First Minister. We want to know what you are going to do now, not how you are going to put sticking plasters on the problem, when you have to close accident and emergency departments. We do not expect to see emergency wards closing their doors. We do not expect to see ambulances queuing around the block to offload their patients. We do not expect to hear of patients in pain waiting interminable hours on trolleys. We expect the Minister to show leadership in this crisis, to listen to the staff concerns which have been plainly made to him, and to respond appropriately. We want to see a plan for action now, and not a plan for the years to come. It has been the same policy. Our accident and emergency services require emergency treatment, and they require it from you now.

dydd, mae wedi'i chysylltu â'r gwasanaethau y tu allan i oriau ac mae ganddi wasanaeth blaenoriaethu i ambiwlansys, felly gall yr ambiwlansys eu hunain gludo'r cleifion i wahanol leoedd. Yr hyn sydd ei angen arnom yn awr, Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, yw camau gweithredu, nid cydnabyddiaeth syml o'r broblem. Ni ellir cynnal y sefyllfa sydd ohoni, fel y nododd Wanless. Bu'r hyn a welsom mewn adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys ledled Cymru yn ystod yr wythnosau diwethaf yn gondemniad cywilyddus o bolisiau iechyd y Llywodraeth Lafur hon. Cymerodd amser, ond yn raddol sylweddolwyd nad dim ond pwysau mis Ionawr oedd y broblem, fel yr honnodd y Prif Weinidog i ddechrau. Yr oedd rhywbeth mwy difrifol ar droed, ac yn ystod ymweliadau'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a'r Prif Weinidog ag ysbytai, cydnabuwyd y broblem yn awr. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym am weld camau'n cael eu cymryd heddiw, Brif Weinidog. Yr ydym am wybod beth yr ydych yn bwriadu ei wneud yn awr, nid sut y bwriadwch gynnig atebion dros dro i'r broblem, pan fydd yn rhaid ichi gau adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys. Nid ydym yn disgwyl gweld wardiau brys yn cau eu drysau. Nid ydym yn disgwyl gweld ambiwlansys yn aros mewn rhesi i ollwng eu cleifion. Nid ydym yn disgwyl clywed am gleifion mewn poen yn aros hydoedd ar droliau. Disgwyliwn i'r Gweinidog ddangos arweinyddiaeth yn yr argyfwng hwn, i wrando ar bryderon y staff a eglurwyd yn glir iddo, ac i ymateb yn briodol. Yr ydym am weld cynllun gweithredu ar unwaith, yn hytrach na chynllun ar gyfer y blynyddoedd i ddod. Yr un fu'r polisi. Mae angen triniaeth frys ar ein gwasanaethau damweiniau ac achosion brys, ac mae ei hangen arnynt gennych yn awr.

5.30 p.m.

*Gwelliant 1: O blaid 9, Ymatal 6, Yn erbyn 28.
Amendment 1: For 9, Abstain 6, Against 28.*

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

Bourne, Nick
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Chapman, Christine

Davies, Jocelyn
Francis, Lisa
Graham, William
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn

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

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
The following Members abstained:

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
German, Michael
Randerson, Jenny
Williams, Kirsty

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 2: O blaid 43, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Amendment 2: 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
Burnham, Eleanor
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Glyn
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
 James, Irene
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Melding, David
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment carried.*

Motion ND2302 as amended:

1. the National Assembly for Wales directs the Minister for Health and Social Services to present a plan by 9 March 2005 to this Assembly setting out his actions to end the crisis in accident and emergency; and

2. congratulates the staff at the accident and emergency department of the Heath hospital on their hard work despite the continuing problems.

Cynnig NDM2302 wedi'i ddiwygio:

1. Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn cyfarwyddo'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol i gyflwyno cynllun erbyn 9 Mawrth 2005 i'r Cynulliad hwn yn nodi'r camau y bydd yn eu cymryd i ddod â'r argyfwng mewn adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys i ben; a

2. yn llongyfarch staff adran damweiniau ac achosion brys Ysbyty Athrofaol Cymru am eu gwaith caled er gwaethaf y problemau sy'n parhau.

*Cynnig wedi'i ddiwygio: O blaid 15, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 28.
 Amended motion: For 15, Abstain 0, Against 28.*

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

Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Davies, David
 Davies, Glyn
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Francis, Lisa
 German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Melding, David
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Randerson, Jenny
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn

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

Andrews, Leighton
 Barrett, Lorraine
 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

Williams, Kirsty

Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

Methodd y cynnig.

Motion defeated.

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

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5.32 p.m.

The meeting ended at 5.32 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)