



Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
(Cofnod y Trafodion)

The National Assembly for Wales
(The Record of Proceedings)

Dydd Mercher, 13 Ebrill 2005
Wednesday, 13 April 2005

Cynnwys Contents

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio Questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration	3
Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth Questions to the Minister for Economic Development and Transport	21
Cwestiynau i'r Trefnydd ar ei Chyfrifoldebau Heblaw Busnes Questions to the Business Minister on her Responsibilities Other than Business.....	37
Cwestiwn Brys Urgent Question	51
Clywch.....	57
Dadl Fer: Mynd i'r Afael â'r Argyfwng Tai Fforddiadwy yng Nghymru Short Debate: Tackling the Affordable Housing Crisis in Wales.....	85

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

Cynlluniau yn erbyn Tanau Bwriadol Schemes to Combat Arson

Q1 Sandy Mewies: Will the Minister give a progress report on the Assembly's schemes to combat arson, with particular reference to north Wales? OAQ0115(SJR)

C1 Sandy Mewies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi adroddiad cynnydd ar gynlluniau'r Cynulliad i frwydro yn erbyn tanau bwriadol, gan gyfeirio'n benodol at y Gogledd? OAQ0115(SJR)

The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration (Edwina Hart): We have funded seven anti-arson projects in north Wales. These include community programmes, waste removal schemes, and educational workshops aimed at fire-setters. In addition, we have provided funding of £1.5 million over three years to fund arson reduction teams working in each of the three fire authority areas.

Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio (Edwina Hart): Yr ydym wedi ariannu saith prosiect gwrth-danau bwriadol yn y Gogledd. Mae'r rhain yn cynnwys rhaglenni cymunedol, cynlluniau gwaredu gwastraff, a gweithdai addysgol wedi'u hanelu at bobl sy'n dechrau tanau'n fwriadol. Yn ogystal, yr ydym wedi darparu swm o £1.5 miliwn am gyfnod o dair blynedd i ariannu timau lleihau achosion o danau bwriadol ym mhob un o'r tri awdurdod tân.

Sandy Mewies: You have mentioned the arson reduction team that is supported by the Assembly. It is one of the many organisations making an excellent contribution to fighting arson. We need such organisations because, for example, there were five attacks in Flint in one night recently. The arson reduction team will meet others on Friday to look at practical solutions to the problem.

Sandy Mewies: Yr ydych wedi crybwyll y tîm lleihau achosion o danau bwriadol a gefnogir gan y Cynulliad. Mae'n un o blith llawer o sefydliadau sy'n gwneud cyfraniad rhagorol i frwydro yn erbyn tanau bwriadol. Mae angen sefydliadau o'r fath arnom oherwydd, er enghraifft, cafwyd pump ymosodiad yn y Fflint mewn un noson yn ddiweddar. Bydd y tîm lleihau achosion o danau bwriadol yn cwrdd ag eraill ddydd Gwener i edrych ar atebion ymarferol i'r broblem.

BHP Billiton has, this week, signed over the deeds to its magnificent visitors' centre, which will become the Danger Point centre for education on emergency procedures and safety. Everyone concerned believes that this will make a huge impact in raising awareness of its work, particularly with young people. Will you join me in welcoming this initiative, which should be launched in September, and in congratulating all the emergency services and their partners who have worked so hard to turn this dream into a reality?

Yr wythnos hon, mae BHP Billiton wedi trosglwyddo ei weithredoedd i'w ganolfan wych i ymwelwyr a ddaw yn ganolfan Danger Point ar gyfer addysg ar weithdrefnau brys a diogelwch. Creda pawb dan sylw y bydd hyn yn effeithio'n ddifawr ar godi ymwybyddiaeth o'i gwaith, yn arbennig ymhlith pobl ifanc. A ymunwch â mi i groesawu'r fenter hon, y dylid ei lansio ym mis Medi, ac i longyfarch yr holl wasanaethau brys a'u partneriaid sydd wedi gweithio mor galed i wireddu'r freuddwyd hon?

Edwina Hart: Danger Point is an excellent initiative in north Wales. I welcome the work undertaken by the partners. I am sure that, in the long term, it will make a difference in terms of dealing with the fire and arson agenda.

Janet Ryder: I have raised with you before the young firefighters initiative, which is excellent at deterring young people from setting fires and encouraging them to fight fires. There are brigades in Chirk and Rhyl. Have you visited any of the young firefighters throughout Wales and, if so, what is your opinion of them?

Edwina Hart: The young firefighters scheme is a wonderful initiative, and I have had the privilege of meeting some young firefighters. It is an excellent example of the Welsh forces working constructively with young people. This needs to be encouraged further.

Brynle Williams: You will be aware that arson attacks in Britain during the past 12 months cost in the region of £100 million and that a massive 25 per cent of school fires are begun by children under the age of 7. In light of this information, will you give a firm commitment to discussing with the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning the possibility of developing a programme explaining the dangers and consequences of arson, which could be taught to children from primary school age?

Edwina Hart: I have already had discussions with the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning and her department about what more we can do regarding including fire issues in the curriculum. I will take up your helpful suggestion, because we must reach youngsters at a young age so that they understand the dangers of fire. Given that responsibility for the fire and rescue service is now devolved, I am sure that the forces will be anxious to do this as well and will be looking for any opportunities to develop further their work with schools.

Edwina Hart: Mae Danger Point yn fenter ragorol yn y Gogledd. Croesawaf y gwaith y mae'r partneriaid yn ei wneud. Yr wyf yn siŵr, yn yr hirdymor, y bydd yn gwneud gwahaniaeth o ran delio â'r agenda tân a thanau bwriadol.

Janet Ryder: Yr wyf wedi sôn wrthyhych am y fenter diffoddwyr tân ifanc o'r blaen, sy'n rhagorol o ran atal pobl ifanc rhag dechrau tanau a'u hannog i'w diffodd. Mae yna orsafoedd tân yn y Waun ac yn y Rhyl. A wnaethoch ymweld â rhai o'r diffoddwyr tân ifanc ledled Cymru ac, os felly, beth yw eich barn amdanant?

Edwina Hart: Mae'r cynllun diffoddwyr tân ifanc yn fenter ragorol, ac yr wyf wedi cael y fraint o gwrdd â rhai o'r diffoddwyr tân ifanc. Mae'n enghraifft ragorol o'r gwasanaethau yng Nghymru yn gweithio mewn ffordd adeiladol gyda phobl ifanc. Mae angen annog hyn ymhellach.

Brynle Williams: Byddwch yn ymwybodol fod achosion o danau bwriadol ym Mhrydain yn ystod y 12 mis diwethaf wedi costio tua £100 miliwn ac mai plant o dan 7 oed sy'n dechrau cymaint â 25 y cant o danau mewn ysgolion. Yng ngoleuni'r wybodaeth hon, a wnewch chi ymrwymiad cadarn i drafod y posibilrwydd o ddatblygu rhaglen yn egluro peryglon a chanlyniadau tanau bwriadol, y gellir ei haddysgu i blant oedran ysgol gynradd, gyda'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes?

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf eisoes wedi cynnal trafodaethau gyda'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes a'i hadran ynglŷn â beth arall y gallwn ei wneud o ran cynnwys materion yn ymwneud â thanau yn y cwricwlwm. Ystyriaf eich awgrym defnyddiol, oherwydd rhaid inni ddylanwadu ar blant pan fyddant yn ifanc er mwyn iddynt allu deall beth yw peryglon tân. O gofio i'r cyfrifoldeb dros y gwasanaeth tân ac achub gael ei ddatganoli erbyn hyn, yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd y gwasanaethau yn benderfynol o wneud hyn hefyd a byddant yn chwilio am unrhyw gyfleoedd i ddatblygu eu gwaith gydag ysgolion ymhellach.

Tlodi Ymhlith Plant Child Poverty

Q2 Jocelyn Davies: Will the Minister make a statement on child poverty?
OAO0175(SJR)

C2 Jocelyn Davies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar dlodi ymhlith plant?
OAO0175(SJR)

Q3 Lynne Neagle: Will the Minister make a statement on the implementation of the Assembly Government's child poverty strategy?
OAO0160(SJR)

C3 Lynne Neagle: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar weithredu strategaeth tlodi plant Llywodraeth y Cynulliad?
OAO0160(SJR)

Edwina Hart: The Assembly Government's strategy for tackling child poverty, 'A Fair Future for our Children', was published in February. I have asked my Deputy Minister to take this forward, including developing an implementation plan.

Edwina Hart: Cyhoeddwyd strategaeth Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar gyfer mynd i'r afael â thlodi ymhlith plant, 'Dyfodol Teg i'n Plant', ym mis Chwefror. Yr wyf wedi gofyn i'm Dirprwy Weinidog weithredu ar hyn, yn cynnwys datblygu cynllun gweithredu.

Jocelyn Davies: The most recent study by the Institute for Fiscal Studies states that Labour will not meet its child poverty reduction targets despite investing billions of pounds in tax credits and in incentives to get lone parents to go to work. Do you agree that, without measures to properly redistribute wealth, the poverty gap will continue to grow?

Jocelyn Davies: Noda'r astudiaeth ddiweddaraf gan y Sefydliad Astudiaethau Cyllid na fydd y Blaid Lafur yn bodloni ei thargedau lleihau tlodi ymhlith plant er ei bod wedi buddsoddi biliynau o bunnoedd mewn credydau treth ac mewn cymhellion i annog rhieni unigol yn ôl i'r gwaith. A gytunwch, heb fesurau i ailddosbarthu cyfoeth yn gywir, y bydd y bwch tlodi yn parhau i gynyddu?

Edwina Hart: Child poverty is fundamental to how we deal with issues in this country. I believe that the Westminster Government will meet its targets in the long run, and I think that what it has done so far in terms of helping children from poorer backgrounds is commendable. It is essential that we look at the Assembly's budget and at how we deal with programmes and distribute funding through the mechanisms available to us.

Edwina Hart: Mae tlodi ymhlith plant yn hanfodol i'r ffordd yr ydym yn delio â materion yn y wlad hon. Credaf y bydd Llywodraeth San Steffan yn bodloni'i thargedau yn yr hirdymor, a chredaf fod yr hyn y mae wedi'i wneud hyd yn hyn i'w ganmol. Mae'n hanfodol ein bod yn edrych ar gyllideb y Cynulliad ac ar y modd yr ydym yn delio â rhaglenni ac yn dosbarthu arian drwy'r dulliau sydd ar gael inni.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Pan fyddwn yn sôn am y ffigurau swyddogol sy'n cofnodi tlodi ym Mhrydain, a ydych yn poeni bod Llywodraeth San Steffan yn bwriadu newid y ffordd y cesglir y wybodaeth hon? Bydd llawer o bobl a gofnodir fel pobl dlawd ar hyn o bryd yn diflannu oddi ar y rhestrau, a gallai hynny roi darlun camarweiniol o sefyllfa tlodi ac anfantais yng Ngymru.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: When we talk about Britain's official poverty statistics, does the Westminster Government's intention to change the way in which these data are collected give you cause for concern? Many people who are currently recorded as poor at present will disappear from the lists, and that could give a misleading picture of the situation in terms of poverty and disadvantage in Wales.

Edwina Hart: You ask about the collation of statistics; I am not a statistician, but I am assured that the UK Government would not

Edwina Hart: Yr ydych yn holi ynghylch casglu ystadegau; Nid ystadegydd ydwyf, ond yr wyf yn hyderus na fyddai

do anything in this regard that would disadvantage us from collecting useful statistics.

William Graham: Minister, I am sure that you will agree that the way to escape poverty is to gain employment. You will no doubt also agree that we are sorry that cutbacks have been made in after-school provision. Could you outline what representations you have made to try to increase, or at least maintain, that funding?

Edwina Hart: You are obviously concerned if there is insufficient after-school provision, especially for children from perhaps poorer backgrounds. I will certainly look at this issue, now that you have raised it with me.

Lynne Neagle: On the important measure of relative child poverty, good progress has been made across the UK ahead of our 2020 target for the full elimination of child poverty. However, it is also important to look at the number of children living in absolute poverty: 2.2 million have been lifted out of poverty. That is down from 4.2 million in 1997. While I would be the first to caution against complacency on this issue, and clearly there is much more work to be done, would you agree that this level of redistribution can only be achieved by a Labour Government?

Edwina Hart: Yes.

Mark Isherwood: Why does the Institute for Public Policy Research state that the gulf between the rich and poor has widened since 1997? Why do 36 per cent of Welsh children still live in homes with less than half the average UK income? Why are 87,000 Welsh children being brought up in households where no-one is in employment, and why—and I endorse what Rhodri Glyn said—are Messrs. Blair and Brown fiddling the figures and appearing to help 1 million children out of poverty simply by excluding housing costs from the statistics?

Edwina Hart: The only party that is fiddling figures is yours, in terms of what people will be losing in public expenditure, and I will not

Llywodraeth y DU yn gwneud unrhyw beth yn y cyd-destun hwn a fyddai'n ein rhoi o dan anfantais o ran casglu ystadegau defnyddiol.

William Graham: Weinidog, yr wyf yn siŵr y cytunwch mai'r ffordd o ddianc rhag tlodi yw dod o hyd i waith. Byddwch yn ddi-au yn cytuno hefyd bod yn edifar gennym am y toriadau a wnaed yn y ddarpariaeth ar ôl ysgol. A allwch amlinellu pa sylwadau a wnaethoch i geisio cynyddu'r arian hwnnw, neu o leiaf i'w gynnwl?

Edwina Hart: Mae'n amlwg bod darpariaeth annigonol ar ôl ysgol yn destun pryder ichi, yn arbennig ar gyfer plant o gefndir tlotach efallai. Byddaf yn sicr yn edrych ar y mater hwn, gan i chi ei godi gyda mi.

Lynne Neagle: Ar y mesur pwysig o dlodi cymharol ymhlith plant, gwnaed cynnydd da ledled y DU cyn ein targed o 2020 ar gyfer dileu tlodi ymhlith plant yn gyfan gwbl. Fodd bynnag, mae'n bwysig hefyd edrych ar nifer y plant sy'n byw mewn tlodi mawr: mae 2.2 miliwn wedi'u codi allan o dlodi. Mae hynny wedi gostwng o 4.2 miliwn yn 1997. Er mai fi fyddai'r cyntaf i rybuddio rhag bod yn hunanfodlon o ran y mater hwn, ac yn amlwg mae angen gwneud llawer mwy o waith, a gytunech mai'r unig ffordd y gellir cyflawni'r lefel hon o ailddosbarthu yw drwy Llywodraeth Lafur?

Edwina Hart: Cytunaf.

Mark Isherwood: Pam mae'r Sefydliad Ymchwil Polisi Cyhoeddus yn nodi bod y bwlg rhwng y tlawd a'r cyfoethog wedi lledu ers 1997? Pam mae 36 y cant o blant Cymru yn byw mewn cartrefi gyda llai na hanner incwm cyfartalog y DU o hyd? Pam mae 87,000 o blant Cymru yn cael eu magu mewn cartrefi lle nad oes unrhyw un yn gweithio, a pham—a chefnogaf yr hyn a ddywedodd Rhodri Glyn—mae'r Meistri Blair a Brown yn newid y ffigurau ac yn ymddangos fel pe baent yn helpu miliwn o blant i godi allan o dlodi yn syml drwy hepgor costau tai o'r ystadegau?

Edwina Hart: Yr unig blaid sy'n newid ffigurau yw eich plaid chi, o ran yr hyn y bydd pobl yn ei golli mewn gwariant

take any questions or lessons from you on this. *[Interruption.]*

cyhoeddus, a gwrthodaf dderbyn unrhyw gwestiynau na gwersi gennych chi ar hyn. *[Torri ar draws]*

The Presiding Officer: Order. The Minister has answered the question in her own way.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae'r Gweinidog wedi ateb y cwestiwn yn ei ffordd ei hun.

Y Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub The Fire and Rescue Service

Q4 Gwenda Thomas: Will the Minister make a statement on the progress made in agreeing service delivery standards for the fire and rescue service in Wales? OAO0150(SJR)

C4 Gwenda Thomas: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar y cynnydd a wnaethpwyd o ran cytuno ar safonau darparu gwasanaeth ar gyfer y gwasanaeth tân ac achub yng Nghymru? OAO0150(SJR)

Edwina Hart: This is a complex issue, as you know. The standards have to be developed in conjunction with a wide range of stakeholders. I am in the process of creating the necessary consultative groups to assist in their development.

Edwina Hart: Mae hon yn fater cymhleth, fel y gwyddoch. Mae'n rhaid datblygu'r safonau ar y cyd ag amrywiaeth eang o randdeiliaid. Yr wyf yn y broses o greu'r grwpiau ymgynghori angenrheidiol i gynorthwyo yn y gwaith o'u datblygu.

Gwenda Thomas: What approach will you be taking to ensure that the fire and rescue authorities comprehensively consult with their communities about operational changes?

Gwenda Thomas: Sut y byddwch yn mynd ati i sicrhau bod yr awdurdodau tân ac achub yn ymgynghori â'u cymunedau ynglŷn â newidiadau gweithredol mewn ffordd gynhwysfawr?

Edwina Hart: I think that it is fair to say that the existing integrated risk management plans, as we know, predate the devolution of the fire service and are based on guidance from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. I have previously indicated that I will produce Assembly Government guidance in the next few months. This will include an expectation for comprehensive consultation with communities affected by proposals for significant change. Such changes will need to be based on robust supporting evidence.

Edwina Hart: Credaf ei bod yn deg dweud bod y cynlluniau rheoli risg integredig presennol, fel y gwyddom, yn rhagflaenu'r broses o ddatganoli'r gwasanaeth tân a'u bod yn seiliedig ar ganllawiau o Swyddfa'r Dirpwy Brif Weinidog. Nodais yn flaenorol y byddaf yn cynhyrchu canllawiau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ystod yr ychydig fisoedd nesaf. Bydd hyn yn cynnwys disgwyliad am ymgynghoriad cynhwysfawr â chymunedau yr effeithiwyd arnynt gan gynigion am newid sylweddol. Bydd angen seilio newidiadau o'r fath ar dystiolaeth ategol gadarn.

Kirsty Williams: To ensure a good standard of delivery in Brecon and Radnorshire, the fire service depends heavily on retained firefighters to supplement full-time members of staff. Those retained firefighters enjoy two hours of training a week. That has been the case for the last 30 years, but the firefighter's role has changed significantly. Firefighters now have to use rescue equipment, contamination equipment and so on. In north

Kirsty Williams: Er mwyn sicrhau safon gyflwyno dda ym Mrycheiniog a sir Faesyfed, mae'r gwasanaeth tân yn dibynnu'n helaeth ar ddiffoddwyr tân wrth gefn i ychwanegu at aelodau o staff amser llawn. Caiff y diffoddwyr tân wrth gefn hynny ddwy awr o hyfforddiant yr wythnos. Fel hynny y bu dros y 30 mlynedd diwethaf, ond mae rôl y diffoddwr tân wedi newid yn sylweddol. Erbyn hyn, mae'n rhaid i

Wales, I understand that retained firefighters now have access to three hours' training a week. What pressure can you bring to bear on the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service to ensure that retained firefighters in Brecon and Radnorshire have three hours' training a week?

Edwina Hart: Thank you, Kirsty. It is my intention to put this on the agenda of my next meeting with the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service. You also raise a wider issue; there may be similar issues across the three fire services where we might want to ensure the same level of provision in terms of training and other issues. I will ask the chiefs to look at that broader issue.

Laura Anne Jones: I was interested recently to read about a project called Fire Link, which enables fire and rescue services nationwide to access the same information and communicate with each other, and share the same resources. I understand that a Newport firm, European Aeronautic Defence and Space, formerly known as Cogent, is currently bidding for the task of building this new communications service. This could help create 120 jobs in Newport. Minister, will you comment on how this system could improve fire service standards, and on how the Welsh Assembly Government is supporting this bid?

2.10 p.m.

Edwina Hart: These will be matters for individual fire authorities, and chief officers will be particularly interested in any new systems introduced. We are, of course, prepared to support Wales's fire services in achieving the highest standards in terms of communication links.

David Lloyd: Beth yw'r amserlen ar gyfer achub cyflwr amser llawn gorsafoedd tân fel yr un ym Mhontardawe?

Edwina Hart: This is a matter for the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service. I am on record as indicating that I have written

ddiffoddwyr tân ddefnyddio offer achub, offer halogi ac ati. Yn y Gogledd, deallaf y caiff diffoddwyr tân wrth gefn dair awr o hyfforddiant yr wythnos erbyn hyn. Sut y gallwch bwysu ar y Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub yng Nghanolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru i sicrhau y caiff diffoddwyr tân wrth gefn ym Mrycheiniog a sir Faesyfed dair awr o hyfforddiant yr wythnos?

Edwina Hart: Diolch Kirsty. Mae'n fwrriad gennyf roi hyn ar agenda fy nghyfarfod nesaf gyda Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru. Yr ydych hefyd yn codi mater ehangach; efallai bod materion tebyg yn codi ar draws y tri gwasanaeth tân lle y mae'n bosibl y byddwn am sicrhau'r un lefel o ddarpariaeth o ran hyfforddiant a materion eraill. Gofynnaf i'r penaethiaid edrych ar y mater ehangach hwnnw.

Laura Anne Jones: Yr oedd diddordeb gennyf glywed yn ddiweddar am brosiect o'r enw Fire Link, sy'n galluogi gwasanaethau tân ac achub ledled y wlad i weld yr un wybodaeth a chyfathrebu â'i gilydd. Deallaf fod cwmni yng Nghasnewydd, European Aeronautic Defence and Space, a elwid gynt yn Cogent, yn gwneud cais i adeiladu'r gwasanaeth cyfathrebu newydd hwn ar hyn o bryd. Gallai hyn helpu i greu 120 o swyddi yng Nghasnewydd. Weinidog, a wnewch chi roi sylwadau ar sut y gallai'r system hon wella safonau gwasanaethau tân, ac ar sut y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cefnogi'r cais hwn?

Edwina Hart: Bydd y rhain yn faterion i awdurdodau tân unigol, a bydd gan brif swyddogion ddiddordeb arbennig mewn unrhyw systemau newydd a gyflwynir. Yr ydym, wrth gwrs, yn barod i gynorthwyo gwasanaethau tân Cymru i gyflawni'r safonau uchaf posibl o ran cysylltiadau cyfathrebu.

David Lloyd: What is the timetable for preserving the full-time status of fire stations such as the one in Pontardawe?

Edwina Hart: Mae hwn yn fater i Wasanaeth Tân ac Achub Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru. Cofnodwyd imi ddweud

to the fire authority. We are hoping to arrange a meeting where I will make known the views of Assembly Members, local representatives, Members of Parliament and others concerned about the situation in Pontardawe. I have received several representations, particularly from the Member for Neath, Gwenda Thomas. I will be raising those matters with the fire authority, whose responsibility this is.

fy mod wedi ysgrifennu at yr awdurdod tân. Gobeithiwn drefnu cyfarfod lle y byddaf yn cyflwyno safbwyntiau Aelodau'r Cynulliad, cynrychiolwyr lleol, Aelodau Seneddol ac eraill dan sylw ynglŷn â'r sefyllfa ym Mhontardawe. Yr wyf wedi cael sawl sylw, yn arbennig gan yr Aelod dros Gastell-nedd, Gwenda Thomas. Byddaf yn codi'r materion hynny gyda'r awdurdod tân, a'u cyfrifoldeb hwy ydyw.

Tai Fforddiadwy Affordable Housing

C5 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu ei chynlluniau ar gyfer darparu tai fforddiadwy? OAQ0173(SJR)

Q5 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Will the Minister outline her plans for the provision of affordable housing? OAQ0173(SJR)

Edwina Hart: The social housing grant programme is being increased from £59.4 million in 2004-05 to £96.4 million by 2007-08. I have reviewed the distribution and delivery of the social housing grant programme to introduce measures to make it more effective and, later this year, an affordable housing toolkit will be issued to clarify the powers available to help authorities deliver affordable housing.

Edwina Hart: Caiff y rhaglen grant tai cymdeithasol ei chynyddu o £59.4 miliwn yn 2004-05 i £96.4 miliwn erbyn 2007-08. Yr wyf wedi adolygu'r sefyllfa o ran dosbarthu a chyflawni'r rhaglen grant tai cymdeithasol i gyflwyno mesurau i'w gwneud yn fwy effeithiol ac, yn ddiweddarach eleni, rhoddir pecyn cymorth tai fforddiadwy i egluro'r pwerau sydd ar gael i helpu awdurdodau i ddarparu tai fforddiadwy.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Mae'n dda clywed am eich bwriadau, ac mae'n dda gweld Gweinidog sy'n cymryd tai fforddiadwy o ddifrif. Mae problemau ymarferol yn bodoli, yn yr ystyr bod pob awdurdod lleol yn ymateb yn unigol i anghenion o ran tai fforddiadwy. Mae pob awdurdod lleol yn gallu diffinio beth yw tai fforddiadwy, ac mae tuedd i feddwl bod tai o'r fath yn ffenomenon sy'n perthyn i ardaloedd gwledig yn unig, tra'i bod yn broblem drwy Gymru gyfan mewn gwirionedd. Beth allech chi ei wneud mewn perthynas â chynlluniau i sicrhau bod pobl y tu allan i ardaloedd gwledig yn dod yn rhan o'r broses o gydlynu a darparu tai fforddiadwy?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: It is good to hear of your intentions, and it is good to see a Minister who takes affordable housing seriously. Practical problems exist, insofar as all local authorities respond individually to needs in respect of affordable housing. Each local authority is able to define affordable housing, and there is a tendency to see this as a phenomenon that only affects rural areas, while it is, in reality, a problem across the whole of Wales. What could you do in respect of schemes to ensure that people beyond rural areas become part of the process of co-ordinating and providing affordable housing?

Edwina Hart: This is an issue that is much discussed across Wales; it is not only a rural issue. It is a particular issue in some of our towns and cities in terms of affordability. Local planning authorities—there are planning issues around this—are already able to set out policies in their development plans. An element of affordable housing should be

Edwina Hart: Mae hwn yn fater a drafodir yn helaeth ledled Cymru; nid yw'n fater ar gyfer ardaloedd gwledig yn unig. Mae'n fater penodol mewn rhai o'n trefi a'n dinasoedd o ran fforddiadwyedd. Mae awdurdodau cynllunio lleol—mae materion cynllunio yn ymwneud â hyn—eisoës yn gallu nodi polisiau yn eu cynlluniau datblygu. Dylid

provided as part of any new housing developments. Thresholds for such policies are set by local planning authorities, based on evidence of need, and are subject to negotiations with developers on a site-by-site basis. Technical advice note 2 is being revised in respect of this issue. I hold regular discussions with the Welsh Local Government Association and others about housing issues, and I will take matters forward with all these organisations. People have to start thinking outside the box about affordable housing.

Lisa Francis: Many housing associations do not have enough funds to buy land in areas of high demand. That is a key problem. What will you do in respect of the planning difficulties that you have just spoken of? What will you do to influence planning systems to allow housing associations to buy land in high-demand areas, such as in towns and on their outskirts?

Edwina Hart: As you are not a member of the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee, you will not be aware of the fact that we are currently considering land issues, and land ownership, with public bodies and other organisations, and are looking at what land could, perhaps, be made available for affordable housing. I will return to this issue in some detail in my reports to the committee.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Yr wyf yn gwybod, Weinidog, eich bod yn ymwybodol o'r ffaith bod pris tŷ, ar gyfartaledd, yn etholaeth Ynys Môn bellach yn £150,000. Mae hynny'n ei gwneud bron yn amhosibl i bobl ifanc a theuluoedd ifanc gael morgais i brynu tŷ. Gwn hefyd eich bod yn gefnogol i'r syniad o ychwanegu at arian y cyngor ar gyfer y cynllun cymorth i brynu. Yr oeddwn yn falch o'ch clywed yn sôn am yr angen i feddwl y tu allan i'r boes. A wnewch chi hyrwyddo cynlluniau ymddiriedolaeth tir cymunedol sy'n caniatáu i gyrff lleol adeiladu tai fforddiadwy y gall pobl ifanc gael rhan-berchnogaeth ohonynt? Wrth i gyflog y bobl ifanc hynny gynyddu, gallent brynu rhan fwy. A ydych yn ymwybodol o fodolaeth

darparu elfen o dai fforddiadwy fel rhan o unrhyw ddatblygiadau tai newydd. Pennir trothwyau ar gyfer polisiâu o'r fath gan awdurdodau cynllunio lleol, yn seiliedig ar dystiolaeth o angen, ac maent yn amodol ar drafodaethau gyda datblygwyr fesul safle. Caiff nodyn cyngor technegol 3 ei ddiwygio mewn cysylltiad â'r mater hwn. Cynhaliad drafodaethau rheolaidd â Sefydliad Llywodraeth Leol Cymru ac eraill ar faterion yn ymwneud â thai, a byddaf yn gweithio gyda phob un o'r sefydliadau hyn ar y materion. Mae'n rhaid i bobl ddechrau meddwl yn fwy creadigol o ran tai fforddiadwy.

Lisa Francis: Nid oes gan lawer o gymdeithasau tai ddigon o arian i brynu tir mewn ardaloedd sydd â galw uchel. Dyna'r broblem allweddol. Beth a wnewch mewn perthynas â'r anawsterau cynllunio y yr ydych newydd sôn amdanynt? Beth a wnewch i ddylanwadu ar y systemau cynllunio i ganiatáu i gymdeithasau tai brynu tir mewn ardaloedd sydd â galw uchel, fel mewn trefi ac ar eu cyrion?

Edwina Hart: Gan nad ydych yn aelod o'r Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio, ni fyddwch yn gwybod ein bod yn ystyried materion yn ymwneud â thir a materion yn ymwneud â pherchenogaeth tir ar hyn o bryd, gyda chyrrff cyhoeddus a sefydliadau eraill, a'n bod yn ystyried pa dir y gellir ei ryddhau ar gyfer tai fforddiadwy. Byddaf yn dychwelyd at y mater hwn yn fanylach yn fy adroddiadau i'r pwyllgor.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I know, Minister, that you are aware of the fact that the average house price in the Ynys Môn constituency is now £150,000. That makes it virtually impossible for young people and young families to obtain mortgages to buy a house. I also know that you support the notion of giving the council additional money for its homebuy scheme. I was pleased to hear you talking about thinking outside the box. Will you promote community land trust schemes that allow local organisations to build affordable housing of which young people can have shared ownership? As their salaries increase, those young people could buy a larger share. Are you aware of any such schemes in Wales and, if not, would you be

cynlluniau o'r fath yng Nghymru ac, os nad ydych, a fydddech yn fodlon cefnogi sefydlu cynlluniau mewn ardaloedd penodol?

prepared to support the establishment of schemes in specific areas?

Edwina Hart: Interestingly, I was in discussion this morning with the Chartered Institute of Housing Cymru about affordable housing. We touched on the issue of community land trusts, and the various models currently in operation across the UK. I am well aware that Scotland has central funding, and, though I am not certain that that is the solution for us, we are considering appropriate mechanisms and issues surrounding community land trusts.

Edwina Hart: Yn ddi-ddorol, yr oeddwn yn trafod tai fforddiadwy gyda Sefydliad Tai Siartredig Cymru y bore yma. Cyfeiriasom at y mater o ymddiriedolaethau tir cymunedol, a'r modelau amrywiol sydd ar waith ledled y DU ar hyn o bryd. Yr wyf yn gwbl ymwybodol bod gan yr Alban gyllid canolog, ac, er nad wyf yn sicr mai dyna'r ateb inni, yr ydym yn ystyried dulliau a materion priodol ynghylch ymddiriedolaethau tir cymunedol.

We are also considering issues surrounding equity sharing and similar matters across Wales. My report to the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee, before the Easter recess, about housing and where we have reached illustrates that we are making some progress on certain matters. However, it is easy for people outside the Assembly to say that something is a matter for the Assembly Government and local government, and, sometimes, the Council of Mortgage Lenders Cymru and others talk about what we should be doing. However, perhaps it is time for people from the private sector, for example, to put something innovative on the table. Nor is there any reason why building societies should not consider offering certain types of homebuy schemes, and so on. Let us see people in that sector start to come up with ideas that we may be able to run with, instead of their just criticising Government input. We might then get to see some changes in Wales.

Yr ydym hefyd yn ystyried materion sy'n ymwneud â rhannu ecwiti a materion tebyg ledled Cymru. Mae fy adroddiad a gyflwynwyd i'r Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymunedol ac Adfywio, cyn toriad y Pasg, ynghylch tai a ble yr ydym wedi cyrraedd yn dangos ein bod yn gwneud rhywfaint o gynydd ar rai materion. Fodd bynnag, mae'n hawdd i bobl y tu allan i'r Cynulliad ddweud bod rhywbeth yn fater i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad a Llywodraeth leol, ac, weithiau, i Gyngor Benthycwyr Morgeisi Cymru ac eraill siarad am yr hyn y dylem fod yn ei wneud. Fodd bynnag, efallai ei bod yn bryd i bobl o'r sector preifat, er enghraifft, gyflwyno rhywbeth arloesol. Nid oes ychwaith unrhyw reswm pam na ddylai cymdeithasau adeiladu ystyried cynnig mathau penodol o gynlluniau cymorth prynu, ac ati. Gadewch inni weld pobl yn y sector hwnnw yn dechrau meddwl am syniadau y gallwn eu rhoi ar waith efallai, yn hytrach na dim ond beirniadu cyfraniad y Llywodraeth. Yna efallai y gwelwn rai newidiadau yng Nghymru.

Trais yn y Cartref Domestic Violence

C6 David Lloyd: A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu'r cynnydd gyda chynlluniau i roi sylw i drais yn y cartref? OAQ0164(SJR)

Q6 David Lloyd: Will the Minister outline the progress in initiatives taken to address domestic violence? OAQ0164(SJR)

Edwina Hart: The Assembly Government has developed a national strategy to address domestic abuse in Wales, which was launched on 30 March 2005. To assist with the strategy, an additional £1.1 million is

Edwina Hart: Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi datblygu strategaeth genedlaethol i fynd i'r afael â thrais yn y cartref yng Nghymru, a gafodd ei lansio ar 30 Mawrth 2005. Er mwyn cynorthwyo'r strategaeth, caiff £1.1

being allocated in the three-year period from 2005 to 2008. This will build on initiatives already in place, such as the new national helpline.

David Lloyd: Mae alcohol yn gysylltiedig â 40 y cant o achosion o drais yn y cartref. Beth ydych chi'n ei wneud i leihau'r ffigur hwnnw?

Edwina Hart: Interestingly, we have held some discussions in committee on whether we should consider the links between alcohol and domestic abuse, because statistics are probably available on that. Some work has been done and is ongoing on this, as I think that alcohol has always been seen as a factor in domestic abuse situations over the years. I will report back to the committee in due course.

Christine Chapman: Minister, are you aware of a recent domestic violence survey of teenagers, carried out by *Sugar* magazine in association with the NSPCC? It contains some stark figures relating to Wales, such as that 10 per cent of Welsh teenage girls say that they have been forced into having sex—a figure significantly higher than that for the UK as a whole, which was 6 per cent. Eleven per cent across the UK said that they had seen their parents hit each other, but, for Wales, that figure was closer to 20 per cent. Those are worrying statistics, particularly for Wales. The figures also suggest a general link between witnessing abuse in the home and becoming a victim of abuse. Do you agree that it is imperative that we ensure that the message gets through to young people that no-one has the right to hurt them—including those with whom they may share an intimate relationship—and especially to those whose experiences at home may have taught them that such behaviour is relatively normal?

Edwina Hart: You highlighted some key elements there, Christine, of which we are all only too aware if we were to discuss the issues of domestic abuse. I thought that the

miliwn ychwanegol ei dyrannu yn ystod y cyfnod tair blynedd o 2005 i 2008. Bydd hyn yn adeiladu ar fentrau sydd eisoes ar waith, megis y llinell gymorth genedlaethol newydd.

David Lloyd: Alcohol is associated with 40 per cent of domestic violence cases. What are you doing to reduce that figure?

Edwina Hart: Yn ddi-ddorol, yr ydym wedi cynnal rhai trafodaethau yng nghyfarfodydd y pwyllgor ynghylch p'un a ddylem ystyried y cysylltiadau rhwng alcohol a thrais yn y cartref, oherwydd mae'n debygol bod ystadegau ar gael ar hynny. Mae rhywfaint o waith wedi'i wneud ac yn mynd rhagddo ar hyn o bryd ar hyn, oherwydd credaf fod alcohol bob amser wedi'i ystyried yn ffactor mewn achosion o drais yn y cartref dros y blynyddoedd. Byddaf yn adrodd yn ôl i'r pwyllgor maes o law.

Christine Chapman: Weinidog, a ydych yn ymwybodol o arolwg diweddar o bobl ifanc yn eu harddegau ar drais yn y cartref a gynhaliwyd gan gylchgrawn *Sugar* mewn cydweithrediad â'r NSPCC? Mae'n cynnwys rhai ffigurau brawychus sy'n berthnasol i Gymru, megis bod 10 y cant o ferched yn eu harddegau yng Nghymru yn dweud eu bod wedi cael eu gorfodi i gael rhyw—ffigur sy'n sylweddol uwch na'r ffigur ar gyfer y DU gyfan, sef 6 y cant. Dywedodd 11 y cant ar draws y DU eu bod wedi gweld eu rhieni yn bwrw ei gilydd, ond, ar gyfer Cymru, yr oedd y ffigur hwnnw yn agosach at 20 y cant. Maent yn ystadegau sy'n peri pryder, yn enwedig ar gyfer Cymru. Mae'r ffigurau hefyd yn awgrymu cysylltiad cyffredinol rhwng gweld achos o gam-drin yn y cartref a chael eich cam-drin eich hun. A gytunwch ei bod yn hanfodol ein bod yn sicrhau bod y neges yn cael ei chyfleu i bobl ifanc sef nad oes gan neb yr hawl i wneud niwed iddynt—gan gynnwys y rhai y mae ganddynt berthynas agos â hwy efallai—ac yn arbennig i'r rhai y gallai fod eu profiadau gartref wedi gwneud iddynt feddwl bod ymddygiad o'r fath yn gymharol gyffredin?

Edwina Hart: Bu ichi amlygu rhai elfennau allweddol, Christine, y byddem oll yn ymwybodol ohonynt pe byddem yn trafod y materion sy'n gysylltiedig â thrais yn y

survey results were also startling in other aspects. The important thing is that we have launched our domestic abuse strategy in Wales and, for once, I commend the media for the positive way in which they picked up on that to take forward some of the strategy's key issues.

I agree that, as politicians, both here and elsewhere, it is imperative that we get the message across that domestic abuse will not be tolerated. The generational issues that you talked about are key, because we have heard in the past that people who see their mothers abused sometimes become abusers themselves, and there are similar patterns to be found. Somewhere along the line, we must invest sufficient resources—and I believe that we are doing that—in order to stop such patterns from emerging.

cartref. Yr oeddwn o'r farn bod canlyniadau'r arolwg hefyd yn syfrdanol mewn agweddau eraill. Y peth pwysig yw ein bod wedi lansio ein strategaeth ar gyfer trais yn y cartref yng Nghymru ac, am unwaith, hoffwn ganmol y cyfryngau am y modd cadarnhaol y maent wedi defnyddio hynny i amlygu rhai o faterion allweddol y strategaeth.

Cytunaf, fel gwleidyddion, yma ac mewn mannau eraill, ei bod yn hanfodol ein bod yn cyfleu'r neges na chaiff trais yn y cartref ei oddef. Mae'r materion o ran cenhedlaeth a grybwyllwyd gennych yn allweddol, oherwydd yr ydym wedi clywed yn y gorffennol bod pobl sy'n gweld eu mamau yn cael eu cam-drin weithiau yn cam-drin eraill wedyn, a gellir gweld patrymau tebyg. Rywbryd neu'i gilydd, rhaid inni fuddsoddi digon o adnoddau—a chredaf ein bod yn gwneud hynny—er mwyn atal patrymau o'r fath rhag datblygu.

Digartrefedd Homelessness

Q7 Glyn Davies: Will the Minister make a statement about the impact of homelessness on the availability of social housing for local people? OAQ0139(SJR)

C7 Glyn Davies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar effaith digartrefedd ar y tai cymdeithasol sydd ar gael i bobl leol? OAQ0139(SJR)

Q10 Lisa Francis: Will the Minister make a statement on what she is doing to combat homelessness in Wales? OAQ0137(SJR)

C10 Lisa Francis: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar yr hyn mae'n ei wneud i frwydro yn erbyn digartrefedd yng Nghymru? OAQ0137(SJR)

Edwina Hart: We have set out our agenda to tackle this problem in our national homelessness strategy, which we are currently revising. We are supporting this strategy with increased investment, legislation to ensure that people are housed in appropriate temporary accommodation, and guidance on the development of local homelessness strategies and good practice.

Edwina Hart: Yr ydym wedi cyflwyno ein hagenda i fynd i'r afael â'r broblem hon yn ein strategaeth genedlaethol ar ddigartrefedd, yr ydym yn ei diwygio ar hyn o bryd. Yr ydym yn cefnogi'r strategaeth hon gyda mwy o fuddsoddiad, deddfwriaeth i sicrhau bod pobl yn cael eu rhoi mewn llety priodol dros dro, a chanllawiau ar ddatblygu strategaethau lleol ar ddigartrefedd ac arferion da.

Glyn Davies: One consequence of widening the definition of 'homelessness' over the past two or three years is that far less housing is available for local people. I must say that I supported that policy, and think that we were right on that, but I remain concerned about access to housing for local people. What plans do you have to incorporate private-sector money in a way that will help

Glyn Davies: Un o ganlyniadau ehangu'r diffiniad o 'ddigartrefedd' dros y ddwy neu dair blynedd diwethaf yw bod llai o dai o lawer ar gael i bobl leol. Rhaid imi ddweud y bu imi gefnogi'r polisi hwnnw, a chredaf inni fod yn iawn yn hynny o beth, ond yr wyf yn parhau i bryderu am allu pobl leol i gael gafael ar dai. Pa gynlluniau sydd gennych i ymgorffori arian o'r sector preifat mewn

government to meet what is likely to be a huge demand as a consequence of the rising price of housing?

2.20 p.m.

Edwina Hart: I am currently analysing that, because everyone says to me that we can change the categories, and that more people are coming in. I believe that we have now completed the work done in Carmarthenshire and Flintshire, looking at what has happened with the additional categories, so I will not comment on any of that until I have had this work through. I hope to be bringing that to committee to discuss, given that the committee also has concerns about the categories and their impact. We wanted to see evidence of whether anything would happen in this area. It is incumbent upon us to look at this matter on the basis of evidence, and I shall return to this matter when I received that information from those two authorities.

Lisa Francis: In respect of my region of Mid and West Wales, in 1999, 931 households were classified as homeless and, in 2003, that rose to just over 2,500 households, compared with around 14,000 in Wales overall. Do you agree that many local authorities need to re-evaluate their existing homelessness strategies, and what will you do to influence them in this respect?

Edwina Hart: I totally agree that they need to re-evaluate their homelessness strategies, and of course we are encouraging them to do so. It is important that they understand the situation in their areas. Some authorities need to stop harping on that the problem is down to the further categories that I have introduced, and look at what they are doing in their areas. We are getting to grips with this now, and I hope that the research done in Carmarthenshire and Flintshire will be helpful in this regard.

Peter Black: On Glyn Davies's original question about social housing, are you as concerned as I am, Minister, that, despite pressure from you, housing associations are

ffordd a fydd yn helpu'r llywodraeth i fodloni'r hyn sy'n debygol o fod yn alw mawr o ganlyniad i brisiau tai cynyddol?

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf wrthi'n dadansoddi hynny ar hyn o bryd, oherwydd mae pawb yn dweud wrthyf y gallwn newid y categorïau, a bod mwy o bobl yn dod i mewn. Credaf ein bod erbyn hyn wedi cwblhau'r gwaith a wnaethpwyd yn sir Gaerfyrddin a sir y Fflint, gan edrych ar yr hyn sydd wedi digwydd gyda'r categorïau ychwanegol, felly ni wnaeth sylwadau ar hynny hyd nes y byddaf wedi derbyn y gwaith hwn. Gobeithiaf gyflwyno hynny i'r pwyllgor i'w drafod, o ystyried y ffaith bod y pwyllgor hefyd yn pryderu am y categorïau a'u heffaith. Yr oeddem am weld tystiolaeth o ba un a fyddai unrhyw beth yn digwydd yn y maes hwn. Rhaid inni edrych ar y mater hwn ar sail y dystiolaeth, a byddaf yn dychwelyd i'r mater hwn pan fyddaf wedi cael y wybodaeth honno gan y ddau awdurdod hynny.

Lisa Francis: O ran fy rhanbarth i, sef Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru, yn 1999, dosbarthwyd 931 o gartrefi yn rhai digartref ac, yn 2003, cynyddodd y ffigur hwnnw i ychydig dros 2,500 o gartrefi, o gymharu â thua 14,000 yng Nghymru yn gyffredinol. A gytunwch fod angen i lawer o awdurdodau lleol ail-werthuso eu strategaethau presennol ar ddigartrefedd, a beth a wnewch i ddylanwadu arnynt yn hyn o beth?

Edwina Hart: Cytunaf yn llwyr fod angen iddynt ail-werthuso eu strategaethau ar ddigartrefedd, ac wrth gwrs yr ydym yn eu hannog i wneud hynny. Mae'n bwysig eu bod yn deall y sefyllfa yn eu hardaloedd. Mae angen i rai awdurdodau roi'r gorau i ddweud mai'r categorïau ychwanegol yr wyf wedi'u cyflwyno sy'n gyfrifol am y broblem, ac edrych ar yr hyn y maent yn ei wneud yn eu hardaloedd. Yr ydym yn mynd i'r afael â hyn yn awr, a gobeithiaf y bydd yr ymchwil a wnaed yn sir Gaerfyrddin a sir y Fflint yn ddefnyddiol yn hyn o beth.

Peter Black: O ran cwestiwn gwreiddiol Glyn Davies ynghylch tai cymdeithasol, a ydych yr un mor bryderus â mi, Weinidog, ynghylch y ffaith, er gwaethaf pwysau

still not taking their fair share of homeless people and families from local authorities? What pressure can be brought to bear on them to redress that balance?

Edwina Hart: I share your concerns about the numbers that they take, and it is incumbent upon me to put further pressure on them by arranging for my officials to raise these issues with them. It is important that they take the appropriate numbers.

The other issue that still concerns me about homelessness is the number of voids that exist throughout Wales that could be usefully utilised.

gennych chi, nad yw cymdeithasau tai yn derbyn eu cyfran deg o bobl a theuluoedd digartref oddi wrth awdurdodau lleol o hyd? Pa bwysau y gellir eu rhoi arnynt i unioni'r fantol?

Edwina Hart: Rhannaf eich pryderon ynghylch y niferoedd y maent yn eu cymryd, ac mae'n hanfodol fy mod yn rhoi rhagor o bwysau arnynt drwy drefnu i'm swyddogion godi'r materion hyn gyda hwy. Mae'n bwysig eu bod yn cymryd y niferoedd priodol.

Y mater arall sy'n peri pryder imi o hyd o ran digartrefedd yw nifer yr adeiladau gwag a geir ledled Cymru a allai gael eu defnyddio.

Ymddygiad Gwrthgymdeithasol Anti-social Behaviour

Q8 Michael German: Will the Minister make a statement on her plans to tackle anti-social behaviour? OAQ0123(SJR)

Edwina Hart: I will look to enhance the very effective action being taken in Wales to tackle anti-social behaviour, particularly through the promotion of concerted, multi-agency work addressing all aspects of anti-social behaviour.

Michael German: When you talk of multi-agency work, I wonder whether you could look at how the police use the guidance given to them on anti-social behaviour, and indicate whether it is adequate to serve the needs of Welsh anti-social behaviour incidents. It has been drawn to my attention that there is a difference in views between police forces and, if we are to have joined-up thinking, do you not agree that consistent advice should be given throughout Wales?

Edwina Hart: Yes. I will look at my powers in this area, but I am very happy to raise this issue in my discussion with the chief constables. Generally, I am very pleased with the way that the police are dealing with anti-social behaviour in Wales, and with anti-social-behaviour orders in particular. I was also particularly pleased with the Welsh

C8 Michael German: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar ei chynlluniau i fynd i'r afael ag ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol? OAQ0123(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Ymdrechaf i wella'r camau effeithiol a gymerir yng Nghymru i fynd i'r afael ag ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, yn enwedig drwy hyrwyddo gwaith amlasiantaeth ar y cyd i fynd i'r afael ag gweddau ar ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol.

Michael German: Pan soniwyd am waith amlasiantaeth, tybed a allech edrych ar y ffordd y mae'r heddlu yn defnyddio'r canllawiau a roddir iddynt ar ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, a dynodi pa un a yw'n ddigonol i ddiwallu anghenion sy'n deillio o achosion o ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yng Nghymru. Tynnwyd fy sylw at y ffaith bod gwahaniaeth barn rhwng heddluoedd ac, os ydym am sicrhau ffordd o feddwl gydgyssylltiedig, oni chytunwch y dylid rhoi cyngor cyson ledled Cymru?

Edwina Hart: Cytunaf. Gwnaf edrych ar fy mhwerau yn y maes hwn, ond yr wyf yn fodlon codi'r mater hwn yn ystod fy nhrafodaeth â'r prif gwnstablaid. Yn gyffredinol, yr wyf yn fodlon iawn ar y ffordd y mae'r heddlu yn ymdrin ag ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yng Nghymru, a chyda gorchmynion ymddygiad

Affairs Select Committee report on some of these issues.

Lorraine Barrett: You will know of my support for the alley-gating scheme, which helps to tackle anti-social behaviour, particularly in urban communities. I have just received a petition on this matter from residents in Grangetown, so will you continue to work with and support community safety partnerships to ensure that places like Grangetown are able to have the alley-gating scheme, if it is proved that that is the most effective means of helping those communities?

Edwina Hart: As a Government, we support alley gating, but it is for community safety partnerships to decide how to prioritise it. Residents who have had alley-gating schemes are very pleased with the impact that it has had on their lives.

William Graham: I wish to talk about this on a local level. In Blackwood, for example, there is a long-standing problem with cars racing up and down the high street. In Ponthir, youths have been stoning elderly people. I notice that Manchester United Football Club is now thinking of ending its soccer squad scheme at Hartridge school in Newport because of rowdy youths on quad bikes. Those are all examples of anti-social behaviour. Despite the best efforts of community partnerships, the police and local authorities, how can you engender respect for community property and ensure that this kind of activity ceases?

Edwina Hart: There is a problem with respect, generally, in our society, William. People do not seem to have respect for other people. Some neighbours will abandon five or so cars piled up somewhere, will keep untidy gardens and so on. We must send out a positive message across the board that this behaviour is unacceptable, irrespective of age, and that people should have consideration for others. That is important and is a message that, as politicians, we should try to get across. We should also try to

gwrthgymdeithasol yn arbennig. Hefyd, yr oeddwn yn fodlon iawn ar adroddiad y Pwyllgor Dethol ar Faterion Cymreig ar rai o'r materion hyn.

Lorraine Barrett: Fe wyddoch fy mod yn cefnogi'r cynllun gosod gataiau, sy'n helpu i fynd i'r afael ag ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, yn enwedig mewn cymunedau trefol. Yr wyf newydd dderbyn deiseb ar y mater hwn gan drigolion Grangetown, felly a wnewch barhau i weithio gyda phartneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol a'u cefnogi er mwyn sicrhau bod lleoedd fel Grangetown yn gallu cael y cynllun gosod gataiau, os profir mai dyma'r ffordd fwyaf effeithiol o helpu'r cymunedau hynny?

Edwina Hart: Fel Llywodraeth, cefnogwn y cynllun gosod gataiau, ond partneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol sy'n gyfrifol am benderfynu sut i'w flaenoriaethu. Mae trigolion sydd wedi cael cynlluniau gosod gataiau yn fodlon iawn ar yr effaith y maent wedi'i chael ar eu bywydau.

William Graham: Hoffwn siarad am hyn ar lefel leol. Yn y Coed Duon, er enghraifft, ceir problem hir-sefydledig gyda cheir yn rasio i fyny ac i lawr y stryd fawr. Ym Mhonthir, mae pobl ifanc wedi bod yn taflu cerrig at yr henoed. Clywaf fod Clwb Pêl-droed Manchester United yn ystyried dod â'i gynllun carfanau pêl-droed yn ysgol Hartridge yng Nghasnewydd i ben oherwydd pobl ifanc swnllyd ar feiciau cwad. Maent oll yn enghreifftiau o ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol. Er gwaethaf ymdrechion gorau partneriaethau cymunedol, yr heddlu ac awdurdodau lleol, sut y gallwch sicrhau parch tuag at eiddo cymunedau a sicrhau bod y math hwn o weithgarwch yn dod i ben?

Edwina Hart: Ceir problem gyffredinol o ran parch yn ein cymdeithas, William. Nid ymddengys bod pobl yn parchu pobl eraill. Bydd rhai cymdogion yn gadael pump neu fwy o hen geir yn rhywle, bydd rhai yn cadw gerddi anniben ac ati. Rhaid inni gyfleu neges gadarnhaol i bawb fod yr ymddygiad hwn yn annerbyniol, waeth beth fo'u hoedran, ac y dylai pobl ystyried eraill. Mae hynny'n bwysig ac yn neges y dylem, fel gwleidyddion, geisio ei chyfleu. Hefyd dylem geisio rhoi'r dulliau priodol ar waith.

put the appropriate mechanisms in place.

I am currently reviewing the problem of more neighbourhood-related anti-social behaviour, such as with gardens, cars and so on, to see whether I can, in future, draft concerted guidance to issue to local authorities and others, which could then be used to tackle some of these issues.

Yr wyf wrthi'n adolygu problem ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol sy'n fwy cysylltiedig â chymdogaethau ar hyn o bryd, megis gyda gerddi, ceir ac ati, i weld pa un a allaf, yn y dyfodol, ddrafftio canllawiau ar y cyd i'w dosbarthu i awdurdodau lleol ac eraill, a allai gael eu defnyddio i fynd i'r afael â rhai o'r materion hyn.

Ymddygiad Gwrthgymdeithasol Anti-Social Behaviour

Q9 Ann Jones: What discussions has the Minister had regarding extending the 'Together—Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour' action areas in Wales? OAQ0134(SJR)

C9 Ann Jones: Pa drafodaethau a gafodd y Gweinidog ynghylch ehangu ardaloedd gweithredu 'Mynd i'r Afael ag Ymddygiad Gwrthgymdeithasol gyda'n Gilydd' yng Nghymru? OAQ0134(SJR)

Edwina Hart: None.

Edwina Hart: Dim.

Ann Jones: The recent Welsh Affairs Select Committee report, 'Police Service, Crime and Anti-social Behaviour in Wales', focused heavily on partnership as a way forward. Three action areas are currently operating across south Wales. Will you join me in congratulating North Wales Police and, in particular, the community beat manager, PC2254, Vaughan-Davies, who has done excellent work in various agencies—*[Interruption.]* No, I did say Vaughan-Davies. She is PC2254, as I said, and she has done excellent work with various agencies and local residents to bring the 'Together' project to the area of Prestatyn. Do you agree that such projects could be at risk should the Conservatives ever be in a position to implement their public service cuts?

Ann Jones: Canolbwyntiodd adroddiad diweddar y Pwyllgor Dethol ar Faterion Cymreig sef 'Gwasanaeth yr Heddlu, Troseddau ac Ymddygiad Gwrthgymdeithasol yng Nghymru' i raddau helaeth ar bartneriaeth fel ffordd ymlaen. Ar hyn o bryd, mae tri maes gweithredu ar waith ledled de Cymru. A ymunwch â mi i longyfarch Heddlu Gogledd Cymru ac, yn arbennig, rheolwr rhawd y gymuned, PC2254, Vaughan-Davies, sydd wedi gwneud gwaith ardderchog mewn amryw asiantaethau—*[Torri ar draws.]* Na, fe ddywedais Vaughan-Davies. Hi yw PC2254, fel y dywedais, ac mae hi wedi gwneud gwaith ardderchog gydag asiantaethau amrywiol a thrigolion lleol er mwyn cyflwyno'r prosiect 'Gyda'n Gilydd' yn ardal Prestatyn. A gytunwch y gallai prosiectau o'r fath fod mewn perygl pe bai'r Ceidwadwyr byth mewn sefyllfa i wneud toriadau mewn gwasanaethau cyhoeddus?

Edwina Hart: I have had no discussion on this, but I welcome the fact that Welsh areas are included in the programme, and I commend the activities of individual officers who have been very good in delivering the programme. The 'Together' campaign is a Home Office initiative; I cannot really influence how it is run, and I cannot comment on whether it will be extended, as

Edwina Hart: Nid wyf wedi cael unrhyw drafodaethau ar y mater hwn, ond croesawaf y ffaith bod ardaloedd yng Nghymru wedi'u cynnwys yn y rhaglen, a chanmolaf weithgareddau swyddogion unigol sydd wedi cyflawni gwaith da iawn wrth gyflwyno'r rhaglen. Mae'r ymgyrch 'Gyda'n Gilydd' yn fenter gan y Swyddfa Gartref; ni allaf ddylanwadu ar y ffordd y caiff ei rhedeg

we are in the run-up to a general election.

rhedeg, ac ni allaf roi sylwadau ar ba un a gaiff ei hehangu ai peidio, gan ein bod ar fin cynnal etholiad cyffredinol.

Mark Isherwood: With official Home Office figures showing that violent crime in north Wales went up by 127.5 per cent between 1999 and 2004—a big increase even allowing for the change in the way in which the statistics are compiled—does the Minister agree that anti-social behaviour orders should be targeted at hooligans terrorising communities, and not at taxi drivers hooting their horns?

Mark Isherwood: Gyda ffigurau swyddogol y Swyddfa Gartref yn dangos bod troseddau treisgar yn y Gogledd wedi cynyddu 127.5 y cant rhwng 1999 a 2004—sy'n gynnydd mawr hyd yn oed ar ôl ystyried y newid yn y ffordd y caiff yr ystadegau eu llunio—a yw'r Gweinidog yn cytuno y dylai gorchmynion ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol gael eu hanelu at hwliganiaid sy'n dychryn cymunedau, ac nid at yrwyr taci sy'n canu eu cyrn.

Edwina Hart: Anti-social behaviour orders are not a matter for me. I leave them to the very professional staff who administer these processes across Wales.

Edwina Hart: Nid fy nghyfrifoldeb i yw gorchmynion ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol. Yr wyf yn eu gadael i'r staff proffesiynol iawn sy'n rhoi'r prosesau hyn ar waith ledled Cymru.

Diogelwch Cymunedol yn Ne Clwyd Community Safety in Clwyd South

Q11 Karen Sinclair: Will the Minister make a statement on community safety in Clwyd South? OAQ0162(SJR)

C11 Karen Sinclair: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar ddiogelwch cymunedol yn Ne Clwyd? OAQ0162(SJR)

Edwina Hart: The Government here is working closely with the community safety partnerships and other key agencies to deliver local strategies to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and substance misuse in Clwyd South. The Assembly's safer communities fund, which will be worth over £5 million in 2005-06, supports this work.

Edwina Hart: Mae'r Llywodraeth yma yn gweithio'n agos gyda'r partneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol ac asiantaethau allweddol eraill i gyflwyno strategaethau lleol i leihau troseddau ac ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol a chamddefnyddio sylweddau yn Ne Clwyd. Mae cronfa cymunedau mwy diogel y Cynulliad, a fydd yn werth dros £5 miliwn yn 2005-06, yn cefnogi'r gwaith hwn.

Karen Sinclair: Do you agree that the community support warden system in Clwyd South has been a huge success? Do you also agree that it is rank hypocrisy for the Liberal Democrat council to vote against extending the warden scheme in Wrexham while, at the same time, claiming credit for a similar plan in the London borough of Southwark, where my parliamentary colleague, Ian Lucas, received a leaflet extolling the virtues of the scheme?

Karen Sinclair: A gytunwch fod y system wardeniaid cymorth cymunedol yn Ne Clwyd wedi bod yn llwyddiant ysgubol? A gytunwch hefyd mai rhagrith o'r mwyaf yw i gyngor y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol bleidleisio yn erbyn ehangu'r cynllun wardeniaid yn Wrecsam tra'i fod, ar yr un pryd, yn hawlio'r clod am gynllun tebyg ym mwrdeistref Southwark yn Llundain, lle y derbyniodd fy nghyd-aelod seneddol, Ian Lucas, daflen yn clodfori rhinweddau'r cynllun?

Edwina Hart: To be frank, nothing surprises me about this issue. As a national party,

Edwina Hart: A dweud y gwir, nid oes unrhyw beth yn fy synnu ynghylch y mater

Labour is not a party of individuals; it is a party that delivers policy collectively across the UK.

hwn. Fel plaid genedlaethol, nid yw Llafur yn blaid o unigolion; mae'n blaid sy'n cyflwyno polisiau ar y cyd ledled y DU.

Adfywio Cymunedau Regenerating Communities

Q12 Jeff Cuthbert: Will the Minister make a progress report on the Assembly Government's programmes to regenerate communities in Wales? OAQ0168(SJR)

C12 Jeff Cuthbert: A wnaiff y Gweinidog adroddiad cynnydd ar raglenni Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i adfywio cymunedau yng Nghymru? OAQ0168(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Yes, I will.

Edwina Hart: Gwnaf.

Jeff Cuthbert: Thank you, Minister—I think. [*Laughter.*] Will you join me in congratulating the Groundwork trusts on the role that they play in regenerating deprived communities in Wales, and especially the contribution that Groundwork Caerphilly has made and continues to make? This is an excellent example of community-led sustainable development and local regeneration. Do you understand the fears of my constituents about the nightmare scenario of the Conservatives being elected and implementing their level of cuts, which would lead to the end of these schemes?

Jeff Cuthbert: Diolch, Weinidog—fe gredaf. [*Chwerthin.*] A ymunwch â mi i longyfarch yr ymddiriedolaethau Groundwork ar y rhan y maent yn ei chwarae wrth adfywio cymunedau difreintiedig yng Nghymru, ac yn enwedig y cyfraniad y mae Groundwork Caerffili wedi'i wneud ac yn parhau i'w wneud? Mae hon yn enghraifft ardderchog o waith datblygu cynaliadwy ac adfywio lleol wedi ei arwain gan y gymuned. A ddeallwch ofnau fy etholwyr ynghylch y sefyllfa hunllefus lle y byddai'r Ceidwadwyr yn cael eu hethol ac yn gweithredu eu lefel o doriadau, a fyddai'n arwain at ddiwedd y cynlluniau hyn?

Edwina Hart: Yes. I commend the excellent work that Groundwork does across Wales. It is an excellent organisation, which makes a difference to the lives of people in our communities. Some constituents will certainly be scared about certain prospects in the next few weeks, so they must vote accordingly.

Edwina Hart: Deallaf hynny. Cymeradwyaf y gwaith ardderchog y mae Groundwork yn ei wneud ledled Cymru. Mae'n sefydliad ardderchog, sy'n gwneud gwahaniaeth i fywydau pobl yn ein cymunedau. Bydd rhai etholwyr yn bendant yn gofidio am rai o'r rhagolygon yn yr ychydig wythnosau nesaf, felly rhaid iddynt bleidleisio'n unol â hynny.

The Presiding Officer: Order. I am getting distinctly bored with this.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Yr wyf yn diflasu ar hyn.

Cartrefi i Bobl sy'n Prynu eu Cartref Cyntaf Housing for First-Time Buyers

Q13 Laura Anne Jones: Would the Minister make a statement on housing for first-time buyers in Wales? OAQ0113(SJR)

C13 Laura Anne Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar gartrefi i bobl sy'n prynu eu cartref cyntaf yng Nghymru? OAQ0113(SJR)

Edwina Hart: I presented a comprehensive paper on housing policy to the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee on 23 February. The paper identifies the help that we are currently providing to first-time buyers and

Edwina Hart: Cyflwynais bapur cynhwysfawr ar bolisi tai i'r Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymunedol ac Adfywio ar 23 Chwefror. Mae'r papur yn nodi'r help yr ydym yn ei ddarparu ar hyn o bryd i bobl

other actions that we will be considering over the next year or so.

sy'n prynu eu cartref cyntaf a chamau eraill y byddwn yn eu hystyried yn ystod y flwyddyn nesaf.

2.30 p.m.

Laura Anne Jones: A recent survey of first-time buyers has shown, rather worryingly, that only 5 per cent of those looking to buy their first home are confident that they will be able to do so, compared with 18 per cent three months ago. I know a number of young people who, due to the lack of affordable housing in Wales, cannot live and work where they were born and brought up, and it seems that this problem is getting worse. How exactly are you looking to address this issue and prevent communities from dying out?

Laura Anne Jones: Mae arolwg diweddar o bobl sy'n prynu eu cartref cyntaf wedi dangos, yn anffodus braidd, mai dim ond 5 y cant o'r rheini sy'n awyddus i brynu eu cartref cyntaf sy'n hyderus y byddant yn gallu gwneud hynny, o gymharu â 18 y cant dri mis yn ôl. Yr wyf yn adnabod nifer o bobl ifanc nad ydynt yn gallu byw a gweithio yn ardal eu mebyd, oherwydd prinder tai fforddiadwy yng Nghymru, ac ymddengys fod y broblem hon yn gwaethygu. Sut yn union yr ydych yn bwriadu ymdrin â'r mater hwn ac atal cymunedau rhag marw allan?

Edwina Hart: I do not believe that there is any danger of communities dying out, but there is an issue around affordability. As I have indicated in answers to other questions today, we are looking at a variety of issues to tackle the affordable housing crisis.

Edwina Hart: Ni chredaf fod unrhyw berygl y bydd cymunedau yn marw allan, ond mae problem o ran fforddiadwyedd. Fel y nodais wrth ateb cwestiynau eraill heddiw, yr ydym yn ystyried amrywiaeth o faterion er mwyn mynd i'r afael â'r argyfwng o ran tai fforddiadwy.

Newid Dosbarth Cannabis The Reclassification of Cannabis

Q14 Glyn Davies: What assessment has the Minister made about the effect of the reclassification of cannabis on the number of drug users in Wales? OAQ0133(SJR)

C14 Glyn Davies: A yw'r Gweinidog wedi asesu effaith newid dosbarth cannabis ar y nifer sy'n defnyddio cyffuriau yng Nghymru? OAQ0133(SJR)

Edwina Hart: The classification of drugs is not a devolved matter.

Edwina Hart: Nid yw dosbarthu cyffuriau yn fater datganoledig.

Glyn Davies: No, but the consequences of changes in the policy certainly have a significant effect on your work as Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration. I was deeply concerned at the time of reclassification about the confusion that it would cause. Since then, there has been considerable suspicion that the reclassification has caused many problems, certainly for those who suffer from mental illness. I would have thought that that was an issue in which you would take a significant interest, and that you would, at the very least, have been conducting some research on the impact of this on many of our poorest

Glyn Davies: Nac ydy, ond mae canlyniadau newidiadau yn y polisi yn sicr yn cael effaith sylweddol ar eich gwaith fel Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio. Yr oeddwn yn pryderu'n fawr adeg y broses newid dosbarth ynghylch y dryswch y byddai'n ei achosi. Ers hynny, bu cryn amheuan bod y broses newid dosbarth wedi achosi llawer o broblemau, yn sicr i'r rheini sy'n dioddef salwch meddwl. Byddwn wedi disgwyl ichi fod â chryn ddi-ddordeb yn y mater hwnnw, ac y byddech, o leiaf, wedi bod yn cynnal rhywfaint o waith ymchwil i effaith y mater ar lawer o'n cymunedau tlotaf yng Nghymru, yn ogystal ag ymhob man

communities in Wales, as well as everywhere else. arall.

Edwina Hart: The Home Secretary has asked the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs to reassess its position regarding the classification of cannabis in the light of research which shows some link between cannabis use and psychotic symptoms. The Dutch Government is also looking into this issue, and the UK Government is taking the appropriate lead.

Edwina Hart: Mae'r Ysgrifennydd Cartref wedi gofyn i'r Cyngor Ymgynghorol ar Gamddefnyddio Cyffuriau ailasesu ei safbwynt o ran dosbarthu canabis yng ngoleuni gwaith ymchwil sy'n dangos rhyw gyswllt rhwng defnyddio canabis a symptomau seicotig. Mae Llywodraeth yr Iseldiroedd hefyd yn ystyried y mater hwn, ac mae Llywodraeth y DU ar flaen y gad yn hyn o beth.

Trais yn y Cartref Domestic Violence

C15 David Lloyd: A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu'r camau y mae'r Llywodraeth yn eu cymryd i roi sylw i drais yn y cartref? OAQ0169(SJR)

Q15 David Lloyd: Will the Minister outline steps the Government is taking to address domestic violence? OAQ0169(SJR)

Edwina Hart: We obviously take the matter very seriously, and my answer to an earlier question set out what action has been taken in Wales to deal with this problem.

Edwina Hart: Yn amlwg, yr ydym yn cymryd y mater o ddifrif, ac wrth ateb i gwestiwn cynharach nodais pa gamau a gymerwyd yng Nghymru i ymdrin â'r broblem hon.

David Lloyd: Following on from Christine Chapman's earlier point on the strong relationship between violence in the home and within relationships, what plans do you have to tailor messages specifically towards young people?

David Lloyd: Gan ddilyn ymlaen o bwynt cynharach Christine Chapman ar y cyswllt cryf rhwng trais yn y cartref ac o fewn cydberthnasau, pa gynlluniau sydd ar waith gennych i deilwra negeseuon yn benodol tuag at bobl ifanc?

Edwina Hart: That is one of the areas that we must look at. You are probably thinking in particular of what we can do with regard to schools, and how we can get the message across there and to the wider society. I will certainly take that up and see what further work can be undertaken.

Edwina Hart: Dyna un o'r meysydd y mae'n rhaid inni ymchwilio iddo. Yr ydych, fwy na thebyg, yn cyfeirio'n benodol at yr hyn y gallwn ei wneud o ran ysgolion, a sut y gallwn gyfleu'r neges yno ac i'r gymdeithas ehangach. Byddaf yn sicr yn ystyried hynny ac yn gweld pa waith pellach y gellir ei wneud.

The Presiding Officer: Thank you, Minister; you seem to have got there again.

Y Llywydd: Diolch, Weinidog; ymddengys eich bod wedi llwyddo unwaith eto.

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

Uno Bwrdd Croeso Cymru â'r Cynulliad The Merger of the Wales Tourist Board into the Assembly

Q1 Jenny Randerson: What discussions has

C1 Jenny Randerson: Pa drafodaethau a fu

the Minister had with the Wales Tourist Board regarding bringing its functions into the Welsh Assembly Government since the First Minister's statement to Plenary on 30 November 2004? OAQ0180(EDT)

The Minister for Economic Development and Transport (Andrew Davies): I last met the Wales Tourist Board on 24 February to discuss a range of issues, including the merger, and I also meet the chair and chief executive of the board monthly.

Jenny Randerson: As you know, the strength of the tourism industry throughout Wales is based largely in small and medium sized businesses. They regard this uncertainty about the future as a matter of great concern. What guarantees will you give that their interests will not be harmed during this period of upheaval? Will you give us a cast-iron commitment that the system of grants for tourism businesses will continue, and, importantly, that there will be total transparency in the funding streams provided to assist the industry, so that Assembly Members and the public, as well as members of the industry, can track specific funding streams as we do now?

Andrew Davies: When the First Minister made his announcement on Assembly sponsored public bodies last July, he and I made it clear that it would be business as usual in terms of services to individual companies and the industry in general. That is the case for the WTG, as it is for the Welsh Development Agency. I met the Wales Tourism Alliance this week to discuss the merger and the state of trade in the tourism industry in Wales, and it felt that the services that its members were receiving were as good, if not better, than they have ever been, including marketing, as well as development support. At the time of the quinquennial review of the WTG a year or so ago, I made it clear that I felt that section 4 grants should remain. Wales is the only part of the UK that has the ability to give grants to companies in the tourism sector. I stand by that commitment and we will continue to support the tourism industry in Wales with section 4 grants and other assistance after the merger.

rhwng y Gweinidog a Bwrdd Croeso Cymru ynghylch dod â'i swyddogaethau dan adain Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ers datganiad y Prif Weinidog i'r Cyfarfod Llawn ar 30 Tachwedd 2004? OAQ0180(EDT)

Y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth (Andrew Davies): Cyfarfûm â Bwrdd Croeso Cymru ddiwethaf ar 24 Chwefror i drafod amrywiaeth o faterion, gan gynnwys y broses uno, ac yr wyf hefyd yn cynnal cyfarfodydd misol gyda chadeirydd a phrif weithredwr y bwrdd.

Jenny Randerson: Fel y gwyddoch, mae cryfder y diwydiant twristiaeth ledled Cymru yn seiliedig i raddau helaeth ar fusnesau bach a chanolig eu maint. Mae'r ansicrwydd hwn ynghylch y dyfodol yn peri pryder mawr iddynt hwy. Pa warantau y gallwch eu rhoi na chaiff eu buddiannau hwy eu rhoi yn y fantol yn ystod y cyfnod hwn o newid? A roddwch ymrwymiad cadarn inni y bydd y system grantiau ar gyfer busnesau twristiaeth yn parhau, ac, yn bwysig, y bydd tryloywder llwyr i'w weld yn y ffrydiau ariannu a ddarperir i gynorthwyo'r diwydiant, er mwyn i Aelodau'r Cynulliad a'r cyhoedd, yn ogystal ag aelodau o'r diwydiant, allu olrhain ffrydiau ariannu penodol fel y gwnawn yn awr?

Andrew Davies: Pan wnaeth Prif Weinidog Cymru ei gyhoeddiad ar gyrff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad fis Gorffennaf diwethaf, bu i'r ddau ohonom egluro na fyddai'r sefyllfa yn newid o ran y gwasanaethau a ddarperir i gwmnïau unigol a'r diwydiant yn gyffredinol. Mae hynny'n wir ar gyfer y Bwrdd Croeso, ac i Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru. Cyfarfûm â Chynghrair Twristiaeth Cymru yr wythnos hon i drafod y broses uno a chyflwr masnachu yn y diwydiant twristiaeth yng Nghymru, ac yr oedd o'r farn bod y gwasanaethau yr oedd ei haelodau yn eu cael cystal, os nad gwell, nag y buont erioed, gan gynnwys cymorth marchnata, yn ogystal â chymorth datblygu. Ar adeg yr adolygiad pum mlynedd o'r Bwrdd Croeso tua blwyddyn yn ôl, eglurais fy mod o'r farn y dylid parhau â grantiau adran 4. Cymru yw'r unig ran o'r DU a all roi grantiau i gwmnïau yn y sector twristiaeth. Saif fy ymrwymiad i hynny a byddwn yn parhau i gefnogi'r diwydiant twristiaeth yng

Nghymru gyda grantiau adran 4 a mathau eraill o gymorth ar ôl cwblhau'r broses uno.

Lisa Francis: What do you anticipate will happen to the Tourism Training Forum for Wales, the training organisation core-funded by the WTB, when the WTB is brought in-house next year?

Lisa Francis: Beth a ragwelwch fydd yn digwydd i'r Fforwm Hyfforddi Twristiaeth yng Nghymru, sef y sefydliad hyfforddi sy'n derbyn ei gyllid craidd gan y Bwrdd Croeso, pan gaiff y Bwrdd Croeso ei gynnwys o fewn y Cynulliad y flwyddyn nesaf?

Andrew Davies: As I said in reply to Jenny, we would not want to do anything to harm one of the major industries in Wales. I will be working with Jane Davidson, my ministerial colleague, to ensure that the industry gets the support, in this case the training support, that it needs. The merger will help to give a greater focus on the needs of business by bringing the functions of the WTB, the Welsh Development Agency and Education and Learning Wales together within the Assembly Government to ensure that companies—in this case, tourism companies—get exactly the type of service that they want and need.

Andrew Davies: Fel y dywedais wrth ymateb i Jenny, ni fyddem am weithredu mewn unrhyw ffordd a fyddai'n niweidio un o brif ddiwydiannau Cymru. Byddaf yn gweithio gyda Jane Davidson, un o'm cyd-Weinidogion, i sicrhau bod y diwydiant yn cael y cymorth, yn yr achos hwn y cymorth hyfforddi, sydd ei angen arno. Bydd y broses uno yn helpu i ddarparu gwell ffocws ar anghenion busnes drwy ddod â swyddogaethau'r Bwrdd Croeso, Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru a Dysgu ac Addysgu Cymru ynghyd o fewn Llywodraeth y Cynulliad er mwyn sicrhau bod cwmnïau—yn yr achos hwn, cwmnïau twristiaeth—yn cael yr union fath o wasanaeth y maent am ei gael ac sydd ei angen arnynt.

David Lloyd: Beth fydd y gost o uno Bwrdd Croeso Cymru gyda'r Llywodraeth?

David Lloyd: What will be the cost of merging the Wales Tourist Board with the Government?

Andrew Davies: The current indications are that the whole merger process will cost around £10 million over the next few years. However, we anticipate that the annual savings to the Assembly Government following the process—including those for the WDA and ELWa initially—will be quite considerable, at around £10 to £12 million per year at the very minimum.

Andrew Davies: Mae'r arwyddion presennol yn dangos y bydd y broses uno gyfan yn costio tua £10 miliwn yn ystod yr ychydig flynyddoedd nesaf. Fodd bynnag, rhagwelwn y bydd yr arbedion blynyddol i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad yn dilyn y broses—gan gynnwys yr arbedion i'r WDA ac ELWa ar y dechrau—yn sylweddol, ar lefel o tua £10 i £12 miliwn bob blwyddyn o leiaf.

Y Llywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 2, OAQ0195(EDT), yn ôl.

The Presiding Officer: Question 2, OAQ0195(EDT), has been withdrawn.

Denu Ymwelwyr i Gymru Attracting Visitors to Wales

Q3 Michael German: Will the Minister make a statement on this year's Wales Tourist Board campaign to attract more visitors to Wales? OAQ0152(EDT)

C3 Michael German: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar ymgyrch Bwrdd Croeso Cymru eleni i ddenu mwy o ymwelwyr i Gymru? OAQ0152(EDT)

Andrew Davies: The Wales Tourist Board launched its new UK marketing campaign

Andrew Davies: Lansiodd Bwrdd Croeso Cymru ei ymgyrch farchnata newydd i'r DU

last December. In fact, many Assembly Members, including members of the Economic Development and Transport Committee, were given an early preview of that campaign. Overseas, the WTB has campaigns in the primary mature European markets, such as Germany and the Netherlands, and we will also be working with VisitBritain in the US market.

Michael German: The success of our tourism industry will largely depend on our infrastructure, which has been supported quite substantially by Objective 1 funding, which of course has been a major boost to the tourism industry in west Wales and the Valleys. If that money were not to appear after 2006, can you tell me what guarantees you have received from the UK Government to replace that money and how would it appear in the Welsh budget?

Andrew Davies: You are right to acknowledge that the support that we are giving not just to the WTB, but the tourism industry in Wales, is significant and not just in terms of record levels of grant in aid, but also in terms of support through structural funds. It is too early to say what the situation will be after 2006, but we are committed to the industry and whatever the level of funding that we receive, and whatever the status that west Wales and the Valleys will receive in those negotiations at a European level, we remain committed to ensuring that the tourism industry is well-resourced. However, it is too early to say what the level of support, in addition to grant in aid, will be.

Michael German: Given that Wales will either be eligible for Objective 1 or Objective 1b funding, giving a huge boost again to the income that Wales receives to invest in substantially raising the value of its economy, surely by now, when the end of 2006 is just 18 or 19 months away, you should have some clue as to what the procedure will be beyond 2006 so that we can know what the UK Government guarantee is. If the UK Government is going to take the responsibility to give the Assembly the money to tackle these issues, you should know by now what that guarantee is worth. All we ask is to know the amount of money,

fis Rhagfyr diwethaf. Yn wir, cafodd sawl Aelod o'r Cynulliad, gan gynnwys aelodau o'r Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth, gyfle i weld yr ymgyrch honno cyn ei lansio. Dramor, mae gan y Bwrdd Croeso ymgyrchoedd yn y prif farchnadoedd Ewropeaidd aeddfed, megis yr Almaen a'r Iseldiroedd, a byddwn hefyd yn gweithio gyda VisitBritain ym marchnad yr UD.

Michael German: Bydd llwyddiant ein diwydiant twristiaeth yn dibynnu i raddau helaeth ar ein seilwaith, a dderbyniodd gefnogaeth sylweddol gan arian Amcan 1, a fu wrth gwrs yn hwb mawr i'r diwydiant twristiaeth yn y Gorllewin a'r Cymoedd. Pe nad ymddangosai'r arian hwnnw ar ôl 2006, a allwch ddweud wrthyf ba warantau yr ydych wedi'u cael gan Lywodraeth y DU y daw arian arall yn ei le a sut y byddai'n ymddangos yng nghyllideb Cymru?

Andrew Davies: Yr ydych yn llygad eich lle yn cydnabod bod y cymorth yr ydym yn ei roi nid yn unig i'r Bwrdd Croeso, ond i'r diwydiant twristiaeth yng Nghymru, yn sylweddol a hynny nid yn unig o ran y lefelau uchaf o gymorth grant, ond hefyd o ran cymorth drwy gronfeydd strwythurol. Mae'n rhy gynnar i allu darogan y sefyllfa ar ôl 2006, ond yr ydym yn ymrwymedig i'r diwydiant ac ni waeth pa lefel o arian a gawn, a pha statws bynnag a gaiff y Gorllewin a'r Cymoedd yn y negodiadau hynny ar lefel Ewropeaidd, erys ein hymrwymiad i sicrhau bod digon o adnoddau ar gael i'r diwydiant twristiaeth. Fodd bynnag, mae'n rhy gynnar i bennu lefel y cymorth, yn ychwanegol at gymorth grant.

Michael German: O ystyried y bydd Cymru naill ai'n gymwys i gael arian Amcan 1 neu Amcan 1b, o ystyried yr hwb enfawr unwaith eto i'r incwm a gaiff Cymru i'w fuddsoddi i godi gwerth ei heconomi yn sylweddol, oni ddylech erbyn hyn, pan nad oes ond 18 neu 19 mis tan ddiwedd 2006, fod â rhyw fath o syniad o ba weithdrefn a fydd ar waith ar ôl 2006 er mwyn inni allu gwybod pa warant y mae Llywodraeth y DU yn ei roi. Os yw Llywodraeth y DU yn bwriadu cymryd cyfrifoldeb dros roi'r arian i'r Cynulliad i fynd i'r afael â'r materion hyn, dylech wybod erbyn hyn beth fydd gwerth y gwarant hwnnw. Y cyfan yr ydym am ei wybod yw

if you know it.

Andrew Davies: That is to approach this from completely the wrong direction. We are planning in terms of establishing our strategies and policies over the next 10 years, which will include looking at 'A Winning Wales' and all our other major strategies, and how that will impact on the delivery of what will happen post-2006 in terms of European structural funds. However, at this stage, we cannot say what level of funding any activity—in this case, tourism—will receive, because it is too early for that level of detail to be decided. However, tourism is a major industry and we will continue to support it to the best of our ability.

2.40 p.m.

John Griffiths: Snowdon is the highest mountain in Wales and England, and it is a major visitor attraction for Wales. Recently, a £9 million Objective 1 project has been mooted for a new summit building, which would greatly enhance that visitor attraction. It is hoped to raise £2.2 million by means of a public appeal, and I believe that that money is required by the end of June. It is hoped that a large proportion of the money will be raised overseas. Will you consider the use of Assembly Government overseas offices in New York and other parts of the United States to aid that fundraising effort?

Andrew Davies: I and various ministerial colleagues have met the consortium that is putting together the proposal for the rebuilding of the Snowdon summit café. We made the point that the consortium needs to diversify its funding base away from relying entirely on the public sector, therefore I welcome the fundraising campaign. I will ask my officials to look at what we can do to help fundraising efforts, particularly overseas.

swm yr arian, os yw'n hysbys ichi.

Andrew Davies: Mae hynny'n ffordd gwbl groes o ystyried y mater hwn. Yr ydym yn cynllunio gan ystyried y caiff ein strategaethau a'n polisiau eu rhoi ar waith yn ystod y 10 mlynedd nesaf, a fydd yn cynnwys edrych ar 'Cymru'n Ennill' a'n holl brif strategaethau eraill, a sut y bydd hynny'n effeithio ar gyflwyno'r hyn a fydd yn digwydd ar ôl 2006 o ran cronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd. Fodd bynnag, ar hyn o bryd, ni allwn ragweld lefel y cyllid y bydd unrhyw weithgaredd—yn yr achos hwn, twristiaeth—yn ei chael, gan ei bod yn rhy gynnar i bennu'r lefel honno o fanylion. Fodd bynnag, mae twristiaeth yn ddiwydiant pwysig a byddwn yn parhau i'w gefnogi hyd eithaf ein gallu.

John Griffiths: Yr Wyddfa yw'r mynydd uchaf yng Nghymru a Lloegr, ac mae'n un o'r prif atyniadau twristiaid yng Nghymru. Yn ddiweddar, trafodwyd prosiect Amcan 1 gwerth £9 miliwn i godi adeilad newydd ar y copa, a fyddai'n gwella'r atyniad hwnnw i dwristiaid yn sylweddol. Y gobaith yw codi £2.2 miliwn drwy apel gyhoeddus, a chredaf fod angen yr arian hwnnw erbyn diwedd mis Mehefin. Y gobaith yw y caiff cyfran helaeth o'r arian ei chodi dramor. A ystyriwch ddefnyddio swyddfeydd tramor Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn Efrog Newydd a rhannau eraill o'r Unol Daleithiau i gynorthwyo'r ymgyrch hon i godi arian?

Andrew Davies: Yr wyf i ac amrywiol gyd-Weinidogion wedi cyfarfod â'r consortiwm sy'n llunio'r cynnig ar gyfer ailadeiladu caffi copa'r Wyddfa. Nodwyd gennym fod angen i'r consortiwm arallgyfeirio ei sail ariannu gan ochel rhag dibynnu'n llwyr ar y sector cyhoeddus, felly croesawaf yr ymgyrch i godi arian. Gofynnaf i'm swyddogion ystyried beth y gallwn ei wneud i helpu'r ymdrechion i godi arian, yn arbennig dramor.

Lefelau Cyflogaeth Employment Levels

Q4 Lynne Neagle: Will the Minister make a statement on employment levels in Wales? OAQ0203(EDT)

C4 Lynne Neagle: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar lefelau cyflogaeth yng Nghymru? OAQ0203(EDT)

Andrew Davies: According to the latest Labour Force Survey, which was published at 9.30 a.m. this morning, there were 1,339,000 people in employment in Wales. I am delighted to say that that is the highest ever level in Wales. The total number of jobs in Wales is 127,000 higher today than it was in 1999 when the Assembly was established. It is an increase of well over 10 per cent, and it represents the highest percentage increase in jobs of any part of the UK.

Lynne Neagle: Thanks to the Labour Government's hard work in Wales and Westminster, claimant count unemployment in Torfaen has fallen by 50 per cent since 1997. Between January 2004 and January 2005, it fell by 21 per cent, the biggest fall for any local authority in Wales. Policies such as the New Deal have helped 2,000 people back to work, and the Assembly Government's new £140 million strategic framework for the Heads of the Valleys will further promote regeneration in the north of my constituency. While Labour's record level of investment is transforming the life chances of people in Wales, would you agree that a return to 15 per cent mortgage rates, 3 million unemployed and massive public service cuts would be a massive economic disaster felt by every community in Wales?

Andrew Davies: The Assembly Government, together with the Labour Government in Westminster, has had to regenerate the Welsh economy and put right the devastation wreaked upon the Welsh economy—the decimation of our manufacturing base, the loss of our coal industry and the decimation of the steel industry. The Assembly Government, together with the UK Government, has seen a remarkable transformation of the Welsh economy. The fact that unemployment levels are at their lowest for over 30 years is testimony to the success of our policies, and it is a clear indication of how far we have come, and a clear lesson to the voters of Wales about what will happen to them if they make the sad decision to vote for any party

Andrew Davies: Yn ôl yr Arolwg diweddaraf o'r Llafurlu, a gyhoeddwyd am 9.30 a.m. y bore yma, yr oedd 1,339,000 o bobl mewn cyflogaeth yng Nghymru. Mae'n bleser gennyf ddatgan mai dyma'r lefel uchaf erioed yng Nghymru. Mae cyfanswm nifer y swyddi yng Nghymru 127,000 yn uwch heddiw nag yn 1999 pan sefydlwyd y Cynulliad. Mae'n cyfateb â chynnydd ymhell dros 10 y cant, ac mae'n cynrychioli'r cynnydd canrannol uchaf mewn swyddi mewn unrhyw ran o'r DU.

Lynne Neagle: Diolch i waith caled y Llywodraeth Lafur yng Nghymru a San Steffan, mae diweithdra ymhlith y bobl sy'n hawlio budd-daliadau yn Nhor-faen wedi gostwng 50 y cant ers 1997. Rhwng Ionawr 2004 ac Ionawr 2005, gostyngodd 21 y cant, y gostyngiad mwyaf a welwyd mewn unrhyw awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru. Mae polisïau megis y Fargen Newydd wedi helpu 2,000 o bobl yn ôl i'r gwaith, a bydd fframwaith strategol newydd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar gyfer Blaenau'r Cymoedd, sy'n werth £140 miliwn, yn hwb pellach i weithgareddau adfywio yng ngogledd fy etholaeth. Er bod lefel buddsoddi uchel Llafur yn trawsnewid cyfleoedd bywyd pobl yng Nghymru, a gytunech y byddai dychwelyd i gyfraddau morgais o 15 y cant, 3 miliwn o bobl ddi-waith a thoriadau enfawr mewn gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yn drychineb economaidd enfawr y teimlid ei heffaith gan bob cymuned yng Nghymru?

Andrew Davies: Bu'n rhaid i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad, ynghyd â'r Llywodraeth Lafur yn San Steffan, adfywio economi Cymru gan unioni'r sefyllfa drychinebus y bu'n rhaid i economi Cymru ei hwynebu—dinistr ein sail gweithgynhyrchu, colli ein diwydiant glo a dinistr y diwydiant dur. Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, ynghyd â Llywodraeth y DU, wedi gweld trawsnewidiad anhygoel yn economi Cymru. Mae'r ffaith bod lefelau diweithdra ar eu hisaf ers dros 30 mlynedd yn brawf o lwyddiant ein polisïau, ac mae'n arwydd clir o'n cynnydd, ac yn wers amlwg i bleidleiswyr Cymru o ran yr hyn a fydd yn digwydd iddynt pe byddent yn gwneud y penderfyniad trist i bleidleisio i unrhyw blaid arall heblaw'r Blaid Lafur ar 5 Mai.

other than Labour on 5 May.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Moving away from the 'love-in' we have had for the past few minutes, Minister, you claim that a number of the jobs that have been created are the result of Objective 1 investment. On that basis, logically, you would want to see Wales get Objective 1 funding for the next period. For that to happen, a decision needs to be made in the European Union Council of Ministers in June. What steps have you taken to put forward the Welsh Assembly Government's view that that decision should be taken in June for Wales to qualify for the next period?

Andrew Davies: Before I answer Ieuan's direct question, I challenge the assumption in the question, which goes to the heart of the misunderstanding about what we are trying to do in Wales in terms of building a dynamic and sustainable economy. To argue that the Welsh economy is dependent upon European structural funds to maintain the record level of employment is quite erroneous. We are trying to establish—successfully, in my opinion—a sustainable economy that is not based on public subsidy alone. There is an appropriate role for public subsidy, support and investment, where the economy is self-sustaining. Coming back to your point, we have argued our case strongly in Wales, and we are trying to get the best possible deal for Wales. We have been successful in arguing for resources from the UK Government in order to make a success of the European structural fund programme, and we will continue to do so. We acknowledge that a decision on the budget made during the Luxembourg presidency would be advantageous in that west Wales and the Valleys would qualify for what is currently known as Objective 1 status.

We know, however, that there are major decisions to be taken by member states, and it will be up to member states to decide on the overall level of the budget. As the First Minister has said, we will continue to make the best case for Wales. We have done this in the past, and I am confident that we will be

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Gan symud o'r hunan-addoli a glywsom am yr ychydig funudau diwethaf, Weinidog, honnwyd fod nifer o'r swyddi a grëwyd wedi'u creu o ganlyniad i fuddsoddiad Amcan 1. Ar y sail honno, yn rhesymegol, byddech am sicrhau bod Cymru yn cael arian Amcan 1 ar gyfer y cyfnod nesaf. Er mwyn i hynny ddigwydd, mae angen i Gyngor Gweinidogion yr Undeb Ewropeaidd wneud penderfyniad ym mis Mehefin. Pa gamau a gymerwyd gennych i gyflwyno barn Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru y dylid gwneud y penderfyniad hwnnw ym mis Mehefin er mwyn i Gymru fod yn gymwys ar gyfer y cyfnod nesaf?

Andrew Davies: Cyn imi ateb cwestiwn uniongyrchol Ieuan, heriaf y dybiaeth a oedd yn rhan o'r cwestiwn, sydd wrth wraidd y camddealltwriaeth ynghylch yr hyn yr ydym yn ceisio ei wneud yng Nghymru o ran adeiladu economi ddeinamig a chynaliadwy. Mae dadlau bod economi Cymru yn dibynnu ar gronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd er mwyn cynnal y lefel uchel hon o gyflogaeth yn gwbl anghywir. Yr ydym yn ceisio sefydlu—ac yn llwyddo, yn fy marn i—economy gynaliadwy nad yw'n seiliedig ar gymorthdaliadau cyhoeddus yn unig. Mae rôl briodol i gymorthdaliadau cyhoeddus, cefnogaeth a buddsoddiad, lle mae'r economi yn hunangynhaliol. Gan ddod yn ôl at eich pwynt, yr ydym wedi dadlau'n gryf o blaid hyn yng Nghymru, ac yr ydym yn ceisio cael y fargen orau bosibl i Gymru. Buom yn llwyddiannus wrth ddadlau o blaid cael adnoddau gan Lywodraeth y DU er mwyn gwneud i'r rhaglen cronfeydd strwythurol Ewrop lwyddo, a byddwn yn parhau i wneud hynny. Yr ydym yn cydnabod y byddai penderfyniad ar y gyllideb a wnaed yn ystod arlywyddiaeth Lwcsembwrg yn fanteisiol yn yr ystyr y byddai'r Gorllewin a'r Cymoedd yn gymwys i gael yr hyn a elwir ar hyn o bryd yn statws Amcan 1.

Fodd bynnag, gwyddom fod angen i aelod-wladwriaethau wneud penderfyniadau o bwys, ac y bydd yn rhaid i aelod-wladwriaethau benderfynu ar lefel gyffredinol y gyllideb. Fel y dywedodd y Prif Weinidog, byddwn yn parhau i roi'r ddadlau orau dros Gymru. Yr ydym wedi gwneud hyn

successful in the future.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Forgive me, Minister, but I thought that it was you who claimed that Objective 1 had delivered jobs to Wales, and that I was just repeating what you had said. You misleadingly—if I may put it that way—suggested that it was I who said that, when it was you. Month after month you have told us how Objective 1 funding has been used, and how many jobs have been created. I was, therefore, putting that back to you; I was using your words.

Let us put that spat to one side. You are still not telling us what steps you have taken to make it clear to the Westminster Government that a decision about Objective 1 should be reached at the Council of Ministers in June. Let us widen that a little. We know that the UK Government's view is that the budget should be cut and that regional funds should be repatriated away from Europe. I do not want to hear generalities and spin. I want answer to three specific questions. Have you demanded from the Government that a decision should be reached in June? What is your position on the budget? Are you in favour or against the repatriation of funds?

Andrew Davies: I will stick by what we have already said: we aim to get the best possible deal for Wales. We did it in the current structural fund round, including negotiating for the first time ever a Barnett plus settlement. An additional £0.5 billion was given to the Assembly Government for public expenditure cover in order for us to make a success of the current structural fund round. I told you in my earlier reply, Ieuan, that there are clear advantages to a deal on the overall budget, at a European level, by the end of June under the Luxembourg presidency. The First Minister has said that—I believe that he said it in the European and External Affairs Committee—and we have previously said this in public. However, we understand that there are much wider issues for the UK Government regarding the level of funding. Until the decision is made by member states regarding the overall size of the European

yn y gorffennol, ac yr wyf yn hyderus y byddwn yn llwyddiannus yn y dyfodol.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Maddeuwch imi, Weinidog, ond credais mai chi a honnodd fod Amcan 1 wedi rhoi swyddi i Gymru, ac mai'r cyfan yr oeddwn i yn ei wneud oedd ailadrodd yr hyn a ddywedasoch chi. Bu ichi awgrymu, a hynny'n gamarweiniol—os gallaf ddweud hynny—mai fi a ddywedodd hynny, ond y gwir yw mai chi a ddywedodd hynny. Fis ar ôl mis yr ydych wedi dweud wrthym sut y defnyddiwyd arian Amcan 1, a faint o swyddi a grëwyd. Felly, dyfynnu eich geiriau chi yr oeddwn; yr oeddwn yn defnyddio eich geiriau chi.

Gadewch inni roi'r ffræ honno o'r neilltu. Nid ydych yn dweud wrthym o hyd pa gamau a gymerasoch i egluro wrth Lywodraeth San Steffan y dylid dod i benderfyniad ynghylch Amcan 1 yng Nghyngor y Gweinidogion ym mis Mehefin. Gadewch inni ehangu hynny ychydig. Gwyddom mai barn Llywodraeth y DU yw y dylid lleihau'r gyllideb ac y dylid ail-wladoli'r cronfeydd rhanbarthol i ffwrdd o Ewrop. Nid ydym am glywed unrhyw gyffredinoli na sbin. Yr wyf am gael ateb i dri chwestiwn penodol. A ydych wedi mynnu bod y Llywodraeth yn dod i benderfyniad ym mis Mehefin? Beth yw eich barn ar y gyllideb? A ydych o blaid neu yn erbyn ail-wladoli cronfeydd.

Andrew Davies: Glynaf wrth yr hyn a ddywedasom eisoes: ein nod yw cael y fargen orau bosibl i Gymru. Fe'i gwnaethom yn y cylch cronfeydd strwythurol presennol, gan gynnwys negodi setliad Barnett a mwy am y tro cyntaf erioed. Rhoddwyd £0.5 biliwn ychwanegol i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad i ddarparu ar gyfer gwariant cyhoeddus er mwyn i'r cylch cronfeydd strwythurol presennol lwyddo. Dywedais wrthyf yn fy ateb cynharach, Ieuan, fod manteision clir i fargen ar y gyllideb gyffredinol, ar lefel Ewropeaidd, erbyn diwedd Mehefin o dan arlywyddiaeth Lwcsembwrg. Mae'r Prif Weinidog wedi dweud hynny—credaf iddo ei ddweud yn y Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol—ac yr ydym wedi dweud hynny o'r blaen yn gyhoeddus. Fodd bynnag, deallwn fod materion ehangach o lawer ar gyfer Llywodraeth y DU o ran lefel yr arian. Hyd nes y gwneir y penderfyniad gan aelod-

Commission budget, it is premature to say exactly what that settlement would be. As I said to Mike German earlier, it would be premature to guess what the implications would be for Wales under the UK proposal, the European Commission proposal or anything in between.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I believe that I am entitled to press you further, Minister, as what you are presenting is a series of generalities. I am no wiser now than I was before I asked the question. I do not know what your position is. You have outlined and repeated the position of the UK Government, but you have refused to say what your Government's position is. I will ask you a simple question that only requires a 'yes' or 'no' answer. Are you, as a Government, in favour of the repatriation of funds?

Andrew Davies: As I have said in committee, and the First Minister has said in Plenary and in other fora, we will aim to get the best deal. There are advantages to the UK position, and there are advantages to the European Commission proposals. Until those discussions and deliberations are finalised, and we know the European budget total, we do not know what level of funding there will be for European funding programmes such as the current structural funds. Just as the whole issue is taken up with the total European budget, which, of course, impacts upon the common agricultural policy. We have said this before, in response to questions from you, Mike German and others: these are long negotiations. This is a long process, in which we are not direct participants. We will continue, as ever, to make a strong case in the best interests of Wales. Frankly, Ieuan, our record in terms of fighting for Wales is commendable, and the employment figures published today are a testimony to that success.

2.50 p.m.

wladwriaethau o ran maint cyffredinol cyllideb y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd, mae'n rhy gynnar i ddweud yn union beth fyddai'r setliad hwnnw. Fel y dywedais wrth Mike German yn gynharach, mae'n rhy gynnar i ddyfalu beth fyddai'r goblygiadau i Gymru o dan gynnig y DU, cynnig y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd neu unrhyw beth rhwng y ddau.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Credaf fod gennyf hawl i bwysu arnoch ymhellach, Weinidog, gan mai'r hyn yr ydych yn ei gyflwyno yw cyfres o sylwadau cyffredinol. Nid wyf fymryn yn ddoethach yn awr nag yr oeddwn cyn imi ofyn y cwestiwn. Ni wn beth yw eich safbwynt. Yr ydych wedi amlinellu ac wedi ailadrodd safbwynt Llywodraeth y DU, ond yr ydych wedi gwrthod dweud beth yw safbwynt eich Llywodraeth. Gofynnaf gwestiwn syml ichi nad oes ond angen ateb 'ie' neu 'na' iddo. A ydych chi, fel Llywodraeth, o blaid ail-wladoli cronfeydd?

Andrew Davies: Fel y dywedais yn y pwyllgor, ac fel y mae'r Prif Weinidog wedi ei ddweud yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ac mewn fforymau eraill, ein nod yw cael y fargen orau. Mae manteision i safbwynt y DU ac mae manteision i gynigion y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd. Hyd nes y cwblheir y trafodaethau a'r penderfyniadau hynny, a hyd nes y gwyddom beth fydd cyfanswm y gyllideb Ewropeaidd, ni wyddom beth fydd lefel yr arian ar gyfer rhaglenni cronfeydd Ewropeaidd megis y cronfeydd strwythurol presennol. Yn yr un modd ag y mae a wnelo'r mater cyfan â chyfanswm y gyllideb Ewropeaidd, sydd, wrth gwrs yn effeithio ar y polisi amaethyddol cyffredin. Yr ydym wedi dweud hyn o'r blaen, mewn ymateb i gwestiynau gennych chi, Mike German ac eraill: mae'r rhain yn drafodaethau hir. Mae hon yn broses hir, ac nid ydym yn gyfranogwyr uniongyrchol ynddi. Byddwn yn parhau, fel erioed, i ddadlau er budd gorau Cymru. A dweud y gwir, Ieuan, mae ein record o ran ymladd dros Gymru i'w chanmol, ac mae'r ffigurau cyflogaeth a gyhoeddwyd heddiw yn dyst i'r llwyddiant hwnnw.

Amcan 1 yn Nyffryn Clwyd Objective 1 in the Vale of Clwyd

Q5 Ann Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the impact of Objective 1 in the Vale of Clwyd? OAQ0164(EDT)

Andrew Davies: Following my response to Ieuan Wyn Jones, I am delighted to do so. By January this year, the Vale of Clwyd, as part of Denbighshire, had £22.2 million of Objective 1 grant committed to 49 local projects, representing a value of nearly £50 million. Objective 1 projects in Denbighshire have reported the creation or safeguarding of 5,900 gross jobs and 7,600 beneficiaries assisted.

Ann Jones: Like you, Minister, I welcome that news for the constituents of the Vale of Clwyd and of Denbighshire. I thank you for the opening of the OpTic technium, worth £15.7 million, at St Asaph last month. As the figures demonstrate, Objective 1 is having a major impact on the social and economic position of Denbighshire. You will recall that it was my colleague Chris Ruane, as the newly elected Member of Parliament, who fought hard for Conwy and Denbighshire along with his colleagues Gareth Thomas and Betty Williams, who actually—

The Presiding Officer: Order. I think a question might be helpful.

Ann Jones: Yes, they fought—
[*Interruption.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order. I am waiting for the question; it is not helpful when Members intervene when they are sitting down. It makes the process rather longer and even more painful.

Ann Jones: They fought for the area to be included. Can you assure me that the regional aid map for Wales will not be redrawn in future days?

Andrew Davies: I pay tribute to the work that our former parliamentary colleague, Chris Ruane undertook—I say ‘former’ as he is technically no longer an MP. The strong case that he made for the inclusion of Denbighshire was instrumental in its receiving Objective 1 status.

C5 Ann Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar effaith Amcan 1 yn Nyffryn Clwyd? OAQ0164(EDT)

Andrew Davies: Yn dilyn fy ymateb i Ieuan Wyn Jones, yr wyf yn falch o wneud hynny. Erbyn Ionawr eleni, yr oedd Dyffryn Clwyd, fel rhan o sir Ddinbych, wedi cael £22.2 miliwn o grant Amcan 1 wedi ei neilltuo i 49 o brosiectau lleol, yn cynrychioli gwerth o bron £50 miliwn. Mae prosiectau Amcan 1 yn sir Ddinbych wedi nodi bod 5,900 o swyddi gros wedi cael eu creu neu eu diogelu a chymorth wedi ei roi i 7,600 o fuddiolwyr.

Ann Jones: Fel chi, Weinidog, croesawaf y newyddion hynny ar gyfer etholwyr Dyffryn Clwyd a sir Ddinbych. Diolchaf ichi am agor technium OpTic, gwerth £15.7 miliwn, yn Llanelwy fis diwethaf. Fel y dengys y ffigurau, mae Amcan 1 yn cael effaith fawr ar sefyllfa gymdeithasol ac economaidd sir Ddinbych. Byddwch yn cofio mai fy nghyd-aelod Chris Ruane, fel yr Aelod Seneddol sydd newydd gael ei ethol, a frwydrodd yn galed dros Gonwy a Sir Ddinbych ynghyd â'i gyd-aelodau Gareth Thomas a Betty Williams, mewn gwirionedd a—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Credaf y byddai cwestiwn yn ddefnyddiol.

Ann Jones: Do, bu iddynt frwydro—[*Torri ar draws.*]

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Yr wyf yn aros am y cwestiwn; nid yw'n helpu pan fydd Aelodau yn ymyrryd pan fyddant ar eu heistedd. Mae'n gwneud y broses braidd yn hir a hyd yn oed yn fwy poenus.

Ann Jones: Bu iddynt frwydro dros gynnwys yr ardal. A allwch fy sicrhau na chaiff y map cymorth rhanbarthol ei ail-lunio yn y dyfodol?

Andrew Davies: Talaf deyrnged i'r gwaith a wnaeth ein cyn-aelod seneddol, Chris Ruane—dywedaf ‘cyn’ gan nad yw bellach, yn dechnegol, yn AS. Bu'r ddadl gref a wnaeth dros gynnwys sir Ddinbych yn gyfrwng i sicrhau ei bod yn cael statws Amcan 1.

On the issue of regional aid guidelines, the O ran canllawiau cymorth rhanbarthol,

assisted area map is decided by the European Commission, and is not a matter for member states. We have made a strong case to the UK Government about our position. I cannot give a guarantee that it will not be withdrawn, but my understanding is that no changes would affect Denbighshire.

Eleanor Burnham: In general, we know that Objective 1 areas are not benefiting as much as they could from European structural funds in terms of increased jobs and wage levels. Clearly, this is a slow process. What action are you and the Labour Assembly Government taking to ensure that the Vale of Clwyd, and other parts of north Wales, continue to receive their full share of EU structural funds post-2006?

Andrew Davies: Once again, like with Ieuan Wyn Jones, I have to challenge your basic assumption. I suggest that you ask your researcher to go back and research this more effectively. To say that Objective 1 areas such as west Wales and the Valleys have not benefited from European structural aid is erroneous. The fall in unemployment in west Wales and the Valleys since 1999 has been further and faster than in the UK generally. Your fundamental assumption is erroneous.

penderfynir ar y map ardal a gynorthwyr gan y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd, ac nid yw'n fater i'r aelod-wladwriaethau. Cyflwynasom ddatl gref i Lywodraeth y DU ynglŷn â'n sefyllfa. Ni allaf roi sicrwydd na chaiff ei dynnu yn ôl, ond fel y deallaf ni fyddai unrhyw newidiadau yn effeithio ar sir Ddinbych.

Eleanor Burnham: Yn gyffredinol, gwyddom nad yw ardaloedd Amcan 1 yn elwa gymaint ag y gallent ar gronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd o ran mwy o swyddi a lefelau cyflogau uwch. Yn amlwg, mae hon yn broses araf. Pa gamau yr ydych chi a Llywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad yn eu cymryd i sicrhau y bydd Dyffryn Clwyd, a rhannau eraill o'r Gogledd, yn parhau i gael eu cyfran lawn o gronfeydd strwythurol yr Undeb Ewropeaidd ar ôl 2006?

Andrew Davies: Unwaith eto, fel gyda Ieuan Wyn Jones, mae'n rhaid imi herio eich honiad sylfaenol. Awgrymaf eich bod yn gofyn i'ch ymchwilydd fynd yn ôl ac ymchwilio i hyn yn fwy effeithiol. Mae dweud nad yw ardaloedd Amcan 1 megis y Gorllewin a'r Cymoedd wedi elwa ar gymorth strwythurol Ewropeaidd yn anghywir. Mae'r gostyngiad mewn diweithdra yn y Gorllewin a'r Cymoedd ers 1999 wedi bod yn fwy ac yn gynt nag yn y DU yn gyffredinol. Mae eich honiad sylfaenol yn anghywir.

Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru The Welsh Development Agency

Q6 Lisa Francis: Will the Minister make a statement on the role and functions of the Welsh Development Agency?
OAQ0160(EDT)

C6 Lisa Francis: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar rôl a swyddogaethau Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru?
OAQ0160(EDT)

Q10 Mark Isherwood: Will the Minister make a statement on the WDA merger?
OAQ0168(EDT)

C10 Mark Isherwood: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar uno Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru?
OAQ0168(EDT)

Andrew Davies: The agency has a range of economic, social and environmental responsibilities which enable it to enrich the lives of the people of Wales. Plans to merge the WDA with the Welsh Assembly Government by April 2006 are well on track.

Andrew Davies: Mae gan yr awdurdod ystod o gyfrifoldebau economaidd, cymdeithasol ac amgylcheddol sy'n ei alluogi i gyfoethogi bywydau pobl Cymru. Mae cynlluniau yn mynd rhagddynt yn dda i uno'r WDA â Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru erbyn Ebrill 2006.

Lisa Francis: Can you enlighten us as to the

Lisa Francis: A allwch ein goleuo ynglŷn â'r

role that you see for regional delivery for the WDA when it comes into the Welsh Assembly Government?

Andrew Davies: We have always seen a strong role for the regional delivery of public services in Wales. That is one reason why, in terms of our location strategy, we are devolving, or decentralising, many of the Assembly Government's functions to places such as Merthyr, Aberystwyth and north Wales. The suggested, or proposed, restructuring of the WDA by its former chief executive with the organisation development and design programme—with the appropriate acronym, ODD—was seen within the agency by its staff, and also by some of the regional bodies, as a downgrading of the regions. I am delighted that the WDA's board has put that to one side, and I am confident that, in the new economic development and transport and Assembly Government structure, there will be a strong and vibrant role for the regions in delivering public services.

Mark Isherwood: Why did the Prime Minister's own economic adviser, Derek Scott, state that Gordon Brown's economic inheritance in 1997 was better than that of any previous Chancellor in living memory? Why is there no-one in employment now in 156,000 Welsh working-age households? How do you respond to the call by CBI Cymru for the abolished WDA to be replaced by new structures and services that are accountable to their Welsh business customers, without which economic growth cannot be achieved?

Andrew Davies: As I said yesterday, the First Minister and I had a meeting with Digby Jones, the director general of the Confederation of British Industry. He said that in six years of visiting Wales he had never known the Welsh economy to be in such robust good health. We have indicated today the highest numbers ever of people in work in Wales, and we now have the lowest unemployment in Wales since January 1975. As a small country, we need to remain competitive, which is why we have made the decision to merge the WDA, the Wales Tourist Board and Education and Learning

rôl a fydd gan y WDA o ran gwaith rhanbarthol, pan ddaw o dan adain Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru?

Andrew Davies: Yr ydym bob amser wedi gweld rôl gref ar gyfer darparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yn rhanbarthol yng Nghymru. Dyna un rheswm pam, o ran ein strategaeth lleoli, yr ydym yn datganoli llawer o swyddogaethau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i leoedd megis Merthyr, Aberystwyth a'r Gogledd. Cafodd y gwaith ailstrwythuro a awgrymwyd, neu a gynigwyd ar gyfer y WDA gan ei gyn-brif weithredwr gyda'r rhaglen datblygu a chynllunio sefydliadol—gyda'r acronym priodol yn Saesneg, ODD—ei ystyried o fewn yr awdurdod gan ei staff, a hefyd gan rai o'r cyrff rhanbarthol, yn rhywbeth a oedd yn israddio rhai o'r rhanbarthau. Yr wyf yn falch bod bwrdd y WDA wedi rhoi hynny o'r neilltu, ac yr wyf yn hyderus, yn strwythur Llywodraeth y Cynulliad a datblygu economaidd a thrafnidiaeth, bydd rôl gref a bywiog i'r rhanbarthau wrth ddarparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus.

Mark Isherwood: Pam y nododd cynghorydd economaidd y Prif Weinidog ei hun, Derek Scott, fod etifeddiaeth economaidd Gordon Brown yn 1997 yn well nag etifeddiaeth unrhyw Ganghellor blaenorol o fewn cof? Pam nad oes gwaith yn awr i bobl mewn 156,000 o gartrefi oedran gwaith yng Nghymru? Sut yr ydych yn ymateb i'r alwad gan CBI Cymru i ddisodli'r WDA a ddiddymwyd gan strwythurau a gwasanaethau newydd sy'n atebol i'w cwsmeriaid busnes yng Nghymru, na ellid cyflawni twf economaidd hebddynt?

Andrew Davies: Fel y dywedais ddoe, cafodd y Prif Weinidog a minnau gyfarfod gyda Digby Jones, cyfarwyddwr cyffredinol Cydffederasiwn Diwydiant Prydain. Dywedodd nad oedd, mewn chwe blynedd o ymweld â Chymru, wedi gweld economi Cymru mewn cystal cyflwr. Yr ydym wedi nodi heddiw y niferoedd uchaf erioed o bobl mewn gwaith yng Nghymru, a bellach mae gennym y ffigurau diweithdra isaf yng Nghymru ers Ionawr 1975. Fel gwlad fechan, mae angen inni barhau i fod yn gystadleuol, a dyna pam y gwnaethom y penderfyniad i uno'r WDA, Bwrdd Croeso Cymru, Dysgu ac

Wales with the Assembly Government. This will ensure that the private sector and businesses—large and small—throughout Wales, get the commercially orientated, customer-focused services that they need from the public sector.

Addysgu Cymru â Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Bydd hyn yn sicrhau bod y sector preifat a busnesau—mawr a bach—ledled Cymru, yn cael y gwasanaethau sydd eu hangen arnynt oddi wrth y sector cyhoeddus sy'n ymateb i ofynion masnachol ac sy'n canolbwyntio ar gwsmeriaid.

Ffordd i Ffyniant Pathway to Prosperity

Q7 Lisa Francis: Will the Minister make a statement on Pathway to Prosperity? OAQ0161(EDT)

C7 Lisa Francis: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar Ffordd i Ffyniant? OAQ0161(EDT)

Andrew Davies: Pathways to Prosperity, or P2P, is one of many match funding sources. This pot of last resort exists to ensure that no worthwhile project that supports our strategic agenda as a Government has failed—or will fail—through lack of match funding. Successful delivery of the European structural funds programme has shown that there is sufficient match funding available in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Andrew Davies: Ffordd i Ffyniant, neu P2P, yw un o'r ffynonellau arian cyfatebol niferus. Mae'r gronfa hon sy'n bodoli pan nad oes unrhyw ateb arall yn bosibl, yn sicrhau na fydd unrhyw brosiect gwerth ei gyflawni sy'n ategu ein hagenda strategol fel Llywodraeth, yn methu—oherwydd prinder arian cyfatebol. Mae cyflawni rhaglen cronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd yn llwyddiannus wedi dangos bod digon o arian cyfatebol ar gael yn y sectorau cyhoeddus, preifat a gwirfoddol.

Lisa Francis: In Economic Development and Transport Committee meetings, and in respect of the WDA, you have repeatedly stated that there were no cuts to the Assembly Government's P2P match funding project. However, documentation obtained by my colleague, Alun Cairns, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 appears to show that a requirement was placed on the WDA to cut its planned expenditure of P2P, slow down projects because of lack of funds, and use committed grant in aid. That is a requirement to dip into its core budgets to bail out what would appear to be the Welsh Assembly Government's financial shortfall. Is that accurate, Minister?

Lisa Francis: Mewn cyfarfodydd o'r Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth, ac o ran y WDA, yr ydych wedi nodi droeon na fu unrhyw doriadau i brosiect arian cyfatebol P2P Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Fodd bynnag, ymddengys bod dogfennaeth a gafwyd gan fy nghyd-Aelod, Alun Cairns, o dan Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000 yn dangos bod gofyniad ar y WDA i dorri ei wariant cynlluniedig o P2P, i arafu prosiectau oherwydd prinder arian, ac i ddefnyddio grant mewn cymorth neilltuedig. Mae hynny'n ofyniad i ddefnyddio arian o'i gyllidebau craidd i achub croen Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru lle mae prinder ariannol yn ôl pob tebyg. A yw hynny'n gywir, Weinidog?

Andrew Davies: In the same way as yesterday, unfortunately, the Tories have to put someone up to ask someone else's question while they are otherwise engaged on other, no-doubt interesting, part-time activities elsewhere. [*Interruption.*]

Andrew Davies: Yn yr un ffordd â ddoe, yn anffodus, mae'r Torïaid yn gorfod anfon rhywun arall i ofyn cwestiwn rhywun arall gan eu bod yn ymwneud fel arall â gweithgareddau rhan amser, diddorol eraill mae'n siŵr. [*Torri ar draws.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order. Lisa Francis's supplementary question was in order; I do not

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Yr oedd cwestiwn atodol Lisa Francis mewn trefn; nid oes ots gennyf

care who wrote it; she read it out.

pwy a'i ysgrifennodd; hi a'i ddarllenodd.

3.00 p.m.

Andrew Davies: I will give my own answer, in view of that comment by the Presiding Officer. There is no shortage of match funding in the system. However, opposition Members obviously did not hear what I have said over the last three years—Assembly sponsored public bodies, or quangos, such as the WDA, are not independent bodies. They are funded by the Assembly Government and they deliver our strategic priorities as a Government. This idea that quangos would have their own agenda, their own strategic priorities, over and above ours as the Government is quite erroneous. They clearly did not listen to what I or others in the Assembly Government were saying. It is quite wrong to expect the WDA to have its own pet projects over and above those of Government. I made it clear, as I did to the WDA and the WTB, and as Jane Davidson made clear to ELWa, that the delivery of structural funds was the priority of this Government. That decision was confirmed by committee when it came to the budget planning round. There is not, and has not been, any shortage of match funding in the system. Assembly Government and quango budgets were there to maximise the impact of structural funds. We have done that, and we have received recognition for the successful management of those European structural fund programmes. There was no story in 2003, as there was no story last year and there is no story today.

Andrew Davies: Rhoddaf fy ateb fy hun, o gofio'r sylw hwnnw gan y Llywydd. Nid oes prinder arian cyfatebol yn y system. Fodd bynnag, yn amlwg ni chlywodd Aelodau'r gwrthbleidiau yr hyn a ddywedais dros y tair blynedd diwethaf—nid yw cyrff cyhoeddus a noddir gan y Cynulliad, neu gwangos, megis y WDA, yn gyrff annibynnol. Fe'u hariennir gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad ac maent yn cyflawni ein blaenoriaethau strategol fel Llywodraeth. Mae'r syniad hwn y byddai gan gwangos eu hagenda eu hunain, eu blaenoriaethau strategol eu hunain, yn ychwanegol at ein rhai ni fel Llywodraeth yn hollol gyfeiliornus. Mae'n amlwg na wrandawsant ar yr hyn yr oeddwn innau ac eraill yn Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ei ddweud. Mae'n hollol anghywir disgwyl i'r WDA gael ei brosiectau bach ei hun yn ychwanegol at brosiectau'r Llywodraeth. Eglurais, fel yr eglurais i'r WDA a Bwrdd Croeso Cymru, ac fel yr eglurodd Jane Davidson i ELWa, mai sicrhau cronfeydd strwythurol oedd blaenoriaeth y Llywodraeth hon. Cadarnhawyd y penderfyniad hwnnw gan y pwyllgor pan drafodwyd cylch cynllunio'r gyllideb. Nid oes diffyg, ac na fu diffyg arian cyfatebol yn y system. Lluniwyd cyllidebau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad a'r cwangos i sicrhau y câi'r cronfeydd strwythurol yr effaith fwyaf bosibl. Yr ydym wedi gwneud hynny, ac yr ydym wedi cael cydnabyddiaeth am reoli rhaglenni'r cronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd hynny yn llwyddiannus. Nid oedd stori yn 2003, fel nad oedd stori y llynedd ac nid oes stori heddiw.

Mynd i'r Afael â Phrinder Gweithwyr Addressing Manpower Shortages

Q8 Sandy Mewies: What plans does the Assembly have to attract people into areas of employment where there is currently a manpower shortage? OAQ0142(EDT)

C8 Sandy Mewies: Pa gynlluniau sydd gan y Cynulliad i ddenu pobl i feysydd cyflogaeth lle mae prinder gweithwyr ar hyn o bryd? OAQ0142(EDT)

Andrew Davies: Skills shortages are a symptom of the success of our policies in creating jobs. Our skills and employment action plan and agenda for tackling economic inactivity provide the basis for our future growing prosperity.

Andrew Davies: Mae prinder sgiliau yn arwydd o lwyddiant ein polisiau i greu swyddi. Ein cynllun gweithredu sgiliau a chyflogaeth a'n hagenda ar gyfer mynd i'r afael ag anweithgarwch economaidd fydd y sail ar gyfer ein ffyniant cynyddol yn y

dyfodol.

Sandy Mewies: There is recognition that there is a skills shortage in some industries as diverse as aerospace—where, as you know, excellent work is going on in partnership in Flintshire—and the building industry, where the demand for extra homes can only be met by employing an additional 7,500 construction workers. Do you agree that, particularly in construction, the development of providing those skills must go hand in hand with appropriate regulation and training in safety for the public and those who work in the industry?

Sandy Mewies: Cydnabyddir bod prinder sgiliau mewn rhai diwydiannau mor wahanol ag awyrofod—lle y mae gwaith rhagorol yn mynd rhagddo mewn partneriaeth yn sir y Fflint, fel y gwyddoch—a'r diwydiant adeiladu, lle mai dim ond drwy gyflogi 7,500 o weithwyr adeiladu ychwanegol y gellir ateb y galw am gartrefi ychwanegol. A gytunwch, yn enwedig o ran adeiladu, fod yn rhaid i'r broses o ddatblygu'r sgiliau hynny fynd law yn llaw â rheoleiddio a hyfforddiant priodol mewn diogelwch i'r cyhoedd a'r rhai sy'n gweithio yn y diwydiant?

Andrew Davies: I could not agree more, Sandy. Construction is an important industry in Wales. Over recent years, output in that sector has increased at three times the UK rate of expansion. Only this morning, the First Minister and I met representatives of a leading construction company in Wales, and before that, Jane Davidson and I met the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board and industry and union representatives to look at the issue of skills training and accreditation. We will do everything that we can to help the industry workforce to acquire the right skills, including validation of qualifications and health and safety expertise to ensure that the industry has a prosperous future.

Andrew Davies: Cytunaf yn llwyr, Sandy. Mae'r diwydiant adeiladu yn un pwysig yng Nghymru. Dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf, mae cynhyrchiant yn y sector hwnnw wedi cynyddu dair gwaith yn fwy na'r gyfradd yn y DU. Dim ond y bore yma, cyfarfu'r Prif Weinidog a minnau â chynrychiolwyr o gwmni adeiladu blaengar yng Nghymru, a chyn hynny, cyfarfu Jane Davidson a minnau â Bwrdd Hyfforddi'r Diwydiant Peirianeg Adeiladu a chynrychiolwyr o'r diwydiant a'r undebau i ystyried hyfforddiant sgiliau ac achredu. Gwnawn bopeth o fewn ein gallu i helpu gweithlu'r diwydiant i ddysgu'r sgiliau cywir, gan gynnwys dilysu cymwysterau ac arbenigedd ym maes iechyd a diogelwch i sicrhau bod dyfodol llewyrchus i'r diwydiant.

Trafnidiaeth Gyhoeddus yn y Gogledd Public Transport in North Wales

Q9 Brynle Williams: What plans does the Minister have to develop the public transport system in north Wales? OAQ0147(EDT)

C9 Brynle Williams: Pa gynlluniau sydd gan y Gweinidog i ddatblygu'r system dtrafnidiaeth gyhoeddus yng ngogledd Cymru? OAQ0147(EDT)

Andrew Davies: As you know, I recently announced an £8 billion, 15-year investment programme to deliver integrated transport throughout Wales. In 2005-06, I am providing £2.4 million to north Wales local authorities for subsidised buses and community transport. I am also funding improved and better co-ordinated longer-distance bus services.

Andrew Davies: Fel y gwyddoch, cyhoeddais raglen fuddsoddi 15 mlynedd gwerth £8 biliwn yn ddiweddar i gyflawni trafndiaeth integredig ledled Cymru. Yn 2005-06, yr wyf yn darparu £2.4 miliwn i awdurdodau lleol yn y Gogledd ar gyfer bysiau a thrafnidiaeth gymunedol â chymhorthdal. Yr wyf hefyd yn ariannu gwell gwasanaethau bysiau teithiau pell a fydd yn cael eu cydlynu'n well.

Brynle Williams: The pace of improvement in Welsh public transport has been slow, to

Brynle Williams: Araf fu'r gwelliant mewn trafndiaeth gyhoeddus yng Nghymru, a

say the least, and I am most concerned that Wales is being left behind the rest of Great Britain. Although the plus-bus scheme goes some way towards improving the present situation, what large-scale proposals will you introduce in the near future to alleviate the crisis in the public transport system?

Andrew Davies: I hate to take issue with an opposition Member again on his basic assumption that there is a crisis in public transport. That does not sum up the position at all. In fact, rail and bus services have seen unprecedented growth in use. Last year in the UK—and the same is true for Wales—was the first year in which 1 billion passengers undertook rail journeys since 1959, which was in the pre-Beeching era when the railway network was much more extensive in Wales and the rest of the UK than it is today. The use of bus services is increasing in most parts of Wales, largely as the result of the Assembly Government's support to these services, particularly through concessions for older people and disabled people. Therefore, I take issue with your contention that public transport is in crisis, as it is not. We are now having to deal with the problems of success, particularly with rail services in such areas as south Wales and the Valleys where we now have to deal with demand exceeding the supply, which is why I invested £50 million in increasing capacity and frequency on the Valley lines in south Wales.

dweud y lleiaf, ac yr wyf yn pryderu'n fawr bod Cymru ar ei hôl hi o'i chymharu â gweddill Prydain Fawr. Er bod y cynllun plus-bus yn helpu rywfaint i wella ar y sefyllfa bresennol, pa gynigion ar raddfa fawr y byddwch yn eu cyflwyno yn y dyfodol agos i leddfu'r argyfwng yn y system drafnidiaeth gyhoeddus?

Andrew Davies: Mae'n gas gennyf anghytuno ag aelod o un o'r gwrthbleidiau unwaith eto ar ei ragdybiaeth sylfaenol fod argyfwng mewn trafndiaeth gyhoeddus. Nid yw hynny yn adlewyrchu'r sefyllfa o gwbl. Yn wir, cafwyd y twf mwyaf a welwyd erioed yn y defnydd o wasanaethau rheilffyrdd a bysiau. Y flwyddyn ddiwethaf yn y DU—ac mae'r un peth yn wir am Gymru—oedd y flwyddyn gyntaf y teithiodd 1 biliwn o deithwyr ar y rheilffyrdd ers 1959, sef y cyfnod cyn Beeching pan oedd y rhwydwaith rheilffyrdd yn llawer mwy helaeth yng Nghymru ac yng ngweddill y DU nag ydyw heddiw. Mae'r defnydd o wasanaethau bysiau yn cynyddu yn y rhan fwyaf o Gymru, yn bennaf o ganlyniad i gymorth Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i'r gwasanaethau hyn, yn enwedig drwy docynnau mantais i bobl hŷn a phobl anabl. Felly, anghytunaf â'ch haerriad bod trafndiaeth gyhoeddus mewn argyfwng, gan nad yw hynny'n wir. Erbyn hyn yr ydym yn gorfod ymdrin â'r problemau a ddaw yn sgîl llwyddiant, yn enwedig gyda gwasanaethau rheilffyrdd mewn ardaloedd megis y De a'r Cymoedd lle yr ydym yn gorfod ymdrin â sefyllfa erbyn hyn lle y mae'r galw yn fwy na'r cyflenwad, sef pam y buddsoddais £50 miliwn i gael mwy o gerbydau a gwasanaethau amlach ar linellau'r Cymoedd yn y De.

Y Llywydd: Trosglwyddwyd cwestiwn 11 OAQ0183(EDT) i'w ateb yn ysgrifenedig.

The Presiding Officer: Question 11 OAQ0183(EDT) has been transferred for written answer.

Amcan 1 yn Ynys Môn Objective 1 in Ynys Môn

Q12 Ieuan Wyn Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on Objective 1 funding in Ynys Môn? OAQ0191(EDT)

C12 Ieuan Wyn Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar ariannu Amcan 1 yn Ynys Môn? OAQ0191(EDT)

Andrew Davies: By 31 January 2005, £24.9 million of Objective 1 grant was committed

Andrew Davies: Erbyn 31 Ionawr 2005, yr oedd £24.9 miliwn o grant Amcan 1 wedi'i

to 36 local projects in Ynys Môn, representing projects worth £65.5 million. All Objective 1 projects in Ynys Môn have reported the creation or safeguarding of 4,000 gross jobs; 2,500 small and medium-sized enterprises assisted; 80 small and medium-sized enterprises created; and 4,800 beneficiaries assisted.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: The Minister will know that I have written to him about the application in respect of the racing track at Tŷ-croes, and he will know the importance of this application in respect of the island's economy. When does the Minister expect to give the company a decision on the funding issue?

Andrew Davies: I do not adjudicate on individual applications and cannot give you the information today. I will go back to the chief executive of WEFO, or one of his senior executives, to obtain the information so that I can come back to you as soon as possible.

neilltuo ar gyfer 36 o brosiectau lleol yn Ynys Môn, sef prosiectau gwerth £65.5 miliwn. Mae'r prosiectau Amcan 1 yn Ynys Môn gyda'i gilydd wedi nodi eu bod wedi creu neu wedi diogelu 4,000 o swyddi gros; wedi cynorthwyo 2,500 o fentrau bach a chanolig; wedi creu 80 o fentrau bach a chanolig; ac wedi cynorthwyo 4,800 sydd wedi cael grant.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Gŵyr y Gweinidog fy mod wedi ysgrifennu ato ynglŷn â'r cais mewn cysylltiad â'r trac rasio yn Nhŷ-croes, a gŵyr pa mor bwysig yw'r cais hwn o ran economi'r Ynys. Pryd y bydd y Gweinidog yn disgwyl rhoi penderfyniad ar y mater ariannu i'r cwmni?

Andrew Davies: Nid fi sy'n penderfynu ar geisiadau unigol ac ni allaf roi'r wybodaeth ichi heddiw. Siaradaf eto â phrif weithredwr WEFO, neu un o'i uwch weithredwyr, i gael y wybodaeth fel y gallaf roi ateb ichi cyn gynted â phosibl.

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

Deddfwriaeth Gydraddoldeb Equality Legislation

Q1 Ann Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on Welsh input into the Department of Trade and Industry's equality review that will inform new equality legislation? OAQ0036(BM)

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): I have recently written to the DTI specifically to ask for Welsh interests in the review to be fully represented. I am awaiting its response before making further representation.

Ann Jones: It is important that employment rights are protected for all workers across our society. These employment rights include paid annual leave, maternity and paternity leave and flexible working patterns, and that those policies introduced by this side of the Chamber and supported by the Welsh Assembly Government need to be protected

C1 Ann Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gyfraniad Cymru i adolygiad cydraddoldeb yr Adran Masnach a Diwydiant a fydd yn sail i deddfwriaeth gydraddoldeb newydd? OAQ0036(BM)

Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt): Yr wyf wedi ysgrifennu i'r Adran Masnach a Diwydiant yn ddiweddar i ofyn yn benodol am i fuddiannau Cymru yn yr adolygiad hwn gael eu cynrychioli'n llawn. Yr wyf yn aros am ei hymateb cyn gwneud sylwadau pellach.

Ann Jones: Mae'n bwysig bod hawliau cyflogaeth yn cael eu diogelu i bob gweithiwr ar draws cymdeithas. Mae'r hawliau cyflogaeth hyn yn cynnwys gwyliau blynyddol â thâl, absenoldeb mamolaeth ac absenoldeb tadolaeth a phatrymau gwaith hyblyg, a bod angen i'r polisiau hynny a gyflwynwyd gan yr ochr hon o'r Siambr ac a

for our workers. We also need to see that our policies go much further and that they are extended to include everyone in society. Will you continue to ensure that we follow an all-inclusive approach for all our policies to make sure that everyone in Wales has an equal chance to a job and to social justice?

Jane Hutt: It was encouraging that the Disability Discrimination Bill received Royal Assent last week. This will ensure that further rights in terms of disability discrimination are honoured. We must also recognise that new policy initiatives in relation to maternity pay and paternity and maternity leave, have come through from Patricia Hewitt in recent weeks.

David Melding: Do you agree that many older people would prefer to remain in some form of employment, perhaps by tapering off to working part time? There is currently a dramatic distinction between employment and retirement, and therefore we need more flexibility in our approaches.

Jane Hutt: That came through strongly in our strategy for older people as one of the key recommendations that we should be exploring with the UK Government. I would also see opportunities with the new Commission for Equality and Human Rights, which will embrace age as one of the key new strands, to take those points forward.

gefnogwyd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru gael eu diogelu i'n gweithwyr. Mae angen hefyd inni weld bod ein polisiau yn mynd ymhellach o lawer a'u bod yn cael eu hestyn i gynnwys pawb mewn cymdeithas. A wnewch chi barhau i sicrhau ein bod yn dilyn ymagwedd hollgynhwysol tuag at bob un o'n polisiau i sicrhau bod pawb yng Nghymru yn cael yr un cyfle i gael swydd ac i gael cyfiawnder cymdeithasol?

Jane Hutt: Yr oedd yn galonogol bod y Mesur Gwahaniaethu ar Sail Anabledd wedi cael Cydsyniad Brenhinol yr wythnos diwethaf. Bydd hyn yn sicrhau y cedwir at hawliau pellach o ran gwahaniaethu ar sail anabledd. Rhaid inni hefyd gydnabod bod polisiau newydd o ran tâl mamolaeth ac absenoldeb mamolaeth a thadolaeth, wedi cael eu cyflwyno gan Patricia Hewitt yn ystod yr wythnosau diwethaf.

David Melding: A gytunwch y byddai'n well gan lawer o bobl hŷn aros mewn rhyw fath o waith, efallai drwy leihau eu horiau'n raddol nes eu bod yn gweithio rhan amser? Ceir gwahaniaeth mawr ar hyn o bryd rhwng bod mewn swydd ac ymddeol, ac felly mae angen inni fod yn fwy hyblyg wrth ymdrin â hyn.

Jane Hutt: Mynegwyd hynny yn gryf yn ein strategaeth ar gyfer pobl hŷn fel un o'r argymhellion allweddol y dylem ei ystyried gyda Llywodraeth y DU. Gwelwn hefyd fod cyfleoedd gyda'r Comisiwn Cydraddoldeb a Hawliau Dynol newydd, a fydd yn ymgymryd ag oedran fel un o'r llinynnau allweddol newydd, i weithredu ar y pwyntiau hynny.

Cydraddoldeb Hiliol Race Equality

Q2 Mark Isherwood: Will the Minister make a statement on race equality in Wales? OAQ0041(BM)

Jane Hutt: The Welsh Assembly Government is fully committed to tackling racism wherever it manifests itself in Wales. On 21 March, we launched our second race equality scheme, which sets out our commitment to develop positive long-term change and actively promote race equality in Wales.

C2 Mark Isherwood: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gydraddoldeb hiliol yng Nghymru? OAQ0041(BM)

Jane Hutt: Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn hollol ymrwymedig i fynd i'r afael â hiliaeth lle bynnag y daw i'r golwg yng Nghymru. Ar 21 Mawrth, lanswyd ein hail gynllun cydraddoldeb hiliol. Mae'n nodi ein hymrwymiad i greu newid hirdymor cadarnhaol ac i hyrwyddo cydraddoldeb hiliol yng Nghymru.

Mark Isherwood: The North Wales Race Equality Network is the only organisation in north Wales that has the experience to provide comprehensive background and direction about good race relations in north Wales. Will you reconsider your refusal to fund the £60,000 operational costs needed to keep the network going, and will you agree to meet network representatives to listen to their sincere concerns about this?

Jane Hutt: I am aware of the valuable contribution made by the North Wales Race Equality Network and the community it serves. You are aware that this has been a subject of correspondence over the past few years. There was funding for the North Wales Race Equality Network and, indeed, all the race equality networks, for one year only in 2001-02. It is important now that the race equality network in north Wales looks for funding sources so that it can continue its good work.

3.10 p.m.

Val Lloyd: Sporting activities can play an important role in enhancing integration and tackling discrimination and racism. Last week, Swansea saw the launch of the first black and minority ethnic football league in Wales. Will you join me in congratulating the teams from Swansea, Cardiff, Newport and further field which made it such a successful event and are leading the way by using sport to integrate young people from all communities?

Jane Hutt: I am sure that this will be the way forward in terms of young people's involvement. That was clear when we launched the race equality scheme, and I thank all the Members who engaged in sporting activities on that day. A strong message was conveyed about how we in Wales will promote race equality, which is the key principle and objective, and sport has an important role to play in that. I know that the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport also endorses that.

Mark Isherwood: Rhwydwaith Cydraddoldeb Hiliol Gogledd Cymru yw'r unig sefydliad yn y Gogledd sy'n meddu ar y profiad i roi gwybodaeth gefndirol a chyfarwyddyd cynhwysfawr ynglŷn â chysylltiadau hiliol da yn y Gogledd. A wnewch chi ailystyried eich penderfyniad i wrthod ariannu'r £60,000 o gostau gweithredol sydd eu hangen er mwyn i'r rhwydwaith barhau, ac a wnewch chi gytuno i gwrrd â chynrychiolwyr i wrando ar eu pryderon diffuant ynglŷn â hyn?

Jane Hutt: Gwn am y cyfraniad gwerthfawr a wneir gan Rwydwaith Cydraddoldeb Hiliol Gogledd Cymru a'r gymuned y mae'n ei gwasanaethu. Fe wyddoch fod gohebiaeth ynglŷn â hyn dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf. Darparwyd arian ar gyfer Rhwydwaith Cydraddoldeb Hiliol Gogledd Cymru ac, yn wir, pob un o'r rhwydweithiau cydraddoldeb hiliol, am flwyddyn yn unig yn 2001-02. Mae'n bwysig yn awr fod y rhwydwaith cydraddoldeb hiliol yn y Gogledd yn chwilio am ffynonellau ariannu fel y gall barhau â'i waith da.

Val Lloyd: Mae gweithgareddau chwaraeon yn gallu chwarae rhan bwysig o ran gwell integreiddio a mynd i'r afael â gwahaniaethu a hiliaeth. Yr wythnos diwethaf, yn Abertawe, lansiwyd y cynghrair pêl-droed cyntaf i bobl dduon a lleiafrifoedd ethnig yng Nghymru. A ymunwch â mi i longyfarch y timau o Abertawe, Caerdydd, Casnewydd a thu hwnt a'i gwnaeth yn ddigwyddiad llwyddiannus ac sy'n arwain drwy ddefnyddio chwaraeon i integreiddio pobl ifanc o bob cymuned?

Jane Hutt: Yr wyf yn siŵr mai dyma fydd y ffordd ymlaen o ran ymwneud pobl ifanc. Yr oedd hynny'n amlwg pan lansiwyd y cynllun cydraddoldeb hiliol gennym, a diolchaf i bob Aelod a gymerodd ran yn y gweithgareddau chwaraeon ar y diwrnod hwnnw. Cyflëwyd neges gref ynghylch sut y byddwn ni yng Nghymru yn hyrwyddo cydraddoldeb hiliol, sef yr egwyddor a'r amcan allweddol, ac mae gan chwaraeon ran bwysig i'w chwarae yn hynny o beth. Gwn fod y Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon yn

cefnogi hynny hefyd.

Peter Black: The chair of the Welsh Refugee Council recently described proposals being mooted to withdraw from the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and to replace the fundamental right to seek asylum with a quota for refugees as alarming and dangerous. He said that a modern Anne Frank arriving in the UK seeking safety from persecution will be deprived of the protection currently offered under the UN convention, pertinent human rights legislation and the UK's child protection policies. Do you share my concern regarding the implications of this Conservative policy for people genuinely fleeing persecution and its impact on race relations?

Peter Black: Dywedodd cadeirydd Cyngor Ffoaduriaid Cymru yn ddiweddar fod y cynigion a gyflwynwyd i dynnu'n ôl o Gonfensiwn 1951 y Cenhedloedd Unedig o ran Statws Ffoaduriaid ac i ddisodli'r hawl sylfaenol i geisio lloches gan gwota ar gyfer ffoaduriaid yn frawychus ac yn beryglus. Dywedodd y câi rhywun fel Anne Frank a fyddai'n cyrraedd y DU heddiw i geisio diogelwch rhag erledigaeth ei hamddifadu o'r diogelwch a gynigir ar hyn o bryd o dan gonfensiwn y Cenhedloedd Unedig, deddfwriaeth berthnasol ynglŷn â hawliau dynol a pholisïau amddiffyn plant y DU. A rannwch fy mhryder o ran goblygiadau'r polisi hwn o eiddo'r Ceidwadwyr i bobl sydd yn wir yn ffoi rhag erledigaeth a'i effaith ar gysylltiadau hiliol?

Jane Hutt: This is an issue now, and I acknowledge that it was only yesterday that Trevor Phillips, the chair of the Commission for Racial Equality, warned of the danger of inciting racial tension during election campaigns. That was a warning to all political parties. CRE Wales also published a notice on 20 March, which was headed 'Don't play the racist game'. This refers not only to language but to policy. We must be aware of the damage that can be done and ensure that we defend the right to seek asylum, safeguard the Human Rights Act 1998 and defend the 1951 refugee convention.

Jane Hutt: Mae hon yn broblem yn awr, a chydabyddaf mai dim ond ddoe y rhybuddiodd Trevor Phillips, cadeirydd y Comisiwn Cydraddoldeb Hiliol, fod perygl o annog tensiwn hiliol yn ystod ymgyrchoedd etholiadol. Yr oedd hynny yn rhybudd i bob plaid wleidyddol. Cyhoeddodd CRE Cymru hefyd hysbysiad ar 20 Mawrth, o dan y pennawd 'Don't play the racist game'. Cyfeiria hyn nid yn unig at iaith ond at bolisi. Rhaid inni fod yn ymwybodol o'r niwed y gellir ei wneud a sicrhau ein bod yn amddiffyn yr hawl i geisio lloches, diogelu Deddf Hawliau Dynol 1998 ac amddiffyn confensiwn 1951 ynglŷn â ffoaduriaid.

The Presiding Officer: Question 3, OAQ0029(BM), has been withdrawn.

Y Llywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 3, OAQ0029(BM), yn ôl.

Prif-ffrydio Cydraddoldeb Mainstreaming Equality

Q4 Gwenda Thomas: Will the Minister make a statement on what she is doing to prioritise mainstreaming equality in the Assembly? OAQ0035(BM)

C4 Gwenda Thomas: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am yr hyn mae'n ei wneud i flaenoriaethu prif-ffrydio cydraddoldeb yn y Cynulliad? OAQ0035(BM)

Jane Hutt: The first meeting of the mainstreaming task and finish group will take place on 14 April. The group is charged with developing an overall mainstreaming equality strategy and advising the Assembly on implementing the recommendations of the Committee on Equality of Opportunity's

Jane Hutt: Cynhelir y cyfarfod cyntaf o'r grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen ar brif-ffrydio ar 14 Ebrill. Gorchwyl y grŵp yw datblygu strategaeth gyffredinol ar gyfer prif-ffrydio cydraddoldeb a chynghori'r Cynulliad ar weithredu argymhellion adroddiad y Pwyllgor Cyfle Cyfartal. Bydd y grŵp yn

report. The group will include both internal and external members.

Gwenda Thomas: Recommendation 13 of the committee's mainstreaming equality report recommended that further equality training be made available to Assembly Members to enable them to carry out their specific roles. As the committee continues to believe that no Member should sit on a public appointments panel unless they have attended an equality training course, will the Welsh Assembly Government promote the importance of all Members participating in such training?

Jane Hutt: This is key, and part of the task and finish group's terms of reference refers to the fact that it should produce arrangements for mainstreaming equality within the Assembly's procurement and public appointments systems. Equality training is also key in terms of ministerial involvement in public appointments and the role of independents on public appointments panels. This also applies to the Assembly Parliamentary Service, and I believe that the House Committee is discussing this to ensure that all Members benefit from that training in terms of public appointments.

Janet Ryder: Will you give an assurance that the task and finish group will assess every Assembly portfolio to ensure that equality is mainstreamed across the whole Assembly and within each portfolio?

Jane Hutt: That is key to mainstreaming. An equality champion has been identified in each Assembly department across all portfolio responsibilities. That is key to the race equality strategy and the mainstreaming equality strategy. It will also be important in terms of the disability equality strategy and the gender equality scheme. The departmental equality champions and the reports that they produce will be key to delivering mainstreaming, as you have described it, Janet.

Mark Isherwood: Will the Minister make a statement on whistleblowing policies and

cynnwys aelodau mewnol ac allanol.

Gwenda Thomas: Argymhellodd argymhelliad 13 o adroddiad y pwyllgor ar brif-ffrydio cydraddoldeb y dylid darparu rhagor o hyfforddiant cydraddoldeb ar gyfer Aelodau'r Cynulliad i'w galluogi i ymgymryd â'u rolau penodol. Gan fod y pwyllgor yn parhau i gredu na ddylai Aelodau fod yn aelodau o banel penodiadau cyhoeddus oni bai eu bod wedi mynychu cwrs hyfforddiant cydraddoldeb, a waniff Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru bwysleisio pa mor bwysig ydyw bod pob Aelod yn cymryd rhan mewn hyfforddiant o'r fath?

Jane Hutt: Mae hyn yn allweddol, ac mae rhan o gylch gorchwyl y grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen yn cyfeirio at y ffaith y dylai wneud trefniadau ar gyfer prif-ffrydio cydraddoldeb o fewn systemau caffael a phenodiadau cyhoeddus y Cynulliad. Mae hyfforddiant cydraddoldeb yn allweddol hefyd o ran ymwneud gweinidogion â phenodiadau cyhoeddus a rôl aelodau annibynnol ar baneli penodiadau cyhoeddus. Mae hyn hefyd yn berthnasol i Wasanaeth Seneddol y Cynulliad, a chredaf y bydd Pwyllgor y Tŷ yn trafod hyn er mwyn sicrhau bod pob Aelod yn cael yr hyfforddiant hwnnw o ran penodiadau cyhoeddus.

Janet Ryder: A wnewch chi roi sicrwydd y bydd y grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen yn asesu pob un o bortffolios y Cynulliad er mwyn sicrhau y caiff cydraddoldeb ei brif-ffrydio ar draws y Cynulliad cyfan ac o fewn pob portffolio?

Jane Hutt: Mae hynny yn allweddol i brif-ffrydio. Mae hyrwyddwr cydraddoldeb wedi cael ei nodi ym mhob adran o'r Cynulliad ar draws holl gyfrifoldebau'r portffolios. Mae hynny yn allweddol i'r strategaeth cydraddoldeb hiliol a'r strategaeth prif-ffrydio cydraddoldeb. Bydd hefyd yn bwysig o ran y strategaeth cydraddoldeb anabled a'r cynllun cydraddoldeb rhwng y rhywiau. Bydd yr hyrwyddwyr cydraddoldeb adrannol a'r adroddiadau y byddant yn eu cynhyrchu yn allweddol i gyflawni prif-ffrydio, fel y'i disgrifwyd gennych, Janet.

Mark Isherwood: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar bolisiau a gweithdrefnau

procedures for children?

chwythu'r chwiban ar gyfer plant?

The Presiding Officer: Order. I called you to ask a supplementary to question 4.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Fe'ch galwais i ofyn cwestiwn atodol i gwestiwn 4.

Mark Isherwood: I apologise. I will admit that, in this case, I am standing in for an absent colleague.

Mark Isherwood: Ymddiheuraf. Cyfaddefaf yn yr achos hwn fy mod yn dirprwyo dros gyd-Aelod absennol.

The Presiding Officer: Order. There is no need to make references of that kind; either you intend to ask a supplementary question or you do not.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid oes angen gwneud cyfeiriadau o'r math hwnnw; yr ydych naill ai'n bwriadu gofyn cwestiwn atodol neu ddim.

Mark Isherwood: Thank you for your guidance, Presiding Officer.

Mark Isherwood: Diolch am eich arweiniad, Llywydd.

During the Assembly debate last year on the mainstreaming equality report, my colleague, Laura Anne Jones, stated that one of the most important and difficult aspects of mainstreaming equality is the monitoring and evaluation of what has been achieved. Minister, I know that there have been concerns that the Assembly is not being adequately briefed by Ministers on what has been achieved within their portfolios. How are you addressing those concerns?

Yn ystod dadl y Cynulliad y llynedd ar yr adroddiad ar brif ffrydio cydraddoldeb, nododd fy nghyd-Aelod, Laura Anne Jones, mai un o agweddau pwysicaf ac anoddaf prif ffrydio cydraddoldeb yw monitro a gwerthuso'r hyn a gyflawnwyd. Weinidog, gwn fod pryderon wedi codi ynghylch y ffaith nad yw'r Cynulliad yn cael digon o wybodaeth gan y Gweinidogion ar yr hyn a gyflawnwyd o fewn eu portffolios. Ym mha ffordd yr ydych yn mynd i'r afael â'r pryderon hynny?

Jane Hutt: It is important that internal and external people are helping us with this mainstreaming task and finish group. I am delighted that Kate Bennett from the Equal Opportunities Commission, Alison Parken from Stonewall Cymru, and Ruth Marks from Chwarae Teg are all assisting us in taking forward the terms of reference, as are senior internal officials of the Welsh Assembly Government. We have debated the terms of reference, we have come before the Committee on Equality of Opportunity, and we know that the monitoring and scrutiny will be rigorous, which is how it should be.

Jane Hutt: Mae'n bwysig bod pobl fewnol ac allanol yn rhoi cymorth inni gyda'r grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen hwn ar brif ffrydio. Fe'm calonogir gan y ffaith bod Kate Bennett o'r Comisiwn Cyfle Cyfartal, Alison Parken o Stonewall Cymru a Ruth Marks o Chwarae Teg yn ein cynorthwyo wrth ddatblygu'r cylch gorchwyl, yn yr un modd ag y mae uwch swyddogion mewnol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Yr ydym wedi trafod y cylch gorchwyl, yr ydym wedi ymddangos gerbron y Pwyllgor Cyfle Cyfartal, a gwyddom y bydd y gwaith monitro a chraffu yn drwyadl, fel y dylai fod.

Llywodraeth Agored Open Government

Q5 William Graham: How will the Minister improve open government within Wales? OAQ0042(BM)

C5 William Graham: Sut fydd y Gweinidog yn gwella llywodraeth agored yng Nghymru? OAQ0042(BM)

Jane Hutt: The latest edition of our 'Code of Practice on Public Access to Information' establishes a strengthened framework for

Jane Hutt: Mae argraffiad diweddaraf ein 'Cod Ymarfer ar Ganiatáu i'r Cyhoedd Weld Gwybodaeth' yn sefydlu fframwaith cryfach

practising open government. One of the steps that we are taking to draw on the lessons learned since 1 January 2005 is to develop improved procedures for handling requests.

William Graham: I know that you recognise the value of open scrutiny of policy initiatives, not just by committee members, therefore will you not agree to return to a fortnightly cycle of committees, so that there can be more scrutiny?

Jane Hutt: That does not relate to your question, William.

The Presiding Officer: Order. I am not sure about that; it may indeed relate to the question. If the supplementary was out of order, I would have ruled on it. If the Minister does not wish to answer the question, that is a matter for her.

Jane Hutt: My apologies, Llywydd.

Lynne Neagle: Minister, you may be aware that, following a recent freedom of information request, the UK Government has disclosed details of all farm payments made in England. Despite a similar freedom of information request in Wales, the Assembly Government has declined to do so. The results in England were startling, showing that vast sums of public money were going to some of the richest people in Britain at the expense of small farmers and the world's poor. Will you look at this issue, Minister, so that we can match the openness on farm payments seen in England, and let the Welsh public know where their money is going?

Jane Hutt: We routinely publish a considerable amount of information, as you know, through our well-established publication scheme. There are sometimes good reasons why it would be inappropriate to publish information, which may include protecting commercial interests or someone's privacy. However, I can give you a commitment that we are reviewing the publication scheme, and I am happy to consider the possibility of moving towards achieving what you suggest today.

ar gyfer arfer llywodraeth agored. Un o'r camau yr ydym yn eu cymryd i fanteisio ar y gwersi a ddysgwyd ers 1 Ionawr 2005 yw datblygu gweithdrefnau gwell ar gyfer ymdrin â cheisiadau.

William Graham: Gwn eich bod yn cydnabod ei bod yn werthfawr i fentrau polisi fod yn destun proses graffu agored, ac nid gan aelodau pwyllgorau yn unig, felly a gytunwch i ddychwelyd i gylch pythefnosol o bwyllgorau er mwyn sicrhau mwyr o graffu?

Jane Hutt: Nid yw hynny'n berthnasol i'ch cwestiwn, William.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid wyf yn siŵr ynglŷn â hynny; gall, yn wir, fod yn berthnasol i'r cwestiwn. Pe bai'r cwestiwn atodol allan o drefn, byddwn wedi dyfarnu hynny. Os na ddymuna'r Gweinidog ateb y cwestiwn, mater iddi hi yw hynny.

Jane Hutt: Ymddiheuraf, Lywydd.

Lynne Neagle: Weinidog, efallai y gwyddoch yn dilyn cais rhyddid gwybodaeth diweddar, fod Llywodraeth y DU wedi datgelu manylion pob taliad fferm a wnaed yn Lloegr. Er gwaethaf cais rhyddid gwybodaeth tebyg yng Nghymru, mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi gwrthod gwneud hynny. Yr oedd y canlyniadau yn Lloegr yn syfrdanol, gan ddangos bod symiau enfawr o arian cyhoeddus yn mynd i rai o bobl gyfoethocaf Prydain ar draul ffermwyr bychain a thlodion y byd. A wnewch chi edrych ar y mater hwn, Weinidog, fel y gallwn efelychu'r natur agored a welwyd yn Lloegr parthed taliadau fferm, gan adael i'r cyhoedd yng Nghymru wybod i ble y mae eu harian yn mynd?

Jane Hutt: Yr ydym yn cyhoeddi cryn dipyn o wybodaeth yn rheolaidd, fel y gwyddoch, drwy gyfrwng ein cynllun cyhoeddi sefydledig. Weithiau mae rhesymau da pam y byddai'n amhriodol i gyhoeddi gwybodaeth a gallai hyn gynnwys diogelu buddiannau masnachol neu breifatrwydd rhywun. Fodd bynnag, gallaf roi ymrwymiad ichi ein bod yn adolygu'r cynllun cyhoeddi ac yr wyf yn fodlon ystyried y posibilrwydd o symud tuag at gyflawni'r hyn a awgrymwyd heddiw.

The Presiding Officer: Question 6, OAQ0032(BM), is withdrawn. I call Mark Isherwood to ask a question on behalf of himself. [*Laughter.*]

Y Llywydd: Tynnwyd Cwestiwn 6, OAQ0032(BM) yn ôl. Galwaf ar Mark Isherwood i ofyn cwestiwn ar ei ran ef ei hun. [*Chwerthin.*]

Gweithdrefnau Codi Llais (Plant) Whistle-blowing Procedures (Children)

Q7 Mark Isherwood: Will the Minister make a statement on whistle-blowing policies and procedures for children? OAQ0046(BM)

C7 Mark Isherwood: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am bolisiâu a gweithdrefnau chwythu'r chwiban ar gyfer plant? OAQ0046(BM)

Jane Hutt: The established representation and complaint procedures are the main mechanisms for children and young people to raise a concern. Employees who have concerns about children can make representations using complaints procedures, and should report the matter under the code of conduct for local government employees.

Jane Hutt: Y gweithdrefnau cynrychiolaeth a chwyno sefydledig yw'r prif ddulliau i blant a phobl ifanc fynegi unrhyw bryderon. Gall cyflogeion sydd â phryderon yn ymwneud â phlant gyflwyno sylwadau gan ddefnyddio'r gweithdrefnau cwyno, a dylent roi gwybod am y mater o dan y cod ymddygiad ar gyfer cyflogeion llywodraeth leol.

Mark Isherwood: The annual report of the Children's Commissioner for Wales refers to a review of whistle-blowing policies and procedures. What confidence can we have in those policies and procedures for young people when the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 has failed to protect Welsh adult whistle-blowers, including those who suffered child abuse, from being victimised?

Mark Isherwood: Mae adroddiad blynyddol Comisiynydd Plant Cymru yn cyfeirio at adolygiad o bolisiâu a gweithdrefnau chwythu'r chwiban. Sut y gallwn fod â ffydd yn y polisiâu a'r gweithdrefnau hynny ar gyfer pobl ifanc pan fo Deddf Datgelu er Lles y Cyhoedd 1998 wedi methu â diogelu'r oedolion hynny sydd wedi chwythu'r chwiban yng Nghymru, gan gynnwys y rheini a gafodd eu camdrin pan oeddent yn blant, rhag erledigaeth?

Jane Hutt: The important thing is that we are empowering children in Wales to have a voice in all matters and decisions that affect their lives, particularly safeguarding them from harm or poor practice. That is central to the report of the children's commissioner, 'Telling Concerns', and it will come up in our debate to be held shortly on the Clywch inquiry, in relation to the recommendations that we have accepted. Having national standards in relation to advocacy and consulting 500 children on their experience of complaints and how we can improve systems, which we have done, are key.

Jane Hutt: Y peth pwysig yw ein bod yn grymuso plant yng Nghymru i feddu ar lais ym mhob mater a phenderfyniad sy'n effeithio ar eu bywydau, gan eu diogelu'n benodol rhag niwed neu arfer gwael. Mae hynny'n ganolog i adroddiad y comisiynydd plant, 'Datgan Pryderon', a bydd yn codi yn ein dadl a gaiff ei chynnal maes o law ar ymchwiliad Clywch, o ran yr argymhellion yr ydym wedi'u derbyn. Mae'n allweddol sicrhau safonau cenedlaethol o ran eiriolaeth ac ymgynghori â 500 o blant ar eu profiadau o ran cwynion a'r modd y gallwn wella systemau, ac yr ydym wedi gwneud hynny.

On whistle-blowing by adults, that is clearly a matter for local government in terms of the code that I mentioned. The Assembly introduced a new code of conduct for local

O ran chwythu'r chwiban yng nghyd-destun oedolion, mae hyn yn amlwg yn fater i lywodraeth leol yn nhermau'r cod y cyfeiriais ato. Cyflwynodd y Cynulliad god ymddygiad

government in 2001, and under that code, the report—in relation to the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 and the relevant authority’s confidential reporting procedure—is a matter for the local authority. I know that you have discussed this with the Minister responsible for local government recently.

3.20 p.m.

Gwasanaethau i Blant Children’s Services

C8 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ei rôl o ran rhoi sylw i wahaniaethau rhwng gwasanaethau i blant yng Nghymru? OAQ0026(BM)

Jane Hutt: A key element of my role is to oversee the implementation of initiatives such as the national service framework for children, young people and maternity services, to ensure that they are taken forward across all ministerial portfolios in a way that addresses disparities in services.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am eich ymrwymiad, Weiniidog, ond byddwn yn falch o gael mwy o fanylion ynglŷn â sut y bwriedir gweithredu ar y mater hwn. Mae gwasanaethau plant wedi’u rhannu rhwng y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes, y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol, a chithau, y Gweinidog â chyfrifoldeb am blant—weithiau ynghyd â’r Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio. Sut ydych chi’n bwriadu hyrwyddo cydweithredu a gweithredu trawsbynciol o ran y Cabinet?

Jane Hutt: This is a real opportunity, which has been recognised. I had a meeting earlier today with the deputy high commissioner for Canada, who said that our approach to joining up government for children was key to tackling the disparities in children’s services that you outlined in your question. That is the key purpose of my role, and, through the Cabinet sub-committee on children and young people, we are ensuring that we develop policies together and monitor their implementation across each ministerial responsibility.

newydd ar gyfer llywodraeth leol yn 2001 ac o dan y cod hwnnw, mae’r adroddiad—yng nghyd-destun Deddf Datgelu er Lles y Cyhoedd 1998 a gweithdrefn hysbysu cyfrinachol yr awdurdod perthnasol—yn fater i’r awdurdod lleol. Gwn eich bod wedi trafod hyn gyda’r Gweinidog sy’n gyfrifol am lywodraeth leol yn ddiweddar.

Q8 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Will the Minister make a statement on her role in addressing disparities in children’s services in Wales? OAQ0026(BM)

Jane Hutt: Un o elfennau allweddol fy rôl yw goruchwylio’r broses o weithredu mentrau fel y fframwaith gwasanaeth cenedlaethol ar gyfer plant, pobl ifanc a gwasanaethau mamolaeth, i sicrhau y cânt eu datblygu ar draws pob portffolio gweinidogol mewn modd a fydd yn mynd i’r afael ag anghysonderau yn y gwasanaethau.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I am grateful for your commitment, Minister, but I would like to hear more detail with regard to how you intend to act on this issue. Children’s services are shared out between the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, the Minister for Health and Social Services, and you, as Minister with responsibility for children—sometimes together with the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration. How do you intend to promote collaboration and cross-cutting co-operation with regard to the Cabinet?

Jane Hutt: Mae hwn yn gyfle gwirioneddol, sydd wedi’i gydnabod. Cefais gyfarfod yn gynharach heddiw gyda dirprwy uchel gomisiynydd Canada, a ddywedodd fod ein hymagwedd i lywodraeth gydgyssylltiedig ar gyfer plant yn allweddol i fynd i’r afael â’r anghysonderau mewn gwasanaethau plant a amlinellwyd gennych yn eich cwestiwn. Dyna ddiben allweddol fy rôl, a thrwy gyfrwng is-bwyllgor y Cabinet ar blant a phobl ifanc, yr ydym yn sicrhau ein bod yn datblygu polisiau ar y cyd ac yn monitro’r broses o’u gweithredu ar draws yr holl

gyfrifoldebau gweinidogol.

Y Comisiwn Cydraddoldebau Cyfun Newydd The New Combined Equalities Commission

Q9 John Griffiths: What discussions has the Minister had with the UK Government on safeguarding Welsh interests in the new combined equalities commission? OAQ0034(BM)

Jane Hutt: I have raised issues, including budget allocation and the appointment procedure, with Ministers to ensure that the opportunity to reflect unique Welsh interests in the commission for equality and human rights is not lost.

John Griffiths: Would you agree that the new strands of age, faith and sexual orientation are adequately represented in the new body? How is the Assembly Government supporting these strands in the period leading up to the creation of the single equality body?

Jane Hutt: The equality bodies in Wales have been pioneering in coming together, forming a Wales equality reference group, and bringing together those organisations that reflect those strands—Stonewall Cymru and Age Concern, for example, as well as faith organisations—to ensure that they are planning for this new commission. Also, Stonewall Cymru is now engaged in our mainstreaming task and finish group, and I am pleased that we have been able to increase its grant to £75,000 this year, to help in its work of developing that strand.

C9 John Griffiths: Pa drafodaethau a fu rhwng y Gweinidog a Llywodraeth y DU ynghylch diogelu buddiannau Cymru yn y comisiwn cydraddoldebau cyfun newydd? OAQ0034(BM)

Jane Hutt: Yr wyf wedi codi materion, gan gynnwys dyrannu cyllideb a'r weithdrefn benodi, gyda'r Gweinidogion i sicrhau na chollir y cyfle i adlewyrchu buddiannau unigryw Cymru yn y comisiwn cydraddoldeb a hawliau dynol.

John Griffiths: A gytunwch y caiff elfennau newydd oedran, ffydd a thueddfryd rhywiol, eu cynrychioli'n ddigonol yn y corff newydd? Sut mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn cefnogi'r elfennau hyn yn y cyfnod sy'n arwain at greu'r corff cydraddoldeb sengl?

Jane Hutt: Mae'r cyrff cydraddoldeb yng Nghymru wedi arloesi drwy ddod ynghyd, gan ffurfio grŵp cyfeirio cydraddoldeb yng Nghymru gan ddwyn ynghyd y sefydliadau hynny sy'n adlewyrchu'r elfennau hynny—Stonewall Cymru ac Age Concern Cymru, er enghraifft, yn ogystal â sefydliadau ffydd—i sicrhau eu bod yn cynllunio ar gyfer y comisiwn newydd hwn. Hefyd, mae Stonewall Cymru bellach wedi'i gynnwys yn ein grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen ar brif ffyrddio ac yr wyf yn falch o ddweud inni allu cynyddu ei grant i £75,000 eleni i'w cynorthwyo yn ei waith o ddatblygu'r elfen honno.

Cyflog Cyfartal Equal Pay

Q10 Ann Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the progress of the close the pay gap initiative? OAQ0037(BM)

Jane Hutt: The close the pay gap campaign has been successful in raising awareness of equal pay issues. Phase II of the campaign recently came to an end. The Welsh Assembly Government is now in discussions with the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Wales Trades Union Congress

C10 Ann Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gynnydd cynllun cau'r bwllch cyflogau? OAQ0037(BM)

Jane Hutt: Bu'r ymgyrch cau'r bwllch cyflogau yn llwyddiannus wrth godi ymwybyddiaeth o faterion o ran cyflog cyfartal. Daeth cam II yr ymgyrch i ben yn ddiweddar. Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn awr mewn trafodaethau â'r Comisiwn Cyfle Cyfartal a Chyngres

regarding phase III, which will be targeted at the public sector.

Ann Jones: I am glad that you mentioned the excellent work of the Assembly and its chosen partners in keeping that campaign at the forefront of policies.

Do you agree with me that the national minimum wage has assisted in significantly increasing the wages of some 1.3 million women across the UK? While we accept that perhaps the minimum wage could be a little higher, we must recognise what has already been achieved. What assurances can you give me that we will continue to work with the TUC and employers to lessen the pay gap, and to ensure that we have equal pay for work of equal value?

Jane Hutt: Tackling low pay with the national minimum wage—introduced by a Labour Government—has taken thousands of people in Wales out of that low pay gap. We have to ensure that we continue that work, and, working with the Wales TUC and focusing on the public sector will provide an opportunity for us to address that. However, phase II also tackled issues relating to the private sector. We have also recognised that we probably need to move towards establishing a mandatory equal-pay review regime in order to close the pay gap in Wales. However, this has been a pioneering initiative, which I intend to take forward.

Undebau Llafur Cymru parthed cam III, a gaiff ei anelu at y sector cyhoeddus.

Ann Jones: Yr wyf yn falch eich bod wedi crybwyll gwaith ardderchog y Cynulliad a'i ddewis bartneriaid wrth roi amlygrwydd i'r ymgyrch honno mewn polisiau.

A gytunwch â mi fod yr isafswm cyflog cenedlaethol wedi cynorthwyo wrth gynyddu cyflogau rhyw 1.3 miliwn o fenywod ar draws y DU yn sylweddol? Er ein bod yn derbyn efallai y gallai'r isafswm cyflog fod ychydig yn uwch, rhaid inni gydnabod yr hyn a gyflawnwyd eisoes. Pa sicrwydd y gallwch ei roi imi y byddwn yn parhau i weithio gyda'r TUC a chyflogwyr i leihau'r bwlch cyflogau ar gyfer gwaith o werth cyfartal?

Jane Hutt: Mae mynd i'r afael â chyflogau isel gyda'r isafswm cyflog cenedlaethol—a gyflwynwyd gan Lywodraeth Lafur—wedi rhyddhau miloedd o bobl yng Nghymru o'r bwlch cyflogau isel hwnnw. Rhaid inni sicrhau ein bod yn parhau â'r gwaith hwnnw a bydd gweithio gyda TUC Cymru a chanolbwyntio ar y sector cyhoeddus yn cynnig cyfle inni fynd i'r afael â hynny. Fodd bynnag, yr oedd cam II hefyd wedi mynd i'r afael â materion yn ymwneud â'r sector preifat. Yr ydym hefyd wedi cydnabod ei bod yn debygol y bydd angen inni symud tuag at sefydlu cyfundrefn adolygu cyflog cyfartal gorfodol er mwyn cau'r bwlch cyflogau yng Nghymru. Fodd bynnag, bu hon yn fenter arloesol, ac yr wyf yn bwriadu ei dwyn yn ei blaen.

Cyfrifoldeb Trawsbynciol dros Blant Cross-cutting Responsibility for Children

Q11 Jeff Cuthbert: Will the Minister make a statement on her cross-cutting responsibilities for children in Wales? OAQ0033(BM)

Jane Hutt: As Chair of the Cabinet sub-committee for children and young people, I promote a strategic approach that brings together all Assembly Government policies for children. It also enables me to make sure that their rights, wellbeing and views are given appropriate priority across portfolios.

C11 Jeff Cuthbert: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ei chyfrifoldebau trawsbynciol dros blant yng Nghymru? OAQ0033(BM)

Jane Hutt: Fel Cadeirydd is-bwyllgor y Cabinet ar gyfer plant a phobl ifanc, yr wyf yn hyrwyddo ymagwedd strategol sy'n dwyn ynghyd holl bolisiau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar gyfer plant. Mae hefyd yn fy ngalluogi i sicrhau y caiff eu hawliau, eu lles a'u safbwyntiau flaenoriaeth briodol ar draws y portffolios.

Jeff Cuthbert: Do you agree that child poverty is a key issue, and that ‘A Fair Future for our Children’, the Assembly Government strategy for tackling child poverty, is an excellent example of our commitment to giving our next generation the fairest and best start to life, no matter what their background? Do you also agree that the free swimming initiative for young people, free healthy breakfasts, and support for credit unions, to name but a few, all give financial muscle to the Assembly’s goals on child poverty?

Jane Hutt: I agree. We launched ‘A Fair Future for our Children’ in New Tredegar, in one of our new integrated children’s centres, funded by the Welsh Assembly Government, to demonstrate how the community there has got to grips with the issues and how it is determined to deliver at a local level. A Labour UK Government and a Labour Welsh Assembly Government will achieve the target of halving child poverty by 2010, and will take that forward by eradicating child poverty by 2020. The key issue here is that child poverty has to be addressed by the Minister for Economic Development and Transport, the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport, the Finance Minister as well as the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration. As Minister with responsibility for children, I will work with them all to deliver that objective.

On free swimming, our swimming pools have been full of children enjoying themselves this Easter holiday.

David Melding: At this morning’s meeting of the Health and Social Services Committee, we discussed child and adolescent mental health services. The expert adviser emphasised to us that this issue does not affect only health but also social services, housing and education. These are key areas on which I am sure that you could have profitable discussions with your colleagues.

Jeff Cuthbert: A gytunwch fod tlodi ymhlith plant yn fater allweddol a bod strategaeth Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, ‘Dyfodol Teg i’n Plant’ ar gyfer mynd i’r afael â thlodi ymhlith plant yn enghraifft ardderchog o’n hymrwymiad i roi’r dechrau gorau a thecaf mewn bywyd i’n cenhedlaeth nesaf, ni waeth beth fo’u cefndir? A gytunwch hefyd fod y fenter nofio am ddim i bobl ifanc, brecwast iach am ddim, a chymorth i undebau credyd, i enwi ond ychydig, oll yn rhoi cryfder ariannol i nodau’r Cynulliad ar dlodi ymhlith plant?

Jane Hutt: Cytunaf. Lanswyd ‘Dyfodol Teg i’n Plant’ yn Nhredeggar Newydd yn un o’n canolfannau plant integredig newydd, a ariannwyd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, i ddangos sut y mae’r gymuned yno wedi mynd i’r afael â’r materion a’r modd y mae’n benderfynol o lwyddo ar lefel leol. Bydd Llywodraeth Lafur y DU a Llywodraeth Lafur Cynulliad Cymru yn cyflawni’r targed o haneru tlodi ymhlith plant erbyn 2010, a byddant yn datblygu hynny ymhellach drwy ddileu tlodi ymhlith plant erbyn 2020. Y prif fater dan sylw yw bod angen i’r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth, y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes, y Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon, y Gweinidog Cyllid yn ogystal â’r Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio fynd i’r afael â thlodi ymhlith plant. Fel y Gweinidog sydd â chyfrifoldeb dros blant, byddaf yn gweithio â phob un ohonynt i gyflawni’r amcan hwnnw.

O ran nofio am ddim, mae ein pyllau nofio wedi bod yn llawn plant yn mwynhau eu hunain yn ystod gwyliau’r Pasg.

David Melding: Yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol y bore yma, trafodwyd gwasanaethau ac iechyd meddwl plant a’r glasod. Pwysleisiodd y cynghorydd arbenigol nad yw’r mater hwn yn effeithio ar wasanaethau iechyd yn unig, mae hefyd yn effeithio ar wasanaethau cymdeithasol, tai ac addysg. Mae’r rhain yn feysydd allweddol yr wyf yn siŵr y gallech gynnal trafodaethau buddiol yn eu cylch gyda’ch cyd-Aelodau.

Jane Hutt: The child and adolescent mental health service has already come up in many of the papers that we have discussed in the Cabinet sub-committee on children. It relates to issues regarding homelessness and the vulnerability of young people leaving care, and it relates to the issues of our looked-after children in the public care system. The interaction between health, social services, education and housing is key to CAMHS, and, as Minister with responsibility for children, I certainly see that as a mainstream policy issue.

Jane Hutt: Mae gwasanaeth iechyd meddwl plant a'r glasoed eisoes wedi codi mewn nifer o'r papurau a drafodwyd gennym yn is-bwyllgor y Cabinet ar blant. Mae'n gysylltiedig â materion yn ymwneud â digartrefedd a natur ddiamddiffyn pobl ifanc sy'n gadael gofal, ac mae'n gysylltiedig â'r materion o ran ein plant sy'n derbyn gofal yn y system gofal cyhoeddus. Mae'r rhyngweithio rhwng iechyd, gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, addysg a thai yn allweddol i wasanaeth iechyd meddwl plant a'r glasoed, ac fel y Gweinidog sydd â chyfrifoldeb dros blant, yr wyf yn sicr yn gweld hwnnw fel mater polisi prif ffrwd.

The Presiding Officer: Question 12 OAQ0028(BM) has been transferred for written answer. I call Lisa Francis to ask question 13.

Y Llywydd: Trosglwyddwyd Cwestiwn 12 OAQ0028(BM) i'w ateb yn ysgrifenedig. Galwaf ar Lisa Francis i ofyn cwestiwn 13.

Lisa Francis: I must apologise, Llywydd, I did not know that I had this question. I will carry on, though. *[Interruption.]*

Lisa Francis: Rhaid imi ymddiheuro, Lywydd, ni wyddwn fod y cwestiwn hwn gennyf. Byddaf yn parhau, fodd bynnag. *[Torri ar draws.]*

The Presiding Officer: Order. We have made significant progress through the order of questions today, and I think that we should enjoy that. I call Lisa Francis.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Yr ydym wedi gwneud cryn gynnydd drwy'r drefn cwestiynau heddiw, a chredaf y dylem fwynhau hynny. Galwaf ar Lisa Francis.

Llywodraeth Agored ac Atebol Open and Accountable Government

Q13 Lisa Francis: Will the Minister make a statement on measures that the Welsh Assembly Government is taking to increase openness and accountability? OAQ0038(BM)

C13 Lisa Francis: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y camau y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n eu cymryd i fod yn fwy agored ac atebol? OAQ0038(BM)

Jane Hutt: Our code of practice already gives us the framework for maximising openness in the most appropriate ways possible. By strengthening good practice and ensuring that lessons are learned from experience, we are building on considerable progress. I met the information commissioner recently, and he applauded our progress.

Jane Hutt: Mae ein cod ymarfer eisoes yn rhoi'r fframwaith inni ar gyfer sicrhau bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru mor agored â phosibl yn y ffyrdd mwyaf priodol. Drwy gryfhau arfer da a sicrhau y dysgir gwersi o brofiad, yr ydym yn adeiladu ar gryn gynnydd. Cyfarfûm â'r comisiynydd gwybodaeth yn ddiweddar, a rhoddodd ganmoliaeth i'r cynnydd a wnaed gennym.

Lisa Francis: Would that openness and accountability extend to the Welsh Development Agency and any efforts that it might make to conceal certain information?

Lisa Francis: A fyddai hynny'n ymestyn i sicrhau bod Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru yn fwy agored ac atebol ac unrhyw ymdrechion y gallai eu gwneud i gelu gwybodaeth benodol?

Jane Hutt: I know that you have only just taken on this question, Lisa, so I am not sure—

Jane Hutt: Gwn eich bod newydd gymryd y cwestiwn hwn, Lisa, felly nid wyf yn siŵr—

Lisa Francis: Would you answer it, then?

Lisa Francis: A wnewch chi ei ateb, felly?

The Presiding Officer: Order. This question appears on the agenda in the name of Lisa Francis. I have called her question, and she has asked a supplementary question. There can be no doubt of her having taken anyone else's question from anywhere; it is her question.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae'r cwestiwn hwn yn ymddangos ar yr agenda yn enw Lisa Francis. Yr wyf wedi galw ei chwestiwn ac mae wedi gofyn cwestiwn atodol. Yn ddiâu, nid yw wedi cymryd cwestiwn rhywun un arall o rywle arall; ei chwestiwn hi ydyw.

Jane Hutt: In terms of any issue coming forward, and you have referred to a particular instance of a request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, questions must be asked about exemptions.

Jane Hutt: O ran unrhyw fater sy'n dod i'r amlwg, ac yr ydych wedi cyfeirio at achos penodol o gais a wnaed o dan Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000, rhaid gofyn cwestiynau am eithriadau.

3.30 p.m.

You know that that is something that I would be dealing with if it were to reach the point of a complaint, or if issues were raised with the information commissioner. However, I am sure that you will be pleased to hear that we received over 350 requests for information up to the end of March, and the majority of those have now been dealt with. Indeed, we only received three or four complaints as a result of the way in which we handled those requests.

Gwyddoch fod hynny'n rhywbeth y byddwn yn ymdrin ag ef pe bai cwyn yn cael ei chyflwyno, neu pe bai materion yn cael eu codi gyda'r comisiynydd gwybodaeth. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwch yn falch o glywed inni gael dros 350 o geisiadau am wybodaeth hyd at ddiwedd mis Mawrth, ac ymdriniwyd â'r mwyafrif o'r rheini bellach. Yn wir, dim ond tair neu bedair cwyn a gawsom o ganlyniad i'r ffordd y bu inni ymdrin â'r ceisiadau hynny.

The Presiding Officer: Question 14, OAQ0027(BM), has been transferred for written answer.

Y Llywydd: Trosglwyddwyd cwestiwn 14, OAQ0027(BM), i'w ateb yn ysgrifenedig.

Polisïau Diogelwch Plant Child Safety Policies

Q15 William Graham: Will the Minister make a statement on how she is co-ordinating policies on child safety? OAQ0043(BM)

C15 William Graham: Sut fydd y Gweinidog yn gwella llywodraeth agored yng Nghymru? OAQ0042(BM)

David Melding: Answer! [*Laughter.*]

David Melding: Atebwch! [*Chwerthin.*]

Jane Hutt: I will. As Minister with responsibility for children, I chair the Cabinet sub-committee on children and young people, which provides the context for all Ministers to discuss related issues across their portfolios, including child safety.

Jane Hutt: Fe wnaif. Fel y Gweinidog sydd â chyfrifoldeb dros blant, cadeirïaf is-bwyllgor y Cabinet ar blant a phobl ifanc sy'n rhoi'r cyd-destun i bob Gweinidog drafod materion cysylltiedig ar draws eu portffolios, gan gynnwys diogelwch plant.

William Graham: Will you consider some form of sub-committee to monitor what you

William Graham: A wnewch chi ystyried rhyw fath o is-bwyllgor i fonitro'r hyn a

are doing, so that all Members can be aware of this valuable contribution to Wales?

Jane Hutt: As we are an open Government, the children's cabinet sub-committee papers are available to Members and the public. In terms of issues relating to child safety, you will recognise that covers many portfolios, including health and social services, economic development and transport, and education and lifelong learning. However, in terms of monitoring and delivering, the Minister with responsibility for children and the children's cabinet sub-committee must be at the heart of that, which is what you are scrutinising me on today, William.

The Presiding Officer: We have completed your questions, Minister.

wnewch, fe y gall pob Aelod fod yn ymwybodol o'r cyfraniad gwerthfawr hwn i Gymru?

Jane Hutt: Am mai Llywodraeth agored ydym, mae papurau is-bwyllgor y cabinet ar blant ar gael i Aelodau a'r cyhoedd. O ran materion sy'n ymwneud â diogelwch plant, byddwch yn cydnabod bod hynny'n cwmpasu sawl portffolio, gan gynnwys iechyd a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, datblygu economaidd a thrafnidiaeth, ac addysg a dysgu gydol oes. Fodd bynnag, o ran monitro a chyflawni, rhaid sicrhau mai'r Gweinidog sydd â chyfrifoldeb dros blant ac is-bwyllgor y cabinet ar blant sydd wrth wraidd hynny, sef y gwaith a wnafr yr ydych yn craffu arno heddiw, William.

Y Llywydd: Yr ydym wedi cwblhau eich cwestiynau, Weinidog.

Cwestiwn Brys Urgent Question

Cynllun Casglu Stoc Trig Fallen Stock Collection Scheme

Brynle Williams: Will the Minister make a statement on the fallen stock crisis in Wales? EAQ0185(EPC)

The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside (Carwyn Jones): I refer you to my statement issued on 8 April, which set out the actions being taken to address the problems being experienced. These measures should have an impact on the current difficulties. Ultimately, this is an issue for the National Fallen Stock Company Ltd, but I am monitoring the situation.

Brynle Williams: As we said this morning, this is obviously not working. I have a list here, on which I can go into detail. I received several phone calls this lunchtime about carcasses being left for up to four weeks on farms. They are not being collected. I ask you again, as I did this morning, whether it is possible to have a temporary derogation to bury fallen stock until at least mid-June. With your position on animal health, surely you can use emergency powers to secure an

Brynle Williams: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am argyfwng stoc trig yng Nghymru? EAQ0185(EPC)

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad (Carwyn Jones): Fe'ch cyfeiriaf at fy natganiad a gyhoeddwyd ar 8 Ebrill, a nododd y camau a gymerir i ymdrin â'r problemau a wynebir. Dylai'r mesurau hyn ddylanwadu ar yr anawsterau presennol. Yn y pen draw, mater i'r National Fallen Stock Company Ltd yw hwn, ond yr wyf yn monitro'r sefyllfa.

Brynle Williams: Fel y bu inni ei ddweud y bore yma, mae'n amlwg nad yw hyn yn gweithio. Mae gennyf restr yma, y gallaf fanylu arni. Cefais sawl galwad ffôn yn ystod amser cinio heddiw am garcasau sy'n cael eu gadael am hyd at bedair wythnos ar ffermydd. Ni chânt eu casglu. Gofynnaf ichi eto, fel y gofynnais y bore yma, pa un a yw'n bosibl cael rhanddirymiad dros dro i gladdu stoc trig tan o leiaf ganol mis Mehefin. Yn rhinwedd eich swydd o ran iechyd anifeiliaid,

emergency derogation. This is essential, Minister. I can explain this explicitly to everyone, but it is not healthy to have fallen stock left hanging around. A gentleman phoned me at lunchtime following the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee meeting to inform me that it will be five weeks this Saturday since he last phoned about this issue. He has 10 dead sheep lying around. His farm is located between two rivers and he is worried sick. He is in the middle of lambing, and lambs around 1,000 ewes, and he cannot move the dead sheep. The scheme is not working. I know of literally hundreds of similar incidents; I beg you to act now.

Carwyn Jones: As I said earlier, and this morning, this is primarily a matter for the National Fallen Stock Company, which is responsible for operating the scheme. That said, we obviously have an interest in this, because we provide some of the funding for the scheme, and I would be more than willing to take up individual cases with the National Fallen Stock Company if you provide me with the details. Clearly, there are difficulties with regard to what is happening in some parts of Wales; there is no getting away from that. With regard to a derogation, as I said this morning, obtaining a derogation would take some weeks, which would not help things on the ground as they stand. I would not be optimistic about securing that derogation in any event. That said, a number of measures have been put in place, as mentioned in this morning's committee meeting, to try to mitigate the problem that exists at present. I am monitoring the situation daily to try to ensure that it improves. However, if you are aware of particularly extreme cases, then I will take them up with the National Fallen Stock Company Ltd.

Karen Sinclair: I share Brynle's concerns about this matter. In north Wales, we really do have a problem. A number of farmers have contacted me who, despite many calls for help, have had dead animals on their yards waiting for collection for weeks on end. Public footpaths go through some farmyards. Without going into graphic detail about what happens when carcasses decompose, do you

oni allwch ddefnyddio pwerau brys i sicrhau rhanddirymiad brys? Mae hyn yn hanfodol, Weinidog. Gallaf egluro hyn yn glir i bawb, ond nid yw'n iach cadw stoc trig heb eu symud. Cefais alwad ffôn gan ddyn amser cinio ar ôl cyfarfod Pwyllgor yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad i'm hysbysu y bydd pum wythnos wedi mynd heibio ddydd Sadwrn ers iddo ffonio ddiwethaf am y mater hwn. Mae ganddo 10 o ddefaid marw heb eu symud. Saif ei fferm rhwng dwy afon ac mae'n pryderu'n fawr. Mae yng nghanol y tymor wyna, ac mae'n wyna tua 1,000 o famogiaid, ac ni all symud y defaid marw. Nid yw'r cynllun yn gweithio. Gwn am gannoedd o achosion tebyg yn llythrennol; erfyniaf arnoch i weithredu yn awr.

Carwyn Jones: Fel y dywedais yn gynharach, a'r bore yma, mater i'r Cwmni Stoc Trig Cenedlaethol, sy'n gyfrifol am weithredu'r cynllun, yw hwn yn bennaf. Wedi dweud hynny, mae'n amlwg bod diddordeb gennym yn y mater hwn, am ein bod yn darparu rhywfaint o'r arian ar gyfer y cynllun, a byddwn yn fwy na pharod i drafod achosion unigol gyda'r Cwmni Stoc Trig Cenedlaethol os rhowch y manylion imi. Mae'n amlwg bod anawsterau o ran yr hyn sy'n digwydd mewn rhai rhannau o Gymru; ni ellir osgoi hynny. O ran rhanddirymiad, fel y dywedais y bore yma, byddai'n cymryd sawl wythnos i gael rhanddirymiad, na fyddai'n helpu'r sefyllfa sydd ohoni ar lawr gwlad. Ni fyddwn yn hyderus ynghylch cael y rhanddirymiad hwnnw, beth bynnag. Wedi dweud hynny, mae nifer o fesurau wedi'u rhoi ar waith, fel y dywedais yng nghyfarfod y pwyllgor y bore yma, er mwyn ceisio lleddfu'r broblem sy'n bodoli ar hyn o bryd. Yr wyf yn monitro'r sefyllfa bob dydd er mwyn ceisio sicrhau ei bod yn gwella. Fodd bynnag, os gwyddoch am achosion sy'n arbennig o eithafol, yna byddaf yn eu trafod gyda'r National Fallen Stock Company Ltd.

Karen Sinclair: Rhannaf bryderon Brynle ynghylch y mater hwn. Yn y Gogledd, mae problem wirioneddol gennym. Mae nifer o ffermwyr wedi cysylltu â mi am fod anifeiliaid marw ar eu buarthau yn aros i gael eu casglu am wythnosau, er gwaethaf sawl galwad am gymorth. Mae llwybrau troed yn croesi rhai buarthau. Heb sôn yn fanwl am yr hyn sy'n digwydd pan fydd carcasau yn

share my concern that, while the purpose of the EU legislation was to improve biosecurity, we are currently in danger of making the situation worse than it was previously because of the lack of collection? With the lambing season at its height, it defies description that additional capacity was not built in for this time of year. Even when collections take place, there is evidence that the vehicles used by the company involved have been open ones, from which body fluids leak into yards, onto roads and then into more yards.

Carwyn Jones: On your last point, any incidences such as those that you describe should be reported to the State Veterinary Service. If that is happening, it is important that SVS should be informed so that action can be taken.

On biosecurity, we have implemented the fallen stock directive from Europe, and all EU members have implemented it. It is true—there is no point denying it—that there are capacity problems in the north. Cluttons, the firm that collects carcasses, is aware of it, as is the National Fallen Stock Company, and they are working hard to try to resolve the situation. It is not pleasant for farmers to have animals on their yards for weeks and weeks. However, it is possible for them to take the animals to collection centres in Wrexham. It is easier if the animals are younger than four to five weeks old at the time of death. That stands to reason.

What is important is that the problems that have been identified this time around should not be repeated next year. Clearly, the capacity problem exists and the company is aware of it. It will be taking steps to resolve the situation next year. It is also important for the Assembly Government to satisfy itself that the company is taking those steps, as a shareholder, if I can put it that way, in the company.

Mick Bates: I first wrote to you two years ago about the crisis that would occur during lambing. It seems to have come as some surprise to you that the crisis is that, when

pydru, a rannwch fy mhryder, er mai diben deddfwriaeth yr UE oedd gwella bioddiogelwch, ein bod ar hyn o bryd mewn perygl o wneud y sefyllfa yn waeth nag yr oedd o'r blaen oherwydd na chaiff anifeiliaid eu casglu? Gyda'r tymor ŵyna ar ei anterth, mae'n anhygoel na chafodd capasiti ychwanegol ei ganiatáu ar gyfer yr adeg hon o'r flwyddyn. Hyd yn oed pan gaiff anifeiliaid eu casglu, mae tystiolaeth bod y cerbydau a ddefnyddir gan y cwmni dan sylw yn rhai agored, a bod hylifau'r corff yn gollwng i fuarthau, i heolydd ac yna i fwy o fuarthau.

Carwyn Jones: O ran eich pwynt olaf, dylid hysbysu'r Gwasanaeth Milfeddygol Gwladol o unrhyw achosion fel y rhai a ddisgrifiwch. Os yw hynny'n digwydd, mae'n bwysig hysbysu'r Gwasanaeth Milfeddygol Gwladol fel y gellir cymryd camau gweithredu.

O ran bioddiogelwch, yr ydym wedi gweithredu'r gyfarwyddeb stoc trig o Ewrop, ac mae pob aelod yr UE wedi'i gweithredu. Mae'n wir—nid oes diben gwadu hynny—fod problemau o ran capasiti yn y Gogledd. Mae Cluttons, sef y cwmni sy'n casglu carcassau, yn ymwybodol ohonynt, yn ogystal â'r Cwmni Stoc Trig Cenedlaethol, ac maent yn gweithio'n galed i ddatrys y broblem. Nid yw'n ddymunol i ffermwyr gadw anifeiliaid ar eu buarthau am wythnosau. Fodd bynnag, mae'n bosibl iddynt gludo'r anifeiliaid i ganolfannau casglu yn Wrecsam. Mae'n haws os yw'r anifeiliaid yn iau na phedair i bum wythnos oed pan fyddant yn marw. Mae hynny'n amlwg.

Yr hyn sy'n bwysig yw na ddylai'r problemau sydd wedi'u nodi y tro hwn godi eto y flwyddyn nesaf. Mae'n amlwg bod y broblem o ran capasiti yn bodoli ac mae'r cwmni yn ymwybodol ohoni. Bydd yn cymryd camau i ddatrys y broblem y flwyddyn nesaf. Mae'n bwysig hefyd bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn fodlon bod y cwmni yn cymryd y camau hynny, fel cyfrandaliwr yn y cwmni, os gallaf ei fynegi yn y ffordd honno.

Mick Bates: Bu imi ysgrifennu atoch gyntaf ddwy flynedd yn ôl ynghylch yr argyfwng a fyddai'n codi yn ystod y tymor ŵyna. Ymddengys ei bod wedi'ch synnu braidd

lambling occurs, there are dead animals on farms. You knew about this, but no action was taken. The same thing will probably happen next year, unless you learn some lessons from this. Will you please investigate the use of local solutions? Without local solutions, using biodigesters, local incineration and hunt kennels as collection centres, this will occur again. You must, as a Government, bring forward a plan with the lessons learned from this so that the industry does not face again this crisis, which impacts not only on biosecurity, but on human health. Please, will you state clearly on the record that you will bring a report forward to correct this crisis, so that next year we can offer you congratulations?

Carwyn Jones: At the expense of repeating what I said in committee, I am prepared to do that. It would also be useful for the National Fallen Stock Company to share its experiences with the committee at a future date. It is important to remember that we do not run the company. We have financed it, that is right, and clearly we have a role in seeking to ensure that, if there are problems, those problems are resolved as best and as quickly as they can be, and avoided in the future.

We must remember that the fallen stock directive is a Europe-wide directive. As part of the assistance given to farmers, and this is unique in industry, it was decided that public money would be used to finance the national fallen stock scheme as one option for farmers in terms of carcase disposal. I am not aware of another country in Europe where such a scheme has been set up and partially funded by public money. Having said that, it will be important, as you rightly say, to avoid the difficulties identified this year. You may have written to me two years ago, but that was before the national fallen stock scheme was thought of. There are local solutions, one of which is the possibility of using biodigesters. As we explored this morning, it is a matter for companies or individuals who wish to use biodigesters to get permission from the European Commission. The way

mai'r argyfwng yw bod anifeiliaid marw ar ffermydd yn ystod y tymor wyna. Fe wyddech am hyn, ond ni wnaethoch ddim byd. Mae'n debyg y bydd yr un peth yn digwydd y flwyddyn nesaf, oni bai eich bod yn dysgu rhai gwersi o hyn. A wnewch chi ymchwilio i'r defnydd o atebion lleol? Heb atebion lleol, gan ddefnyddio biodreulwyr, trefniadau llosgi lleol a chytiau cŵn hela fel canolfannau casglu, bydd hyn yn digwydd eto. Rhaid ichi, fel Llywodraeth, gyflwyno cynllun gan ymgorffori'r gwersi a ddysgwyd o hyn fel nad yw'r diwydiant yn wynebu'r argyfwng hwn eto, sy'n effeithio ar fioggielwch, a hefyd iechyd dynol. Os gwelwch yn dda, a wnewch chi ddatgan yn glir ar gyfer y cofnod y byddwch yn cyflwyno adroddiad i unioni'r argyfwng hwn, fel y gallwn eich llongyfarch y flwyddyn nesaf?

Carwyn Jones: Efallai fy mod yn ailadrodd yr hyn a ddywedais yn y pwyllgor ond yr wyf yn barod i wneud hynny. Byddai hefyd yn ddefnyddiol i'r Cwmni Stoc Trig Cenedlaethol rannu ei brofiadau gyda'r pwyllgor yn y dyfodol. Mae'n bwysig cofio nad ni sy'n rhedeg y cwmni. Yr ydym wedi'i ariannu, mae hynny'n gywir, ac mae'n amlwg bod gennym ran i'w chwarae wrth geisio sicrhau, os cyfyd problemau, y caiff y problemau hynny eu datrys yn y ffordd orau bosibl a chyn gynted â phosibl, ac y cânt eu hosgoi yn y dyfodol.

Rhaid inni gofio bod y gyfarwyddeb stoc trig yn gyfarwyddeb i Ewrop gyfan. Fel rhan o'r cymorth a roddir i ffermwyr, ac mae hyn yn unigryw ym maes diwydiant, penderfynwyd y câi arian cyhoeddus ei ddefnyddio i ariannu'r cynllun stoc trig cenedlaethol fel un dewis i ffermwyr o ran gwaredu carcassau. Ni wn am wlad arall yn Ewrop lle y mae cynllun o'r fath wedi'i sefydlu a'i ariannu'n rhannol gan arian cyhoeddus. Wedi dweud hynny, bydd yn bwysig osgoi'r anawsterau a nodwyd eleni, fel y dywedwch, a hynny'n briodol. Efallai eich bod wedi ysgrifennu ataf ddwy flynedd yn ôl, ond yr oedd hynny cyn i'r cynllun stoc trig cenedlaethol gael ei lunio. Mae atebion lleol, ac un o'r rhain yw'r posibilrwydd o ddefnyddio biodreulwyr. Fel y bu inni ei drafod y bore yma, cyfrifoldeb cwmnïau neu unigolion sydd am ddefnyddio biodreulwyr yw cael caniatâd gan y

forward on that is, if there are people interested, we can help them to smooth the path for that. I would not want to give the impression that the fallen stock scheme is the only scheme available for the disposal of carcasses. There are other avenues which need to be explored, as we discussed this morning.

3.40 p.m.

Kirsty Williams: Brecon and Radnorshire is one of the most densely stocked areas of Wales, and the experiences in north Wales are replicated throughout mid Wales, with big delays in companies picking up fallen stock. As you said, there are potentially other ways of dealing with this problem, and I have always been sceptical that sending lorries chasing around the countryside in mid Wales is a sustainable way to address this problem. I am slightly amazed that you believe that it is up to individuals who wish to use biodigesters to take up the issue with the European Union. Surely you, as the Minister representing the countryside in Wales, should be leading that fight in Europe to ensure that biodigesters are a suitable way of dealing with this problem, and not expect individual farmers, who are having to deal with the mess created by the failure of this system that you have put in place, to chase up the European Union with regard to this matter?

Carwyn Jones: As was made clear this morning, administrations cannot go to the European Commission to ask for clearance to use biodigesters. That must be done by companies—it is usually companies—or individuals who wish to use a biodigester. As I said in committee this morning, in order to help those who want to do that, we are willing for them to contact us, and we can then assist them in looking to get clearance to use biodigesters. However, the application must come from them—it cannot come from us.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I am sorry to tell you that the industry will regard your answer as nothing less than complacent. This is a massive problem, which is facing many rural communities. You addressed the problem in

Comisiwn Ewropeaidd. Y ffordd ymlaen o ran hynny yw, os bydd pobl â diddordeb, y gallwn eu helpu i baratoi'r ffordd ar gyfer hynny. Ni fyddwn am roi'r argraff mai'r cynllun stoc trig yw'r unig gynllun sydd ar gael i waredu carcasau. Mae angen ymchwilio i ddulliau eraill, fel y trafodasom y bore yma.

Kirsty Williams: Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed yw un o'r ardaloedd yng Nghymru sydd â'r dwysedd stocio uchaf, a chaiff y profiadau yn y Gogledd eu haildrodd ledled y Canolbarth, gydag oedi hir cyn i gwmnïau gasglu stoc trig. Fel y dywedasoch, mae ffyrdd eraill, o bosibl, o ymdrin â'r broblem hon, ac yr wyf bob amser wedi amau pa un a yw anfon lorïau o amgylch cefn gwlad yn y Canolbarth yn ffordd gynaliadwy o ymdrin â'r broblem hon. Mae'n fy synnu braidd eich bod yn credu mai'r unigolion sydd am ddefnyddio biodreulwyr a ddylai fod yn gyfrifol am drafod y mater gyda'r Undeb Ewropeaidd. Oni ddylech chi, fel y Gweinidog sy'n cynrychioli cefn gwlad yng Nghymru, fod yn arwain y frwydr honno yn Ewrop er mwyn sicrhau bod biodreulwyr yn ffordd addas o ymdrin â'r broblem hon, a pheidio â disgwyl i ffermwyr unigol, y mae'n rhaid iddynt ymdrin â'r llastr a grëwyd gan fethiant y system hon a roddwyd ar waith gennyh, fynd ar drywydd y mater hwn gyda'r Undeb Ewropeaidd?

Carwyn Jones: Fel yr eglurwyd y bore yma, ni all gweinyddiaethau ofyn i'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd roi caniatâd i'r defnydd o fiodreulwyr. Rhaid i gwmnïau—cwmnïau sydd dan sylw fel arfer—neu unigolion sydd am ddefnyddio biodreuliwr wneud hynny. Fel y dywedais yn y pwyllgor y bore yma, er mwyn helpu'r rhai sydd am wneud hynny, yr ydym yn fodlon iddynt gysylltu â ni, ac wedyn gallwn eu helpu i geisio cael caniatâd i ddefnyddio biodreulwyr. Fodd bynnag, hwy sy'n gorfod cyflwyno'r cais—ni all gael ei gyflwyno gennym ni.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Mae'n ddrwg gennyf ddweud wrthyh y bydd y diwydiant o'r farn eich bod yn hunanfodlon yn eich ateb. Mae hon yn broblem enfawr, y mae llawer o gymunedau gwledig yn ei hwynebu. Bu ichi

your Cabinet statement dated 8 April, and you acknowledged the two issues: in north Wales the infrastructure is difficult and the situation is exacerbated by the current lambing season. However, frankly, your answer is totally inadequate. This is a very serious issue. Not a single meeting with the agricultural unions goes by where you and I do not face this issue. As other Members have said, we get telephone calls daily about it. We should expect you to take your responsibility seriously, and not put us off by saying that a derogation is not possible. You have a responsibility to the people of Wales to demand the derogation, to go to the Westminster Government and state that this is a very serious issue. The people of Wales—and north Wales in particular—expect their Minister to stand up for them. Will you give us that assurance? There are desperate farmers out there. They have stock lying on their land week after week, and nothing is happening. Will you undertake to do that today?

Carwyn Jones: This is gesture politics. Even if we were to seek a derogation, it would take some weeks to get it. I have explored and considered it, but, given all the circumstances, there are other ways in which we need to seek to alleviate the situation. As I outlined in my statement and to the committee this morning, there are a number of ways in which the company is seeking to alleviate the situation. I do not seek to minimise the problem, because it clearly exists. There are some farmers who have fallen stock that has been on their land for some weeks, which is not pleasant for them.

However, my officials have been in touch with the National Fallen Stock Company on an almost daily basis, and, in turn, have been speaking to the contractor involved in north Wales, and everything that can be done at this stage is being done to deal with the situation. That said, it is important that this situation does not arise again. When the situation has eased, which it will do when the lambing season is over, it is important that the stock company provides us with a full synopsis of the problems it faced, and for us to try to ensure that the company does not

ymdrin â'r broblem yn eich datganiad Cabinet dyddiedig 8 Ebrill, a bu ichi gydnabod dwy broblem: yn y Gogledd, mae'r seilwaith yn anodd a gwaethygir y sefyllfa gan y tymor wyna presennol. Fodd bynnag, a dweud y gwir, mae eich ateb yn hollol annigonol. Mae hwn yn fater difrifol iawn. Ni chynhelir unrhyw gyfarfod gydag undebau amaethwyr lle nad ydych chi a minnau yn wynebu'r mater hwn. Fel y dywedodd Aelodau eraill, cawn alwadau ffôn bob dydd ynghylch y mater. Dylem ddisgwyl ichi gymryd eich cyfrifoldeb o ddifrif, a pheidio â rhoi esgusodion inni gan ddweud nad yw rhanddirymiad yn bosibl. Mae gennych gyfrifoldeb i bobl Cymru i fynnu'r rhanddirymiad, i fynd i Lywodraeth San Steffan a dweud bod hwn yn fater difrifol iawn. Mae pobl Cymru—a'r Gogledd yn benodol—yn disgwyl i'w Gweinidog eu cefnogi. A wnewch chi roi'r sicrwydd hwnnw inni? Mae ffermwyr yn bryderus iawn. Mae anifeiliaid ar eu tir am wythnosau, ac nid oes dim byd yn digwydd. A wnewch chi ymrwmo i wneud hynny heddiw?

Carwyn Jones: Gwleidyddia er mwyn apelio at y cyhoedd yw hynny. Hyd yn oed pe baem yn gwneud cais am rannirymiad, byddai'n cymryd rhai wythnosau i'w gael. Yr wyf wedi ymchwilio i hyn a'i ystyried, ond, o gofio'r holl amgylchiadau, mae ffyrdd eraill y gallwn eu defnyddio i geisio lleddfu'r sefyllfa. Fel yr amlinellais yn fy natganiad ac i'r pwyllgor y bore yma, mae nifer o ffyrdd y mae'r cwmni yn eu defnyddio i geisio lleddfu'r sefyllfa. Ni cheisiaf wneud yn fach o'r broblem, am ei bod yn amlwg ei bod yn bodoli. Mae rhai ffermwyr sydd â stoc trig sydd wedi bod ar eu tir ers rhai wythnosau ac nid yw hynny'n ddymunol.

Fodd bynnag, mae fy swyddogion wedi bod mewn cysylltiad â'r Cwmni Stoc Marw Cenedlaethol bron bob dydd, ac, yn eu tro, maent wedi bod yn siarad â'r contractwr dan sylw yn y Gogledd, a gwneir popeth y gellir ei wneud ar hyn o bryd i ymdrin â'r sefyllfa. Wedi dweud hynny, mae'n bwysig nad yw'r sefyllfa hon yn codi eto. Pan fydd y sefyllfa wedi gwella, sef rhywbeth a fydd yn digwydd pan fydd y tymor wyna wedi dod i ben, bydd yn bwysig i'r cwmni stoc roi crynodeb llawn inni o'r problemau a wynebodd, a bydd yn bwysig i ni geisio sicrhau nad yw'r cwmni yn

face those problems in the future. That is not to minimise the situation, or to stand back from it, but it must be understood that this is primarily a matter for the company to deal with. We do not have control over the day to day operations of the company. The company's role is to facilitate the collection of fallen stock and to learn lessons from problems. The role of the Assembly Government is to monitor the situation, to provide assistance, and to satisfy itself that any lessons that may need to be learned are learned by next year's lambing season.

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd i'r Gadair am 3.45 p.m.
The Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair at 3.45 p.m.*

Clywch

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendments 1 and 4 in the name of David Melding and amendments 2 and 3 in the name of Jocelyn Davies.

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

the National Assembly for Wales welcomes the progress that has been made with the implementation of the children's commissioner's recommendations contained in the Clywch report. (NDM2379)

When we met on 21 September last year—the first day back from the Summer recess, which reflected our acknowledgement of the importance of the commissioner's report—I promised Members that we would take the opportunity in about six months to review progress in implementing the recommendations. I hope that Members will agree from the update tabled that progress has been significant across all 31 recommendations.

I acknowledge at the outset that this progress has not been due to the Assembly alone; far from it. All stakeholders involved—local authorities, the Welsh Joint Education Committee, the media, other Government departments and so on—must be commended. I especially thank the commissioner and his officials for the highly constructive way in which they too have participated in this implementation process.

wynebu'r problemau hynny yn y dyfodol. Nid wyf yn gwneud yn fach o'r sefyllfa, ond yr wyf yn cymryd cam yn ôl a rhaid deall mai mater i'r cwmni ymdrin ag ef yn bennaf yw hwn. Nid oes rheolaeth gennym dros weithrediadau'r cwmni o ddydd i ddydd. Rôl y cwmni yw hwyluso'r broses o gasglu stoc trig a dysgu gwersi o'r problemau. Rôl Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yw monitro'r sefyllfa, cynnig cymorth, a bodloni ei hun fod unrhyw wersi sydd angen eu dysgu yn cael eu dysgu erbyn tymor wyna'r flwyddyn nesaf.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliannau 1 a 4 yn enw David Melding a gwelliannau 2 a 3 yn enw Jocelyn Davies.

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

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn croesawu'r cynnydd a wnaethpwyd o ran gweithredu argymhellion y comisiynydd plant yn adroddiad Clywch. (NDM2379)

Pan gyfarfûm ar 21 Medi y llynedd—y diwrnod cyntaf yn ôl ar ôl toriad yr Haf, a oedd yn adlewyrchu ein cydnabyddiaeth o bwysigrwydd adroddiad y comisiynydd—addewais i'r Aelodau y byddem yn manteisio ar y cyfle ymhen tua chwe mis i adolygu'r cynnydd o ran gweithredu'r argymhellion. Gobeithiaf y bydd yr Aelodau'n cytuno ar sail y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf a gyflwynwyd y bu cynnydd sylweddol ar bob un o'r 31 o argymhellion.

Cydnabyddaf ar y cychwyn nad y Cynulliad yn unig a fu'n gyfrifol am y cynnydd hwn; nid o bell ffordd. Rhaid canmol yr holl randdeiliaid perthnasol—awdurdodau lleol, Cyd-bwyllgor Addysg Cymru, y cyfryngau, adrannau eraill y llywodraeth ac yn y blaen. Diolchaf yn arbennig i'r comisiynydd a'i swyddogion am y ffordd adeiladol iawn y maent hwythau hefyd wedi cymryd rhan yn y broses weithredu hon. Ar wahân i

Apart from discussions that both I and my officials have had with him and his office over the intervening months, I also met with him this morning, and he personally confirmed that he is happy with the progress that has been made. We both agree, however, that there is still much to do, but that we are moving in the right direction.

From my discussions with him, I know that it is this feeling of progress that has led the commissioner to also take a pragmatic view of the timetables built into many of the recommendations. He is prepared to be flexible about them, but needs continuous reassurance that we are acting on them, and that we have set ourselves clear and achievable milestones for their fulfilment. This is why, over and above our discussions, he has also engaged in bilateral discussions with the lead organisations responsible for all of the recommendations, to personally satisfy himself on this score. While we are grateful for his forbearance and support to date, we must not presume upon it.

Turning to the recommendations themselves, I do not intend to deal with them individually or at length—the paper does that—but rather to highlight a number of the more significant ones. The implementation of a number of them are coincident with the introduction of local safeguarding children boards, which are to replace the current area child protection committees. This provides an ideal opportunity in the accompanying guidance to address a number of the commissioner's concerns on investigative procedures, and the training provision that underpins them. This guidance, a draft of which will be available for consultation in the summer, will be finalised by the end of the year.

A further important recommendation, number 21.3, deals with the need for the Assembly Government and the General Teaching Council for Wales, working with the Department for Education and Skills, to take steps to ensure that teachers receive specialist training in child protection issues. I have written to the Secretary of State for Education and Skills and the Secretary of State for Wales about the implementation of this recommendation in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. As a result, my

drafodaethau a gefais i a'm swyddogion gydag ef a'i swyddfa dros y misoedd diwethaf, cyfarfûm ag ef y bore yma hefyd, a chadarnhaodd yn bersonol ei fod yn fodlon ar y cynnydd a wnaed. Cytuna'r ddau ohonom, fodd bynnag, bod llawer mwy i'w wneud, ond ein bod yn symud i'r cyfeiriad cywir.

Ar sail fy nhrafodaethau gydag ef, gwn mai'r teimlad hwn o gynnydd sydd wedi annog y comisiynydd i gymryd golwg bragmataidd ar yr amserlenni a oedd wedi eu cynnwys mewn llawer o'r argymhellion. Mae'n fodlon bod yn hyblyg ynglŷn â hwy, ond mae angen sicrwydd parhaus arno ein bod yn gweithredu arnynt, a'n bod wedi gosod cerrig milltir clir a chyflawnadwy ar eu cyfer. Dyma pam, yn ogystal â'n trafodaethau ni, y mae hefyd wedi cymryd rhan mewn trafodaethau dwyochrog gyda'r sefydliadau arweiniol sy'n gyfrifol am yr holl argymhellion, er mwyn bodloni ei hun bod hyn yn digwydd. Er ein bod yn ddiolchgar iddo am ei amynedd a'i gymorth hyd yma, rhaid inni beidio â manteisio arno.

Gan droi at yr argymhellion eu hunain, nid yw'n fwriad gennyf ymdrin â phob un yn unigol nac yn helaeth—gwneir hynny yn y papur—ond yn hytrach amlinellu nifer o'r rhai pwysicaf. Mae'r gwaith o weithredu nifer ohonynt yn cyd-daro â chyflwyno byrddau lleol i ddiogelu plant, a fydd yn disodli'r pwyllgorau ardal amddiffyn plant presennol. Mae hwn yn gyfle gwych yn y canllawiau cysylltiedig i fynd i'r afael â nifer o bryderon y comisiynydd o ran gweithdrefnau ymchwilio, a'r ddarpariaeth hyfforddi sy'n ganolog iddynt. Caiff y canllawiau hyn eu cwblhau erbyn diwedd y flwyddyn a bydd copi drafft ar gael i ymgynghori arno yn yr haf.

Mae argymhelliad pwysig arall, sef rhif 12.3 yn ymdrin â'r angen i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad a Chyngor Addysgu Cyffredinol Cymru, mewn cydweithrediad â'r Adran Addysg a Sgiliau, gymryd camau i sicrhau bod athrawon yn cael hyfforddiant arbenigol mewn materion amddiffyn plant. Yr wyf wedi ysgrifennu at yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Addysg a Sgiliau ac Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru ynglŷn â gweithredu'r argymhelliad hwn yn Lloegr, yr Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon. O ganlyniad, mae fy

officials have met with their counterparts from these countries to share good practice and to ensure that they too reflect this recommendation in their own training programmes. We are now actively considering what we might do to provide specialist training.

This cross border co-operation has also been evident with regards to the role of examining bodies across the UK, and the way that drama is taught and examined in schools and further education colleges. Here again, we have established a steering group with representatives from education departments and regulatory authorities in the four home countries. There have already been a number of meetings of this group and work is already well under way to prepare the required reports and practice guidance.

One of the most significant of the commissioner's recommendations, number 18.3, related to the establishment of independent tribunals to hear and to determine allegations of child abuse against school staff. As we made clear in our initial response, this would not be straightforward, as it would cut across a number of existing legal arrangements. Primary legislation would be needed to implement this proposal. To take this specific recommendation forward, I have held two meetings with the commissioner and the representatives he has suggested, the most recent one being last month. The tribunal recommendation was considered very carefully, and with respect. There were genuine misgivings about it; it did not command support from representatives of local authorities, teachers and other staff unions, and Governors Wales. However, there was a general consensus that the Assembly Government should use its powers to address the concerns that led to the commissioner's recommendation. This prompted a proposal that governing bodies should be required to include a suitably qualified or experienced independent member in the membership of staff disciplinary and staff disciplinary appeals committees dealing with child abuse cases. This was generally welcomed, but there was some divergence of views as to whether such individuals should have full voting rights. Nonetheless, the proposal will be included in the forthcoming

swyddogion wedi cwrdd â'u swyddogion cyfatebol o'r gwledydd hyn i rannu arferion da a sicrhau eu bod hwythau hefyd yn adlewyrchu'r argymhelliad hwn yn eu rhaglenni hyfforddi eu hunain. Yr ydym bellach wrthi'n ystyried yr hyn y gallwn ei wneud i ddarparu hyfforddiant arbenigol.

Bu'r cydweithio trawsffiniol hwn yn amlwg hefyd o ran rôl y cyrff arholi ledled y DU, a'r ffordd y caiff drama fel pwnc ei addysgu a'i arholi mewn ysgolion a cholegau addysg bellach. Yma eto, yr ydym wedi sefydlu grŵp llywio gyda chynrychiolwyr o adrannau addysg ac awdurdodau rheoleiddio yn y pedair gwlad. Cynhaliwyd sawl cyfarfod o'r grŵp hwn eisoes ac mae'r gwaith o baratoi'r adroddiadau angenrheidiol a chanllawiau arferion eisoes yn mynd rhagddo.

Yr oedd un o argymhellion pwysicaf y comisiynydd, sef rhif 18.3, yn ymwneud â sefydlu tribiwnlysoedd annibynnol i wrando ar gyhuddiadau a gwneud penderfyniadau ar honiadau o gam-drin plant a wneir yn erbyn staff mewn ysgolion. Fel y bu inni egluro yn ein hymateb cychwynnol, byddai hyn yn anodd, gan y byddai'n torri ar draws nifer o drefniadau cyfreithiol sy'n bodoli eisoes. Byddai angen deddfwriaeth sylfaenol i weithredu'r cynnig hwn. Er mwyn gweithredu ar yr argymhelliad penodol hwn, yr wyf wedi cynnal dau gyfarfod gyda'r comisiynydd a'r cynrychiolwyr a awgrymwyd ganddo, a chynhaliwyd y diweddaraf y mis diwethaf. Rhoddwyd ystyriaeth ofalus a pharchus i'r argymhelliad ynghylch y tribiwnlys. Yr oedd amheuan gwirioneddol yn ei gylch; ni chafodd gefnogaeth cynrychiolwyr awdurdodau lleol, undebau athrawon nac undebau staff eraill, na Llywodraethwyr Cymru. Fodd bynnag, cafwyd cytundeb cyffredinol y dylai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ddefnyddio'i phwerau i fynd i'r afael â'r pryderon a arweiniodd at argymhelliad y comisiynydd. Arweiniodd hyn at gynnig y dylai cyrff llywodraethu gynnwys aelod annibynnol addas cymwys neu brofiadol yn aelod o bwyllgorau disgyblu a phwyllgorau apeliadau disgyblu staff sy'n ymdrin ag achosion o gam-drin plant. Croesawyd hyn ar y cyfan, ond yr oedd peth amrywiaeth barn ynglŷn ag a ddylai'r unigolion hyn gael hawliau

consultation on school staffing regulations, and specific views will be sought on this particular technicality.

3.50 p.m.

I also took the opportunity to raise this issue in my meeting with the commissioner this morning. I think it is fair to say that he is reasonably content with the outcome that is emerging, since it seeks to address both his concerns and the solutions that he was seeking to achieve. Members may also find it useful to know that I have recently received a copy of the response sent by the current governors of Ysgol Gyfun Rhydfelen to the commissioner last month on his recommendations. It was extremely positive.

Where the commissioner has directed recommendations to other bodies and organisations, it must, in the first instance, be a matter for them to respond to them. However, the paper that has been tabled for today's debate was prepared as a reflection of our understanding of the position reached in each of these cases. So, on those recommendations directed to the WJEC, we know, following discussions with the Committee, that it has responded positively. The same applies to those directed to local education authorities. We are maintaining close contact with both the Welsh Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Education in Wales to ensure that progress is made. To this end, I have assured the commissioner that I will support his approaches to any local authorities unjustifiably dragging their feet.

Finally, I turn to the amendments. I welcome the fact that the commissioner and his deputy are here to hear our debate today. In light of the fact that the commissioner told me this morning that he welcomed the progress that has been made, and our clear intent to see recommendations being fully addressed, I hope that both David and Jocelyn will be prepared to withdraw their amendments. In previous debates and statements on Clywch we have been able to work together unanimously. We are stronger for that, I believe, and I hope we can do so again today.

pleidleisio llawn. Serch hynny, caiff y cynnig ei gynnwys yn yr ymgynghoriad o reoliadau staffio ysgolion sydd ar y gweill, a byddwn yn gofyn am farn benodol ar y mater arbennig hwn.

Manteisiais ar y cyfle hefyd i godi'r mater hwn yn fy nghyfarfod gyda'r comisiynydd y bore yma. Credaf ei bod yn deg dweud ei fod yn gymharol fodlon ar y canlyniad sy'n dod i'r amlwg, gan mai'r nod yw mynd i'r afael â'i bryderon ef a'r atebion yr oedd yn ceisio'u cyflawni. Efallai y bydd o ddefnydd i'r Aelodau wybod imi dderbyn copi o'r ymateb diweddar a anfonodd llywodraethwyr presennol Ysgol Gyfun Rhydfelen at y comisiynydd y mis diwethaf ar ei argymhellion. Yr oedd yn gadarnhaol iawn.

Pan fo'r comisiynydd wedi cyfeirio argymhellion i gyrff a sefydliadau eraill, rhaid ei fod yn fater iddynt hwy, yn y lle cyntaf, ymateb iddynt. Fodd bynnag, paratowyd y papur a gyflwynwyd ar gyfer y ddadl heddiw i adlewyrchu ein dealltwriaeth o'r sefyllfa yr ydym wedi ei chyrraedd ym mhob un o'r achosion hyn. Felly, o ran yr argymhellion hynny a gyfeiriwyd at CBAC, gwyddom, yn dilyn trafodaethau gyda'r Pwyllgor, iddo ymateb yn gadarnhaol. Mae'r un peth yn wir o ran y rhai a gyfeiriwyd at awdurdodau addysg lleol. Yr ydym yn cadw cysylltiad agos â Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru a Chymdeithas Cyfarwyddwyr Addysg Cymru er mwyn sicrhau y gwneir cynnydd. I'r diben hwn, yr wyf wedi sicrhau'r comisiynydd y byddaf yn cefnogi ei ymagweddau tuag at unrhyw awdurdodau lleol a fydd yn llusgo'i traed heb reswm.

Yn olaf, trof at y gwelliannau. Croesawaf y ffaith bod y comisiynydd a'i ddirprwy yma i wrando ar ein dadl heddiw. Gan ystyried y ffaith bod y comisiynydd wedi dweud wrthyf y bore yma ei fod yn croesawu'r cynnydd a wnaed, a'i bod yn fwriad clir gennym roi ystyriaeth llawn i'r argymhellion, gobeithiaf y bydd David a Jocelyn yn tynnu eu gwelliannau yn ôl. Mewn dadleuon a datganiadau blaenorol ar Clywch yr ydym wedi gallu cydweithio'n gytûn. Credaf ein bod yn gryfach oherwydd hynny, a gobeithiaf y gallwn wneud hynny eto heddiw.

David Melding: I propose the following amendments. Amendment 1: replace ‘welcomes’ with ‘notes’.

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

regrets in particular the delay in implementing recommendations 21.5 and 21.6 of the Clywch report.

I start by saying that ‘notes’ is a more sombre way of expressing our reaction to the Government’s response. We will not be withdrawing our amendment, but we will co-operate fully on how the Government seeks to implement these recommendations. We will take this seriously in our scrutiny of the administration.

I will make some general remarks. This issue was discussed at some length in the special joint committee that was established to receive the children’s commissioner’s annual report. Members did reflect on the Clywch inquiry at that time, and asked questions about the whole process as well as how it affected the commissioner’s work.

One of the issues raised was how concentrating on another matter relating to child abuse and child safety would affect recruitment and morale within the teaching profession, and, by implication, social services. The children’s commissioner made an appropriate and robust response, emphasising how much we are working to improve our processes in terms of child protection. The vetting will show how professional the services are and will act as an incentive for people to become involved and to seek careers that involve potentially unsupervised access to children. This will give people confidence that procedures are robust, and that there is no reason for them not to come forward and to seek these as possible careers for themselves. I think that that is true.

The worst thing that could happen would be for us to leave procedures where they are seen to be less than adequate, and to move quickly on and not to grasp fundamental issues. What would happen then is that things

David Melding: Cynigiau y gwelliannau canlynol. Gwelliant 1: yn lle ‘yn croesawu’ rhoi ‘yn nodi’.

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

yn gresynu’n benodol at yr oedi wrth roi argymhellion 21.5 a 21.6 adroddiad Clywch ar waith.

Dechreuaf drwy ddweud fod ‘yn nodi’ yn ffordd fwy prudd o fynegi ein hymateb i ymateb y Llywodraeth. Ni fyddwn yn tynnu ein gwelliant yn ôl, ond byddwn yn cydweithredu’n llawn â’r ffordd y bydd y Llywodraeth yn ceisio gweithredu’r argymhellion hyn. Byddwn yn cymryd hyn o ddifrif wrth graffu ar y weinyddiaeth.

Gwnaf rai sylwadau cyffredinol. Trafodwyd y mater yn helaeth yn y cydbwyllgor arbennig a sefydlwyd i dderbyn adroddiad blynyddol y comisiynydd plant. Rhoddodd yr Aelodau ystyriaeth i ymchwiliad Clywch ar y pryd, gan ofyn cwestiynau am yr holl broses yn ogystal â sut yr oedd yn effeithio ar waith y comisiynydd.

Un o’r materion a godwyd oedd y ffordd y gallai canolbwyntio ar fater arall yn ymwneud â cham-drin plant a diogelwch plant effeithio ar recriwtio a morâl o fewn y proffesiwn addysgu, a thrwy hynny, y gwasanaethau cymdeithasol. Ymatebodd y comisiynydd plant yn briodol ac yn gadarn, gan bwysleisio faint o waith a wnawn i wella ein prosesau amddiffyn plant. Bydd y broses archwilio yn dangos pa mor broffesiynol yw’r gwasanaethau ac yn gweithredu fel cymhelliant i bobl gymryd rhan a chwilio am yrfa a fydd yn ymwneud â gweithio â phlant heb oruchwyliaeth o bosibl. Bydd hyn yn rhoi’r hyder i bobl bod y gweithdrefnau’n gadarn, ac nad oes unrhyw reswm iddynt beidio ag ystyried y rhain fel gyrfaoedd posibl iddynt hwy eu hunain. Credaf fod hynny’n wir.

Y gwaethaf a allai ddigwydd fyddai inni adael y gweithdrefnau fel y maent gan wybod eu bod yn cael eu hystyried yn llai na digonol, a symud ymlaen yn gyflym heb ddeall y materion sylfaenol. Yr hyn fyddai’n

would fester, and there would potentially be another scandal. That would have a devastating effect on the professions concerned. That is something that the children's commissioner is right to point out.

The children's commissioner is there to ensure that children enjoy protection, but also effective public services. There is nothing in it for the children's commissioner to take an overly severe attitude, and I think that, throughout this process, Peter Clarke has gained a lot of respect for the measured way that he has gone about it, and the way in which he has tried to emphasise the need to understand the challenges involved in, for instance, teaching, but in other child services as well. He has very much struck the right tone.

I will refer to a few issues in the children's commissioner's annual report—so they are important issues—to which the Minister has already referred. It is perhaps too severe to say that the recommendations have been rejected—they have been considered further—but there is some reservation. It is right that we satisfy ourselves that, after any ongoing dialogue, either with the various committees here or with the children's commissioner, the Government is not being let off the hook but that there is a genuine advance in terms of taking the concerns forward.

Peter Clarke was right to say that children must have a right to effective information, and that we need to look at the education sector, and schools particularly, to ensure that they have good policies to publicise the various helplines and services available. While the Minister has accepted this, she notes that it can only be done in guidance, as it is the responsibility of headteachers and governing bodies. I am sure that that is the procedural position that we are in, but, in guidance, and in the action that the Minister takes, this can be put high on the agenda, so that the harsh light of day will be brought upon any school that does not respond effectively. Therefore, it is important that we give the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning that encouragement.

digwydd wedyn yw y byddai pethau'n gwaethygu, ac y byddai sgandal arall o bosibl. Câi hynny effaith ddinistriol ar y proffesiynau dan sylw. Mae hynny yn rhywbeth y gwelodd y comisiynydd plant yn dda i dynnu sylw ato.

Gwaith y comisiynydd plant yw sicrhau y caiff plant eu hamddiffyn, ond hefyd sicrhau gwasanaethau cyhoeddus effeithiol. Nid yw o fudd i'r comisiynydd plant gymryd agwedd rhy lawdrwm, ac yr wyf o'r farn fod Peter Clarke, drwy gydol y broses hon, wedi ennyn llawer o barch am y ffordd bwyllog y mae wedi gweithredu, a'r ffordd y mae wedi ceisio pwysleisio'r angen i ddeall y sialensau a wynebir o fewn y maes addysgu er enghraifft, ond hefyd mewn meysydd eraill sy'n ymwneud â gwasanaethau plant. Mae'n sicr wedi taro'r nodyn cywir.

Cyfeiriaf at rai materion yn adroddiad blynyddol y comisiynydd plant—felly maent yn faterion pwysig—y cyfeiriodd y Gweinidog atynt eisoes. Efallai ei bod yn rhy lym dweud bod yr argymhellion wedi cael eu gwrthod—cawsant eu hystyried ymhellach—ond mae rhai amheuan. Mae'n iawn inni fodloni ein hunain, ar ôl unrhyw drafodaethau parhaus, naill ai gyda'r pwyllgorau amrywiol yma neu gyda'r comisiynydd plant, nad yw'r Llywodraeth yn cael ei hesgusodi ond bod cynnydd gwirioneddol o ran gweithredu ar y pryderon.

Yr oedd Peter Clarke yn gywir pan ddywedodd fod gan blant yr hawl i gael gwybodaeth effeithiol, a bod angen inni edrych ar y sector addysg, ac ar ysgolion yn benodol, i sicrhau bod ganddynt bolisiau cyhoeddusrwydd da o ran y llinellau cymorth a'r gwasanaethau sydd ar gael. Er bod y Gweinidog wedi derbyn hyn, noda mai dim ond rhoi canllawiau y gellir ei wneud, ac mai cyfrifoldeb y penaethiaid a'r cyrff llywodraethu ydyw. Yr wyf yn siŵr mai dyna'r sefyllfa weithdrefnol, ond o ran canllawiau, ac o ran y camau a gaiff eu cymryd gan y Gweinidog, gellir rhoi hyn ar frig yr agenda, fel bod unrhyw ysgol nad yw'n ymateb yn effeithiol yn llwyr ymwybodol o'r canlyniadau. Felly, mae'n bwysig ein bod yn rhoi'r anogaeth honno i'r

Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes.

Procedures must be rigorous for all sorts of people and professions that have unsupervised access to children. It is almost as if we forget some people, such as the person driving the minibus that takes a school group out. We need effective vetting across the piste; if we leave gaps, we will have problems. The Government is wrong to reject the recommendations that specialist personnel must be used to investigate allegations. There are some reservations about that. I see that the Minister is shaking her head; if I have got that wrong, she will no doubt clarify that in her response. However, I am concerned that that is taken forward effectively.

Janet Ryder: I propose the following amendments in the name of Jocelyn Davies. Amendment 2: delete ‘welcomes’ and insert:

notes the concerns made by the children’s commissioner regarding.

I propose amendment 3. After ‘report’ insert:

, and calls for a swift response to these recommendations.

I echo David’s initial comments. The amendments in the name of Jocelyn Davies will remain, but we hope that the whole Assembly will scrutinise the report’s recommendations, and the Government’s response to it, hard. It is rightly the Assembly’s role to ensure that we act on the recommendations that have come forward. We have come to a situation too many times after ‘Lost in Care’ where such recommendations have come forward, and it has taken several years to put responses in place. Therefore, the timescales that the children’s commissioner has set out, particularly in some of his recommendations, cannot be allowed to slip much. We must ensure that we put an emphasis on responding to these recommendations. While no Government can put in place a structure to ensure that this sort of thing will never happen again, we must ensure that the structures that we introduce detect cases

Rhaid i’r gweithdrefnau fod yn gadarn ar gyfer pob math o bobl a phob math o broffesiwn sy’n golygu bod pobl yn gweithio â phlant heb oruchwyliaeth. Ymddengys fel pe baem yn anghofio rhai pobl, megis y person sy’n gyrru’r bws mini a fydd yn mynd â grŵp o blant ysgol allan. Rhaid inni gael dulliau gwirio effeithiol i bawb; os byddwn yn gadael bylchau, bydd gennym broblemau. Mae’r Llywodraeth yn anghywir i wrthod yr argymhellion bod angen personél arbenigol i ymchwilio i honiadau. Mae rhai amheuron ynglŷn â hynny. Gwelaf fod y Gweinidog yn ysgwyd ei phen; os wyf yn anghywir ar y mater hwnnw, mae’n siŵr y bydd yn egluro hynny yn ei hymateb. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf am sicrhau y caiff hynny ei ddatblygu’n effeithiol.

Janet Ryder: Cynigïaf y gwelliannau canlynol yn enw Jocelyn Davies. Gwelliant 2: dileu ‘yn croesawu’ a rhoi:

yn nodi pryderon y comisiynydd plant parthed y

Cynigïaf welliant 3. Ar ôl ‘Clywch’ rhoi:

ac yn galw am ymateb cyflym i’r argymhellion hyn.

Ategef sylwadau cychwynnol David. Bydd y gwelliannau yn enw Jocelyn Davies yn aros, ond gobeithiwn y bydd y Cynulliad cyfan yn craffu’n galed ar argymhellion yr adroddiad ac ar ymateb y Llywodraeth iddo. Mae’n gywir mai rôl y Cynulliad yw sicrhau ein bod yn gweithredu ar yr argymhellion a gyflwynwyd. Yn llawer rhy aml ar ôl ‘Ar Goll mewn Gofal’ yr ydym wedi wynebu sefyllfa lle y cyflwynwyd argymhellion o’r fath, ac mae wedi cymryd blynyddoedd llawer i ymateb iddynt. Felly, ni ellir caniatáu i’r terfynau amser a nodwyd gan y comisiynydd plant, yn arbennig o ran rhai o’i argymhellion, lithro llawer. Rhaid inni sicrhau ein bod yn rhoi pwyslais ar ymateb i’r argymhellion hyn. Er na all unrhyw Lywodraeth greu strwythur i sicrhau na fydd y math yma o beth byth yn digwydd eto, rhaid inni sicrhau bod y strwythurau a gyflwynir gennym yn canfod achosion pan fo’n bosibl, a’n bod yn gweithredu’n gyflym

where possible, and that we act swiftly upon instances detected and reported.

I will therefore consider two groups of Peter Clarke's recommendations in particular. First, recommendations 21.1 and 21.2 suggested that further guidance was needed to ensure that young people's views and wishes were taken into consideration when they were being interviewed, and that they were kept fully informed as the investigation proceeded. According to the Government's response in this document, the Minister seems satisfied that that guidance already exists, and that it was published in guidance issued to area child protection committees in 2002. I am sure that Peter Clarke, when he made his recommendations, was fully aware of that guidance from 2002, and yet he still inserted these recommendations that further guidance is needed.

4.00 p.m.

I appreciate that further guidance will be issued for the new safeguarding children boards, but I seek a firm assurance from the Minister that the recommendations, as put forward by Peter Clarke, will be included in that guidance when it is published.

The other recommendations that need specific attention are those to which the Minister alluded in 21.8 iii and 28.9, because Peter Clarke proposed a new way to deal with allegations once they are reported. It is a new disciplinary system that includes the establishment of four independent regional tribunals. Whatever the way forward is, we must ensure that allegations of this nature are dealt with openly and accountably, and that everyone is kept informed, that all those taking part in them are fully trained and fully aware of the procedures, and that all evidence, whether it is for or against the allegations, is put before the body making the final decision.

The Government's response is a little disappointing. I appreciate that its response says that that initial recommendation did not receive universal acceptance or support.

ar achosion a gaiff eu canfod a'u cyflwyno.

Ystyriaaf felly ddau grŵp penodol o argymhellion Peter Clarke. Yn gyntaf, awgrymodd argymhellion 21.1 a 21.2 bod angen canllawiau pellach i sicrhau y rhoddir ystyriaeth i farn a dymuniadau pobl ifanc pan gânt eu cyfweld, ac y cânt eu hysbysu'n llawn o ddatblygiadau'r ymchwiliad wrth iddo fynd yn ei flaen. Yn ôl ymateb y Llywodraeth yn y ddogfen hon, ymddengys bod y Gweinidog yn fodlon bod y canllawiau hynny eisoes yn bodoli, ac iddynt gael eu cyhoeddi mewn canllawiau a ddosbarthwyd i bwyllgorau ardal amddiffyn plant yn 2002. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod Peter Clarke, pan wnaeth ei argymhellion, yn llwyr ymwybodol o'r canllawiau hynny o 2002, ac eto bu iddo gynnwys yr argymhellion hyn bod angen canllawiau pellach.

Gwerthfawrogaf y caiff canllawiau pellach eu cyhoeddi ar gyfer y byrddau diogelu plant newydd, ond ceisiaf sicrwydd cadarn gan y Gweinidog y bydd yr argymhellion, fel y'u cyflwynwyd gan Peter Clarke, yn cael eu cynnwys yn y canllawiau hynny pan gânt eu cyhoeddi.

Yr argymhellion eraill y mae angen rhoi sylw penodol iddynt yw'r rhai a grybwyllwyd gan y Gweinidog yn 21.8 iii a 28.9, oherwydd bu i Peter Clarke gynnig ffordd newydd o ymdrin â honiadau unwaith y cânt eu cofnodi. System ddisgyblu newydd ydyw sy'n cynnwys sefydlu pedwar tribiwnlys rhanbarthol annibynnol. Beth bynnag fo'r ffordd ymlaen, rhaid inni sicrhau yr ymdrinnir â honiadau o'r natur hon mewn modd agored a chyfrifol, ac y rhoddir yr holl wybodaeth i bawb, bod yr holl bobl hynny sy'n cymryd rhan ynddynt wedi'u hyfforddi'n llawn ac yn gwbl ymwybodol o'r gweithdrefnau, ac y cyflwynir pob tystiolaeth, pa un a yw o blaid neu yn erbyn yr honiadau, gerbron y corff sy'n gwneud y penderfyniad terfynol.

Mae ymateb y Llywodraeth ychydig yn siomedig. Gwerthfawrogaf fod ei hymateb yn nodi na chafodd yr argymhelliad cychwynnol ei dderbyn na'i gefnogi gan bawb. Fodd

However, the Government's response is a long way removed from that initial recommendation by Peter Clarke that one person, an adviser, be appointed to the governing body. It is debatable whether that adviser will have voting rights. There seems to be a big difference in those two recommendations, and the Minister must clarify why she has not further pursued Peter Clarke's recommendation, whether she is fully satisfied that her proposed recommendations will be robust enough to ensure that issues such as this are dealt with swiftly and openly, and whether she is in fact considering any other recommendations along those lines. Will any further recommendations come forward to help to alleviate these circumstances? Some allegations are made falsely, and, for the sake of the teachers or the persons against whom these allegations are made, they must be dealt with swiftly. However, for those who consider themselves to be victims of abuse, there must be openness and clarity, and the people dealing with accusations must be properly trained, but there is doubt as to whether we can adequately ensure that while it is still left to governing bodies. No matter what the structures that we put in place, they cannot guarantee that abuse will not happen again. We must ensure that we act on these recommendations swiftly.

Denise Idris Jones: I welcome the Welsh Assembly Government's thorough response following the children's commissioner's substantial recommendations. Vital to the implementation of the revised measures to protect young people is the co-operation of all stakeholders involved with young people. It is vital that everyone works to maintain the safeguards that protect our children, and that everyone maintains equal vigilance to prevent abuse and to ensure their welfare. This response delivers a thought-out programme through intensive consultation, ensuring that stakeholders and the Welsh Assembly Government all have ownership of the safeguards that protect our young people.

As a former schoolteacher, I particularly welcome the review of how drama is taught in schools in line with recommendation 21.13, including a review of good practice

bynag, nid yw ymateb y Llywodraeth yn debyg i'r argymhelliad cychwynnol hwnnw gan Peter Clarke, sef y dylai un person, sef cynghorydd, gael ei benodi i'r corff llywodraethu. Gellir dadlau pa un a fydd gan y cynghorydd hwnnw yr hawl i bleidleisio. Ymddengys fod gwahaniaeth mawr rhwng y ddau argymhelliad hynny, a rhaid i'r Gweinidog egluro pam nad yw wedi gweithredu ymhellach ar argymhelliad Peter Clarke, pa un a yw'n gwbl fodlon y bydd ei hargymhellion arfaethedig yn ddigon cadarn i sicrhau yr ymdrinnir â materion tebyg i hwn yn gyflym ac yn agored, a pha un a yw, mewn gwirionedd, yn ystyried unrhyw argymhellion ar y trywydd hwnnw. A gyflwynir unrhyw argymhellion pellach i helpu i leddfu'r amgylchiadau hyn? Gwneir rhai honiadau ar gam, ac, er lles yr athrawon neu'r bobl y caiff yr honiadau hyn eu gwneud yn eu herbyn, rhaid ymdrin â hwy yn gyflym. Fodd bynnag, ar gyfer y rhai sy'n ystyried eu bod wedi dioddef camdriniaeth, rhaid bod yn agored ac yn eglur, a rhaid i'r bobl sy'n ymdrin â chyhuddiadau gael eu hyfforddi'n briodol, ond ceir amheuaeth ynghylch a allwn sicrhau hynny'n ddigonol tra bo cyrff llywodraethu yn gyfrifol am hynny o hyd. Waeth beth yw'r strwythurau a roddir ar waith gennym, ni allant sicrhau na fydd camdrin yn digwydd eto. Rhaid inni sicrhau ein bod yn gweithredu ar yr argymhellion hyn yn gyflym.

Denise Idris Jones: Croesawaf ymateb trylwyr Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn dilyn argymhellion sylweddol y comisiynydd plant. Mae cydweithrediad yr holl randdeiliaid sy'n gysylltiedig â phobl ifanc yn hanfodol i roi'r mesurau diwygiedig ar waith i amddiffyn pobl ifanc. Mae'n hanfodol bod pawb yn gweithio i gynnal y mesurau diogelu sy'n amddiffyn ein plant, a bod pawb yn bod yr un mor wyladwrus o ran atal camdriniaeth a sicrhau eu lles. Mae'r ymateb hwn yn cyflwyno rhaglen sydd ag ôl meddwl arni drwy ymgynghori dwys, gan sicrhau bod gan randdeiliaid a Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru oll berchnogaeth o'r mesurau diogelu sy'n amddiffyn ein pobl ifanc.

Fel cyn athrawes, croesawaf yn benodol yr adolygiad o'r modd y caiff drama ei addysgu mewn ysgolion yn unol ag argymhelliad 21.13, gan gynnwys adolygiad o arferion da a

and an analysis of how existing guidance for other subjects, including PE, may be applied to drama teaching. I believe that the implementation of recommendation 21.3 to ensure that teachers receive training will instil confidence in teachers to look beyond reputation and reverence, and to respond to the warning signs that indicate an abuse of position. As a teacher, I always felt that the drama syllabus should have been more prescribed and much tighter to stop the freedom of unacceptable improvisation. I would have liked to have seen it taught, even though I know that there are drama theatres within schools, possibly within the main body of the school and for it to be supervised by senior members of staff on occasion.

It is vital that we keep the measures and safeguards that protect our children under constant review to ensure that past abuses do not have the opportunity to occur again. Much of the children's commissioner's report highlights the extent to which safeguards were overlooked, bypassed, ignored and defeated due to the ugly nature of the accusations, despite substantial evidence of abuse. Safeguards are only as good as their enforcement. It was vital that the Government's response reflects a cultural shift of duty and response to accusations in the future.

I look forward to the children's commissioner's response. I wish to comment in closing that the creation of a children's commissioner is probably our greatest weapon in the representation of young people.

Peter Black: We need to acknowledge the progress made so far. However, as other Members have said, this is a scrutiny process and it is important that we do not lose the momentum being established in implementing this report. The report's recommendations are important and need to be taken forward in a thorough manner—which I accept—and as quickly as possible, so that they are in place to try to meet the timescales set out by the children's commissioner in the report.

dadansoddiad o sut y gellid cymhwyso canllawiau presennol ar gyfer pynciau eraill, gan gynnwys addysg gorfforol, i addysgu drama. Credaf fod gweithredu argymhellad 21.3 i sicrhau bod athrawon yn cael hyfforddiant yn ennyn hyder mewn athrawon i edrych y tu hwnt i enw da a pharchedig ofn, ac ymateb i arwyddion o rybudd sy'n nodi achos o gamddefnyddio statws. Fel athro, yr oeddwn bob amser yn teimlo y dylai'r maes llafur ar gyfer y pwnc drama fod yn fwy penodol ac yn llawer tynnach i atal y rhyddid sy'n gysylltiedig â darnau byrfyfyr annerbyniol. Byddwn wedi hoffi gweld y pwnc yn cael ei addysgu, er fy mod yn ymwybodol bod theatrau drama ar gael o fewn ysgolion, o bosibl o fewn prif gorff yr ysgol ac iddo gael ei oruchwylio gan uwch aelodau o staff yn achlysurol.

Mae'n hanfodol ein bod yn adolygu'r mesurau a'r camau diogelu sy'n amddiffyn ein plant yn barhaus i sicrhau na fydd cyfle i'r achosion o gam-drin a ddigwyddodd yn y gorffennol ddigwydd eto. Mae rhan helaeth o adroddiad y comisiynydd plant yn amlygu'r graddau y bu i fesurau diogelu gael eu hesgeuluso, eu hosgoi, eu hanwybyddu a'u trechu o ganlyniad i natur hyll yr honiadau, er gwaethaf tystiolaeth sylweddol o gam-drin. Dim ond os caiff mesurau diogelu eu gorfodi y byddant yn llwyddiant. Yr oedd yn hanfodol i ymateb y Llywodraeth adlewyrchu newid diwylliannol mewn dyletswydd a'r ffordd o ymateb i honiadau yn y dyfodol.

Edrychaf ymlaen at ymateb y comisiynydd plant. Hoffwn ddweud, wrth gloi, mai creu comisiynydd plant fwy na thebyg, yw ein harf gorau o ran cynrychioli pobl ifanc.

Peter Black: Mae angen inni gydnabod y cynnydd a wnaed hyd yn hyn. Fodd bynnag, fel y dywedodd Aelodau eraill, mae hon yn broses graffu ac mae'n bwysig nad ydym yn colli'r momentwm a gaiff ei sefydlu wrth roi'r adroddiad hwn ar waith. Mae argymhellion yr adroddiad yn bwysig ac mae angen gweithredu arnynt mewn modd trylwyr—yr wyf yn derbyn hynny—a chyn gynted â phosibl, fel eu bod ar waith i geisio bodloni'r amserlenni a bennwyd gan y comisiynydd plant yn yr adroddiad.

I want to refer to a number of the recommendations in the Minister's response to the report, particularly the recommendation on tribunals which has been mentioned by several Members. Having read the Minister's response, I accept that these do not necessarily represent the most practical way forward and that the idea of having an independent member on disciplinary committees might have some merit and should be explored. If we are to take that route, that member should have voting rights, and it would be wrong if they did not. If we had an independent member with no voting rights on the committee, I do not think that he or she would be as effective as he or she should be in terms of assisting the school governing body in dealing with disciplinary matters. Although I support the general thrust of the Minister's response on that recommendation, I would like to see voting rights included.

Denise referred to the guidance on how drama is taught at school. Again, although the children's commissioner says that this needs to be established within two years, I note from the Minister's response that milestones are now urgently being established to take forward the work programme. The meeting to set up those milestones took place on 23 March, and it seems to me that a considerable amount of time was spent in arranging that meeting. I understand that there is an issue in terms of liaising with other administrations, which can cause a delay. Now that that work programme is in place, I hope that we will be able to meet the commissioner's timetable by getting the guidance in place within the two years that he envisages in terms of ensuring that schools become fully compliant, and able to deliver the programme in accordance with how we would like to see it delivered.

Some of my concerns around the guidance on sharing information—21.14 in the report—the recommendation is that we should share information where there are allegations of child abuse. This is a crucial issue, and I am concerned that progress on this has been slow. By the time that the Minister next addresses the committee or Plenary on this subject, I hope that we will see more

Hoffwn gyfeirio at nifer o'r argymhellion yn ymateb y Gweinidog i'r adroddiad, yn arbennig yr argymhelliad ar dribiwnlysoedd y soniwyd amdano gan sawl Aelod. Ar ôl darllen ymateb y Gweinidog, derbyniaf nad y rhain o anghenraid yw'r ffordd fwyaf ymarferol ymlaen ac efallai bod rhywfaint o fudd i'r syniad o gael aelod annibynnol ar bywllgorau disgyblaethol ac y dylid ymchwilio i hynny. Os byddwn yn dilyn y trywydd hwnnw, dylai fod gan yr aelod hwnnw hawliau pleidleisio, a byddai'n amhriodol pe na fyddai ganddo hawliau pleidleisio. Os oedd gennym aelod annibynnol heb unrhyw hawliau pleidleisio ar y pwyllgor, ni chredaf y byddai ef neu hi mor effeithiol ag y dylai fod o ran cynorthwyo corff llywodraethu'r ysgol yn y gwaith o ymdrin â materion disgyblu. Er fy mod yn cefnogi byrdwn cyffredinol ymateb y Gweinidog i'r argymhelliad hwnnw, hoffwn weld hawliau pleidleisio yn cael eu cynnwys.

Cyfeiriodd Denise at y canllawiau ar y modd y caiff drama ei addysgu yn yr ysgol. Eto, er y dywed y comisiynydd plant bod angen sefydlu hyn o fewn dwy flynedd, nodaf o ymateb y Gweinidog y caiff cerrig milltir eu pennu ar frys bellach i weithredu'r rhaglen waith. Cynhaliwyd y cyfarfod i bennu'r cerrig milltir hynny ar 23 Mawrth, ac ymddengys i mi i gryn amser gael ei dreulio yn trefnu'r cyfarfod hwnnw. Deallaf fod problem o ran cysylltu â gweinyddiaethau eraill, a all achosi oedi. Gan fod y rhaglen waith honno ar waith bellach, gobeithiaf y gallwn gadw at amserlen y comisiynydd drwy roi'r canllawiau ar waith o fewn y ddwy flynedd a ragwelir ganddo o ran sicrhau bod ysgolion yn cydymffurfio'n llawn, a'u bod yn gallu cyflawni'r rhaglen yn unol â'r modd yr hoffem ei gweld yn cael ei chyflawni.

Mae rhai o'm pryderon yn ymwneud â'r canllawiau ar rannu gwybodaeth—21.14 yn yr adroddiad—argymhellir y dylem rannu gwybodaeth lle ceir honiadau o gam-drin plant. Mae hwn yn fater hollbwysig, ac yr wyf yn pryderu y bu cynnydd ar hyn yn araf. Erbyn y tro nesaf y bydd y Gweinidog yn annerch y pwyllgor neu'r Cyfarfod Llawn ar y pwnc hwn, gobeithio y byddwn yn gweld

substantive progress on that issue.

This also applies to whistleblowing, which is a crucial issue that has proved problematic throughout Wales not just in this area, but in many other areas. Where people have sought to whistleblow, the safeguards and the protection intended to assist them is not being properly implemented or followed, and they find themselves being victimised as a result. I would hope that the consultation, which is due to be held in the autumn, and the guidance, due in 2006, can address that. Again, this needs urgent action. I am concerned at the delay in putting that consultation in place, and at the length of time that it seems it will take to get the guidance in place, if we are looking at next year.

4.10 p.m.

Finally, I wish to refer to the national strategy for the provision of an independent children's counselling service for children and young people in education, which would offer them support during disciplinary hearings and, in terms of child protection, complaints and exclusion processes and so on. The children's commissioner recommended that this should be in place within 12 months. Again, this is a vital recommendation, and progress on it has been slow. I hope that the Minister can give us some assurances regarding when this national strategy will be in place and that this crucial part of the strategy is implemented as soon as possible. This is an important report, which we should implement as soon as possible. I hope that the Minister will take my comments in the spirit in which they are meant to be taken; they are not meant to be critical, but rather form part of an important scrutiny process. I hope that she can take on board some of these issues.

Irene James: We must all be encouraged by the way in which the devolution model has created the organisational structure by which we can thoroughly and credibly investigate and highlight the tragic and systematic failure that let down our communities, parents and teachers, and, most of all, our children. The existence of devolution and the structures that flow from it, the children's commissioner,

mwy o gynnydd sylweddol ar y mater hwnnw.

Mae hyn hefyd yn berthnasol i chwythu'r chwiban, sy'n fater hollbwysig sydd wedi achosi problemau drwy Gymru gyfan ac nid yn y maes hwn yn unig, ond mewn sawl maes arall. Lle y mae pobl wedi ceisio chwythu'r chwiban, nid yw'r mesurau diogelu a'r amddiffyniad a ddylai eu cynorthwyo yn cael eu rhoi ar waith na'u dilyn yn briodol, a byddant yn cael eu herlid o ganlyniad. Gobeithiaf y gall yr ymgynghoriad, a gaiff ei gynnal yn yr hydref, a'r canllawiau y bwriedir eu cyhoeddi yn 2006, fynd i'r afael â hynny. Eto, mae angen gweithredu ar hyn ar fyrder. Yr wyf yn pryderu am yr oedi cyn trefnu'r ymgynghoriad hwnnw, ac am yr amser y tybir y bydd yn ei gymryd i roi'r canllawiau ar waith, os ydym yn edrych ar y flwyddyn nesaf.

Yn olaf, hoffwn gyfeirio at y strategaeth genedlaethol ar gyfer darparu gwasanaeth cynghori plant annibynnol ar gyfer plant a phobl ifanc mewn addysg, a fyddai'n cynnig cymorth iddynt yn ystod gwrandawriadau disgyblu ac, o ran amddiffyn plant, cwynion a phrosesau gwahardd ac ati. Argymhellodd y comisiynydd plant y dylai hon fod ar waith o fewn 12 mis. Eto, mae hwn yn argymhelliad hollbwysig, a bu'r cynnydd yn araf. Gobeithiaf y gall y Gweinidog roi rhywfaint o sicrwydd inni ynghylch pryd y bydd y strategaeth genedlaethol hon ar waith ac y gweithredir y strategaeth cyn gynted â phosibl. Mae hwn yn adroddiad pwysig, y dylem ei roi ar waith cyn gynted â phosibl. Gobeithiaf y bydd y Gweinidog yn ystyried fy sylwadau yn yr ysbryd y bwriadwyd iddynt gael eu hystyried; nid bod yn feirniadol yw eu bwriad, ond ffurfio rhan o broses graffu bwysig. Gobeithiaf y gall roi ystyriaeth i rai o'r materion hyn.

Irene James: Mae'n rhaid ein bod oll wedi ein calonogi gan y ffordd y bu i'r model datganoli greu'r strwythur sefydliadol y gallwn ei ddefnyddio i amlygu'r methiant truenus a systematig a wnaeth gam â'n cymunedau, ein rhieni a'n hathrawon, ac yn bennaf oll, ein plant, ac i ymchwilio iddo'n drwyadl ac yn gredadwy. Mae datganoli a'r strwythurau sy'n llifo ohono, y comisiynydd

Assembly scrutiny, and policy making and implementation means that we are in a position today to ensure that we will be forever vigilant in terms of preventing such atrocities ever occurring again. I have particular concerns regarding the issues that relate to the teaching profession and how it must respond through the teacher-training process by developing the skills and the awareness to detect and question the signs of possible abuse. Fundamentally, we must ensure that children in a school environment have access to independent, confidential help and advice. We must also overhaul the teaching of drama in our schools and review how organisations charged with protecting the welfare of our children can work together more effectively and share vital and pertinent information. It is important that we react to gaps in the protection of children's welfare and look to find where gaps exist across all subject areas in order to protect children and adults in every environment.

I am pleased that the Government's response to the Clywch report embraces the children's commissioner's recommendations and implements strategies that address all his points. Complaints against teachers must not be allowed to veil real incidents of abuse, to blur investigations or to tarnish the reputation of innocent adults. By strengthening the process in line with the commissioner's recommendations and providing clarity, purpose and direction in the actions that follow an allegation being made, we have the welcome corollary of more substantially vindicating adults who are innocent of allegations. Equally, counselling must go further than only providing advocacy support in response to an allegation being made. Designated counsellors must be available to more widely support young people, who must be encouraged to talk about all their concerns and to feel that they have support, trust and, subsequently, confidence when making serious allegations.

The safeguards outlined in this document mark a considered response to the Clywch report and reflect the children's commissioner's thorough recommendations, and I look forward to their implementation.

plant, proses graffu'r Cynulliad, a gweithdrefnau llunio a gweithredu polisïau yn golygu ein bod mewn sefyllfa heddiw i sicrhau y byddwn yn effro bob amser i atal erchyllterau o'r fath rhag digwydd eto. Yr wyf yn pryderu'n benodol am y materion sy'n gysylltiedig â'r proffesiwn addysgu a sut y mae'n rhaid iddo ymateb drwy'r broses ymarfer-dysgu drwy ddatblygu'r sgiliau a'r ymwybyddiaeth i ganfod a chwestiynu'r arwyddion posibl o gam-drin. Yn ei hanfod, rhaid inni sicrhau bod gan blant mewn amgylchedd ysgol fynediad i gymorth a chyngor annibynnol a chyfrinachol. Rhaid inni hefyd adolygu'r modd y caiff drama ei addysgu yn ein hysgolion ac adolygu'r modd y gall sefydliadau sy'n gyfrifol am amddiffyn lles ein plant weithio gyda'i gilydd yn fwy effeithiol a rhannu gwybodaeth hanfodol a pherthnasol. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn adweithio i fylchau o ran amddiffyn lles plant ac yn canfod y bylchau sy'n bodoli ar draws pob maes pwnc er mwyn amddiffyn plant ac oedolion ym mhob amgylchedd.

Yr wyf yn falch bod ymateb y Llywodraeth i adroddiad Clywch yn ategu argymhellion y comisiynydd plant ac yn rhoi strategaethau ar waith sy'n mynd i'r afael â'r holl bwyntiau a godwyd ganddo. Ni ddylid caniatáu i gwynion yn erbyn athrawon gelu digwyddiadau gwirioneddol o gam-drin, cymylu ymchwiliadau neu barddïo enw da oedolion dieuog. Drwy gryfhau'r broses yn unol ag argymhellion y comisiynydd a darparu eglurder, diben a chyfeiriad o ran y camau a gymerir yn dilyn gwneud honiad, mae gennym ganlyneb galonogol o gael oedolion y gwnaed honiadau ffug yn eu herbyn yn ddieuog. Yn yr un modd, rhaid i'r gwasanaeth cynghori fynd ymhellach na darparu cymorth eiriolaeth yn unig mewn ymateb i honiad. Rhaid i gynghorwyr dynodedig fod ar gael i roi cymorth ehangach i bobl ifanc, y dylid eu hannog i siarad am eu holl bryderon ac i deimlo bod ganddynt gymorth, ymddiriedaeth ac, yn dilyn hyn, hyder wrth wneud honiadau difrifol.

Mae'r mesurau diogelu a amlinellir yn y ddogfen hon yn nodi ymateb ystyriol i adroddiad Clywch ac yn adlewyrchu argymhellion trylwyr y comisiynydd plant, ac edrychaf ymlaen at eu gweld yn cael eu gweithredu.

Mark Isherwood: While we welcome the progress made on several of the recommendations, we note with concern the slip in timetabling with regard to many issues. Recommendation 21.1 about the nature and conduct of interviews with children in a child protection investigation and recommendation 21.2 about informing children of the outcome of such investigations call for action to be taken within 12 months of the report being published in June 2004. However, the Welsh Assembly Government's latest response, 10 months later, merely states that work is now in hand on the drafting of guidance for the new local safeguarding children boards. Even more worryingly, the Welsh Assembly Government states that the provisional timetable proposes that the draft guidance will be issued for consultation in the summer of 2005 and finalised by the end of the year.

A provisional timetable is not acceptable at this stage, Minister. Without specific action points and timescales, your position is not worth the paper that it is written on.

We welcome progress in ensuring that teachers receive initial training on how abusers operate, and the progress on child protection training in local education authorities. However, the Welsh Assembly Government's latest position on recommendations 21.5 and 21.6, concerning whistleblowing policy and procedure, is of grave concern.

The Clywch report called for guidance for schools on whistleblowing policies to be issued within six months of publication, and for every teacher to receive written and oral instructions on whistleblowing procedures on appointment. However, the Welsh Assembly Government's latest position has no substance or meaning. The best that it can come up with is that it expects to go to consultation in the autumn with a view to issuing guidance for schools, which may take the form of a model early in 2006. That is simply not good enough. Again, we must have specific action points and when-by dates

Mark Isherwood: Er ein bod yn croesawu'r cynnydd a wnaed ar nifer o'r argymhellion, nodwn â phryder y llithriad wrth gadw at amserlenni gyda sawl mater. Mae argymhelliad 21.1 sy'n ymwneud â natur cyfweiliadau â phlant mewn ymchwiliad amddiffyn plant a'r modd y dylid cynnal y cyfweiliadau hyn ac argymhelliad 21.2 sy'n ymwneud â hysbysu plant o ganlyniad ymchwiliadau o'r fath yn galw am gymryd camau gweithredu o fewn 12 mis i gyhoeddi'r adroddiad ym mis Mehefin 2004. Fodd bynnag, y cyfan a wna ymateb diweddaraf Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yw nodi, 10 mis yn ddiweddarach, bod gwaith yn mynd rhagddo bellach ar ddrafftio canllawiau ar gyfer y byrddau diogelu plant lleol newydd. Yr hyn sy'n peri mwy o boen meddwl, yw bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn nodi bod yr amserlen dros dro yn bwriadu cyhoeddi'r canllawiau drafft ar gyfer ymgynghoriad yn ystod haf 2005 a chanllawiau terfynol erbyn diwedd y flwyddyn.

Nid yw amserlen dros dro yn dderbyniol ar y cam hwn, Weinidog. Heb bwyntiau gweithredu a therfynau amser penodol, nid yw eich safbwynt yn werth dim.

Croesawn y cynnydd o ran sicrhau bod athrawon yn cael hyfforddiant cychwynnol ar sut y mae pobl sy'n cam-drin plant yn gweithredu, a'r cynnydd ar hyfforddiant amddiffyn plant mewn awdurdodau addysg lleol. Fodd bynnag, mae safbwynt diweddaraf y Llywodraeth ar argymhellion 21.5 a 21.6, sy'n ymwneud â pholisi a gweithdrefn chwythu'r chwiban, yn destun pryder mawr.

Yr oedd adroddiad Clywch yn galw am gyhoeddi canllawiau i ysgolion ar bolisiau chwythu'r chwiban o fewn chwe mis i'w gyhoeddi, ac am i bob athro dderbyn cyfarwyddiadau ysgrifenedig a llafar ar weithdrefnau chwythu'r chwiban ar adeg eu penodi. Fodd bynnag, nid oes unrhyw sylwedd nac ystyr i safbwynt diweddaraf Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Y gorau y gall ei gynnig yw ei bod yn bwriadu cynnal ymgynghoriad yn yr hydref gyda'r bwriad o gyhoeddi canllawiau i ysgolion, a allai fod ar ffurf model ar ddechrau 2006. Nid yw hynny'n ddigon da. Unwaith eto, rhaid inni

as a matter of priority.

What confidence can we have in the Welsh Assembly Government's commitment to whistleblowing policies and procedures when the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 has dramatically and repeatedly failed to protect adult whistleblowers in Wales from being victimised, while the guilty parties remain often untouchable and unaccountable? As Albert Einstein said, the world is a dangerous place in which to live—not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing.

In the context of child abuse, the consequences of that failure have been highlighted by allegations made against people of senior rank in south Wales by Wayne Thomas, and by the treatment of Steve Messham, a victim and key witness in the Waterhouse inquiry. In January, after four years of hell, Mr Messham was cleared in court of five charges of benefit fraud. These false allegations were brought against him not by the Benefits Agency, but by two people closely involved with the Waterhouse inquiry: the county secretary of Labour Flintshire County Council and the Labour chair of North Wales Police Authority. It should be noted that Mr Messham continued to make abuse allegations after Waterhouse had concluded, that Flintshire's county secretary, Mr Loveridge, had previously been criticised by the district auditor for the way in which he had portrayed legal counsel's opinion to elected members, and that Mr Messham's solicitor received death threats. That situation is inexcusable and must be investigated.

As with the evidence-based need for independent local authority internal audit, and for the same reasons, we welcome the Welsh Assembly Government's proposal to set up and fund an independent service to investigate allegations of child abuse made against staff on behalf of school governing bodies. We also welcome the Welsh Assembly Government proposal to place an independent member on disciplinary committees.

gael pwyntiau gweithredu penodol a dyddiadau cyflawni fel mater o flaenoriaeth.

Faint o ffydd y gallwn ei ymddiried yn ymrwymiad Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i bolisiau a gweithdrefnau chwythu'r chwiban o gofio methiant sylweddol a chyson Deddf Datgelu er Lles y Cyhoedd 1998 i amddiffyn oedolyn sy'n chwythu'r chwiban yng Nghymru rhag cael eu herlid, tra bod y rhai sy'n euog yn aml yn parhau i fod yn rhydd o gael eu herlyn? Fel y dywedodd Albert Einstein, mae'r byd yn lle peryglus i fyw ynddo—nid oherwydd y rhai sy'n cyflawni gweithredoedd drwg, ond oherwydd y rhai sy'n eu gwyllo ac yn gwneud dim.

Yng nghyd-destun cam-drin plant, amlygwyd canlyniadau'r methiant hwnnw gan honiadau a wnaed yn erbyn pobl sy'n dal uwch swyddi yn y De gan Wayne Thomas, a chan y ffordd y cafodd Steve Messham, dioddefwr a thyst allweddol yn ymchwiliad Waterhouse, ei drin. Ym mis Ionawr, ar ôl pedair blynedd o uffern, cafwyd Mr Messham yn ddiuog yn y llys o bum cyhuddiad o dwyll budd-daliadau. Dygwyd yr honiadau ffug hyn yn ei erbyn nid gan yr Asiantaeth Budd-daliadau, ond gan ddau o bobl a oedd yn ymwneud ag ymchwiliad Waterhouse: ysgrifennydd sirol Cyngor Llafur Sir y Fflint a chadeirydd Llafur Awdurdod Heddlu Gogledd Cymru. Dylid nodi i Mr Messham barhau i wneud honiadau iddo gael ei gam-drin ar ôl i ymchwiliad Waterhouse ddod i ben, i ysgrifennydd sirol sir y Fflint, Mr Loveridge, gael ei feirniadu yn y gorffennol gan yr archwilydd dosbarth am y ffordd y bu iddo gyfleu barn cwysel cyfreithiol i aelodau etholedig, ac i gyfreithiwr Mr Messham gael llythyron bygythiol. Mae'r sefyllfa honno'n anfaddeuol a rhaid ymchwilio iddi.

Fel gyda'r angen am archwiliad mewnol annibynnol mewn awdurdodau lleol yn seiliedig ar dystiolaeth, ac am yr un rhesymau, croesawn gynnig Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i sefydlu ac ariannu gwasanaeth annibynnol i ymchwilio i honiadau o gam-drin plant a wneir yn erbyn staff ar ran cyrff llywodraethu ysgolion. Croesawn hefyd gynnig Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i roi aelod annibynnol ar bywllgorau disgyblu.

Carl Sargeant: Will you give way?

Mark Isherwood: How much time have we got?

The Deputy Presiding Officer: You have five minutes, and six minutes if you take the intervention.

Mark Isherwood: Very well, then, Carl.

Carl Sargeant: Thank you. Given that you accept the need for open government and transparency, do you accept the findings of Clive Grace's report on Flintshire County Council that was issued to you the other week?

Mark Isherwood: It is not for me to accept or not; it is for the constituents who raised the allegations investigated to consider. As you know, Flintshire council has tried to block access to that report, but those who have so far had access have been disturbed by the fact that their concerns are not addressed in it. One group has already written to PriceWaterhouseCoopers asking for further investigation.

It is vital that we protect not only victims of child abuse, but the victims of malicious allegations of abuse. Investigations must be independent, consistent, fair, rational, and based on findings of fact, not generalities.

Finally, I express my deep concern about the latest Welsh Assembly Government position on recommendation 29, which calls for an independent counselling service for children. The best that the Welsh Assembly Government can come up with is a so-called scoping exercise to explore the best approach. My concern was reinforced by the NSPCC representative at last Saturday's Stonewall Cymru conference in Llandudno when, in calling for an independent school counselling service, he stated that this was an area of disagreement with the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, Jane Davidson—I look forward to hearing her comments on this. He stated that

Carl Sargeant: A ildiwch?

Mark Isherwood: Faint o amser sydd gennym?

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Mae gennych bum munud, a chwe munud os byddwch yn derbyn yr ymyriad.

Mark Isherwood: Gwnaf, felly, Carl.

Carl Sargeant: Diolch. O gofio eich bod yn derbyn yr angen am lywodraeth agored a thryloywder, a ydych yn derbyn canfyddiadau adroddiad Clive Grace ar Gyngor Sir y Fflint a roddwyd ichi yr wythnos o'r blaen?

Mark Isherwood: Nid fy nghyfrifoldeb i yw ei dderbyn neu ei wrthod; cyfrifoldeb yr etholwyr a gododd yr honiadau yr ymchwiliwyd iddynt yw ystyried hynny. Fel y gwyddoch, mae cyngor sir y Fflint wedi ceisio atal pobl rhag gweld yr adroddiad hwnnw, ond mae'r rhai sydd wedi ei weld hyd yma yn pryderu'n fawr am y ffaith nad ymdrinnir â'u pryderon ynddo. Mae un grŵp eisoes wedi ysgrifennu at PriceWaterhouseCoopers yn gofyn am ymchwiliad pellach.

Yn ogystal ag amddiffyn dioddefwyr cam-drin plant, mae'n hollbwysig ein bod yn amddiffyn dioddefwyr honiadau maleisus o gam-drin. Rhaid i ymchwiliadau fod yn annibynnol, yn gyson, yn deg, yn rhesymegol, ac yn seiliedig ar ganfyddiadau ffeithiol, nid ar wybodaeth gyffredinol.

Yn olaf, mynegaf fy mhryder mawr ynghylch safbwynt diweddaraf Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar argymhelliad 29, sy'n galw am wasanaeth cyngori annibynnol i blant. Y gorau y gall Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ei gynnig yw ymarfer pennu cwmpas bondigrybwyll i fynd i ymchwilio i'r ymagwedd orau. Atgyfnerthwyd fy mhryder gan gynrychiolydd yr NSPCC ddydd Sadwrn diwethaf yng nghynhadledd Stonewall Cymru yn Llandudno pan nododd, wrth alw am wasanaeth cyngori annibynnol i ysgolion, fod hyn yn destun anghytundeb gyda'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes, Jane Davidson—edrychaf ymlaen i glywed ei sylwadau ar hyn. Nododd fod

independence is essential precisely because of the dilemmas and conflicts of interest faced by teachers and by school or local education authority employees. Without independence at every level, the Welsh Assembly Government's claimed commitment to open government and justice will be nothing more than hot air on spin cycle, with the strong suggestion that Labour Members continue to put party interests before the needs of real victims.

annibyniaeth yn hanfodol, a hynny oherwydd y cyfyng gyngor a'r gwrthdaro buddiannau a wynebir gan athrawon a chan gyflogaion ysgolion neu awdurdodau addysg lleol. Heb annibyniaeth ar bob lefel, ni fydd ymrwymiad honedig Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i lywodraeth agored a chyfiawnder yn ddim mwy na geiriau gwag a sbin, gyda'r awgrym cryf bod aelodau Llafur yn parhau i roi blaenoriaeth i fuddiannau eu plaid yn hytrach nag anghenion dioddefwyr gwirioneddol.

4.20 p.m.

Gwenda Thomas: I welcome the opportunity to contribute to what is an important debate for us. I will, however, confine my comments to recommendations 21.15, 21.17 and 21.22.

Gwenda Thomas: Croesawaf y cyfle i gyfrannu at yr hyn sy'n ddadl bwysig i ni. Fodd bynnag, cyfyngaf fy sylwadau i argymhellion 21.15, 21.17 a 21.22.

First, I am glad that the media have responded positively to the children's commissioner's report. I hope that they will fully incorporate recommendation 20 of the 'Lost in Care' report, as the commissioner urges, which states that, following a complaint of abuse, any disciplinary proceeding should be conducted with the greatest expediency, rather than waiting for the outcome of any parallel police, or any other, investigation. It is vital that all allegations are investigated in a thorough and timely manner to minimise distress to all parties concerned.

Yn gyntaf, yr wyf yn falch bod y cyfryngau wedi ymateb yn gadarnhaol i adroddiad y comisiynydd plant. Gobeithiaf y byddant yn ymgorffori argymhelliad 20 yr adroddiad 'Ar Goll mewn Gofal' yn llawn, yn unol ag anogaeth y comisiynydd, sy'n nodi, yn dilyn cwyn ynghylch cam-drin, y dylid cynnal unrhyw weithdrefn ddisgyblu cyn gynted â phosibl, yn hytrach nag aros am ganlyniad unrhyw ymchwiliad cyfochrog gan yr heddlu, neu unrhyw ymchwiliad arall. Mae'n hollbwysig ymchwilio'n drylwyr ac yn amserol i bob honiad er mwyn lleihau'r gofid i bawb dan sylw.

In addition to supporting the views of the children's commissioner in relation to this particular inquiry, I want to add further comments about the role of the media in safeguarding children. In particular, I endorse the comments of Dame Elizabeth Butler-Sloss in the Cleveland report of 1987. She said that the media in general, and editors in particular, have a responsibility to observe moderation and have an awareness that the impact of the reporting, on television, radio, or in the newspapers, can have a disproportionate influence upon those caught up in such a crisis and may create uncertainty, confusion and injustice.

Yn ogystal â chefnogi barn y comisiynydd plant mewn perthynas â'r ymchwiliad penodol hwn, hoffwn wneud sylwadau pellach am rôl y cyfryngau o ran diogelu plant. Yn benodol, cymeradwyaf sylwadau'r Fonesig Elizabeth Butler-Sloss yn adroddiad Cleveland ym 1987. Dywedodd fod gan y cyfryngau yn gyffredinol, a golygyddion yn arbennig, gyfrifoldeb i fod yn gymedrol ac i fod yn ymwybodol y caiff effaith adroddiadau, ar y teledu, ar y radio, neu mewn papurau newydd, ddylanwad anghymesur ar y rhai sy'n rhan o argyfwng o'r fath ac y gallent greu ansicrwydd, dryswch ac anghyfiawnder.

Her comment is as pertinent now as it was then. Much reporting and editorial comment is responsible and helpful. One example is

Mae ei sylw yr un mor berthnasol yn awr ag yr oedd bryd hynny. Mae llawer o adroddiadau a sylwadau golygyddol yn

the role of some newspapers in helping to draw attention to the unacceptable practices found in some north Wales children's homes in the past. However, the tone and style of media coverage can also have a negative and destructive effect. The most recent example was some rather unbalanced reporting of court proceedings and expert evidence, which may have inadvertently encouraged the personal vilification, and even physical attacks, by certain individuals and groups on respected and committed paediatricians and their families, some of them in Wales. Some paediatricians have withdrawn from working in the field of child abuse—a difficult and stressful field—because of such dangerous and intemperate behaviour. Others are deterred from entering this field, which is very bad news for vulnerable children.

Social workers and others have periodically also suffered unfair and unwarranted personal abuse. Understandably, child abuse is an emotive subject, but that only serves to underline that responsible and balanced media coverage is crucial.

On recommendation 21.17, I agree strongly with the commissioner that it is time that the Children (Performances) Regulations 1968 are updated to reflect how the media work in the twenty-first century. I welcome the Minister's commitment to undertake a review of the regulations, which will be published in June this year. I also welcome the Minister's assurance that full account will be taken of the children's commissioner's recommendation. As the Minister points out, the children's commissioner has identified weaknesses in the current arrangements and I very much welcome the commitment to consult key organisations.

I am often concerned, while watching some television programmes, to see young babies crying and even screaming on screen. These young babies are not acting, are they? They must be in some distress. Should steps be taken to avoid distressing a young child? Do the current regulations adequately deal with welfare issues such as this?

gyfrifol ac yn ddefnyddiol. Un enghraifft yw rôl rhai papurau newydd wrth dynnu sylw at yr arferion annerbyniol a ganfuwyd mewn rhai cartrefi plant yn y Gogledd yn y gorffennol. Fodd bynnag, gall naws ac arddull sylw yn y cyfryngau gael effaith negyddol a dinistriol hefyd. Yr enghraifft fwyaf diweddar oedd adroddiad eithaf anghytwys am achos llys a thystiolaeth arbenigol, a allai, drwy amryfusedd, fod wedi annog athroddiad personol, a hyd yn oed ymosodiadau corfforol, gan rai unigolion a grwpiau ar bediatryddion ymrwymedig, uchel eu parch a'u teuluoedd, rhai ohonynt yng Nghymru. Mae rhai pediatryddion wedi rhoi'r gorau i weithio ym maes cam-drin plant—mae'n faes anodd sy'n achosi straen—oherwydd ymddygiad mor beryglus ac eithafol. Mae hyn yn peri i eraill benderfynu peidio â dechrau gyrfa yn y maes hwn, sy'n newyddion drwg iawn i blant diamddiffyn.

Mae gweithwyr cymdeithasol ac eraill hefyd wedi dioddef camdriniaeth bersonol annheg a di-alw-amdano o bryd i'w gilydd. Yn ddealladwy, mae cam-drin plant yn bwnc emosiynol, ond mae hyn yn pwysleisio pa mor bwysig yw sylw cyfrifol a chytbwys yn y cyfryngau.

O ran argymhelliad 21.17, cytunaf yn gryf gyda'r comisiynydd ei bod yn bryd i'r Rheoliadau Plant (Perfformiadau) 1968 gael eu diweddarau i adlewyrchu sut y mae'r cyfryngau yn gweithio yn yr unfed ganrif ar hugain. Croesawaf ymrwymiad y Gweinidog i gynnal adolygiad o'r rheoliadau, a gaiff eu cyhoeddi ym mis Mehefin eleni. Croesawaf hefyd sicrwydd gan y Gweinidog yr ystyrir argymhelliad y comisiynydd plant yn llawn. Fel y noda'r Gweinidog; mae'r comisiynydd plant wedi nodi gwendidau yn y trefniadau presennol a chroesawaf yr ymrwymiad i ymgynghori â sefydliadau allweddol yn fawr.

Yr wyf yn aml yn pryderu, wrth wyllo rhai rhaglenni teledu, o weld babanod ifanc yn crïo ac yn sgrechian ar y sgrin. Nid actio mae'r babanod hyn. Mae'n rhaid bod y sefyllfa'n peri peth trallod iddynt. A ddylid cymryd camau i osgoi peri trallod i blentyn ifanc? A yw'r rheoliadau presennol yn ymdrin yn ddigonol â materion lles fel hwn?

On recommendation 21.22, I very much welcome the Minister's commitment to developing a child protection training programme for school governors.

Finally, I welcome the commitment to consult on the issue of mandatory Criminal Records Bureau checks for school governors.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. You need to wind up now.

Gwenda Thomas: Although we must guard against an over-reliance on CRB checks, we must have regard for the view of Governors Wales, which was expressed in a recent conference.

Brynle Williams: Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to contribute to this debate. Before writing my speech this afternoon, I read with interest the website of the Children's Commissioner for Wales. Mr Clarke has set out a few key points that he would like to achieve for children in Wales, which I wholly support.

We need to ensure that children are safe from harm and abuse—that goes without saying. We must ensure that they have the opportunities and services that they need and deserve. They need to be respected and valued and have a voice in their communities, and they should be able to play as full a part as possible in making the decisions that affect them. They also need to know their rights as young people.

It is all very well, Minister, to accept the commissioner's findings, but you must ensure that that commitment is followed through with actions. Why has there been a delay in implementing recommendations 21.5 and 21.6 of the report as well as others, as we have heard? The timescale that you should have adhered to is there in black and white, but you appear to have chosen to ignore it. If you cannot be trusted to carry out what you promise, this is a sad day for the children of Wales.

O ran argymhelliad 21.22, croesawaf yn frwd ymrwymiad y Gweinidog i ddatblygu rhaglen hyfforddi amddiffyn plant i lywodraethwyr ysgolion.

Yn olaf, croesawaf yr ymrwymiad i ymgynghori ar wiriadau gorfodol y Swyddfa Cofnodion Troseddol ar gyfer llywodraethwyr ysgolion.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mae angen ichi ddirwyn i ben yn awr.

Gwenda Thomas: Er bod yn rhaid inni ochel rhag bod yn or-ddibynnol ar wiriadau'r Swyddfa Cofnodion Troseddol, rhaid inni ystyried barn Llywodraethwyr Cymru, a fyngwyd mewn cynhadledd yn ddiweddar.

Brynle Williams: Diolch ichi am roi cyfle imi gyfrannu at y ddatl hon. Cyn ysgrifennu fy araith y prynhawn yma, yr oedd yn ddi-ddorol darllen gwefan Comisiynydd Plant Cymru. Mae Mr Clarke wedi nodi ychydig bwyntiau allweddol yr hoffai ei gyflawni ar gyfer plant yng Nghymru, pwyntiau yr wyf yn eu cefnogi'n llwyr.

Mae angen inni sicrhau bod plant yn cael eu diogelu rhag niwed a rhag cael eu cam-drin—mae hynny'n sefyll i reswm. Rhaid inni sicrhau y cânt y cyfleoedd a'r gwasanaethau sydd eu hangen arnynt ac y maent yn eu haeddu. Mae angen iddynt gael eu parchu a'u gwerthfawrogi a chael llais yn eu cymunedau, a dylent allu chwarae rhan mor lawn â phosibl yn y broses o wneud y penderfyniadau sy'n effeithio arnynt. Mae angen iddynt wybod eu hawliau fel pobl ifanc hefyd.

Mae'n ddigon hawdd, Weinidog, derbyn canfyddiadau'r comisiynydd, ond rhaid ichi sicrhau y caiff ymrwymiad ei ategu drwy weithredoedd. Pam y bu oedi cyn gweithredu argymhellion 21.5 a 21.6 yr adroddiad yn ogystal ag argymhellion eraill, fel y clywsom? Mae'r amserlen y dylech fod wedi ei dilyn ar ddu a gwyn, ond ymddengys ichi ddewis ei hanwybyddu. Os na ellir ymddiried yn och i gadw at eich addewid, mae hwn yn ddiwrnod trist i blant Cymru.

It would be irresponsible of me to say that you can do everything overnight, but it has been months since the publication of the report. To issue guidance to schools is hardly rocket science; it could have been done immediately. Something as simple as that would have achieved a very positive result, and would have shown young people and their teachers, parents and governors that the administration is not all talk.

It is essential that all necessary steps are taken to allow young people to highlight any fears or concerns that they may have with regard to issues that concern them. They must be assured that their concerns will be dealt with as quickly as possible and in the strictest of confidence. Young people need to trust adults to look after them. We must all ensure that their trust is respected and that they receive the first-class service that they wholly deserve.

Some of the strands are being addressed, Minister, and it would be foolish to say otherwise, but more needs to be done, and the political will must be there to ensure that we make changes to improve the lives of all young people, not just those in Wales.

Jeff Cuthbert: By now, all Members are only too familiar with the disturbing events leading up to the Clywch inquiry. The commissioner's conclusions that certain adults in positions of authority failed to protect children from abuse, and failed to deal appropriately with their allegations have shocked us all. That is why the Assembly Government continues to be committed to implementing reforms based on the strong lessons learned.

Clywch made it clear that there were lessons for the whole of civil society and the public sector. The police, school staff and governors, the Welsh Joint Education Committee and the media were all asked to examine their procedures and practices, and to work towards examples of excellence that would ensure that children were protected at every stage. There can be no higher priority than to protect children placed in one's care,

Byddai'n anghyfrifol imi ddweud y gallwch wneud popeth dros nos, ond aeth misoedd heibio ers cyhoeddi'r adroddiad. Nid yw cyhoeddi canllawiau i ysgolion yn orchwyl anodd; gellid bod wedi gwneud hynny ar unwaith. Byddai rhywbeth mor syml â hynny wedi arwain at ganlyniad cadarnhaol iawn, a byddai wedi dangos i bobl ifanc a'u hathrawon, eu rhieni a llywodraethwyr nad geiriau gwag a lefarir gan y weinyddiaeth.

Mae'n hanfodol y caiff pob cam sy'n angenrheidiol ei gymryd i ganiatáu i bobl ifanc amlygu unrhyw ofnau neu bryderon a allai fod ganddynt o ran y materion sy'n peri pryder iddynt. Rhaid iddynt gael sicrwydd yr ymdrinnir â'u pryderon cyn gynted â phosibl a hynny'n gwbl gyfrinachol. Mae angen i bobl ifanc allu ymddiried mewn oedolion i ofalu amdanynt. Rhaid inni sicrhau y caiff eu hymddiriedaeth ei barchu a'u bod yn cael y gwasanaeth o'r radd flaenaf y maent yn ei haeddu.

Ymdrinnir â rhai o'r meysydd, Weinidog, a byddai'n ffôl dweud yn wahanol, ond mae angen gwneud mwy, ac mae'n rhaid i'r ewyllys gwleidyddol fodoli er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn gwneud newidiadau i wella bywydau pob person ifanc, nid dim ond y rhai hynny yng Nghymru.

Jeff Cuthbert: Erbyn hyn, mae pob Aelod yn gyfarwydd iawn â'r digwyddiadau trallodus a arweiniodd at ymchwiliad Clywch. Cafodd pob un ohonom ein brawychu gan gasgliadau'r comisiynydd y bu i rai oedolion mewn swyddi awdurdodol fetu ag amddiffyn plant rhag cael eu camdrin, a methu ag ymdrin yn briodol â'u honiadau. Dyna pam mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn parhau i fod yn ymrwymedig i roi diwygiadau ar waith yn seiliedig ar y gwersi cryf a ddysgwyd.

Mae'n glir o adroddiad Clywch bod gwersi i gymdeithas wâr gyfan a'r sector cyhoeddus cyfan. Gofynnwyd i'r heddlu, staff a llywodraethwyr ysgolion, Cyd-bwyllgor Addysg Cymru a'r cyfryngau archwilio eu gweithdrefnau a'u harferion, a gweithio tuag at enghreifftiau o ragoriaeth a fyddai'n sicrhau y câi plant eu hamddiffyn ar bob cam. Nid oes blaenoriaeth sy'n uwch nag amddiffyn plant a roddir dan ofal rhywun, pa

whether that is within social services or within any school setting where someone acts in loco parentis. Immediate action and sharing all concerns with the appropriate office holders are vital to ensure that predators are stopped in their tracks. Clear complaint pathways must be set up so that staff know with whom to raise their concerns.

4.30 p.m.

I am happy to see that guidance on whistleblowing procedures will be sent to every school in Wales in 2006, after the consultation begins. My only request of the Assembly Government is that it sends the consultation document out to schools as soon as possible. I know that the plan is for it to be sent in autumn this year, but such a serious issue means that progress can never come too early, especially as further education colleges in Wales have had such a procedure in place since 2002. I also welcome the news that the Assembly will be able to issue a model policy early next year, which will ensure that non-teaching staff, as well as teaching staff, receive guidance on how to whistleblow. I also look with interest to Gwenda Thomas's review on safeguarding vulnerable children. I know that there has been a great deal of work to ensure that the review fully covers each aspect of its remit. In relation to recommendations 21.10 and 21.11, the WJEC was directed by the children's commissioner to urgently review its internal disciplinary procedures and it was also charged with drawing up detailed child protection guidance for examiners and its employees. The WJEC has acted on these directives and has sent both its updated child protection policy, and details of its new disciplinary arrangements, to the children's commissioner for consideration. I am confident that the commissioner will give the WJEC's child protection policy a thorough analysis. I am also confident that both parties will work together to ensure that the final protection arrangements are highly robust and make a clean break with the past.

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

un a yw hynny o fewn y gwasanaethau cymdeithasol neu yng nghyd-destun ysgol lle mae rhywun yn gweithredu in loco parentis. Mae cymryd camau ar unwaith a rhannu pob pryder gyda'r deiliaid swyddi priodol oll yn hanfodol er mwyn atal y rhai sy'n aflonyddu ar blant. Rhaid sefydlu llwybrau cwynion clir er mwyn i staff wybod gyda phwy i drafod eu pryderon.

Yr wyf yn falch o weld y caiff canllawiau ar weithdrefnau chwythu'r chwiban eu hanfon i bob ysgol yng Nghymru yn 2006, ar ôl dechrau'r ymgynghoriad. Yr unig beth a ofynnaf i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad yw ei bod yn anfon y ddogfen ymgynghori i ysgolion cyn gynted â phosibl. Gwn mai'r bwriad yw ei hanfon yn yr hydref eleni, ond mae mater mor ddifrifol â hwn yn golygu na fydd cynnydd byth yn rhy gynnar, yn enwedig gan fod gweithdrefn debyg wedi bod ar waith mewn colegau addysg bellach yng Nghymru ers 2002. Croesawaf hefyd y newyddion y bydd y Cynulliad yn gallu cyhoeddi model o bolisi ddechrau'r flwyddyn nesaf, a fydd yn sicrhau bod staff nad ydynt yn staff addysgu, yn ogystal â staff addysgu, yn cael canllawiau ar chwythu'r chwiban. Edrychaf ymlaen yn eiddgar at adolygiad Gwenda Thomas o ddiogelu plant sy'n agored i niwed hefyd. Gwn fod cryn dipyn o waith wedi'i wneud i sicrhau y bydd yr adolygiad yn trafod pob agwedd ar ei gylch gwaith yn llawn. O ran argymhellion 21.10 a 21.11, cyfarwyddwyd CBAC gan y comisiynydd plant i adolygu ei weithdrefnau disgyblu mewnol ar fyrder, a gofynnwyd iddo hefyd lunio canllawiau manwl ar amddiffyn plant i arholwyr a'u cyflogeion. Mae CBAC wedi gweithredu ar y cyfarwyddiadau hyn ac wedi anfon ei bolisi amddiffyn plant wedi'i ddiweddarau, a manylion am ei drefniadau disgyblu newydd, at y comisiynydd plant er mwyn iddo eu hystyried. Yr wyf yn ffyddiog y bydd y comisiynydd yn dadansoddi polisi amddiffyn plant CBAC yn drwyadl. Yr wyf yn ffyddiog hefyd y bydd y ddwy ochr yn gweithio gyda'i gilydd er mwyn sicrhau bod y trefniadau amddiffyn terfynol yn gadarn iawn ac yn torri cysylltiad â'r gorffennol.

Y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes (Jane Davidson): Diolchaf i'r Aelodau

Members for an interesting and wide-ranging debate, which covered the majority of recommendations in the Clywch report. I think that it was Jonathan Morgan, David, who said, during the first debate on Clywch, that he thought that the Assembly was stronger, in terms of taking an approach forward, for unanimity. At that time, the Assembly endorsed the Welsh Assembly Government's actions. Given that substantial further progress has been made, it would be odd not to welcome that progress, which has been made not just by the Assembly Government, as I said in my opening remarks, but by a whole range of other organisations, whose work has only changed as a result of the catalytic effect of the Clywch inquiry report. That is very much what we are here to endorse today: the fact that the children's commissioner's work has changed the profile of dealing with child protection issues in Wales. That thoroughly demonstrates the value of the children's commissioner. I like Denise's expression, although I will have to ask the commissioner himself whether he likes being seen as the greatest weapon in support of young people.

I endorse the comments that procedures need to be in place, but we must remember the factors that affect a number of the responses in terms of timescales in particular. The commissioner, quite rightly, put a set of timescales in the report to demonstrate where he wanted immediate intervention or where he felt that things could wait a little longer. However, if you look at the timescales to which the Assembly operates in any case, if you have a piece of regulation or guidance ready to go—that is, it has been translated and is ready for action—it then goes out to consultation for around eight to 12 weeks, because we consult on everything we do, and I think that we make better policy as a result. We then receive the returns, which must be appropriately analysed. That analysis leads to a further piece of guidance, which must go through a proper translation process, and, if it is statutory, it must go through a legislative timetable, which may mean a committee timetable and so on. Therefore, a normal piece of work leading to guidance would usually take about a year in the Assembly timetable. If you consider that the requirement from the Clywch inquiry was for

am ddadl ddiddorol ac eang ei chwmpas, a drafododd y rhan fwyaf o'r argymhellion yn adroddiad Clywch. Credaf mai Jonathan Morgan, David, a ddywedodd, yn ystod y ddadl gyntaf ar Clywch, ei fod yn credu bod y Cynulliad yn gryfach, o ran y ffordd ymlaen, am ei fod yn unfrydol. Bryd hynny, cymeradwyodd y Cynulliad gamau gweithredu Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. O gofio bod cynnydd sylweddol pellach wedi'i wneud, byddai'n rhyfedd peidio â chroesawu'r cynnydd hwnnw, a wnaed nid yn unig gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad, ond fel y dywedais yn fy sylwadau agoriadol, gan nifer fawr o sefydliadau eraill, y mae eu gwaith ond wedi newid o ganlyniad i effaith ysgogol yr adroddiad ar ymchwiliad Clywch. Dyna'r hyn yn y bôn yr ydym yma i'w gymeradwyo heddiw: y ffaith bod gwaith y comisiynydd plant wedi newid proffil ymdrin â materion amddiffyn plant yng Nghymru. Mae hynny yn dangos i'r dim pa mor werthfawr yw'r comisiynydd plant. Yr wyf yn hoffi ymadrodd Denise, ond bydd yn rhaid imi ofyn i'r comisiynydd ei hun a yw'n hoffi cael ei ystyried fel yr arf fwyaf i gefnogi pobl ifanc.

Cytunaf â'r sylwadau bod angen i weithdrefnau fod ar waith, ond rhaid inni gofio'r ffactorau sy'n effeithio ar nifer o'r ymatebion o ran terfynau amser yn enwedig. Gwnaeth y comisiynydd, a hynny'n hollol gywir, gynnwys terfynau amser yn yr adroddiad i ddangos lle yr oedd am weld ymyrraeth ar unwaith neu lle yr oedd yn teimlo y gellid aros ychydig eto. Fodd bynnag, os edrychwch ar y terfynau amser y mae'r Cynulliad yn gweithredu'n unol â hwy sut bynnag, os oes gennych reoliad neu ganllaw yn barod i'w gyhoeddi—hynny yw, mae wedi cael ei gyfieithu ac mae'n barod i gael ei roi ar waith—yna cynhelir ymgynghoriad arno am tua wyth i 12 wythnos, gan ein bod yn ymgynghori ar bopeth a wnawn, a chredaf ein bod yn llunio polisiau gwell o ganlyniad. Yna daw'r ymatebion i law, y mae'n rhaid eu dadansoddi'n briodol. Mae'r dadansoddiad hwnnw yn arwain at ganllaw arall, y mae'n rhaid iddo gael ei gyfieithu, ac os yw'n ganllaw statudol, mae'n rhaid iddo ddilyn amserlen ddeddfwriaethol, a allai olygu amserlen pwyllgor ac ati. Felly, byddai darn arferol o waith sy'n arwain at ganllawiau yn

the Assembly Government to undertake a large number of revisions to guidance, we have been proceeding as best we can in terms of taking this agenda forward. Where, in response to the report, we refer to guidance rather than regulation, that purely reflects issues around powers. It does not mean that we are less serious about the issues, but that we do not have the authority to put statutory guidance in place. However, we will do what we can to put in place good practice guidance either by ourselves, or with other partners.

I am grateful for your acknowledgement that, in terms of specialist personnel, we agreed that issue. The key element was in relation to how to deliver on the children's commissioner's concern about the failure of governing bodies to undertake disciplinary consideration where a prosecution did not proceed or failed. An example is the failure of governing bodies to complete consideration of disciplinary action if a staff member resigns. We have seen that happen before, and the action not be completed. There were key concerns in terms of the child protection agenda, which we dealt with immediately. Circular 45/2004 was prepared during the children's commissioner's work and was out in November 2004. On the issue around the specific recommendation of tribunals, there was concern about how that potentially cut across employment legislation. We worked closely with the commissioner's office and the commissioner and I attended a meeting of the taskforce where we considered the proposal of having specialist support, in the form of specialist independent members funded by the Assembly Government.

Peter said that he would like to see voting rights for specialist independent members. I broadly support that view. We will go out to consultation on both proposals, because I need to be sure that if those members have voting rights, it does not in any way cut across employment rights for teachers, because we cannot have different employment rights for teachers in Wales and

cymryd tua blwyddyn yn ôl amserlen y Cynulliad. Os meddylwch mai'r gofyniad yn ymchwiliad Clywch oedd y dylai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wneud nifer fawr o ddiwygiadau i ganllawiau, yr ydym wedi bod yn bwrw ymlaen â'r gwaith orau y gallwn o ran gweithredu ar yr agenda hon. Lle y cyfeiriwn at ganllawiau yn hytrach na rheoliadau, mewn ymateb i'r adroddiad, nid yw hynny ond yn adlewyrchu materion o ran pwerau. Nid yw'n golygu nad ydym yn cymryd y materion cymaint o ddifrif, ond nad oes gennym yr awdurdod i roi canllawiau statudol ar waith. Fodd bynnag, fe wnawn bopeth o fewn ein gallu i roi canllawiau ymarfer da ar waith naill ai gennym ni neu gyda phartneriaid eraill.

Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am eich cydnabyddiaeth, o ran personél arbenigol, inni gytuno ar y mater hwnnw. Yr elfen allweddol oedd sut i ymateb i bryder y comisiynydd plant ynglŷn â methiant cyrff llywodraethol i ystyried camau disgyblu lle nad oedd erlyniad wedi mynd rhagddo neu lle yr oedd wedi methu. Un enghraifft yw methiant cyrff llywodraethol i gwblhau ystyried camau disgyblu os bydd aelod o staff yn ymddiswyddo. Yr ydym wedi gweld hynny yn digwydd o'r blaen, a'r camau heb gael eu cymryd. Codwyd pryderon allweddol o ran yr agenda amddiffyn plant, y bu inni ymdrin â hwy ar unwaith. Paratowyd Cylchlythyr 45/2004 yn ystod gwaith y comisiynydd plant ac fe'i cyhoeddwyd ym mis Tachwedd 2004. O ran yr argymhellad penodol ynglŷn â thribiwnlysoedd, bu pryder ynghylch sut y gallai hynny amharu ar ddeddfwriaeth gyflogaeth o bosibl. Bu inni weithio'n agos gyda swyddfa'r comisiynydd a'r comisiynydd a mynychais gyfarfod o'r tasglu lle y bu inni ystyried y cynnig o gael cymorth arbenigol, ar ffurf aelodau annibynnol arbenigol wedi'u hariannu gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad.

Dywedodd Peter yr hoffai weld hawliau pleidleisio ar gyfer aelodau annibynnol arbenigol. Cefnogaf y farn honno yn gyffredinol. Byddwn yn ymgynghori ar y ddau gynnig, oherwydd mae angen imi fod yn siŵr os oes gan yr aelodau hynny hawliau pleidleisio, nad yw hynny'n amharu ar hawliau cyflogaeth athrawon o gwbl, gan na allwn gael hawliau cyflogaeth gwahanol i

teachers in England. Otherwise we would end up with case law against us with regard to specialist independent members. I am exploring that issue at the moment, but, on the basis of initial considerations with our colleagues, the members of the taskforce, I suggest that if we go out to consultation with both proposals, we will also be able to explore the legal and other implications in depth. We will then have that information available for everyone when we consider it, as appropriate.

On Janet Ryder's point, I am happy to give a commitment that in terms of advice on safeguarding children boards, on which we will consult in the summer, we will be explicit about the children's commissioner's recommendations. This ties in with Mark Isherwood's contribution—it was the least constructive contribution, but we are used to that. In many ways it is related to the fact that the Children Act 2004 has only just been passed. Therefore, the safeguarding children boards will not be set up until 2006. We are anticipating that in ensuring that guidance will be in place to fully take account of the children's commissioner's recommendations.

I wanted to highlight a few other points in relation to people's contributions. Many Members rightly recognised the importance of whistleblowing issues. We are actively considering those, but because we have no statutory authority over this, it is a question of how to get the strongest possible guidance on whistleblowing. Colleges have had whistleblowing procedures in place since 2002. We want to build on areas where we know that that has worked. We know that it has not stopped issues around whistleblowing in the further education sector. Therefore, we need to ensure that we have effective policies in place and a model policy for early next year. We will be exploring that in committee.

On the recommendation on counselling, I very much support the idea of counselling and personal support for young people. We have built that into our 14 to 19 agenda as a key element. We are the only part of the UK to have actively built in personal support for young people as being as important as the

athrawon yng Nghymru ac i athrawon yn Lloegr. Fel arall byddai cyfraith achos yn ein herbryn o ran aelodau annibynnol arbenigol. Yr wyf yn ystyried y mater hwnnw ar hyn o bryd, ond, ar sail yr ystriaethau cychwynnol gydag aelodau'r tasglu, awgrymaf, os ymgynghorwn ar y ddau gynnig, y byddwn hefyd yn gallu ystyried y goblygiadau cyfreithiol a'r goblygiadau eraill yn fanwl. Yna bydd y wybodaeth honno ar gael i bawb pan fyddwn yn ei hystyried, fel y bo'n briodol.

O ran pwynt Janet Ryder, yr wyf yn fwy na pharod i wneud ymrwymiad o ran cyngor ar fyrddau diogelu plant, y byddwn yn ymgynghori arnynt yn ystod yr haf, y byddwn yn benodol ynglŷn ag argymhellion y comisiynydd plant. Mae hyn yn gysylltiedig â chyfraniad Mark Isherwood—sef y cyfraniad lleiaf adeiladol, ond yr ydym yn gyfarwydd â hynny. Mewn sawl ffordd, mae a wnelo'r ffaith mai newydd gael ei phasio y mae Deddf Plant 2004. Felly, ni chaiff byrddau diogelu plant eu sefydlu tan 2006. Rhagwelwn hynny o ran sicrhau y bydd canllawiau ar waith i ystyried argymhellion y comisiynydd plant yn llawn.

Yr oeddwn am nodi ychydig o bwyntiau eraill o ran cyfraniadau pobl. Cydnabu llawer o'r Aelodau, a hynny'n deg, bwysigrwydd materion chwythu'r chwiban. Yr ydym wrthi'n ystyried y rheini, ond gan nad oes gennym unrhyw awdurdod statudol dros hyn, mae'n fater o sut i gael y canllawiau cryfaf posibl ar chwythu'r chwiban. Bu gweithdrefnau chwythu'r chwiban ar waith mewn colegau ers 2002. Yr ydym am adeiladu ar feysydd lle y gwyddom fod hynny wedi gweithio. Gwyddom nad yw wedi atal problemau o ran chwythu'r chwiban yn y sector addysg bellach. Felly, mae angen inni sicrhau bod gennym bolisiau effeithiol ar waith a pholisi enghreifftiol erbyn dechrau'r flwyddyn nesaf. Byddwn yn ystyried hynny yn y pwyllgor.

O ran yr argymhelliad ar gwrsela, yr wyf yn gefnogol iawn i'r syniad o gwrsela a chymorth personol i bobl ifanc. Yr ydym wedi cynnwys hynny yn ein hagenda ar gyfer pobl ifanc 14-19 oed fel elfen allweddol. Ni yw'r unig ran o'r DU i fynd ati i gynnwys cymorth personol i bobl ifanc fel rhywbeth

learning agenda. We very much support the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children's work in Wrexham and that of Eye-to-Eye in Rhondda Cynon Taf, which are independent counselling services.

I was pleased to see Mark Isherwood at Stonewall's conference, which focused on homophobic bullying and the action that needs to be taken to address that. I hope that Mark and his party would strongly support that. I cannot comment on any conversations that Mark might have had in the margins, but certainly when I and my staff were present, the positive reaction of Stonewall to the Welsh Assembly Government's agenda on dealing with bullying and other issues was reflected time and again in contributors' comments.

Mark Isherwood *rose*—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Minister, you have 10 seconds in which to finish.

Jane Davidson: To finish, Gwenda's review on safeguarding vulnerable children is terribly important and we look forward to the outcome of the review in December.

cyn bwysiced â'r agenda ddysgu. Yr ydym yn gefnogol iawn i waith y Gymdeithas Genedlaethol er Atal Creulondeb i Blant yn Wrecsam a gwaith Eye-to-Eye yn Rhondda Cynon Taf, sy'n wasanaethau cwnsela annibynnol.

Yr oeddwn yn falch o weld Mark Isherwood yng nghynhadledd Stonewall, a ganolbwyntiodd ar fwlio homoffobig a'r camau y mae angen eu cymryd i fynd i'r afael â hynny. Gobeithiaf y byddai Mark a'i blaid yn cefnogi hynny'n gryf. Ni allaf wneud sylwadau ar unrhyw sgysiau y gallai Mark fod wedi'u cael ar yr ymylon, ond yn sicr pan oedd fy staff a minnau'n bresennol, clywid ymateb cadarnhaol Stonewall i agenda Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar ymdrin â bwlio a materion eraill dro ar ôl tro yn sylwadau cyfranwyr.

Mark Isherwood *a gododd*—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Weinidog, mae gennych 10 eiliad i gloi.

Jane Davidson: I gloi, mae adolygiad Gwenda o ddiogelu plant sy'n agored i niwed yn hynod bwysig ac edrychwn ymlaen at ganlyniadau'r adolygiad ym mis Rhagfyr.

*Gwelliant 1: O blaid 10, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 34.
Amendment 1: For 10, Abstain 0, Against 34.*

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

Bourne, Nick
Davies, Glyn
Francis, Lisa
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle

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

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

Jones, Carwyn
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Williams, Kirsty

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment defeated.*

4.40 p.m.

*Gwelliant 2: O blaid 16, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 28.
 Amendment 2: For 16, Abstain 0, Against 28.*

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

Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Davies, Glyn
 Francis, Lisa
 German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Lloyd, David
 Melding, David
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

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
 Idris Jones, Denise
 James, Irene
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 3: O blaid 16, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 28.
 Amendment 3: For 16, Abstain 0, Against 28.*

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

Bates, Mick

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

Andrews, Leighton

Black, Peter
 Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Davies, Glyn
 Francis, Lisa
 German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Lloyd, David
 Melding, David
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

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
 Idris Jones, Denise
 James, Irene
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 4: O blaid 16, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 28.
 Amendment 4: For 16, Abstain 0, Against 28.*

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

Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Davies, Glyn
 Francis, Lisa
 German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Isherwood, Mark
 Lloyd, David
 Melding, David
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

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
 Idris Jones, Denise
 James, Irene
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda

Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.

Cynnig (NDM2379): O blaid 43, Ymatal 1, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM2379): For 43, Abstain 1, 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, Glyn
 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
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Melding, David
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

Ymataliodd yr Aelod canlynol:
 The following Member abstained:

Isherwood, Mark

Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.

Dadl Fer Short Debate

Mynd i'r Afael â'r Argyfwng Tai Fforddiadwy yng Nghymru Tackling the Affordable Housing Crisis in Wales

Mick Bates: The objective of a decent home for all, irrespective of the ability to pay, has long been a central part of UK housing policy, no matter which political party has been in power. However, the increasing targeting of public resources has meant that investment in housing has declined over the past 40 years. Against this, local authorities must balance the demands of repair and improvement, private property and, at the same time, support housing associations to maintain and build housing. The Minister's increase in funding for housing, which she mentioned earlier today, is welcome. The report that she presented on 23 February, 'Housing in Wales in the Twenty-first Century', also offers some hope to people that this affordable housing crisis can be resolved.

The key issues that I wish to examine in this debate are mechanisms to build affordable housing, and how a pool of affordable housing can be retained, so that future generations do not face the problems that we see today. I do not need to remind you that sustainability is one of the three key aims of the Assembly. However, many of our communities in Wales are no longer sustainable, because young people are being priced out. Particularly in rural Wales, this has severe implications for the language and our cultural heritage. Equally, in urban areas, the lack of affordable housing is pushing people into poorer housing conditions.

The building of affordable housing is at a 50-year low, and it must be increased significantly if people at the sharp end of the housing crisis are to have access to decent and permanent homes. The creation of genuinely mixed, and therefore sustainable, communities, in which we have quality social housing, owner-occupiers and properties for rent, is an aim that I am sure we all share. In this debate, I will suggest ways of doing that

Mick Bates: Bu'r amcan o sicrhau cartref safonol i bawb, heb ystyried y gallu i dalu, yn rhan ganolog o bolisi tai'r DU, waeth pa blaid a fu mewn grym. Fodd bynnag, yn sgîl y duedd gynyddol i dargedu adnoddau cyhoeddus mae buddsoddiad mewn tai wedi gostwng dros y 40 mlynedd diwethaf. Yn wyneb hyn, rhaid i awdurdodau lleol gydbwysu'r galw am waith atgyweirio a gwelliannau, eiddo preifat ac, ar yr un pryd, helpu cymdeithasau tai i gynnal a chadw tai a'u hadeiladu. Mae cynnydd y Gweinidog yn y cyllid ar gyfer tai, y cyfeiriodd ato yn gynharach heddiw, i'w groesawu. Mae'r adroddiad a gyflwynwyd ganddi ar 23 Chwefror, 'Tai yng Nghymru yn yr Unfed Ganrif ar Hugain', hefyd yn cynnig llygedyn o obaith i bobl y gellir datrys yr argyfwng hwn o ran tai fforddiadwy.

Y materion allweddol yr wyf am eu hystyried yn y ddadl hon yw systemau o adeiladu tai fforddiadwy, a sut y gellir cadw cronfa o dai fforddiadwy, fel na fydd cenedlaethau'r dyfodol yn wynebu'r problemau a welwn heddiw. Nid oes angen imi eich atgoffa bod cynaliadwyedd yn un o dri phrif nod y Cynulliad. Fodd bynnag, mae llawer o'n cymunedau yng Nghymru nad ydynt yn gynaliadwy mwyach, am fod prisiau tai yn rhy uchel i bobl ifanc. Yn enwedig yng Nghymru wledig, mae i hyn oblygiadau difrifol o ran yr iaith a'n trefnadaeth ddiwylliannol. Yn yr un modd, mewn ardaloedd trefol, mae'r prinder tai fforddiadwy yn gorfodi pobl i fyw mewn tai gwaeth eu cyflwr.

Mae nifer y tai fforddiadwy sy'n cael eu hadeiladu ar ei hisaf ers hanner canrif, a rhaid ei chynyddu'n sylweddol er mwyn i bobl ar y rheng flaen yn yr argyfwng tai gael cyfle i fyw mewn tai safonol a sefydlog. Mae creu cymunedau gwirioneddol gymysg, ac felly gynaliadwy, lle y mae tai cymdeithasol o safon, perchen-feddianwyr ac eiddo ar rent, yn nod a rennir gan bob un ohonom, mae'n siŵr. Yn y ddadl hon, awgrymaf ffyrdd o

and possibly the community land trust, or similar initiatives, will help to redress the balance. It must be possible to achieve this. It must be possible to help the people that I am certain we all see in our surgeries, whom, when we see them at first, are full of hope that they can get a house. A great many of them become frustrated and, unfortunately, if they cannot get a house, a great many end up disillusioned with the system and with us as politicians in general.

I will briefly examine the situation in my own local authority area. In Powys, we sold off a further 249 houses in 2004. Some 126 of these were in my constituency. Over half of what were council houses have now been sold. This leaves Powys with a shortfall of 300 affordable houses every year. There are now only 5,800 properties left for rental in Powys. For those who would like to buy a house, a so-called affordable house in Powys—according to one figure that I received yesterday—now costs £160,000. However, that figure can go down to around £120,000. I am sure that most of you are aware of a similar trend. This figure of £120,000 is seven times higher than the average salary in Powys.

We are all aware that the Labour Government in Westminster is keen for us all to have assets. In particular, it is keen for us all to be home owners, as that makes us more responsible citizens—the fear of debt certainly keeps you in line. In England, John Prescott recently announced a plan for affordable homes. Where has that plan gone? Do we have such a plan in Wales, Minister? I am sure that you will make reference to that in your reply.

This crisis is fuelled by rising house prices due to the influx of many people with a lot of money from areas where house prices have increased. As we all know, that puts tremendous pressure on the housing market. What are the basic issues that we need to address? First, we have to provide land. We have to ensure that we bring forward surplus and underused sites for the development of

wneud hynny a bydd yr ymddiriedolaeth tir cymunedol o bosibl, neu fentrau tebyg, yn helpu i sicrhau'r cydbwysedd. Rhaid ei bod yn bosibl cyflawni hyn. Rhaid ei bod yn bosibl helpu'r bobl yr ydym oll yn eu gweld yn ein cyngorfeydd mae'n siŵr, sydd, pan ydym yn eu gweld yn gyntaf, yn llawn gobaith y gallant gael tŷ. Aiff llawer ohonynt i deimlo'n rhwystredig ac, yn anffodus, os na allant gael tŷ, bydd llawer ohonynt yn siomi gyda'r system a chyda ni fel gwleidyddion yn gyffredinol.

Ystyriaif y sefyllfa yn fy ardal awdurdod lleol fy hun yn fras. Ym Mhowys, gwerthwyd 249 o dai eraill yn 2004. Yr oedd tua 126 o'r rhain yn fy etholaeth i. Mae dros hanner y tai a oedd yn dai cyngor gynt wedi'u gwerthu bellach. Mae hyn yn golygu bod gan Bowys ddiffyg o tua 300 o dai fforddiadwy bob blwyddyn. Dim ond 5,800 o eiddo sydd ar ôl i'w rhentu bellach ym Mhowys. I'r rhai sy'n dymuno prynu tŷ, mae tŷ fforddiadwy honedig ym Mhowys—yn ôl un ffigur a dderbyniais ddoe—yn awr yn costio £160,000. Fodd bynnag, gall y ffigur hwnnw ostwng i tua £120,000. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod y rhan fwyaf ohonoch yn ymwybodol o duedd debyg. Mae'r ffigur hwn o £120,000 saith gwaith yn uwch na'r cyflog cyfartalog ym Mhowys.

Yr ydym oll yn ymwybodol bod y Llywodraeth Lafur yn San Steffan yn awyddus bod gan bob un ohonom asedau. Yn enwedig, mae'n awyddus inni oll fod yn berchen ar dai, gan fod hynny'n ein gwneud yn ddinasyddion mwy cyfrifol—mae ofn dyled yn sicr yn gwneud ichi ymddwyn yn gyfrifol. Yn Lloegr yn ddiweddar, cyhoeddodd John Prescott gynllun ar gyfer tai fforddiadwy. I ble aeth y cynllun hwnnw? A oes gennym gynllun o'r fath yng Nghymru, Weinidog? Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwch yn cyfeirio at hynny yn eich ateb.

Caiff yr argyfwng hwn ei waethygu gan brisiau tai sy'n codi o ganlyniad i'r mewnlifiad mawr o bobl â llawer o arian sy'n dod o ardaloedd lle y mae prisiau tai wedi codi. Fel y gwyddom oll, rhydd hynny bwysau mawr ar y farchnad dai. Beth yw'r materion sylfaenol y mae angen inni fynd i'r afael â hwy? Yn gyntaf, rhaid inni ddarparu tir. Rhaid inni sicrhau ein bod yn cyflwyno

affordable housing. We must make more properties available by developing new affordable homes or releasing underused properties. We must enable access to finance. The setting up of a community trust to provide access to loans, or investing in shared-ownership schemes, is a vital way forward.

We must ensure that these developments are of a high quality, and that there is sufficient expertise to ensure that each development is well designed and locally distinctive. I fear for the maintenance of some Redrow houses with lots of wood and cladding. We have to address that issue so that the people who live in these houses, whether they are rented or in their ownership, can look forward to a low cost future for running the house. We will otherwise find ourselves piling up problems for the future. We must also ensure that there is support through professional service—legal, planning, architectural and business advice—so that people who wish to enter into the shared ownership or community land trust can see a way forward.

I am sure that the Minister will mention the homebuy scheme. I have consistently made the point, Minister, that homebuy is currently transferred with housing grants to local authorities. That provides a conflict for local authorities when they allocate their social housing grant, and homebuy gets squeezed. It would be useful to create a separate budget line for homebuy, so that it is transparent, and so that future Assembly Members can argue for an increase in that line.

4.50 p.m.

There are some inherent problems with homebuy. The major problem that I see—and I will illustrate this—is that the upper limit is too low. I have already said that the average affordable home in Powys costs around £120,000. As I will show you with the

safleoedd nad oes eu hangen bellach a safleoedd na wneir digon o ddefnydd ohonynt i ddatblygu tai fforddiadwy. Rhaid inni sicrhau bod mwy o eiddo ar gael drwy ddatblygu tai fforddiadwy newydd neu ryddhau eiddo na wneir digon o ddefnydd ohonynt. Rhaid inni sicrhau bod cyllid ar gael. Mae sefydlu ymddiriedolaeth gymunedol i sicrhau y gall pobl gael benthyciadau, neu fuddsoddi mewn cynlluniau rhan-berchenogaeth, yn ffordd allweddol ymlaen.

Rhaid inni sicrhau bod y datblygiadau hyn o safon dda, a bod digon o arbenigedd i sicrhau bod pob datblygiad wedi'i gynllunio'n dda a'i fod yn nodweddiadol o'r ardal leol. Pryderaf ynghylch y gwaith o gynnal a chadw rhai o'r tai Redrow sydd â llawer o bren a chladin. Rhaid inni fynd i'r afael â'r mater hwnnw fel y gall y bobl sy'n byw yn y tai hyn, pa un a ydynt yn eu rhentu neu'n berchen arnynt, edrych ymlaen at ddyfodol cost isel ar gyfer rhedeg y tŷ. Fel arall, byddwn yn creu problemau ar gyfer y dyfodol. Rhaid inni hefyd sicrhau bod cymorth drwy wasanaeth proffesiynol—cyngor cyfreithiol, cynllunio, pensaernïol a busnes—fel y gall y bobl sydd am ymrwymo i ranberchenogaeth neu ymddiriedolaeth tir cymunedol weld ffordd ymlaen.

Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd y Gweinidog yn crybwyll y cynllun cymorth prynu. Yr wyf wedi codi'r pwynt yn gyson, Weiniog, bod cymorth prynu yn cael ei drosglwyddo gyda grantiau tai i awdurdodau lleol ar hyn o bryd. Mae hynny'n creu gwrthdaro i awdurdodau lleol pan fyddant yn dyrannu eu grantiau tai cymdeithasol, a chaiff cymorth prynu ei wasgu. Byddai'n ddefnyddiol creu llinell ar wahân yn y gyllideb ar gyfer cymorth prynu, fel ei bod yn dryloyw, ac fel y gall Aelodau'r Cynulliad yn y dyfodol ddadlau dros gynnydd yn y llinell honno.

Ceir rhai problemau cynhenid gyda chymorth prynu. Y brif broblem yn fy marn i—a byddaf yn rhoi enghraifft o hyn—yw'r ffaith bod y terfyn uchaf yn rhy isel. Yr wyf eisoes wedi dweud bod y tŷ fforddiadwy cyffredin ym Mhowys yn costio tua £120,000. Fel y

example of one of my constituents, Mr Ashworth, it is impossible to buy at the current limits.

Mr Ashworth is 33, and lives with his parents. He has two children, aged two and six, and he wants a home of his own. He thought that the homebuy scheme would provide a perfect solution for him. Last year, Mr Ashworth was one of the lucky few people who were told that they could join the scheme.

A sum of £200,000 was available and there were six lucky applicants. Unfortunately, Mr Ashworth was not one of them. He was keen to progress his application, and talked to the Mid-Wales Housing Association, which administers homebuy in Powys. He was told that it would not be possible to advise him until May on whether the scheme would run in this coming year. In the meantime, Mr Ashworth had gone to secure a mortgage from his bank. The bank manager advised him that he would have to consider getting another part-time job to supplement his income to ensure he could stand the strain that a 27-year, £52,000 mortgage would place on his modest income. That job would be on top of the 40 hours he works in St David's House in Newtown. So much for encouraging a work-life balance.

The underlying problem is simply that high house prices and the current homebuy value limits are not compatible. In fact, the scheme only operates in one place in Montgomeryshire, and that is in Newtown, because you cannot find properties scraping into the value limits anywhere else.

Moving on to further solutions, I have met with you, Minister, and we have talked many times about the establishment of shared-ownership schemes. I commend the Clwyd Alyn Housing Association, which, in my local town, Llanfair Caereinion, has engaged in a good shared-ownership scheme with a local building firm, Pickstock Homes, and has enabled five local people to live in a house on shared equity. The great point about these schemes is that you can staircase

dangosaf ichi drwy ddefnyddio un o'm hetholwyr, Mr Ashworth, fel enghraifft, mae'n amhosibl prynu ar y terfynau presennol.

Mae Mr Ashworth yn 33, ac yn byw gyda'i rieni. Mae ganddo ddau o blant, yn ddwy oed ac yn chwech oed, ac mae am brynu ei gartref ei hun. Meddylodd y byddai'r cynllun cymorth prynu yn rhoi'r ateb delfrydol iddo. Y llynedd, yr oedd Mr Ashworth yn un o'r ychydig rai ffodus a gafodd wybod y gallai ymuno â'r cynllun.

Yr oedd swm o £200,000 ar gael ac yr oedd chwe ymgeisydd lwcus. Yn anffodus, nid oedd Mr Ashworth yn un ohonynt. Yr oedd yn awyddus i barhau â'i gais, a siaradodd â Chymdeithas Tai Canolbarth Cymru, sy'n gweinyddu cymorth prynu ym Mhowys. Dywedwyd wrtho na fyddai'n bosibl ei gynghori tan fis Mai o ran pa un a fyddai'r cynllun yn parhau yn y flwyddyn i ddod. Yn y cyfamser, aeth Mr Ashworth i drefnu morgais gyda'i fanc. Dywedodd y rheolwr banc wrtho y byddai'n rhaid iddo ystyried cael swydd ran-amser arall i ategu ei incwm er mwyn sicrhau y gallai ymdopi â'r straen y byddai morgais o £52,000 am 27 mlynedd yn ei roi ar ei incwm cymharol fach. Byddai'r swydd honno yn ychwanegol at y 40 awr y mae'n gweithio yn Nhŷ Dewi Sant yn y Drenewydd. Am annog cydbwysedd rhwng bywyd a gwaith.

Y broblem sylfaenol, yn syml, yw'r ffaith nad yw'r prisiau tai uchel a therfynau gwerth presennol cymorth prynu yn cydweddu â'i gilydd. Mewn gwirionedd, dim ond mewn un lle yn sir Drefaldwyn y mae'r cynllun yn gweithredu, sef yn y Drenewydd, oherwydd na allwch ddod o hyd i eiddo sydd o fewn y terfynau gwerth yn unrhyw le arall.

Gan symud ymlaen at atebion eraill, yr wyf wedi cwrdd â chi, Weimidog, ac yr ydym wedi siarad sawl gwaith am sefydlu cynlluniau rhanberchenogaeth. Cymeradwyaf Gymdeithas Tai Clwyd Alun, yn fy nhref leol, Llanfair Caereinion, sydd wedi llunio cynllun rhanberchenogaeth da gyda chwmmi adeiladu lleol, Pickstock Homes, ac wedi galluogi pum person lleol i fyw mewn tŷ ar ecwiti a rennir. Y peth da ynglŷn â'r cynlluniau hyn yw'r ffaith y gallwch gynyddu eich perchenogaeth

ownership—as your earnings improve, you can increase the amount of equity that you own in the house. That is a fine solution. I hope that in your reply, Minister, you will tell us that you will encourage shared-ownership schemes.

The other form of encouragement that we should see from you, Minister, is for community land trusts. These trusts offer a tangible transfer of power over decision-making and resources to local people. This, to me, as a Liberal Democrat, is an essential prerequisite for real empowerment. If you control the local asset base for these houses, you answer one of the biggest questions, namely how to retain affordable housing in a community. If a community land trust can build homes in a community, they are covenanted so that they must be returned to the trust on resale. The trust will then sell them on at the local affordable price. There are problems with the definition of affordability, but we have good statistics available on income. Those statistics allow you to see that, in the Welshpool area, where I live, the average household income is £19,000. Therefore community land trusts can build affordable houses.

My big plea at the end of this speech, Minister, is that you enable communities to have a handbook which will help them as communities to solve their affordable housing issues. I want the Government to be proactive and play a part in telling people how to acquire land, how to access finance, how to get professional services to assist in starting a land trust, because that is a big step.

Finally, we can be more proactive than was the case with the affordable housing report from the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee. There is an issue in the planning departments of many of our authorities, where the section 106 agreement distinction for local people does not address the issue of affordability. I have seen many houses in recent years sold with a section 106 agreement. The cheapest house in a development in my area costs £117,000. A

yn raddol—wrth i'ch enillion wella, gallwch gynyddu swm yr ecwiti yr ydych yn berchen arno yn y tŷ. Mae hynny'n ateb da. Gobeithiaf yn eich ateb, Weinidog, y byddwch yn dweud wrthym y byddwch yn annog cynlluniau rhan-berchenogaeth.

Rhywbeth arall y dylech ei annog, Weinidog, yw ymddiriedolaethau tir cymunedol. Mae'r ymddiriedolaethau hyn yn cynnig ffordd diriaethol o drosglwyddo pŵer dros y broses gwneud penderfyniadau ac adnoddau i bobl leol. Mae hyn, i mi, fel Democrat Rhyddfrydol, yn rhagofyniad hanfodol er mwyn grymuso pobl yn wirioneddol. Os byddwch yn rheoli'r sylfaen asedau leol ar gyfer y cartrefi hyn, byddwch yn ateb un o'r cwestiynau mwyaf, sef sut i gadw tai fforddiadwy mewn cymuned. Os gall ymddiriedolaeth tir cymunedol adeiladu cartrefi mewn cymuned, cânt eu cyfamodi fel bod yn rhaid eu dychwelyd i'r ymddiriedolaeth pan gânt eu hailwerthu. Wedyn bydd yr ymddiriedolaeth yn eu gwerthu ymlaen am bris fforddiadwy lleol. Ceir problemau o ran y diffiniad o fforddiadwyedd, ond mae ystadegau da ar gael ar incwm. Mae'r ystadegau hynny yn dangos ichi, yn ardal y Trallwng, lle yr wyf yn byw, mai £19,000 yw incwm cyfartalog cartrefi. Felly, gall ymddiriedolaeth tir cymunedol adeiladu tai fforddiadwy.

Fy mhle ar ddiwedd yr araith hon, Weinidog, yw eich bod yn galluogi cymunedau i gael llawlyfr a fydd yn eu helpu fel cymunedol i ddatrys eu problemau o ran tai fforddiadwy. Yr wyf am i'r Llywodraeth fod yn rhagweithiol a chwarae rhan yn y broses o ddweud wrth bobl sut i gael tir, sut i gael cyllid, sut i gael gwasanaethau proffesiynol i'w cynorthwyo i ddechrau ymddiriedolaeth tir, am fod hynny'n gam mawr.

Yn olaf, gallwn fod yn fwy rhagweithiol nag adroddiad tai fforddiadwy Pwyllgor yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad. Cyfyd problem yn adrannau cynllunio llawer o'n hawdurdodau, lle nad yw gwahaniaeth y cytundeb adran 106 ar gyfer pobl leol yn mynd i'r afael â'r broblem o ran fforddiadwyedd. Yr wyf wedi gweld llawer o dai yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf yn cael eu gwerthu â chytundeb adran 106. Cant un deg saith o filoedd o bunnau yw gwerth y tŷ

couple from Llansanffraid came to see me; they could afford £86,000. This is meant to be how the local council answers local need and affordability in one. You know as well as I do, Minister, that section 106 agreements are not working.

The only answer that we can see is that you, hopefully with the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside, will encourage the use of rural exceptions, so that, in a village such as Llansanffraid in my constituency, where a builder is willing to build affordable housing, the county council will look creatively at using rural exceptions so that we can build affordable housing.

I hope that you will agree with some of my points, Minister, because I know of your desire to see this problem solved. However, people must be much more proactive to ensure that the planning system is an enabling system, and that the housing system offers opportunities to make our communities—rural and urban—truly sustainable.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Have you given permission for anyone to speak, Mick?

Mick Bates: No-one asked.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I am aware that Mark Isherwood has asked. You have one minute, Mark.

Mark Isherwood: I hope that you will share my concern at these issues: since 1997, the number of new-build social housing in Wales has fallen by three quarters, there has been a halving in assisted home purchases, there is now a backlog of more than £4 billion worth of urgent housing repairs, and 98,000 properties are now unfit. All that has happened as house prices and homelessness have risen in Wales. I hope that you will share with me the view that, unless and until the Minister and her Government start listening and accepting the advice on offer from bodies such as the Welsh Federation of Housing Associations, the Council of Mortgage Lenders Cymru, Business in the

rhataf mewn datblygiad yn fy ardal. Daeth cwpl o Lansanffraid i'm gweld; gallent fforddio £86,000. Dyma sut y mae'r cyngor lleol fod i ateb angen lleol a fforddiadwyedd yn un. Fe wyddoch cystal â minnau, Weinidog, nad yw'r cytundebau adran 106 yn gweithio.

Yr unig ateb y gallwn ei weld yw y byddwch chi, gyda'r Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad gobeithio, yn annog y defnydd o eithriadau gwledig, fel y bydd y cyngor lleol, mewn pentref fel Llansanffraid yn fy etholaeth i, lle y mae adeiladwr yn barod i adeiladu tai fforddiadwy, yn edrych yn greadigol at ddefnyddio eithriadau gwledig fel y gallwn adeiladu tai fforddiadwy.

Gobeithiaf y byddwch yn cytuno â rhai o'm pwyntiau, Weinidog, oherwydd gwn eich bod yn awyddus i sicrhau bod y broblem hon yn cael ei datrys. Fodd bynnag, rhaid i bobl fod yn llawer mwy rhagweithiol i sicrhau bod y system gynllunio yn system sy'n galluogi, a bod y system dai yn cynnig cyfleoedd i wneud ein cymunedau—gwledig a threfol—yn wirioneddol gynaliadwy.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: A ydych wedi rhoi caniatâd i unrhyw un siarad, Mick?

Mick Bates: Ni ofynnodd neb am gael siarad.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Gwn fod Mark Isherwood wedi gofyn. Mae gennych un funud, Mark.

Mark Isherwood: Gobeithiaf y byddwch yn rhannu fy mhryder ynglŷn â'r materion hyn: ers 1997, mae nifer y tai cymdeithasol newydd yng Nghymru wedi gostwng o dri chwarter, mae nifer y pryniadau tai a gynorthwyir wedi haneru, mae ôl-groniad o waith atgyweirio brys ar dai gwerth dros £4 biliwn erbyn hyn, ac mae 98,000 o eiddo bellach yn anaddas. Mae hynny oll wedi digwydd wrth i brisiau tai a digartrefedd godi yng Nghymru. Gobeithiaf y byddwch yn cytuno â mi na fyddwn byth yn gallu ymdrin â'r mater hwn gyda'n gilydd a sicrhau nad yw Cymru yn wynebu argyfwng tai gwirioneddol yn fuan oni bai a hyd nes bod y Gweinidog a'i Llywodraeth yn dechrau

Community, and the Chartered Institute of Housing Cymru, we will never be able to tackle this issue together and ensure that Wales does not face a real housing crisis soon.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Will you allow Rhodri Glyn Thomas a few words, Mick?

Mick Bates: Yes.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: You have about 20 seconds, Rhodri Glyn Thomas.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I thank Mick Bates for raising this important matter. I am aware of the Minister's commitment to this issue. I also support the call for considering community land trust schemes. However, will you also consider the possibility, Minister, of using people who are creating affordable housing in more populated areas, to see how we can extend their activities in rural areas where there are not as many opportunities and not so many large companies able to take up those initiatives?

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Members will see that we have gone over on time, but we started the clock a bit early this time.

The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration (Edwina Hart): Thank you, Mick, for acknowledging that the comprehensive paper that I provided for the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee on 23 February demonstrates how far we have come since we published 'Better Homes for People in Wales'. However, I am the first to acknowledge that we cannot stand still. That is why the paper also flags up a range of emerging issues, which we are also considering.

Later this year, we will also publish our affordable housing toolkit, which will bring together in one document the tools and powers available to authorities in procuring affordable housing. However, the committee paper demonstrates the full range of mechanisms that are available to authorities

gwrando a derbyn y cyngor a gynigir gan gyrff fel Ffederasiwn Cymdeithasau Tai Cymru, Cyngor Benthycwyr Morgais Cymru, Busnes yn y Gymuned, a Sefydliad Tai Siartredig Cymru.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: A wnewch ganiatáu i Rhodri Glyn Thomas ddweud ychydig o eiriau, Mick?

Mick Bates: Gwnaf

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Mae gennych tua 20 eiliad, Rhodri Glyn Thomas.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Diolchaf i Mick Bates am godi'r mater pwysig hwn. Yr wyf yn ymwybodol o ymrwymiad y Gweinidog i'r mater hwn. Cefnogaf innau hefyd y galw am ystyried cynlluniau ymddiriedolaeth tir cymunedol. Fodd bynnag, a wnewch hefyd ystyried y posibilrwydd, Weinidog, o ddefnyddio pobl sy'n creu tai fforddiadwy mewn ardaloedd mwy poblog, i weld sut y gallwn ehangu eu gweithgareddau mewn ardaloedd gwledig lle nad oes cymaint o gyfleoedd a lle nad oes cymaint o gwmnïau mawr sy'n gallu ymgymryd â'r mentrau hynny?

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Bydd Aelodau yn gweld ein bod wedi mynd dros amser, ond dechreuwyd y cloc ychydig yn gynnar y tro hwn.

Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio (Edwina Hart): Diolch, Mick, am gydnabod bod y papur cynhwysfawr a ddarparwyd gennyf ar gyfer y Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio ar 23 Chwefror yn dangos y cynnydd a wnaed gennym ers inni gyhoeddi 'Cartrefi Gwell i Bobl Cymru'. Fodd bynnag, fi yw'r cyntaf i gydnabod na allwn sefyll yn yr unfan. Dyna'r rheswm y mae'r papur hefyd yn cyfeirio at ystod o faterion sy'n dod i'r golwg, yr ydym hefyd yn eu hystyried.

Yn ddiweddarach eleni, byddwn hefyd yn cyhoeddi ein pecyn cymorth tai fforddiadwy, a fydd yn dwyn ynghyd yr offer a'r pwerau sydd ar gael i awdurdodau wrth gaffael tai fforddiadwy yn un ddogfen. Fodd bynnag, mae papur y pwyllgor yn dangos yr holl ddulliau sydd ar gael i awdurdodau a'r

and the support that we are providing to them in delivering all aspects of housing strategies. It seems clear to me from the review that we commissioned of local housing strategies that some authorities are not delivering the goods when it comes to housing, and when we publish the toolkit I intend to send a clear message of the Assembly's expectations regarding their responsibilities.

In budget terms, we have had an increase in the social housing grant, which is most welcome. However, I am the first to acknowledge that more money for the housing agenda will be welcome if resources become available.

We have increased the maximum purchase price limits for the homebuy scheme and extended the amount of equity loan available under it in rural areas from 30 to 50 per cent. However, increasing resources for homebuy in rural areas, lowering equity thresholds, and having more flexible value limits will have little effect if there is an insufficient supply of suitable property in the market. I hope that our affordable housing toolkit will help authorities to address these serious supply deficiencies. In some parts of rural Wales we have also provided funding for designated rural housing enablers who are already working closely with communities to identify their housing needs, and with relevant local authorities, registered social landlords and other stakeholders, to help address these issues.

5.00 p.m.

I am yet to be persuaded, Mick, of the value of creating a separate funding stream for the homebuy scheme. It is for local authorities to determine local needs and priorities. There is no limit to the proportion of available resources that can be spent on homebuy schemes if that is what authorities indicate as being a high priority. However, I keep this issue under review. We keep the homebuy scheme under constant review, and make revisions as necessary. We are currently considering the maximum price thresholds as

cymorth yr ydym yn ei roi iddynt wrth gyflawni pob agwedd ar strategaethau tai. Ymddengys yn glir i mi, o'r adolygiad o strategaethau tai lleol a gomisiynwyd gennym, nad yw rhai awdurdodau yn cyflawni o ran tai, a phan fyddwn yn cyhoeddi'r pecyn offer bwriadaf anfon neges glir yn nodi disgwyliadau'r Cynulliad o ran eu cyfrifoldebau.

O ran y gyllideb, cafwyd cynnydd yn y grant tai cymdeithasol, sydd i'w groesawu'n fawr. Fodd bynnag, fi yw'r cyntaf i gydnabod y croesewir mwy o arian ar gyfer yr agenda dai os daw adnoddau ar gael.

Yr ydym wedi cynyddu'r terfynau'r pris prynu uchaf ar gyfer y cynllun cymorth prynu ac wedi cynyddu swm y benthyciad ecwiti sydd ar gael o dan y cynllun mewn ardaloedd gwledig o 30 i 50 y cant. Fodd bynnag, ni fydd cynyddu adnoddau ar gyfer cymorth prynu mewn ardaloedd gwledig, lleihau trothwyon ecwiti, a chael terfynau gwerth mwy hyblyg yn cael fawr ddim effaith os bydd cyflenwad annigonol o eiddo yn y farchnad. Gobeithiaf y bydd ein pecyn cymorth tai fforddiadwy yn helpu awdurdodau i fynd i'r afael â'r prinder mawr hwn mewn cyflenwad. Mewn rhai rhannau o Gymru wledig, darparwyd arian gennym hefyd ar gyfer swyddogion galluogi dynodedig ym maes tai yng nghefn gwlad, sydd eisoes yn gweithio'n agos gyda chymunedau i nodi eu hanghenion tai, a chydag awdurdodau lleol, landlordiaid cymdeithasol cofrestredig a rhanddeiliaid eraill, i helpu i fynd i'r afael â'r materion hyn.

Nid wyf yn argyhoeddedig eto, Mick, o werth creu ffrwd arian ar wahân ar gyfer y cynllun cymorth prynu. Cyfrifoldeb awdurdodau lleol yw pennu anghenion a blaenoriaethau lleol. Nid oes terfyn ar gyfran yr adnoddau sydd ar gael y gellir eu gwario ar gynlluniau cymorth prynu os mai dyna'r hyn a nodir gan awdurdodau fel blaenoriaeth uchel. Fodd bynnag, byddaf yn parhau i adolygu'r mater hwn. Adolygwn y cynllun cymorth prynu yn gyson, ac fe'i diwygiwn yn ôl yr angen. Ar hyn o bryd, ystyriwn y trothwyau o ran yr

part of the regular review of acceptable cost guidance figures. We are, obviously, aware of the ODPM's proposals to reform low-cost housing in England. However, home ownership is a matter of choice. In considering home ownership or rental, we must consider the whole market, and we should not always subscribe to the dogma that buying a home is best when renting should be an opportunity for as many people as possible if that is what they wish. In Wales, we have already given registered social landlords the facility to offer homebuy loans to tenants, so we are a step ahead of England in that respect. We must develop solutions that reflect needs in Wales, and we have commissioned a review of low-cost home ownership to help inform our future policy direction in this regard.

We have no plans to introduce hypothecated funding for housing for key workers, since the ability to provide assistance already exists in the homebuy scheme, which is run through the social housing grant programme. It is for local authorities to identify priorities for investment in accordance with their housing strategies and assessments of housing needs. That is why those strategies must be on the ball with regard to what is happening on the ground.

On housing supply, we do not prescribe the number of houses that authorities must build, but they are required to give regard to the household projections that the Assembly publishes when preparing their development plans. When we publish our affordable housing toolkit, we will encourage authorities to make land available for affordable housing. We are also considering what contribution land owned by the Assembly and the WDA could make, and officials will bring a paper to a Cabinet sub-committee in due course. A steering group is currently discussing the provision of affordable housing on national forest land.

With regard to planning, local planning authorities already set out policy in their development plans for an element of

uchafswm pris fel rhan o'r adolygiad rheolaidd o ffigurau canllaw costau derbyniol. Yr ydym, yn amlwg, yn ymwybodol o gynigion Swyddfa'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog i ddiwygio tai cost isel yn Lloegr. Fodd bynnag, mae perchentyaeth yn fater o ddewis. Wrth ystyried perchentyaeth neu rentu tŷ, mae'n rhaid inni ystyried y farchnad gyfan, ac ni ddylwn bob amser gredu mai prynu tŷ yw'r peth gorau i'w wneud pan ddylai rhentu fod yn gyfle i gymaint o bobl â phosibl os mai dyna a ddymunant. Yng Nghymru, yr ydym eisoes wedi rhoi'r cyfleuster i landlordiaid cymdeithasol rhestredig gynnig benthyciadau cymorth prynu i denantiaid, felly yr ydym gam ar y blaen i Loegr yn hynny o beth. Mae'n rhaid inni ddod o hyd i atebion sy'n adlewyrchu anghenion yng Nghymru, ac yr ydym wedi comisiynu adolygiad o berchentyaeth cost isel i helpu i lywio ein cyfeiriad o ran polisiau yn y dyfodol yn hyn o beth.

Nid oes gennym unrhyw gynlluniau i gyflwyno arian sydd wedi ei glustnodi ar gyfer tai i weithwyr allweddol, gan fod y gallu i roi cymorth eisoes yn bodoli yn y cynllun cymorth prynu. Cyfrifoldeb awdurdodau lleol yw nodi blaenoriaethau o ran buddsoddi yn unol â'u strategaethau tai a'u hasesiadau o ran anghenion tai. Dyna pam y mae'n rhaid i'r strategaethau hyn fod yn fanwl gywir o ran yr hyn sy'n digwydd ar lawr gwlad.

O ran y cyflenwad tai, nid ni sy'n dynodi nifer y tai y mae'n rhaid i awdurdodau eu hadeiladu, ond mae'n ofynnol iddynt ystyried yr amcanestyniadau cartrefi a gyhoeddir gan y Cynulliad wrth baratoi eu cynlluniau datblygu. Pan gyhoeddwn ein pecyn cymorth prynu tai fforddiadwy, anogwn awdurdodau i sicrhau bod tir ar gael ar gyfer tai fforddiadwy. Yr ydym hefyd yn ystyried pa gyfraniad y gallai tir y mae'r Cynulliad a'r WDA yn berchen arno ei wneud, a bydd swyddogion yn dod â phapur i is-bwyllgor y Cabinet maes o law. Mae grŵp llywio yn trafod y ddarpariaeth o dai fforddiadwy ar dir coedwig cenedlaethol ar hyn o bryd.

O ran cynllunio, mae awdurdodau cynllunio lleol eisoes wedi nodi polisiau yn eu cynlluniau datblygu o ran darparu elfen o dai

affordable housing to be provided as part of new housing developments. The thresholds for such policies are best set by local planning authorities based on evidence of need, and are subject to negotiation with developers on a site-by-site basis. I am pleased to report that many local authorities are adopting this approach, which is proving to be successful in some areas. Where there is evidence of need, local planning authorities can also include rural exception sites in their development plans, which was a point raised, to help satisfy the requirement for affordable housing to meet local needs. This is an important part of their powers. The use of targets and quotas for affordable housing is being considered as part of the review 'Technical Advice Note (Wales) 2: Planning and Affordable Housing'. The new draft will take into account the ongoing Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee report on affordable housing, and, of course, it will look at the ODPM's report on sustainable communities and homebuy expansion. I will be providing an update on the ODPM's housing strategy to the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee on 27 April.

Affordability is just as important for existing houses, which is why we have stringent controls on rents and are spending significant sums on improving thermal insulation to reduce fuel costs and so on. I reiterate that we are totally committed to bringing the standard of social housing up to the Welsh housing quality standard by 2012. The introduction of this target to achieve the standard will result in substantial investment in the existing housing stock. Currently, we estimate that it will cost about £3 billion, but, obviously, I will review that in the light of the housing strategies that will come in. The bulk of capital resources available to local authorities are not hypothecated, giving councils the flexibility to address some local pressures in accordance with local priorities. The new housing renewal arrangements came into effect on 18 July 2002, and they include a new, general power that enables local authorities to provide assistance for housing renewal, which I think is a good area as well. The nature of that assistance and how it is

fforddiadwy fel rhan o ddatblygiadau tai newydd. Awdurdodau cynllunio lleol sydd yn y sefyllfa orau o ran pennu trothwyau ar gyfer polisiau o'r fath, a hynny ar sail tystiolaeth o angen, ac maent yn amodol ar drafodaethau gyda datblygwyr fesul safle. Mae'n bleser gennyf nodi bod llawer o awdurdodau lleol yn mabwysiadu'r ymagwedd hon, sydd wedi bod yn llwyddiannus mewn rhai ardaloedd. Lle y ceir tystiolaeth o angen, gall awdurdodau cynllunio lleol hefyd gynnwys safleoedd eithrio gwledig yn eu cynlluniau datblygu, a oedd yn bwynt a godwyd, i helpi i fodloni'r gofyniad am dai fforddiadwy i ddiwallu anghenion lleol. Mae hon yn rhan bwysig o'u pwerau. Ystyrir y defnydd o dargedau a chwotâu ar gyfer tai fforddiadwy fel rhan o'r adolygiad 'Nodyn Cyngor Technegol (Cymru) 2: Cynllunio a Thai Fforddiadwy'. Bydd y drafft newydd yn ystyried adroddiad parhaus Pwyllgor yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad ar dai fforddiadwy, ac, wrth gwrs, bydd yn edrych ar adroddiad Swyddfa'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ar gymunedau cynaliadwy ac ehangu cymorth prynu. Rhoddaf y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am strategaeth tai Swyddfa'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog i'r Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio ar 27 Ebrill.

Mae fforddiadwyedd yr un mor bwysig ar gyfer tai presennol, a dyma pam mae gennym reolau caeth ar renti a'n bod yn gwario symiau enfawr ar wella dulliau inswleiddio thermol i leihau costau tanwydd ac ati. Dywedaf eto ein bod yn gwbl ymrwymedig i godi safon tai cymdeithasol i safon ansawdd tai Cymru erbyn 2012. Bydd cyflwyno'r targed hwn i gyflawni'r safon yn arwain at fuddsoddiad sylweddol yn y stoc tai presennol. Ar hyn o bryd, amcangyfrifwn y bydd yn costio tua £3 biliwn, ond, yn amlwg, adolygaf hynny yng ngoleuni'r strategaethau tai a gyflwynir. Nid yw'r rhan fwyaf o'r adnoddau cyfalaf sydd ar gael i awdurdodau lleol wedi'u clustnodi, sy'n rhoi'r hyblygrwydd i gynghorau fynd i'r afael â rhai pwysau lleol yn unol â blaenoriaethau lleol. Daeth y trefniadau adnewyddu tai newydd i rym ar 18 Gorffennaf 2002, ac maent yn cynnwys pŵer newydd, cyffredinol sy'n galluogi awdurdodau lleol i roi cymorth ar gyfer adnewyddu tai, a chredaf fod hwn yn faes da hefyd. Ni ddynodir natur y cymorth

delivered is not prescribed centrally, but is for local authorities to determine.

Sustainable construction is also an issue in this debate. We are actively pursuing several initiatives in respect of sustainable construction based on our investment in housing, all of which aim to produce economic, social and environmental benefits in support of sustainable development. There are issues in construction that we must look into with regard to creating more affordable housing.

On the right to buy, we have made an Order enabling landlords to restrict resales of former right-to-buy properties in rural areas. This will help to preserve the stock of housing for purchase by local people on modest incomes. We have also asked the UK Government to allow the suspension of the right to buy in areas where there is pressure on housing. This would require primary legislation, but I am committed to this as I believe that this is another vehicle for us to use to start to tackle some of the issues.

With regard to community land trusts, your enthusiasm for this work, Mick, and your efforts have been excellent. Assembly officials are considering the potential role of community land trusts in the provision of affordable housing. As I mentioned in answer to earlier questions on the matter, I am aware of their use in Scotland, but I want circumstances and solutions that are appropriate to Wales. Dialogue remains ongoing with various representatives of potential community land trusts in Wales regarding the nature of the support required. I have an open-door policy on any ideas on this matter, because I think it is a highly innovative area that we need to look at.

I will comment briefly on shared equity schemes. We promote homebuy as the preferred method of providing assistance to potential homeowners, as the scheme is easy to administer and easily understood. The scheme also provides homebuyers with a better deal on their investment when the

hwnnw na sut y'i cyflwynir yn ganolog, ond penderfyniad awdurdodau lleol ydyw.

Mae adeiladu cynaliadwy hefyd yn rhan o'r ddatl hon. Yr ydym yn mynd ar drywydd sawl menter o ran adeiladu cynaliadwy ar sail ein buddsoddiad mewn tai, a nod pob un yw creu buddiannau economaidd, cymdeithasol ac amgylcheddol i ategu datblygu cynaliadwy. Mae'n rhaid inni edrych ar faterion ym maes adeiladu o ran creu tai mwy fforddiadwy.

Ar sail yr hawl i brynu, yr ydym wedi llunio Gorchymyn sy'n galluogi landlordiaid i gyfyngu ar ailwerthu hen eiddo hawl i brynu mewn ardaloedd gwledig. Bydd hyn yn helpu i gadw'r stoc tai fel y gall y bobl leol ar incwm cymharol fach eu prynu. Yr ydym hefyd wedi gofyn i Lywodraeth y DU ganiatáu'r penderfyniad i atal yr hawl i brynu mewn ardaloedd lle mae pwysau ar dai. Byddai hyn yn gwneud deddfwriaeth sylfaenol yn ofynnol ond yr wyf yn ymrwymedig i hyn oherwydd credaf fod hwn yn gyfrwng arall inni ei ddefnyddio i ddechrau mynd i'r afael â rhai o'r materion.

O ran ymddiriedolaethau tir cymunedol, bu eich brwdfrydedd am y gwaith hwn, Mick, a'ch ymdrechion yn rhagorol. Mae swyddogion y Cynulliad yn ystyried rôl bosibl ymddiriedolaethau tir cymunedol o ran y ddarpariaeth o dai fforddiadwy. Fel y crybwyllais mewn ateb i gwestiynau cynharach ar y mater, yr wyf yn ymwybodol o'u defnydd yn yr Alban, ond yr wyf am gael amgylchiadau ac atebion sy'n briodol i Gymru. Parheir i gynnal trafodaethau gydag amrywiaeth o gynrychiolwyr o ymddiriedolaethau tir cymunedol posibl yng Nghymru o ran natur y cymorth sydd ei angen. Yr wyf yn fodlon derbyn syniadau ar y mater hwn, oherwydd credaf fod y maes y mae angen inni edrych arno yn faes arloesol iawn.

Gwnaf ychydig o sylwadau ar gynlluniau ecwiti a rennir. Hyrwyddwn gymorth prynu fel y dewis ddull ar gyfer rhoi cymorth i ddarpar berchenogion tai, gan fod y cynllun yn hawdd i'w weinyddu ac yn hawdd ei ddeall. Mae'r cynllun hefyd yn rhoi bargaen well i berchenogion tai ar eu buddsoddiad

property is sold than earlier shared ownership models provided. My officials are currently engaging the advocates of community land trusts in an exercise to compare the relative benefits to the individual homeowner of a community land trust community ownership model with existing equity share models. I think that this will be a useful piece of work. My officials will also be exploring the possibility of alternative equity share mortgage arrangements with the Council of Mortgage Lenders. Mark always says that we do not listen or talk to anyone, but that is far from the truth. We talk to everyone, and we take in ideas, and, collectively, when all the ideas come in, we should work together to create solutions to the housing issues in Wales.

pan werthir yr eiddo nag yr oedd modelau rhan-berchenogaeth cynharach yn ei roi. Ar hyn o bryd, mae fy swyddogion yn cysylltu â hyrwyddwyr ymddiriedolaethau tir cymunedol mewn ymarfer i gymharu buddiannau cymharol model perchenogaeth cymunedol ymddiriedolaeth tir cymunedol y perchennog tŷ unigol gyda modelau rhannu ecwiti presennol. Credaf y bydd hwn yn ddarn defnyddiol o waith. Bydd fy swyddogion hefyd yn ymchwilio i'r posibilrwydd o drefniadau morgeisi rhannu ecwiti amgen gyda'r Cyngor Benthycwyr Morgeisi. Mae Mark bob amser yn dweud nad ydym yn gwranddo ar neb nac yn siarad â neb, ond mae hynny ymhell o'r gwir. Yr ydym yn siarad â phawb, ac yr ydym yn derbyn syniadau, a, chyda'n gilydd, ar ôl inni dderbyn yr holl syniadau, dylem weithio gyda'n gilydd i greu atebion i'r problemau tai yng Nghymru.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: That concludes today's business.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Daw hynny â chyfarfod heddiw i ben.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5.06 p.m.
The meeting ended at 5.06 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)