



**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Cofnod y Trafodion**

**The National Assembly for Wales
The Record of Proceedings**

**Dydd Mercher, 16 Tachwedd 2005
Wednesday, 16 November 2005**

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

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

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

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

Heddlu yng Nghymru Welsh Police Force

Q1 The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrat Group (Michael German): Will the Minister make a statement on the discussions that she has had with the UK Government on the proposed Welsh police force? OAQ0436(SJR)

The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration (Edwina Hart): I refer you to the statement about police restructuring that I made in Plenary yesterday.

Michael German: During the course of your statement yesterday, you said, in answer to subsequent questions, that you were looking for a further battle at a later stage. You gave the impression that this was a battle that was lost. In your view, should we be resigned to the fact that there will be a single Welsh police force?

Edwina Hart: I cannot recall using the words 'further battle' or any warfare terms at all. As far as I am concerned, the process is going forward as I outlined in yesterday's statement. The Social Justice and Regeneration Committee met this morning, and it will produce a report to be debated in Plenary. That report will go forward, as part of the consultation process, to the Home Secretary.

Michael German: You said yesterday that you were looking forward to the opportunity to have powers over policing, and the money that goes with that, devolved to the Assembly. You also said that that is the issue that you would want to pursue and influence over the longer term. Implicit in that is the fact that the longer term is a battle that you want to fight and an issue that you want to take forward, but that, in the shorter term, we will have to be resigned to having a single

C1 Arweinydd Grŵp Rhyddfrydwyr Democratiaidd Cymru (Michael German): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am drafodaethau a gafodd gyda Llywodraeth y DU ynghylch y cynnig i greu un heddlu yng Nghymru? OAQ0436(SJR)

Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio (Edwina Hart): Fe'ch cyfeirïaf at y datganiad ynghylch ailstrwythuro'r heddlu a wneuthum yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ddoe.

Michael German: Yn ystod eich datganiad ddoe, dywedasoch, wrth ymateb i gwestiynau dilynol, eich bod yn disgwyl brwydr bellach yn ddiweddarach. Rhoesoch yr argraff fod y frwydr hon eisoes wedi'i cholli. Yn eich barn chi, a ddylem dderbyn y ffaith mai dim ond un heddlu fydd yng Nghymru?

Edwina Hart: Ni allaf gofio defnyddio'r geiriau 'brwydr bellach' nac unrhyw dermau rhyfelgar o gwbl. Hyd y gwn i, mae'r broses yn mynd rhagddi fel yr amlinellais yn y datganiad ddoe. Cyfarfu'r Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio y bore yma, a bydd yn cynhyrchu adroddiad i'w drafod mewn Cyfarfod Llawn. Caiff yr adroddiad hwnnw ei gyflwyno, fel rhan o'r broses ymgynghori, i'r Ysgrifennydd Cartref.

Michael German: Yr oeddech yn dweud ddoe eich bod yn edrych ymlaen at y cyfle i weld pwerau dros blismona, a'r arian sy'n gysylltiedig â hynny, wedi'u datganoli i'r Cynulliad. Yr oeddech hefyd yn dweud mai dyna'r mater y byddech am ymchwilio iddo a dylanwadu arno yn y tymor hwy. Ymhlyg yn hynny mae'r ffaith fod y tymor hwy yn frwydr yr ydych am ei brwydro a mater yr ydych am weithredu arno. Ond yn y tymor byrrach bydd yn rhaid inni dderbyn mai un

Welsh police force. Has anything that Charles Clarke has said to you indicated that he is still prepared to listen to the argument, or should we take at face value what he has already told you?

Edwina Hart: Charles Clarke has made it quite clear that he wants to know the views of the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee, which I will put forward after discussion. In terms of devolution, I have always made it clear that the eventual aim should be to have responsibility for the police devolved to the Assembly. I would want that to happen only with the appropriate financial settlement.

The Leader of the Opposition (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Thank you for returning to this issue today, Minister, and for being prepared to engage in further questioning. I would like to ask about the process of consultation that Charles Clarke has initiated. From a letter that he wrote to MPs and chief constables last week, we know that his preferred option, although this is not the final option, is an all-Wales police force. Did he write to you?

Edwina Hart: As I said yesterday, I have spoken to the Home Secretary, and I had a letter from him last week. Therefore, I am having regular discussions on these matters. It is important that all Members recognise that I am in close discussions with Charles Clarke and that I always raise with him the matters raised by Assembly Members.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I am seeking to find out the extent to which Charles Clarke thinks that the National Assembly's views are important. I found it a little odd that when the BBC and the *Western Mail* reported this issue last week, the only indication that they gave in relation to people being informed of Charles Clarke's decision on an all-Wales police force was the reference to the fact that he had written to MPs and the chief constables. We need clarity as to whether you were told before or after the MPs, or at the same time.

Edwina Hart: I am not sure which letter to Members of Parliament you are referring to

heddlu fydd yng Nghymru. A oes unrhyw beth a ddywedodd Charles Clarke wrthoch wedi awgrymu ei fod yn dal yn barod i wrando ar y ddadl, neu a ddylem dderbyn yr hyn a ddywedodd wrthyh eisoes fel y mae?

Edwina Hart: Mae Charles Clarke wedi ei gwneud yn gwbl amlwg ei fod am gael gwybod beth yw safbwyntiau'r Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio, a gyflwynaf iddo ar ôl cael trafodaeth. O ran datganoli, eglurais o'r cychwyn cyntaf y dylem fod yn anelu yn y pen draw at gael cyfrifoldeb dros yr heddlu wedi'i ddatganoli i'r Cynulliad. Dim ond gyda'r setliad ariannol priodol y byddwn am i hynny ddigwydd.

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Diolch am ddychwelyd at y mater hwn heddiw, Weinidog, ac am fod yn barod i dderbyn cwestiynau pellach. Hoffwn holi am y broses ymgynghori a gychwynwyd gan Charles Clarke. O lythyr a ysgrifennodd at ASau a phrif gwnstabliaid yr wythnos diwethaf, gwyddom mai'r dewis sydd orau ganddo, er nad dyna'r dewis terfynol, yw un heddlu i Gymru gyfan. A ysgrifennodd atoch chi?

Edwina Hart: Fel y dywedais ddoe, yr wyf wedi siarad â'r Ysgrifennydd Cartref, a chefais lythyr ganddo yr wythnos diwethaf. Felly, yr wyf yn cael trafodaethau rheolaidd am y materion hyn. Mae'n bwysig i bob Aelod gydnabod fy mod yn cael trafodaethau manwl gyda Charles Clarke a bob amser yn codi gydag ef yr materion a godir gan Aelodau'r Cynulliad.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Yr wyf yn awyddus i wybod i ba raddau y cred Charles Clarke fod safbwyntiau'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn bwysig. Yr oedd braidd yn rhyfedd, pan oedd y BBC a'r *Western Mail* yn adrodd ar y mater hwn yr wythnos diwethaf, mai'r unig arwydd a roddwyd ganddynt mewn perthynas â phobl yn cael gwybod am benderfyniad Charles Clarke am heddlu i Gymru gyfan oedd y cyfeiriad at y ffaith ei fod wedi ysgrifennu at ASau a'r prif gwnstabliaid. Mae angen eglurder arnom a ddywedwyd wrthyh cyn neu ar ôl yr ASau, neu ar yr un pryd.

Edwina Hart: Nid wyf yn siŵr pa lythyr at Aelodau Seneddol yr ydych yn cyfeirio ato

because I am not privy to their postbags or how they receive correspondence. Charles Clarke wrote to me at the end of last week to discuss certain issues, and I spoke to him at the beginning of this week. What he wants to convey to MPs is entirely a matter for him.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: We will take it that he did consult you, but perhaps not at the same time as he consulted MPs and chief constables.

Another issue raised at today's meeting of the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee is the possible loss of up to 1,000 jobs, according to the trade union, with the introduction of an all-Wales police force. That has implications for front-line services and civilian staff. Do you agree that a response needs to be given to this claim and that Charles Clarke should remember that if that kind of loss is anticipated, we would not have the level of policing that we have in Wales at present?

Edwina Hart: I was not present during this discussion in committee, but I understand that the 1,000 figure was not discussed. I have met representatives of the trade union concerned to discuss its views on what would happen with reorganisation, and I cannot recall that figure being raised with me.

I make it quite clear that I would expect there to be major consultation should any of these issues arise. If any restructuring were to impact on jobs, we would hope that any losses would be down to natural wastage. If we are to have the same level of service, we must also look at the number of civilian jobs that are involved, to ensure that we give the same levels of service to the public. Therefore, my views on that are quite clear.

Given that you used the word 'consult', I would not expect to be asked about a Home Office press release, as I made quite clear yesterday. However, I am always informed of the up-to-date position on various issues and, if I do not think that I have been, I take the opportunity of picking up the telephone.

gan nad wyf yn cael gweld eu sachau post na sut y byddant yn cael gohebiaeth. Ysgrifennodd Charles Clarke ataf ddiwedd yr wythnos diwethaf i drafod rhai materion penodol, a siaradais ag ef ar ddechrau'r wythnos hon. Mater iddo ef yn llwyr yw'r hyn y mae am ei gyfleu i ASau.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Cymerwn iddo ymgynghori â chi, ond efallai na wnaeth hynny ar yr un pryd ag y bu'n ymgynghori ag ASau a phrif gwnstabiliaid.

Mater arall a godwyd yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio heddiw yw'r ffaith y gallai hyd at 1,000 o swyddi gael eu colli, yn ôl yr undeb llafur, pe bai yna heddlu i Gymru gyfan. Mae i hynny oblygiadau ar gyfer gwasanaethau rheng flaen a staff sifil. A gytunwch fod angen ymateb i'r honiad hwn ac y dylai Charles Clarke gofio, os rhagwelir y math hwnnw o golled, na fyddai gennym y lefel blismona sydd gennym yng Nghymru ar hyn o bryd?

Edwina Hart: Nid oeddwn yn bresennol yn ystod y drafodaeth hon yn y pwyllgor, ond yr wyf ar ddeall na thrafodwyd y ffigur o 1,000. Cyfarfûm â chynrychiolwyr yr undeb llafur dan sylw i drafod eu barn am yr hyn a fyddai'n digwydd gydag ad-drefnu, ac ni allaf gofio i'r ffigur hwnnw gael ei godi gyda mi.

Dywedaf yn hollol glir y byddwn yn disgwyl i ymgynghori mawr pe byddai unrhyw rai o'r materion hyn yn codi. Os byddai unrhyw ailstrwythuro yn effeithio ar swyddi, byddem yn gobeithio y byddai unrhyw golledion yn digwydd drwy wastraff naturiol. Os ydym i sicrhau'r un lefel o wasanaeth, rhaid inni hefyd ystyried nifer y swyddi sifil cysylltiedig, er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn rhoi'r un lefelau gwasanaeth i'r cyhoedd. Felly, mae fy marn ar hynny yn gwbl glir.

O ystyried ichi ddefnyddio'r gair 'ymgynghori', ni fyddwn yn disgwyl cael cwestiwn am ddatganiad i'r wasg gan y Swyddfa Gartref, fel yr eglurais ddoe. Fodd bynnag, caf wybod bob amser am y sefyllfa ddiweddaraf ar faterion amrywiol, ac os na chredaf fod hynny wedi digwydd, byddaf yn codi'r ffôn.

The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives (Nick Bourne): Minister, we know the views of Charles Clarke and Peter Hain: they both want a single police force for Wales. Yesterday, in answering questions, the First Minister indicated that no change was not an option, yet your consultation seems to be on the basis that there is a possibility of our retaining four police forces in Wales. Could you try to square those two apparent inconsistencies, as I think that people are confused?

Edwina Hart: I think that the Secretary of State for Wales has made his views quite clear. Charles Clarke is obviously saying that the current basis of evidence leans quite strongly in favour of having one police force for Wales. I asked the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee to undertake my consultation for me, and I have no firm views on this issue yet. I shall await the outcome of the committee's deliberations, when I will respond to the National Assembly. My view is that, if there is consensus across parties in the Assembly in supporting the committee report, I will put those views forward to Charles Clarke. At the end of the day, should anything emerge from Charles Clarke that is not attuned with us, I would have to make the best of it, in terms of what I would want out of any police reorganisation settlement.

Nick Bourne: I understand all of that, but perhaps you have not realised where I am going with this question. Yesterday, the First Minister said that no change was not an option and that there had to be some change. That seems to be at odds with a consultation that says that no change is distinctly an option. I wonder whether it is your view or the First Minister's that is correct.

Edwina Hart: The First Minister was expressing the view that that is the reality of the situation. With the Home Office undertaking this drive, no change is probably not an option. However, it is only right that all opinions are properly canvassed on issues surrounding this consultation, which is what I am endeavouring to do through the committee. If that is what people in the Home Office feel, and I think that the First Minister

Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru (Nick Bourne): Weinidog, gwyddom beth yw barn Charles Clarke a Peter Hain: mae'r ddau am weld un heddlu i Gymru. Ddoe, wrth ateb cwestiynau, dywedodd y Prif Weinidog nad oedd peidio â newid o gwbl yn ddewis, ac eto ymddengys eich bod yn ymgynghori ar y sail ei bod yn bosibl y gellid cadw ein pedwar heddlu yng Nghymru. A allech geisio cysoni'r ddau anghysondeb hwn, gan fod pobl, mi gredaf, wedi drysu?

Edwina Hart: Credaf fod Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru wedi gwneud ei farn yn gwbl glir. Mae Charles Clarke yn amlwg yn dweud bod sail y dystiolaeth bresennol yn gogwyddo'n gymharol gadarn o blaid sefydlu un heddlu i Gymru. Gofynnais i'r Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio wneud fy ymgynghori ar fy rhan, ac nid oes gennyf unrhyw farn gadarn am y mater hwn eto. Byddaf yn aros am ganlyniad trafodaethau'r pwyllgor, a'r pryd hwnnw fe ymatebaf i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Fy marn, os bydd cytundeb rhwng y pleidiau yn y Cynulliad i gefnogi adroddiad y pwyllgor, yw y byddaf yn cyflwyno'r safbwyntiau hynny i Charles Clarke. Yn y pen draw, os bydd Charles Clarke yn cyflwyno unrhyw beth nad ydym yn cytuno ag ef, byddai'n rhaid imi wneud y gorau o'r sefyllfa, o ran yr hyn y byddwn am ei gael mewn unrhyw setliad i ad-drefnu'r heddlu.

Nick Bourne: Yr wyf yn deall hynny i gyd, ond efallai nad ydych wedi deall byrdwn fy nghwestiwn. Ddoe, dywedodd y Prif Weinidog nad oedd peidio â newid o gwbl yn ddewis a bod yn rhaid cael rhyw newid. Ymddengys fod hynny'n mynd yn groes i ymgynghoriad sy'n datgan fod peidio â newid yn ddewis pendant. Tybed ai eich barn chi neu farn y Prif Weinidog sy'n gywir.

Edwina Hart: Yr oedd y Prif Weinidog yn mynegi'r farn mai dyna yw realiti'r sefyllfa. Gyda'r Swyddfa Gartref wrth y llyw, mae'n debyg nad yw peidio â chael newid o gwbl yn ddewis. Fodd bynnag, mae'n briodol inni ofyn am bob barn ar faterion sy'n gysylltiedig â'r ymgynghori hwn, a dyna yr wyf yn ceisio'i wneud drwy'r pwyllgor. Os dyna yw barn pobl yn y Swyddfa Gartref, a chredaf fwy na thebyg mai adlewyrchu barn

was probably reflecting what is coming across from the Home Office, namely that there will be an element of change, then it is quite right for him to say that in the Chamber. However, at the same time, I must also take into account all views expressed via the evidence given to the committee. Never mind what is expressed in another place, we have a right to express what we want.

Nick Bourne: I hear what you say, but it seems that you are at odds with the First Minister. He said quite clearly that he does not mind consulting, but that no change is not an option. Your consultation is expressly on the basis that one of the options is no change. It seems to me as though there is a difference between you and the First Minister and I cannot see how that circle can be squared.

To leave that issue to one side, could I just take you back to something that you said earlier as regards the consultation? You said that Charles Clarke is interested in what the committee is doing, and I am glad of that. However, given that we are getting a revised business statement today with, hopefully, a debate on this matter to be held before Christmas—at least I understand that to be the case—will he also be interested in the view of the whole Assembly? It is important that he studies a debate in which every single Member here has had the opportunity to participate, as well as what I accept to be a thorough review of this by the committee.

Edwina Hart: Charles Clarke is aware of the committee's deliberations, but not of any Assembly deliberations at this stage. That is why he was anxious, as I said, that the committee was the vehicle that I was using to gain the views of people across Wales. I thought that it was an appropriate mechanism, across parties, to deliver a report for discussion here.

y Swyddfa Gartref yr oedd y Prif Weinidog, sef y bydd elfen o newid, yna mae'n briodol iddo ddatgan hynny yn y Siambr. Fodd bynnag, ar yr un pryd, rhaid imi hefyd ystyried pob barn a fynegir drwy'r dystiolaeth a roddir i'r pwyllgor. Waeth beth a fynegir rywle arall, mae gennym yr hawl i fynegi yr hyn mae arnom ei eisiau.

Nick Bourne: Yr wyf yn deall hynny, ond ymddengys eich bod yn anghytuno â'r Prif Weinidog. Dywedodd ef yn gwbl glir nad oes gwahaniaeth ganddo ymgynghori, ond nad yw dim newid yn ddewis. Cynhelir eich ymgynghoriad yn unswydd ar y sail mai un o'r dewisiadau yw dim newid. Ymddengys imi fod yna wahaniaeth rhyngoch chi a'r Prif Weinidog ac ni welaf sut y gellir unioni hynny.

I adael y mater hwnnw o'r neilltu, a gaf eich tywys yn ôl at rywbeth a ddywedasoch yn gynharach ynghylch yr ymgynghori? Yr oeddech yn dweud bod gan Charles Clarke ddiddordeb yn yr hyn y mae'r pwyllgor yn ei wneud, ac yr wyf yn falch o glywed hynny. Fodd bynnag, o ystyried ein bod yn cael datganiad busnes diwygiedig heddiw a fydd, gobeithio, yn cynnwys dadl ar y mater hwn i'w chynnal cyn y Nadolig—o leiaf, dyna a ddeallaf—a fydd ganddo ddiddordeb hefyd ym marn y Cynulliad cyfan? Mae'n bwysig iddo astudio dadl lle bydd pob un Aelod wedi cymryd rhan, yn ogystal â'r hyn a dderbyniaf sy'n adolygiad trwyadl o'r mater gan y pwyllgor.

Edwina Hart: Mae Charles Clarke yn ymwybodol o drafodaethau'r pwyllgor, ond nid o unrhyw drafodaethau gan y Cynulliad ar hyn o bryd. Dyna pam yr oedd yn pryderu, fel y dywedais, mai'r pwyllgor oedd y dull yr oeddwn yn ei ddefnyddio i gael gwybod barn pobl ledled Cymru. Yr oeddwn o'r farn ei bod yn system briodol, ar draws y pleidiau i gyd i gyflwyno adroddiad i'w drafod yn y fan hon.

Y Rhaglen Cyfleusterau a Gweithgareddau Cymunedol Community Facilities and Activities Programme

Q2 Lorraine Barrett: Will the Minister make a statement on the community facilities and activities programme? OAQ0431(SJR)

C2 Lorraine Barrett: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y rhaglen cyfleusterau a gweithgareddau cymunedol? OAQ0431(SJR)

Q5 Karen Sinclair: Will the Minister give a progress report on the Assembly Government's community facilities and activities programme? OAQ0413(SJR)

Q7 Sandy Mewies: Will the Minister give a progress report on the Welsh Assembly Government's community facilities and activities programme? OAQ0441(SJR)

Edwina Hart: CFAP is an extremely popular grant scheme for community and voluntary organisations, with £27.903 million committed to 348 projects since 2002.

Lorraine Barrett: I welcome the fact that several groups in my constituency are soon to benefit from that funding. However, for every group that is successful, there is often one or two that are not. Some of them are quite small. Could you offer any support for the groups that may be finding the application forms a little difficult to complete, with knowing exactly what information they should be giving?

2.10 p.m.

Edwina Hart: I think that the application forms for CFAP are probably the simplest for any grant scheme in the Assembly—and I apologise to any other Ministers who may be listening to this. We have endeavoured to ensure that the application form is simple. However, my officials try to provide good feedback and hold face-to-face discussions, and I would tell any group that has not had any money to avail themselves of the opportunity to discuss these issues in taking matters forward.

Sandy Mewies: It is always over-subscribed. For example, the Refurbs scheme in Flint in my constituency, which recycles white goods and furniture and sells them on at affordable prices, was delighted recently to receive £250,000. However, there are groups, as Lorraine says, which lose out, not because the bid is not any good, but perhaps because it has not been worded as it should. How can we let these groups know about this? I know that your officials will give them advice prior to and after the bid, but how can we let them

C5 Karen Sinclair: A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi adroddiad cynnydd ar raglen cyfleusterau a gweithgareddau cymunedol Llywodraeth y Cynulliad? OAQ0413(SJR)

C7 Sandy Mewies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi adroddiad cynnydd ar raglen cyfleusterau a gweithgareddau cymunedol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru? OAQ0441(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Mae'r rhaglen hon yn gynllun grant poblogaidd iawn ar gyfer mudiadau cymunedol a gwirfoddol, ac mae £27.903 miliwn wedi'i ymrwymo i 348 o brosiectau er 2002.

Lorraine Barrett: Croesawaf y ffaith y bydd llawer grŵp yn fy etholaeth yn elwa o'r cyllid hwnnw yn fuan. Fodd bynnag, ar gyfer pob grŵp llwyddiannus, yn aml bydd un neu ddau aflwyddiannus. Mae rhai ohonynt yn ddigon bach. A allech gynnig unrhyw gymorth i'r grwpiau a all fod yn ei chael hi braidd yn anodd llenwi'r ffurflenni cais, o ran gwybod yn union pa wybodaeth y dylid ei rhoi?

Edwina Hart: Credaf fwy na thebyg mai'r ffurflenni cais ar gyfer y rhaglen hon yw'r rhai symlaf ar gyfer unrhyw gynllun grant gan y Cynulliad—ac ymddiheuraf i unrhyw Weinidogion eraill a all fod yn gwrando ar hyn. Yr ydym wedi ceisio sicrhau bod y ffurflen gais yn syml. Fodd bynnag, mae fy swyddogion yn ceisio rhoi adborth da a chael trafodaethau wyneb-yn-wyneb, a byddwn yn annog unrhyw grŵp nad yw wedi cael dim arian i fanteisio ar y cyfle i drafod y materion hyn wrth weithredu.

Sandy Mewies: Mae gormod o geisiadau yn cyrraedd bob amser. Er enghraifft, mae'r cynllun Refurbs yn y Fflint yn fy etholaeth i, sy'n ailgylchu nwyddau gwynion a dodrefn a'u gwerthu am brisiau fforddiadwy, yn wedi bod yn hynod falch yn ddiweddar i gael £250,000. Fodd bynnag, mae yna grwpiau, fel y dywed Lorraine, sy'n colli allan, nid am nad yw'r cais yn haeddiannol, ond efallai am nad yw wedi'i eirio'n briodol. Sut y gallwn roi gwybod i'r grwpiau hyn am hynny? Gwn y bydd eich swyddogion yn rhoi cyngor

know about that? Can we not put something on the form to say that if they need further advice, they can contact a certain telephone number, so it is clear what they need to do?

Edwina Hart: We indicate to groups, when the applications come in, that they can make contact. However, if you wish, I will explore with the Wales Council for Voluntary Action, and the county voluntary organisations, whether there any mechanisms that they can put in place to encourage applicants from small organisations to come to them for help with the form and checking it over. Perhaps they could also help with feedback in future.

David Melding: Do you agree that these grant schemes have to encourage enterprise at a local level, which means that we have to trust community groups? Sometimes their projects will fail, no matter how well meaning they are, but we should not be afraid of that.

Edwina Hart: I concur totally with your comments. You have to put your trust in these community groups, and, if they fail, they will learn from their failures and perhaps succeed next time. We should not be judgmental. It is a quite a lot of work for people to put these applications together, and they are very industrious, but do not always get it right. I, like you, feel that it is a risk worth taking.

Irene James: Do you agree that £136,000 for Cwmcarn Pensioners' Club through the community facilities and activities programme, added to funding from Caerphilly County Borough Council, is securing the future of vital pensioners' support in constituencies such as mine? Such investment is an excellent example of targeted funding that is making a difference in communities across Wales. Would you encourage the many worthwhile voluntary organisations in Islwyn to maximise the use of available grant funding?

Edwina Hart: I would encourage all organisations, in Islwyn and elsewhere, to maximise their access to public funding. I

idduent cyn gwneud cais ac wedyn, ond sut y gallwn roi gwybod idduent am hynny? Oni allwn roi rhywbeth ar y ffurflen i ddweud, os oes arnynt angen cyngor pellach, y gallant gysylltu â rhif ffôn penodol, fel ei bod yn glir idduent beth mae angen idduent ei wneud?

Edwina Hart: Byddwn yn dweud wrth grwpiau, pan ddaw'r ceisiadau i law, y gallant gysylltu â ni. Fodd bynnag, os dymunwch, gallaf archwilio gyda Chyngor Gweithredu Gwirfoddol Cymru, a'r mudiadau gwirfoddol sirol, i weld a oes unrhyw systemau y gallant eu rhoi ar waith i annog ymgeiswyr o fudiadau bach i gysylltu â hwy i gael help gyda'r ffurflen a'i gwirio. Efallai y gallent hefyd helpu gydag adborth yn y dyfodol.

David Melding: A ydych yn cytuno bod yn rhaid i'r cynlluniau grant hyn annog mentro yn lleol, sy'n golygu bod yn rhaid inni ymddiried mewn grwpiau cymunedol? Weithiau bydd eu prosiectau'n methu, waeth pa mor dda fydd eu bwriad, ond ni ddylem ofni hynny.

Edwina Hart: Cytunaf yn llwyr â'ch sylwadau. Rhaid ichi ymddiried yn y grwpiau cymunedol hyn, ac os byddant yn methu, byddant yn dysgu o'u methiannau ac efallai'n llwyddo y tro nesaf. Ni ddylem eu barnu. Mae cyflwyno'r ceisiadau hyn yn golygu llawer iawn o waith i bobl a byddant yn gweithio'n ddiwyd iawn. Ond ni fyddant bob amser yn llwyddo. Fel chithau, yr wyf yn teimlo ei bod yn risg sy'n werth ei chymryd.

Irene James: A ydych yn cytuno bod £136,000 ar gyfer Clwb Pensiynwyr Cwmcarn drwy'r rhaglen cyfleusterau a gweithgareddau cymunedol, wedi'i ychwanegu at gyllid gan Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili, yn sicrhau dyfodol cymorth hanfodol i bensiynwyr mewn etholaethau fel fy etholaeth i? Mae buddsoddiad o'r fath yn enghraifft ardderchog o gyllid wedi'i dargedu sy'n gwneud gwahaniaeth mewn cymunedau ledled Cymru. A fydddech yn annog y llu mudiadau gwirfoddol gwerthfawr yn Islwyn i fanteisio i'r eithaf ar y cyllid grant sydd ar gael?

Edwina Hart: Byddwn yn annog pob mudiad, yn Islwyn ac mewn ardaloedd eraill, i fanteisio i'r eithaf ar gyllid cyhoeddus.

congratulate the groups that put forward the bid. The project with Cwmcarn pensioners is excellent, and this is the type of work towards which Assembly money should go. It is right at the heart of the community, and about improving the community.

Eleanor Burnham: I also agree that this is a wonderful scheme. As a patron of the Ark appeal, a worthy cause led by the Salvation Army in Wrexham, I am concerned that its bid has been turned down. I realise that this is probably because of insufficient cash. How much more money is available in the pot, and how long will this scheme run?

Edwina Hart: I hope that the scheme will continue; it depends upon budget decisions. There are substantial moneys available. I suggest that the group gets appropriate feedback from officials, and that it might wish to resubmit its bid in the next round.

Hoffwn longyfarch y grwpiau a gyflwynodd y cais. Mae'r prosiect gyda phensiynwyr Cwm-carn yn un ardderchog, a dyma'r math o waith a ddylai gael arian y Cynulliad. Mae wrth wraidd y gymuned, ac mae'n gwella'r gymuned.

Eleanor Burnham: Yr wyf fi hefyd yn cytuno ei fod yn gynllun ardderchog. Fel un o noddwyr apêl yr Arch, achos da o dan arweiniad Byddin yr Iachawdwriaeth yn Wrecsam, yr wyf yn pryderu fod ei gais wedi ei wrthod. Sylweddolaf mai diffyg arian yw'r rheswm mewyaf tebygol am hyn. Faint yn rhagor o arian sydd ar gael yn y gronfa, ac am ba hyd y bydd y cynllun hwn ar parhau?

Edwina Hart: Gobeithio y bydd y cynllun yn parhau; mae'n dibynnu ar benderfyniadau cyllidebol. Mae swm sylweddol o arian ar gael. Awgrymaf y dylai'r grŵp gael adborth priodol gan swyddogion, ac efallai yr hoffai ailgyflwyno ei gais yn ystod y cylch nesaf.

Trosglwyddo'r Stoc Tai Housing Stock Transfer

Q3 Mark Isherwood: Will the Minister make a statement on housing stock transfer? OAQ0458(SJR)

Edwina Hart: All social landlords are well aware of the requirement to achieve the Welsh housing quality standard by 2012 and to maintain it thereafter. It is the responsibility of local authorities, as landlords, to determine, in consultation with their tenants, the way in which the standard is achieved and maintained.

Mark Isherwood: There is more than a £3 billion backlog in council house repairs now. That is £1.7 billion more than the total Objective 1 funding between 2000 and 2006. The only realistic place to find money on this scale is in the value of the existing stock. The Treasury has told you that there are no other options. What urgent action are you taking to tackle those who are standing in the way of stock transfer? As the Council of Mortgage Lenders Cymru states, sadly, to date, the politics of the process has got firmly in the way of the reality. For how much longer will the council tenants of Wales get less than they deserve and need?

C3 Mark Isherwood: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am drosglwyddo'r stoc tai? OAQ0458(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Mae pob landlord cymdeithasol yn hollol ymwybodol o'r gofyniad i fodloni safon ansawdd tai Cymru erbyn 2012 ac i'w chynnal wedi hynny. Cyfrifoldeb awdurdodau lleol, fel landlordiaid, yw penderfynu, drwy ymgynghori â'u tenantiaid, sut y caiff y safon ei bodloni a'i chynnal.

Mark Isherwood: Mae ôl-groniad o dros £3 biliwn mewn gwaith trwsio tai cyngor yn awr. Mae hynny'n £1.7 biliwn yn fwy na chyfanswm cyllid Amcan 1 rhwng 2000 a 2006. Yr unig le realistig i ddod o hyd i arian ar y raddfa hon yw yng ngwerth y stoc presennol. Mae'r Trysorlys wedi dweud wrthyech nad oes unrhyw ddewisiadau eraill. Pa gamau brys yr ydych yn eu cymryd i fynd i'r afael â'r rheini sy'n rhwystro trosglwyddo'r stoc tai? Fel y dywed Cyngor Benthycwyr Morgais Cymru, yn anffodus, hyd yma, mae gwleidyddiaeth y broses wedi rhwystro realiti'r sefyllfa. Am ba hyd y bydd tenantiaid tai cyngor yng Nghymru yn cael

llai na'r hyn y maent yn ei haeddu ac sydd ei angen arnynt?

Edwina Hart: Local authorities are democratically elected, and it is up to them to decide on housing stock. They have submitted their various plans to me, and I will assess them and report back, probably by the end of December. However, on this issue, you elect your local authority, you trust your representatives, and they have to make these decisions for you.

Leanne Wood: Have you or your officials made any threat to withhold the major repairs allowance to Wrexham County Borough Council if it does not meet the Welsh housing quality standard?

Edwina Hart: I have yet to make any decisions regarding what to do if local authorities are not able to reach the housing standard by 2012. I will have to look at what measures I might use if authorities do not put proper plans in place, but I have not yet made any decisions on that.

Mick Bates: Stock transfers are driven by the need to raise money so that everyone can achieve the Welsh housing quality standard. As an evidence-based Minister, what conclusions have you drawn so far from the efforts of local councils in achieving that standard? Do you think that more direction and support needs to be given to local councils on this issue and on the options available to them in order to achieve the standard?

Edwina Hart: This is an important question for local government in terms of the issues around achieving the quality standard. I will host a major conference for Welsh local government at the end of the month, at which we will address some of these key issues in order to get the messages across. It is clear that, over the last 20 years, housing has not been the priority that it should have been. It is now beginning to become a priority as authorities see 2012 approaching. Some authorities will have to get their acts together, and we must know that their plans will work. I hope to be in a position to report on that by

Edwina Hart: Caiff awdurdodau lleol eu hethol yn ddemocrataidd, a'u cyfrifoldeb hwy yw penderfynu'r stoc tai. Maent wedi cyflwyno eu hamrywiol gynlluniau imi, a byddaf yn eu hasesu ac yn adrodd yn ôl, fwy na thebyg erbyn diwedd mis Rhagfyr. Fodd bynnag, yn y mater hwn, byddwch yn ethol eich awdurdod lleol, yn ymddiried yn eich cynrychiolwyr, a rhaid iddynt wneud y penderfyniadau hyn ar eich rhan.

Leanne Wood: A ydych chi neu eich swyddogion wedi gwneud unrhyw fygythiad i wrthod rhoi lwfans atgyweiriadau mawr i Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Wrecsam os na fydd yn bodloni safon ansawdd tai Cymru?

Edwina Hart: Nid wyf wedi gwneud unrhyw benderfyniadau eto ynglŷn â beth i'w wneud os na all awdurdodau lleol fodloni'r safon tai erbyn 2012. Bydd yn rhaid imi edrych ar y mesurau y gallwn eu defnyddio os na fydd awdurdodau'n rhoi cynlluniau priodol ar waith. Ond nid wyf wedi gwneud unrhyw benderfyniadau eto ynglŷn â hynny.

Mick Bates: Caiff trosglwyddiadau stoc eu hysgogi gan yr angen am godi arian fel y gall pawb fodloni safon ansawdd tai Cymru. Fel Gweinidog sy'n defnyddio tystiolaeth fel sail, pa gasgliadau a ddaethoch iddynt hyd yma am ymdrechion cynghorau lleol wrth fodloni'r safon honno? A gredwch fod angen rhoi mwy o gyfeiriad a chymorth i gynghorau lleol ar y mater hwn ac ar y dewisiadau sydd ar gael iddynt i fodloni'r safon?

Edwina Hart: Mae hwn yn gwestiwn pwysig i lywodraeth leol o ran y materion sy'n gysylltiedig â bodloni'r safon ansawdd. Byddaf yn trefnu cynhadledd fawr ar gyfer llywodraeth leol Cymru ar ddiwedd y mis, lle byddwn yn mynd i'r afael â rhai o'r materion allweddol hyn er mwyn cyfleu'r negeseuon. Mae'n amlwg, dros yr 20 mlynedd diwethaf, na roddwyd y flaenoriaeth y dylid bod wedi'i rhoi i'r sector tai. Erbyn hyn mae'n dechrau dod yn flaenoriaeth wrth i awdurdodau weld bod 2012 yn nesáu. Bydd yn rhaid i rai awdurdodau ddechrau gweithredu, a rhaid inni wybod y bydd eu cynlluniau'n gweithio.

the end of December. We have had difficulties in that some plans do not stack up, and officials have had to spend a lot of time going to and fro.

Gobeithio y gallaf adrodd yn ôl ar hynny erbyn diwedd mis Rhagfyr. Cawsom rai anawsterau oherwydd nad yw rhai cynlluniau'n gwneud synnwyr, a bu'n rhaid i swyddogion dreulio llawer o amser yn mynd yn ôl ac ymlaen.

Economi Canol Trefi (Gorllewin Cymru) **The Economy of Town Centres (West Wales)**

Q4 Christine Gwyther: Will the Minister provide an update on Assembly initiatives to improve the economy of town centres in west Wales? OAQ0456(SJR)

C4 Christine Gwyther: A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am gynlluniau'r Cynulliad i wella economi canol trefi yn y gorllewin? OAQ0456(SJR)

Edwina Hart: I recently approved funding of £2.86 million for three schemes under the physical regeneration fund. These schemes will improve Llanelli and Haverfordwest town centres and refurbish historic town buildings throughout the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park area. They will contribute to the development of the economy, particularly with regard to tourism.

Edwina Hart: Yn ddiweddar, cymeradwyais £2.86 miliwn ar gyfer tri chynllun dan y gronfa adfywio ffisegol. Bydd y cynlluniau hyn yn gwella canol trefi Llanelli a Hwlfordd ac yn ailwampio adeiladau hanesyddol mewn trefi ledled ardal Parc Cenedlaethol Arfordir Penfro. Byddant yn cyfrannu at ddatblygu'r economi, yn enwedig o ran twristiaeth.

Christine Gwyther: I look forward to seeing the fruits of that announcement. One of the unexpected benefits of the Llanion Communities First programme was the reinstatement of the old bank premises in Meyrick Street, Pembroke Dock, into use as a Communities First centre. Facilities will be made available there for the voluntary sector. You were good enough to open the facility some weeks ago, and we were pleased to see you there, but will you give your ongoing commitment to thinking laterally about some of the ways in which our programmes are delivered, so that we help to bring back into productive use some of our town-centre buildings?

Christine Gwyther: Edrychaf ymlaen at weld ffrwyth y cyhoeddiad hwnnw. Un o fuddiannau annisgwyl y rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn Llanion oedd adfer safle'r hen fanc yn Meyrick Street, Doc Penfro, i'w ddefnyddio fel canolfan Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Bydd cyfleusterau ar gael yno ar gyfer y sector gwirfoddol. Agorwyd y cyfleuster gennych rai wythnosau'n ôl, ac yr oeddem yn falch eich gweld yno. Ond a wnewch chi roi ymrwymiad parhaus i feddwl yn ochrol am rai o'r ffyrdd y cyflwynir ein rhaglenni, fel y gallwn adfer rhai o'n hadeiladau mewn canol trefi a'u defnyddio unwaith eto?

Edwina Hart: I thank you for that opportunity; the old bank premises looked wonderful for community use, although I was not sure what use they would make of the old safe. I do not know who could have been locked in it.

Edwina Hart: Diolch ichi am y cyfle hwnnw; yr oedd safle'r hen fanc yn edrych yn ardderchog i'w ddefnyddio ar gyfer y gymuned, er na wyddwn pa ddefnydd y byddent yn ei wneud o'r hen gist. Ni wn pwy a allai fod wedi'i gloi ynddi.

It is important that we think laterally about the use of facilities within town centres. Some buildings become derelict, which has a massive impact on other businesses and on people who live locally. I will continue to use my funds to, hopefully, provide good

Mae'n bwysig inni feddwl yn ochrol ynglŷn â defnyddio cyfleusterau mewn canol trefi. Mae rhai adeiladau'n dadfeilio, a hynny'n cael effaith enfawr ar fusnesau eraill ac ar bobl sy'n byw gerllaw. Byddaf yn parhau i ddefnyddio'r arian sydd ar gael imi,

developments in that area.

Lisa Francis: Since bollards were placed on the pavement during the regeneration of King Street in Carmarthen, shoppers and traders alike agree that the street is less accessible to wheelchair and walking-frame users, the visually impaired and mothers with pushchairs and toddlers. In short, it is inaccessible to a lot of society who would, ordinarily, like to gain access in order to spend money in the shops there, thus helping the local economy. Do you agree that it is this sort of thoughtless organisation that hinders town-centre regeneration in many parts of Wales? What guidance or input have you provided, as Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration, on this issue?

Edwina Hart: I will refer your comments to Carmarthenshire County Council, which is responsible for this development. I have always found local authorities very accommodating when they consider physical regeneration projects, if they have our cash. Knowing Carmarthenshire as I do, I will have to look again at King Street when I shop there.

gobeithio, i sicrhau datblygiadau da yn y maes hwnnw.

Lisa Francis: Ers i bolion gael eu gosod ar y palmant yn ystod y broses o adfywio Stryd y Brenin yng Nghaerfyrddin, mae siopwyr a masnachwyr, fel ei gilydd, yn cytuno bod y stryd yn llai hwylus i bobl sy'n defnyddio cadeiriau olwyn a fframiau cerdded, y phobl sydd â nam ar eu golwg a mamau gyda chadeiriau gwthio a phlant bach. Yn fyr, mae'n anghyfleus i nifer o bobl yn y gymdeithas a fyddai, fel rheol, yn hoffi gallu mynd yno i wario arian yn y siopau, a thrwy hynny helpu'r economi leol. A gytunwch mai dyma'r math o drefniadau difeddwl sy'n rhwystro adfywio canol trefi mewn llawer man yng Nghymru? Pa ganllawiau neu fewnbwn a roddwyd gennych, fel y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio, ar y mater hwn?

Edwina Hart: Cyfeiriaf eich sylwadau at Gyngor Sir Caerfyrddin, sy'n gyfrifol am y datblygiad hwn. Yr wyf bob amser wedi gweld bod awdurdodau lleol yn hyblyg iawn pan fyddant yn ystyried prosiectau adfywio ffisegol, os cânt arian gennym. Gan fy mod yn adnabod Sir Gaerfyrddin, bydd yn rhaid imi edrych unwaith eto ar Stryd y Brenin pan af i siopa yno.

Menter Gymdeithasol yng Nghymru Social Enterprise in Wales

Q6 Janice Gregory: What is the Welsh Assembly Government doing to support and promote social enterprise in Wales? OAQ0426(SJR)

Q14 Jeff Cuthbert: What is the Welsh Assembly Government doing to support and promote social enterprise in Wales? OAQ0429(SJR)

Edwina Hart: In June, I launched Wales's first social enterprise strategy, which was developed in partnership with the social enterprise joint working group. The strategy sets out what is already being done as well as how we will continue to work with our partners to support and promote the social enterprise sector in Wales.

C6 Janice Gregory: Beth mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ei wneud i gefnogi a hyrwyddo menter gymdeithasol yng Nghymru? OAQ0426(SJR)

C14 Jeff Cuthbert: Beth mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ei wneud i gefnogi a hyrwyddo menter gymdeithasol yng Nghymru? OAQ0429(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Ym mis Mehefin, bu imi lansio strategaeth gyntaf Cymru ar gyfer mentrau cymdeithasol, a ddatblygwyd mewn partneriaeth â'r cyd-weithgor mentrau cymdeithasol. Mae'r strategaeth yn gosod allan yr hyn sydd eisoes yn cael ei wneud, yn ogystal â'r ffordd y byddwn yn parhau i weithio gyda'n partneriaid i gefnogi a hyrwyddo'r sector menter gymdeithasol yng Nghymru.

2.20 p.m.

Janice Gregory: Will you join me in supporting Social Enterprise Day, which falls tomorrow, on 17 November, and will you make a statement about the importance of social entrepreneurship, such as co-operatives, for local communities and sustainable development?

Edwina Hart: I will certainly support you in celebrating Social Enterprise Day. We must celebrate social enterprises as they harness the entrepreneurial drive to achieve wider social objectives. It is very important that we look at what co-operatives do and how they have been very successfully used within Communities First. For example, in Christine's constituency, the co-operative is the grant holder. It is important that we encourage everybody to examine the opportunities for social enterprises to play a bigger role in Wales.

Jeff Cuthbert: I, too, join in welcoming the social enterprise strategy for Wales, and, in particular, your good work in ensuring that the potential of social enterprise was included in the Communities@One guidance. As Members should know, Communities@One recently received an Objective 1 grant of £4 million, with the aim of achieving digital inclusion in deprived communities. Do you agree, Minister, that the role of social enterprise in breaking down the educational barriers to ICT-based learning is essential to achieving the aims of the Communities@One project?

Edwina Hart: I agree with all of your points, and my answer would be 'yes'. I am particularly excited about the Communities@One initiative, because it will be good for Wales and for tackling all those issues of exclusion to which you referred.

Alun Cairns: Do you accept that social enterprise is often the first port of call for some individuals with special needs when they are looking to enter the workplace? What additional support can you give to

Janice Gregory: A wnewch chi ymuno â mi i gefnogi'r Diwrnod Menter Gymdeithasol yfory, ar 17 Tachwedd, ac a wnewch chi ddatganiad am bwysigrwydd entrepreneuriaeth gymdeithasol, fel cwmnïau cydweithredol, i gymunedau lleol ac i ddatblygu cynaliadwy?

Edwina Hart: Yn sicr byddaf yn eich cefnogi i ddathlu Diwrnod Menter Gymdeithasol. Rhaid inni ddathlu mentrau cymdeithasol am eu bod yn harneisio'r ysgogiad entrepreneuriaid i sicrhau amcanion cymdeithasol ehangach. Mae'n bwysig iawn inni ystyried yr hyn y mae cwmnïau cydweithredol yn ei wneud a'r defnydd llwyddiannus iawn a wneir ohonynt yn Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Er enghraifft, yn etholaeth Christine, y cwmni cydweithredol yw deiliad y grant. Mae'n bwysig inni annog pawb i archwilio cyfleoedd i fentrau cymdeithasol chwarae mwy o rôl yng Nghymru.

Jeff Cuthbert: Yr wyf fi hefyd yn croesawu'r strategaeth mentrau cymdeithasol ar gyfer Cymru, ac yn arbennig eich gwaith da i sicrhau bod potensial mentrau cymdeithasol wedi'i gynnwys yn y canllawiau Cymunedau'n Un. Fel y gŵyr Aelodau, cafodd Cymunedau'n Un grant Amcan 1 gwerth £4 miliwn yn ddiweddar, gyda'r nod o sicrhau cynhwysiant digidol mewn cymunedau difreintiedig. A ydych yn cytuno, Weinidog, fod swyddogaeth menter gymdeithasol wrth chwalu'r rhwystrau addysgol rhag dysgu'n seiliedig ar TGCh yn hanfodol i gyflawni nodau'r prosiect Cymunedau'n Un?

Edwina Hart: Cytunaf â phob un o'ch pwyntiau, a'm hateb i fyddai 'ydw'. Credaf fod y fenter Cymunedau'n Un yn arbennig o gyffrous, oherwydd bydd yn dda i Gymru ac i fynd i'r afael â'r holl faterion allgáu hynny yr oeddech yn cyfeirio atynt.

Alun Cairns: A gytunwch mai mentrau cymdeithasol yn aml yw'r pwynt cyswllt cyntaf i rai unigolion ag anghenion arbennig sy'n ystyried dechrau gweithio? Pa gymorth ychwanegol y gallwch ei roi i annog mwy o

encourage more individuals with special needs to join the workplace, bearing in mind that social enterprise projects are often their first port of call?

Edwina Hart: I would be more than happy to take up this issue. I visited a firm called Packet, which has employed a number of people with educational and learning difficulties for some time. Social enterprise provides a very good source of employment for them, and I would be happy to feed this into the work of my officials.

unigolion ag anghenion arbennig i ymuno â'r gweithlu, o gofio mai prosiectau mentrau cymdeithasol yn aml yw eu pwynt cyswllt cyntaf?

Edwina Hart: Byddwn yn fwy na pharod i fynd i'r afael â'r mater hwn. Ymwelais â chwmni o'r enw Packet, sydd wedi cyflogi nifer o bobl ag anawsterau addysgol a dysgu ers cryn amser. Mae mentrau cymdeithasol yn ffynhonnell gyflogaeth dda iawn iddynt, a byddwn yn falch cynnwys hyn yng ngwaith fy swyddogion.

Ymddygiad Gwrthgymdeithasol Anti-social Behaviour

Q8 Laura Anne Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the options available to those people in Wales who are affected by anti-social behaviour, but who are reluctant to go to the police? OAQ0444(SJR)

Edwina Hart: People affected by anti-social behaviour should speak to the local anti-social behaviour co-ordinator or community safety officer, who will be able to provide support and advice, and help to tackle any problems.

Laura Anne Jones: Cardiff has been one city chosen to pilot a scheme called 'It's your Call', which offers residents who are reluctant to go to the police another way of anti-social behaviour problems. Have you spoken to the Home Office about the possibility of this service being rolled out across Wales?

Edwina Hart: I have not spoken to the Home Office about this issue, but I always welcome initiatives that allow individuals to complain about issues such as anti-social behaviour. I am saddened when people feel that they cannot speak to the police, who do an excellent job in this area.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Derbyniaf y cyfan a ddywedasoeh am ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, ond a fydddech yn cytuno bod Peter Clarke, y comisiynydd plant, wedi

C8 Laura Anne Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y dewisiadau sydd ar gael i'r bobl hynny yng Nghymru sy'n dioddef oherwydd ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, ond sy'n gyndyn o fynd at yr heddlu? OAQ0444(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Dylai pobl sy'n dioddef oherwydd ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol siarad â'r cydlynnydd ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol neu'r swyddog diogelwch cymunedol lleol, a fydd yn gallu rhoi cymorth a chynghor a'u helpu i fynd i'r afael ag unrhyw broblemau.

Laura Anne Jones: Mae Caerdydd yn un o'r dinasoedd a ddewiswyd ar gyfer cynnal cynllun peilot o'r enw 'It's your Call', sy'n cynnig ffordd arall i drigolion sy'n amharod i siarad â'r heddlu fynd i'r afael â phroblemau ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol. A ydych wedi siarad â'r Swyddfa Gartref ynglŷn â'r posibilrwydd o gyflwyno'r gwasanaeth hwn ar draws Cymru?

Edwina Hart: Nid wyf wedi siarad â'r Swyddfa Gartref am y mater hwn, ond byddaf bob amser yn croesawu mentrau sy'n caniatáu i unigolion gwyno am faterion fel ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol. Yr wyf yn tristáu pan fydd pobl yn teimlo na allant siarad â'r heddlu, sy'n gwneud gwaith ardderchog yn y maes hwn.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I accept everything you have said about anti-social behaviour, but do you agree that Peter Clarke, the children's commissioner, has made

gwneud sylwadau arbennig o berthnasol yn y maes hwn, ac wedi rhybuddio Gweinidogion San Steffan i fod yn ofalus iawn ynglŷn â'r iaith a ddefnyddiant wrth ddisgrifio ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol? A gytunech hefyd fod Mohammed Javed wedi gwneud pwynt eithriadol o bwysig ynglŷn â'r perygl y dyddiau hyn o elyniaethu elfennau o'r gymdeithas honno?

Edwina Hart: All parties have made important points about our views on anti-social behaviour. When we talk about young people, it is important to recognise that there must not be a demonisation of the young and an automatic assumption of a link between young people and anti-social behaviour. The majority of young people that I meet, especially when I meet voluntary organisations, are very good citizens of this country and are doing an excellent job. Language is important in this because we must not have scapegoats for everything. Sometimes, we must recognise that some of the problems of society come from the way in which life is organised and from there not being enough early intervention to help individuals and so on. I am always very careful about the language that I use, and I note what others have said on this particular issue.

Y Llywydd: Mae cwestiwn 9, OAQ0450(SJR), wedi ei drosglwyddo i'w ateb yn ysgrifenedig.

particularly pertinent comments in this field, and has warned Westminster Ministers to be very careful about the language they use when describing anti-social behaviour? Do you also agree that Mohammed Javed made a very important point regarding the danger these days of alienating elements of that society?

Edwina Hart: Mae pob un o'r partiön wedi gwneud pwyntiau pwysig ynglŷn â'n safbwyntiau am ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol. Pan siaradwn am bobl ifanc, mae'n bwysig inni gydnabod na ddylid demoneiddio'r ifanc a thybio'n awtomatig fod cysylltiad rhwng pobl ifanc ac ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol. Mae mwyafrif y bobl ifanc yr wyf wedi cyfarfod â hwy, yn enwedig pan fyddaf yn cyfarfod â sefydliadau gwirfoddol, yn ddinasyddion da iawn ac yn gwneud gwaith ardderchog. Mae iaith yn bwysig yn y cyswllt hyn oherwydd rhaid inni beidio â chreu bwch dihangol ar gyfer popeth. Weithiau, rhaid inni gydnabod bod rhai o broblemau cymdeithas yn deillio o'r ffordd y caiff bywyd ei drefnu ac oherwydd diffyg ymyrryd yn gynnar i helpu unigolion ac ati. Byddaf bob amser yn ofalus iawn ynglŷn â'r iaith a ddefnyddiaf, a byddaf yn nodi'r hyn y mae eraill wedi'i ddweud am y mater penodol hwn.

The Presiding Officer: Question 9, OAQ0450(SJR), has been transferred for written answer.

Dyfodol Ariannu Cymunedau yn Gyntaf The Future Funding of Communities First

Q10 Michael German: Will the Minister make a statement on the future funding of Communities First? OAQ0438(SJR)

Edwina Hart: A sum of £34 million has been allocated to Communities First in the 2005-06 financial year, with indicative levels of almost £40 million in 2006-07 and £55 million in 2007-08.

Michael German: Given the new deprivation index and the issues that surround part wards, which have been a great problem for many people—we are in one at the moment, for example, where the rich and the

C10 Michael German: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ddyfodol ariannu Cymunedau yn Gyntaf? OAQ0438(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Mae swm o £34 miliwn wedi'i neilltuo i'r rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn y flwyddyn ariannol 2005-06, a lefelau dangosol o bron £40 miliwn yn 2006-07 a £55 miliwn yn 2007-08.

Michael German: O ystyried y mynegai amddifadedd newydd a'r materion sy'n ymwneud â rhannau o wardiau, sydd wedi bod yn broblem fawr i nifer o bobl—yr ydym mewn ward ar hyn o bryd, er enghraifft, lle

poor of Wales are alongside each other— what are you going to do about that index and about revising the number of wards and areas that can join the Communities First programme?

Edwina Hart: As I have already advised the Chamber, I am not going to be rushed into any decisions on this. I am going to consult widely among Communities First partnerships and others about the implications of what is happening with the new index, and I have given my commitment to those already within the Communities First programme. I do not think that I can be drawn any further on that.

Gwenda Thomas: Following the publication of the index of multiple deprivation for 2005, I wish to express my concern regarding the impact that this index will have on the Communities First cross-boundary initiative in the upper Amman valley. Continuing with the present funding formula will seriously worsen the position for Gwauncaegurwen. It is now imperative that this cross-boundary initiative is reviewed and a fairer way forward found. What assurances will you give that you will consider instigating this review?

Edwina Hart: Thank you for raising this matter. We are closely watching the cross-border initiatives, as we were keen, when we first established Communities First, to see if we could get them to work properly. I will be happy to consider the points that you have raised when I look at the issues surrounding the new index.

Alun Ffred Jones: Yn yr un modd, mae pryderon ynglŷn ag ariannu rhai ardaloedd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Yn fy etholaeth i, er enghraifft, mae ward Peblig, a oedd ymhlith y 10 cymuned dlotaf yng Nghymru, bellach yn safle 160 yn y tabl. Pa sicrwydd allwch chi ei roi o ran ariannu'r wardiau hynny sydd wedi disgyn yn y tabl, gan gofio y rhoddwyd addewid o ariannu am 10 mlynedd yn wreiddiol? Pa sicrwydd allwch chi ei roi i'r cymunedau hynny?

Edwina Hart: I understand the concerns and

mae pobl gyfoethog a phobl dlawd Cymru yn byw ochr yn ochr—beth yr ydych yn bwriadu ei wneud ynglŷn â'r mynegai hwnnw a'r broses o ddiwygio nifer y wardiau a'r ardaloedd a all ymuno â'r rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf?

Edwina Hart: Fel yr wyf eisoes wedi dweud yn y Siambwr, nid wyf am ruthro i wneud unrhyw benderfyniadau ar hyn. Byddaf yn ymgynghori'n eang â phartneriaethau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf ac eraill ynglŷn â goblygiadau'r hyn sy'n digwydd gyda'r mynegai newydd, ac yr wyf wedi rhoi fy ymrwymiad i'r rhai sydd eisoes yn y rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Ni chredaf y gallaf ddweud mwy na hynny.

Gwenda Thomas: Yn dilyn cyhoeddi'r mynegai amddifadedd lluosog am 2005, hoffwn fynegi fy mhryder am y effaith a gaiff y mynegai hwn ar y fenter Cymunedau yn Gyntaf draws-ffiniol yn rhan uchaf cwm Aman. Bydd parhau â'r fformiwla ariannu bresennol yn gwneud sefyllfa Gwauncaegurwen lawer yn waeth. Mae'n hollbwysig yn awr i'r fenter draws-ffiniol hon gael ei hadolygu, a bod yna ffordd decach ymlaen. Pa sicrwydd y gallwch chi ei roi y byddwch yn ystyried cychwyn yr adolygiad hwn?

Edwina Hart: Diolch ichi am godi'r mater hwn. Yr ydym yn cadw llygad barcud ar y mentrau traws-ffiniol, oherwydd yr oeddem yn awyddus, pan sefydlwyd Cymunedau yn Gyntaf gyntaf, i weld a allem wneud iddynt weithio'n iawn. Byddaf yn falch ystyried y pwyntiau a godwyd gennych pan fyddaf yn ystyried y materion sy'n gysylltiedig â'r mynegai newydd.

Alun Ffred Jones: In the same way, there are concerns over the funding of some Communities First areas. In my constituency, for example, the Peblig ward was among the 10 poorest communities in Wales, but it is now 160th in the table. What assurance can you give in terms of funding to those wards that have dropped down the table, bearing in mind that funding for 10 years was originally promised? What assurance can you give those communities?

Edwina Hart: Deallaf y pryderon a'r

worries that are being expressed within your wards. As far as I am concerned, we gave a 10-year commitment to those wards when we introduced the scheme, and that 10-year commitment remains.

gofidiau a fynegir yn eich wardiau. O'm rhan i, rhoddais ymrwymiad 10 mlynedd i'r wardiau hynny pan gyflwynwyd y cynllun, ac mae'r ymrwymiad 10 mlynedd hwnnw'n parhau.

Cynlluniau i Ostwng Digartrefedd Plans to Reduce Homelessness

Q11 Glyn Davies: What plans does the Minister have to reduce homelessness in Wales? OAQ0448(SJR)

C11 Glyn Davies: Pa gynlluniau sydd gan y Gweinidog i leihau digartrefedd yng Nghymru? OAQ0448(SJR)

Edwina Hart: We have set out our agenda to tackle this problem in the 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 gosod allan ein hagenda ai fynd i'r afael â'r broblem hon yn y strategaeth genedlaethol ar ddigartrefedd, sy'n cael ei diwygio gennym ar hyn o bryd. Yr ydym yn cefnogi'r strategaeth hon gan fwy o fuddsoddiad, deddfwriaeth i sicrhau bod llety dros dro priodol ar gael i bobl, a chanllawiau ar ddatblygu strategaethau ac arfer da lleol ar ddigartrefedd.

Glyn Davies: I am told that in Powys and some other places, councillors are being forced to make people homeless because of the inability to support improvements to private sector housing. What steps are you taking to ensure that local authorities realise that by investing in private sector housing as well as in councils' own housing, they can increase the range of affordable housing that is available in Wales?

Glyn Davies: Fel y deallaf, ym Mhowys a rhai mannau eraill, mae cynghorwyr yn cael eu gorfodi i wneud pobl yn ddigartref oherwydd yr anallu i gefnogi gwelliannau ar dai yn y sector preifat. Pa gamau yr ydych yn eu cymryd i sicrhau bod awdurdodau lleol yn sylweddoli, drwy fuddsoddi mewn tai yn y sector preifat yn ogystal â thai cynghorau eu hunain, y gallant gynyddu'r amrywiaeth o dai fforddiadwy sydd ar gael yng Nghymru?

Edwina Hart: It is up to local authorities to consider whether they have housing renewal areas, which can help private sector housing. This is one of the issues that came out strongly in committee, and it is a matter that I intend to raise in the housing summit with local authorities, because it is important that we recognise that there are needs in the private sector that need to be addressed. We also need to recognise that, sometimes, the private sector will have to put in additional resources to make these houses suitable for purpose.

Edwina Hart: Penderfyniad awdurdodau lleol yw ystyried a oes ganddynt ardaloedd adnewyddu tai, a all helpu mater tai yn y sector preifat. Dyna un o'r materion a amlygwyd yn gryf yn y pwyllgor, ac mae'n fater yr wyf yn bwriadu ei godi yn yr uwchgynhadledd tai gydag awdurdodau lleol, oherwydd mae'n bwysig inni gydnabod bod yna anghenion yn y sector preifat y mae angen inni fynd i'r afael â hwy. Mae angen hefyd inni gydnabod y bydd yn rhaid i'r sector preifat, weithiau, ddarparu adnoddau ychwanegol i wneud y tai hyn yn addas at y diben.

Cronfa Datblygu Swyddfa'r Post Post Office Development Fund

Q12 Peter Black: Will the Minister make a statement on the post office development fund? OAQ0447(SJR)

C12 Peter Black: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gronfa datblygu swyddfa'r post? OAQ0447(SJR)

Edwina Hart: I established the post office development fund to support the efforts of sub-postmasters and sub-postmistresses in modernising and diversifying their individual post office businesses. I have awarded £41 million to 106 isolated or urban-deprived post offices so far.

Peter Black: Although the current round of post office closures has finished, there are still threats to rural post offices, and many urban post offices are still in need of improvement. Is it your intention to continue the post office development fund for the foreseeable future and, if so, what sort of criteria will you be looking to apply to applicants?

Edwina Hart: I am looking at the whole issue of the post office development fund, because there are many rumours circulating about the future of postal services. If Members have no objection, I will probably return to this at a later stage in committee, when I will have made some decisions.

Edwina Hart: Sefydlaais gronfa datblygu swyddfa'r post i gefnogi ymdrechion is-bostfeistri ac is-bostfeistresi i foderneiddio ac amrywio eu busnesau swyddfeydd post unigol. Yr wyf wedi rhoi £41 miliwn i 106 o swyddfeydd mewn ardaloedd anghysbell neu ardaloedd trefol difreintiedig hyd yn hyn.

Peter Black: Er bod y cylch presennol o gau swyddfeydd post wedi dod i ben, mae swyddfeydd post gwledig dan fygythiad o hyd, ac mae angen gwella nifer o swyddfeydd post trefol. A ydych yn bwriadu parhau i weithredu cronfa datblygu swyddfa'r post yn y dyfodol agos, ac os felly, pa fath o feini prawf y byddwch yn ystyried eu cymhwyso i ymgeiswyr?

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf yn ystyried y mater hwn o ran cronfa datblygu swyddfa'r post yn ei gyfanrwydd, oherwydd mae llawer o sibrydion ynglŷn â dyfodol y gwasanaethau post. Os nad oes gan yr Aelodau unrhyw wrthwynebiad, byddaf yn dychwelyd i'r pwynt hwn yn ôl pob tebyg yn ddiweddarach yn y pwyllgor, pan fyddaf wedi gwneud rhai penderfyniadau.

Annog Gwirfoddolwyr Encouraging Volunteers

Q13 Laura Anne Jones: What incentives is the Welsh Assembly Government offering to encourage volunteers into the voluntary sector? OAQ0436(SJR)

C13 Laura Anne Jones: Pa gymhellion y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn eu cynnig i annog gwirfoddolwyr i ymuno â'r sector gwirfoddol? OAQ0436(SJR)

2.30 p.m.

Edwina Hart: The Assembly Government is urging more people to volunteer through its Year of the Volunteer initiative. We are encouraging our staff to participate by extending the annual employee volunteering entitlement to five days. We are working with partner agencies to attract more young volunteers, as recommended by the Russell commission.

Edwina Hart: Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn annog mwy o bobl i wirfoddoli drwy ei menter Blwyddyn y Gwirfoddolwr. Yr ydym yn annog ein staff i gyfranogi drwy ymestyn yr hawl flynyddol i weithwyr wirfoddoli i bum diwrnod. Yr ydym yn gweithio gydag asiantaethau sy'n bartneriaid i ddenu mwy o wirfoddolwyr ifanc, fel yr argymhellwyd gan gomisiwn Russell.

Laura Anne Jones: You will aware that the shortage of volunteers is endemic in the voluntary sector, from the Girlguiding movement that is currently campaigning for 8,000 more adults to come into the organisation, to the National Trust that

Laura Anne Jones: Gwyddoch fod y prinder gwirfoddolwyr yn gyffredin iawn yn y sector gwirfoddol, o fudiad y Geidiaid sydd ar hyn o bryd yn ymgyrchu i gael 8,000 yn rhagor o oedolion i ymuno â'r sefydliad, i'r Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol a siniodd

reported this year that around 59 per cent of its sites, such as Powis Castle, are in need of help. Minister, as you said, this year is designated Year of the Volunteer, but how successful has the Assembly Government's involvement been, and what will you do to keep the momentum going after this year? Are you aware that the increased legal commitments that volunteers must take on board are putting people off becoming involved in these organisations?

Edwina Hart: I have many discussions with the trustees of small organisations about how onerous it can be to be a trustee. We are aware of these issues. As a Government, we are working on addressing the recommendations of the Russell commission, particularly those on youth volunteering. Some of the recommendations focus on incentivising young people to volunteer by giving more recognition to volunteering, which I think is important. We are developing, for example, a personal appraisal system with objectives, support and records of achievement and new national vocational qualification modules on volunteering, which I hope will encourage young people to take part. We have provided a lot of support through the various grant schemes—Volunteering Wales's support is at over £900,000; Millennium Volunteers received over £300,000; and the Active Community initiative received nearly £2 million. Even when the Year of the Volunteer ends, we must keep up the momentum in encouraging volunteers. They are one of the most valuable assets of Wales and should be appreciated.

eleni fod angen cymorth ar ryw 59 y cant o'i safleoedd, megis Castell Powys. Weinidog, fel yr oeddech yn dweud, eleni yw Blwyddyn y Gwirfoddolwyr, ond pa mor llwyddiannus fu rhan Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, a beth fyddwch yn ei wneud i barhau'r momentwm ar ôl eleni? A ydych yn ymwybodol fod y cynnydd mewn ymrwymadau cyfreithiol y mae'n rhaid i wirfoddolwyr eu derbyn yn rhwystro pobl rhag cymryd rhan yn y sefydliadau hyn?

Edwina Hart: Caf lawer o drafodaethau gydag ymddiriedolwyr sefydliadau bach ynglŷn â baich y gwaith o fod yn ymddiriedolwr. Yr ydym yn ymwybodol o'r materion hyn. Fel Llywodraeth, yr ydym yn gweithio i fynd i'r afael ag argymhellion comisiwn Russell, yn arbennig y rheini ar wirfoddoli ymhlith ieuenctid. Mae rhai o'r argymhellion yn canolbwyntio ar gymell pobl ifanc i wirfoddoli drwy roi mwy o gydnabyddiaeth i wirfoddoli, a chredaf fod hynny'n bwysig. Er enghraifft, yr ydym yn datblygu system arfarnu bersonol gydag amcanion, cymorth a chofnodion cyflawni a modiwlau cymwysterau galwedigaethol cenedlaethol newydd ar wirfoddoli, a gobeithio y bydd y rhain yn annog pobl ifanc i gymryd rhan. Yr ydym wedi rhoi llawer o gymorth drwy'r amrywiol gynlluniau grant—mae cymorth Gwirfoddoli Cymru yn cael dros £900,000; cafodd Gwirfoddolwyr y Mileniwm dros £300,000; a chafodd y fenter Cymuned Weithgar bron i £2 filiwn. Hyd yn oed pan ddaw Blwyddyn y Gwirfoddolwyr i ben, rhaid inni barhau'r momentwm i annog gwirfoddolwyr. Hwyl yw un o asedau mwyaf gwerthfawr Cymru a dylid eu gwerthfawrogi.

Camddefnyddio Alcohol Alcohol Abuse

Q15 John Griffiths: Will the Minister make a statement on the development of strategies to counter alcohol abuse in Wales? OAQ0445(SJR)

Edwina Hart: The Welsh Assembly Government's strategy for tackling substance misuse in Wales includes alcohol misuse. I have charged each of the 22 partnerships in Wales with the responsibility for delivering the strategy locally.

C15 John Griffiths: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ddatblygu strategaethau i fynd i'r afael â chamddefnyddio alcohol yng Nghymru? OAQ0445(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Mae strategaeth Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer mynd i'r afael â chamddefnyddio sylweddau yng Nghymru yn cynnwys camddefnyddio alcohol. Yr wyf wedi gwneud pob un o'r 22 o bartneriaethau yng Nghymru yn gyfrifol am ddarparu'r strategaeth yn lleol.

John Griffiths: I am pleased, Edwina, that we have placed such an emphasis on tackling alcohol abuse, because we have discussed it many times in the Chamber. We know that there is a great deal to do yet, for example, to ensure that the alcohol industry puts its house in order in terms of the promotions that it uses to encourage people to drink too much. We also know that alcohol abuse puts a great strain on public services, the individuals concerned and society generally and that a great deal of violence results from alcohol abuse. With that sort of background, will you ensure that we maintain the emphasis that we have had for some time on tackling alcohol abuse in Wales?

Edwina Hart: We have discussed this matter. As a result of the statement last week on binge drinking and the useful discussion that took place, the committee will probably look at further work in this area, so we can consider what has happened in terms of licensing laws, whether the change has encouraged more drinking, and the use of happy hours. We are going to explore all these matters, so I have said to the committee that, on the back of the discussion that we had in Plenary, I will come back on some specific points as well, because this is an ongoing agenda. It is important to recognise that we are putting a lot of money in to treat alcohol addiction, but it is also important that we focus on some of the other elements that lead to it in the first place. There will be work continuing in this area.

The Presiding Officer: Thank you, Minister. You seem to have answered all the questions.

John Griffiths: Yr wyf yn falch, Edwina, ein bod wedi rhoi'r fath bwyslais ar fynd i'r afael â chamddefnyddio alcohol, oherwydd yr ydym wedi trafod hyn droeon yn y Siambr. Gwyddom fod cryn lawer o waith i'w wneud o hyd, er enghraifft, i sicrhau bod y diwydiant alcohol yn rhoi ei dŷ mewn trefn o ran yr hyrwyddiadau a ddefnyddir ganddo i annog pobl i yfed gormod. Gwyddom hefyd fod camddefnyddio alcohol yn rhoi straen mawr ar wasanaethau cyhoeddus, ar yr unigolion dan sylw ac ar gymdeithas yn gyffredinol, a bod cryn dipyn o drais yn deillio o gamddefnyddio alcohol. Gyda'r math hwnnw o gefndir, a sicrhewch y byddwn yn cadw'r pwyslais a fu gennym ers tro ar fynd i'r afael â chamddefnyddio alcohol yng Nghymru?

Edwina Hart: Yr ydym wedi trafod y mater hwn. O ganlyniad i ddatganiad ar oryfed yr wythnos diwethaf a'r drafodaeth ddefnyddiol a gafwyd, mae'r pwyllgor yn debygol o edrych ar waith pellach yn y maes hwn er mwyn inni allu ystyried yr hyn sydd wedi digwydd gyda chyfreithiau trwyddedu, a yw'r newid wedi annog mwy o yfed, a defnyddio cyfnodau diodydd rhad. Bwriadwn archwilio'r holl faterion hyn. Felly, yr wyf wedi dweud wrth y pwyllgor y byddaf, yn sgîl y drafodaeth a gawsom yn y Cyfarfod Llawn, yn ymateb i rai pwyntiau penodol hefyd, gan fod hon yn agenda barhaus. Mae'n bwysig cydnabod ein bod yn neilltuo llawer o arian ar gyfer trin pobl sy'n gaeth i alcohol. Ond mae'n bwysig hefyd inni ganolbwyntio ar rai o'r elfennau eraill sy'n arwain ato yn y lle cyntaf. Bydd gwaith yn parhau yn y maes hwn.

Y Llywydd: Diolch ichi, Weinidog. Mae'n ymddangos eich bod wedi ateb yr holl gwestiynau.

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

Anghenion Busnesau yng Nghymru The Needs of Businesses in Wales

C1 David Lloyd: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gynlluniau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i fynd i'r afael ag anghenion busnesau yng Nghymru?

Q1 David Lloyd: Will the Minister make a statement on Welsh Assembly Government initiatives to address the needs of businesses in Wales? OAQ0530(EDT)

OAQ0530(EDT)

The Minister for Economic Development and Transport (Andrew Davies): The Welsh Assembly Government supports directly, and through Assembly sponsored public bodies, an extensive range of initiatives for new and existing businesses that are increasingly being developed with private sector input to ensure relevance and value for money.

David Lloyd: How can businesses be expected to have faith in the new KB4B—the knowledge bank for business—when even Cabinet Ministers, such as your colleague Jane Hutt, have not heard of it?

Andrew Davies: I do not know to which comment you are referring, but it was a top-10 manifesto commitment for my party and it remains a major commitment of this Government. I am delighted to see that it has had overwhelming support from the business community. It is about providing focused and streamlined support for high-growth-potential companies. Certainly, the level of interest that it has already received shows that it will be a successful initiative.

Alun Cairns: The first answer that you gave to Dai Lloyd is similar to many other answers that you have given since you became Minister for Economic Development and Transport. Is it not now time that we saw some dividends on these innovative policies, to use your phrase? When the gross value added figures are published next month, what would you hope to see delivered in them? Do you expect the gap between Wales and the rest of the United Kingdom to have closed?

Andrew Davies: I am not a clairvoyant, Alun. I can tell you, however, that the business environment in Wales now is probably the most vibrant it has been. I know you do not like me repeating this, but when the director of the Confederation of British Industry Wales recently met the First Minister and me, he said that, from talking to his members and having seen for himself, the Welsh economy was the most vibrant he had

Y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth (Andrew Davies): Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cynorthwyo, yn uniongyrchol a thrwy gyrff cyhoeddus a noddur gan y Cynulliad, amrywiaeth helaeth o fentrau ar gyfer busnesau newydd a busnesau presennol sy'n cael eu datblygu'n gynyddol gyda chyfraniad gan y sector preifat i sicrhau eu bod yn berthnasol ac yn rhoi gwerth yr arian.

David Lloyd: Sut y gellir disgwyl i fusnesau fod yn hyderus yn y KB4B newydd—y banc gwybodaeth ar gyfer busnesau—pan nad yw Gweinidogion y Cabinet, fel eich cyd-Weinidog Jane Hutt, hyd yn oed wedi clywed amdano?

Andrew Davies: Ni wn at ba sylw yr ydych yn cyfeirio, ond yr oedd yn un o'r 10 ymrwymiad uchaf ym maniffesto fy mhllaid ac mae'n parhau'n un o brif ymrwymadau'r Llywodraeth hon. Mae'n dda gennyf weld iddo gael cefnogaeth lwyr gan y gymuned fusnes. Mae'n ymwneud â darparu cymorth penodol a gwell i gwmnïau sydd â photensial twf mawr. Yn sicr, mae'r diddordeb y mae eisoes wedi ei ddenu yn dangos y bydd yn fenter lwyddiannus.

Alun Cairns: Mae'r ateb cyntaf a roesoch i Dai Lloyd yn debyg i nifer o atebion eraill a roddwyd gennych ers ichi ddod yn Weinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth. Onid yw'n bryd inni weld rhywfaint o fudd o'r polisiâu arloesol hyn, i ddefnyddio eich ymadrodd chi? Pan gaiff y ffigurau gwerth gros ychwanegol eu cyhoeddi fis nesaf, beth hoffech ei weld yn cael ei gyflawni ynddynt? A ydych yn disgwyl y bydd y bwlech rhwng Cymru a gweddill y Deyrnas Unedig wedi cau?

Andrew Davies: Ni allaf weld i'r dyfodol, Alun. Fodd bynnag, gallaf ddweud wrthyhch fod yr amgylchedd busnes yng Nghymru erbyn hyn yn fwy llewyrchus nag a fu erioed. Gwn nad ydych am imi ailadrodd hyn, ond pan gyfarfu cyfarwyddwr Cydffederasiwn Diwydiant Prydain yng Nghymru â'r Prif Weinidog a minnau yn ddiweddar, dywedodd ar ôl siarad â'i aelodau a gweld drosto'i hun fod economi Cymru yn fwy llewyrchus yn

seen it in many years of visits. As I said at this morning's committee meeting, though I know that you were not there at the time, the latest labour force survey study has shown that, yet again, Wales is showing the rest of the United Kingdom a clean pair of heels on unemployment and reducing economic inactivity, for which the fall in Wales is faster than that for the rest of the United Kingdom. *[Interruption.]*

The Presiding Officer: Order.

Andrew Davies: Since 1999, Wales is the only part of the United Kingdom where the growth in private sector employment has exceeded that of the public sector. I think that that is a creditable record and is gross contrast to when your party had responsibility for the Welsh economy.

Jenny Randerson: The economic future of Wales lies, to a large extent, in the hands of small businesses that we hope will develop and grow. The greatest contribution that your Government could make to serve the needs of small businesses is to look at and address the high levels of business rates, and that applies particularly in my constituency of Cardiff Central. Business rates went up to a particularly high level this year. The Government is considering rate relief for small businesses. Can small businesses count on your support on this issue, and will you agree to press for the introduction of small business rate relief?

Andrew Davies: We do have rate relief schemes, particularly the rural rate relief scheme that was introduced as a result of the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak some years ago. However, my colleague, the Finance Minister, Sue Essex, has announced a review of business rates, and we have invited businesses the length and breadth of Wales, including those in rural areas and inner cities, to respond to that review. There is a great multiplicity of support schemes for business at present, and there is a need to look overall at what schemes are available, how much they cost, whether we are getting value for money, and whether they are helping those businesses that they are intended to help.

awr nag yr oedd wedi'i gweld mewn blynyddoedd lawer o ymweld. Fel y dywedais yng nghyfarfod y pwyllgor y bore yma, er y gwn nad oeddech yno ar y pryd, mae'r astudiaeth ddiweddaraf o arolwg y llafurlu wedi dangos, unwaith yn rhagor, fod Cymru ymhell ar y blaen i weddill y Deyrnas Unedig o ran diweithdra a lleihau anweithgarwch economaidd, sy'n gostwng yn gyflymach yng Nghymru nag yng ngweddill y Deyrnas Unedig. *[Torri ar draws.]*

Y Llywydd: Trefn.

Andrew Davies: Er 1999, Cymru yw'r unig ran o'r Deyrnas Unedig lle mae'r twf mewn cyflogaeth yn y sector preifat yn fwy nag yn y sector cyhoeddus. Credaf fod honno'n record gymeradwy ac yn hollol wahanol i'r adeg pan oedd eich plaid chi'n gyfrifol am economi Cymru.

Jenny Randerson: I raddau helaeth, mae dyfodol economaidd Cymru yn nwylo busnesau bach y gobeithiwn y byddant yn datblygu ac yn tyfu. Y cyfraniad mwyaf y gallai eich Llywodraeth ei wneud i ddiwallu anghenion busnesau bach yw edrych ar y lefelau uchel o ardrethi busnes a mynd i'r afael â hyn. Mae hynny'n arbennig o berthnasol yn fy etholaeth i yng Nghaerdydd Canolog. Cododd ardrethi busnes i lefel arbennig o uchel eleni. Mae'r Llywodraeth yn ystyried rhyddhad ardrethi ar gyfer busnesau bach. A all busnesau bach ddibygnu ar eich cymorth gyda'r mater hwn, ac a gytunwch i bwysu am gyflwyno rhyddhad ardrethi i fusnesau bach?

Andrew Davies: Mae gennym gynlluniau rhyddhad ardrethi, yn arbennig y cynllun rhyddhad ardrethi gwledig a gyflwynwyd o ganlyniad i'r achosion o glwy'r traed a'r genau rai blynyddoedd yn ôl. Fodd bynnag, mae fy nghyd-Weinidog, y Gweinidog Cyllid, Sue Essex, wedi cyhoeddi adolygiad o ardrethi busnes, ac yr ydym wedi gwahodd busnesau ledled Cymru, gan gynnwys y rheini mewn ardaloedd gwledig a chanol dinasoedd, i ymateb i'r adolygiad hwnnw. Mae yna nifer fawr o gynlluniau cymorth i fusnesau ar hyn o bryd, ac mae angen edrych yn gyffredinol ar ba gynlluniau sydd ar gael, faint maent yn ei gostio, a ydym yn cael gwerth yr arian, ac a ydynt yn helpu'r

busnesau hynny y bwriedir iddynt eu helpu.

**Banc Gwybodaeth ar gyfer Busnesau
Knowledge Bank for Business**

Q2 Janet Ryder: Will the Minister make a statement on the selection criteria for the knowledge bank for business?
OAQ0519(EDT)

Andrew Davies: The approach that has been adopted in identifying the initial group of KB4B companies was set out in the published knowledge bank for business decision report. This can be accessed via the 'business and industry' link on the Assembly Government's decision reports web pages.

Janet Ryder: I welcome the Assembly Government's move towards Plaid Cymru's economic development policy, with the exception that Plaid Cymru would allocate a more geographical balance in those criteria, because, of the 55 companies selected so far, only seven appear to be in the north. In the Wales Fast Growth 50 list, however, over a quarter of its companies were in the north. Why is there divergence between the two, and how will your policy serve the economic needs of the whole of Wales?

Andrew Davies: Obviously, you did not hear my response the last time you asked me a similar question, so I will repeat it. This is a pilot project at this stage; only about 50 companies have been identified during a pathfinder period until the full knowledge bank is launched next year. We have already recruited some of the account managers, and we are now going to external advertising for the remainder of the initial tranche of knowledge bank account managers, and I am convinced that that 50 will grow substantially when the programme is fully up and running.

In my previous answer, I also said that there is also the fact that the distribution largely reflects population distribution. On this canard, we are not spreading prosperity; in fact, the biggest and fastest fall in unemployment and economic inactivity in

C2 Janet Ryder: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y meini prawf dethol ar gyfer y banc gwybodaeth ar gyfer busnesau?
OAQ0519(EDT)

Andrew Davies: Cafodd yr ymagwedd a fabwysiadwyd ar gyfer nodi'r grŵp cychwynnol o gwmnïau KB4B ei gosod allan yn yr adroddiad penderfyniad sydd wedi ei gyhoeddi am y banc gwybodaeth ar gyfer busnesau. Ceir mynediad i'r banc drwy'r cyswllt 'busnes a diwydiant' ar dudalennau gwe yr adroddiadau ar benderfyniadau gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad.

Janet Ryder: Yr wyf yn croesawu symudiad Llywodraeth y Cynulliad tuag at bolisi datblygu economaidd Plaid Cymru, heblaw am y ffaith y byddai Plaid Cymru yn defnyddio mwy o gydbwysedd daearyddol yn y meini prawf hynny oherwydd, o'r 55 o gwmnïau a ddewiswyd hyd yma, ymddengys mai dim ond saith sydd yn y gogledd. Fodd bynnag, yn rhestr Twf Cyflym 50 Cymru, yr oedd dros chwarter ei chwmnïau yn y gogledd. Pam mae gwahaniaeth rhwng y ddau, a sut y bydd eich polisi yn diwallu anghenion economaidd Cymru gyfan?

Andrew Davies: Mae'n amlwg na chlywsoch fy ymateb y tro diwethaf ichi ofyn cwestiwn tebyg imi, felly, fe'i hailadroddaf. Cynllun peilot yw hwn ar hyn o bryd; dim ond tua 50 o gwmnïau a nodwyd yn ystod cyfnod arloesol nes y caiff y banc gwybodaeth llawn ei lansio y flwyddyn nesaf. Yr ydym wedi recriwtio rhai o'r rheolwyr cyfrifon eisoes, ac yr ydym yn awr yn mynd i hysbysebu'n allanol am weddill y gyfran gychwynnol o reolwyr cyfrifon banc gwybodaeth. Yr wyf yn argyhoeddedig y bydd yr 50 hynny yn cynyddu'n sylweddol pan fydd y rhaglen yn gweithio'n llawn.

Yn fy ateb blaenorol, dywedais hefyd fod yn rhaid cofio bod y dosbarthiad yn adlewyrchu dosbarthiad y boblogaeth i raddau helaeth. Yn ôl y wybodaeth ffug hon, nid ydym yn lledaenu ffyniant; mewn gwirionedd, yn ardal Amcan 1 gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd y

Wales has been in the Objective 1 area of west Wales and the Valleys.

bu'r gostyngiad mwyaf a chyflymaf mewn diweithdra ac anweithgarwch economaidd yng Nghymru.

2.40 p.m.

David Melding: Schemes that attempt to pick winners have not traditionally been very successful. Indeed, they are open to ridicule when you analyse their performance after a few years. However, their one redeeming feature is that you spread the net quite widely and take risks with smaller companies. Will that be your motivation in terms of this scheme?

David Melding: Nid yw cynlluniau sy'n ceisio dewis enillwyr wedi bod yn llwyddiannus iawn yn draddodiadol. Yn wir, maent yn destun gwawd pan ddadansoddwch eu perfformiad ymhen ychydig flynyddoedd. Fodd bynnag, eu hunig nodwedd achubol yw eich bod yn taenu'r rhwyd yn eithaf eang ac yn cymryd risgiau gyda chwmnïau llai. Ai dyna fydd eich cymhelliant o ran y cynllun hwn?

Andrew Davies: Very much so. The 50 companies were not my choice; it was an initial choice made by business advisers, accountancy companies and business support organisations in the private sector, as well as the account management within the Welsh Development Agency and other public bodies. If we are to continue to make a step change in the Welsh economy, we need to take risks. The whole thrust of the knowledge bank is to try to identify, as accurately as possible, those companies with higher growth potential than other companies in their sector. They have been selected on the basis of growth prospects, current and past profitability and the ambition, quality and energy of the company's management. Of the 50 companies, not all will be as successful as each other, but we think that it is the way in which we should go in terms of a focused public support for the private sector.

Andrew Davies: Yn bendant. Nid fi a ddewisodd y 50 o gwmnïau; dyna'r dewis cychwynnol a wnaed gan gynghorwyr busnes, cwmnïau cyfrifyddiaeth a sefydliadau cymorth busnes yn y sector preifat, yn ogystal â rheolwyr cyfrifon yn Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru a chyrrff cyhoeddus eraill. Os ydym i barhau i newid economi Cymru yn sylweddol, mae angen inni gymryd risgiau. Prif fyrdwn y banc gwybodaeth yw ceisio nodi, mor gywir â phosibl, y cwmnïau hynny sy'n fwy tebygol o dyfu na chwmnïau eraill yn eu sector. Fe'u dewiswyd ar sail rhagolygon twf, proffidioldeb ar hyn o bryd ac yn y gorffennol, ac uchelgais, ansawdd ac egni rheolwyr y cwmni. O'r 50 o gwmnïau, ni fydd pob un mor llwyddiannus â'i gilydd, ond credwn mai dyma'r ffordd y dylem fynd ati i roi cymorth cyhoeddus penodol i'r sector preifat.

Kirsty Williams: While it is obvious and self-evident that a large number of the companies will come from areas of large population, that it is not to say that the same types of company that you describe do not operate in mid Wales. However, Control Techniques Ltd in Newtown is the only mid Wales or Powys company that finds itself on the list. As the project progresses next year, and is fully launched, will you ensure that you will actively look for those types of businesses in mid Wales? They do exist. One example is Skye Instruments Ltd in Llandrindod Wells, which produces instruments that are exported all over the world, and is a leader in its field. That is the

Kirsty Williams: Er ei bod yn amlwg y daw nifer fawr o'r cwmnïau o ardaloedd poblog, nid yw hynny'n golygu nad yw'r un mathau o gwmni a ddisgrifiwch yn gweithredu yn y canolbarth. Fodd bynnag, Control Techniques Cyf yn y Drenewydd yw'r unig gwmni yn y canolbarth neu Bowys sydd ar y rhestr. Wrth i'r prosiect fynd rhagddo y flwyddyn nesaf, pan gaiff ei lansio'n llawn, a wnewch sicrhau y byddwch yn mynd ati i chwilio am y mathau hynny o fusnesau yn y canolbarth? Maent yn bodoli. Un enghraifft yw Skye Instruments Cyf yn Llandrindod, sy'n cynhyrchu offerynnau a gaiff eu hallforio ledled y byd, ac mae'n arweinydd yn ei faes. Dyna'r math o gwmni sydd gennym yn y

type of company that we have in mid Wales, but we need a Minister to look for them, promote them and ensure that the prosperity gap that exists between us and the south is not exacerbated.

Andrew Davies: Once the programme is up and running and expands, I am confident that many more companies will come forward from mid Wales, north-west Wales and south and west Wales. Geography or location is not the criterion for selection, but, as the programme expands and more businesses and the private sector become more aware of it, I am sure that many more companies will come forward for that focused support from the areas that you represent.

canolbarth, ond mae angen Gweinidog arnom i chwilio amdanynt, eu hyrwyddo a sicrhau na fydd y bwlch ffyniant rhyngom ni a'r de yn gwaethygu.

Andrew Davies: Pan fydd y rhaglen yn gweithio ac yn ehangu, yr wyf yn ffyddiog y bydd llawer mwy o gwmnïau o'r canolbarth, y gogledd-orllewin a'r de a'r gorllewin yn eu cynnig eu hunain. Nid daearyddiaeth na lleoliad yw'r maen prawf ar gyfer dethol cwmnïau. Ond wrth i'r rhaglen ehangu ac wrth i fwy o fusnesau a'r sector cyhoeddus ddod yn ymwybodol ohoni, yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd llawer mwy o gwmnïau o'r ardaloedd a gynrychiolwch chi yn gwneud cais am y cymorth penodol hwnnw.

Dyfodol Gweithgynhyrchu yng Nghymru The Future of Manufacturing in Wales

Q3 Peter Black: Will the Minister make a statement on the future of manufacturing in Wales? OAQ0550(EDT)

Andrew Davies: The manufacturing industry will continue to play a significant role in the development of the Welsh economy.

Peter Black: I hope that the future is not as short as your reply. Manufacturing has been through some recent difficulties in Wales, and we have lost a number of manufacturing jobs, several of which have been lost because the industries in question are not keeping up with research and development. That seems to me to be a key factor in terms of retaining those jobs in Wales. What strategy are you adopting to try to redress this imbalance and address this problem?

Andrew Davies: A range of programmes will help business to access research and development. The larger companies probably have their own resources, or are able to access the research and development capability that they want, maybe from a local university. It is the smaller companies—Welsh-based and inward investors—that often do not have those resources. So, there is a raft of programmes, and I can write to you with a list of them, which will enable a

C3 Peter Black: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ddyfodol gweithgynhyrchu yng Nghymru? OAQ0550(EDT)

Andrew Davies: Bydd y diwydiant gweithgynhyrchu yn parhau i chwarae rhan bwysig yn natblygiad economi Cymru.

Peter Black: Gobeithio na fydd y dyfodol mor fyr â'ch ateb. Mae gweithgynhyrchu wedi wynebu anawsterau'n ddiweddar yng Nghymru, ac yr ydym wedi colli nifer o swyddi gweithgynhyrchu. Collwyd nifer ohonynt oherwydd nad yw'r diwydiannau dan sylw yn gwneud y gwaith ymchwil a datblygu diweddaraf. Ymddengys i mi fod hynny'n un o'r ffactorau allweddol wrth gadw'r swyddi hynny yng Nghymru. Pa strategaeth yr ydych yn ei mabwysiadu i geisio unioni'r diffyg cydbwysedd hwn ac i ymdrin â'r broblem hon?

Andrew Davies: Bydd amrywiaeth o raglenni yn helpu busnesau i fanteisio ar waith ymchwil a datblygu. Mae'n debyg fod gan y cwmnïau mwy eu hadnoddau eu hunain, neu eu bod yn gallu cael yr adnoddau ymchwil a datblygu y maent am eu cael, efallai o brifysgol leol. Y cwmnïau llai—rhai Cymreig a mewnfuddsoddwyr—yw'r rhai sydd heb yr adnoddau hynny yn aml iawn. Felly, mae yna amrywiaeth o raglenni, a gallaf ysgrifennu atoch i roi rhestr ohonynt, a

company, for example, to access scientific research and materials, or in other areas. There is the manufacturing advisory service, which is a joint initiative with the Department of Trade and Industry, there is Design Wales and the National Centre for Product Design and Development Research at UWIC, which are aimed at helping small companies in particular to access the research and development support that they need to develop existing products or to take new products to market. I will write to you outlining what is available.

Val Lloyd: What action has been, or will be, taken to mitigate the effects on the Welsh economy of long-term structural change to the automotive section of the British manufacturing industry?

Andrew Davies: As you probably know, we have established the Wales automotive forum, which is an industry-led programme funded by us and the Welsh Development Agency to give focused, targeted support to the automotive industry. One of the programmes that the forum runs is 'Accelerate Wales', which helps companies, particularly those supplying the larger manufacturers, to improve productivity and efficiency and to spread best practice. The 'Accelerate Wales' programme has been publicly acknowledged as being instrumental in helping those companies whose major customer five years ago was MG Rover, to diversify their customer base away from MG Rover. Therefore, when it, sadly, went out of business earlier this year, those companies were not as exposed as they would have been otherwise. That is an example of how working with the industry identified in what direction the global market was going and helped companies to manage a transformation.

Nick Bourne: I have written to the Minister on the issue of an empty factory unit in Knighton, for which the WDA is the landlord. The Minister will recall that that unit is restricted to manufacturing industries. There is a potential tenant company waiting in the wings, which will otherwise go to

fydd yn galluogi cwmni, er enghraifft, i ddefnyddio gwaith ymchwil a deunyddiau gwyddonol, neu mewn meysydd eraill. Dyna ichi'r gwasanaeth cyngori ar weithgynhyrchu, sy'n fenter ar y cyd â'r Adran Masnach a Diwydiant, yna mae Dylunio Cymru a'r Ganolfan Genedlaethol ar gyfer Ymchwil Dylunio a Datblygu Cynnyrch yn UWIC, sydd â'r nod o helpu cwmnïau bach yn benodol i gael y cymorth ymchwil a datblygu y mae arnynt ei angen i ddatblygu eu cynnyrch presennol neu i gyflwyno cynnyrch newydd i'r farchnad. Fe ysgrifennaf atoch i amlinellu'r hyn sydd ar gael.

Val Lloyd: Pa gamau sydd wedi'u cymryd, neu a gaiff eu cymryd, i liniaru effeithiau'r newid strwythurol hirdymor yn adran modurol diwydiant gweithgynhyrchu Prydain ar economi Cymru?

Andrew Davies: Fel y gwyddoch, mae'n debyg, yr ydym wedi sefydlu fforwm modurol Cymru, sef rhaglen sy'n cael ei harwain gan y diwydiant a'i hariannu gennym ni ac Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru, i roi cymorth penodol wedi'i dargedu i'r diwydiant moduron. Un o'r rhaglenni y mae'r fforwm yn ei rhedeg yw 'Sbardun Cymru' sy'n cynorthwyo cwmnïau, yn enwedig y rheini sy'n cyflenwi'r gwneuthurwyr mawr, i wella cynhyrchiant ac effeithlonrwydd a lledaenu arfer gorau. Cydnabuwyd yn gyhoeddus fod rhaglen 'Sbardun Cymru' wedi bod yn hanfodol i helpu'r cwmnïau hynny yr oedd MG Rover yn brif gwsmer iddynt bum mlynedd yn ôl, i gael sylfaen fwy amrywiol o gwsmeriaid yn hytrach nag MG Rover yn unig. Felly, pan aeth y cwmni, yn anffodus, i'r wal yn gynharach eleni, nid oedd y cwmnïau hynny mor ddiameddiffyn ag y byddent fel arall. Mae hynny'n enghraifft o'r modd y mae gweithio gyda'r diwydiant wedi dangos i ba gyfeiriad y mae'r farchnad fyd-eang yn mynd ac wedi cynorthwyo cwmnïau i reoli'r trawsnewid.

Nick Bourne: Yr wyf wedi ysgrifennu at y Gweinidog ynglŷn ag uned ffatri wag yn Nhrefyclo, uned y mae WDA yn landlord arni. Bydd y Gweinidog yn cofio bod yr uned honno'n gyfyngedig i ddiwydiannau gweithgynhyrchu. Mae yna gwmni sy'n denant posibl yn disgwyl yn eiddgar, neu fel

Ludlow. It is a mail order business, and would bring valuable jobs and prosperity to the town. Does the WDA have any flexibility in this instance, and, given the excellent relations that you enjoy with the WDA, could you speak to it and intercede to ensure that we get that tenant into Knighton, rather than the company going to Ludlow?

Andrew Davies: I will follow that up after Plenary, and will write to you on it.

arall bydd yn mynd i Lwydlo. Busnes archebion post ydyw, a deuai â swyddi gwerthfawr a ffyniant i'r dref. A oes unrhyw hyblygrwydd gan WDA yn y mater hwn, ac o ystyried y berthynas ardderchog rhyngoch chi a WDA, a allech siarad â'r Awdurdod ac eirioli i sicrhau ein bod yn cael y tenant hwnnw i Drefyclo, yn hytrach na bod y cwmni'n mynd i Lwydlo?

Andrew Davies: Af ar drywydd hynny ar ôl y Cyfarfod Llawn, ac ysgrifennaf atoch yn ei gylch.

Gwelliannau ar yr A477 yn Sir Benfro Improvements to the A477 in Pembrokeshire

Q4 Christine Gwyther: Will the Minister make a statement on improvements to the A477 in Pembrokeshire? OAQ0546(EDT)

Andrew Davies: I am delighted to be able to report to the Chamber that work on the Assembly-Government-funded A477 Nash Fingerpost to Bangeston trunk road improvement scheme has been completed. Tomorrow, I will formally open the new stretch of road, which will improve transport links to Pembrokeshire.

Christine Gwyther: I will be there to support you tomorrow, because I consider it my road, in the same way as you probably consider it yours. Schoolchildren from Pembroke Dock Community School, who were here earlier this afternoon, will also be there, so I hope that you will mention them in your speech. Do you agree that community buy-in to a scheme that involves disruption at some stage is crucial? Will you seek that same community buy-in when you make your next announcement, which I hope will be on the Red Roses-Llanddowror bypass?

Andrew Davies: On the phase 2 scheme of the A477, as you know, consultants are currently looking at a range of routes and options for the Llanddowror bypass and we have been consulting closely with the local community. I have had meetings with you and local constituents on some of the issues that arise for them. I commend constructors on how they now engage with local communities. The A477 work was excellent in that respect, in taking on board the

C4 Christine Gwyther: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am welliannau ar yr A477 yn sir Benfro? OAQ0546(EDT)

Andrew Davies: Mae'n bleser gennyf allu rhoi gwybod i'r Siambr fod gwaith ar gynllun gwella'r gefnffordd A477 Mynegbost Nash i Bangeston a ariennir gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi ei gwblhau. Yfory, byddaf yn agor rhan newydd y ffordd yn ffurfiol, ffordd a fydd yn gwella cysylltiadau trafniadaeth i sir Benfro.

Christine Gwyther: Byddaf yno i'ch cefnogi yfory, oherwydd ystyriaf mai fy ffordd i yw hon, fel yr ydych chi, hwyrach, yn ystyried mai eich ffordd chi ydyw. Bydd plant o Ysgol Gymunedol Doc Penfro, a oedd yma'n gynharach y prynhawn yma, yno hefyd, felly gobeithio y byddwch yn sôn amdanynt yn eich araith. A gytunwch fod ymrwymiad y gymuned i gynllun sy'n golygu tarfu ar ryw adeg yn hanfodol? A sicrhewch yr ymrwymiad hwnnw gan y gymuned pan fyddwch yn gwneud y cyhoeddiad nesaf y byddwch yn ei wneud, gobeithio, ynghylch ffordd osgoi Rhos-goch - Llanddowror?

Andrew Davies: O ran cam 2 yng nghynllun yr A477, fel y gwyddoch, mae ymgynghorwyr yn edrych ar hyn o bryd ar amrywiaeth o ffyrdd a dewisiadau ar gyfer ffordd osgoi Llanddowror, ac yr ydym wedi ymgynghori'n agos â'r gymuned leol. Yr wyf wedi cael cyfarfodydd gyda chi ac etholwyr lleol ar rai o'r materion sydd o bwys iddynt hwy. Yr wyf yn canmol adeiladwyr am y modd y maent yn awr yn ymgysylltu â chymunedau lleol. Yr oedd y gwaith ar yr

concerns of the local community in, for example, the work that was done with local schools and how environmental concerns were addressed, such as those about access for animals, birds and bats. That was a model of how it should be done. I am aware of that in other schemes. In north Wales, the A477 Lledr valley route was another example of community involvement. That demonstrates not only our commitment to community involvement, but also to designing schemes which, as far as possible, fit into the local environment or are environmentally friendly.

The Presiding Officer: Order. Although I welcome all references to the Lledr valley, the question was about Pembrokeshire.

Lisa Francis: You mentioned the importance of community engagement in this project, and you may be aware of today's edition of the *Western Telegraph*, which says that there is widespread discontent about this scheme. It is seen as potentially dangerous to pedestrians, because the new road has no speed restrictions, warning signs or overhead lighting. All other road interchanges on the A477 and A40, in the area, with the exception of some simple T-junctions, are lit overhead, and have a general speed restriction of 40 mph. Some crossings are marked by lit bollards and signs warning of pedestrians crossing on approaches to crossings. Can you ensure that similar measures will be taken at the Slade intersection?

2.50 p.m.

Andrew Davies: Road safety, both on existing and new roads, is of paramount concern. I would be concerned if those implementing and constructing the roads had not taken that into account, but I would be surprised if that were the case. I will follow up the matter, but I know that my officials and the constructors of road schemes take great care to ensure that the road that is built is safe, accessible and conforms to road safety standards.

A477 yn ardderchog yn hynny o beth, yn ystyried pryderon y gymuned leol, er enghraifft yn y gwaith a wnaed gydag ysgolion lleol a'r modd yr aed i'r afael â phryderon am yr amgylchedd, fel y pryderon ynghylch mynediad i anifeiliaid, adar ac ystlumod. Yr oedd yn batrwm o'r modd y dylid gwneud pethau. Gwn fod hynny'n digwydd mewn cynlluniau eraill. Yn y gogledd yr oedd ffordd dyffryn Lledr ar yr A477 yn enghraifft arall o ymwneud â'r gymuned. Mae hynny'n dangos nid yn unig ein hymrwymiad i ymwneud â'r gymuned, ond hefyd i greu cynlluniau sydd, cyhyd ag y bydd yn bosibl, yn gweddu i'r amgylchedd lleol neu sy'n garedig i'r amgylchedd.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Er fy mod yn croesawu pob cyfeiriad at ddyffryn Lledr, cwestiwn am sir Benfro ydoedd.

Lisa Francis: Soniech am bwysigrwydd ymgysylltu â'r gymuned yn y prosiect hwn, ac efallai eich bod yn ymwybodol o rifyn heddiw o'r *Western Telegraph*, sy'n dweud bod anfodlonrwydd eang ynghylch y cynllun hwn. Credir y gallai fod yn beryglus i gerddwyr, gan nad oes cyfyngiadau cyflymder, arwyddion rhybuddio na goleuadau uwchben ar y ffordd newydd. Mae pob cyfnewidfa ffordd arall ar yr A477 a'r A40, yn yr ardal honno, ac eithrio rhai cyffyrdd-T syml, wedi'u goleuo uwchben, ac mae terfyn cyflymdra cyffredinol o 40 mya arnynt. Mae polion wedi'u goleuo ac arwyddion i rybuddio bod cerddwyr yn croesi wrth nesau at rai croesfannau. A allwch sicrhau y bydd mesurau tebyg ar groesffordd Slade?

Andrew Davies: Mae diogelwch ar y ffordd, ar ffyrdd presennol ac ar ffyrdd newydd, yn hanfodol bwysig. Byddwn yn bryderus pe bai'r rheini sy'n adeiladu'r ffyrdd heb ystyried hynny, ond byddwn yn synnu pe bai hynny'n wir. Af ar drywydd y mater, ond gwn fod fy swyddogion ac adeiladwyr cynlluniau ffordd yn ofalus iawn i sicrhau bod y ffordd sy'n cael ei hadeiladu yn ddiogel, yn gyfleus ac yn cydymffurfio â safonau diogelwch ar y ffordd.

Adroddiadau ar Signalau a Basiwyd adeg Perygl

Signals Passed at Danger Reports

Q5 William Graham: Will the Minister outline the considerations of the Welsh Assembly Government on the decision to make quarterly, not monthly, signals passed at danger reports? OAQ0502(EDT)

C5 William Graham: A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu ystyriaethau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ynglŷn â'r penderfyniad i gynhyrchu adroddiadau ar signalau a basiwyd adeg perygl bob chwarter yn hytrach na bob mis? OAQ0502(EDT)

Andrew Davies: Rail safety is a non-devolved issue. This is a matter for the Rail Safety and Standards Board, which is responsible to Her Majesty's Railway Inspectorate for the production of quarterly signals passed at danger reports.

Andrew Davies: Nid yw diogelwch ar y rheilffyrdd yn fater sydd wedi ei ddatganoli. Mater i Fwrdd Diogelwch a Safonau'r Rheilffyrdd yw hyn, sy'n atebol i Arolygiaeth Rheilffyrdd Ei Mawrhydi am gynhyrchu adroddiadau bob chwarter ar signalau a basiwyd adeg perygl.

William Graham: Could you use your influence to further reduce incidents of signals passed at danger, which currently occur around 30 times a month?

William Graham: A allech ddefnyddio'ch dylanwad i leihau ymhellach nifer y signalau a gaiff eu pasio adeg perygl? Mae hynny'n digwydd ar hyn o bryd tua 30 gwaith y mis.

Andrew Davies: It is a concern when such an event occurs. I know that the RSSB has been conducting a survey on the frequency of such events and is analysing them. As it is such a technical issue, I will write to you giving you an update on the current situation.

Andrew Davies: Pan fydd digwyddiad felly, mae'n destun pryder. Gwn fod Bwrdd Diogelwch a Safonau'r Rheilffyrdd wedi bod yn gwneud arolwg o amllder digwyddiadau felly a'u bod yn eu dadansoddi. Gan ei fod yn fater technegol, ysgrifennaf atoch i roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf ichi am y sefyllfa bresennol.

Gweithgynhyrchu yn Etholaeth Llanelli Manufacturing in the Llanelli Constituency

Q6 Catherine Thomas: Will the Minister make a statement on manufacturing in the Llanelli constituency? OAQ0535(EDT)

C6 Catherine Thomas: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am weithgynhyrchu yn etholaeth Llanelli? OAQ0535(EDT)

Andrew Davies: Manufacturing provides significant employment in Llanelli, with progressive companies such as INA Bearings in Bynea in the vanguard of productivity improvements in the manufacturing sector.

Andrew Davies: Mae gweithgynhyrchu'n creu nifer o swyddi yn Llanelli, ac mae cwmnïau blaengar fel INA Bearings yn y Bynie ar flaen y gad yn gwella cynhyrchiant yn y sector gweithgynhyrchu.

Catherine Thomas: I am glad that you referred to INA Bearings, which recently celebrated its fiftieth anniversary and is doing a wonderful job in my constituency. I also acknowledge the other work that you are doing to safeguard jobs in companies such as Calsonic Kansei and Krupp Camford Pressings Ltd, which are both in Felinfoel in a Communities First area. However, do you share my enormous concerns regarding the recent announcement that the Ministry of Defence site in Llangennech has been

Catherine Thomas: Yr wyf yn falch ichi gyfeirio at INA Bearings, a oedd yn dathlu ei hanner canmlwyddiant yn ddiweddar ac sy'n gwneud gwaith gwych yn fy etholaeth. Cydnabyddaf hefyd y gwaith arall yr ydych yn ei wneud i ddiogelu swyddi mewn cwmnïau fel Calsonic Kansei a Krupp Camford Pressings Cyf, y ddau yn Felin-foel mewn ardal Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Fodd bynnag, a ydych chi, fel finnau, yn pryderu'n fawr am y cyhoeddiad yn ddiweddar fod safle'r Weinyddiaeth Amddiffyn yn

earmarked for closure in 2008? I ask for your support for the workforce in Llangennech at such a crucial time. Thank you for the meetings that you have already had with the unions, and the meeting that you have agreed to have with me and shop stewards. I ask for your support during the next few days in particular, when I and Nia Griffith, the MP for Llanelli, along with those shop stewards from Llangennech, will meet Adam Ingram MP, the Minister of State for the Armed Forces, to put forward our strong opposition to this decision, which I deplore.

Andrew Davies: I am always concerned when there are job losses in Wales. As you said, I have met the trade unions, particularly the Public and Commercial Services Union, to discuss this issue. I will be raising MOD-related issues, including the job losses at Llangennech, during my next meeting with the Wales Office Minister, Nick Ainger. I remain committed to working with you and Nia Griffith, who have taken a lead on this issue, in terms of encouraging MOD to reconsider its decision. If that is not possible, I will work with it to lessen the blow for the local community.

Glyn Davies: There has been a real reduction in manufacturing jobs right across Wales, including in Llanelli. Do you accept that the replacement jobs that we are seeing in the service sector do not offer anything like the same levels of wages? This is the fundamental reason why the gross value added figures in Wales remain so desperately low, and why the predictions that you and the First Minister have made over the last few years have turned out to be hopelessly inaccurate whenever you have talked about closing the gap between Wales and other parts of Britain.

Andrew Davies: I am sorry to disappoint you, Glyn, but the real reason why we have low per capita GVA is because your Government from 1979 to 1997 decimated the manufacturing industry; 360,000 manufacturing jobs were lost in those 18 years. I will not take any lectures from the

Llangennech wedi'i glustnodi i gau yn 2008? Gofynnaf am eich cefnogaeth i'r gweithlu yn Llangennech ar adeg mor dyngedfennol. Diolch am y cyfarfodydd yr ydych eisoes wedi'u cael gyda'r undebau, a'r cyfarfod yr ydych wedi cytuno i'w gael gyda mi a swyddogion undeb. Gofynnaf am eich cefnogaeth yn ystod y dyddiau nesaf yn arbennig, pan fydd Nia Griffith, AS Llanelli, a minnau, ynghyd â'r swyddogion undebol hynny o Langennech, yn cwrdd ag Adam Ingram AS, y Gweinidog Gwladol dros y Lluoedd Arfog, i fynegi ein gwrthwynebiad mawr i'r penderfyniad hwn yr wyf yn gresynu yn ei gylch.

Andrew Davies: Yr wyf yn bryderus bob amser pan fydd colli swyddi yng Nghymru. Fel yr oeddech yn dweud, yr wyf wedi cwrdd â'r undebau llafur, yn enwedig yr Undeb Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus a Masnachol, i drafod y mater hwn. Byddaf yn codi materion yn ymwneud â'r Weinyddiaeth Amddiffyn, gan gynnwys y colli swyddi yn Llangennech, yn ystod fy nghyfarfod nesaf â Gweinidog Swyddfa Cymru, Nick Ainger. Yr wyf yn dal wedi ymrwymo i weithio â chi a Nia Griffith, sydd wedi arwain yn y mater hwn, i annog y Weinyddiaeth Amddiffyn i ailystyried ei phenderfyniad. Os nad yw hynny'n bosibl, byddaf yn gweithio gyda'r Weinyddiaeth i leihau'r ergyd i'r gymuned leol.

Glyn Davies: Mae gostyngiad gwirioneddol wedi bod yn nifer y swyddi gweithgynhyrchu ar hyd a lled Cymru, gan gynnwys yn Llanelli. A ydych yn derbyn nad yw'r swyddi sy'n dod yn eu lle yn y sector gwasanaeth yn cynnig dim byd tebyg o ran cyflog? Dyna'r rheswm sylfaenol pam mae ffigurau gwerth ychwanegol crynswth Cymru yn dal mor echrudus o isel, a pham y mae'r proffwydoliaethau gennyh chi a'r Prif Weinidog yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf wedi bod yn anobeithiol o wallus pryd bynnag y byddech yn sôn am gau'r bwlch rhwng Cymru a rhannau eraill Prydain.

Andrew Davies: Mae'n ddrwg gennyf eich siomi, Glyn, ond y gwir reswm pam mae ein gwerth ychwanegol crynswth y pen yn isel yw oherwydd i'ch Llywodraeth chi rhwng 1979 a 1997 chwalu'r diwydiant gweithgynhyrchu; collwyd 360,000 o swyddi gweithgynhyrchu yn y 18 mlynedd hynny. Ni

Conservatives on the manufacturing sector, given the decline of whole industries such as the coal industry. It is not true to say that highly paid manufacturing jobs have been lost and low-paid service industry jobs have been gained. For example, in the recent case of the closure of Sony's television plant in Bridgend, many of those made redundant over the last month or so have found more highly paid employment in the area.

Many of the jobs that we are now creating in Wales, in both the service and manufacturing sectors, are very well-paid. For example, Logica CMG now has its European centre for outsourcing in the Bridgend area. Many of these jobs are very highly paid, graduate-entry jobs. The people of Wales can have confidence in the future now, as they could not during 1979 to 1997.

dderbyniaf bregeth gan y Ceidwadwyr ar y sector gweithgynhyrchu, o ystyried dirywiad diwydiannau cyfain fel y diwydiant glo. Nid yw'n wir dweud bod swyddi gweithgynhyrchu gyda chyflogau uchel wedi eu colli a bod swyddi diwydiant gwasanaeth cyflog isel wedi'u hennill. Er enghraifft, ar ôl cau gwaith teledu Sony ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn ddiweddar, mae nifer o'r rheini a gollodd eu swyddi yn y mis diwethaf wedi dod o hyd i waith am gyflog uwch yn yr ardal.

Mae nifer o'r swyddi yr ydym yn eu creu yng Nghymru erbyn hyn, yn y sectorau gwasanaeth a gweithgynhyrchu, yn swyddi gyda chyflog uchel iawn. Er enghraifft, mae canolfan Ewropeaidd contractau allanol cwmni Logica CMG wedi symud i ardal Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr erbyn hyn. Gall pobl Cymru fod yn hyderus yn y dyfodol bellach: ni allent fod felly rhwng 1979 a 1997.

Cyflogaeth yn y Sector Twristiaeth Employment within the Tourism Sector

Q7 Michael German: What action is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to improve perceptions of employment within the tourism sector? OAQ0532(EDT)

Andrew Davies: We are working closely with the industry, for example, the Wales Tourism Alliance and the British Hospitality Association, to raise the status and the quality of the industry.

The Tourism Training Forum for Wales, which is funded through the Wales Tourist Board and Education and Learning Wales, is working with the sector skills council for tourism and People First to provide a funding framework for skills development and career promotion that will help improve perceptions of, and opportunities within, the tourism industry.

Michael German: Could you confirm the perception in the figures of the difference between the amount spent by tourists from Wales outside of Wales and the amount spent by tourists who come into Wales? Is the gap, as I am told, £763 million? If so, we are net exporting our tourism ability. What will be

C7 Michael German: Pa gamau y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn eu cymryd i wella'r argraff sydd gan bobl o gyflogaeth yn y sector twristiaeth? OAQ0532(EDT)

Andrew Davies: Yr ydym yn cydweithio'n agos â'r diwydiant, er enghraifft, Cynghrair Twristiaeth Cymru a Chymdeithas Lletygarwch Prydain, i godi statws ac ansawdd y diwydiant.

Mae'r Fforwm Hyfforddiant Twristiaeth yng Nghymru, sy'n cael ei ariannu drwy Fwrdd Croeso Cymru a Dysgu ac Addysgu Cymru, yn gweithio'n agos gyda'r cyngor sgiliau sector ar gyfer twristiaeth a Rhoi Pobl yn Gyntaf i ddarparu fframwaith ariannu i ddatblygu sgiliau a hyrwyddo gyrfaoedd a fydd yn helpu gwella argraff pobl o'r diwydiant twristiaeth ac i wella cyfleoedd yn y diwydiant.

Michael German: A allech gadarnhau'r argraff a roddir gan y ffigurau fod gwahaniaeth rhwng y swm a werir gan dwristiaid o Gymru y tu allan i Gymru a'r swm a werir gan dwristiaid sy'n dod i mewn i Gymru? Ai £763 miliwn yw'r bwch, fel y dywedir wrthyf? Os felly, yr ydym yn allforio

the perception of the tourism industry from next year onwards, when we will rely heavily on marketing outside Wales to ensure that we increase that figure and that there is no trade deficit between outward migration of tourism and inward tourism?

Andrew Davies: Attracting visitors from other parts of the UK and the rest of the world is the Wales Tourist Board's and the Assembly Government's top priority. That is the whole thrust of the tourism strategy, and the marketing programmes that the Wales Tourist Board runs. The WTB is finalising the review of the tourism strategy, 'Achieving our Potential'. Clearly, we are trying to attract the higher spending visitor to Wales to increase the yield on each visitor who comes to Wales. Holding events such as the Ryder Cup, and the focus we are bringing to that, is an opportunity not only to attract more visitors to Wales—and not only those who play golf—but to ensure that the yield from each visitor is increased.

mwy o fusnes twristiaeth nag sy'n dod i mewn. Beth fydd yr argraff o'r diwydiant twristiaeth o'r flwyddyn nesaf ymlaen, pan fyddwn yn dibynnu'n drwm ar farchnata y tu allan i Gymru i sicrhau ein bod yn cynyddu'r ffigur hwnnw, ac na fydd diffyg masnachol rhwng twristiaeth o Gymru i wledydd eraill a thwristiaeth i Gymru o'r tu allan?

Andrew Davies: Denu ymwelwyr o rannau eraill o'r DU a gweddill y byd yw blaenoriaeth uchaf Bwrdd Croeso Cymru a Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Dyna swm a sylwedd y strategaeth dwristiaeth, a'r rhaglenni marchnata y mae Bwrdd Croeso Cymru yn eu rhedeg. Mae'r bwrdd croeso yn cwblhau adolygiad o'r strategaeth dwristiaeth, 'Cyflawni ein Potensial'. Yr ydym yn amlwg yn ceisio denu'r ymwelydd sy'n gwario fwyaf i Gymru er mwyn cynyddu'r incwm a grëir gan bob ymwelydd sy'n dod i Gymru. Mae cynnal digwyddiadau fel Cwpan Ryder, a'r pwyslais yr ydym yn ei roi ar hynny, yn gyfle nid yn unig i ddenu mwy o ymwelwyr i Gymru—nid pobl sy'n chwarae golff yn unig—ond i sicrhau cael mwy o incwm o bob ymwelydd.

Dyfodol Gwasanaethau Rheilffordd yng Nghymru The Future of Rail Services in Wales

Q8 Janet Davies: Will the Minister make a statement on the future of rail services in Wales? OAQ0522(EDT)

C8 Janet Davies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ddyfodol gwasanaethau rheilffordd yng Nghymru? OAQ0522(EDT)

Andrew Davies: Rail services have a key role to play in implementing our integrated transport policy to reduce dependency on the car and improve accessibility generally. From April 2006, the Assembly Government will have increased responsibility for rail services in Wales and be a co-signatory to the Wales and borders franchise.

Andrew Davies: Mae rôl allweddol i wasanaethau rheilffyrdd wrth weithredu ein polisi trafnidiaeth integredig, er mwyn lleihau dibyniaeth ar y car a gwella hwylustod yn gyffredinol. O fis Ebrill 2006 ymlaen, bydd gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad fwy o gyfrifoldeb dros wasanaethau rheilffyrdd yng Nghymru, a bydd yn gyd-lofnodwr masnachfrait Cymru a'r gororau.

Janet Davies: When we have these new powers, what will it take to achieve a step change and much-needed improvements to infrastructure, rolling stock and services: political will, leadership, competence, or all three? What do you need to do, Minister, to achieve them?

Janet Davies: Ar ôl inni gael y pwerau newydd hyn, beth fydd angen ei wneud i sicrhau'r newid mawr a'r gwelliannau mawr eu hangen mewn seilwaith, cerbydau a gwasanaethau: ewyllys wleidyddol, arweiniad, dehurwydd, neu'r tri pheth? Beth sydd angen ichi ei wneud, Weinidog, i'w cyflawni?

3.00 p.m.

Andrew Davies: We are already significantly improving rail services in Wales. We have reopened the passenger services on the Vale of Glamorgan line and, by early 2007, we will have passenger services on the Ebbw Vale line for the first time since the Beeching cuts. We have invested an additional £50 million in the Valley lines to improve the capacity and frequency of services. In December, Arriva Trains Wales will introduce a standard pattern timetable, which will improve the performance and delivery of services. Network Rail has also invested £400 million to upgrade the signalling on the Great Western line between Port Talbot and the Severn tunnel. That is a substantial investment, and I am sure that we will see a significant improvement in the level and the frequency of services provided over the next few years.

Leighton Andrews: Speaking of Valley lines and Arriva Trains, as I said this morning, I have received a number of complaints from constituents regarding a range of issues including the leaves-on-the-line issue, which has led to people being unable to get off at their platforms in mid Rhondda, the standard of stations, and revenue collection on trains. Will you please take up these issues with Arriva Trains, because we are entitled to a higher quality of service in the Valleys?

Andrew Davies: I could not agree more. A substantial UK Government subsidy of £120 million a year is going into the all-Wales franchise through the Treasury, and I have added to this with funds from my budget. Responsibility for the franchise will reside with us, as a Government, from next April, and it is being made clear to Arriva Trains Wales that we put a high priority on the quality and reliability of services provided in view of the considerable amount of public money going into the franchise. It is aware of my commitment and expectation and I will hold the company to this.

Andrew Davies: Yr ydym eisoes yn gwella gwasanaethau rheilffyrdd yng Nghymru yn sylweddol. Yr ydym wedi ailagor y gwasanaethau i deithwyr ar linell Bro Morgannwg, ac erbyn dechrau 2007, bydd gennym wasanaethau i deithwyr ar linell Glynebwy am y tro cyntaf ers toriadau Beeching. Yr ydym wedi buddsoddi £50 miliwn ychwanegol yng nghledrau'r Cymoedd i wella nifer ac amlder y gwasanaethau. Ym mis Rhagfyr, bydd Trenau Arriva Cymru yn cyflwyno amserlen ar batrwm safonol a fydd yn gwella perfformiad y gwasanaethau a'r ffordd y cânt eu darparu. Mae Network Rail hefyd wedi buddsoddi £400 miliwn i uwchraddio'r signalau ar y llinell Great Western rhwng Port Talbot a thwnnel afon Hafren. Mae hynny'n fuddsoddiad sylweddol, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y gwelwn welliant sylweddol yn lefel ac amlder y gwasanaethau a ddarperir yn ystod yr ychydig flynyddoedd nesaf.

Leighton Andrews: I sôn am Gledrau'r Cymoedd a Threnau Arriva, fel y dywedais y bore yma, yr wyf wedi cael nifer o gwynion gan etholwyr ynghylch amrywiaeth o faterion, gan gynnwys problem dail ar y cledrau, sydd wedi golygu na all pobl ddod oddi ar y trêr ar y platfform yng nghanol Rhondda, safon gorsafoedd, a chasglu arian ar drenau. Os gwelwch yn dda, a wnewch chi godi'r materion hyn gyda Threnau Arriva, gan fod gennym hawl i gael gwasanaeth o safon well yn y Cymoedd?

Andrew Davies: Yr wyf yn cytuno'n llwyr â chi. Mae Llywodraeth y DU yn rhoi cymhorthdal sylweddol o £120 miliwn y flwyddyn i fasnachfaint Cymru gyfan drwy'r Trysorlys, ac yr wyf wedi ychwanegu arian o'm cyllideb at hyn. Ni, fel Llywodraeth, a fydd yn gyfrifol am y fasnachfaint o fis Ebrill nesaf, ac yr ydym yn rhoi ar ddeall i Trenau Arriva Cymru ein bod yn rhoi blaenoriaeth uchel i ansawdd a dibynadwyedd y gwasanaethau a ddarperir, o gofio'r swm sylweddol o arian cyhoeddus a fuddsoddir yn y fasnachfaint. Mae'n ymwybodol o'm hymrwymiad a'm disgwyliadau i, a byddaf yn sicrhau bod y cwmni yn gweithredu yn unol â hyn.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Yr wyf yn siŵr bod y Gweinidog yn ymwybodol y bydd croeso i'r gwelliant i'r gwasanaeth rhwng y de a'r gogledd yn sgîl y newidiadau yn yr amserlen ym mis Rhagfyr, ond mae'n ymwybodol hefyd bod angen nid yn unig gwasanaethau mwy cyson ond gwasanaethau mwy cyflym—a hoffwn bwysleisio hyn—rhwng y de a'r gogledd. Mae'n daith hir iawn ar y trêrn, yn enwedig os yw pobl am wneud busnes yng Nghaerdydd a dychwelyd i'r gogledd yr un diwrnod. Nid wyf yn deall pam fod pobl yn gallu mynd o Gaerdydd i Lundain, er enghraifft, yn gyflymach nag o Gaerdydd i Gaerdydd. Nid wyf yn deall pam fod Arriva Trains yn mynnu bod pob trêrn i Gaerdydd yn stopio mor aml; mae hynny'n ychwanegu llawer o amser at hyd y daith. A wnaiff y Gweinidog drafod hynny gydag Arriva Trains er mwyn inni gael gwasanaeth a fydd yn uno'r de a'r gogledd, ac fel bod pobl yn teimlo'n gyfforddus ynglŷn â'r siwrnai hon?

Andrew Davies: Why does the service have to stop so frequently? The reason is that it has to pick up passengers. [*Laughter.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order. The Minister is developing his answer.

Andrew Davies: The reason that they have to do that is that very few people make the journey from north to south in its entirety. The bulk of the passengers on the north-south rail service are not travelling from north Wales to south Wales; they are travelling relatively short distances, for example, from Bangor to Shrewsbury or Chester, from Shrewsbury to Hereford, or from Hereford to Abergavenny or Cardiff. That is the fundamental problem that we have with the north-south rail service. The number of people travelling from north to south is very few. We could introduce a direct rail route straight through from Holyhead or Bangor to Cardiff, but the numbers on that service would be extremely small, and the level of subsidy needed would be disproportionately large. That is why the train service stops at many stations. It has to pick up passengers in order to provide the local service that most people are using.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: That was the least

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I am sure that the Minister is aware that the improvement in the service between north and south Wales as a result of changes in the timetable from December will be welcomed. But he is also aware that we need not only more regular services but also faster services—and I should like to emphasise this—between north and south. It is a very lengthy train journey, particularly if people want to do some business in Cardiff and return to north Wales on the same day. I cannot understand how people can travel from Holyhead to London, for example, more quickly than from Holyhead to Cardiff. I do not understand why Arriva Trains insist that all Cardiff-bound trains have such frequent stops; that adds a great deal of time to the length of the journey. Will the Minister discuss this issue with Arriva Trains so that we can have a service which unites north and south Wales, and so that people feel comfortable with this journey?

Andrew Davies: Pam mae'n rhaid i'r gwasanaeth stopio mor aml? Y rheswm am hynny yw i godi teithwyr. [*Chwerthin.*]

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae'r Gweinidog yn datblygu ei ateb.

Andrew Davies: Y rheswm pam mae'n rhaid iddynt wneud hynny yw mai prin yw'r bobl sy'n teithio'r siwrnai gyfan o'r gogledd i'r de. Nid yw'r rhan fwyaf o'r teithwyr sydd ar y gwasanaeth rheilffordd o'r gogledd i'r de yn teithio'r holl ffordd; maent yn teithio pellteroedd cymharol fyr, er enghraifft, o Fangor i Amwythig neu Gaer, o Amwythig i Henffordd, neu o Henffordd i'r Fenni neu Gaerdydd. Dyna'r broblem sylfaenol sydd gennym gyda'r gwasanaeth rheilffordd o'r gogledd i'r de. Mae nifer y bobl sy'n teithio o'r gogledd i'r de yn isel iawn. Gallem gyflwyno llinell rheilffordd uniongyrchol o Gaerdydd neu Fangor i Gaerdydd, ond byddai'r niferoedd ar y gwasanaeth hwnnw yn isel iawn, a byddai lefel y cymorthdal angenrheidiol yn anghyfartal o uchel. Dyna pam mae'r gwasanaeth trenau yn stopio mewn nifer o orsafoedd. Rhaid iddo godi'r teithwyr er mwyn darparu'r gwasanaeth lleol y mae'r rhan fwyaf o bobl yn ei ddefnyddio.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Dyna'r ateb lleiaf

convincing reply that I have heard from a Minister since the Assembly was established. I travel on that train regularly—

Leighton Andrews: Only you.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Only me?

The Presiding Officer: Order. There is no need to listen to interruptions from Members who are sitting down.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I will tell the people of Bangor about the intervention of the Member for Rhondda.

I travel on that train regularly. By the time the train from Holyhead reaches Llandudno Junction, it is reasonably full. On a Sunday, you sometimes have to stand all the way from Llandudno Junction to Cardiff—because there are people who want to travel on this service. It is ludicrous to suggest that you have to stop at every station to pick up all of these passengers, because the trains are often already full to capacity. There is no reason why there should not be a reasonable service stopping at Bangor, Llandudno Junction and along the north Wales coast, Chester, Shrewsbury, Hereford and Cardiff. Why must it stop everywhere en route? More people would travel on that route if it was a quick service. People understand that it is much easier to travel to London than Cardiff. Wales would benefit if we had a much better service.

Andrew Davies: The mainline service from north Wales to London does stop at fewer stations on the way. It is a fast service. This is a local service. I have taken up this issue, and Assembly Members and Members of Parliament have raised this issue with me. You may be right that, on one day of the week, there are cramped conditions on the service, but if you look at the service across the whole of the week, it is not true. In many cases, the train is not full and most people using that service do so as a local service, not as a service from north to south or vice versa.

argyhoeddiedig a glywais erioed gan Weinidog ers sefydlu'r Cynulliad. Byddaf yn teithio ar y trên hwnnw'n rheolaidd—

Leighton Andrews: Nid chi yn unig.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Dim ond fi?

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid oes angen gwranddo ar ymyrryd gan Aelodau sydd ar eu heistedd.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Dywedaf wrth bobl Bangor am yr ymyrryd gan Aelod Rhondda.

Byddaf yn teithio ar y trên hwnnw'n rheolaidd. Erbyn i'r trên o Gaerdybi gyrraedd Cyffordd Llandudno, mae'n gymharol lawn. Ar ddydd Sul, weithiau bydd yn rhaid sefyll yr holl ffordd o Gyffordd Llandudno i Gaerdydd—am fod yna bobl sydd am deithio ar y gwasanaeth hwn. Mae'n chwerthinllyd awgrymu bod yn rhaid stopio ym mhob gorsaf i godi'r holl deithwyr hyn, oherwydd yn aml mae'r trenau eisoes yn llawn. Nid oes reswm yn y byd pam na ddylid darparu gwasanaeth rhesymol sy'n stopio ym Mangor, Cyffordd Llandudno ac ar hyd arfordir y gogledd, Caer, Amwythig, Henffordd a Chaerdydd. Pam mae'n rhaid iddo stopio ym mhobman ar y ffordd? Byddai mwy o bobl yn teithio ar y daith honno pe bai'n cynnig gwasanaeth cyflym. Mae pobl yn deall ei bod lawer yn haws teithio i Lundain na Chaerdydd. Byddai Cymru ar ei hennill pe bai gennym wasanaeth llawer gwell.

Andrew Davies: Mae'r prif wasanaeth o'r gogledd i Lundain yn stopio mewn llai o orsafoedd ar hyd y ffordd. Mae'n wasanaeth cyflym. Mae hwn yn wasanaeth lleol. Yr wyf wedi codi'r mater hwn, ac mae Aelodau'r Cynulliad ac Aelodau Seneddol wedi codi'r mater hwn gyda mi. Efallai eich bod yn llygad eich lle pan ddywedwch, ar un diwrnod yr wythnos, nad oes digon o le. Ond os edrychwch ar y gwasanaeth ar hyd yr wythnos gyfan, ac nid yw hynny'n wir. Mewn llawer achos, nid yw'r trên yn llawn a bydd mwyafrif y bobl sy'n defnyddio'r gwasanaeth hwnnw yn ei ddefnyddio fel gwasanaeth lleol, nid fel gwasanaeth o'r gogledd i'r de neu i'r gwrthwyneb.

My officials and I have raised this with Arriva Trains Wales, and it has provided the information. If you are now saying that we should have that service every day of the week, the level of subsidy required will be substantially more than the £0.75 million that we are currently investing in it.

Janice Gregory: You will know from our correspondence and our meetings of my support for the reinstatement of a railway station at Llanharan in my constituency. I understand that you are shortly to take a decision on this, when you have considered the business case that will be put before you. In considering that business case, I am sure that you will bear in mind that the Dragon film studios will be sited in this particular village.

Recently, an ill-informed Plaid Cymru press release was issued locally and attempted to set the hares running in the community. My constituents deserve better than this because they have been patient in waiting for this railway station. I urge you, Minister, to make the right decision and to do so quickly.

Andrew Davies: I cannot comment on the disinformation that Plaid Cymru Members are spreading; I suppose that you would expect that from that party. I am awaiting the final business case for the station at Llanharan. There is money in the budget line for it. We are collecting information for the business case from a range of people who would be likely to use the service. In terms of the upgrading and the signalling on the Great Western line, Network Rail has incorporated plans for a station at Llanharan. As I said, I am awaiting the final business case. Once it has been considered, I am sure that we can go ahead with the scheme.

Mae fy swyddogion a minnau wedi codi hyn gyda Threnau Arriva Cymru, ac mae wedi darparu'r wybodaeth. Os ydych yn dweud yn awr y dylem gael y gwasanaeth hwnnw bob dydd o'r wythnos, bydd lefel y cymhorthdal angenrheidiol lawer yn uwch na'r £0.75 miliwn yr ydym yn ei fuddsoddi ynddo ar hyn o bryd.

Janice Gregory: Gwyddoch o'n gohebiaeth a'n cyfarfodydd fy mod yn cefnogi'r cynnig i adfer gorsaf reilffordd yn Llanharan yn fy etholaeth. Deallaf y byddwch yn penderfynu hyn maes o law, pan fyddwch wedi ystyried yr achos busnes y byddwn yn ei roi ger eich bron. Wrth ystyried yr achos busnes hwnnw, yr wyf yn siŵr y cofiwch y bydd stiwdios ffilm Dragon yn cael eu lleoli yn y pentref penodol hwn.

Gwnaed datganiad i'r wasg yn lleol yn ddiweddar gan Blaid Cymru a oedd yn cynnwys gwybodaeth gamarweiniol, gyda'r bwriad o godi bwganod yn y gymuned. Mae fy etholwyr yn haeddu gwell na hyn, oherwydd maent wedi bod yn aros yn amyneddgar am yr orsaf drenau hon. Erfyniaf arnoch, Weinidog, i wneud y penderfyniad cywir ac i wneud hynny'n gyflym.

Andrew Davies: Ni allaf wneud sylw am y wybodaeth gamarweiniol y mae Aelodau Plaid Cymru yn ei lledaenu; tybiaf y byddech yn disgwyl hynny gan y blaid honno. Yr wyf yn disgwyl yr achos busnes terfynol ar gyfer yr orsaf yn Llanharan. Mae arian ar gael yn y gyllideb ar ei chyfer. Yr ydym yn casglu gwybodaeth ar gyfer yr achos busnes gan amrywiaeth o bobl a fyddai'n debygol o ddefnyddio'r gwasanaeth. O ran uwchraddio, a gwella'r signalau ar y llinell Great Western, mae Network Rail wedi cynnwys cynlluniau ar gyfer gorsaf yn Llanharan. Fel y dywedais, yr wyf yn disgwyl yr achos busnes terfynol. Cyn gynted ag y bydd wedi ei ystyried, yr wyf yn siŵr y gallwn fwrw ati gyda'r cynllun.

Lleihau'r Nifer sy'n cael eu Lladd neu eu Hanafu ar Ffyrdd Cymru Decrease the Number of Drivers Killed or Injured on Welsh Roads

Q9 Michael German: What action is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to

C9 Michael German: Pa gamau y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn eu cymryd

decrease the number of young drivers killed or injured on Welsh roads? OAQ0533(EDT)

Andrew Davies: We are working closely with local authorities, the police and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents to support a number of initiatives aimed at informing and educating young drivers. Early next year, a programme of advanced driver training for under 25s will be launched across Wales, supported by grant funding from the Welsh Assembly Government.

3.10 p.m.

Michael German: I am glad that you recognise the problem because the numbers of young people involved in accidents, particularly those involving motorcycles, are increasing and the numbers of young people who travel without crash helmets is also increasing. Do the figures that you have seen indicate that a more dramatic level of action is needed, involving a co-ordinated approach, not just from the Assembly Government and local authorities, but the police as well, to ensure the safety of not just these young people but the other people who use the roads, who are often involved in accidents caused by them?

Andrew Davies: Road safety, as I said in reply to a question from Lisa Francis, is the top priority for us as a Government. I am grateful to Nick Bourne for leading a short debate recently on this sensitive and important issue of road safety, particularly among young people. My deputy, Tamsin Dunwoody, is leading on road safety, and, as I said, we are working with the police, local authorities, and other bodies, such as the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, to look at what we can do to make our roads even safer. There has been a welcome long-term decline in the number of serious accidents. Unfortunately, many of the more recent, high-profile examples have been where young people, three or four in a car, have tragically been killed. There is a long-term decline in the number of serious accidents, but there is still much more to do. As I said, my deputy is taking a lead in this area.

i leihau nifer y gyrwyr ifanc sy'n cael eu lladd neu eu hanafu ar ffyrdd Cymru? OAQ0533(EDT)

Andrew Davies: Yr ydym yn gweithio'n agos gydag awdurdodau lleol, yr heddlu a'r Gymdeithas Frenhinol er Atal Damweiniau i gefnogi nifer o fentrau sydd â'r nod o hysbysu ac addysgu gyrwyr ifanc. Ddechrau'r flwyddyn nesaf, caiff rhaglen o hyfforddiant gyrru uwch ar gyfer pobl dan 25 oed ei lansio ledled Cymru, gyda chymorth grant gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru.

Michael German: Yr wyf yn falch eich bod yn cydnabod y broblem gan fod nifer y bobl ifanc sy'n cael damweiniau, yn enwedig ar feiciau modur, ar gynnydd a nifer y bobl ifanc sy'n teithio heb helmed ddiogelwch hefyd ar gynnydd. A yw'r ffigurau a welsoch yn dangos bod angen camau gweithredu mwy dramatig, gan gynnwys dull cydlynol, nid yn unig gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad ac awdurdodau lleol, ond gan yr heddlu hefyd, er mwyn sicrhau diogelwch nid yn unig y bobl ifanc hyn, ond hefyd y bobl eraill sy'n defnyddio'r ffyrdd, ac sy'n aml yn cael eu tynnu i ddamweiniau a achosir ganddynt?

Andrew Davies: Mae diogelwch ffyrdd, fel y dywedais mewn ymateb i gwestiwn gan Lisa Francis, yn flaenoriaeth uchel i ni fel Llywodraeth. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i Nick Bourne am arwain dadl fer yn ddiweddar ar y mater sensitif a phwysig hwn o ddiogelwch ffyrdd, yn enwedig ymhlith pobl ifanc. Fy nirprwy, Tamsin Dunwoody, sy'n gyfrifol am ddiogelwch ffyrdd, ac fel y dywedais, yr ydym yn gweithio gyda'r heddlu, awdurdodau lleol a chyrff eraill, fel y Gymdeithas Frenhinol er Atal Damweiniau, i ystyried yr hyn y gallwn ei wneud er mwyn i'n ffyrdd hyd yn oed yn fwy diogel. Cafwyd gostyngiad hirdymor yn nifer y damweiniau difrifol, ac mae hynny i'w groesawu. Yn anffodus, cafwyd nifer o'r enghreifftiau amlwg yn fwy diweddar lle cafodd pobl ifanc, tri neu bedwar mewn car, yn drasig iawn eu lladd. Gwelwyd gostyngiad hirdymor yn nifer y damweiniau difrifol, ond mae llawer iawn o waith eto i'w wneud. Fel y

dywedais, mae fy nirprwy wedi cymryd cyfrifoldeb dros y maes hwn.

Cwestiynau i'r Trefnydd ar ei Chyfrifoldebau heblaw am Fusnes **Questions to the Business Minister on her Responsibilities other than for Business**

Partneriaethau Sifil **Civil Partnerships**

Q1 Christine Gwyther: What recent discussions has the Minister had regarding the introduction of civil partnerships in Wales? OAQ0151(BM)

C1 Christine Gwyther: Pa drafodaethau'n ddiweddar y mae'r Gweinidog wedi eu cael am gyflwyno partneriaethau sifil yng Nghymru? OAQ0151(BM)

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): In less than a month, civil partnership comes into force. Through my officials, I am keeping in regular contact with the Department of Trade and Industry to ensure that Wales, through the Assembly, is ready to embrace this significant provision.

Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt): Ymhen llai na mis, daw partneriaeth sifil i rym. Drwy fy swyddogion, yr wyf yn cadw mewn cysylltiad rheolaidd â'r Adran Masnach a Diwydiant i sicrhau bod Cymru, drwy'r Cynulliad, yn barod i groesawu'r ddarpariaeth arwyddocaol hon.

Christine Gwyther: This is good news for same-sex couples in Wales, as in the rest of the UK. Many of the provisions centre on finance-based fairness. I would like to test you on a sensitive issue, namely the rights of same-sex couples when it comes to medical treatment and their partner can no longer, for whatever reason, make their own decisions. Has the Welsh Assembly Government come to a view on that issue, or could you do more work on it?

Christine Gwyther: Mae hyn yn newyddion da i gyplau o'r un rhyw yng Nghymru, fel yng ngweddill y DU. Mae nifer o'r darpariaethau'n canolbwyntio ar degwch ariannol. Hoffwn eich profi ar fater sensitif, sef hawliau cyplau o'r un rhyw o ran cael triniaeth feddygol pan na all y partner, am ba reswm bynnag, bellach wneud ei benderfyniadau ei hun. A oes gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru farn am y mater hwnnw, neu a allech wneud rhagor o waith arno?

Jane Hutt: This is a huge opportunity for same-sex couples, and a major step towards achieving social justice. You raise a sensitive issue; it partly relates to issues regarding next of kin. This was discussed at the Committee on Equality of Opportunity. The draft guidance regarding next of kin and its impact on same-sex relationships has been produced by the Health and Social Care Department, and it is awaiting legal ratification.

Jane Hutt: Mae hwn yn gyfle mawr i gyplau o'r un rhyw, ac yn gam pwysig tuag at sicrhau cyfiawnder cymdeithasol. Yr ydych yn codi mater sensitif; mae a wnelo'n rhannol â materion yn ymwneud â'r berthynas agosaf. Trafodwyd hyn yn y Pwyllgor Cyfle Cyfartal. Cynhyrchwyd y canllawiau drafft ar y berthynas agosaf a'i heffaith ar gydbertynas o'r un rhyw gan yr Adran Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol, ac maent yn disgwyl cadarnhad cyfreithiol.

Lisa Francis: There have recently been reports in Scotland and elsewhere of local authorities discriminating against same-sex couples by preventing them from holding ceremonies to celebrate civil partnerships. Do you anticipate taking any measures to prevent this from happening in Wales?

Lisa Francis: Bu adroddiadau yn yr Alban ac mewn mannau eraill yn ddiweddar am awdurdodau lleol yn gwahaniaethu yn erbyn cyplau o'r un rhyw drwy eu hatal rhag cynnal seremonïau i ddathlu partneriaethau sifil. A ydych yn rhag-weld y byddwch yn cymryd unrhyw gamau i atal hyn rhag digwydd yng

Nghymru?

Jane Hutt: I hope that that is the case. They will be breaking the law from 5 December if they do so. Most Welsh local authorities have indicated that they are not only providing and supporting civil partnership ceremonies, but are promoting them. I believe that Cardiff County Council recently issued a public consultation on the provision of ceremonies, and is sharing this information across Wales. Stonewall Cymru has this information on its website. I believe that there has been much interest in how that can be promoted across Wales.

Jane Hutt: Gobeithio mai dyna fydd yn digwydd. Byddant yn torri'r gyfraith ar ôl 5 Rhagfyr os gwnânt hynny. Mae'r mwyafrif o awdurdodau lleol Cymru wedi dweud eu bod nid yn unig yn darparu ac yn cefnogi seremonïau partneriaethau sifil, ond eu bod yn eu hyrwyddo. Credaf fod Cyngor Dinas Caerdydd wedi cyhoeddi ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus yn ddiweddar ar ddarparu seremonïau, a'i fod yn rhannu'r wybodaeth hon ledled Cymru. Mae Stonewall Cymru wedi cyhoeddi'r wybodaeth hon ar ei wefan. Credaf fod llawer o ddiddordeb wedi bod yn y ffordd y gellir hyrwyddo hynny ledled Cymru.

Jenny Randerson: As I recall, the legislation on this requires a minimum approach from local authorities. While I am pleased to hear that you believe that most local authorities are taking a positive and proactive view on this, would you undertake to write to those local authorities that are not taking that approach, and are simply doing the minimum to comply with the legislation, to ask them to be more proactive and positive?

Jenny Randerson: Os cofiaf, mae'r ddeddfwriaeth ar hyn yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i awdurdodau lleol weithredu o leiaf hyd at lefel benodol. Er fy mod yn falch o glywed eich bod yn credu bod y rhan fwyaf o awdurdodau lleol farn gadarnhaol a rhagweithiol am hyn, a fyddech yn barod i ysgrifennu at yr awdurdodau lleol hynny nad ydynt yn cymryd yr agwedd honno, ac sy'n dim ond y nesaf peth i ddim er mwyn cydymffurfio â'r ddeddfwriaeth, a gofyn iddynt fod yn fwy rhagweithiol a chadarnhaol?

Jane Hutt: As you say, it is the registration process that is covered in the Act. I have recently written to Sue Essex, as the Minister with responsibility for local government, requesting confirmation that all Welsh local authorities will offer a civil partnership ceremony. Failure to offer that would be discriminatory to some citizens, and would be a failure to promote equality of opportunity for all. I will report back on that.

Jane Hutt: Fel y dywedwch, y broses gofrestru sy'n cael ei chynnwys yn y Ddeddf. Ysgrifennais at Sue Essex yn ddiweddar, fel y Gweinidog sydd â chyfrifoldeb dros lywodraeth leol, i ofyn iddi gadarnhau y bydd pob un o awdurdodau lleol Cymru yn cynnig seremoni partneriaeth sifil. Byddai methu cynnig hynny yn gwahaniaethu yn erbyn rhai dinasyddion, a byddai'n fethiant i hybu cyfle cyfartal i bawb. Adroddaf yn ôl ar hynny.

Llywodraeth Agored Open Government

Q2 Janet Davies: Has the Minister made any assessment of the impact of the 'Better Governance for Wales' White Paper on the openness of Government in Wales? OAQ0149(BM)

C2 Janet Davies: A yw'r Gweinidog wedi gwneud unrhyw asesiad o effaith y Papur Gwyn 'Trefn Lywodraethu Well i Gymru' ar Lywodraeth agored yng Nghymru? OAQ0149(BM)

Jane Hutt: The 'Better Governance for Wales' White Paper does not refer directly to open government issues. Freedom of

Jane Hutt: Nid yw'r Papur Gwyn, 'Trefn Lywodraethu Well i Gymru' yn cyfeirio'n uniongyrchol at faterion llywodraeth agored.

information legislation will continue to apply to the Welsh Assembly Government, and our strong commitment to openness will certainly continue.

Janet Davies: It has taken two years to bring forward an Order to allow the quick removal of abandoned cars, and it is expected to come to Plenary next week. What assessment have you made of the time that such procedures will take to go through under the White Paper's proposals?

Jane Hutt: It was a matter of great concern when the Business Committee realised the time that this Order in Council had taken. We have tried to do an audit trail of what happened. A Bill is crucial, and, indeed, we anticipate the Bill laying this out. Interesting evidence has been given at the Welsh Affairs Select Committee elucidating how the process will take us forward. It is about enhancing legislative opportunities and democracy for the people of Wales.

Brynle Williams: I am a firm believer in the importance of accountability in the Assembly. The White Paper's plans to make Ministers appointees of the Crown mean that a great deal of the accountability will be lost. What guarantees can you give that the Welsh Assembly Government will not support any further actions to decrease its accountability?

Jane Hutt: Quite conversely to that point of view, our accountability will be strengthened by the separation of the Executive from the legislature. We will be clearly accountable, and, because of our commitment to openness, we are at the forefront of open government. We will ensure that the accountability is clear, as I am sure will the Assembly once we have received and debated the Bill.

Michael German: The Minister told us that, with regard to the Bill arising from the 'Better Governance for Wales' White Paper, what the Assembly is doing will be considered from a scrutiny perspective.

Bydd y ddeddfwriaeth ar ryddid gwybodaeth yn parhau'n gymwys i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, ac yn sicr bydd ein hymrwymiad cadarn i fod yn agored yn parhau.

Janet Davies: Mae wedi cymryd dwy flynedd i gyflwyno Gorchymyn i ganiatáu symud ceir gadawedig yn gyflym, a disgwylir i hwnnw ddod gerbron y Cyfarfod Llawn yr wythnos nesaf. Pa asesiad a wnaed gennych o'r amser a gymer gweithdrefnau o'r fath i fynd drwy'r broses dan gynigion y Papur Gwyn?

Jane Hutt: Yr oedd yn achos pryder mawr pan sylweddolodd y Pwyllgor Busnes faint o amser yr oedd y Gorchymyn hwn yn y Cyfrin Gyngor wedi ei gymryd. Yr ydym wedi ceisio olrhain yr hyn a ddigwyddodd. Mae Mesur yn hollbwysig, ac yn wir rhagwelwn y bydd y Mesur yn amlinellu hyn. Rhoddwyd tystiolaeth ddiddorol i'r Pwyllgor Dethol ar Faterion Cymreig yn egluro sut y bydd y broses yn datblygu'r drefn lywodraethol yng Nghymru. Mae'n golygu gwella cyfleoedd deddfwriaethol a democratiaeth i bobl Cymru.

Brynle Williams: Credaf yn gryf ym mhwysigrwydd atebolrwydd yn y Cynulliad. Mae cynlluniau'r Papur Gwyn i wneud Gweinidogion yn swyddogion wedi eu penodi gan y Goron yn golygu y bydd llawer iawn o atebolrwydd yn cael ei gollu. Pa sicrwydd y gallwch ei roi na fydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cefnogi unrhyw gamau pellach i leihau ei hatebolrwydd?

Jane Hutt: Yn hollol i'r gwrthwyneb i'r farn honno, bydd ein hatebolrwydd yn gryfach drwy wahanu'r Weithrediaeth a'r ddeddfwrfa. Byddwn yn amlwg yn atebol, ac oherwydd ein hymrwymiad i fod yn agored, yr ydym ar flaen y gad mewn llywodraeth agored. Byddwn yn sicrhau bod yr atebolrwydd yn glir, fel y bydd y Cynulliad yn ei wneud, mae'n siŵr, ar ôl inni gael y Mesur a'i drafod.

Michael German: Dywedodd y Gweinidog wrthym, o ran y Mesur a fydd yn deillio o'r Papur Gwyn 'Trefn Lywodraethu Well i Gymru', y bydd yr hyn y mae'r Cynulliad yn ei wneud yn cael ei ystyried o safbwynt

However, the White Paper dwells almost wholly on the governmental side, and very little on the scrutiny side, of what the Assembly will become post-2007. What are your views on the way in which the Bill should be produced when it eventually emerges, in order to take on board the concerns some of us have that this is a very one-sided White Paper that does not look at both sides of the coin?

Jane Hutt: I disagree with that view. We had that opportunity, which we embraced by setting up the Committee on the 'Better Governance for Wales' White Paper. The committee was able to feed our views to the Secretary of State for Wales, and we hoped that the report would have an influence on the Bill. The Bill will be published shortly. It is premature to comment on how to take it forward, but the committee provided us with a good chance. I am sure that there will be robust debate and scrutiny as we consider the Bill.

craffu. Fodd bynnag, mae'r Papur Gwyn yn ymdrin bron yn gyfan gwbl â'r ochr lywodraethol yn unig, heb fawr ddim o graffu, o'r modd y bydd y Cynulliad yn datblygu ar ôl 2007. Beth yw eich barn chi am y ffordd y dylid cynhyrchu'r Mesur pan gaiff ei gyhoeddi yn y pen draw, er mwyn mynd i'r afael â'r pryderon sydd gan rai ohonom fod y Papur Gwyn hwn yn unochrog iawn nad yw'n ystyried y ddwy ochr?

Jane Hutt: Yr wyf yn aghytuno â'r farn honno. Cawsom y cyfle hwnnw, a bu inni achub arno drwy sefydlu'r Pwyllgor ar y Papur Gwyn 'Trefn Lywodraethu Well i Gymru'. Yr oedd y pwyllgor yn gallu cyfleu ein safbwyntiau i Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru, a'n gobaith oedd y byddai'r adroddiad yn dylanwadu ar y Mesur. Caiff y Mesur ei gyhoeddi cyn hir. Mae'n rhy gynnar eto i ddweud sut y dylid ymateb iddo, ond mae'r pwyllgor wedi rhoi cyfle da inni. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd dadl gref a chraffu manwl wrth inni ystyried y Mesur.

Cyfleusterau ar gyfer Pobl Anabl Facilities for Disabled People

Q3 William Graham: How does the Minister ensure equality across Wales in the provision of facilities for disabled people? OAQ0141(BM)

Jane Hutt: The Welsh Assembly Government continues to develop initiatives to increase the number of accessible facilities for disabled people. Examples include the work undertaken by the Assembly Government's sport and transport directorates and the British Sign Language project.

William Graham: You will know that Wales has the second highest rate of disabled people of working age in the United Kingdom, but the second lowest rate of disabled people in work. How will you enhance your policies to ensure that disabled people can get back into meaningful work?

Jane Hutt: That is crucial to our responsibilities under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. On accessibility, I have mentioned the initiatives of the Minister for Economic Development and Transport. A

C3 William Graham: Sut mae'r Gweinidog yn sicrhau tegwch ledled Cymru yn y cyfleusterau a ddarperir ar gyfer pobl anabl? OAQ0141(BM)

Jane Hutt: Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn parhau i ddatblygu mentrau i gynyddu nifer y cyfleusterau y gall pobl anabl eu defnyddio. Ymhlith yr enghreifftiau mae'r gwaith gan gyfarwyddiaeth drafnidiaeth a chyfarwyddiaeth chwaraeon Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, a'r prosiect ar Iaith Arwyddion Prydain.

William Graham: Fe wyddoch mai yng Nghymru mae'r gyfradd uchaf ond un o bobl anabl o oedran gweithio yn y Deyrnas Unedig, ond y gyfradd isaf ond un o bobl anabl sy'n gweithio. Sut y gallwch wella'ch polisiau i sicrhau y gall pobl anabl ddychwelyd i waith ystyrlon?

Jane Hutt: Mae hynny'n hollol hanfodol o ran ein cyfrifoldebau dan Ddeddf Gwahaniaethu ar sail Anabledd 1995. O ran bod yn hwylus, soniais am fentrau'r Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a

recent key development was the use that we made of EQUAL, the European funding stream, which has enabled us to spend more than £11 million on projects that are directly geared to ensuring that there is better access. Disabled access to transport is key to breaking down barriers in terms of access to the workplace.

Thrafnidiaeth. Un datblygiad allweddol yn ddiweddar oedd y defnydd a wnaethom o EQUAL, sef y ffrwd ariannu Ewropeaidd, sydd wedi ein galluogi i wario dros £11 miliwn ar brosiectau sy'n anelu'n uniongyrchol at sicrhau mynediad gwell. Mae galluogi pobl anabl i ddefnyddio cludiant yn allweddol i ddileu rhwystrau rhag cael mynediad i'r gweithle.

3.20 p.m.

David Lloyd: Do you have any intention of pressing your colleagues in London to improve the Electoral Administration Bill in order to allow disabled people, when registering to vote, to record their access needs on an individual registration form?

David Lloyd: A ydych yn bwriadu pwysu o gwbl ar eich cyd-Weinidogion yn Llundain i wella'r Mesur Gweinyddu Etholiadol er mwyn caniatáu i bobl anabl, wrth gofrestru ar gyfer pleidleisio, gofnodi eu hanghenion mynediad ar ffurflen gofrestru unigol?

Jane Hutt: I have great sympathy with that issue, and I know that the Local Government and Public Services Committee also has great sympathy with it, particularly in relation to the campaign that Scope Cymru recently undertook. I very much hope that this is something that we could look at and embrace in the Welsh Assembly Government, in partnership with the UK Government.

Jane Hutt: Yr wyf yn gefnogol iawn i'r mater hwnnw, a gwn fod y Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus hefyd yn gefnogol iawn, yn enwedig o ran yr ymgyrch yn ddiweddar gan Scope Cymru. Mawr obeithiaf y bydd hyn yn rhywbeth y gallem ei ystyried a'i dderbyn yn Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, mewn partneriaeth â Llywodraeth y DU.

Nick Bourne: I recently had the great privilege of meeting a family that has a deafblind child. Lisa Francis has done a great deal of casework on this, but she could not attend this meeting because she was double-booked. The challenges this family faces are awesome. The family lives in Gwynedd and there are great difficulties with providing respite care. Gwynedd, in fairness, is making some moves to try to provide that respite care. Will the Minister be available for a meeting with me and Lisa Francis, so that we are able to explain the background of the case and the general problems? The Minister may then feel that there she is able to do something for this family and for many others in similar circumstances. The child was born unable to see or hear, and it is a massive challenge to this family and similar families.

Nick Bourne: Cefais y ffrind fawr yn ddiweddar o gyfarfod â theulu plentyn sy'n fyddar ac yn ddall. Mae Lisa Francis wedi gwneud llawer iawn o waith achos ar hyn, ond ni allai fod yn y cyfarfod hwn am fod ganddi rywbeth arall wedi'i drefnu. Mae'r heriau sy'n wynebu'r teulu hwn yn aruthrol. Mae'r teulu'n byw yng Ngwynedd ac mae anawsterau mawr o ran darparu gofal seibiant. A bod yn deg, mae Gwynedd yn ceisio darparu'r gofal seibiant hwnnw. A fydd y Gweinidog yn barod i gyfarfod â Lisa Francis a minnau, fel y gallwn esbonio cefndir yr achos a'r problemau cyffredinol? Yna efallai y bydd y Gweinidog yn teimlo y gall wneud rhywbeth dros y teulu hwn a thros y nifer fawr o deuluoedd eraill sy'n wynebu amgylchiadau tebyg. Ganed y plentyn yn ddall ac yn fyddar, ac mae'n gryn her i'r teulu hwn a theuluoedd tebyg.

Jane Hutt: Last week, I met organisations such as Sense Cymru, and we looked at the whole issue of how we can have accessible formats for people, particularly partially sighted people. Sense Cymru had a very

Jane Hutt: Yr wythnos diwethaf, cyfarfûm â mudiadau megis Sense Cymru, a buom yn edrych ar holl fater cael fformatau hawdd eu defnyddio i bobl, yn enwedig i bobl sy'n rhannol ddall. Yr oedd gan Sense Cymru ran

strong role to play in that meeting. I would certainly be happy to meet you and Lisa to talk about these general policy issues.

fawr iawn i'w chwarae yn y cyfarfod hwnnw. Yn sicr byddwn yn barod i gyfarfod â chi a Lisa i drafod y materion polisi cyffredinol hyn.

Y Llywydd: Mae cwestiwn 4, OAQ0137(BM), wedi ei dynnu yn ôl.

The Presiding Officer: Question 4, OAQ0137(BM), has been withdrawn.

Hawliau Plant Children's Rights

Q5 David Melding: What action is the Minister taking to co-ordinate Welsh Assembly Government policies that promote children's rights? OAQ0139(BM)

C5 David Melding: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog yn eu cymryd i gydlynu polisiau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru sy'n hyrwyddo hawliau plant? OAQ0139(BM)

Jane Hutt: I chair the Cabinet sub-committee on children and young people. Recent topics considered there, which relate to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, include measures to tackle the sexual exploitation of children, relating to article 34, and the parenting action plan, relating to article 18.

Jane Hutt: Yr wyf yn gadeirydd is-bwyllgor y Cabinet ar blant a phobl ifanc. Ymhlith y pynciau a ystyriwyd ganddo'n ddiweddar, ac sy'n ymwneud â Chonfensiwn y Cenhedloedd Unedig ar Hawliau Plant, y mae mesurau i fynd i'r afael â chamfanteisio'n rhywiol ar blant, mewn perthynas ag erthygl 34, a'r cynllun gweithredu rhianta, mewn perthynas ag erthygl 18.

David Melding: I am glad that you quoted the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, because it has three overarching principles, one of which is protection. The Children's Commissioner for Wales has again pointed to the importance of policies to reduce and, hopefully, eradicate bullying in schools. I know that your colleague, the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, has said that there is no pressing problem, given the evidence from the chief inspector of schools. We need to take what children tell us a little more seriously and have a less cold and technical approach to these matters, because it is not necessarily easy for school inspectors to pick up problems around bullying.

David Melding: Yr wyf yn falch ichi gyfeirio at Gonfensiwn y Cenhedloedd Unedig ar Hawliau Plant, gan fod iddo dair egwyddor gyffredin, ac un ohonynt yw amddiffyn. Mae Comisiynydd Plant Cymru unwaith eto wedi tynnu sylw at bwysigrwydd polisiau sy'n lleihau bwlio mewn ysgolion, a gobeithio yn rhoi terfyn arno. Gwn fod eich cyd-Weinidog, y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes, wedi dweud nad oes yma broblem fawr, o gofio'r dystiolaeth gan y prif arolygydd ysgolion. Mae angen inni gymryd yr hyn y mae plant yn ei ddweud wrthym ychydig yn fwy o ddifrif, ac ymdrin â'r materion hyn mewn ffordd lai oeraidd a thechnegol, oherwydd nid yw'n hawdd o reidrwydd i arolygwyr ysgolion sylwi ar broblemau bwlio.

Jane Hutt: This is a key issue, and, as you know, David, the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning has agreed to have a debate on this very issue in the new year. Recently, the Minister led a whole range of initiatives during Respecting Others Week, in which we focused on the issue of bullying. It is a key issue, and I am glad that it is coming to the Assembly via Members, but it is something that the Minister and the Welsh

Jane Hutt: Mae hwn yn fater allweddol, ac fel y gwyddoch, David, mae'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes wedi cytuno i gynnal dadl ar yr union fater hwn yn y flwyddyn newydd. Arweiniodd y Gweinidog nifer fawr o fentrau yn ystod Wythnos Parchu Eraill yn ddiweddar, pan oeddem yn canolbwyntio ar fwlio. Mae'n fater allweddol, ac yr wyf yn falch ei fod yn dod gerbron y Cynulliad drwy'r Aelodau. Ond

Assembly Government are addressing through Respecting Others. We also follow this up with letters to governing bodies, asking them for progress reports, which is key to ensuring that we monitor the situation and get feedback.

Leanne Wood: As the Minister knows, the morale of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service workforce is very important for protecting children's rights. Has the Minister heard that CAFCASS employees face poor pension entitlements as a result of a £3 million shortfall in its budget, and can you tell us what action you will take?

Jane Hutt: I understand that the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration was asked to comment on the CAFCASS pension situation in this morning's committee meeting. She said that nothing had been finalised and that the issue is ongoing. She has had the opportunity to meet unions and is doing everything possible to resolve the situation.

Y Llywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 6 OAQ0144(BM), yn ôl, a throsglwyddwyd cwestiwn 7, OAQ0146(BM), i'w ateb yn ysgrifenedig.

mae'n rhywbeth y mae'r Gweinidog a Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn mynd i'r afael ag ef drwy Parchu Eraill. Yr ydym hefyd yn anfon llythyrau at gyrff llywodraethu, yn gofyn iddynt am adroddiadau cynnydd, sy'n allweddol i sicrhau ein bod yn monitro'r sefyllfa ac yn cael ymateb.

Leanne Wood: Fel y gŵyr y Gweinidog, mae morâl y gweithlu yng Ngwasanaeth Cynghori a Chynorthwyo'r Llys i Blant a Theuluoedd yn bwysig iawn i amddiffyn hawliau plant. A yw'r Gweinidog wedi clywed bod cyflogeion CAFCASS yn wynebu hawliau pensiwn gwael oherwydd diffyg o £3 miliwn yn ei gyllideb, ac a allwch ddweud wrthym pa gamau y byddwch yn eu cymryd?

Jane Hutt: Gofynnwyd i'r Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio roi sylwadau ar y sefyllfa yn CAFCASS o ran pensiynau yng nghyfarfod y pwyllgor y bore yma, fe ddeallaf. Dywedodd nad oedd dim wedi'i benderfynu'n derfynol a bod y mater yn mynd rhagddo. Mae wedi cael cyfle i gyfarfod â'r undebau, ac mae'n gwneud popeth posibl i ddatrys y sefyllfa.

The Presiding Officer: Question 6 OAQ0144(BM), has been withdrawn, and question 7, OAQ0146(BM), has been transferred for written answer.

Bwlch Cyflog Rhwng Dynion a Menywod Pay Gap Between Men and Women

Q8 Peter Black: Will the Minister make a statement on the pay gap between men and women in Wales? OAQ0147(BM)

Jane Hutt: The Assembly is actively working to address the gender gap through its Close the Pay Gap campaign. I recently chaired the equal pay summit, which brought together key employers from the public sector. The first meeting of the new cross-party equal pay group will take place on 23 November.

Peter Black: Although any statutory powers to deal with this are not devolved to the National Assembly for Wales, it seems that

C8 Peter Black: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad ar y bwlch cyflog rhwng dynion a menywod yng Nghymru? OAQ0147(BM)

Jane Hutt: Mae'r Cynulliad yn mynd ati i leihau'r bwlch rhwng dynion a menywod drwy ei ymgyrch Cau'r Bwlch Cyflog. Yn ddiweddar cadeiriais uwchgynhadledd ar gyflog cyfartal, a oedd yn dwyn ynghyd gyflogwyr allweddol o'r sector cyhoeddus. Bydd y cyfarfod cyntaf o'r grŵp cyfle cyfartal trawsbleidiol newydd yn cael ei gynnal ar 23 Tachwedd.

Peter Black: Er nad oes unrhyw bwerau statudol i ymdrin â hyn wedi'u datganoli i Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, ymddengys

we are doing a lot of talking, but making little progress. There is a huge issue around homeworkers, who are overwhelmingly women, and, in many cases, from ethnic minorities, and who are very badly paid and do not have equality with men who do similar jobs in the workplace. What action can you take to help this group of workers? Will you be able to make representations to the Westminster Government to provide protection for them?

Jane Hutt: Progress has been made in this regard. You will know that we are in the third phase of the Close the Pay Gap campaign, which focuses on the public sector this year. Last year, we focused on the private sector. It was a cross-party group that initiated this campaign. Progress has been made in terms of the Assembly Government's approach and responsibilities, but I concur that homeworkers are a key and often invisible workforce, and I will certainly take this issue and report on it to the cross-party group.

Lisa Francis: What action plans are being developed to ensure that equal pay is made a priority and that public and private bodies are annually carrying out pay audits and attempting to rectify these issues? What action is being taken by your Government?

Jane Hutt: You will know that the Assembly Government, as an exemplar employer in the public sector, carried out its own pay audit as the first part of the Close the Pay Gap campaign, and would encourage others to do this. As a result of the summit that I mentioned, we have asked all the key players from higher education, local government and the NHS to provide us with action plans on this. They will report back to us within the year. In terms of pay audits in the private sector, we are to produce a pay gap toolkit for small and medium-sized enterprises. This is being addressed, and we are making representations that this should be a statutory obligation.

ein bod yn gwneud llawer o siarad, ond heb wneud fawr ddim cynnydd. Cyfyd problem ddybryd o ran gweithwyr cartref, y mwyafrif llethol ohonynt yn fenywod ac mewn llawer achos yn perthyn i leiafrifoedd ethnig, yn cael eu talu'n wael iawn ac heb gael eu trin yn gydradd â dynion sy'n gwneud gwaith tebyg yn y gweithle. Pa gamau y gallwch eu cymryd i helpu'r grŵp hwn o weithwyr? A fyddwch yn gallu cyflwyno sylwadau i Lywodraeth San Steffan i sicrhau eu hamddiffyn?

Jane Hutt: Mae cynnydd wedi ei wneud yn hyn. Fe wyddoch ein bod ynghanol y trydydd cyfnod yn ymgyrch Cau'r Bwlch Cyflog, sy'n canolbwyntio ar y sector cyhoeddus eleni. Y llynedd, yr oeddem yn canolbwyntio ar y sector preifat. Grŵp trawsbleidiol a ddechreuodd yr ymgyrch hon. Gwnaed cynnydd o ran ymagwedd a chyfrifoldebau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, ond cytunaf fod gweithwyr cartref yn weithlu allweddol ac yn anweladwy yn aml. Ond byddaf yn sicr yn codi'r mater hwn ac yn rhoi adroddiad arno i'r grŵp trawsbleidiol.

Lisa Francis: Pa gynlluniau gweithredu sy'n cael eu datblygu i sicrhau bod cyflog cyfartal yn cael blaenoriaeth a bod cyrff cyhoeddus a phreifat yn gwneud archwiliadau cyflog bob blwyddyn ac yn ceisio unioni'r problemau hyn? Pa gamau y mae eich Llywodraeth yn eu cymryd?

Jane Hutt: Fe wyddoch fod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, fel cyflogwr sy'n esiampl i eraill yn y sector cyhoeddus, wedi gwneud ei harchwiliad cyflog ei hun fel y rhan gyntaf o ymgyrch Cau'r Bwlch Cyflog, a byddai'n annog eraill i wneud hyn. O ganlyniad i'r uwchgynhadledd y soniais amdani, yr ydym wedi gofyn i bob corff allweddol ym maes addysg uwch, llywodraeth leol a'r GIG ddarparu cynlluniau gweithredu inni ar hyn. Byddant yn rhoi adroddiad inni ymhen y flwyddyn. O ran archwiliadau cyflog yn y sector preifat, bwriadwn gynhyrchu pecyn offer ar y bwlch cyflog i fusnesau bach a chanolig. Yr ydym yn mynd i'r afael â hyn, ac yn argymhell gwneud hyn yn rhwymedigaeth statudol.

Cyfle Cyfartal i Blant ag Anghenion Arbennig Equal Opportunities for Children with Special Needs

Q9 Lisa Francis: Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's plans to promote equal opportunities for children with special needs? OAQ0143(BM)

Q14 Lisa Francis: Will the Minister make a statement on equal opportunity for children with special needs? OAQ0138(BM)

Jane Hutt: The Welsh Assembly Government is developing an inclusion policy and performance framework for Wales that considers all children and young people with additional learning needs, and those at risk of disaffection. It has also introduced strategic frameworks under which support and assistance can be effectively delivered.

Lisa Francis: I am sure that you will agree that it is important for all children with special needs to be able to attend a special needs education unit that is properly resourced and equipped and in an entirely safe environment. On a practical level, this can mean access to computers, to a disabled toilet and to supervision. It should never mean, for example, that a child is strapped into his or her buggy at lunch times because of inadequate supervision. That is something that I have come across recently. I have received complaints from 16 parents whose children attend the Tŷ Aran special needs unit in Dolgellau about all of the above issues. What is your Government doing to ensure that local authorities in Wales give equality of opportunity to all children attending special needs units?

Jane Hutt: I am concerned to hear about those complaints. Schools in Wales are required to publish information about their accessibility plans in their governors' annual reports to parents. In Wales, those plans will be a vehicle for the required annual reports on progress in implementing disability equality schemes, which all schools must sign up to.

Lisa Francis: Health and safety issues are important to children attending special needs units. Similarly, parents need to know that their children are safe. In terms of risk

C9 Lisa Francis: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am bolisiau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i hyrwyddo cyfle cyfartal i blant ag anghenion arbennig? OAQ0143(BM)

C14 Lisa Francis: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gyfle cyfartal i blant ag anghenion arbennig? OAQ0138(BM)

Jane Hutt: Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn datblygu polisi cynhwysiant a fframwaith perfformiad i Gymru sy'n ystyried pob plentyn a pherson ifanc ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol, a'r rheini sydd mewn perygl o gael eu dadrithio. Mae hefyd wedi cyflwyno fframweithiau strategol ar gyfer rhoi cefnogaeth a chymorth yn effeithiol.

Lisa Francis: Fe gytunwch mae'n siŵr ei bod yn bwysig i bob plentyn ag anghenion arbennig allu mynychu uned addysg anghenion arbennig sydd â'r adnoddau a'r offer priodol ac mewn amgylchedd hollol ddiogel. Yn ymarferol, gall hyn olygu cyfle i ddefnyddio cyfrifiaduron a bod toiled i'r anabl a goruchwyliaeth ar gael. Ni ddylai fyth olygu, er enghraifft, fod plentyn ynghlwm wrth ei goets baban amser cinio am nad oes goruchwyliaeth ddigonol. Mae hynny'n rhywbeth yr wyf wedi dod ar ei draws yn ddiweddar. Yr wyf wedi cael cwynion am yr holl faterion uchod gan 16 o rieni sydd â'u plant yn mynychu uned anghenion arbennig Tŷ Aran yn Nolgellau. Beth fydd eich Llywodraeth yn ei wneud i sicrhau bod awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru yn rhoi cyfle cyfartal i bob plentyn sy'n mynychu unedau anghenion arbennig?

Jane Hutt: Mae'n ddrwg gennyf glywed am y cwynion hynny. Mae'n ofynnol i ysgolion yng Nghymru gyhoeddi gwybodaeth am eu cynlluniau hygyrchedd yn eu hadroddiad blynyddol gan lywodraethwyr i rieni. Yng Nghymru, bydd y cynlluniau hynny'n gyfrwng i gyflwyno'r adroddiadau blynyddol angenrheidiol ar gynnydd o ran gweithredu cynlluniau cyfle cyfartal i bobl anabl.

Lisa Francis: Mae materion iechyd a diogelwch yn bwysig i blant sy'n mynychu unedau anghenion arbennig. Yn yr un modd, mae angen i rieni wybod bod eu plant yn

assessment reports on health and safety completed by local authorities in respect of units such as these, does your Government advise local authorities to make these reports available to parents and children alike? If parents inform a local authority that they wish to see that report and the local authority decided to withhold the report, what action would your Government advise them to take?

Jane Hutt: That is certainly something that we would want to hear about, and I am sure that the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning would share that view.

3.30 p.m.

It is quite clear that there have to be parent partnership services under the Education Act 1996 and the 'Special Educational Needs Code of Practice for Wales', published in 2002. We would have to address that along those lines.

Y Llywydd: Trosglwyddwyd cwestiynau 10 ac 11, OAQ0148(BM) ac OAQ0145(BM), i'w hateb yn ysgrifenedig.

ddiogel. O ran adroddiadau asesu risg ar iechyd a diogelwch a gwblheir gan awdurdodau lleol mewn perthynas ag unedau fel y rhain, a yw eich Llywodraeth yn cynghori awdurdodau lleol i sicrhau bod yr adroddiadau hyn ar gael i rieni a phlant fel ei gilydd? Os bydd rhieni'n dweud wrth awdurdod lleol eu bod yn dymuno gweld yr adroddiad hwnnw a'r awdurdod lleol wedi penderfynu atal yr adroddiad rhag cael ei gyhoeddi, pa gamau y byddai eich Llywodraeth yn eu cynghori i'w cymryd?

Jane Hutt: Mae hynny'n sicr yn rhywbeth y byddem am glywed amdano, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai'r Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes yn cytuno â hynny.

Mae'n hollol amlwg ei bod yn rhaid sefydlu gwasanaethau partneriaethau rhieni dan Ddeddf Addysg 1996 a 'Chod Ymarfer Anghenion Addysgol Arbennig Cymru', a gyhoeddwyd yn 2002. Byddai'n rhaid inni fynd i'r afael â hynny yn y cyd-destun hwnnw.

The Presiding Officer: Questions 10 and 11, OAQ0148(BM) and OAQ0145(BM), have been transferred for written answer.

System Bensiwn y Wladwriaeth State Pension System

Q12 William Graham: Will the Minister outline the discussions that she has had with the UK Government on inequalities with regards to women within the state pension system? OAQ0140(BM)

Jane Hutt: This issue is the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, and has not been devolved to the Assembly. However, on 11 November, I met Meg Munn, the Department of Trade and Industry's Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Women and Equality, and we discussed this issue.

William Graham: You will know that, without adequate publicity for working women to pay a particular stamp, they will lose out dramatically on their pensions. How

C12 William Graham: A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu'r trafodaethau a gafodd gyda Llywodraeth y DU ynglŷn ag anghydraddoldeb fel y mae'n ymwneud â menywod yn system pensiwn y wladwriaeth? OAQ0140(BM)

Jane Hutt: Yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Waith a Phensiynau sy'n gyfrifol am y mater hwn, ac nid yw wedi'i ddatganoli i'r Cynulliad. Fodd bynnag, ar 11 Tachwedd, cefais gyfarfod gyda Meg Munn, Is-ysgrifennydd Seneddol dros Fenywod a Chydraddoldeb yn yr Adran Masnach a Diwydiant, a buom yn trafod y mater hwn.

William Graham: Fe wyddoch y bydd menywod ar eu colled yn ddifrifol o ran eu pensiynau oni roir cyhoeddusrwydd digonol i fenywod i dalu stamp arbennig. Sut y

will you advertise to ensure that people who are working pay the right stamp to get the right pension?

Jane Hutt: That is key. Although the matter is not devolved, I think that the recent Government report, 'Women and pensions: the evidence', which was published by the Department for Work and Pensions, highlights how women's pensions could be improved and the important information that they need to grasp. I think that, within our powers and responsibilities, we could promote that kind of campaign.

byddwch yn hysbysebu hynny i sicrhau bod pobl sy'n gweithio yn talu'r stamp cywir er mwyn cael y pensiwn cywir?

Jane Hutt: Mae hynny'n allweddol. Er nad yw'r mater wedi'i ddatganoli, credaf fod yr adroddiad yn ddiweddar gan y Llywodraeth, 'Women and pensions: the evidence', a gyhoeddwyd gan yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau, yn tynnu sylw at y ffordd y gellid gwella pensiynau menywod a'r wybodaeth bwysig y mae angen iddynt ei chael. Credaf y gallem hyrwyddo'r math hwnnw o ymgyrch, o fewn ein pwerau a'n cyfrifoldebau.

Cyllidebau ar Sail Rhyw Gender Budgeting

Q13 Christine Chapman: Will the Minister make a statement on what consideration the Welsh Assembly Government is giving to developing a gender budgeting approach? OAQ0150(BM)

Jane Hutt: Gender budgeting is a key part of implementing the Equal Opportunities Commission's recommendations on mainstreaming equality. Training is being undertaken and a gender-budgeting pilot is being developed, which will be used as a model for all Assembly Government departments.

Christine Chapman: I welcome that information. Do you agree that recognising the differing needs of men and women, based on evidence, such as gender budgeting, will improve policy making for all the population in Wales? Given the unique gender mix that we have in the Assembly, we are in a good position to promote this. Will you join me in issuing an early welcome to the delegates from around the world who will be with us next week for the British Council's Women and Politics conference?

Jane Hutt: I certainly will join you in issuing that welcome, and I am glad that I will have parliamentarians from Uganda and Brazil shadowing me. I think that other Members will also have British Council delegates shadowing them. This will make a difference, as will the public sector duty in terms of equality for men and women, which

C13 Christine Chapman: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ba ystyriaeth y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ei rhoi i ddatblygu dull o gyllidebu ar sail rhyw? OAQ0150(BM)

Jane Hutt: Mae cyllidebu ar sail rhyw yn rhan allweddol o weithredu argymhellion y Comisiwn Cyfle Cyfartal ar brif ffrydio cydraddoldeb. Mae hyfforddiant yn cael ei roi a rhaglen beilot cyllidebu ar sail rhyw yn cael ei datblygu, a gaiff ei defnyddio fel patrwm gyfer holl adrannau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad.

Christine Chapman: Yr wyf yn croesawu'r wybodaeth honno. A ydych yn cytuno y bydd cydnabod anghenion gwahanol dynion a menywod, ar sail tystiolaeth, megis cyllidebu ar sail rhyw, yn gwella'r broses o lunio polisiau ar gyfer holl boblogaeth Cymru? O gofio'r gymysgedd sydd gennym yn y Cynulliad o'r dau ryw, yr ydym mewn sefyllfa dda i hyrwyddo hyn. A ymunwch â mi i roi croeso cynnar i'r cynadleddwyr o bob cwr o'r byd a fydd gyda ni yr wythnos nesaf ar gyfer cynhadledd Menywod a Gwleidyddiaeth y Cyngor Prydeinig?

Jane Hutt: Ymunaf â chi'n bendant i'w croesawu, ac yr wyf yn falch y bydd aelodau seneddol o Uganda a Brasil yn fy nilyn wrth fy ngwaith. Credaf y bydd cynadleddwyr o'r Cyngor Prydeinig yn dilyn Aelodau eraill hefyd wrth eu gwaith. Bydd hyn yn gwneud gwahaniaeth, fel y bydd dyletswydd y sector cyhoeddus o ran cydraddoldeb i ddynion a

is part of the Equality Bill that is now making its way through the House of Commons, having successfully been through the House of Lords.

menywod, sy'n rhan o'r Mesur Cydraddoldeb sy'n mynd drwy Dŷ'r Cyffredin ar hyn o bryd, ar ôl llwyddo yn Nhŷ'r Arglwyddi.

Cefnogaeth a Chymorth i Bobl Anabl Support and Assistance for Disabled People

Q15 Kirsty Williams: What is the Welsh Assembly Government doing to improve support and assistance for disabled people? OAQ0142(BM)

C15 Kirsty Williams: Beth mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ei wneud i wella cefnogaeth a chymorth i bobl anabl? OAQ0142(BM)

Jane Hutt: The Assembly Government continues to develop initiatives that directly support and assist disabled people to live independent lives. For example, in September, the Welsh Assembly Government announced that 10 community transport projects across Wales would receive £2.2 million of funding to provide free travel for disabled people.

Jane Hutt: Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn parhau i ddatblygu mentrau sy'n cefnogi ac yn cynorthwyo pobl anabl yn uniongyrchol i fyw bywydau annibynnol. Er enghraifft, ym mis Medi cyhoeddodd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru y byddai 10 prosiect cludiant cymunedol ledled Cymru yn cael £2.2 miliwn i ddarparu cludiant am ddim i bobl anabl.

Kirsty Williams: My constituents are grateful for that because a large tranche of that money will be going to community transport programmes in Llanwrtyd Wells and the rest of Powys. Minister, do you agree that a most basic need is that for disabled people to access disabled facilities grants to ensure that they can remain in their homes? At present, there is an average waiting time of 18 months in Wales to access these grants, creating a backlog that is having a huge impact. Does your Government intend to put additional resources into this budget line so that disabled people can access these grants in a more timely fashion?

Kirsty Williams: Mae fy etholwyr yn ddiolchgar am hynny, oherwydd bydd cyfran fawr o'r arian hwnnw'n mynd i raglenni cludiant cymunedol yn Llanwrtyd a gweddill Powys. Weinidog, a gytnwch fod sicrhau y gall pobl anabl gael grantiau cyfleusterau i'r anabl i'w galluogi i aros yn eu cartrefi yn angen sylfaenol iawn? Ar hyn o bryd, rhaid aros 18 mis ar gyfartaledd yng Nghymru i gael y grantiau hyn, gan greu ôl-groniad sy'n cael effaith fawr. A yw eich Llywodraeth yn bwriadu rhoi adnoddau ychwanegol i'r llinell hon yn y gyllideb fel y gall pobl anabl gael y grantiau hyn yn fwy amserol?

Jane Hutt: The review that was undertaken by the committee on the disabled facilities grant was valuable in informing and guiding the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration. As a result, means testing for disabled children was removed, which was a great step forward. I know that the Minister's department is holding a number of seminars across Wales to see how we can improve access to the disabled facilities grant and they will be key in ensuring that we speed up the process and cut down on bureaucracy.

Jane Hutt: Yr oedd yr adolygiad a wnaed gan y pwyllgor o'r grant cyfleusterau i'r anabl yn werthfawr o ran hysbysu a llywio'r Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio. O ganlyniad, dilëwyd profion modd ar gyfer plant anabl, a oedd yn gam mawr ymlaen. Gwn fod adran y Gweinidog yn cynnal nifer o seminarau ledled Cymru i weld sut y gallwn wella mynediad i'r grant cyfleusterau i'r anabl, a byddant yn allweddol i sicrhau ein bod yn cyflymu'r broses ac yn lleihau biwrocratiaeth.

The Presiding Officer: Thank you, Minister. You seem to have reached the end of the questions.

Y Llywydd: Diolch, Weinidog. Mae'n ymddangos eich bod wedi cyrraedd diwedd y cwestiynau.

Datganiad Busnes Diwygiedig Revised Business Statement

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): I come forward with a revised business statement in accordance with Standing Order Nos. 5.4 and 5.5. The draft statement can be found on the Chamberweb under 'supporting documents'. I have looked carefully at the programme and it has not yet been possible to find time to hold an additional debate on the police force in today's revised statement over and above the time that I will make available to discuss the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee's report on this matter.

As colleagues know, the programme is tight up to the recess, and, apart from legislation, the statement on British Sign Language, and the debate on the Government's response to the childcare working group, the remainder of the schedule for business is taken up by committee debates, opposition debates or other business scheduled as a result of requests from the opposition benches. I can assure you, however, that I am looking for time before the end of this term, in consultation with Cabinet colleagues and business managers, to hold this debate.

Y Llywydd: A oes gwrthwynebiad i'r datganiad busnes diwygiedig? Gwelaf nad oes, felly, gwahoddaf sylwadau gan un Aelod o bob grŵp.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Diolch, Drefnydd, am y datganiad hwn. Nid ydym yn gwbl fodlon oherwydd nid ydym wedi cael yr ymrwymiad yr oeddem yn ei geisio gennyh. Er hynny, yr ydym yn barod yr wythnos hon i ymddiried yn eich addewidion, gan edrych ymlaen at weld pa bryd y gallwch drefnu i'r materion hyn gael trafodaeth lawn yn y Siambr.

David Melding: I, too, am prepared to take on trust the Business Minister's statement, until, that is, next Tuesday, when I have to give you notice that it will be battle as usual if time is not found for an amendable motion on the future of the police service in Wales. This determination must be made. It will be

Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt): Cyflwynaf ddatganiad busnes diwygiedig yn unol â Rheolau Sefydlog Rhifau 5.4 a 5.5. Gellir gweld y datganiad drafft ar we'r Siambr o dan 'dogfennau ategol'. Yr wyf wedi edrych yn ofalus ar y rhaglen ac ni fu'n bosibl cael amser hyd yn hyn i gynnal dadl ychwanegol ar yr heddlu yn y datganiad diwygiedig heddiw, yn ychwanegol at yr amser a roddaf i drafod adroddiad y Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio ar y mater hwn.

Fel y gŵyr fy nghyd-Aelodau, mae'r rhaglen yn dynn hyd at doriad y Nadolig, a heblaw am ddeddfwriaeth, y datganiad ar Iaith Arwyddion Prydain, a'r ddadl ar ymateb y Llywodraeth i'r gweithgor gofal plant, caiff gweddill yr amserlen fusnes ei neilltuo i ddadleuon pwyllgorau, dadleuon y gwrthbleidiau neu fusnes arall a gaiff ei amserlennu o ganlyniad i geisiadau gan y gwrthbleidiau. Gallaf eich sicrhau, fodd bynnag, fy mod yn chwilio am amser cyn diwedd y tymor hwn, drwy ymgynghori â chyd-Weinidogion yn y Cabinet a threfnwyr busnes, i gynnal y ddadl hon.

The Presiding Officer: Are there any objections to the revised business statement? I see that there are none. I therefore invite comments from one Member of each group.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Thank you, Business Minister, for this statement. We are not totally satisfied, however, because we have not had the commitment that we sought from you. However, we are prepared this week to take you at your word, and we look forward to seeing when you will be able to schedule time to discussed these matters fully in the Chamber.

David Melding: Yr wyf fi hefyd yn barod i ymddiried yn natganiad y Trefnydd, tan ddydd Mawrth nesaf, hynny yw, pan fydd yn amser brwydro fel arfer os na fydd amser ar gyfer cynnig diwygiadwy ar ddyfodol gwasanaeth yr heddlu yng Nghymru. Rhaid penderfynu hyn. Bydd yn briodol trafod

appropriate to discuss the committee's report, of course, but we will have to make a determination here if we are to influence this important issue. The people of Wales expect us to debate this matter fully between now and Christmas, which is the critical time. That means that we must make time, by extending Plenary after 5.30 p.m. or meeting on a Thursday morning, if necessary, before we clear off early for Christmas.

Kirsty Williams: My group is also willing to accept the Business Minister's commitment to ensure that we have the opportunity to debate an issue that is important not just to Members, but to people throughout Wales. There is a great deal of anxiety in communities the length and breadth of Wales about the proposals for a single police force, and it is only right that those views have the opportunity to be expressed here by their elected representatives. I trust that the Minister will be able to present, next Tuesday, a business statement that includes her commitment to hold that debate.

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): I am grateful for that response, and I am also glad that you recognise the importance of giving time to the committee, which has undertaken the review. There will be difficult choices to make with regard to deferring scheduled items of business to accommodate an additional debate, and we must also bear in mind that we must find time to debate the final budget. However, I have given you my assurance that I will look for the time, as I recognise that this is the will of the Assembly.

*Derbyniwyd y datganiad busnes diwygiedig.
Revised business statement adopted.*

Datganiad am Olwg Gyfan ar Faeth mewn Ysgolion Statement on a Whole Approach to Nutrition in Schools

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (Jane Davidson): A balanced diet is important both to school performance and health. I welcome the opportunity to provide this update and demonstrate the Assembly Government's continued commitment to improve the health of children and young people in Wales by taking a whole-school

adroddiad y pwyllgor, wrth gwrs, ond bydd yn rhaid inni benderfynu yma os ydym i ddylanwadu ar y mater pwysig hwn. Mae pobl Cymru yn disgwyl inni drafod y mater hwn yn llawn rhwng hyn a'r Nadolig, sef yr amser allweddol. Golyga hynny ei bod yn rhaid inni wneud amser, drwy ymestyn y Cyfarfod Llawn ar ôl 5.30 p.m neu gyfarfod ar fore dydd Iau, os oes angen, cyn inni adael yn gynnar ar gyfer y Nadolig.

Kirsty Williams: Mae fy ngrŵp innau hefyd yn barod i dderbyn ymrwymiad y Trefnydd i sicrhau ein bod yn cael y cyfle i drafod mater sy'n bwysig nid yn unig i Aelodau, ond i bobl ledled Cymru. Mae cryn bryder mewn cymunedau ledled Cymru ynghylch y cynigion am un heddlu, ac y mae'n hollol gywir i'r farn gael ei mynegi yma gan eu cynrychiolwyr etholedig. Hyderaf y bydd y Gweinidog yn gallu cyflwyno datganiad busnes, ddydd Mawrth nesaf, sy'n cynnwys ei hymrwymiad i gynnal y ddadl honno.

Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt): Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am yr ymateb hwnnw, ac yr wyf hefyd yn falch eich bod yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd rhoi amser i'r pwyllgor, sydd wedi gwneud yr adolygiad. Bydd angen gwneud penderfyniadau anodd o ran gohirio eitemau busnes sydd wedi eu ha amserlennu er mwyn cynnal dadl ychwanegol. A rhaid inni hefyd gofio bod angen dod o hyd i amser i drafod y gyllideb derfynol. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf wedi eich sicrhau y byddaf yn ceisio cael amser, gan fy mod yn cydnabod mai dyna yw dymuniad y Cynulliad.

Y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes (Jane Davidson): Mae deiet cytbwys yn bwysig i berfformiad yn yr ysgol ac i iechyd. Croesawaf y cyfle i roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf hon ac i ddangos ymrwymiad parhaus Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i wella iechyd plant a phobl ifanc yng Nghymru drwy gael ymagwedd ysgol gyfan at fwyd a

approach to food and nutrition. Health Challenge Wales encourages all other partners to work alongside us on this important agenda.

As part of this approach, we have already introduced a wide range of initiatives to improve nutrition in our schools, including school meal minimum nutrition standards and guidance, the Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales guidance on food in the school curriculum, the piloting healthy free primary school breakfasts, the milk scheme for key stage 1 pupils, fruit tuck shops, water coolers, the piloting of healthy vending machines in secondary schools in Pembrokeshire—leading to the guidance ‘Think Healthy Vending’—and the Welsh network of healthy school schemes with more than 1,000 schools are taking part, with most focusing on a whole-school approach to food and nutrition.

Last year, we published our sustainable development action plan, in which improving school meals is one of the top 10 targets. This year, with agreement from Cabinet colleagues in May on the way forward, we have set up an interdisciplinary food in schools working group to examine how to improve the quality and nutritional standards of school meals, and how to ensure a consistent and coherent approach to driving forward improvements in food and nutrition in our schools. This group will advise on the introduction of more stringent nutritional standards to reduce pupils’ consumption of fat, salt and sugar, and to increase their consumption of fruit, vegetables and other foods containing essential nutrients.

3.40 p.m.

To help inform this work, the Assembly Government is undertaking a fact-finding exercise on current practice in local authorities across Wales. Officials have already visited schools in 12 authorities across Wales and have enjoyed excellent school meals in 22 schools. School councils are also influencing this agenda. We are funding a study with the Food Standards Agency to examine what food choices pupils

maeth. Mae Her Iechyd Cymru yn annog pob partner arall i weithio gyda ni ar yr agenda bwysig hon.

Fel rhan o’r ymagwedd hon, yr ydym eisoes wedi cyflwyno ystod eang o fentrau i wella maeth yn ein hysgolion, gan gynnwys y safonau maeth gofynnol mewn prydau ysgol a chanllawiau arnynt, canllawiau Awdurdod Cymwysterau, Cwricwlwm ac Asesu Cymru ar fwyd yn y cwricwlwm ysgol, treialu brecwast iach am ddim mewn ysgolion cynradd, y cynllun llaeth i ddisgyblion cyfnod allweddol 1, siopau ffrwythau, peiriannau oeri dŵr, treialu peiriannau gwerthu iach mewn ysgolion uwchradd yn sir Benfro—a arweiniodd at y canllawiau ‘Dewis Gwerthu Iach’—a rhwydwaith Cymru o gynlluniau ysgolion iach lle mae dros 1,000 o ysgolion yn cymryd rhan, a’r rhan fwyaf yn canolbwyntio ar ymagwedd ysgol gyfan at fwyd a maeth.

Y llynedd, cyhoeddwyd ein cynllun gweithredu ar ddatblygu cynaliadwy, lle y mae gwella prydau ysgol yn un o’r 10 prif darged. Eleni, gyda chytundeb cyd-Weinidogion yn y Cabinet ym mis Mai ar y ffordd ymlaen, yr ydym wedi sefydlu gweithgor rhyng-ddisgyblaethol ar fwyd mewn ysgolion i archwilio sut i wella ansawdd a safonau maeth prydau ysgol, a sut i sicrhau ymagwedd gyson a chydlynol at hyrwyddo gwelliannau mewn bwyd a maeth yn ein hysgolion. Bydd y grŵp hwn yn rhoi cyngor ar gyflwyno safonau maeth llymach i leihau’r braster, yr halen a’r siwgr y mae disgyblion yn eu bwyta, a chynyddu’r ffrwythau, y llysiau a’r bwydydd eraill y maent yn eu bwyta sy’n cynnwys maetholion hanfodol.

Er mwyn helpu llywio’r gwaith hwn, mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn cynnal ymarfer canfod ffeithiau ar arferion presennol awdurdodau lleol ledled Cymru. Mae swyddogion eisoes wedi ymweld ag ysgolion mewn 12 o awdurdodau ledled Cymru, ac wedi mwynhau prydau bwyd ardderchog mewn 22 o ysgolion. Mae cynghorau ysgol hefyd yn dylanwadu ar yr agenda hon. Yr ydym yn ariannu astudiaeth gyda’r

make, and why, what nutritious foods they would eat, and what factors such as price, peer pressure and so on influence their choice.

The food and fitness task group action plan for children and young people was published for consultation in July 2005, with a young person's version following in September. This is a five-year action plan to improve nutrition and levels of physical activity. The consultation period ended on 31 October. A preliminary analysis indicates support for the action plan as a whole, with a welcome recognition that responsibility for healthy eating also extends to families and the wider community.

The Assembly Government is particularly aware of the number of additives in food eaten by young children. We are keen to reduce these and see a move towards less processed foods. The Food Standards Agency advice is helping a number of local authorities to tackle this issue now. Key actions were also identified in the children's national service framework to improve the diet of our children and young people. The final version of the framework was launched on 30 September this year.

The Assembly Government strongly encourages local authorities to prioritise healthy food in our schools. Many local authorities have already taken a lead in improving the quality and range of school meals that they provide. Carmarthenshire has recently been recognised at the UK level for its work in this area.

In getting food procurement right, we all want to provide healthy and nutritious food to the children of Wales while also engaging with our rural economy, reducing the impact of excessive transportation, and encouraging local suppliers to become part of new, more sustainable supply chains. In July 2004, the Minister for Environment, Countryside and Planning launched 'Food for Thought', the Welsh procurement initiative's guidance on rethinking public sector food procurement, which has been widely welcomed. More recently, a set of case studies has been

Asiantaeth Safonau Bwyd i archwilio pa fwyd y mae disgyblion yn ei ddewis, a pham, pa fwydydd maethlon y byddent yn eu bwyta, a pha ffactorau megis pris, pwysau gan gyfoedion ac ati sy'n dylanwadu ar eu dewis.

Cyhoeddwyd cynllun gweithredu'r grŵp gorchwyl ar fwyd a ffitrwydd ar gyfer plant a phobl ifanc i ymgynghori amdano ym mis Gorffennaf 2005, a dilynodd fersiwn ar gyfer pobl ifanc ym mis Medi. Mae hwn yn gynllun gweithredu pum mlynedd i wella maeth a lefelau gweithgarwch corfforol. Daeth y cyfnod ymgynghori i ben ar 31 Hydref. Dengys dadansoddiad rhagarweiniol fod y cynllun gweithredu yn ei gyfanrwydd yn cael ei gefnogi, gyda chydabyddiaeth i'w chrosawu fod teuluoedd a'r gymuned ehangach hefyd yn gyfrifol am fwyta'n iach.

Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ymwybodol iawn o nifer yr ychwanegiadau yn y bwyd y mae plant ifanc yn ei fwyta. Yr ydym yn awyddus i leihau'r rhain a symud tuag at fwydydd nad ydynt wedi'u prosesu gymaint. Mae cyngor yr Asiantaeth Safonau Bwyd yn helpu nifer o awdurdodau lleol i fynd i'r afael â'r mater hwn yn awr. Nodwyd camau gweithredu allweddol hefyd yn y fframwaith gwasanaeth cenedlaethol ar gyfer plant i wella deiet ein plant a phobl ifanc. Lanswyd fersiwn terfynol y fframwaith ar 30 Medi eleni.

Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn annog awdurdodau lleol i flaenoriaethu bwyd iach yn ein hysgolion. Mae nifer o awdurdodau lleol eisoes yn rhoi arweiniad wrth wella ansawdd ac amrywiaeth y prydau ysgol a ddarperir ganddynt. Cydnabuwyd Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin yn ddiweddar ar lefel y DU am ei waith yn y maes hwn.

O ran cael y dasg o brynu bwyd yn iawn, yr ydym bob un am roi bwyd iach a maethlon i blant Cymru a hefyd yn ymgysylltu â'n heconomi wledig, lleihau effaith cludo gormodol, ac annog cyflenwyr lleol i ddod yn rhan o gadwyni cyflenwi newydd, mwy cynaliadwy. Ym mis Gorffennaf 2004, lansiodd y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad 'Food for Thought', sef canllawiau menter prynu Cymru ar ailfeddwl am brynu bwyd yn y sector cyhoeddus sydd wedi cael croeso eang. Yn fwy diweddar, cyhoeddwyd cyfres o

published, which illustrates encouraging examples of creative and innovative thinking in the supply of food to schools.

Increasing evidence suggests that pupils who eat meals made from fresh, unprocessed ingredients and who have access to drinking water display better concentration, improved attention spans, are less likely to be hyperactive, and are calmer and more alert in class.

The food in schools working group will help to pull together these different strands, and ensure that we have a consistent and coherent approach to driving forward improvements in food and nutrition at all times in our schools. This group will produce a report in April 2006 and then consult ahead of new legislation coming on-stream next autumn. Currently, legislation allows only standards to be set for school lunches; the Assembly Government has no power to ban particular foods from school lunches. The current power to make regulations dealing with nutritional standards needs to be amended to be wider in its effect.

The Department for Education and Skills White Paper, 'Higher Standards, Better Schools For All', includes proposals to permit nutritional standards to apply to all food and drink supplied on school premises, and to change the duty to charge into a power to charge. That would allow some experiments in providing, for example, free fruit at other times of the day, and it would give local authorities the freedom to try new approaches to school meals and refreshments. Page 116 of the White Paper makes it clear that Wales warmly welcomes these new legislative proposals.

It is the Assembly Government's intention to continue to improve school nutrition in 2006-07 and in the succeeding years, informed by the food in schools working group and using the new powers that will come from the Bill. For our younger children, starting the day with a healthy breakfast funded by the Assembly Government will set the standard for the rest of the school day. Specific actions for next year are a part of the cross-party negotiations on the budget, and will be

astudiaethau achos, sy'n dangos enghreifftiau calonogol o feddwl yn greadigol ac arloesol am gyflenwi bwyd i ysgolion.

Awgryma tystiolaeth gynyddol fod disgyblion sy'n bwyta prydau wedi eu gwneud o gynhwysion ffres heb eu prosesu, ac sy'n gallu cael dŵr i'w yfed, yn canolbwyntio'n well ac am fwy o amser, yn llai tebygol o fod yn orfywiog ac yn dawelach ac yn fwy effro yn y dosbarth.

Bydd y gweithgor ar fwyd mewn ysgolion yn helpu cyfuno'r gwahanol elfennau hyn, ac yn sicrhau bod gennym ymagwedd gyson a chydlynol at hyrwyddo gwelliannau mewn bwyd a maeth bob amser yn ein hysgolion. Bydd y grŵp hwn yn cynhyrchu adroddiad ym mis Ebrill 2006 ac yna'n ymgynghori cyn i ddeddfwriaeth newydd ddod i rym yr hydref nesaf. Ar hyn o bryd, mae deddfwriaeth yn caniatáu gosod safonau ar gyfer cinio ysgol yn unig; nid oes gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad y pŵer i wahardd bwydydd penodol mewn ciniawau ysgol. Mae angen diwygio'r pŵer presennol i lunio rheoliadau sy'n ymwneud â safonau maeth er mwyn i'w effaith fod yn ehangach.

Mae Papur Gwyn yr Adran Addysg a Sgiliau, 'Higher Standards, Better Schools For All', yn cynnwys cynigion a fydd yn caniatáu i safonau maeth fod yn gymwys i'r holl fwyd a'r diod a gyflenwir mewn ysgolion, ac i newid y ddyletswydd i godi tâl yn bŵer i godi tâl. Byddai hynny'n galluogi rhywfaint o arbrofi, er enghraifft, wrth ddarparu ffrwythau am ddim ar adegau eraill o'r dydd, a byddai'n rhoi'r rhyddid i awdurdodau lleol roi cynnig ar ymagwedd newydd tuag at brydau ysgol a lluniaeth. Mae tudalen 116 o'r Papur Gwyn yn nodi'n glir bod Cymru yn croesawu'r cynigion deddfwriaethol newydd hyn.

Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn bwriadu parhau i wella maeth ysgolion yn 2006-07, ac yn y blynyddoedd i ddod, gyda chymorth y gweithgor bwyd mewn ysgolion a thrwy ddefnyddio'r pwerau newydd a fydd yn deillio o'r Mesur. Ar gyfer ein plant iau, bydd dechrau'r diwrnod gyda brechwast iach sy'n cael ei ariannu gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad yn gosod y safon ar gyfer gweddill y diwrnod ysgol. Mae camau gweithredu penodol am y flwyddyn nesaf yn rhan o'r trafodaethau

announced once those negotiations are concluded.

The Assembly Government has been working across all departments to take a whole-school approach to food and nutrition, and we will continue to drive this agenda forward.

Janet Ryder: Thank you for the statement, Minister. I think that everyone welcomes the move towards a greater emphasis on providing more nutritious food for children in school, but even officials in Carmarthenshire—which you hold up as an example—say that they need firmer guidance from the Assembly. We look forward to seeing that guidance brought forward.

Providing freshly purchased, good food and moving away from the bulk-buying contracts that counties tended to operate, which concentrated on pre-processed food, is a positive way forward, but there is much more to providing nutritional food and educating children about the nutritional value of food in schools. One such aspect is the training standards that we set for those who work in school canteens. I understand that, at present, those people follow a vocational qualification, and there is a call from the Welsh Food Alliance to change that to a national vocational qualification, which would include a competence assessment in a working environment. Do you intend to change the emphasis in the training and encourage more training in the workplace? The importance of that is perhaps upheld by some of the incidents that we have seen in south Wales schools.

We also have to provide an environment in which our children can eat good quality food. Many schools no longer have the capacity for children to sit down and eat their meal. Small primary schools do not have a specific area for that, and the canteens in larger secondary schools are small. What assessment has your Government made of the capital investment that is needed to bring schools up to standard so that children can eat their meals in good surroundings?

Jane Davidson: As I said, we have a food in

trawsbleidiol ar y gyllideb, a chânt eu cyhoeddi ar ôl i'r trafodaethau hynny ddod i ben.

Bu Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn gweithio ar draws pob adran i gael ymagwedd ysgol gyfan at fwyd a maeth, a byddwn yn parhau i hyrwyddo'r agenda hon.

Janet Ryder: Diolch am y datganiad, Weinidog. Credaf fod pawb yn croesawu'r cam tuag at roi mwy o bwyslais ar ddarparu bwyd mwy maethlon i blant ysgol. Ond mae hyd yn oed swyddogion yn sir Gaerfyrddin—a ddefnyddir gennych fel esiampl—yn dweud bod angen canllawiau cadarnach arnynt gan y Cynulliad. Edrychwn ymlaen at weld y canllawiau hynny'n cael eu cyflwyno.

Mae darparu bwyd da wedi ei brynu'n ffres a symud oddi wrth y contractau swmp brynu yr oedd siroedd yn tueddu i'w gweithredu, ac a oedd yn canolbwyntio ar fwyd wedi'i ragbroesu, yn gam cadarnhaol ymlaen. Ond mae llawer mwy i ddarparu bwyd maethlon ac addysgu plant am werth bwyd maethlon mewn ysgolion. Un agwedd felly yw'r safonau hyfforddiant a bennir gennym ar gyfer pobl sy'n gweithio mewn ffreuturau ysgolion. Deallaf fod y bobl hynny yn dilyn cymhwyster galwedigaethol, ar hyn o bryd, a bod Cynghrair Bwyd Cymru yn galw am newid hynny i gymhwyster galwedigaethol cenedlaethol, a fyddai'n cynnwys asesiad o gymhwysedd mewn amgylchedd gwaith. A ydych yn bwriadu newid pwyslais yr hyfforddiant ac annog mwy o hyfforddiant yn y gweithle? Mae pwysigrwydd hynny'n cael ei gadarnhau, hwyrach, gan rai o'r digwyddiadau a welsom mewn ysgolion yn y de.

Rhaid inni hefyd ddarparu amgylchedd lle gall ein plant fwyta bwyd o safon. Mae nifer o ysgolion mwyach heb yr adnoddau i alluogi plant i eistedd i lawr a bwyta eu pryd bwyd. Nid oes gan ysgolion cynradd bach fan penodol ar gyfer hynny, ac mae'r ffreuturau mewn ysgolion uwchradd mwy o faint yn rhai bach. Pa asesiad a wnaed gan eich Llywodraeth o'r buddsoddiad cyfalaf sydd ei angen i godi safon ysgolion er mwyn i blant allu bwyta eu prydau bwyd mewn amgylchedd da?

Jane Davidson: Fel y dywedais, mae

schools working group, which considers all aspects of the delivery of food in schools and, in addition to that, the Welsh Local Government Association will set up its own taskforce to support the group's work so that by the time we have the group's report in April next year, we will be able to ensure that we can put all the standards, and qualifications opportunities in place to enable us to take full advantage of the legislation that will subsequently come forward.

From their visits to local authorities, officials were at pains to tell me that it is not the size of the school that determines whether or not the school meal is good. For example, in a primary school of 26 pupils, who all have school dinners, all pupils washed their hands prior to the meal, the tables were set up prior to the children arriving, the headteacher said grace, the menu was a no-choice menu, which consisted of pasta, meat sauce, and mixed vegetables—fresh carrots and broccoli, frozen peas and sweetcorn—and a home-made roll, the food was given on a proper plate, and most, if not all, of the plates were cleared by the children. That is an example of what is going on in Wales at present, and the reason that our officials are out visiting is that, irrespective of the political control of local authorities, there is much good practice, which we want to make the norm across Wales.

On capital sums, we have seen many times that the refurbishment of the school kitchen has been part of wider school refurbishment, and that is an eligible expenditure under our school buildings grant arrangements.

William Graham: Thank you for your statement. I want to focus your attention on a survey conducted earlier this year on the cost of school meals. The cost varies from 40p in the city of Cardiff to 69p in Powys. In anybody's judgment, those are modest sums. One pays tribute to those who prepare and serve these meals, but I direct you to Professor Morgan's remarks. He said that Carmarthenshire, which you rightly praise, is an island of excellence in a sea of mediocrity. He goes on to say,

gennym weithgor bwyd mewn ysgolion, sy'n ystyried pob agwedd ar ddarparu bwyd mewn ysgolion. Ac yn ogystal â hynny, bydd Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru yn sefydlu ei thasglu ei hun i ategu gwaith y grŵp, fel y byddwn, erbyn inni gael adroddiad y grŵp ym mis Ebrill y flwyddyn nesaf, yn gallu sicrhau y gallwn roi'r holl safonau a'r cyfleoedd cymwysterau ar waith i'n galluogi i fanteisio i'r eithaf ar y ddeddfwriaeth a ddaw yn dilyn hyn.

Yn sgîl eu hymweliadau ag awdurdodau lleol, yr oedd swyddogion yn pwysleisio wrthyf nad maint yr ysgol sy'n pennu a yw'r pryd ysgol yn dda neu beidio. Er enghraifft, mewn ysgol gynradd o 26 o ddisgyblion, bob un yn cael cinio ysgol, yr oedd pob disgybl yn golchi ei ddwylo cyn cael bwyd, yr oedd y byrddau'n cael eu gosod cyn i'r plant gyrraedd, y pennaeth yn dweud gras, y fwydlen yn un lle nad oedd dewis ac yn cynnwys pasta, saws cig, a llysiau cymysg—moron a brocoli ffres, pys ac india-corn wedi ei rewi—a rhôl cartref, y bwyd yn cael ei ddarparu ar blât go iawn a'r plant yn clirio'r rhan fwyaf o'r platiau, os nad pob un. Dyna enghraifft o'r hyn sy'n digwydd yng Nghymru ar hyn o bryd, a'r rheswm pam mae ein swyddogion yn ymweld ag ysgolion yw bod yna lawer o arfer da, er y rheolaeth wleidyddol gan awdurdodau lleol. Yr ydym am wneud hyn yn gyffredin ledled Cymru.

O ran symiau cyfalaf, yr ydym wedi gweld droeon fod adnewyddu cegin yr ysgol wedi bod yn rhan o brosiect adnewyddu ehangach yn yr ysgol, ac mae hwnnw'n wariant cymwys o dan ein trefniadau grant adeiladau ysgolion.

William Graham: Diolch am eich datganiad. Hoffwn ganolbwyntio'ch sylw ar arolwg a wnaed yn gynharach eleni o gost prydau bwyd ysgol. Mae'r gost yn amrywio o 40c yn ninas Caerdydd i 69c ym Mhowys. Mae'n siŵr y cytunwch mai symiau cymharol fach yw'r rheini. Rhaid canmol y rhai sy'n paratoi ac yn gweini'r prydau hyn, ond fe'ch cyfeiriau at sylwadau gan yr Athro Morgan. Dywedodd fod sir Gaerfyrddin, a ganmolwch yn ddigon haeddiannol, yn ynys o ragoriaeth mewn môr o gyffredinedd. Aiff yn ei flaen i ddweud hyn,

'We are talking a lot in Wales, doing some worthy initiatives, but we are not putting new money into the school meals service and we are not committing ourselves to new nutrient-based food standards.'

Will you also consider the views of the Secondary Heads Association? It has questioned whether a ban on sweets and sugary drinks is practical, as children would continue to consume these items by buying them outside school. The National Association of Head Teachers in Wales has asked for an examination of any income received by schools from vending machines. It is also worth noting that the British Heart Foundation published research earlier this month that highlighted that one in three children do not know that the main ingredient of chips is potato.

I ask you to look again at the curriculum. As the children's commissioner has suggested, it is wise to communicate with children, to give them an understanding of what they are eating, and they will probably then choose the better alternative. Banning foods or telling children not to eat them is not enough. We must engage children so that they understand why certain foods are not as healthy as others. We need a whole-school approach, promoting a wider understanding of nutrition and the real benefit and potential harm of certain foods.

3.50 p.m.

Jane Davidson: Carmarthenshire is certainly a beacon of excellence, but it is unfair to say that the rest of Wales is a sea of mediocrity. That is partly why our officials are on this fact-finding tour across Wales: to see what is actually going on. When we have that information, we will bring it to committee so that we will all have a clear view of it.

We are committed to nutrient-based food standards. That is our whole approach, and why I so strongly welcome the action of our colleagues in Westminster in saying that we will have primary legislation to enable us to

Yr ydym yn siarad yn helaeth yng Nghymru, yn cynnal rhai mentrau teilwng, ond nid ydym yn rhoi arian newydd i'r gwasanaeth prydau ysgol nac yn ymrwymo i safonau bwyd newydd yn seiliedig ar faetholion.

A ystyriwch hefyd farn Cymdeithas y Prifathrawon Uwchradd? Mae wedi bod yn holi a yw gwahardd melysion a diodydd siwgwr yn ymarferol, gan y byddai plant yn parhau i fwyta ac yfed y pethau hyn drwy eu prynu y tu allan i'r ysgol. Mae Cymdeithas Genedlaethol y Prifathrawon yng Nghymru wedi gofyn am archwiliad o unrhyw incwm a geir gan ysgolion o beiriannau gwerthu. Mae'n werth nodi hefyd fod Sefydliad Prydeinig y Galon wedi cyhoeddi gwaith ymchwil yn gynharach y mis hwn, a oedd yn tynnu sylw at y ffaith nad yw un plentyn o bob tri yn gwybod mai tatws yw prif gynhwysyn sglodion.

Gofynnaf ichi edrych eto ar y cwricwlwm. Fel yr awgrymodd y comisiynydd plant, mae'n ddoeth cyfathrebu â phlant, i roi gwybodaeth iddynt am yr hyn y maent yn ei fwyta, ac yna maent yn debygol o wneud y dewis amgen gwell. Nid yw gwahardd bwydydd neu ddweud wrth blant am beidio â'u bwyta yn ddigon. Rhaid inni ymgysylltu â phlant er mwyn iddynt ddeall pam nad yw bwydydd penodol mor iach â rhai eraill. Mae angen ymagwedd ysgol gyfan arnom, sy'n hyrwyddo dealltwriaeth ehangach o faeth ac o'r budd gwirioneddol a'r niwed posibl o fwyta bwydydd penodol.

Jane Davidson: Mae sir Gaerfyrddin yn bendant yn enghraifft o ragoriaeth, ond mae'n annheg dweud bod gweddill Cymru yn fôr o gyffredinedd. Mae hynny'n rhan o'r rheswm pam mae ein swyddogion yn teithio o amgylch Cymru i gael y ffeithiau: sef i weld yr hyn sy'n digwydd mewn gwirionedd. Pan fydd gennym y wybodaeth honno, fe'i cyflwynwn i'r pwyllgor er mwyn inni oll gael darlun clir ohoni.

Yr ydym wedi ymrwymo i sicrhau safonau bwyd sy'n seiliedig ar faetholion. Dyna ein hymagwedd gyfan, a'r rheswm pam yr wyf yn croesawu mor frwd y camau gweithredu gan ein cyd-aelodau yn San Steffan wrth

really improve nutritional standards.

You will see from the other information that we have sent you, which you may have had an opportunity to read in advance of today's statement, in the food and fitness action plan and the paper that I took to Cabinet back in May—and I think that we also discussed these issues in committee in May—that we had already committed ourselves, before that announcement was made, to improving the nutritional standards of school meals. We all want to see that happen.

You said that it was important that we have a whole-school approach. We agree, and that is why we operate the agenda as we do. We must engage children. However, it is also important that we have the ability to ban unhealthy foods, and that we have a discussion in Wales about whether or not we want certain food groups taken out of the school system.

In terms of vending machines, the healthy vending pilot schemes tell us that, if it is properly planned and managed—and, of course, Pembrokeshire is now moving forward from the pilot to rolling it out across the whole authority—you can get an income from healthy vending machines. However, you have to do it in partnership with your pupils, in terms of what they want to eat and drink. That is where school councils are so important.

Peter Black: I welcome the progress that you are making, and the initiatives that are outlined in your statement. I notice that one of the initiatives relates to the Welsh network of healthy schools scheme, in which over 1,000 schools take part. I know that the Welsh Food Alliance believes that this network should be reinforced, possibly by ensuring that the work that it is doing in relation to practical food skills and nutritious school meals is assessed under the school inspection regime. Would you be willing to consider that and to have discussions with Estyn on whether that could be taken forward?

ddweud y bydd gennym ddeddfwriaeth sylfaenol i'n galluogi i wella safonau maeth yn wirioneddol.

Fe welwch o'r wybodaeth arall a anfonwyd atoch—ac efallai eich bod wedi cael cyfle i'w darllen cyn y datganiad heddiw—yn y cynllun gweithredu ar fwyd a ffitrwydd a'r papur a gyflwynais gerbron y Cabinet yn ôl ym mis Mai—credaf inni hefyd drafod y materion hyn yn y pwyllgor ym mis Mai—ein bod eisoes wedi ymrwymo, cyn gwneud y cyhoeddiad hwnnw, i wella safonau maeth prydau ysgol. Yr ydym oll am weld hynny'n digwydd.

Yr oeddech yn dweud ei bod yn bwysig inni fabwysiadu ymagwedd ysgol gyfan. Cytunwn â hynny, a dyna pam yr ydym yn gweithredu'r agenda fel y gwnawn. Rhaid inni ymgysylltu â phlant. Fodd bynnag, mae'n bwysig hefyd fod gennym y gallu i wahardd bwydydd afiach, a'n bod yn cael trafodaeth yng Nghymru i weld a ydym am ddileu grwpiau bwyd penodol o'r system ysgol.

O ran peiriannau gwerthu, mae'r cynlluniau peilot ar werthu iach yn dweud wrthym, os caiff hynny ei gynllunio a'i reoli'n gywir—ac, wrth gwrs, mae sir Benfro bellach yn symud ymlaen o'r cynllun peilot i'w gyflwyno drwy'r awdurdod yn gyfan—y gallwch gael incwm o beiriannau gwerthu iach. Fodd bynnag, rhaid ichi wneud hynny mewn partneriaeth â'ch disgyblion, o ran yr hyn y maent am ei fwyta a'i yfed. Dyna ble y mae cynghorau ysgolion mor bwysig.

Peter Black: Yr wyf yn croesawu'r cynnydd a wnewch, a'r mentrau sy'n cael eu hamlinellu yn eich datganiad. Sylwaf fod a wnelo un o'r mentrau â rhwydwaith cynlluniau ysgolion iach Cymru, lle mae 1,000 o ysgolion yn cymryd rhan. Gwn fod Cynghrair Bwyd Cymru o'r farn y dylid atgyfnerthu'r rhwydwaith hwn, hwyrach drwy sicrhau bod y gwaith a wnaiff mewn perthynas â sgiliau bwyd ymarferol a phrydau ysgol maethlon yn cael ei asesu o dan y gyfundrefn arolygu ysgolion. A fydddech yn fodlon ystyried hynny a thrafod gydag Estyn a ellid datblygu hynny?

William raised the issue of children not being fully aware of the contents of the food, particularly the processed food, that they eat. That awareness is important in terms of getting children to eat the nutritious school meals that are provided, instead of putting the fresh fruit, vegetables, fish and so on to one side and perhaps going out to the local chip shop. The education part of this is important. We must educate children about nutritious food and what is available to them. Would you look at the national curriculum to ensure that children are equipped with this knowledge and that teachers are obliged to include it as part of the work that they do with children?

As part of that, the design and technology component within the current national curriculum does not necessarily deliver practical food skills. It requires a discrete and separate subject area to take that forward. Would you be prepared to talk to the Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales about the need to embrace that in curriculum changes?

As we all know, school meals, and the provision of free school meals in particular, are an important aspect of the Assembly's anti-poverty strategy. I understand that a number of children do not take up the free school meals they are entitled to, and that that entitlement does not always extend to all families who receive working tax credit. Is it possible to consider that and to perhaps extend the eligibility of children for free school meals? Will you also commit yourself to an active campaign to encourage eligible children to take up that entitlement?

Jane Davidson: If you look at the national service framework and the food and fitness action plan, you will see that we intend, by the end of the decade, to extend the network of healthy schools scheme to every school in Wales. I went to speak at a World Health Organization conference two years ago because Wales was and continues to be a world leader in terms of how we take this agenda forward with a whole-school approach.

As you will also see from the paper that I

Cododd William y ffaith nad yw plant yn gwbl ymwybodol o gynnwys y bwyd, yn arbennig y bwyd wedi'i brosesu, y maent yn ei fwyta. Mae'r ymwybyddiaeth honno'n bwysig wrth gael plant i fwyta'r prydau ysgol maethlon a ddarperir, yn hytrach na gosod y ffrwythau, y llysiau a'r pysgod ffres ac ati o'r neilltu a mynd i'r siop sglodion leol hwyrach. Mae'r elfen addysg yn hyn yn bwysig. Rhaid inni addysgu plant am fwyd maethlon a'r hyn sydd ar gael iddynt. A wnewch edrych ar y cwricwlwm cenedlaethol i sicrhau bod plant yn cael y wybodaeth hon a'i bod yn rhaid i athrawon ei chynnwys fel rhan o'r gwaith a wnânt gyda phlant?

Fel rhan o hynny, nid yw'r elfen dylunio a thechnoleg yn y cwricwlwm cenedlaethol presennol o reidrwydd yn darparu sgiliau bwyd ymarferol. Mae angen maes pwnc ar wahân i ddatblygu hynny. A fydddech yn barod i siarad ag Awdurdod Cymwysterau, Cwricwlwm ac Asesu Cymru am yr angen i gynnwys hynny mewn newidiadau yn y cwricwlwm?

Fel y gwyddom bob un, mae prydau ysgol, a'r ddarpariaeth prydau ysgol am ddim yn arbennig, yn agwedd bwysig ar strategaeth y Cynulliad yn erbyn tlodi ymhlith plant. Deallaf bod nifer o blant nad ydynt yn cael y prydau ysgol am ddim y mae ganddynt hawl i'w cael, ac nad yw'r hawl honno bob amser yn cynnwys pob teulu sy'n cael credyd treth gwaith. A yw'n bosibl ystyried hynny a hwyrach ymestyn cymhwyster plant i gael prydau ysgol am ddim? A ymrwymwch hefyd i gynnal ymgyrch weithredol i annog plant cymwys i fanteisio ar yr hawl honno?

Jane Davidson: Os edrychwch ar y fframwaith gwasanaeth cenedlaethol a'r cynllun gweithredu ar fwyd a ffitrwydd, fe welwch ein bod, erbyn diwedd y degawd, yn bwriadu ymestyn rhwydwaith y cynllun ysgolion iach i bob ysgol yng Nghymru. Bûm yn siarad mewn cynhadledd gan Sefydliad Iechyd y Byd ddwy flynedd yn ôl oherwydd bod Cymru'n arfer bod ac yn dal i fod yn arweinydd byd-eang yn y ffordd yr ydym yn gweithredu'r agenda hon gydag ymagwedd ysgol gyfan.

Fel y gwelwch hefyd o'r papur a gyflwynais i

took to the Cabinet sub-committee on children and young people, we will have a dialogue with Estyn about those arrangements, because it is important that that forms part of the inspection. I have already had a dialogue with ACCAC and I wrote to it last year on issues around food in schools. It is taking that into account in looking at a more skills-based curriculum, which I know you welcome, as we change the curriculum arrangements through to 2008.

You are right about the free school meals issue. There is an anomaly in the system at the moment, which I am trying to address, in relation to the fact that the schools census data in the primary sector look at those children who take up school meals, and in the secondary sector look at entitlement. We cannot have data that operate differently in each sector. In the longer term, we need to have smartcard access to school meals for all pupils, so that children entitled to free meals do not feel any stigma in the queue. Ultimately, that must be the way to ensure that all children are treated the same when they have their school meals. I am very happy to support a school meal take-up campaign.

Jeff Cuthbert: As William Graham mentioned, a recent British Heart Foundation survey found that one in three children aged between 14 and 18 did not know what chips were made of. One in 10 suggested that they were made of eggs and flour, and some even apples. These frightening statistics vividly reveal the health challenges that Wales faces, if we are to improve the health choices that pupils make in school.

As chair of the all-party group on healthy living, I know that the Assembly Government, in partnership with Health Challenge Wales, is doing a great deal to combat ill health and sedentary lifestyles among our youngest citizens. The initiatives that you have just outlined show the sheer amount of work that the Assembly is doing in this regard.

I bring to the Minister's attention the British

is-bwyllgor y Cabinet ar blant a phobl ifanc, byddwn yn trafod y trefniadau hynny gydag Estyn, gan ei bod yn bwysig i hynny fod yn rhan o'r arolygiad. Yr wyf eisoes wedi trafod gydag ACCAC ac ysgrifennais ato y llynedd am faterion yn ymwneud â bwyd mewn ysgolion. Mae'n ystyried hynny wrth edrych ar gwricwlwm sy'n fwy seiliedig ar sgiliau, a gwn eich bod yn ei groesawu, wrth inni newid trefniadau'r cwricwlwm hyd at 2008.

Yr ydych yn llygad eich lle ynglŷn â phrydau ysgol. Mae yna anghysondeb yn y system ar hyn o bryd yr wyf yn ceisio mynd i'r afael ag ef, mewn cysylltiad â'r ffaith fod y data cyfrifiad ysgolion yn y sector cynradd yn edrych ar y plant hynny sy'n cael prydau ysgol, ac yn y sector uwchradd yn edrych ar yr hawl i gael prydau ysgol. Ni allwn gael data sy'n gweithredu'n wahanol ym mhob sector. Yn y tymor hwy, mae angen i bob disgybl gael cerdyn call er mwyn cael prydau ysgolion, fel na fydd plant sydd â'r hawl i gael prydau ysgol am ddim yn teimlo unrhyw stigma yn y ciw. Yn y pen draw, rhaid mai dyna'r ffordd i sicrhau y caiff pob plentyn ei drin yn gyfartal wrth gael prydau ysgol. Yr wyf yn falch iawn o gefnogi ymgyrch i gael prydau ysgol.

Jeff Cuthbert: Fel y soniodd William Graham, gwelodd arolwg gan Sefydliad Prydeinig y Galon yn ddiweddar nad oedd un plentyn o bob tri rhwng 14 a 18 oed yn gwybod beth oedd mewn sglodion. Awgrymodd un o bob 10 eu bod yn cynnwys wyau a blawd, ac awgrymodd rhai hyd yn oed eu bod yn cynnwys afalau. Mae'r ystadegau brawychus hyn yn datgelu'r heriau iechyd sy'n wynebu Cymru, os ydym i wella'r dewisiadau iechyd y mae disgyblion yn eu gwneud yn yr ysgol.

Fel cadeirydd y grŵp trawsbleidiol ar fyw'n iach, gwn fod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, mewn partneriaeth â Her Iechyd Cymru, yn gwneud llawer i atal afiechyd a ffyrdd o fyw segur ymhlith ein dinasyddion ieuengaf. Dengys y mentrau yr ydych newydd eu hamlinellu faint o waith y mae'r Cynulliad yn ei wneud yn y cyswllt hwn.

Tynnaf sylw'r Gweinidog at yr ymgyrch

Heart Foundation's new Food4Thought campaign, which aims to help the Government in its work of raising awareness among pupils in the context of some of their favourite foods. That involves the sending of a pizza pack to all secondary schools in Wales, containing fun but informative activities that aim to bring to light the impact their food choices have on their health. Will you join me in welcoming this initiative as a useful resource in tackling the rapid rise of childhood obesity and adult-onset diabetes in Wales? Will you also put your support behind the all-party group's national healthy living week, which is a national week of action from 15 to 21 May next year?

Jane Davidson: We see some pretty awful statistics in Wales on our children's understanding of what healthy foods are. I was deeply shocked, as were other Members, when I saw the Welsh health survey figures of 2003-04 on obesity statistics. The consumption of fruit and vegetables is lowest in some of our most deprived areas, where obesity is highest. So, we have a major issue relating to education, not just of children, but of adults. We can pick this up under parenting initiatives. I will be launching our parenting action plan before Christmas. We want to ensure that throughout children's access to public services, we can promote these healthy school messages.

We now have two food for thought initiatives: one is spelt 'Food for Thought', which is Carwyn's initiative on procurement, and the other is Food4Thought, in modern parlance, from the British Heart Foundation. I strongly welcome that initiative, and I am happy to consider ways in which we can support the healthy living week with a specific initiative on school food next year.

Leanne Wood: The E.coli outbreak, which has affected large parts of my region, has had a major impact on parents' confidence in the school meals system. Have you had any sight of figures yet to show whether or not there has been a change in the uptake of school meals since the E.coli outbreak and can you tell us what steps you are taking to try to win back the confidence of parents?

Food4Thought newydd gan Sefydliad Prydeinig y Galon, sydd â'r nod o helpu'r Llywodraeth i wneud disgyblion yn fwy ymwybodol yng ngyd-destun rhai o'u hoff fwydydd. Mae hynny'n cynnwys anfon pecyn pizza i bob ysgol uwchradd yng Nghymru, sy'n cynnwys gweithgareddau difyr ond addysgiadol gyda'r nod o dynnu sylw at yr effaith a gaiff eu dewisiadau bwyd ar eu hiechyd. A ymunwch â mi i groesawu'r fenter hon fel adnodd defnyddiol wrth fynd i'r afael â'r cynnydd cyflym mewn gordewdra ymysg plant a diabetes sy'n dechrau mewn oedolion yng Nghymru? A gefnogwch hefyd yr wythnos genedlaethol byw'n iach gan y grŵp hollbleidiol, sef wythnos weithredu genedlaethol o 15 i 21 Mai y flwyddyn nesaf?

Jane Davidson: Gwelwn rai ystadegau digon arswydus yng Nghymru am ddealltwriaeth ein plant o'r hyn yw bwydydd iach. Fe'm synwyd yn fawr, fel Aelodau eraill, pan welais ffigurau arolwg iechyd Cymru ar gyfer 2003-04 am ystadegau gordewdra. Pobl yn rhai o'n hardaloedd mwyaf difreintiedig sy'n bwyta leiaf o lysiau a ffrwythau, lle y mae gordewdra ar ei uchaf. Felly, mae gennym broblem fawr o ran addysgu nid plant yn unig, ond oedolion hefyd. Gallwn drafod hyn o dan fentrau rhianta. Byddaf yn lansio ein cynllun gweithredu rhianta cyn y Nadolig. Yr ydym am sicrhau y gallwn hyrwyddo'r negeseuon ysgol iach hyn, drwy gydol mynediad plant i wasanaethau cyhoeddus.

Mae gennym ddwy fenter 'food for thought' bellach: caiff y naill ei sillafu 'Food for Thought', sef menter Carwyn ar brynu, a Food4Thought yw'r llall, mewn iaith fodern, gan Sefydliad Prydeinig y Galon. Croesawaf y fenter honno yn fawr, ac yr wyf yn fodlon ystyried ffyrdd inni allu cefnogi'r wythnos byw'n iach gyda menter benodol ar fwyd ysgol y flwyddyn nesaf.

Leanne Wood: Mae'r achosion o E.coli, sydd wedi effeithio ar ardaloedd helaeth yn fy rhanbarth, wedi cael effaith fawr ar hyder rhieni yn y system prydau ysgol. A ydych wedi gweld unrhyw ffigurau eto i ddangos a oes newid wedi bod yn nifer y disgyblion sy'n cael prydau ysgol ers yr achosion o E.coli? Ac a allwch ddweud wrthyf pa gamau yr ydych yn eu cymryd i geisio

ailennyn hyder rhieni?

4.00 p.m.

Jane Davidson: I have not had sight of hard and fast figures, though figures relating to anecdotal surveys of parents, local authorities and headteachers have been published in the press. The E.coli outbreak has clearly sapped the confidence of parents in school meals; that is an entirely logical outcome. However, it is important to say that public health professionals have said time and again that, because it is related to hygiene, it is possible, in principle, for an expensive restaurant serving high-quality food to be affected by E.coli. It is not inherent in school meals; that is the message that we have to get across. I met all directors of education and their cabinet members today, and they are looking, though this fact-finding exercise, at what is being done in local government and at the quality of school meals. Together, we can demonstrate that there is quality out there, and that we are all committed to enhancing that quality for the future with the new opportunities and the new powers.

Catherine Thomas: Thank you, Minister, for your statement and for the clear progress that is being made. You acknowledged, as did William Graham, that Carmarthenshire County Council is doing exceptionally well in this field with its health and wellbeing vision, Feeling Fine, and its award-winning school meals nutrition strategy charter. I would like to join you in your congratulations.

I have visited a number of schools in Carmarthenshire, I have spoken to children, and I have seen at first hand the food that they are enjoying, and the high standard of that food. I was born and brought up in Carmarthenshire and attended Dafen school, and the standard of the food when I was there was also very high. As you know, Carmarthenshire County Council is committed to—

The Presiding Officer: Order. Can I have a question? We are almost at the end of the time for this statement, and I am sure that a number of your colleagues want to be called.

Jane Davidson: Nid wyf wedi gweld ffigurau pendant, er bod ffigurau'n ymwneud ag arolygon anecdotaidd o rieni, awdurdodau lleol a phenaethiaid wedi'u cyhoeddi yn y wasg. Mae'r achosion o E.coli yn amlwg wedi tanseilio hyder rhieni mewn prydau ysgol; mae hynny'n ganlyniad cwbl resymegol. Fodd bynnag, mae'n bwysig dweud bod gweithwyr proffesiynol iechyd y cyhoedd wedi dweud dro ar ôl tro, am fod hyn yn ymwneud â hylendid, ei bod yn bosibl, mewn egwyddor, i E.coli effeithio ar fwyty drud sy'n darparu bwyd o safon. Nid yw'n gynhenid mewn prydau ysgol; dyna'r neges y mae'n rhaid inni ei chyfleu. Cyfarfûm â'r holl gyfarwyddwyr addysg a'u haelodau cabinet heddiw, ac maent yn edrych, drwy'r ymarfer hwn i ddod o hyd i'r ffeithiau, ar yr hyn sy'n cael ei wneud mewn llywodraeth leol ac ar ansawdd prydau ysgol. Gyda'n gilydd, gallwn ddangos bod yna ansawdd, a'n bod i gyd wedi ymrwymo i wella'r ansawdd hwnnw ar gyfer y dyfodol gyda'r cyfleoedd newydd a'r pwerau newydd.

Catherine Thomas: Diolch, Weinidog, am eich datganiad ac am y cynnydd amlwg a wneir. Yr oeddech yn cydnabod, fel William Graham, fod Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin yn gwneud yn hynod o dda yn y maes hwn gyda'i weledigaeth o iechyd a lles, Teimlo'n Dda, a'i siarter lwyddiannus ar strategaeth maeth prydau ysgol. Hoffwn ymuno â chi i'w longyfarch.

Yr wyf wedi ymweld â nifer o ysgolion yn sir Gaerfyrddin, yr wyf wedi siarad â phlant, ac yr wyf wedi gweld â'm llygaid fy hun y bwyd y maent yn ei fwynhau, a safon uchel y bwyd hwnnw. Cefais fy ngeni a'm magu yn sir Gaerfyrddin ac euthum i ysgol Dafen, ac yr oedd safon y bwyd pan oeddwn yno hefyd yn uchel iawn. Fel y gwyddoch, mae Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin wedi ymrwymo i—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. A gaf fi gwestiwn? Yr ydym bron â chyrraedd diwedd yr amser ar gyfer y datganiad hwn, ac yr wyf yn siŵr fod nifer o'ch cyd-Aelodau am gael eu galw.

Catherine Thomas: I am coming to the question now. Carmarthenshire County Council is committed to monitoring and developing its progress, and initiating a training programme for school meals catering staff. I believe, Minister that this is the way forward. Do you agree that other authorities would do well to follow the lead that Carmarthenshire is taking?

Jane Davidson: Yes, I would. I know that Carmarthenshire will play a key role in the Welsh Local Government Association's taskforce on this issue.

Eleanor Burnham: Minister, do you agree that we should be raising pupil awareness? When I used to teach under-achievers across north-east Wales, one thing that horrified me was the lack of information and knowledge about nutrition as well as hygiene, which has been part of this discussion. Personal and social education should be one area where pupils could be advised. Do you agree that we need to raise the expectation of school meals, so that more children can take them up?

Jane Davidson: It is certainly true to say that every survey demonstrates that school meals are healthier than packed lunches. We want to ensure that children have the healthiest food possible inside them. PSE is already used as a mechanism.

Lorraine Barrett: Thank you for your statement, Minister, particularly regarding the use of fresh food; for all sorts of reasons, there are far more allergies and food intolerances today. Lactose, in particular, is added to many of our foods, and Asian and African children are particularly intolerant to lactose. Will you, therefore, look at the issue of lactose, in particular, when giving guidance to Welsh schools to ensure that it is not included in the food that they procure?

Jane Davidson: I will make sure that this statement and Members' comments are made available to those who are in the food in schools working group.

Catherine Thomas: Yr wyf yn dod at y cwestiwn yn awr. Mae Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin wedi ymrwmo i fonitro a datblygu ei gynnydd, a chychwyn rhaglen hyfforddi ar gyfer staff sy'n arlwyio prydau ysgol. Credaf, Weinidog, mai dyma'r ffordd ymlaen. A ydych yn cytuno y byddai'n syniad da i awdurdodau eraill ddilyn esiampl sir Gaerfyrddin?

Jane Davidson: Byddai. Gwn y bydd gan sir Gaerfyrddin ran allweddol yn nhasglu Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru ar y mater hwn.

Eleanor Burnham: Weinidog, a ydych yn cytuno y dylem fod yn gwneud disgyblion yn fwy ymwybodol? Pan oeddwn yn arfer addysgu plant a oedd yn tangyflawni ar draws y gogledd-ddwyrain, un peth a oedd yn peri arswyd imi oedd y diffyg gwybodaeth am faeth yn ogystal â hylendid, sydd wedi bod yna rhan o'r drafodaeth hon. Dylai addysg bersonol a chymdeithasol fod yn un maes lle gellid cynghori disgyblion. A ydych yn cytuno bod angen inni godi'r disgwyliad ynglŷn â phrydau ysgol, fel y gall mwyl blant eu cael?

Jane Davidson: Mae'n sicr yn wir dweud bod pob arolwg yn dangos bod prydau ysgol yn iachach na chiniawau brechdan. Yr ydym am sicrhau bod plant yn bwyta'r bwyd iachaf posibl. Defnyddir ABCh eisoes fel macanwaith.

Lorraine Barrett: Diolch ichi am eich datganiad, Weinidog, yn enwedig ar ddefnyddio bwyd ffres; am bob math o reswm, mae llawer mwy o alergeddau ac achosion o anoddefiad bwyd heddiw. Caiff lactos, yn enwedig, ei ychwanegu at nifer o'n bwydydd, ac mae gan blant Asiaidd ac Affricanaidd yn arbennig anoddefiad lactos. A wnewch chi, felly, edrych ar fater lactos, yn arbennig, wrth roi canllawiau i ysgolion yng Nghymru er mwyn sicrhau na chaiff ei gynnwys yn y bwydydd y maent yn eu prynu?

Jane Davidson: Byddaf yn sicrhau bod y datganiad hwn a sylwadau Aelodau ar gael i'r rheini sy'n aelodau o'r gweithgor bwyd mewn ysgolion.

Leighton Andrews: Thank you for that comprehensive statement, Minister. Do you agree that one of the issues affecting pupils' behaviour is whether or not they are allowed out at lunchtime to go down the road to the local chip shop? One complaint that is often raised in my constituency is that many secondary schools allow their pupils out. If you want to have a regime in which children are more likely to take up healthy options at lunchtime, I am afraid that closing down that option of going down the road to the chippy may be one thing that has to happen.

Jane Davidson: We know that quite a few of the secondary schools that were visited by our team—schools that were chosen by healthy school co-ordinators and primary school free-breakfast co-ordinators—have already decided on a policy of not allowing their pupils out at lunchtime. That needs to be considered in this context.

David Melding: Many people do not cook because they do not have the basic skills. A lot of those skills could be taught in school and young people would then learn a lot about nutrition that would do them good.

Jane Davidson: That is why I have asked the Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales to look at this in the curriculum. We are moving to much more of a skills-based curriculum. Sadly, what probably happened to many people of our generation is that you did cookery or woodwork depending on whether you were a girl or a boy and non-academic. Therefore, the skill in itself was devalued. We now need to ensure that that is seen as a real skill. People need to understand their diet so that they can help their children get the best possible education.

Leighton Andrews: Diolch ichi am y datganiad cynhwysfawr hwnnw, Weinidog. A gytunwch mai un o'r materion sy'n effeithio ar ymddygiad disgyblion yw a ydynt yn cael gadael yr ysgol amser cinio i fynd i lawr ar hyd y ffordd i'r siop sglodion leol? Un gŵyn a godir yn aml yn fy etholaeth i yw bod nifer o ysgolion uwchradd yn caniatáu i'w disgyblion adael yr ysgol. Os ydych am gael cyfundrefn lle mae disgyblion yn fwy tebygol o fwyta dewisiadau iach amser cinio, mae arnaf ofn fod gwrthod y dewis o fynd i lawr ar hyd y ffordd i'r siop sglodion efallai yn un peth y mae'n rhaid iddo ddigwydd.

Jane Davidson: Gwyddom fod cryn nifer o'r ysgolion uwchradd yr ymwelodd ein tîm â hwy—ysgolion a ddewiswyd gan gydlynwyr ysgolion iach a chydlynwyr brechwast am ddim mewn ysgolion cynradd—eisoës wedi penderfynu ar bolisi o beidio â chaniatau i'w disgyblion adael yr ysgol amser cinio. Mae angen ystyried hynny yn y cyd-destun hwn.

David Melding: Mae yna nifer o bobl nad ydynt yn coginio oherwydd nad oes ganddynt y sgiliau sylfaenol. Gellid addysgu llawer o'r sgiliau hynny yn yr ysgol, ac yna byddai pobl ifanc yn dysgu llawer am faeth a fyddai o les iddynt.

Jane Davidson: Dyna'r rheswm yr wyf wedi gofyn i Awdurdod Cymwysterau, Cwricwlwm ac Asesu Cymru edrych ar hyn yn y cwricwlwm. Yr ydym yn symud tuag at gwricwlwm sy'n canolbwyntio llawer mwy ar sgiliau. Yn anffodus, mae'n debyg mai'r hyn a ddigwyddodd i nifer o bobl yn ein cenhedlaeth ni yw y byddech yn dysgu coginio neu waith pren, yn ôl a oeddech yn ferch neu'n fachgen ac yn academiaidd neu beidio. Felly, cafodd y sgil ei hunan ei ddibrisio. Rhaid inni yn awr sicrhau y caiff ei ystyried yn sgil go iawn. Rhaid i bobl ddeall eu deiet fel y gallant helpu eu plant i gael yr addysg orau bosibl.

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd i'r Gadair am 4.05 p.m.
The Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair at 4.05 p.m.*

Plant sy'n Cael Gofal Looked-after Children

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have **Y Dirprwy Lywydd:** Yr wyf wedi dethol

selected amendment 1 in the name of Jocelyn Davies, amendment 2 in the name of David Melding and amendments 3, 4 and 5 in the name of Kirsty Williams.

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales

notes the actions taken by the Welsh Assembly Government to improve support for looked-after children and care leavers. (NDM2674)

We welcome the opportunity for Assembly Members to consider the actions taken by the Welsh Assembly Government to improve support for looked-after children and care leavers. I thank David Melding for initiating this debate to raise the Assembly's awareness of the work being done to meet the needs of one of our most vulnerable groups of children and young people.

When the Assembly came into being, one of our earliest tasks was to respond to the tragic events set out in Sir Ronald Waterhouse's report, 'Lost in Care'. Waterhouse described a regime peopled by unscrupulous individuals operating against a background of institutional neglect. Little interest was taken in the lives of those young people looked-after in children's homes across Wales apart from by those who sought to abuse them. In the main, public authorities did not have any regard for these children, often blaming them for the circumstances in which they found themselves and not believing them when they reported what was happening to them.

This Government and this Assembly have done a great deal to focus attention on the circumstances of children and young people looked-after away from home. We have achieved much in raising the standards of care available to them and ensuring that those standards are maintained.

At the heart of all our policies, as they affect children, including those looked-after away from home, it is the Assembly Government's commitment to the rights of the child. The United Nations' Convention on the Rights of

gwelliant 1 yn enw Jocelyn Davies. Gwelliant 2 yn enw David Melding, a gwelliannau 3, 4 a 5 yn enw Kirsty Williams.

Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt): Cynigiau fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

yn nodi'r camau a gymerwyd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i wella'r gefnogaeth i blant sy'n cael gofal a'r rheini sy'n gadael gofal. (NDM2674)

Croesawn y cyfle i Aelodau'r Cynulliad ystyried y camau a gymerwyd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i wella'r gefnogaeth i blant sy'n cael gofal a'r rheini sy'n gadael gofal. Diolch i David Melding am gychwyn y ddadl hon i wneud y Cynulliad yn fwy ymwybodol o'r gwaith a wneir i ddiwallu anghenion un o'n grwpiau mwyaf diamddiffyn o blant a phobl ifanc.

Pan sefydlwyd y Cynulliad, un o'n tasgau cynharaf oedd ymateb i'r digwyddiadau trasig a nodwyd yn adroddiad Syr Ronald Waterhouse, 'Ar Goll mewn Gofal'. Disgrifiodd Waterhouse gyfundrefn a oedd yn llawn unigolion diegwyddor yn gweithio mewn cefndir o esgeulustod sefydliadol. Prin oedd y diddordeb a ddangosid ym mywydau'r bobl ifanc hynny a oedd yn cael gofal mewn cartrefi plant ledled Cymru, ar wahân i'r diddordeb a ddangosid gan y rheini a oedd yn ceisio'u cam-drin. Ar y cyfan, nid oedd awdurdodau cyhoeddus yn parchu'r plant hyn; byddent yn aml yn eu beio am eu hamgylchiadau ac ni fyddent yn eu credu pan sonient am yr hyn a oedd yn digwydd iddynt.

Mae'r Llywodraeth hon a'r Cynulliad hwn wedi gwneud cryn dipyn i dynnu sylw at amgylchiadau plant a phobl ifanc sy'n cael gofal oddi cartref. Yr ydym wedi gwneud llawer i godi safonau'r gofal sydd ar gael iddynt ac i sicrhau cadw'r safonau hynny.

Wrth wraidd ein holl bolisiau, fel y maent yn effeithio ar blant, gan gynnwys y rheini sy'n cael gofal oddi cartref, mae ymrwymiad Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i hawliau'r plentyn. Mae Confensiwn y Cenhedloedd Unedig ar

the Child is important, not only in establishing that children have a right to live without the degradation and fear of abuse but also in establishing a child's right to have their voice heard on matters that affect them. Being able to tell someone what is happening to you and being listened to when you have something to say is vital to being able to protect children.

In 2001, we established the post of the Children's Commissioner for Wales—a lead since followed by the three other countries of the UK—to ensure that children and young people had a champion to hear their voice and to independently advocate for them. The Act also introduced arrangements for the registration, regulation and inspection of care settings in the setting up of the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales. The chief inspector's report was debated and commended last week while acknowledging weaknesses which we are addressing.

In 2000, we commissioned Lord Carlile to review safeguards for children treated in the national health service and set up a review of children's safeguards led by Gwenda Thomas. We anticipate that the review group will report early next year.

Our ambitions for looked-after children are not limited simply to protecting them from further harm. We also want to do what we can to improve the life chances of those looked after. The Children First programme has been a major change agent in driving forward developments. Over £150 million of additional resources in specific grants and revenue support for local government has been committed since the programme's inception. A sum of £47 million will be available next year to deliver further targeted improvements.

The benefits of the investment are beginning to be felt. Last year, 46 per cent of children left care with at least one qualification. These are marked improvements from when we started the programme. Then, over 75 per cent of children left care with no

Hawliau'r Plentyn yn bwysig, nid yn unig er mwyn cadarnhau bod gan blant hawl i fyw heb warth nac ofn eu cam-drin, ond hefyd er mwyn cadarnhau hawl plant i leisio'u barn am faterion sy'n effeithio arnynt. Mae'r gallu i ddweud wrth rywun am yr hyn sy'n digwydd ichi, a chael rhywun i wrando arnoch pan fydd gennych rywbeth i'w ddweud, yn hanfodol er mwyn gallu amddiffyn plant.

Yn 2001, sefydlwyd swydd Comisiynydd Plant Cymru gennym—ac mae tair gwlad arall y DU wedi dilyn ein hesiampl ers hynny—i sicrhau bod gan blant a phobl ifanc eiriolwyr i wrando arnynt ac i eirioli drostynt yn annibynnol. Yr oedd y Ddeddf hefyd yn cyflwyno trefniadau ar gyfer cofrestru, rheoleiddio ac arolygu manau gofal wrth sefydlu Arolygiaeth Safonau Gofal Cymru. Cafodd adroddiad y prif arolygydd ei drafod a'i gymeradwyo yr wythnos diwethaf, a chydabuwyd y gwendidau yr ydym yn mynd i'r afael â hwy.

Yn 2000, comisiynwyd yr Arglwydd Carlile gennym i adolygu mesurau i amddiffyn plant sy'n cael eu trin yn y gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol, a sefydlwyd adolygiad o fesurau amddiffyn plant dan arweiniad Gwenda Thomas. Rhagwelwn y bydd y grŵp adolygu yn cyflwyno adroddiad ddechrau'r flwyddyn nesaf.

Nid yw ein huchelgais ar gyfer plant sy'n cael gofal wedi'i gyfyngu'n unig i'w hamddiffyn rhag niwed pellach. Yr ydym hefyd am wneud yr hyn a allwn i wella cyfleoedd bywyd y rheini sy'n cael gofal. Yr oedd y rhaglen Rhoi Plant yn Gyntaf yn gyfrwng newid o bwys i hybu datblygiadau. Mae dros £150 miliwn o adnoddau ychwanegol mewn grantiau penodol a chymorth refeniw ar gyfer llywodraeth leol wedi'u neilltuo ers i'r rhaglen ddechrau. Bydd swm o £47 miliwn ar gael y flwyddyn nesaf i ddarparu rhagor o welliannau penodol.

Mae buddiannau'r buddsoddiad yn dechrau dwyn ffrwyth. Y llynedd, gadawodd 46 y cant o blant ofal gydag o leiaf un cymhwyster. Mae'r rhain yn welliannau amlwg er pan ddechreuwyd y rhaglen. Bryd hynny, yr oedd dros 75 y cant o blant yn

qualifications. The Government recognises the importance of education to looked-after children. Education is one of the surest ways of protecting children from the disadvantages that sometimes follow from a disrupted and unhappy childhood. Quite often, the education of these children has already suffered as a result of the very circumstances which brought them into care. Against a background of abuse, parental neglect or psychological difficulties, these young people may not have received all the attention that we might wish. Going into care may aggravate this through disruption of school attendance.

gadael gofal heb unrhyw gymhwyster. Mae'r Llywodraeth yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd addysg i blant sy'n cael gofal. Addysg yw un o'r ffyrdd mwyaf sicr i amddiffyn plant rhag yr anfanteision sydd weithiau'n deillio o blentyndod ansefydlog ac anhapus. Yn weddol aml, bydd addysg y plant hyn eisoes wedi dioddef oherwydd yr union amgylchiadau a olygodd eu bod yn cael gofal. Mewn cefndir o gael eu cam-drin, eu hesgeuluso gan rieni neu anawsterau seicolegol, efallai nad yw'r bobl ifanc hyn wedi cael yr holl sylw y byddent wedi ei ddymuno. Gallai gorfod cael gofal wneud hyn yn waeth oherwydd amharu ar bresenoldeb yn yr ysgol.

4.10 p.m.

The introduction of the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 was revolutionary in placing new duties on local authorities and making them accountable for children leaving care. They now support more than 1,600 care leavers in Wales. A recent Assembly Government survey of more than 300 care leavers found that the majority felt that they were getting a good service from their local authorities, and that few had experienced difficulties finding accommodation. This demonstrates the effectiveness of good policy when put into practice. The Adoption and Children Act 2002 introduced several major changes to improve adoption, fostering and care services, including new arrangements for monitoring children's care plans by local authority independent reviewing officers and new rights to advocacy for children in need, including looked-after children and care leavers.

Yr oedd cyflwyno Deddf Plant (Ymadael â Gofal) 2000 yn chwyldroadol am ei bod yn gosod dyletswyddau newydd ar awdurdodau lleol a'u gwneud yn atebol am blant sy'n gadael gofal. Maent bellach yn cefnogi dros 1,600 o bobl sy'n gadael gofal yng Nghymru. Gwelodd arolwg yn ddiweddar gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad o fwy na 300 o blant sy'n gadael gofal fod y mwyafrif o'r farn eu bod yn cael gwasanaeth da gan eu hawdurdodau lleol, ac mai ychydig yn unig a oedd wedi cael anawsterau wrth geisio cael cartref. Dengys hyn effeithiolrwydd polisi da pan gaiff ei roi ar waith. Yr oedd Deddf Mabwysiadu a Phlant 2002 yn cyflwyno nifer o newidiadau pwysig i wella gwasanaethau mabwysiadu, maethu a gofal, gan gynnwys trefniadau newydd ar gyfer monitro cynlluniau gofal plant gan swyddogion adolygu annibynnol awdurdodau lleol, a hawliau newydd ar gyfer eiriolaeth i blant mewn angen, gan gynnwys plant sy'n cael gofal a'r rheini sy'n gadael gofal.

The Children Act 2004 will strengthen children's partnerships at local level and bring greater accountability through the appointment of lead directors and elected members—who will have a key role in championing improvements in services for vulnerable children—and by fulfilling their corporate parental responsibilities towards looked-after children. The lack of attention paid to looked-after children by those in a position to do something about the situation was a major theme of the Waterhouse report.

Bydd Deddf Plant 2004 yn atgyfnerthu partneriaethau plant yn lleol ac yn sicrhau mwy o atebolrwydd drwy benodi cyfarwyddwyr arweiniol ac aelodau etholedig—a fydd yn chwarae rhan allweddol yn y gwaith o hyrwyddo gwelliannau mewn gwasanaethau i blant diamddiffyn—a thrwy gyflawni eu cyfrifoldebau rhianta corfforaethol dros blant sy'n cael gofal. Yr oedd y diffyg sylw a roddid i blant sy'n cael gofal gan y rheini a oedd mewn sefyllfa i wneud rhywbeth ynglŷn â'r peth yn un o brif

At every opportunity, we reinforce to elected members their corporate parenting duties.

In September, we issued the national service framework for children, with specific standards and actions for children in need, including looked-after children and care leavers. Despite the difficulties faced by children in care and those who look after them, there has been measured progress in many areas. However, we all recognise that more needs to be done. The Assembly, through Children First and the wider improvement agenda, is working with the Welsh Local Government Association, local authorities and their partners to look at ways to develop and embed further improvements. One of our key initiatives with the Welsh Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Social Services is a 'Making the Connections' project to set up a children's commissioning support resource. This will comprise a national cross-sector database of available placements, to assist local authorities in placing children, and a support and development function.

Despite all that has been achieved, it would be unrealistic to expect rapid improvements in outcomes for this group as a whole. Many have life-limiting problems that will impair their capacity to develop, learn and thrive. Others will come into care late, having experienced abuse and disadvantage and having missed opportunities. However, those most in need, most vulnerable and with the least powerful voices in society have a strong call on our attention and our resources. Many looked-after children fall into that category. My ministerial colleagues and I are strongly committed not only to protect children in care, but to promote their interests, and to find the means to ensure that they achieve our ambitions for them. We are making steps in the right direction, and I invite Members to debate the motion.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Cynigiad welliant 1 yn enw Jocelyn Davies. Dileu'r geiriau

themâu adroddiad Waterhouse. Bob cyfle a gawn, yr ydym yn ailbwysleisio wrth aelodau etholedig eu dyletswyddau rhianta corfforaethol.

Ym mis Medi, cyhoeddwyd y fframwaith gwasanaeth cenedlaethol gennym ar gyfer plant, gyda safonau a champau gweithredu penodol ar gyfer plant mewn angen, gan gynnwys plant sy'n cael gofal a'r rheini sy'n gadael gofal. Er yr anawsterau a wynebir gan blant sy'n cael gofal a'r rheini sy'n gofalu amdanynt, cafwyd cynnydd cymedrol mewn llawer maes. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym oll yn cydnabod bod angen gwneud mwy. Mae'r Cynulliad, drwy Rhoi Plant yn Gyntaf a'r agenda wella ehangach, yn gweithio gyda Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, awdurdodau lleol a'u partneriaid i ystyried ffyrdd i ddatblygu ac ymgorffori gwelliannau pellach. Un o'n mentrau allweddol gyda Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru a Chymdeithas y Cyfarwyddwyr Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yw prosiect 'Creu'r Cysylltiadau' i sefydlu adnodd cymorth comisiynu i blant. Bydd hyn yn cynnwys cronfa ddata genedlaethol ar draws y sectorau o leoliadau sydd ar gael, er mwyn cynorthwyo awdurdodau lleol i leoli plant, ynghyd â swyddogaeth gefnogi a datblygu.

Er gwaethaf y cyfan sydd wedi ei wneud, byddai'n afrealistig disgwyl gwelliannau cyflym yn y canlyniadau i'r grŵp cyfan hwn. Mae gan nifer broblemau sy'n cyfyngu eu bywyd ac a fydd yn amharu ar eu gallu i ddatblygu, dysgu a ffynnu. Bydd eraill yn cael gofal yn hwyrach yn eu bywydau, ar ôl cael eu cam-drin a bod dan anfantais a cholli cyfleoedd. Fodd bynnag, mae'r rhai sydd â'r angen mwyaf, y rhai sydd fwyaf diamddiffyn a'r rheini sydd â'r llais lleiaf pwerus mewn cymdeithas yn mynnu llawer o sylw ac adnoddau gennym. Mae nifer o blant sy'n cael gofal yn y categori hwnnw. Mae fy nghyd-Weinidogion a minnau wedi ymrwymo'n llwyr nid yn unig i amddiffyn plant sy'n cael gofal, ond i hyrwyddo'u buddiannau a chael y modd i sicrhau eu bod yn cyflawni ein huchelgais ar eu cyfer. Yr ydym yn cymryd camau i'r cyfeiriad cywir, a gwahoddaf Aelodau i drafod y cynnig.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I propose amendment 1 in the name of Jocelyn Davies. Delete 'the

'nodi'r camau a gymerwyd' ac yn eu lle rhoi: actions taken' and replace with:

nodi gyda phryder y diffyg cefnogaeth a roddwyd. with concern the lack of support given.

Derbyniaf yr hyn y mae'r Gweinidog wedi ei ddweud ynglŷn â bwriadau'r Llywodraeth. Mae'n dda clywed am y bwriadau hynny, ac edrychwn ymlaen at weld rhai o'r syniadau hyn yn cael eu gweithredu yn y maes pwysig hwn.

I accept what the Minister has said about the Government's intentions. It is good to hear of those intentions, and we look forward to seeing some of these ideas being implemented in this important area.

Fodd bynnag, mae'n rhaid cydnabod—a gobeithiaf y byddech chi'n cytuno, Weinidog—fod y maes hwn, yn draddodiadol, wedi'i danariannu, bod y gefnogaeth, yn draddodiadol, wedi bod yn annigonol, a bod mawr angen inni edrych ar fyrder ar roi mwy o adnoddau i gefnogi'r maes hwn.

However, it must be acknowledged—and I hope you would agree, Minister—that this area, traditionally, has been underfunded, that support, traditionally, has been inadequate, and that there is a great need for us to look urgently at putting more resources into supporting this area.

Cyfeiriaf at dair agwedd lle mae gennym bryder gwirioneddol. Cyfeiriasoch at y targedau cyrhaeddiad ar gyfer plant mewn gofal, a derbyniaf yr hyn a ddywedwch fod hanes a chefnidir y plant a'r bobl ifanc hyn yn aml yn golygu ei bod yn anodd iddynt gyflawni lefelau cyrhaeddiad. Fodd bynnag, rhaid mynegi pryder ynglŷn â'r lefelau presennol. Gwelsom hyn rai wythnosau yn ôl yn y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol pan oeddem yn ystyried adroddiad yr arolygiaeth ar gartrefi gofal. Mae cyrhaeddiad y plant hyn yn isel, a dylai ein disgwyliadau fod yn uwch. Dylai'r adnoddau sy'n cael eu darparu i sicrhau eu bod yn cael y cyfle i gyrraedd lefelau uwch gynyddu. Os yw eu hanghenion yn fawr, dylai'r adnoddau sy'n cael eu darparu ar eu cyfer gyfateb i hynny, er mwyn rhoi cyfle gwirioneddol iddynt mewn bywyd.

I refer to three aspects where we have real concerns. You referred to the achievement targets for looked-after children, and I accept what you say that the history and background of these children and young people often mean that it is difficult for them to realise levels of achievement. However, we must express concern at the current levels. We saw this a few weeks ago in the Health and Social Services Committee when we were considering the inspectorate's report on care homes. These children's achievement is low, and our expectations should be higher. The resources provided to ensure they have the opportunity to achieve higher levels should increase. If their needs are great, the resources provided for them should correspond to those needs, so that they have a real opportunity in life.

Yr agwedd arall yr wyf am gyfeirio ati yw'r plant hynny mewn gofal sydd ag anghenion dwys ac anghenion arbennig, ac, yn benodol, plant sydd ag anghenion iechyd meddwl. Mae problem o ran y cyfleoedd sydd ar gael i osod y plant hyn mewn sefyllfaoedd lle y cânt y gofal priodol. Gobeithiaf y gall y Gweinidog, wrth ymateb, ddweud wrthym beth yw bwriadau'r Llywodraeth o ran ceisio cynyddu nifer y lleoedd sydd ar gael ar gyfer plant sydd â'r math hwn o anghenion. Bydd y Gweinidog yn ymwybodol bod y comisiynydd plant wedi mynegi pryder

The other aspect I wish to refer to is those looked-after children who have special needs and intense needs, and in particular children who have mental health needs. There is a problem in terms of the opportunities available to place these children in situations where they will receive the appropriate care. I hope the Minister, in responding, will tell us what the Government's intentions are in terms of trying to increase the number of settings available for children with these kinds of needs. The Minister will be aware of the general concern expressed by the

cyffredinol ynglŷn â'r math o ofal a darpariaeth sydd ar gael ar gyfer plant a phobl ifanc ag anghenion iechyd meddwl. Mawr obeithiaf y bydd ganddo bethau pendant i'w dweud wrthym o ran yr hyn sy'n cael ei gynnig i blant mewn gofal sydd â'r problemau hyn.

Yr agwedd olaf yw'r angen i edrych ar fyrder ar yr angen i sicrhau bod pob plentyn sy'n gadael gofal yn cael asesiad gofal. Mae perygl ein bod yn credu bod holl broblemau plant wedi eu datrys wrth iddynt adael gofal. Mae'r plant hyn yn mynd allan i gymdeithas ac i fyd gwaith ond nid yw'r asesiad gofal yn eu dilyn. Felly, mae'r ddarpariaeth yn gorffen yn aml pan fydd person ifanc yn 16 neu 18 oed.

Yr ydym yn barod i gydnabod bod rhai pethau yn cael eu gwneud yn y maes hwn, ond, yn gyffredinol, mae diffyg o ran yr adnoddau a ddarparwyd yn y gorffennol. Ar hyn o bryd, nid yw'r Llywodraeth yn mynd i'r afael â'r broblem hon. Dyna pam, felly, y cyflwynwyd y gwelliant hwn, sydd yn nodi â phryder y diffyg cefnogaeth i blant mewn gofal.

Byddwn hefyd yn cefnogi'r gwelliannau a gyflwynwyd yn enwau David Melding a Kirsty Williams.

Jonathan Morgan: I propose amendment 2 in the name of David Melding. Add a new point at the end of the motion:

believes that a sustained improvement in the educational attainment of looked-after children and care leavers is a key objective.

We will support all the proposed amendments and the motion, regardless of whether it is amended. We need to put the debate into context. This debate is entitled 'Looked After Children', but, in fact, we are debating the services, care and attention and opportunities for a group of young people who, in the initial years of their lives, have faced the most miserable and distressing circumstances that we can imagine.

We are talking about a large group of young

children's commissioner about the kind of care and provision available for children and young people who have mental health needs. I hope he will have specific things to tell us in terms of what is offered to looked-after children with these problems.

The final point is the need to look with some urgency at the need to ensure that every child who leaves care is given a care assessment. We are in danger of believing that all of a child's problems have been solved by the time he or she leaves the care setting. These children go out into the community and into the world of work, but that care assessment does not follow them. Therefore, the provision often ends when a young person reaches the age of 16 or 18.

We are prepared to acknowledge that some things are being done, but in general the resources targeted at this area in the past have been lacking. At present, the Government is not getting to grips with this problem. That is why, therefore, we have tabled this amendment, which states with concern the lack of support for looked-after children.

We will also support the amendments tabled in the names of David Melding and Kirsty Williams.

Jonathan Morgan: Cynigiaf welliant 2 yn enw David Melding. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn credu bod gwelliant cyson yng nghyrrhaeddiad addysgol plant sy'n cael gofal a'r rheini sy'n gadael gofal yn amcan allweddol.

Byddwn yn cefnogi'r holl welliannau a gynigir a'r cynnig, p'un a gaiff ei wella neu beidio. Rhaid inni osod y ddadl mewn cydestun. Teitl y ddadl hon yw 'Plant sy'n Cael Gofal', ond mewn gwirionedd yr ydym yn trafod y gwasanaethau, y gofal a'r sylw a'r cyfleoedd ar gyfer grŵp o bobl ifanc sydd, ym mlynnyddoedd cyntaf eu bywydau, wedi wynebu'r amgylchiadau mwyaf torcalonnus a thralloddus y gallwn eu dychmygu.

Yr ydym yn sôn am grŵp mawr o blant

children—a group that, sadly, has increased in size quite substantially in recent years. There has been a 54 per cent increase in the past six years in the number of looked-after children. These children have faced very difficult and challenging circumstances, perhaps as a result of bad parenting, or of physical, mental and perhaps even sexual abuse, from members not just of their immediate family, but their extended family. Some young children will have been the subject of very complex care proceedings in the family courts, involving barristers, social services, CAFCASS and the like. That is a really miserable start to life.

We must put the debate in that context because the Assembly has an opportunity—through the Minister's quite exciting, cross-cutting brief—to ensure that the children who face some of the most severe disadvantages and who are vulnerable, in all senses of the word, have access to opportunities that, at the moment, they do not have access to. We are in a position to improve the qualifications base of this group of young people, to help them into employment and suitable housing, and to ensure that, in the long term, they do not end up at the behest of the justice system. I notice from the research that roughly 41 per cent of looked-after children will face the justice system at some stage in their lives after leaving care. All these statistics demonstrate the need for the cross-cutting approach that the Minister can take.

4.20 p.m.

We must recognise that many young people are in homes that, according to the CSIW report last week, are inadequate in terms of the levels of statutory protection that exists and which those homes are expected to provide. We know that many of these young children still face very challenging circumstances. We also know that local authorities have been highly criticised in recent years in a series of joint social services reports.

We must, therefore, be aware that while there has been some improvement and advance in recent years, there is still a long way to go,

ifanc—grŵp sydd, yn anffodus, wedi cynyddu'n sylweddol dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Bu cynnydd o 54 y cant yn y chwe blynedd diwethaf yn nifer y plant sy'n cael gofal. Mae'r plant hyn wedi wynebu amgylchiadau anodd a heriol iawn, efallai o ganlyniad i rianta gwael, neu gam-drin corfforol, meddyliol a hyd yn oed rhywiol efallai, nid gan eu teulu agos yn unig, ond gan aelodau o'u teulu estynedig. Bydd rhai plant bach wedi bod yn destun achosion gofal cymhleth iawn yn y llysoedd teulu, yn cynnwys bargyfreithwyr, gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, CAFCASS a'u tebyg. Mae hynny'n ddechrau torcalonnu iawn i fywyd.

Rhaid inni osod y ddadl yn y cyd-destun hwnnw am fod gan y Cynulliad gyfle—drwy friff digon cyffrous a thrawsbynciol y Gweinidog—i sicrhau bod y plant sy'n wynebu'r anfanteision mwyaf difrifol ac sy'n ddiameddiffyn, ym mhob ystyr i'r gair, yn cael y cyfleoedd nad oes ganddynt ar hyn o bryd. Yr ydym mewn sefyllfa i wella sail cymwysterau'r grŵp hwn o bobl ifanc, i'w helpu i gael gwaith a thai addas, ac i sicrhau na fyddant, yn y pen draw, yn dod gerbron y llys. Sylwaf o'r gwaith ymchwil y bydd tua 41 y cant o blant sy'n cael gofal yn dod gerbron y llys ar ryw adeg yn eu bywyd ar ôl gadael gofal. Mae'r holl ystadegau hyn yn dangos bod angen yr ymagwedd drawsbynciol y gall y Gweinidog ei mabwysiadu.

Rhaid inni gydnabod bod nifer o bobl ifanc mewn cartrefi sydd, yn ôl adroddiad Arolygiaeth Safonau Gofal Cymru yr wythnos diwethaf, yn annigonol o ran y lefelau diogelwch statudol sy'n bodoli ac y disgwylir i'r cartrefi hynny eu darparu. Gwyddom fod nifer o'r plant ifanc hyn yn parhau i wynebu amgylchiadau heriol iawn. Gwyddom hefyd fod awdurdodau lleol wedi cael eu beirniadu'n hallt yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf mewn cyfres o adroddiadau ar y cyd gan wasanaethau cymdeithasol.

Rhaid inni, felly, fod yn ymwybodol, er bod ychydig welliant a datblygiad wedi bod yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf, fod llawer o

and we cannot afford to display any degree of complacency. I welcome the fact that there has been an increase in this budget line—an increase of around £11 million for this financial year compared with the previous financial year. While I accept Rhodri Glyn Thomas's point about an increase in the budget, it is important that we are assured by the Government that that increase is being put to good use and that it will lead to results.

We must be aware that the statistics are particularly stark, and I point Members to my concern in relation to mental health. Looked-after children between the ages of five and 10 are eight times more likely to suffer a mental health disorder by virtue of the fact that they are in care. The figures show that 42 per cent of the looked-after children suffered clinically significant conduct disorders. You can almost map out the life chances of this group of young people, and it is quite stark and worrying when you consider why they are in care and what their life chances may be as a result. Of the total number of those in care from the age of five to 17, 49 per cent will have suffered, or could suffer, a form of mental health illness. When you look at what we have done as a committee in terms of mental health, we are storing up a huge number of problems for this category of people in the long term.

Finally, the appointment of the children's commissioner has been the single most important act undertaken in recent years to improve the advocacy of young people in Wales and to improve and safeguard their rights and welfare. Long may that success continue, but we have a long way to go.

Jenny Randerson: I propose the following amendments in the name of Kirsty Williams. Amendment 3: add a new point at the end of the motion:

regrets the failure of some social services departments with regard to criminal record checks for employees.

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

waith i'w wneud eto, ac na allwn fforddio dangos unrhyw laesu dwylo o gwbl. Croesawaf y ffaith fod cynnydd wedi bod yn y llinell gyllideb hon—cynnydd o tuag £11 miliwn am y flwyddyn ariannol hon o'i chymharu â'r flwyddyn ariannol flaenorol. Er fy mod yn derbyn pwynt Rhodri Glyn Thomas am gynnydd yn y gyllideb, mae'n bwysig inni gael sicrwydd gan y Llywodraeth fod y cynnydd hwnnw'n cael ei ddefnyddio'n gywir ac y bydd yn arwain at ganlyniadau.

Rhaid inni fod yn ymwybodol fod yr ystadegau'n arbennig o frawychus, a chyfeiriaf yr Aelodau at fy mhryder o ran iechyd meddwl. Mae plant rhwng pump a 10 oed sy'n cael gofal wyth gwaith yn fwy tebygol o ddiodef anhwylder iechyd meddwl am eu bod mewn gofal. Dengys y ffigurau fod 42 y cant o blant sy'n cael gofal wedi diodef anhwylderau ymddygiad gydag arwyddocâd clinigol. Bron na allwch lunio cyfleoedd bywyd y grŵp hwn o bobl ifanc, ac mae'n eithaf brawychus ac yn achosi cryn bryder pan ystyriwch pam y maent mewn gofal a beth allai eu cyfleoedd bywyd fod o ganlyniad i hyn. O gyfanswm y rhai sydd mewn gofal o 5 i 17 oed, bydd 49 y cant wedi diodef, neu gallent ddiodef, rhyw fath o salwch iechyd meddwl. Pan ystyriwch yr hyn yr ydym wedi ei wneud fel pwyllgor o ran iechyd meddwl, yr ydym yn crynhoi nifer fawr o broblemau ar gyfer y categori hwn o bobl yn y pen draw.

Yn olaf, penodi'r comisiynydd plant yw'r weithred unigol bwysicaf yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf i wella gwasanaeth eiriolaeth pobl ifanc yng Nghymru a gwella a diogelu eu hawliau a'u lles. Hir oes i'r llwyddiant hwnnw, ond mae gennym ffordd bell i fynd.

Jenny Randerson: Cynigiaf y gwelliannau canlynol yn enw Kirsty Williams. Gwelliant 3: ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn gresynu at fethiant rhai adrannau gwasanaethau cymdeithasol gyda golwg ar archwiliadau cofnodion troseddol ar gyfer gweithwyr.

Cynigiaf welliant 4: ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

regrets the low level of educational attainment among children-in-care and care leavers.

I propose amendment 5: add a new point at the end of the motion:

calls on the Government to assess the effectiveness of its plans for care leavers with regard to issues such as employment, accommodation and continuing education.

There has been some progress on this issue in the last few years, and the Welsh Liberal Democrats welcome Children First and the leaving care regulations. However, as previous speakers have said, there is a mountain to climb, and this is a very important and vulnerable group of young people. The numbers in care in Wales have increased by over 50 per cent since the Assembly's inception. That shows the scale of the problem with which we are dealing.

Amendment 3 refers to an issue that was raised in the CSIW report last week, namely the problems in some social services departments with regard to criminal checks for employees and for those involved in the service. It is important that we take every step, through all our agencies, to ensure that vulnerable children and young people are protected in this most basic way.

Amendment 4 refers to the low level of educational attainment among young care leavers and children in care, and amendment 5 refers to the effectiveness of plans for care leavers with regard to issues such as employment. This is crucial. A Home Office study in 2003 estimated that 50 per cent of care leavers are unemployed, that 75 per cent have no formal educational qualifications, and that 20 per cent experience some kind of homelessness within two years of leaving care. Jonathan has already referred to the likelihood that they will end up in the criminal justice system. Twenty three per cent of adult prisoners and 38 per cent of young prisoners are care leavers. These are shocking statistics and a shocking indictment

yn gresynu at lefel isel y cyrhaeddiad addysgol ymysg plant mewn gofal a'r rhai sy'n gadael gofal.

Cynigiaf welliant 5: ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn galw ar y Llywodraeth i asesu effeithiolrwydd ei chynlluniau ar gyfer y rheini sy'n gadael gofal gyda golwg ar faterion megis cyflogaeth, llety ac addysg barhaus.

Gwnaed rhywfaint o gynnydd gyda'r mater hwn yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf, ac mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn croesawu Plant yn Gyntaf a'r rheoliadau gadael gofal. Fodd bynnag, fel y dywedodd siaradwyr blaenorol, mae llawer o waith eto i'w wneud, ac mae hwn yn grŵp pwysig a diamddiffyn iawn o bobl ifanc. Mae'r niferoedd mewn gofal yng Nghymru wedi cynyddu 50 y cant ers i'r Cynulliad gychwyn. Mae hynny yn dangos maint y broblem yr ydym yn ymdrin â hi.

Cyfeiria Gwelliant 3 at fater a godwyd yn adroddiad Arolygiaeth Safonau Gofal Cymru yr wythnos diwethaf, sef y problemau mewn rhai adrannau gwasanaethau cymdeithasol mewn cysylltiad â gwiriadau troseddol ar gyfer gweithwyr a phobl sy'n ymwneud â'r gwasanaeth. Mae'n bwysig inni gymryd pob cam, drwy'n holl asiantaethau, i sicrhau y caiff plant a phobl ifanc ddiamddiffyn eu diogelu yn y ffordd fwyaf sylfaenol hon.

Cyfeiria Gwelliant 4 at lefel isel y cyrhaeddiad addysgol ymysg pobl ifanc sy'n gadael gofal a phlant mewn gofal, a chyfeiria gwelliant 5 at effeithiolrwydd cynlluniau ar gyfer y rheini sy'n gadael gofal mewn materion megis cyflogaeth. Mae hyn yn hollbwysig. Yr oedd astudiaeth gan y Swyddfa Gartref yn 2003 yn amcangyfrif bod 50 y cant o bobl ifanc sy'n gadael gofal yn ddi-waith, nad oes gan 75 y cant ohonynt gymwysterau addysgol ffurfiol, a bod 20 y cant yn cael profiad o ryw fath o fod yn ddigartref ymhenn dwy flynedd ar ôl gadael gofal. Cyfeiriodd Jonathan eisoes at y tebygolrwydd y byddant yn dod gerbron y llys. Mae 23 y cant o garcharorion sy'n oedolion a 38 y cant o garcharorion ifanc yn

of our care system as it currently stands. There needs to be a greatly improved support system for care leavers, and that means an increase in funding. More money is needed in the long term to provide the support services required to help care leavers to enjoy a productive life and to keep them out of the prison system. This is both in their interest and in the interest of society as a whole. We have to invest in them in order to empower them and to realise their potential.

We support the Children First programme and its objective to improve the position of looked-after children and care leavers, but we believe that there is a need for an independent evaluation of its effectiveness. I would be interested to hear the Minister's comments on whether she is going to ensure that that takes place.

Some 40 per cent of young people in the care system enter care between the ages of 10 and 15. They are, as has been said, already greatly disadvantaged, with poor levels of educational attainment. This, surely, is a case for greater resources to be focused on raising that educational attainment. The educational targets that are set for young looked-after people are very low, and although we may understand why they are low, there is every reason for us to put in greater resources to make sure that they improve. We have to be more ambitious for our looked-after children, not less ambitious by accepting that they start from a low base and should continue at that level.

I want to take this opportunity to raise the issue of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, most of whom end up in the care system. Cardiff alone has had 67 such children, and there must be many others throughout Wales. The numbers are rising. This raises complex issues, and local authorities often find themselves acting as a kind of broker between the children and the Home Office. The Home Office threatens to deport them, and that encourages the children to disappear, which is hardly good for them. We need to recognise these children as a

bobl sydd wedi gadael gofal. Mae'r ystadegau hyn yn arswydus ac yn gyhuddiad dychrynlyd ar ein system gofal fel y mae ar hyn o bryd. Mae angen gwella llawer ar y system gymorth i'r rheini sy'n gadael gofal, ac mae hynny'n golygu mwy o gyllid. Mae angen mwy o arian yn y tymor hir i ddarparu'r gwasanaethau cymorth y mae eu hangen i helpu pobl ifanc sy'n gadael gofal i fwynhau bywyd cynhyrchiol a'u cadw allan o'r carchar. Mae hyn yn llesol iddynt hwy ac i gymdeithas gyfan. Rhaid inni fuddsoddi ynddynt i'w galluogi ac er mwyn iddynt wireddu eu potensial.

Yr ydym yn cefnogi'r rhaglen Plant yn Gyntaf a'i hamcanion i wella sefyllfa plant sy'n cael gofal a phobl ifanc sy'n gadael gofal, ond credwn fod angen gwerthusiad annibynnol o effeithiolrwydd y rhaglen. Hoffwn glywed sylwadau'r Gweinidog am y cwestiwn a yw'n bwriadu sicrhau y bydd hynny'n digwydd.

Bydd tua 40 y cant o bobl ifanc yn y system gofal yn mynd i mewn i'r system pan fyddant rhwng 10 a 15 oed. Fel y dywedwyd, maent dan anfantais fawr eisoes, gyda lefelau isel o gyrhaeddiad addysgol. Onid yw hyn yn rheswm dros ganolbwyntio mwy o adnoddau ar godi'r cyrhaeddiad addysgol hwnnw? Mae'r targedau addysgol a osodir ar gyfer pobl ifanc sy'n cael gofal yn isel iawn. Ac er y gallwn ddeall, efallai, pam maent yn isel, mae'n rhesymol inni ddarparu mwy o adnoddau i sicrhau eu bod yn gwella. Rhaid inni fod yn fwy uchelgeisiol dros ein plant sy'n cael gofal, yn hytrach nag yn llai uchelgeisiol drwy dderbyn eu bod yn cychwyn o sail isel ac y dylent barhau ar y lefel honno.

Yr wyf am ddefnyddio'r cyfle hwn i godi mater plant ar eu pen eu hunain sy'n ceisio lloches, a'r rhan fwyaf yn cyrraedd y system gofal yn y diwedd. Mae Caerdydd yn unig wedi cael 67 o blant felly, a rhaid bod llawer mwy ledled Cymru. Mae'r niferoedd yn cynyddu. Mae hyn yn codi materion cymhleth, a bydd awdurdodau lleol yn aml yn gorfod gweithredu fel rhyw fath o frocer rhwng y plant a'r Swyddfa Gartref. Mae'r Swyddfa Gartref yn bygwth eu hanfon o'r wlad, ac mae hyn yn annog y plant i ddiflannu, a phrin bod hynny'n dda iddynt.

special case and provide local authorities with greater resources to deal with the very complex issues involved.

Finally, young people leaving care at 18 years of age are legally adults. None of us would expect our 18-year-olds to go out into the world needing no further advice and support. We should expect no less for care leavers. We need a much better support system, and one which provides that transition to adulthood and independence.

Catherine Thomas: The Children First programme states that looked-after children should enjoy the same opportunities and aspirations as all other children. However, we are all aware that there is a significant gap between the life opportunities of looked-after children and non-looked-after children, whether it be in relation to educational attainment, or to the potential of becoming homeless or misusing substances. This is why it is essential that we look beyond the statistics and see the child or young person behind them.

Worryingly, the situation for each child can be a great deal worse than we could imagine. Imagine a child who not only does not have the opportunity to fulfil his or her potential, but has never had the encouragement or support to imagine what that potential might be. Of course, this can happen to all children, whether they are looked-after children or not, but we must ensure that the system works for looked-after young people and ensures that they are cared for, loved and valued as people, and that they see a future ahead of them.

With this in mind, we need to address a number of issues, building on the work of the Children First programme so far. Statistics from the local government data unit indicate that, as at 31 March this year, there were 4,431 children in care in Wales. Of these children, 465 had experienced, in a single year, three or more placements. This happens for a number of reasons, but the fact remains that stability and security cannot be achieved in such circumstances. Children need to create lasting emotional bonds. How can they

Mae angen inni gydnabod bod y plant hyn yn achos arbennig, a darparu mwy o adnoddau i awdurdodau lleol i ymdrin â'r materion cymhleth iawn yn hynny.

I gloi, mae pobl ifanc sy'n gadael gofal yn 18 oed yn oedolion yn ôl y gyfraith. Ni fyddai yr un ohonom yn disgwyl i'n pobl ifanc 18 oed wynebu'r byd heb gyngor a chefnogaeth bellach. Ni ddylem ddisgwyl llai i'r rheini sy'n gadael gofal. Mae angen system gymorth lawer gwell arnom, ac un sy'n helpu pobl ifanc wrth iddynt dyfu'n oedolion a bod yn annibynnol.

Catherine Thomas: Mae'r rhaglen Plant yn Gyntaf yn dweud y dylai plant sy'n cael gofal gael yr un cyfleoedd a'r un dyheadau â phob plentyn arall. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym yn ymwybodol bawb ohonom fod bwlech sylweddol rhwng cyfleoedd bywyd plant sy'n cael gofal a phlant nad ydynt yn cael gofal, boed mewn cysylltiad â chyrhaeddiad addysgol neu'r posibilrwydd o fod yn ddigartref neu gamddefnyddio sylweddau. Dyna pam y mae'n hanfodol inni edrych y tu hwnt i'r ystadegau a gweld y plentyn neu'r person ifanc y tu ôl iddynt.

Mae'n destun pryder y gall sefyllfa pob plentyn fod lawer yn waeth nag y gallem ei ddychmygu. Dychmygwch blentyn nad oes ganddo nid yn unig y cyfle i gyflawni ei botensial, ond na chafodd erioed yr anogaeth na'r gefnogaeth i ddychmygu beth allai'r potensial hynny fod. Gall hyn, wrth gwrs, ddigwydd i bob plentyn, boed yn cael gofal neu beidio. Ond rhaid inni sicrhau bod y system yn gweithio ar gyfer pobl ifanc sy'n cael gofal, a sicrhau eu bod yn cael gofal a chariad, eu gwerthfawrogi fel pobl, ac y gallant weld dyfodol o'u blaenau.

Gan gadw hyn mewn cof, mae angen inni fynd i'r afael â nifer o faterion, gan adeiladu ar waith y rhaglen Plant yn Gyntaf hyd yn hyn. Dengys ystadegau o'r uned ddata llywodraeth leol fod 4,431 o blant mewn gofal yng Nghymru ar 31 Mawrth eleni. O'r plant hyn, yr oedd 465 wedi byw mewn tri neu fwy o leoliadau mewn blwyddyn. Mae hyn yn digwydd am nifer o resymau, ond ni ellir anwybyddu'r ffaith na ellir sicrhau sefydlogrwydd a diogelwch mewn amgylchiadau felly. Mae angen i blant greu

do that if their placements are too short to allow them to settle down and relate to their foster carers or other adults?

4.30 p.m.

In addition, many young people in care have left extremely distressing situations and are no longer in contact with their families and friends. In these cases, it is imperative that these children and young people have a support network and people who they can talk to about their past and their plans for the future. NSPCC Cymru provides an independent visitors service for four local authorities in Wales. Other than this, the provision of independent visitors across Wales is patchy and therefore there is a need to develop a co-ordinated strategy to ensure that no child slips through the net and is left feeling isolated, without any kind of personal support.

We need to ensure that corporate parenting goes beyond simply securing placements, getting children into schools and keeping them healthy. Working with local authorities and other organisations, such as the NSPCC, the National Assembly can go that step further and work on the basis of the health Minister's guide, which starts by asking, 'If this were my child, what would I want?' If we can move forward with that approach, I believe that we can begin to ensure that more and more children in care feel truly looked after and not feel as though they are simply an afterthought, as is so often the case. There is not much that we can do for the past of many of these children, but we can certainly do a great deal more to secure a future for them.

David Melding: I thank the Business Minister for agreeing to this debate. It is appropriate that we make time for this discussion as it is a most important issue. I was delighted that the Health and Social Services Committee, in the first meeting of its scrutiny sub-committee, took looked-after children as one of the subjects on which it wanted to scrutinise the Minister. That was an important and useful session.

perthynas emosiynol barhaol. Sut mae gwneud hynny os bydd eu cyfnod mewn lleoliad yn rhy fyr i roi cyfle iddynt ymgartrefu a meithrin perthynas gyda'u gofaluwr maeth neu oedolion eraill?

Yn ogystal, mae nifer o bobl ifanc mewn gofal wedi gadael sefyllfaoedd tralodus iawn a heb fod mewn cysylltiad â'u teuluoedd a'u ffrindiau mwyach. Yn yr achosion hyn, mae'n hanfodol i'r plant a'r bobl ifanc hyn gael rhwydwaith cymorth a phobl y gallant siarad â hwy am eu gorffennol a'u cynlluniau ar gyfer y dyfodol. Mae NSPCC Cymru yn darparu gwasanaeth ymwelwyr annibynnol i bedwar awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru. Ar wahân i hynny, anghyson yw'r ddarpariaeth ymwelwyr annibynnol ledled Cymru, ac felly mae angen datblygu strategaeth gydlynol i sicrhau na fydd unrhyw blentyn yn cael ei anghofio a'i adael yn teimlo'n unig heb unrhyw fath o gymorth personol.

Mae angen inni sicrhau bod rhianta corfforaethol yn golygu mwy na dim ond sicrhau lleoliadau, cael plant i mewn i ysgolion a'u cadw'n iach. Drwy weithio gydag awdurdodau lleol a sefydliadau eraill, fel NSPCC, gall y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol fynd un cam ymhellach a gweithio ar sail arweiniad y Gweinidog dros Iechyd, sy'n dechrau drwy ofyn, 'Pe bae hwn yn blentyn i mi, beth fyddwn i'n ei ddymuno?' Os gallwn symud ymlaen gyda'r ymagwedd honno, credaf y gallwn ddechrau sicrhau bod mwy a mwy o blant mewn gofal yn teimlo'u bod yn cael gofal gwirioneddol, nid teimlo mai rhyw syniad ychwanegol yn unig ydynt, fel sy'n digwydd mor aml. Nid oes llawer y gallwn ei wneud o ran gorffennol nifer o'r plant hyn. Ond yn sicr gallwn wneud llawer i sicrhau dyfodol iddynt.

David Melding: Hoffwn ddiolch i'r Trefnydd am gytuno i gynnal y ddadl hon. Mae'n briodol inni neilltuo'r amser i gael y ddadl hon gan ei fod yn fater pwysig iawn. Yr oeddwn yn falch iawn fod y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, yng nghyfarfod cyntaf ei is-bwyllgor craffu, wedi dewis plant sy'n cael gofal fel un o'r pynciau lle yr oedd am graffu ar waith y Gweinidog. Yr oedd honno'n sesiwn bwysig a defnyddiol.

I agree with the previous speakers who have said that the general situation is improving, albeit from a low base, but that it still improves far too slowly. I do not think that we can be complacent, but the issue of looked-after children now receives much more political attention than it did. It is probably not too complacent to say that, in general, the policies are in place to lead us to better outcomes, but their implementation must be accelerated. In one or two areas, we also need to be more ambitious, but we should express some confidence in the policy framework that now exists. Jonathan Morgan made the important point that the number of looked-after children has increased substantially since the mid 1990s, so this is a growing population of potentially and, often, actually vulnerable people.

On the care element of what we do for looked-after children, many of the points that I would have made have already been made by the speakers who have preceded me, and I hope that I manage to pick out some of the statistics that have not yet been mentioned. However, should I repeat any, I hope that you will humour me. During the last year for which we have figures, 15 per cent of looked-after children had three or more care placements, which is highly disruptive. When we look to improve the service, we have to concentrate on having stable placements, as Catherine Thomas mentioned a few moments ago. It does not take a genius to work out that, if you have a fragmented system with many placements, the outcomes are much more likely to be unsuccessful.

About 50 per cent of care leavers are unemployed in their early 20s, and it is important to remember that this is a group of people who have not been well prepared for the rigours of adult life and working. Other Members have referred to the lack of qualifications, the experience of homelessness, and the high likelihood of these children being in the criminal justice system. We must reflect on all these problems with great concern. It is the worst type of performance indicator that we could see. Some 30 per cent of looked-after

Cytunaf â'r siaradwyr blaenorol sydd wedi dweud bod y sefyllfa gyffredinol yn gwella, er bod y sefyllfa honno'n wael i gyhwyn, ond ei bod yn dal i wella lawer yn rhy araf. Ni chredaf y gallwn laesu dwylo, ond mae plant sy'n cael gofal yn cael llawer mwy o sylw gwleidyddol nag o'r blaen. Hwyrach nad yw'n rhy hunanfodlon dweud, yn gyffredinol, fod y polisiau wedi'u llunio i'n harwain at ganlyniadau gwell, ond bod angen eu gweithredu'n gyflymach. Mewn un neu ddau achos, mae angen inni fod yn fwy uchelgeisiol hefyd, ond dylem ddangos rhywfaint o hyder yn y fframwaith polisi sy'n bodoli ar hyn o bryd. Gwnaeth Jonathan Morgan y pwynt pwysig fod nifer y plant sy'n cael gofal wedi cynyddu'n sylweddol ers canol yr 1990au. Felly mae yna boblogaeth gynyddol o bobl a allai fod yn agored i niwed ac sy'n aml yn agored i niwed.

O ran yr elfen ofal yn yr hyn a wnawn dros blant sy'n cael gofal, mae nifer o'r pwyntiau y byddwn i wedi eu gwneud wedi eu mynegi eisoes gan y siaradwyr blaenorol, a gobeithio y gallaf nodi rhai o'r ystadegau na soniwyd amdanynt eto. Fodd bynnag, maddeuwch imi os byddaf yn ailadrodd rhai ohonynt. Yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf y mae gennym ffigurau ar ei chyfer, yr oedd 15 y cant o blant sy'n cael gofal wedi bod mewn tri neu fwy o leoliadau gofal, sy'n achosi llawer o darfu. Wrth geisio gwella'r gwasanaeth, rhaid inni ganolbwyntio ar sicrhau lleoliadau sefydlog, fel y soniodd Catherine Thomas gynnau. Nid oes angen bod yn athrylith i ddeall, os oes gennych system dameidiog gyda nifer o leoliadau, fod y canlyniadau lawer yn fwy tebygol o fod yn aflwyddiannus.

Mae tua 50 y cant o'r rhai sy'n gadael gofal yn ddi-waith yn ystod eu hugeiniau cynnar, ac mae'n bwysig cofio bod hwn yn grŵp o bobl nad ydynt wedi'u paratoi'n dda ar gyfer helyntion bywyd fel oedolyn a bywyd gwaith. Cyfeiriodd Aelodau eraill at y diffyg cymwysterau, profiad o fod yn ddi-gartref, a'r tebygolrwydd mawr y bydd y plant hyn yn dod yn rhan o'r system cyfiawnder troseddol. Rhaid inni fyfyrion ddwys am yr holl broblemau hyn. Dyma'r math gwaethaf o ddangosydd perfformiad y gallem ei weld. Mae tua 30 y cant o blant sy'n cael gofal yn

children are cared for out of county, so a third of them are not in the area where they were brought up by their parents or guardians before they entered care.

With regard to educational attainment, I agree with Jenny Randerson that we should set ambitious targets. We will not achieve those targets quickly, but they should be broadly the same targets that we set for the general population. That is the view of the organisation, Voices in Care, which is made up of people who have been in care and which represents them. I think that that is a sound principle. We do not want to demoralise the workforce that is trying to help looked-after children, but we need to set those aspirations high, and work towards them in a solid way and so that we are not discouraged if we do not reach the destination immediately. However, we do need to set that sort of standard.

On health, some remarks have been made about the state of the mental health of many looked-after children. I shall not repeat those remarks, other than to say that I think that they are pertinent indeed. We have made some progress in delivering annual health checks for looked-after children, which is key to their general wellbeing and health promotion. Some 46 per cent of looked-after children received these checks in 2000. Four years later, 76 per cent received those checks. That shows that we can make substantial improvements.

The way forward is simple: stable placements in county; settled education in the same school, even if your care placement changes; support in higher education, if you get there; support in tenancies, education and training; and, above all, support in times of crisis.

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Brian Gibbons): I thank Members for their constructive contributions to this debate. There is no doubt that there should be no ceiling on our ambition for looked-after children and children in special needs circumstances. In addition, I do not think that there is any doubt or argument that we have a

cael gofal y tu allan i'w siroedd genedigol. Felly, nid yw traean ohonynt yn yr ardal lle cawsant eu magu gan eu rhieni neu eu gwarcheidwaid cyn iddynt ddechrau cael gofal.

O ran cyrhaeddiad addysgol, cytunaf â Jenny Randerson y dylem osod targedau uchelgeisiol. Ni fyddwn yn cyflawni'r targedau hynny yn gyflym, ond dylem osod yr un targedau yn fras ag a osodwn ar gyfer y boblogaeth gyffredinol. Dyna farn y sefydliad, Lleisiau mewn Gofal, sy'n cynnwys pobl a oedd yn arfer bod mewn gofal a phobl sy'n eu cynrychioli. Credaf fod hynny'n gwneud synnwyr. Nid ydym am ddigaloni'r gweithlu sy'n ceisio helpu plant sy'n cael gofal, ond mae angen inni fod yn uchelgeisiol iawn a gweithio tuag atynt mewn ffordd gadarn, fel na fyddwn yn digaloni os na chyrhaeddwn y nod ar unwaith. Fodd bynnag, mae angen inni osod y math hwnnw o safon.

O ran iechyd, gwnaed rhai sylwadau am gyflwr iechyd meddwl nifer o blant sy'n cael gofal. Nid wyf am ailadrodd y sylwadau hynny, ond hoffwn ddweud fy mod yn credu eu bod yn berthnasol iawn. Gwnaed rhywfaint o gynnydd wrth ddarparu archwiliadau iechyd blynyddol o blant sy'n cael gofal, sy'n allweddol i'w lles cyffredinol ac i hybu iechyd. Cafodd tua 46 y cant o blant sy'n cael gofal yr archwiliadau hyn yn 2000. Bedair blynedd yn ddiweddarach, cafodd 76 y cant yr archwiliadau hyn. Mae hynny'n dangos y gallwn wneud gwelliannau sylweddol.

Mae'r ffordd ymlaen yn syml: lleoliadau sefydlog yn eu sir eu hunain; addysg sefydlog yn yr un ysgol, hyd yn oed os bydd eich lleoliad gofal yn newid; cefnogaeth mewn addysg uwch, os cyrhaedddech yno; cefnogaeth gyda thenantiaeth, addysg a hyfforddiant; ac yn anad dim, cefnogaeth mewn argyfwng.

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Brian Gibbons): Hoffwn ddiolch i'r Aelodau am eu cyfraniadau adeiladol i'r ddadl hon. Yn sicr, ni ddylem osod terfyn ar ein huchelgais dros blant sy'n cael gofal a phlant mewn amgylchiadau anghenion arbennig. Ni chredaf fod llawer o amheuaeth na dadl ychwaith fod gennym

long way to go in addressing these particular needs. We thank David Melding for initiating this debate, and we are aware that he has a particular and special interest in this subject.

When the Assembly came into being, of course, we were responding to the Waterhouse report, 'Lost in Care', and when we look back at what that report, and the Utting report before it, was telling us, we have to acknowledge that progress has been made. However, the progress made gives us absolutely no grounds for complacency in delivering more for looked-after children. We do need to acknowledge, however, that, contrary to what Rhodri Glyn Thomas said, in 2001, for example, the expenditure on looked-after children was of the order of £65 million, while, in 2004, it had increased to £107 million. This year, the total spending on children, including vulnerable children, will be of the order of £370 million. There is no doubt, therefore, that there is a significant investment in this area.

Several Members commented on the levels of school achievement, and there is no doubt that that is low, and the fact that only 12 to 15 looked-after children are in higher education speaks for itself. Equally, we must acknowledge, as David Melding said, that, whereas in 1997, something like 75 per cent of children left school with absolutely no qualifications whatsoever, the most recent figures show that that has been reduced to 48 per cent. Progress has, therefore, been made, though it is from an extremely low base. Even the figure of 48 per cent with some qualifications is far too low.

4.40 p.m.

Eleanor Burnham: Do you not agree that personal advisers—a good idea in the pathway plans that local authorities are required to prepare—need to be adequately funded, monitored and assessed for effectiveness?

Brian Gibbons: That is why the level of funding for children has continued to increase year on year. As I said, in case you missed it, £65 million was spent on looked-after children in 2001, and £107 million was spent

lauer o waith i'w wneud i ddiwallu'r anghenion penodol hyn. Hoffwn ddiolch i David Melding am ddechrau'r ddadl hon, a gwyddom fod ganddo ddiddordeb penodol ac arbennig yn y pwnc hwn.

Pan sefydlwyd y Cynulliad, wrth gwrs, yr oeddem yn ymateb i adroddiad Waterhouse, 'Ar Goll mewn Gofal', a phan edrychwn yn ôl ar yr adroddiad hwnnw, ac adroddiad Utting o'i flaen, rhaid inni gydnabod bod cynnydd wedi'i wneud. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'r cynnydd a wnaed yn sail o gwbl inni laesu dwylo wrth gyflawni mwy dros blant sy'n cael gofal. Fodd bynnag, mae angen inni gydnabod, yn groes i'r hyn a ddywedodd Rhodri Glyn Thomas, fod y gwariant ar blant sy'n cael gofal yn 2001, er enghraifft, tua £65 miliwn, ond ei fod yn 2004 wedi codi i £107 miliwn. Eleni, bydd cyfanswm y gwariant ar blant, gan gynnwys plant sy'n agored i niwed, tua £370 miliwn. Ni ellir gwadu, felly, fod yna fuddsoddi sylweddol yn y maes hwn.

Soniodd nifer o'r Aelodau am lefelau cyrhaeddiad yn yr ysgol, ac yn ddi-os mae hyn yn wael. Mae'r ffaith mai dim ond 12 i 15 o blant sy'n cael gofal sydd mewn addysg uwch yn siarad drosto'i hun. Yn yr un modd, rhaid inni gydnabod, fel y dywedodd David Melding, er bod tua 75 y cant o blant wedi gadael yr ysgol heb unrhyw fath o gymwysterau yn 1997, fod y ffigurau diweddaraf yn dangos bod hyn wedi gostwng i 48 y cant. Gwnaed cynnydd felly, er mai gwael iawn oedd y sefyllfa wreiddiol. Mae hyd yn oed y ffigur o 48 y cant sydd â rhai cymwysterau lawer yn rhy isel.

Eleanor Burnham: Oni chytunwch fod angen i gynghorwyr personol—sy'n syniad da yn y cynlluniau llwybr y mae'n ofynnol i awdurdodau lleol eu paratoi—gael eu hariannu, eu monitro a'u hasesu'n ddigonol o ran effeithiolrwydd?

Brian Gibbons: Dyna pam mae lefel yr arian ar gyfer plant wedi parhau i gynyddu flwyddyn ar ôl blwyddyn. Fel y dywedais, rhag ofn ichi gollu hynny, gwariwyd £65 miliwn yn 2001 ar blant sy'n cael gofal, a

in 2004. We are continuing to increase that level of investment, so it is a significant increase.

Amendment 1 in the name of Jocelyn Davies, to which Rhodri Glyn spoke, notes with concern the lack of support given by the Assembly Government to support looked-after children. That is a travesty of what is actually happening. There are grounds for improvement, but the statement is so disproportionately inaccurate that we should reject it.

We should also reject amendment 5 in the name of Kirsty Williams. A considerable amount of work is ongoing, whether in terms of performance management, the work of the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales, and that of the Social Services Inspectorate for Wales in corporate parenting at a local authority level and so forth. Therefore, there is an acknowledgement that we need to be much more vigorous in assessing the effectiveness of the plans that we produce.

We can support amendment 2 in the name of David Melding. While there has been sustained improvement, further improvement is needed, and we need to adopt a self-critical approach to this issue.

The level of mental ill-health in general among looked-after children is a matter of great concern. The underlying mental health problems of many of those children are the reason for breakdowns occurring in the first place, and the support has not been there to allow families and caring structures to be maintained. Equally, there is evidence to suggest that some incidences of mental illness are a reaction to unfavourable care placements. It is not just the case that mental health problems are the cause of young people ending up in care; unfavourable care arrangements can also be a contributory factor.

Catherine Thomas and a number of other speakers mentioned the number of placements as an issue. That reflects, at times, a lack of a systematic approach because, in many instances, one placement takes place even before the assessment. It is only when the first placement and the

£107 miliwn yn 2004. Yr ydym yn parhau i gynyddu'r lefel fuddsoddiad honno, felly, mae'n gynnydd sylweddol.

Mae gwelliant 1 yn enw Jocelyn Davies y siaradodd Rhodri Glyn amdano yn sôn yn bryderus am y diffyg cefnogaeth gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad i gynorthwyo plant sy'n cael gofal. Mae hyn yn camddarlunio'r hyn sy'n digwydd mewn gwirionedd. Mae lle i wella, ond mae'r datganiad mor anghywir fel y dylem ei wrthod.

Dylem hefyd wrthod gwelliant 5 yn enw Kirsty Williams. Mae llawer o waith yn mynd ymlaen, boed o ran rheoli perfformiad, gwaith Arolygiaeth Safonau Gofal Cymru, a gwaith Arolygiaeth Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru ar rianta corfforaethol ar lefel awdurdod lleol, ac yn y blaen. Felly, mae yna gydnabyddiaeth fod angen inni fod lawer yn fwy egniol wrth asesu effeithiolrwydd y cynlluniau a gynhyrchwn.

Gallwn gefnogi gwelliant 2 yn enw David Melding. Er inni weld gwelliant parhaus, mae angen gwelliant pellach, ac mae angen inni fabwysiadu ymagwedd hunanfeiriadol yn y mater hwn.

Mae lefel iechyd meddwl yn gyffredinol ymhlith plant sy'n cael gofal yn peri cryn bryder. Problemau iechyd meddwl sylfaenol nifer o'r plant hynny yw'r rheswm dros fethiant lleoliadau yn y lle cyntaf, ac nid yw'r cymorth wedi bod ar gael i allu cynnal teuluoedd a strwythurau gofal. Yn yr un modd, mae tystiolaeth yn awgrymu bod rhai achosion o salwch meddwl yn ymateb i leoliadau gofal anffafriol. Nid yn unig mae problemau iechyd meddwl yn achosi bod pobl ifanc mewn gofal, ond gall trefniadau gofal anffafriol hefyd fod yn ffactor sy'n cyfrannu.

Soniodd Catherine Thomas a nifer o siaradwyr eraill fod nifer y lleoliadau'n broblem. Mae hyn yn adlewyrchu diffyg ymagwedd systematig ar brydiau, oherwydd mewn llawer achos bydd un lleoliad yn dechrau hyd yn oed cyn yr asesiad. Dim ond pan fydd y lleoliad cyntaf a'r asesiad wedi'u

assessment have been undertaken that the child is placed in a permanent placement. If a more pro-active assessment were made before the crisis-management process, there would not be two placements. One would hope that the initial placement would be the final permanent placement, so there is scope for improvement in that regard.

On the points raised by Jenny Randerson, it is fair to say that the problems of children of asylum seekers, or sole asylum-seeking children, need to be addressed. The Assembly Government recognises this as a problem, and has given extra resources to it.

In the past, levels of homelessness among children leaving care were very high, but the most recent statistics show that there has been a significant improvement. The current figure shows that less than 10 per cent of children leaving care are homeless. It is an area in which significant progress has been made. In anyone's book, 10 per cent is still an unacceptably high figure.

In conclusion, there are no grounds for complacency. Progress is being made, additional resources are being provided, but, hopefully, our progress will be accelerated and sustained into the future.

cwblhau y caiff y plentyn ei osod mewn lleoliad parhaol. Pe bae asesiad mwy rhagweithiol yn cael ei wneud cyn y broses rheolaeth argyfwng, ni fyddai dau leoliad. Byddem yn gobeithio mai'r lleoliad cyntaf fyddai'r lleoliad parhaol olaf, felly, mae lle i wella yn y cyswllt hwnnw.

O ran y pwyntiau a godwyd gan Jenny Randerson, mae'n deg dweud bod angen mynd i'r afael â phroblemau plant ceiswyr lloches, neu blant unigol sy'n ceisio lloches. Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn cydnabod bod hyn yn broblem, a rhoddwyd adnoddau ychwanegol ar gyfer hyn.

Yn y gorffennol, yr oedd lefelau digartrefedd ymhlith plant sy'n gadael gofal yn uchel iawn, ond dengys yr ystadegau diweddaraf fod gwelliant sylweddol. Dengys y ffigur presennol fod llai na 10 y cant o blant sy'n gadael gofal yn ddigartref. Mae'n faes lle gwnaed cynnydd sylweddol. Byddai unrhyw un yn cytuno bod 10 y cant yn ffigur sy'n dal yn annerbyniol o uchel.

I gloi, ni allwn laesu dwylo. Mae cynnydd yn digwydd, mae adnoddau ychwanegol yn cael eu darparu, ond gobeithio y bydd ein cynnydd yn gyflymach ac yn parhau yn y dyfodol.

*Gwelliant 1: O blaid 22, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 27.
Amendment 1: For 22, Abstain 0, Against 27.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Jocelyn
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Graham, William
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Dunwoody, 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

Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 2: O blaid 50, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Amendment 2: For 50, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, 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, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment carried.*

*Gwelliant 3: O blaid 50, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Amendment 3: For 50, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, 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, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Pugh, Alun
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment carried.*

*Gwelliant 4: O blaid 23, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 26.
Amendment 4: For 23, Abstain 0, Against 26.*

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Jocelyn
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Graham, William
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Morgan, Jonathan
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Dunwoody, 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
Pugh, Alun
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 5: O blaid 24, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 27.
Amendment 5: For 24, Abstain 0, Against 27.*

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

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

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Dunwoody, 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
Pugh, Alun

Wood, Leanne

Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*Cynnig NDM2674 fel y'i diwygiwyd:
Motion NDM2674 as amended:*the National Assembly for Wales**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru**notes the actions taken by the Welsh
Assembly Government to improve support for
looked-after children and care leavers;**yn nodi'r camau a gymerwyd gan
Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i wella'r
gefnogaeth i blant sy'n cael gofal a'r rheini
sy'n gadael gofal;**believes that a sustained improvement in the
educational attainment of looked-after
children and care leavers is a key objective;
and**yn credu bod gwelliant cyson yng
nghyrhaeddiad addysgol plant sy'n cael gofal
a'r rheini sy'n gadael gofal yn amcan
allweddol; ac**regrets the failure of some social services
departments with regard to criminal record
checks for employees.**yn gresynu at fethiant rhai adrannau
gwasanaethau cymdeithasol gyda golwg ar
archwiliadau cofnodion troseddol ar gyfer
gweithwyr.**Cynnig wedi'i ddiwygio: O blaid 41, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 9.**Amended motion: For 41, Abstain 0, Against 9.*Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
The following Members voted for:Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Glyn
Dunwoody, 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
Jones, Laura AnneDavies, Jocelyn
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Elin
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lloyd, David
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wood, Leanne

Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Melding, David
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

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

Dadl Fer Short Debate

Datblygu Rheilffordd Calon Cymru Developing the Heart of Wales Line

Kirsty Williams: Elin Jones, Eleanor Burnham and Nick Bourne have asked to make a contribution to this debate, and I am happy for them to do so.

Since I took up the economic development and transport portfolio, I have often likened the Minister's economic focus to that of a Polo mint, as it has a great big hole in the middle. Sometimes I feel that his transport policy follows the same pattern. The heart of Wales line is one of this country's treasures and the Minister, given his family links with the area and the line in particular, should be aware of its attributes and its potential. For the uninitiated among you, the heart of Wales line, originally known as the central Wales line, runs for 121 miles from Swansea to Shrewsbury, via the length of Brecon and Radnorshire, passing through 32 stations, mostly unmanned request stops, including that of Bynea, the village in which I grew up and from where, as a teenager, I used to catch the train to go to Liberal Democrat meetings in Llandrindod Wells. Some would say that the line has a lot to answer for.

4.50 p.m.

The line was opened in a piecemeal fashion

Kirsty Williams: Mae Elin Jones, Eleanor Burnham a Nick Bourne wedi gofyn am gael cyfrannu at y ddadl hon ac yr wyf yn fodlon iddynt wneud hynny.

Ers imi ddod yn gyfrifol am y portffolio datblygu economaidd a thrafnidiaeth, yr wyf yn aml wedi cyffelybu ffocws economaidd y Gweinidog i'r 'Polo mint', gan fod iddo dwll mawr yn y canol. Weithiau teimlaf y bydd ei bolisi trafndiaeth yn dilyn yr un patrwm. Ystyrir bod rheilffordd Calon Cymru yn un o drysorau'r wlad hon, ac o gofio cysylltiadau teuluol y Gweinidog â'r ardal a'r rheilffordd yn arbennig, dylai fod yn ymwybodol o'i phriodoleddau a'i photensial. I'r rheini ohonoch nad ydych yn gyfarwydd â hi, mae rheilffordd Calon Cymru, a elwid yn wreiddiol yn rheilffordd canol Cymru, yn 121 milltir o hyd ac yn mynd o Abertawe i Amwythig, ac o'r naill ben i Frycheiniog a Maesyfed i'r llall gan basio drwy 32 o orsafoedd, sy'n bennaf yn orsafoedd lle byddwch yn gofyn i'r trê'n aros, gan gynnwys gorsaf Bynea, y pentref lle'm magwyd. Oddi yno, yn fy ardegau, arferwn ddal y trê'n i fynd i gyfarfodydd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn Llandrindod. Byddai rhai'n dweud bod gan y rheilffordd honno lawer i ateb drosto.

Agorwyd y rheilffordd fesul tipyn gan bum

by five railway companies between 1839 and 1868. Since then, it has enjoyed mixed fortunes, with the rise of the spa towns of mid Wales and the Glanrhyd bridge disaster of 1987, when three people lost their lives. At present, as part of the Arriva all-Wales franchise, four trains a day run each way from Monday to Saturday, with two trains on a Sunday. It should be acknowledged that the Sunday service is part funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and local authorities, for which we are grateful. All trains run end to end on a journey that lasts approximately four hours, through some of the most dramatic scenery in Wales. In fact, the line offers everything, from our industrial heartlands in cities such as Swansea, to the seaside, some of our most fantastic countryside, mountains and viaducts, and the rolling countryside of the Marches.

The service is provided by 72-seat class 153 trains, for those of you who do not know these things—if you are very lucky, you will get a class 150 train. It enjoys strong local support, with the majority of stations having been adopted by local groups, including those in Llanwrtyd Wells and Dolau, which have both won national awards for their efforts. It has an active travellers association and forum, to which I am grateful for help in preparing for today and for the trip that we made together on the train last Thursday. I believe that it is their enthusiasm, and that of the development officers who work on the line, that has meant that the numbers of passengers increased by 34 per cent between 1993 and 2005, despite a worse timetable. This has largely been achieved through better marketing of the line and innovative promotions, including the new 48-hour ranger ticket, the soup-and-stroll ticket and the rail-and-roast ticket, hosted in conjunction with local hotels and pubs in the area, as well as the jazz trains that run on the first Sunday of every month. The line also runs the only regular parcel traffic service on British Rail routes, with deliveries of fresh fish daily to the Lasswade Country House Hotel in Llanwrtyd Wells, which is well worth a visit.

Therefore, this is by no means a lame-duck line that no-one wants, uses or appreciates. I

cwmni rheilffordd rhwng 1839 a 1868. Ers hynny, cymysg fu tynged y rheilffordd, gyda thwf trefi'r ffynhonnau yn y Canolbarth a thrychineb pont Glanrhyd yn 1987 pan fu farw tri o bobl. Ar hyn o bryd, fel rhan o fasnachfaint Arriva i Gymru gyfan, mae pedwar trên y dydd yn rhedeg i'r ddau gyfeiriad o ddydd Llun i ddydd Sadwrn a dau drên ar y Sul. Dylid cydnabod y caiff y gwasanaeth ar y Sul ei ariannu'n rhannol gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ac awdurdodau lleol, ac yr ydym yn ddiolchgar iddynt am hynny. Bydd pob trên yn rhedeg o'r naill ben i'r llall ar daith sy'n para oddeutu pedair awr, drwy rai o olygfeydd mwyaf dramatig Cymru. Yn wir, mae'r rheilffordd yn cynnig popeth, o'n canolfannau diwydiannol mewn dinasoedd fel Abertawe, i lan y môr, rhai o'n golygfeydd cefn gwlad mwyaf godidog, mynyddoedd a thraphontydd a gwlad fryniog y Gororau.

Darperir y gwasanaeth ar drenau dosbarth 153 gyda 72 o seddau, i'r rheini ohonoch nad ydych yn deall y pethau hyn—os byddwch yn ffodus, cewch drên dosbarth 150. Caiff gefnogaeth leol gref, ac mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r gorsafodded wedi'u mabwysiadu gan grwpiau lleol, gan gynnwys y rheini yn Llanwrtyd a'r Dolau sydd wedi ennill gwobrau cenedlaethol am eu hymdrechion. Mae cymdeithas a fforwm teithwyr gweithgar yn perthyn iddi, ac yr wyf yn ddiolchgar iddynt am eu cymorth wrth baratoi ar gyfer heddiw a'r daith a gawsom ar y trên ddydd Iau diwethaf. Credaf mai eu brwdfrydedd hwy a'r swyddogion datblygu sy'n gweithio ar y rheilffordd sydd wedi golygu bod niferoedd y teithwyr wedi cynyddu 34 y cant rhwng 1993 a 2005, er gwaethaf amserlen waeth. Cyflawnwyd hyn yn bennaf drwy farchnata'r rheilffordd yn well a thrwy hyrwyddiadau arloesol, gan gynnwys y tocyn crwydro 48 awr, y tocyn 'soup-and-stroll' a'r tocyn 'rail-and-roast' a weithredir ar y cyd â gwestai a thafarndai lleol yn yr ardal, yn ogystal â'r trenau jazz sy'n rhedeg ar Sul cyntaf bob mis. Y rheilffordd hefyd sy'n darparu'r unig wasanaeth cludo parseli rheolaidd ar Reilffyrdd Prydain, gan gludo pysgod ffres bob dydd i westy Lasswade Country House yn Llanwrtyd, sy'n werth ymweld ag ef.

Felly, nid rheilffordd yw hon nad oes ar neb mo'i heisiau, ac nad oes neb yn ei defnyddio

would argue that it is one of Wales's most under-exploited transport and tourism assets, which has huge market potential, both locally and further afield. It could play a role in promoting many of the Assembly Government's strategic aims, in terms of its commitment to sustainable development in providing non-car local transport opportunities for local people, economic development, tourism opportunities and health promotion. The line is particularly popular with ramblers, who use it to reach mid Wales before enjoying the walks in the area and the mountain biking and other outdoor pursuit activities that we do so well in Brecon and Radnorshire.

What factors hinder realising this potential? First, the timetable is driven by the need to minimise operating costs, rather than to meet the needs of passengers. There are long gaps between trains, between three and five hours, with the last train from each end of the line leaving prohibitively early—5.30 p.m. from Swansea and 5.45 p.m. from Shrewsbury. This means that visitors to the area and local people returning from a day out cannot travel from further afield. For example, a day trip to London for my constituents in Llandrindod Wells, although hugely desirable to them, is impossible.

Matters will only be made worse by the introduction of Arriva's new standard pattern timetable. It will bring improvements to many parts of the railway infrastructure in Wales, but, unfortunately, the heart of Wales line will be a loser.

As I have said, the trains run end to end, which again curtails the running of trains at passenger-friendly times. The current 4.36 a.m. service from Swansea starts at that time not because there is a barrage of passengers wanting to get on the train then, but simply to enable the train to get to Shrewsbury by 9 a.m..

On the rolling stock, the train operating companies have to pay an amazing sum of money to lease old rolling stock. Do not get me started on the leasing arrangements under the new privatised train system; that is a

na'i gwerthfawrogi. Byddwn yn dadlau mai hon yw un o'r asedau cludiant a thwrystiaeth sy'n cael eu hyrwyddo leiaf yng Nghymru ac sydd â photensial aruthrol o ran y farchnad, yn lleol a thu hwnt. Gallai fod iddi ran yn hyrwyddo nifer o nodau strategol Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, o ran ei hymrwymiad i ddatblygu cynaliadwy drwy ddarparu cyfleoedd cludiant lleol heblaw mewn ceir, datblygu economaidd, cyfleoedd twristiaeth a hybu iechyd. Mae'r rheilffordd yn arbennig o boblogaidd gyda cherddwyr, sy'n ei defnyddio i gyrraedd y Canolbarth i fwynhau'r llwybrau cerdded yn yr ardal, a'r beicio mynydd a'r gweithgareddau awyr agored eraill a wnawn mor dda ym Mrycheiniog a Maesyfed.

Pa ffactorau sy'n llesteirio gwireddu'r potensial hwn? Yn gyntaf, caiff yr amserlen ei rheoli gan yr angen i sicrhau'r costau gweithredu lleiaf posibl, yn hytrach na diwallu anghenion teithwyr. Mae bylchau hir rhwng trenau, rhwng tair a phum awr, ac mae'r trêen olaf o naill ben y rheilffordd a'r llall yn gadael yn anghyfleus o gynnar—5.30 p.m. o Abertawe a 5.45 p.m. o Amwythig. Golyga hyn na all pobl sy'n ymweld â'r ardal a phobl leol sy'n dychwelyd o ddiwrnod allan deithio ymhellach. Er enghraifft, er y byddai fy etholwyr i yn Llandrindod yn mwynhau taith diwrnod i Lundain, nid yw hynny'n bosibl.

Dim ond gwaethygu a wnaiff pethau wrth gyflwyno amserlen patrwm safonol newydd Arriva. Bydd yn gwella llawer o'r seilwaith rheilffyrdd yng Nghymru, ond yn anffodus ni fydd rheilffordd calon Cymru ar ei hennill.

Fel y dywedais, mae'r trenau'n rhedeg o'r naill ben i'r llall, sydd unwaith eto'n cwtogi'r trenau a ddarperir ar amseroedd sy'n gyfleus i deithwyr. Mae'r gwasanaeth presennol o Abertawe am 4.36 a.m. yn dechrau bryd hynny nid am fod haid o deithwyr yn dymuno teithio ar y trêen ar yr adeg honno, ond yn syml er mwyn galluogi'r trêen i gyrraedd Amwythig erbyn 9 a.m.

O ran y cerbydau, rhaid i'r cwmnïau sy'n gweithio'r trenau dalu symiau anferthol o arian i brydlesu hen gerbydau. Peidiwch â sôn wrthyf am y trefniadau prydlesu dan y system trenau preifat newydd newydd; mae

subject for a whole new debate. However, it means that we have huge costs that force Arriva to tailor its timetable to optimise its use of rolling stock, rather than to address the needs of passengers. The 153 units have a poor reliability record, can carry few bicycles—which we desperately need to be carried on the line—little bulky luggage, and offer poor visibility, and this on a line that is supposedly promoted as scenic. For those of you, unlike the Deputy Presiding Officer I am sure, who are unfamiliar with the 153 carriage, the windows are very high up, so if you want to look out, it is difficult to do so.

What can we do to develop the services on the heart of Wales line, and what am I asking Andrew Davies and the Welsh Assembly Government to do today? The first priority is to reinstate the fifth train. We had one once and when it was cut, the number of people using the line dropped dramatically. So we need to reintroduce the fifth train, to reduce service intervals and make the timetable suitable for a wider range of passengers.

We need to introduce later last trains so that people can travel to the area from further afield and my sixth-form students from John Beddoes High School in Presteigne can come home from Shrewsbury a little later than they can at the moment, so they tell me.

We realise that local passengers alone cannot justify expenditure on this line. That is why I, the forum and the travellers association, realise the importance of developing this line as a tourism opportunity. The establishment of some form of tourist train service as a precursor to part of an all-Wales initiative is vital.

It could be done in many ways, but just imagine a train that can go to Manchester or Birmingham and allow people from that part of the world to get on and be greeted by well-trained service operators on the line, an

hynny'n destun dadl newydd. Fodd bynnag, golyga fod gennym gostau aruthrol sy'n gorfodi Arriva i deilwra ei amserlen i sicrhau ei fod yn gwneud y defnydd gorau o'i gerbydau, yn hytrach na mynd i'r afael ag anghenion teithwyr. Nid oes gan yr unedau 153 record dda o fod yn ddibynadwy, dim ond ychydig o feiciau y gellir eu cludo—rhywbeth y mae angen dybryd amdano ar y rheilffordd hon—prin yw'r bagiau mawr y gellir eu cludo arnynt, ac ni allwch weld yn dda iawn; a hynny ar reilffordd a gaiff ei hyrwyddo fel rheilffordd lle mae golygfeydd ysblennydd. I'r rheini ohonoch, ar wahân i'r Dirprwy Lywydd, yr wyf yn siŵr, nad ydych yn gyfarwydd â'r cerbyd 153, mae'r ffenestri'n uchel iawn. Felly, os ydych am edrych allan, mae'n anodd gwneud hynny.

Beth y gallwn ei wneud i ddatblygu'r gwasanaethau ar reilffordd calon Cymru, a beth yr wyf yn gofyn i Andrew Davies a Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ei wneud heddiw? Y flaenoriaeth gyntaf yw aildechrau'r pumed trê. Yr oedd un gennym ar un adeg, a phan ddiddymwyd hwnnw gwelwyd gostyngiad sylweddol yn nifer y bobl yn defnyddio'r rheilffordd. Felly, mae angen inni ailgyflwyno'r pumed trê i leihau'r bylchau yn y gwasanaeth ac i sicrhau bod yr amserlen yn fwy addas i ystod ehangach o deithwyr.

Mae angen inni gyflwyno trenau olaf hwyrach fel y gall pobl deithio i'r ardal o bell, ac er mwyn i myfyrwyr cheched dosbarth yn Ysgol Uwchradd John Beddoes yn Llanandras allu teithio adref o Amwythig ychydig yn hwyrach nag y gallant ar hyn o bryd, chwedl hwythau.

Sylweddolwn na all teithwyr lleol yn unig gyfiawnhau gwariant ar y rheilffordd hon. Dyna pam yr wyf fi, y fforwm a chymdeithas y teithwyr yn sylweddoli pwysigrwydd datblygu'r rheilffordd hon fel cyfle twristiaeth. Mae'n hanfodol sefydlu rhyw fath o wasanaeth trê twristiaid fel rhagflaenydd i fenter Cymru gyfan.

Gellir gwneud hyn mewn llawer ffordd, ond dychmygwch drên a all fynd i Fanceinion neu Birmingham gan ganiatáu i bobl o'r ardaloedd hynny fynd ar daith a chael eu croesawu gan weithredwyr gwasanaeth sydd

organic hamper of locally produced Welsh food, and a trip into the heart of the Welsh countryside. It could be a flexible service, allowing them to get on and off the train at different intervals so that they can enjoy all of what Brecon and Radnorshire and mid Wales has to offer.

We need to introduce better rolling stock. Two-car units would be more reliable, would deal with peak loading problems, cycle access and bulky luggage and would be easier to see out of than the frankly awful class 153 units.

We need to work to achieve designation as a community railway and derive savings and enhanced flexibility of product development, marketing and operations from this. It would simply mean that it would be cheaper for us to do things on that line, if we could get that designation. We need to work with local authorities, tourism organisations and local communities along the line to use it as an environmentally sustainable, economic development driver for the area it serves. Would the Minister be willing to meet representatives of the Arcady foundation, an innovative project in Brecon and Radnorshire that seeks to do just that?

We need further financial support and help for the heart of Wales line forum to help market the line and co-ordinate activities and to carry on the good work that it has already been doing. An operating base also needs to be established, I would argue, in Llandrindod Wells in order to increase flexibility on the line for operations and increase local employment. That would be easier to achieve if the line were designated as a community railway. Finally, we need to explore the possibility of using the line to carry more small local freight and parcels, building upon the Lasswade fish experience, and to carry timber using the freight multiple unit that has recently been experimented with on the Cambrian line.

wedi'u hyfforddi'n dda, hamper organig o fwyd Cymreig wedi'i gynhyrchu'n lleol, a thaith i galon cefn gwlad Cymru. Gallai fod yn wasanaeth hyblyg a fyddai'n caniatáu iddynt fynd oddi ar y trê'n ar adegau gwahanol i fwynhau'r hyn sydd gan Frycheiniog a Maesyfed a'r Canolbarth i'w gynnig.

Mae angen inni gyflwyno cerbydau gwell. Byddai unedau dau gerbyd yn fwy dibynadwy, byddent yn delio â phroblemau llwytho ar gyfnodau brig, byddai ganddynt le i feiciau a bagiau mawr, a byddai'n haws gweld allan ohonynt nag o'r unedau dosbarth 153 erchyll hynny.

Mae angen inni weithio i sicrhau y caiff ei dynodi'n rheilffordd gymunedol gan sicrhau arbedion a mwy o hyblygrwydd i ddatblygu a marchnata'r cynnyrch, a'r gweithrediadau sy'n deillio o hyn. Yn syml, byddai'n golygu y byddai'n rhatach inni wneud pethau ar y rheilffordd honno pe byddem yn cael y dynodiad hwnnw. Mae angen inni weithio gydag awdurdodau lleol, sefydliadau twristiaeth a chymunedau lleol ar hyd y rheilffordd i'w defnyddio fel adnodd i ysgogi datblygiad amgylcheddol, cynaliadwy ac economaidd ar gyfer yr ardal y mae'n ei gwasanaethu. A fyddai'r Gweinidog yn fodlon cyfarfod â chynrychiolwyr o sefydliad Arcady, prosiect arloesol ym Mrycheiniog a Maesyfed sy'n ceisio gwneud yr union beth hwnnw?

Mae arnom angen cefnogaeth a chymorth ariannol pellach i fforwm rheilffordd calon Cymru er mwyn marchnata'r rheilffordd a chydlynu gweithgareddau a pharhau'r gwaith da y mae eisoes wedi bod yn ei wneud. Mae angen sefydlu canolfan weithredu hefyd, byddwn yn dadlau, yn Llandrindod i sicrhau mwy o hyblygrwydd ar y rheilffordd ar gyfer gweithrediadau ac i gynyddu cyflogaeth leol. Byddai hynny'n haws ei gyflawni pe câi'r rheilffordd ei dynodi'n rheilffordd gymunedol. Yn olaf, mae angen inni archwilio posibilrwydd defnyddio'r rheilffordd i gludo mwy o nwyddau a pharseli bach lleol, gan ddatblygu profiad pysgod Lasswade, ac i gludo coed gan ddefnyddio'r uned gludo aml-bwrpas yr arbrofwyd â hi'n ddiweddar ar reilffordd Cambria.

We are, without doubt, fortunate that the line through the heart of Wales is still beating. It has survived Beeching and has endured through the irresponsible shambles that the Tories made of privatising the national network. This is a fantastic time for the railways in Wales. It is a time of growth that even the most enthusiastic doubted they would ever see: a new link to the airport is improving the links between Wales's rail network and the world at large, and the Ebbw Vale railway line, when it finally opens, will create a mass of new opportunities. However, we should not be content to see those as the end of the line.

Yn ddi-os, yr ydym yn ffodus fod y rheilffordd drwy galon Cymru yn dal i guro. Mae wedi byw er gwaethaf Beeching, ac wedi dal ei thir drwy'r llanast anghyfrifol a wnaeth y Torïaid wrth breifateiddio'r rhwydwaith cenedlaethol. Mae hwn yn gyfnod gwych i'r rheilffyrdd yng Nghymru. Mae'n gyfnod o dwf yr oedd hyd yn oed y rhai mwyaf brwd yn amau y byddent yn ei weld byth: mae cyswllt newydd â'r maes awyr yn gwella'r cysylltiadau rhwng rhwydwaith rheilffyrdd Cymru a'r byd y tu hwnt, a bydd rheilffordd Glynebwy, pan fydd yn agor o'r diwedd, yn creu llu o gyfleoedd newydd. Fodd bynnag, ni ddylem fodloni ar y rheini'n unig.

5.00 p.m.

The heart of Wales line opens up attractions to tourists, allows access for those wanting to attend Wales's central conference centre at Llandrindod Wells, and for people who need to get from places such as Ammanford into the centre of Swansea. This line has played a central role in the past, and must be at the heart of our thinking when we look at how we can further improve our rail network in the future.

Mae rheilffordd calon Cymru yn galluogi twristiaid i gyrraedd atyniadau, yn caniatáu mynediad i'r rheini sydd am fynychu canolfan gynadledda ganolog Cymru yn Llandrindod, ac i'r rheini sydd am deithio o leoedd megis Rhydaman i ganol Abertawe. Mae'r rheilffordd hon wedi chwarae rôl ganolog yn y gorffennol, a dylai fod wrth wraidd ein hystyriaethau wrth inni edrych ar y ffordd y gallwn wella ein rhwydwaith rheilffyrdd ymhellach yn y dyfodol.

Elin Jones: Diolch i Kirsty Williams am gyflwyno'r ddadl bwysig hon. Cytunaf â hi yn llwyr pan ddywed fod potensial mawr i gynyddu'r defnydd o drenau yng nghefn gwlad Cymru. Mae'r buddsoddiad ar hyn o bryd mewn rheilffyrdd gwledig yn ddiffygiol tu hwnt. Yn achos y rheilffordd rhwng Aberystwyth a'r Amwythig, er enghraifft, nid oes digon o gerbydau ar y trenau, mae eu cyflwr yn annioddefol o wael ac yr wyf wedi clywed am enghreifftiau di-ri gan etholwyr—ac yr wyf wedi eu profi fy hun—o drenau sy'n colli cysylltiadau pwysig yn yr Amwythig ac yn Birmingham. Yn ogystal, mae angen buddsoddiad yn yr isadeiledd i sicrhau bod manau pasio ar y lein i ganiatáu gwasanaeth bob awr.

Elin Jones: I thank Kirsty Williams for presenting this important debate. I agree wholeheartedly with her when she says that there is great potential to increase the use of trains in rural Wales. However, current investment in rural railways is extremely inadequate. In the case of the railway between Aberystwyth and Shrewsbury, for example, there are inadequate carriages on trains, their condition is unbearable, and I have heard boundless examples from constituents—and I have also experienced it myself—of trains missing important connections at Shrewsbury and Birmingham. In addition, investment is needed in the infrastructure to secure passing places on the line to allow hourly services.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. This is about the line through Llandrindod Wells.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mae hyn ynglŷn â'r rheilffordd drwy Landrindod.

Eleanor Burnham: As you all know, I am also passionate about trains. I will restrict my

Eleanor Burnham: Fel y gwyddoch, yr wyf hefyd yn ymddiddori'n fawr mewn trenau.

comments to the Heart of Wales line, which I know well, as I have also been to many Liberal Democrat events on that railway. I am envious of the fact that Kirsty has the Heart of Wales railway; my first debate was about reopening the Barmouth to Ruabon line, which, for the same reasons as those outlined by Kirsty, could have a fantastic input for tourism and for resurrecting that area in the same way as the Heart of Wales line. I recommend that the Minister allows us, eventually, to travel all around Wales by railway. It is blue-sky thinking and an aspiration, but Minister, please indulge us.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. I call Nick Bourne; if you could stick to the line through Llandrindod Wells, I would be grateful.

Nick Bourne: I promise that I will. I thank Kirsty for putting this on the agenda, and for allowing me a minute of her time. I have used the line frequently, but never once to go to a Liberal Democrat function—not yet, anyway. I use it to travel between surgeries. I declare an interest as vice-president of the Heart of Wales Line Travellers' Association; it does fantastic work, as do the volunteers who work so hard along the line.

One moment that many of us will remember is when the Queen, in her jubilee year, alighted at Dolau station; so she has used the Heart of Wales line. I hope the Minister has been listening to the need for a fifth train. If we can give one message, that is the truly important one, though I associate myself with everything that Kirsty said. It is a fantastic line, and travels through terrific countryside. Anyone who has not been on it should do so because it really is a terrific line and provides a valuable service not only for locals, but also for tourists. The points about cycles was also well made. It is a gem. What good is Wales without its heart? We sometimes concentrate too much on the north and the south, and forget about the heart in the middle, and this is what this debate is about. It is vital that we provide the necessary assistance for this valuable service.

Cyfyngaf fy sylwadau i reilffordd Calon Cymru, rheilffordd yr wyf yn ei hadnabod yn dda gan fy mod wedi teithio i nifer o ddigwyddiadau'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol ar hyd y rheilffordd honno. Yr wyf yn genfigennus fod gan Kirsty reilffordd Calon Cymru; yr oedd fy nadl gyntaf yn ymwneud ag ail-agor rheilffordd Abermaw i Riwabon. Gallai honno gynnig llawer i dwristiaeth, am yr un rhesymau ag a amlinellwyd gan Kirsty, ac i adfer yr ardal yn yr un modd â rheilffordd Calon Cymru. Argymhellaf fod y Gweinidog yn caniatáu, yn y pen draw, inni deithio drwy Gymru benbaladr ar y trê. Mae'n ddelfryd ac yn ddyhead, ond Weinidog, porthwch ein mympwy.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Galwaf ar Nick Bourne; byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe byddech yn cadw at y rheilffordd drwy Landrindod.

Nick Bourne: Addawaf wneud hynny. Diolch i Kirsty am roi hyn ar yr agenda, ac am ganiatáu munud o'i hamser i mi. Yr wyf wedi defnyddio'r rheilffordd yn aml, ond nid i fynychu digwyddiad gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol erioed—ddim eto, beth bynnag. Defnyddiaf y rheilffordd i deithio rhwng cymorthfeydd. Yr wyf yn datgan diddordeb fel is-lywydd Cymdeithas Teithwyr Rheilffordd Calon Cymru; mae'n gwneud gwaith gwych, fel y mae'r gwirfoddolwyr sy'n gweithio mor galed ar hyd y rheilffordd.

Un digwyddiad sy'n gofiadwy i nifer ohonom yw hwnnw yn ystod blwyddyn jiwbilf'r Frenhines pan ddaeth oddi ar y trê yng ngorsaf Dolau; felly, mae hithau wedi defnyddio rheilffordd Calon Cymru. Gobeithio bod y Gweinidog wedi gwranddo ar yr angen am bumed trê. Os gallwn gyfleu un neges, honno yw'r un wirioneddol bwysig, er fy mod yn cytuno â phopeth a ddywedodd Kirsty. Mae'n rheilffordd wych, ac mae'n teithio drwy gefn gwlad ryfeddol. Dylai unrhyw un sydd heb fod arni wneud hynny, oherwydd mae'n rheilffordd ryfeddol sy'n darparu gwasanaeth gwerthfawr i bobl leol yn ogystal â thwristiaid. Gwnaed y pwynt am feiciau yn dda iawn hefyd. Mae'n drysor. Beth yw gwerth Cymru heb ei chalon? Byddwn weithiau'n canolbwyntio'n ormodol ar y gogledd a'r de ac yn anghofio am y canol, a dyna yw dien y adl hon. Mae'n

hanfodol inni ddarparu'r cymorth angenrheidiol i'r gwasanaeth gwerthfawr hwn.

The Minister for Economic Development and Transport (Andrew Davies): Like Nick Bourne, I declare an interest as I am also a vice-president of the Heart of Wales Line Travellers' Association. I also have a family interest, as my grandfather was an engine driver on what was then the Great Western railway based at Llandeilo. That is where my passion for railways comes from—as everyone is talking about passion this afternoon.

Sustaining and improving the railways of Wales is an integral part of our policy and our agenda for improving public transport. As we heard in questions earlier, there has been an increase in the regularity of services, and improved local connections for services in rural Wales. Our powers at the moment are restricted, but with the transfer of functions following the Railways Act 2005, we will have considerably enhanced powers in this area. This will be supported by the Transport (Wales) Bill, when—and I am sure that that will be shortly—it reaches the statute book in the new year. Together, that will represent the largest transfer of powers to the Assembly since this institution was established in 1999.

Eleanor Burnham: Minister, can you clarify whether it will be necessary for Network Rail to discuss matters of infrastructure with the Assembly Government under the Act?

Andrew Davies: Although Network Rail will technically be non-devolved, it has clearly indicated that it wants to work closely with us in enhancing rail infrastructure. We will become co-signatories, with the Department for Transport, to the Wales and borders franchise under the powers of the Railways Act 2005 from April 2006.

As I said, we will have substantially increased powers in transport, not least of which in rail. There has been substantial ongoing inward investment in rail, particularly as I announced in my transport review last December. Some of the

Y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth (Andrew Davies): Fel Nick Bourne, yr wyf yn datgan diddordeb gan fy mod i hefyd yn is-lywydd Cymdeithas Teithwyr Rheilffordd Calon Cymru. Mae gennyf ddiddordeb teuluol hefyd, gan fod fy nhad-cu yn yrrwr trên ar yr hen reilffordd Great Western yn Llandeilo. Dyna darddiad fy angerdd am reilffyrdd—gan fod pawb yn siarad am angerdd y prynhawn yma.

Mae cynnal a gwella'r rheilffyrdd yng Nghymru yn rhan annatod o'n polisi a'n hagenda ar gyfer gwella cludiant cyhoeddus. Fel y clywsom yn y cwestiynau yn gynharach, bu cynnydd yn rheoleidd-dra'r gwasanaethau, a chysylltiadau lleol gwell ar gyfer gwasanaethau yng nghefn gwlad Cymru. Mae ein pwerau wedi'u cyfyngu ar hyn o bryd, ond wrth drosglwyddo swyddogaethau yn dilyn Deddf Rheilffyrdd 2005, bydd gennym fwy o bwerau o lawer yn y maes hwn. Cefnogir hyn gan y Mesur Trafnidiaeth (Cymru), pan fydd—ac yr wyf yn sicr y digwydd hynny'n fuan—yn cyrraedd y llyfr statud yn y flwyddyn newydd. Rhwng popeth, hynny fydd y trosglwyddo pwerau mwyaf i'r Cynulliad ers ei sefydlu yn 1999.

Eleanor Burnham: Weinidog, a allwch egluro a fydd yn angenrheidiol i Network Rail drafod materion seilwaith gyda Llywodraeth y Cynulliad o dan y Ddeddf?

Andrew Davies: Er na fydd Network Rail yn dechnegol wedi'i ddatganoli, mae wedi dangos yn glir ei fod am weithio'n agos gyda ni i wella'r seilwaith rheilffyrdd. Byddwn yn gyd-arwyddwyr, gyda'r Adran Drafnidiaeth, i fasnachfaint Cymru a'r Gororau dan bwerau Deddf Rheilffyrdd 2005 o fis Ebrill 2006.

Fel y dywedais, bydd gennym fwy o bwerau o lawer ym maes cludiant, ac nid y lleiaf ohonynt fydd rheilffyrdd. Cafwyd mewnfuddsoddi sylweddol parhaus mewn rheilffyrdd, yn enwedig fel y cyhoeddais yn fy adolygiad trafndiaeth fis Rhagfyr y

achievements have already been mentioned. There has been substantial investment in rail infrastructure over and above what Network Rail has already committed to. We have improved station facilities in many parts of Wales—in north, south and mid Wales. We have developed interchanges, including on the Heart of Wales line, and we have lengthened stations and added rolling stock. The issue of safety, security and comfort was raised in questions earlier, and we are grant-aiding Arriva Trains Wales to provide on-train CCTV on all of its trains. This should be in place next year. This will benefit the Heart of Wales line as well as other routes throughout Wales.

As I am sure that you would expect, the main focus of investment has been on the heavily used railways in the main conurbations. As Kirsty said, largely, we are dealing with rolling stock inherited from previous franchises and we have inherited previously established leasing arrangements. However, we are working with Arriva Trains Wales to look at what we can do to substantially improve rolling stock, not just on the Heart of Wales line but in other parts of Wales.

I am sure that you will appreciate that the £50 million investment that I announced earlier this year in additional rolling stock for peak Valleys capacity, in the Cardiff-Valleys area, was needed in response to the extremely high levels of overcrowding at peak times. Having said that, in my frequent meetings with Arriva Trains Wales, and most particularly since Graeme Bunker has taken over as managing director, I have looked at precisely some of the suggestions that Kirsty has made, and at what we can do to improve the rolling stock, particularly aimed at the tourism industry. Arriva Trains has been working closely with the Wales Tourist Board looking at ways in which different rolling stock could be used to target the visitor market and specialised activities, such as cycling holidays and other activity-centred holidays, on the Heart of Wales line.

Like many others in rural areas, this line is of

llynedd. Soniwyd am rai o'r llwyddiannau eisoes. Cafwyd buddsoddi sylweddol yn y seilwaith rheilffyrdd yn ogystal â'r hyn y mae Network Rail wedi ymrwymo iddo. Yr ydym wedi gwella adnoddau gorsafoedd mewn llawer rhan o Gymru—yn y gogledd, y de a'r canolbarth. Yr ydym wedi datblygu cyfnewidfeydd, gan gynnwys ar reilffordd Calon Cymru, wedi ymestyn gorsafoedd ac wedi ychwanegu cerbydau. Codwyd mater diogelwch a chysur yn y cwestiynau ynghynt, ac yr ydym yn rhoi cymorth grant i Drenau Arriva Cymru i ddarparu teledu cylch cyfyng ar ei holl drenau. Dylai hyn fod ar waith y flwyddyn nesaf. Bydd hyn o les i reilffordd Calon Cymru yn ogystal â llwybrau eraill drwy Gymru.

Fel y byddech yn disgwyl, mae'n sicr, ar y rheilffyrdd a ddefnyddir yn helaeth yn y prif gytreff y bu'r prif ffocws buddsoddi Fel y dywedodd Kirsty, yr ydym yn ymdrin yn bennaf â'r cerbydau a etifeddwyd oddi wrth fasnachfreintiau blaenorol, ac yr ydym wedi etifeddu trefniadau prydlesu a sefydlwyd gynt. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym yn gweithio gyda Threnau Arriva Cymru i edrych ar yr hyn y gallwn ei wneud i wella cerbydau'n sylweddol, nid ar reilffordd Calon Cymru yn unig, ond mewn rhannau eraill o Gymru.

Yr wyf yn sicr y byddwch yn gwerthfawrogi bod y buddsoddiad o £50 miliwn a gyhoeddais yn gynharach eleni mewn cerbydau ychwanegol ar gyfer capasiti'r Cymoedd yn ystod oriau brig yn ardal Caerdydd—y Cymoedd, yn ymateb i'r lefelau gorlenwi mawr yn ystod oriau brig. Wedi dweud hynny, yn fy nghyfarfodydd cyson gyda Threnau Arriva Cymru, ac yn enwedig ers i Graeme Bunker ddod yn rheolwr gyfarwyddwr, yr wyf wedi edrych yn fanwl ar rai o'r awgrymiadau a wnaed gan Kirsty, ac ar yr hyn y gallwn ei wneud i wella'r cerbydau, yn enwedig o safbwynt y diwydiant twristiaeth. Mae Trenau Arriva wedi bod yn gweithio'n agos gyda Bwrdd Croeso Cymru i edrych ar ffyrdd y gellir defnyddio gwahanol gerbydau i dargedu'r farchnad ymwelwyr a digwyddiadau arbenigol, megis gwyliau beicio a gwyliau gweithgaredd eraill ar reilffordd Calon Cymru.

Fel llawer mewn ardaloedd gwledig, mae'r

vital importance to people in the towns, villages and communities that it serves. It is vital—as Kirsty said—in terms of travelling between the smaller communities and the larger centres, particularly Swansea, Shrewsbury, Llandrindod Wells and Llandeilo. I am delighted that the Assembly Government, and I as a Minister, have been able to provide positive support for the Heart of Wales line. I am delighted that we are joined today by representatives of the Heart of Wales Line Travellers' Association with whom we work closely.

To date, this funding has largely been through the Welsh Assembly Government's transport grant scheme which has been used, as I said earlier, to improve interchange facilities at Ammanford and Llandovery stations and also for the provision of information points at stations all along the line. Travelling on the line with friends this summer, on a Sunday visit to Llandrindod Wells, I was struck by the community spirit and the way in which local communities served by the line take a passionate interest in the stations. For those who have not travelled on that line, I commend it to you. The pride that local people take in those stations is highly commendable and should be widely supported.

We are also providing grant aid to the Heart of Wales Line Forum for the second winter service, on which Kirsty was kind enough to congratulate us. I know that this is already proving popular, not least due to the forum's promotion of the 'Rail and Sunday Roast' trips. This is an excellent example of where imaginative and energetic marketing can promote take-up. I am sure that the forum will continue to build on its success.

Also promoted is the Heart of Wales railcard which offers at least one-third off all individual standard class fares on the line to local residents.

5.10 p.m.

I recognise the hard work that the Heart of Wales Line Forum undertakes in promoting

rheilffordd hon o bwysigrwydd hanfodol i bobl yn y trefi, y pentrefi a'r cymunedau a wasanaethir ganddi. Mae'n hanfodol—fel y dywedodd Kirsty—i deithio rhwng y cymunedau llai a'r canolfannau mwy, yn enwedig Abertawe, Amwythig, Llandrindod a Llandeilo. Yr wyf yn ymhyfrydu yn y ffaith fod modd i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad, a minnau fel Gweinidog, roi cefnogaeth gadarnhaol i reilffordd Calon Cymru. Yr wyf yn ymhyfrydu yn y ffaith fod cynrychiolwyr o Gymdeithas Teithwyr Rheilffordd Calon Cymru, sydd yn cydweithio'n agos gyda ni, wedi ymuno â ni heddiw.

Hyd yma, mae'r arian wedi dod o gynllun grant trafndiaeth Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn bennaf, a ddefnyddiwyd, fel y soniais ynghynt, i wella adnoddau cyfnewidfeydd yng ngorsafoedd Rhydaman a Llanymddyfri, a hefyd i ddarparu manau gwybodaeth mewn gorsafoedd ar hyd y rheilffordd gyfan. Wrth deithio ar y rheilffordd gyda ffrindiau yr haf yma, ar ymweliad Sul â Llandrindod, fe'm synnwyd gan ysbryd y gymuned a'r ffordd y mae cymunedau lleol a wasanaethir gan y rheilffordd yn cymryd diddordeb brwd yn y gorsafoedd. I'r rheini ohonoch sydd heb deithio ar y rheilffordd honno, fe'i cymeradwyaf i chi. Mae balchder pobl leol yn y gorsafoedd hynny i'w gymeradwyo'n fawr, a dylid ei gefnogi.

Yr ydym hefyd yn rhoi cymorth grant i Fforwm Rheilffordd Calon Cymru ar gyfer yr ail wasanaeth gaeaf, ac yr oedd Kirsty yn garedig iawn yn ein llongyfarch amdano. Gwn fod hwn eisoes yn boblogaidd, nid yn unig oherwydd hyrwyddo teithiau 'Rheilffordd a Rhost Sul' gan y fforwm. Mae hyn yn enghraifft wych o'r modd y gall marchnata creadigol a brwdfrydig hyrwyddo defnydd. Yr wyf yn sicr y bydd y fforwm yn parhau i adeiladu ar ei lwyddiant.

Hyrwyddwyd cerdyn rheilffordd Calon Cymru hefyd, sy'n cynnig gostyngiad o un rhan o dair o leiaf ar bris pob dosbarth safonol unigol ar y rheilffordd i drigolion lleol.

Cydnabyddaf y gwaith caled y mae Fforwm Rheilffordd Calon Cymru yn ei wneud i

the line. Assembly Government officials regularly attend forum meetings, and are kept informed of developments and initiatives. The forum works extremely hard to promote and develop the Heart of Wales line, and has prepared a 20-point action plan, which aims to increase patronage on the line.

The station adoption scheme, run by the Association of Community Rail Partnerships, has been successful along this route; the Dolau station scheme, for example, is a showpiece of what such schemes can achieve, and has won a Britain in Bloom award again this year. The Heart of Wales line is listed as a potential community railway, and I welcome the approach that the Heart of Wales Line Forum is taking in building close, mutually beneficial links with the communities served by the line. Across Britain, it is seen as one of the leading lines in adopting this approach.

To conclude, I thank Kirsty again for initiating this debate. It is an important issue, particularly for communities in mid Wales. The Welsh Assembly Government will continue to work in partnership with Arriva Trains Wales, Network Rail and local interest groups, such as the forum, to deliver improvements to the rail network, aimed at benefiting town, city, but above all, countryside.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: That brings today's proceedings to a close.

hyrwyddo'r rheilffordd. Bydd swyddogion Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn mynychu cyfarfodydd y fforwm yn gyson, a chânt y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am ddatblygiadau a mentrau. Mae'r fforwm yn gweithio'n arbennig o galed i hyrwyddo a datblygu rheilffordd Calon Cymru, ac y mae wedi paratoi cynllun gweithredu 20 pwynt sy'n ceisio cynyddu nifer y cwsmeriaid ar y rheilffordd.

Mae'r cynllun mabwysiadu gorsaf, a gaiff ei redeg gan Gymdeithas Partneriaethau Rheilffyrdd Cymunedol, wedi bod yn llwyddiannus ar hyd y llwybr hwn; mae cynllun gorsaf Dolau, er enghraifft, yn esiampl wych o'r hyn y gall cynlluniau felly ei gyflawni, ac enillodd wobwr Prydain yn ei Blodau eto eleni. Rhestrir rheilffordd Calon Cymru fel rheilffordd gymunedol bosibl, a chroesawaf ddull Fforwm Rheilffordd Calon Cymru i feithrin cysylltiadau agos a chyd-fuddiol gyda chymunedau a wasanaethir gan y rheilffordd. Ledled Prydain, fe'i hystyrir yn un o'r rheilffyrdd blaenllaw wrth fabwysiadu'r ymagwedd hon.

I orffen, diolch eto i Kirsty am gychwyn y ddadl hon. Mae'n fater pwysig, yn enwedig i gymunedau yn y Canolbarth. Bydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn parhau i weithio mewn partneriaeth â Threnau Arriva Cymru, Network Rail a grwpiau lleol sydd â diddordeb, megis y fforwm, i sicrhau gwelliannau yn y rhwydwaith rheilffyrdd, i fod yn llesol i drefi a dinasoedd, ond yn bennaf oll i gefn gwlad.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Daw hynny â chyfarfod heddiw i ben.

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5.11 p.m.

The meeting ended at 5.11 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, 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 (Annibynnol – Independent)
 Lewis, Huw (Llafur – Labour)
 Lloyd, David (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Lloyd, Val (Llafur – Labour)
 Marek, John (Cymru Ymlaen – Forward Wales)
 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)