



**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Cofnod y Trafodion**

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

**Dydd Mercher, 15 Mawrth 2006
Wednesday, 15 March 2006**

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

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

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

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

Strategaeth Mentrau Cymdeithasol Social Enterprise Strategy

Q1 Jeff Cuthbert: Will the Minister make a statement on the implications for the Caerphilly constituency of the social enterprise strategy for Wales? OAQ0626(SJR)

The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration (Edwina Hart): The social enterprise strategy was developed in conjunction with the social enterprise joint working group, which brings together expert practitioners and key stakeholders from across Wales.

Jeff Cuthbert: Will you join me in welcoming the support given by the coalfields social enterprise development fund to the Cefn Hengoed and Hengoed Communities First partnership? Its grant of £5,000 will be used to fund the cost of undertaking a feasibility study aimed at determining the viability of establishing a community taskforce to provide services such as gardening, babysitting and domestic maintenance at low cost to local residents.

Edwina Hart: That sounds like an exciting initiative, and I congratulate the partnership. Gardening services and so on are quite vital to people in their communities.

Laura Anne Jones: It is clear that social enterprises play a key role in the regeneration of our communities, and that they could do a lot more. Local authorities, as we heard in the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee meeting this morning, have a significant role to play in developing social enterprises, for example, by freeing and transferring assets for community ownership. This is clearly a cross-portfolio issue, but can you assure me that you will raise awareness of the work of social enterprises as a key priority,

C1 Jeff Cuthbert: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am oblygiadau'r strategaeth mentrau cymdeithasol ar gyfer Cymru i etholaeth Caerffili? OAQ0626(SJR)

Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio (Edwina Hart): Datblygwyd y strategaeth mentrau cymdeithasol mewn cydweithrediad â'r cydweithgor mentrau cymdeithasol, sy'n dwyn ynghyd ymarferwyr arbenigol a rhanddeiliaid allweddol o bob cwr o Gymru.

Jeff Cuthbert: A wnewch chi ymuno â mi i groesawu'r gefnogaeth a roddwyd gan gronfa datblygu mentrau cymdeithasol y meysydd glo i bartneriaeth Cymunedau yn Gyntaf Cefn Hengoed a Hengoed? Defnyddir y grant o £5,000 i ariannu'r gost o gynnal astudiaeth ddichonoldeb er mwyn penderfynu a fyddai'n ymarferol sefydlu tasglu cymunedol i ddarparu gwasanaethau fel garddio, gwarchod plant a gwaith cynnal a chadw yn y cartref am bris isel i drigolion lleol.

Edwina Hart: Mae'r fenter yn un gyffrous, a hoffwn longyfarch y bartneriaeth. Mae gwasanaethau garddio ac ati yn hanfodol i bobl yn eu cymunedau.

Laura Anne Jones: Mae'n amlwg bod mentrau cymdeithasol yn chwarae rôl allweddol yn y broses o adfywio ein cymunedau, a gallent wneud llawer mwy. Fel y bu inni glywed yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio y bore yma, mae gan awdurdodau lleol rôl hollbwysig i'w chwarae o ran datblygu mentrau cymdeithasol, er enghraifft, drwy ryddhau a throsglwyddo asedau i'r gymuned. Mae'n amlwg bod y mater hwn yn rhan o sawl portffolio, ond a allwch roi sicrwydd

particularly among local authorities and planning departments?

Edwina Hart: Thank you for that question; we had an exceptionally interesting presentation at the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee meeting this morning from people representing social enterprises. One of their concerns was the transfer of property to them and their work in their local areas. I will put this issue on the agenda for my next meeting with the Welsh Local Government Association, in order to further raise the profile of community enterprises.

imi y byddwch yn codi ymwybyddiaeth o waith mentrau cymdeithasol ac yn ei ystyried yn flaenoriaeth allweddol, yn enwedig ymhlith awdurdodau lleol ac adrannau cynllunio?

Edwina Hart: Diolch ichi am y cwestiwn hwnnw; cawsom gyflwyniad hynod ddiddorol yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio y bore yma gan bobl sy'n cynrychioli mentrau cymdeithasol. Un o'u pryderon oedd trosglwyddo eiddo iddynt a'u gwaith yn eu hardaloedd lleol. Rhoddaf y mater hwn ar yr agenda ar gyfer fy nghyfarfod nesaf gyda Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, er mwyn codi proffil mentrau cymdeithasol ymhellach.

Costau Ad-drefnu'r Heddlu Costs of Police Restructuring

Q2 Leanne Wood: What discussions has the Minister had regarding the costs of police restructuring? OAQ0601(SJR)

Edwina Hart: I have kept the Assembly fully informed of the discussions that I have had with Home Office Ministers in my regular statements to Plenary on this issue. I have made clear my feelings that any costs associated with restructuring should not fall to taxpayers in Wales.

Leanne Wood: You have told the Assembly that you want the Home Office to fully fund police restructuring and that you have written to it about this, making your feelings clear, but the Secretary of State for Wales has disputed your figures with regard to the police precept and council tax. Whom do you think will Charles Clarke listen to with regard to those disputed figure—you or the Secretary of State for Wales?

Edwina Hart: So many figures are being bandied about in terms of police restructuring that it is sometimes difficult to keep up to date. I can assure you that I have been writing to the Home Secretary—indeed, I have written to him again today—about various issues regarding police restructuring.

C2 Leanne Wood: Pa drafodaethau mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cael ynghylch costau ad-drefnu'r heddlu? OAQ0601(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf wedi sicrhau bod y Cynulliad yn cael ei hysbysu'n llawn am y trafodaethau yr wyf wedi'u cael gyda Gweinidogion y Swyddfa Gartref yn fy natganiadau rheolaidd i'r Cyfarfod Llawn ar y mater hwn. Yr wyf wedi gwneud yn glir nad wyf yn credu y dylai trethdalwyr yng Nghymru dalu unrhyw gostau sy'n gysylltiedig ag ad-drefnu.

Leanne Wood: Yr ydych wedi dweud wrth y Cynulliad eich bod am weld y Swyddfa Gartref yn ariannu'n llwyr y broses o ad-drefnu'r heddlu a'ch bod wedi ysgrifennu atynt yn glir â hyn, gan fynegi eich barn yn glir. Ond mae Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru yn amau eich ffigurau o ran praesept yr heddlu a threth gyngor. Ar bwy fydd Charles Clarke yn gwrando, dybiwch chi, o ran y ffigurau dadleuol hynny—chi neu Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru?

Edwina Hart: Mae cynifer o ffigurau yn cael eu trafod o ran ad-drefnu'r heddlu nes ei bod yn anodd weithiau gwybod pa ffigurau yw'r rhai diweddaraf. Gallaf eich sicrhau fy mod wedi ysgrifennu at yr Ysgrifennydd Cartref—yn wir, yr wyf wedi ysgrifennu ato eto heddiw—am amrywiol faterion sy'n

I will want sight of any revised costings, as will police authorities, so that they are enabled to hold further discussions on any proposals that they might be willing to go along with.

Christine Chapman: There has been much debate about police restructuring in Wales, and rightly so, as this is an important issue. However, do you agree that what concerns people most is that they receive good service on the ground? We should not lose sight of that. Will you join me in welcoming the partnerships and communities together programme being piloted in Cynon Valley and Merthyr, which brings policing closer to the public? A named contact is provided for each council ward, and they chair monthly meetings to identify the main priorities for those wards. Do you also agree that we need to publicise this programme as much as possible so that people are aware of it?

Edwina Hart: The important issue is neighbourhood policing, and I have always made it clear in my statements in the Chamber that in anything that happens in relation to structural reform of the police service, we must ensure that we have the neighbourhood policing that we require in Wales. You gave an excellent illustration of how the police are engaging with communities, looking at community concerns and developing the appropriate policies. However, we must not lose sight of the fact that this is not a devolved matter.

Mark Isherwood: To return to the original question about costs, police authorities in north Wales, south Wales and Gwent have questioned the funding of the merger plans. Even my own Labour MP has expressed his concern that police resources in north Wales would be diverted south. Leanne referred to a letter signed by representatives of all parties, including you and me, which has been sent to the Home Secretary. The letter asks for his assurance that all additional costs associated with setting up a single police force will be met by the Home Office and will not fall on the Assembly Government or council tax payers in Wales. However, the Under-

gysylltiedig ag ad-drefnu'r heddlu. Byddaf fi am weld unrhyw gostau diwygiedig, ac awdurdodau'r heddlu hefyd, fel y gallant gael trafodaethau pellach am unrhyw gynigion y gallent fod yn fodlon eu derbyn.

Christine Chapman: Bu llawer o drafod ynglŷn ag ad-drefnu'r heddlu yng Nghymru, a hynny'n briodol, gan fod hwn yn fater pwysig. Fodd bynnag, a ydych yn cytuno mai'r hyn sydd flaenaf ym meddyliau pobl yw eu bod yn cael gwasanaeth da ar lawr gwlad? Ni ddylem anghofio hynny. A ymunwch â mi i groesawu'r rhaglen beilot mewn partneriaethau a chymunedau yng Nghwm Cynon a Merthyr, sy'n dod â phlisma yn nes at y cyhoedd? Darperir person cyswllt wedi ei enwi ar gyfer pob un o wardiau'r cyngor, a byddant yn cadeirio cyfarfodydd misol i nodi'r prif flaenoriaethau ar gyfer y wardiau hynny. A ydych hefyd yn cytuno bod angen inni roi cymaint o gyhoeddusrwydd â phosibl i'r rhaglen hon er mwyn i bobl fod yn ymwybodol ohoni?

Edwina Hart: Y pwyt pwysig yw plisma cymdogaethau, ac yr wyf bob amser wedi gwneud yn glir yn fy natganiadau yn y Siambr fod rhaid inni sicrhau, mewn unrhyw beth a ddigwydd mewn perthynas â diwygio strwythur gwasanaeth yr heddlu, fod gennym y system plisma cymdogaethau sydd ei hangen arnom yng Nghymru. Rhoesoch ddarlun ardderchog o'r ffordd y mae'r heddlu'n ymgysylltu â chymunedau, yn edrych ar bryderon y gymuned ac yn datblygu'r polisiau priodol. Fodd bynnag, rhaid inni beidio ag anghofio nad yw'n fater sydd wedi ei ddatganoli.

Mark Isherwood: I ddychwelyd at y cwestiwn gwreiddiol am gostau, mae awdurdodau'r heddlu yng ngogledd Cymru, de Cymru a Gwent wedi cwestiynu'r ffordd y caiff y cynlluniau uno eu hariannu. Mae hyd yn oed fy AS Llafur fy hun wedi mynegi ei bryder y byddai adnoddau'r heddlu yng ngogledd Cymru yn cael eu dargyfeirio i'r de. Cyfeiriodd Leanne at lythyr wedi ei lofnodi gan gynrychiolwyr pob un o'r pleidiau, gan gynnwys ni ein dau, a anfonwyd at yr Ysgrifennydd Cartref. Mae'r llythyr yn gofyn am ei sicrwydd mai'r Swyddfa Gartref, nid Llywodraeth y Cynulliad na'r rheini sy'n talu'r dreth gyngor yng Nghymru, fydd yn

Secretary of State at the Home Office, Paul Goggins, has already stated that once the extra money provided by the UK Government for all four proposed regional mergers is spent, extra money will need to be found locally, and the extra sum added to council tax for policing would need to be equalised when different forces merge. What reason do you have to believe that the Home Office and the Treasury will now revise its position on the basis of our letter?

Edwina Hart: I have to take a pragmatic approach in my dealings with the Home Office on police restructuring, because it is not a devolved matter. I have to put at the heart of any discussions that I have, or any correspondence, what I want to see in respect of the Welsh taxpayer, the views expressed about the haste of the consultation, what is now emerging, and whether we have decent costings for the police authorities to work on. I am in discussion on all of these issues, and I will continue to press them, because I think that, as a Government Minister, I have the support of the Assembly in this regard.

Mark Isherwood: The police authorities told us that the all-Wales reorganisation would cost up to £57 million. The chief constables of Wales tell us that it will be more than that. The additional set-up costs, and the fact that any savings could take up to 10 years to materialise, blow a hole in the Home Secretary's uncosted claim that savings would be achieved in the first year. I have already referred to three police authorities that oppose this measure on cost grounds. Gwent Police criticised the speed of the merger, stating that local taxpayers would face a bill of £100 million if it were to go ahead. Paul Goggins has already admitted that once the £125 million provided by the Government for all mergers, which includes approximately £30 million for Wales, has been used, extra money would need to be found locally. Have you received any assurances from the Home Secretary, or from

gyfrifol am dalu'r holl gostau ychwanegol o sefydlu un heddlu. Fodd bynnag, mae Isysgrifennydd y Swyddfa Gartref, Paul Goggins, eisoes wedi dweud y bydd angen dod o hyd i arian ychwanegol yn lleol pan fydd yr arian ychwanegol a ddarperir gan Lywodraeth y DU ar gyfer y broses arfaethedig o uno'r heddlu yn bedwar rhanbarth yn dod i ben, ac y byddai angen cyfartalu'r swm ychwanegol a ychwanegir at y dreth gyngor ar gyfer plismona pan fydd y gwahanol heddluoedd yn uno. Pa reswm sydd gennych dros gredu y bydd y Swyddfa Gartref a'r Trysorlys yn newid eu safbwynt yn awr ar sail ein llythyr ni?

Edwina Hart: Mae'n rhaid imi fod yn bragmatig wrth drafod ad-drefnu'r heddlu gyda'r Swyddfa Gartref, oherwydd nid yw'n fater sydd wedi ei ddatganoli. Rhaid imi sicrhau bod yr hyn yr hoffwn ei weld o ran y trethdalwr yng Nghymru, y safbwyntiau a fynegwyd ynghylch cyflymder yr ymgynghori, beth sy'n dod i'r amlwg yn awr, ac a oes gennym gostau boddhaol y gall yr awdurdodau heddlu weithio arnynt, wrth wraidd unrhyw drafodaethau a gaf, neu mewn unrhyw ohebiaeth. Yr wyf yn cael trafodaethau ar bob un o'r materion hyn ar hyn o bryd, a byddaf yn parhau i bwysu, oherwydd credaf, fel Gweinidog y Llywodraeth, fod gennyf gefnogaeth y Cynulliad yn hyn.

Mark Isherwood: Dywedodd awdurdodau'r heddlu wrthym y byddai proses ad-drefnu Cymru gyfan yn costio hyd at £57 miliwn. Dywed prif gwnstabiliaid Cymru wrthym y byddai'r ffigur yn fwy na hynny. Mae'r costau sefydlu ychwanegol, a'r ffaith y gallai gymryd hyd at 10 mlynedd cyn gweld unrhyw gynilion, yn chwalu honiad yr Ysgrifennydd Cartref, sydd heb ei gostio, y gwelid cynilion yn y flwyddyn gyntaf. Yr wyf eisoes wedi cyfeirio at dri awdurdod heddlu sy'n gwrthwynebu'r mesur hwn ar sail costau. Beirniadodd Heddlu Gwent gyflymder y broses uno, gan ddweud y byddai trethdalwyr lleol yn wynebu bil o £100 miliwn pe bai'n mynd yn ei flaen. Mae Paul Goggins eisoes wedi cyfaddef, pan fydd y £125 miliwn a ddarperir gan y Llywodraeth ar gyfer pob proses uno, sy'n cynnwys tua £30 miliwn ar gyfer Cymru, wedi'i ddefnyddio y byddai angen dod o hyd i arian

his subordinate Ministers, that account will be taken of the letter that we sent?

Edwina Hart: We have an ongoing discussion with the Home Office. As you are aware, I have had meetings with Hazel Blears and I have had discussions with the Home Secretary. I am trying to get clarity on the costs, and, as soon as I have any clarity, I will report back to the National Assembly in the form of a statement.

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Yr wyf yn sylweddoli bod y Gweinidog mewn sefyllfa anodd, oherwydd, fel yr eglurodd, mae hwn yn fater annatganoledig. Ar ôl 2007, bydd trafodaethau fel hyn gydag adrannau'r Llywodraeth yn Llundain yn rhywbeth y bydd yn rhaid inni fyw gydag ef. Wrth dderbyn bod anhawster oherwydd nad yw'r cyfrifoldeb am y mater hwn wedi'i ddatganoli, ac wrth gydnabod pwynt Christine Chapman am y ffaith bod gan bobl ddiddordeb yn y gwasanaethau ar lawr gwlad, oni dderbynia'r Gweinidog fod peidio â chael gwybodaeth am union natur yr ailstrwythuro ac am yr union swm fydd ei angen i dalu amdano yn effeithio ar forâl yr heddlu ac ar berthynas yr heddlu a'r gymuned, gan fod yr heddlu yn treulio llawer o amser mewn pwyllgorau yn hytrach na bod ar y strydoedd yn helpu pobl? Pryd gawn ni ateb am yr ailstrwythuro, a phryd gawn ni ateb am y gost a phwy fydd yn gyfrifol am hynny?

Edwina Hart: I have asked to see the revised costs of the proposed package from the Home Office. As you know, I have a working group of Assembly officials looking with Home Office officials at the details of the proposals and the council tax equalisation. I appreciate that not having definitive figures is difficult, particularly for the police authorities. I was taken by your point about morale among not only police officers, but civilian staff, who are concerned about the implications for their work. I am conscious of all of these points, and I continue to press them so that I and the police authorities have certainty as regards the figures. That will allow authorities to

ychwanegol yn lleol. A ydych wedi cael unrhyw sicrwydd gan yr Ysgrifennydd Cartref, neu gan ei is-Weinidogion, y rhoddir ystyriaeth i'r llythyr a anfonwyd gennym?

Edwina Hart: Yr ydym yn cael trafodaethau gyda'r Swyddfa Gartref ar hyn o bryd. Fel y gwyddoch, yr wyf wedi cyfarfod â Hazel Blears a'r Ysgrifennydd Cartref. Yr wyf yn ceisio cael eglurder am y costau, a chyn gynted ag y caf hynny, byddaf yn adrodd yn ôl i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ar ffurf datganiad.

The Leader of the Opposition (Ieuan Wyn Jones): I appreciate that the Minister is in a difficult position because, as she explained, this is a non-devolved matter. Post 2007, this kind of discussion with Westminster Government departments is something that we will have to live with. While we accept that there are difficulties because responsibility for this matter has not been devolved, and while we acknowledge the point made by Christine Chapman about the fact that people are predominantly interested in services in their communities, does the Minister not accept that the lack of information about the exact nature of the restructuring and the exact amount needed to pay for it is having an effect on police morale and on the relationship between the police and the communities they serve, because police officers are spending a lot of their time at meetings rather than being out on the beat helping people? When will we have an answer to the restructuring question, and when will we have an answer about the costs and who will be responsible for that?

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf wedi gofyn am gael gweld costau diwygiedig y pecyn arfaethedig gan y Swyddfa Gartref. Fel y gwyddoch, mae gennyf weithgor o swyddogion y Cynulliad sy'n ystyried gyda swyddogion y Swyddfa Gartref fanylion y cynigion a'r broses o gyfartalu'r dreth gyngor. Yr wyf yn sylweddoli bod y ffaith nad oes ffigurau terfynol ar gael yn anodd, yn enwedig i awdurdodau'r heddlu. Sylwais ar eich pwynt ynglŷn â moral ymhlith nid yn unig swyddogion yr heddlu, ond staff sifil, sy'n pryderu am y goblygiadau ar eu gwaith. Yr wyf yn ymwybodol o'r holl bwyntiau hyn, ac yr wyf yn dal i bwysu arnynt i sicrhau fy mod

engage in far more meaningful discussion about proposals for the future.

i ac awdurdodau'r heddlu yn cael sicrwydd am y ffigurau. Bydd hynny'n caniatáu i awdurdodau ymgysylltu mewn trafodaethau llawer mwy ystyrlon am gynigion ar gyfer y dyfodol.

2.10 p.m.

The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrat Group (Michael German):

Yesterday, I asked the First Minister what it would take to get your Government's support, and he listed items that are not necessarily financial. They were: to clarify all the details in relation to how precept equalisation would work; how the political accountability structures would work; and where specialist services and shared corporate services would be located. Apart from the figures, that seems to be a pretty substantial number of issues. You have called for this issue to be postponed by one year, but do you think that you are likely to get the answers to those questions, given that you do not even have the figures on which the Home Secretary is working? Are you likely to get the answers to these questions before the summer, or do you think that we are talking about the issue being kicked into some more long grass, and that, therefore, you will have them perhaps in some 18 months' time?

Edwina Hart: I have figures, and we have all seen the figures that have been prepared by the police authorities. I want to get down to finding the real figures. When the authorities looked at their proposals, did they look at the gold-plated solution of having one force for Wales? Was there an issue about how things could come together gradually, and where they would be? I stand very much by the First Minister's comments yesterday, and I am very hopeful that we will get clarity on the figures within the next few weeks. I will advise the Assembly as soon as I have details on all of this and will make the appropriate statement. Presiding Officer, you will know that I have taken the opportunity at all times to keep the Assembly updated on what is a major issue for us even though it is not devolved.

Arweinydd Grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Michael German):

Ddoe, gofynnais i'r Prif Weinidog beth fyddai angen ei wneud i gael cefnogaeth eich Llywodraeth, a rhestrodd yntau eitemau nad ydynt o reidrwydd yn rhai ariannol, sef: egluro'r holl fanylion mewn perthynas â sut y byddai'r praesept cyfartalu yn gweithio; sut y byddai'r strwythurau atebolrwydd gwleidyddol yn gweithio; a ble y byddai gwasanaethau arbenigol a gwasanaethau corfforaethol a rennir yn cael eu lleoli. Ar wahân i'r ffigurau, ymddengys fod hynny'n nifer sylweddol o faterion. Yr ydych wedi gofyn am i'r mater hwn gael ei ohirio am flwyddyn, ond a ydych yn credu eich bod yn debygol o gael yr atebion i'r cwestiynau hynny, o gofio nad oes gennyhych hyd yn oed y ffigurau y mae'r Ysgrifennydd Cartref yn gweithio arnynt? A ydych yn debygol o gael yr atebion i'r cwestiynau hyn cyn yr haf, neu a ydych yn credu y caiff y mater ei ohirio ac y cewch yr atebion hynny, felly, efallai ymhen tua 18 mis?

Edwina Hart: Mae gennyf y ffigurau, ac yr ydym i gyd wedi gweld y ffigurau sydd wedi'u paratoi gan awdurdodau'r heddlu. Yr wyf am geisio dod o hyd i'r ffigurau go iawn. Pan fu'r awdurdodau'n ystyried eu cynigion, a fuont yn ystyried yr ateb euraidd o gael un heddlu ar gyfer Cymru? A oedd problem o ran sut y gallai pethau ddod ynghyd yn raddol, a ble y byddent? Yr wyf yn sefyll yn gadarn wrth sylwadau'r Prif Weinidog ddoe, ac yr wyf yn obeithiol iawn y cawn eglurder am y ffigurau o fewn yr ychydig wythnosau nesaf. Rhof wybod i'r Cynulliad cyn gynted ag y bydd gennyf fanylion am hyn oll, a byddaf yn gwneud y datganiad priodol. Fel y gwyddoch, Lywydd, yr wyf yn manteisio ar bob cyfle i roi'r newyddion diweddaraf i'r Cynulliad am yr hyn sy'n fater pwysig inni er nad yw'n fater sydd wedi ei ddatganoli.

Ardaloedd Adnewyddu Tai Housing Renewal Areas

Q3 Karen Sinclair: Will the Minister give a progress report on the Welsh Assembly Government's programme of investment in housing renewal areas in Wales? OAQ0607(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Fifty-one renewal areas have been declared in Wales, covering more than 52,500 houses. Activities in these areas are successfully improving housing, and environmental and socioeconomic conditions. We are continuing to provide significant resources of £26 million a year to support these areas.

Karen Sinclair: Would you agree that the recent award of £1.9 million to Wrexham County Borough Council as a result of the latest round of funding represents an important opportunity to improve local housing stock in Rhosllanerchrugog, in my constituency, and in another ward in Wrexham, over the next few years? Would you also agree that it demonstrates this Labour Assembly Government's commitment to social justice in housing, and underlines a commitment to community regeneration unmatched by other parties in the Assembly?

Edwina Hart: I thank you for your continuing interest in renewal areas, Karen, and I am delighted that we, as an Assembly Government, have been able to support what is going on in Wrexham. It is an illustration of our social justice agenda, and the importance of housing.

William Graham: Minister, you will be aware of the estimated £1 billion needed to meet social housing targets in south-east Wales by 2012. Could you give an idea of how the significance of registered social landlords figures in your strategy for the future?

Edwina Hart: Yes. We have to be imaginative in how we deal with social housing issues. As we were saying in committee this morning, we have good relationships with RSLs, and we continue to

C3 Karen Sinclair: A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi adroddiad cynnydd am raglen fuddsoddi Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru mewn ardaloedd adnewyddu tai yng Nghymru? OAQ0607(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Mae hanner cant ac un o ardaloedd adnewyddu wedi'u cyhoeddi yng Nghymru, sy'n cynnwys dros 52,500 o dai. Mae gweithgareddau yn yr ardaloedd hyn yn llwyddo i wella tai, ac amodau amgylcheddol ac economaidd-gymdeithasol. Yr ydym yn parhau i ddarparu adnoddau sylweddol o £26 miliwn y flwyddyn i gefnogi'r ardaloedd hyn.

Karen Sinclair: A fydddech yn cytuno bod dyfarnu £1.9 miliwn i Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Wrecsam yn ddiweddar o ganlyniad i'r cylch cyllido diweddaraf yn gyfle pwysig i wella'r stoc tai yn lleol yn Rhosllanerchrugog, yn fy etholaeth i, ac mewn ward arall yn Wrecsam, dros y blynyddoedd nesaf? A fydddech hefyd yn cytuno ei fod yn dangos ymrwymiad Llywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad i gyfiawnder cymdeithasol o ran tai, ac yn tanlinellu ymrwymiad i adfywio cymunedau na welir ei fath ymhlith y pleidiau eraill yn y Cynulliad?

Edwina Hart: Hoffwn ddiolch ichi am eich diddordeb parhaus mewn ardaloedd adnewyddu, Karen, ac yr wyf yn falch ein bod ni, fel Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, wedi gallu cefnogi'r hyn sy'n digwydd yn Wrecsam. Mae'n dangos ein hagenda cyfiawnder cymdeithasol ar waith, a phwysigrwydd tai.

William Graham: Weiniog, fel y gwyddoch, mae angen tuag £1 biliwn i fodloni targedau tai cymdeithasol yn neddwyrain Cymru erbyn 2012. A allech roi syniad o bwysigrwydd landlordiaid cymdeithasol cofrestredig yn eich strategaeth ar gyfer y dyfodol?

Edwina Hart: Gallaf. Mae'n rhaid inni fod yn greadigol yn y ffordd yr ydym yn delio â materion sy'n ymwneud â thai cymdeithasol. Fel y soniwyd yn y pwyllgor y bore yma, mae gennym berthnas dda â landlordiaid

see them as being involved in the provision of housing.

cymdeithasol cofrestredig, ac yr ydym yn parhau i ystyried eu bod yn gysylltiedig â'r broses o ddarparu tai.

Lleihau'r Achosion o Gynnau Tanau yn Fwriadol Reducing the Incidence of Arson

Q4 Janice Gregory: What is the Welsh Assembly Government doing to reduce the incidence of arson in Wales? OAQ0596(SJR)

C4 Janice Gregory: Beth mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ei wneud i leihau nifer yr achosion o gynnau tanau'n fwriadol yng Nghymru? OAQ0596(SJR)

Edwina Hart: We continue to take forward our work with arson reduction teams and fund local anti-arson projects out of our £5 million community fire safety budget.

Edwina Hart: Yr ydym yn parhau i symud ymlaen â'n gwaith gyda thimau atal tanau bwriadol, ac yr ydym yn ariannu prosiectau lleol i atal tanau bwriadol o'n cyllideb diogelwch tân cymunedol o £5 miliwn.

Janice Gregory: Recent fire statistics show that the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service has been highly successful in reducing the incidence of deliberate primary fires by more than 20 per cent in the past 12 months. Minister, will you welcome the excellent work carried out by the fire service? Do you agree that that reduction highlights the fact that community safety initiatives and arson reduction schemes are beginning to have a positive result?

Janice Gregory: Dengys ystadegau'n ddiweddar ar gyfer tân bod Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub De Cymru wedi bod yn hynod lwyddiannus wrth leihau nifer yr achosion o brif danau bwriadol o fwy nag 20 y cant yn ystod y 12 mis diwethaf. Weinidog, a wneuch chi groesawu'r gwaith ardderchog a wneir gan y gwasanaeth tân? A ydych yn cytuno bod y gostyngiad hwnnw'n tynnu sylw at y ffaith fod mentrau diogelwch cymunedol a chynlluniau lleihau tanau bwriadol yn dechrau dwyn ffrwyth?

Edwina Hart: Yes. The fire services do excellent work across the piece in Wales. We have funded some anti-arson projects in your constituency, Janice, including summer projects and youth diversionary projects, which I think are meaningful in terms of this agenda.

Edwina Hart: Ydwyf. Mae'r gwasanaethau tân yn gwneud gwaith ardderchog ar draws Cymru gyfan. Yr ydym wedi ariannu rhai prosiectau atal tanau bwriadol yn eich etholaeth chi, Janice, gan gynnwys prosiectau haf a phrosiectau gwrthdynnu i bobl ifanc, a chredaf eu bod yn ystyrlon yn yr agenda hon.

Jonathan Morgan: Minister, how can we get positive messages across to young people about the dangers of playing with fire when fireworks are still so readily available in our shops?

Jonathan Morgan: Weinidog, sut y gallwn gyfleu negeseuon cadarnhaol i bobl ifanc am y perygl sy'n gysylltiedig â chwarae â tân tra mae tân gwyllt ar gael mor hawdd yn ein siopau o hyd?

Edwina Hart: The issue of fireworks is not devolved. However, I share your concerns on the ready availability and sale of fireworks, and it is sometimes difficult to get the message across when people can still buy what I think are incredibly dangerous things.

Edwina Hart: Nid yw tân gwyllt yn fater sydd wedi ei ddatganoli. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn pryderu, fel chithau, fod tan gwyllt ar gael yn hawdd ac ar werth, ac weithiau mae'n anodd cyfleu'r neges tra mae pobl yn dal i allu prynu pethau sy'n eithriadol o beryglus yn fy marn i.

Adfywio Canol Trefi
The Regeneration of Town Centres

Q5 Christine Gwyther: Will the Minister provide an update on Welsh Assembly Government initiatives to regenerate town centres in west Wales? OAQ0625(SJR)

C5 Christine Gwyther: A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am gynlluniau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i adfywio canol trefi yn y gorllewin? OAQ0625(SJR)

Q10 Lisa Francis: Will the Minister make a statement on town centre regeneration in Mid and West Wales? OAQ0593(SJR)

C10 Lisa Francis: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am adfywio canol trefi yn y canolbarth a'r gorllewin? OAQ0593(SJR)

Edwina Hart: In October 2005, I 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 national park area.

Edwina Hart: Ym mis Hydref 2005, cymeradwyais £2.86 miliwn ar gyfer tri chynllun o 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 sir Benfro.

Christine Gwyther: Thank you for that answer; I would like to commend you on the work already being done on town centre regeneration. However, regeneration is about more than buildings. Minister, would you join me in commending the work being carried out by the people of Pembroke and Pembroke Dock in regenerating our town centres through initiatives such as the annual Pembroke festival, which takes place in September, and the Pembroke Dock festival, which will take place in June? We are hoping to get hold of tourists in a pincer movement in the very west of Wales and keep them in the area as long as possible. Our local Communities First teams are playing a vital role in both festivals. Can you give me an indication as to whether this is the sort of soft impact that you would like Communities First teams to make, in building confidence and capacity in our local areas?

Christine Gwyther: Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw; hoffwn eich canmol am y gwaith a wneir eisoes i adfywio canol trefi. Fodd bynnag, mae a wnelo adfywio â mwy nag adeiladau. Weinidog, a fydddech yn ymuno â mi i ganmol y gwaith a wneir gan bobl Penfro a Doc Penfro i adfywio canol ein trefi drwy fentrau fel gŵyl flynyddol Penfro, a gynhelir ym mis Medi, a gŵyl Doc Penfro, a gynhelir ym mis Mehefin? Gobeithiwn ddenu twristiaid ar y cyd i ben pellaf y gorllewin a'u cadw yn yr ardal mor hir â phosibl. Mae gan ein timau lleol Cymunedau yn Gyntaf ran hanfodol yn y ddwy ŵyl. A allwch roi syniad imi ai dyma'r math o effaith ysgafn yr hoffech i dimau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf ei chael, drwy feithrin hyder a gallu yn ein hardaloedd lleol?

Edwina Hart: It is wonderful when you see communities getting together to have festivals such as those you mentioned. They have been brought together and have the support of Communities First teams. The support of Communities First teams there is excellent. It is a soft approach, but we have to recognise that the community wants them involved. These are its projects, and they are building up successfully. I wish both festivals every success.

Edwina Hart: Mae'n wych gweld cymunedau'n dod at ei gilydd i gynnal gwyliau fel y rhai y soniech amdanynt. Maent wedi eu dwyn ynghyd a chânt gymorth timau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Mae cymorth timau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yno yn ardderchog. Mae'n ddull ysgafn, ond rhaid inni gydnabod bod y gymuned am iddynt gymryd rhan. Prosiectau'r gymuned yw'r rhain, ac maent yn tyfu'n llwyddiannus. Dymunaf bob llwyddiant i'r ddwy ŵyl.

Lisa Francis: Minister, you will be aware of the plans to redevelop St Catherine Street in Carmarthen, as I have written to you about it previously. However, these proposals will mean that that street will be closed during trading hours, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., to allow pedestrian access to the newly proposed development. There are also proposals to allow the lowering of bollards into the ground in that street when the police, fire and ambulance services need immediate access. The civic society in Carmarthen has branded that idea as potentially dangerous, and I am very concerned, because the emergency services say that they were not consulted about it. I think that the scheme has not been properly thought through. Would you not agree that this is surely not the kind of procedure in town centre regeneration that the Welsh Assembly Government would want to endorse?

Edwina Hart: These are primarily matters for the local authority to consider. Its consultation process is its consultation process, and I would suggest that the emergency services are able to look after themselves in terms of their opinions on any developments in Carmarthen town centre.

Kirsty Williams: Minister, the message, following a recent meeting with the Llandrindod town regeneration trust, is that the biggest single thing that the Assembly could do to aid the regeneration of small market towns in my constituency would be to create enterprise zones, which, under local government legislation, would make those areas exempt from business rates. A holiday from paying business rates for the next five years would have a huge impact on the ability of businesses to invest in their premises in market towns and improve retail opportunities, and, hopefully, would result in better services for local people, as well as a better tourism product for those coming to mid Wales. What discussions have you had with Sue Essex to ensure that her review of business rates and rural business rates takes these feelings into account?

Edwina Hart: Thank you for raising that issue, Kirsty. I will refer Sue Essex to the

Lisa Francis: Weinidog, byddwch yn ymwybodol o'r cynlluniau i ailddatblygu Heol y Gwyddau yng Nghaerfyrddin, gan fy mod eisoes wedi ysgrifennu atoch ynglŷn â hynny. Fodd bynnag, bydd y cynigion hyn yn golygu y bydd y stryd honno ar gau yn ystod oriau masnachu, sef rhwng 9 a.m a 5 p.m., er mwyn i gerddwyr allu cyrraedd y datblygiad newydd arfaethedig. Mae cynigion hefyd i ganiatáu gostwng bolardiau i lawr i'r ddaear yn y stryd honno pan fydd angen i'r heddlu a'r gwasanaethau tân ac ambiwlans allu mynd i mewn ar unwaith. Mae cymdeithas ddinesig Caerfyrddin o'r farn y gall y syniad hwnnw fod yn beryglus, ac yr wyf yn bryderus iawn, oherwydd dywed y gwasanaethau brys nad ymgynghorwyd â hwy yn ei gylch. Ni chredaf fod y cynllun wedi'i ystyried yn drwyadl. Oni chytunech nad dyma'r math o weithdrefn yr hoffai Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ei gymeradwyo wrth adfywio canol trefi?

Edwina Hart: Materion i'r awdurdod lleol eu hystyried yn bennaf yw'r rhain. Yr awdurdod lleol sy'n gyfrifol am gynnal y broses ymgynghori, a byddwn yn awgrymu y gall y gwasanaethau brys ofalu amdanynt eu hunain o ran eu barn am unrhyw ddatblygiadau yng nghanol tref Caerfyrddin.

Kirsty Williams: Weinidog, yn dilyn cyfarfod yn ddiweddar gydag ymddiriedolaeth adfywio tref Llandrindod, y neges yw mai'r peth mwyaf y gallai'r Cynulliad ei wneud yn anad dim i helpu i adfywio trefi marchnad bach yn fy etholaeth i fyddai creu parthau menter, a fyddai, o dan ddeddfwriaeth llywodraeth leol, yn golygu bod yr ardaloedd hynny'n cael eu heithrio o drethi busnes. Byddai peidio â thalu trethi busnes am y pum mlynedd nesaf yn cael effaith sylweddol ar allu busnesau i fuddsoddi yn eu safleoedd mewn trefi marchnad a gwella cyfleoedd masnachu. Byddai hynny, gobeithio, yn arwain at well gwasanaethau i bobl leol, yn ogystal â gwell cynnyrch twristiaeth i'r rheini sy'n dod i'r canolbarth. Pa drafodaethau a gawsoch gyda Sue Essex i sicrhau bod ei hadolygiad o drethi busnes a threthi busnes gwledig yn ystyried y farn honno?

Edwina Hart: Diolch am godi'r mater hwnnw, Kirsty. Cyfeiriaf Sue Essex at y

Record, and have discussions on this matter. I can understand where your constituents are coming from with regard to this issue.

Helen Mary Jones: Minister, you mentioned in one of your earlier answers the urban regeneration resources that have been received in Llanelli, and I know that those have been gratefully received. However, you will also know that there is a proposal for a further out-of-town shopping development at the Trostre site in Llanelli. Have you made any assessment of the potential impact of that development on the urban regeneration schemes that you are supporting, and what is the general view of the Assembly Government on out-of-town shopping, which seems to be becoming more prevalent than we would like in Carmarthenshire at present?

Edwina Hart: I do not think that the issue of out-of-town shopping has arisen in any discussions that I have had about the grants that I have made available. This impacts on other Ministers' portfolios, so I will take up the point with them.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Gofynnaf gwestiwn ychydig yn ehangach ar adfywio'r economi yng Nghymru. A ydych yn derbyn bod trefi marchnad yn ganolog i'r broses o adfywio'r economi? A ydych yn cytuno bod yn rhaid i ni gael polisi cynhwysfawr gan Lywodraeth Cymru i sicrhau bod yr economi yn cael yn ei hadfywio ledled Cymru, a bod trefi marchnad yn chwarae rhan strategol yn y broses honno?

Edwina Hart: I think that all towns and communities play a crucial role in regeneration. It is very important that we look at all the projects that come forward to us in order to assess whether their regeneration potential is genuine.

2.20 p.m.

Hyrwyddo Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol Promoting Social Justice

Q6 The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives (Nick Bourne): Will the Minister make a statement on her policies for promoting social justice in Wales? OAQ0618(SJR)

Cofnod, a chael trafodaethau am y mater hwn. Gallaf ddeall safbwynt eich etholwyr ar y mater hwn.

Helen Mary Jones: Weinidog, yn un o'ch atebion blaenorol yr oeddech yn sôn am yr adnoddau adfywio trefol a gafwyd yn Llanelli, a gwn iddynt gael eu derbyn gyda diolch. Fodd bynnag, gwyddoch hefyd fod cynnig ar gyfer datblygiad siopa arall y tu allan i'r dref ar safle Trostre yn Llanelli. A ydych wedi gwneud unrhyw asesiad o effaith bosibl y datblygiad hwnnw ar y cynlluniau adfywio trefol yr ydych yn eu cefnogi, a beth yw barn gyffredinol Llywodraeth y Cynulliad am siopau y tu allan i drefi, sydd fel pe baent yn dod yn fwy cyffredin nag a hoffem yng Nghaerfyrddin ar hyn o bryd?

Edwina Hart: Ni chredaf fod mater siopau y tu allan i drefi wedi codi mewn unrhyw drafodaeth a gefais am y grantiau yr wyf wedi'u rhoi. Mae hyn yn effeithio ar bortffolios Gweinidogion eraill, felly, byddaf yn trafod y mater gyda hwy.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I will ask a somewhat broader question on the regeneration of the economy in Wales. Do you accept that market towns are central to the regeneration of the economy? Do you agree that we must have a comprehensive policy from the Government of Wales to ensure that the economy is regenerated throughout Wales, and that market towns play a strategic role in that process?

Edwina Hart: Credaf fod pob tref a chymuned yn chwarae rhan hanfodol yn y broses adfywio. Mae'n bwysig iawn inni ystyried yr holl brosiectau a ddaw i gerbron er mwyn asesu a yw eu potensial i adfywio yn ddilys.

C6 Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru (Nick Bourne): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ei pholisiau ar gyfer hyrwyddo cyfiawnder cymdeithasol yng Nghymru? OAQ0618(SJR)

Edwina Hart: The social justice annual report for 2005 provides a comprehensive analysis of all programmes and policies across the Assembly Government aimed at combating poverty and social exclusion. The full report can be accessed electronically on the Assembly Government's internet site, and an accompanying leaflet has been widely distributed throughout Wales.

Nick Bourne: I am grateful to the Minister for that response. We have already touched on the issue of the police merger, and I know that you have taken a robust line on that, which has broad support in the Assembly. When you bring Charles Clarke's response to the Assembly, would you consider it helpful to have a vote on your proposals, which many agree with, of delaying this for a year and that the cost should not be borne by Wales? A unanimous vote in the Assembly would send a clear message to the Home Secretary, assuming that the worst happens and that we do not get the favourable answer that we hope for.

Edwina Hart: Thank you. Obviously, my colleague the Business Minister schedules business in the Assembly. However, I will be giving a statement in due course, and we will have to give consideration to the Assembly's wishes regarding any future debates.

Jocelyn Davies: What do you make of the news, according to a report that you commissioned at the expense of taxpayers, that one of your flagship schemes, Communities First, has made no significant impact in its first three years? Why have you refused to publish that document, and when do you intend to place it in the public domain?

Edwina Hart: I have never refused to publish any document. The interim evaluation of the Communities First programme will be published in the summer, and there will be a full and frank debate on the issues. There has been a great deal of speculation about Communities First. However, we should all recognise that it is not a physical regeneration project. It is not about that; it is about people, communities

Edwina Hart: Mae adroddiad blynyddol 2005 ar gyfiawnder cymdeithasol yn cynnwys dadansoddiad cynhwysfawr o bob rhaglen a pholisi drwy Lywodraeth y Cynulliad benbaladr sy'n ceisio atal tloedi ac allgáu cymdeithasol. Gellir gweld yr adroddiad llawn ar ffurf electronig ar wefan Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, ac mae taflen gysylltiedig wedi ei dosbarthu ledled Cymru.

Nick Bourne: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r Gweinidog am yr ymateb hwnnw. Yr ydym eisoes wedi cyffwrdd â mater uno heddluoedd, a gwn eich bod wedi arddel safbwynt cadarn ar hynny, sy'n cael cefnogaeth eang yn y Cynulliad. Pan fyddwch yn cyflwyno ymateb Charles Clarke i'r Cynulliad, a fydddech yn ei ystyried yn ddefnyddiol pe byddem yn cynnal pleidlais ar eich cynigion i ohirio hyn am flwyddyn ac na ddylai Cymru ysgwyddo'r gost, gan fod nifer yn cytuno â hynny? Byddai pleidlais unfrydol yn y Cynulliad yn anfon neges glir at yr Ysgrifennydd Cartref, a bwrw y bydd y gwaethaf yn digwydd ac na chawn yr ateb ffafriol yr ydym yn gobeithio'i gael.

Edwina Hart: Diolch. Fy nghyd-Weinidog, y Trefnydd, yn amlwg sy'n trefnu busnes yn y Cynulliad. Fodd bynnag, byddaf yn gwneud datganiad maes o law, a bydd yn rhaid inni ystyried dymuniadau'r Cynulliad ynglŷn ag unrhyw ddadleuon yn y dyfodol.

Jocelyn Davies: Beth yw eich barn am y newyddion, yn ôl adroddiad a gomisiynwyd gennych ar draul trethdalwyr, fod un o'ch cynlluniau blaenllaw, Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, wedi cael unrhyw effaith sylweddol yn ystod ei dair blynedd cyntaf? Pam yr ydych wedi gwrthod cyhoeddi'r ddogfen honno, a phryd y bwriadwch sicrhau ei bod ar gael i'r cyhoedd?

Edwina Hart: Nid wyf erioed wedi gwrthod cyhoeddi unrhyw ddogfen. Cyhoeddir gwerthusiad interim o raglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn yr haf, a bydd dadl lawn ac agored ar y materion. Bu cryn ddamcaniaethu am Gymunedau yn Gyntaf. Fodd bynnag, dylem i gyd gydnabod nad prosiect adfywio ffisegol mohono. Nid dyna ydyw o gwbl; mae'n ymwneud â phobl, cymunedau a gallu. Gan mai rhaglen 10 mlynedd ydyw, yr wyf yn

and capacity. As it is a 10-year programme, I am relatively satisfied with the progress that has been made.

Mick Bates: New figures released by the Department for Work and Pensions reveal that 28 per cent of children in Wales live in relative income poverty, despite all of your efforts to tackle the problem in recent years. Do you agree that this is a poor reflection on your Government's ability to tackle child poverty in Wales?

Edwina Hart: No. I think that there have been improvements across the piece with regard to the statistics on child poverty. It is important to recognise that we wish to eradicate child poverty, and I assure you that Government policy across all portfolios is geared in that direction.

Mick Bates: That is not borne out by the evidence of those figures or by the Cambridge Policy Consultants' report, which Jocelyn Davies referred to earlier. It is worth reminding you that, to date, you have spent £131 million on Communities First. Do you agree that the first failing of Communities First is that you raised unrealistic expectations? Do you also agree that it is being hindered by infighting, interference from local authorities and a lack of key players to push the schemes forward?

Edwina Hart: I will put to rest some of the mythology surrounding the report by the Cambridge Policy Consultants. They came to the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee on 6 July 2005. The report said:

'This is a long-term process, and does not always prove easy. On both counts, the experience so far suggests that there will be some regeneration outcomes in the period of this evaluation and some strong messages about how to develop better partnership working in its widest sense. Changes in attitudes and the culture of organisations will then deliver regeneration action plans that are not the traditional top-down regeneration strategies seen in the past but are ones that embody the very laudable and innovative

weddol fodlon ar y cynnydd a wnaethpwyd.

Mick Bates: Mae ffigurau newydd a ryddhawyd gan yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau yn dangos bod 28 y cant o blant Cymru yn byw mewn tlodi cymharol o ran incwm, er eich holl ymdrechion i fynd i'r afael â'r broblem yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf. A ydych yn cytuno bod hyn yn adlewyrchiad gwael ar allu eich Llywodraeth i fynd i'r afael â thlodi ymhlith plant yng Nghymru?

Edwina Hart: Nac ydwyf. Credaf fod gwelliannau cyffredinol wedi bod yn yr ystadegau ar dlodi ymhlith plant. Mae'n bwysig cydnabod ein bod am ddileu tlodi ymhlith plant, a gallaf eich sicrhau bod polisi'r Llywodraeth ar draws pob portffolio yn anelu at wireddu hynny.

Mick Bates: Nid yw tystiolaeth y ffigurau hynny na'r adroddiad gan Ymgynghorwyr Polisi Caer-grawnt, y cyfeiriodd Jocelyn Davies ato yn gynharach, yn dangos hynny. Mae'n werth eich atgoffa eich bod wedi gwario £131 miliwn hyd yn hyn ar Gymunedau yn Gyntaf. A gytunwch mai methiant cyntaf Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yw eich bod wedi codi disgwyliadau afrealistig? A gytunwch hefyd ei fod yn cael ei rwystro gan ymgecro, ymyrryd gan awdurdodau lleol a diffyg chwaraewyr allweddol i hyrwyddo'r cynlluniau?

Edwina Hart: Rhoddaf derfyn ar rywffaint o'r fytholeg am yr adroddiad gan Ymgynghorwyr Polisi Caer-grawnt. Daethant i gyfarfod y Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio ar 6 Gorffennaf 2005. Yn ôl yr adroddiad:

Mae hon yn broses hirdymor, ac nid yw'n hawdd bob amser. Yn y ddau ystyr, mae'r profiad hyd yn hyn yn awgrymu y bydd rhai canlyniadau adfywio yn ystod cyfnod y gwerthusiad hwn, a rhai negeseuon cryf am y ffordd i ddatblygu gwell gwaith partneriaeth yn ei ystyr ehangaf. Yna bydd newidiadau yn agweddau a diwylliant sefydliadau yn darparu cynlluniau gweithredu adfywio nad ydynt yn debyg i'r strategaethau adfywio traddodiadol o'r brig i lawr a welwyd yn y gorffennol, ond yn gynlluniau sy'n

principles of Communities First.’

That was the view of the Cambridge Policy Consultants on things that were put into the public domain. I wish to be clear; there may be problems in some Communities First partnerships as not everyone gets on, there may be difficulties with local authorities, and not everyone enjoys harmonious relationships, but the challenge of Communities First across the piece is to get it right in as many places as possible. It is interesting that when you go to speak to communities, especially when there is no issue with regard to who is getting what money and they are working together, they will say that this is a good bottom-up approach that is starting to pay dividends.

ymgorffori'r egwyddorion canmoladwy ac arloesol iawn yn Cymunedau yn Gyntaf.

Dyna farn Ymgynghorwyr Polisi Caergrawnt am bethau a gyhoeddwyd. Dymunaf fod yn glir; efallai fod problemau mewn rhai partneriaethau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf gan nad yw pawb yn cyd-dynnu, efallai fod anawsterau gydag awdurdodau lleol, ac nid oes gan perthynas gytûn rhwng pawb. Ond her Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn gyffredinol yw taro deuddeg mewn cynifer o fannau â phosibl. Mae'n ddiddorol sylwi, pan fyddwch yn siarad â chymunedau, yn enwedig pan nad oes problem o ran pwy sy'n cael pa swm o arian a'u bod yn cydweithio, y byddant yn dweud bod hwn yn ddull da o'r gwaelod i fyny, sy'n dechrau dwyn ffrwyth

Tlodi Ymhlith Plant Child Poverty

Q7 Lynne Neagle: Will the Minister provide an update on her work in tackling child poverty in Wales? OAQ0609(SJR)

C7 Lynne Neagle: A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am ei gwaith yn mynd i'r afael â thlodi ymhlith plant yng Nghymru? OAQ0609(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Lead responsibility for our child poverty strategy, 'A Fair Future for our Children', lies with my department. The Deputy Minister with responsibility for communities is developing an implementation plan comprising a wide range of policy proposals aimed at addressing the causes of child poverty in Wales.

Edwina Hart: Fy adran i sy'n bennaf cyfrifol am ein strategaeth tlodi ymhlith plant, sef 'Dyfodol Teg i'n Plant'. Mae'r Dirprwy Weinidog sydd â chyfrifoldeb dros gymunedau yn datblygu cynllun gweithredu sy'n cynnwys amrywiaeth eang o gynigion polisi sydd â'r nod o fynd i'r afael ag achosion o dlodi ymhlith plant yng Nghymru.

Lynne Neagle: I am sure that you agree that only Welsh Labour has a true social justice agenda that can help to deliver the eradication of child poverty. The New Policy Institute highlights the progress made in Wales in recent years in this area. However, we cannot stand still with such difficult problems to crack. Minister, what is the timescale for the launch of the implementation plan and for getting that plan up and running, and what other future policy initiatives do you foresee as contributing to our work on child poverty?

Lynne Neagle: Yr wyf yn siŵr y cytunwch mai dim ond Llafur Cymru sydd ag agenda cyfiawnder cymdeithasol wirioneddol a all helpu i ddileu tlodi ymhlith plant. Mae Sefydliad Polisi Newydd yn amlygu'r cynnydd a wnaed yn y maes hwn yng Nghymru yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Fodd bynnag, ni allwn laesu dwylo pan fydd problemau mor anod i fynd i'r afael â hwy. Weinidog, beth yw'r amserlen ar gyfer lansio'r cynllun gweithredu a rhoi'r cynllun hwnnw ar waith, a pha fentrau polisi eraill yr ydych yn eu rhagweld yn y dyfodol a fydd yn cyfrannu at ein gwaith ym maes tlodi ymhlith plant?

Edwina Hart: I hope that the implementation plan will be up and running

Edwina Hart: Gobeithiaf y bydd y cynllun gweithredu ar waith erbyn yr haf. Mae'n

by the summer. It is important that we use it as an implementation plan, and my Deputy Minister has been working hard on practical and pragmatic ways of taking the agenda forward.

Given the statistics for child poverty, we want things to improve, but the recent Joseph Rowntree Foundation report showed that, thanks to sizeable falls in recent years, the proportion of children living in low-income households in Wales is now the same as the average for the UK as a whole, which is an improvement.

Leanne Wood: Many of the tools available to tackle child poverty remain the responsibility of the Westminster Government, and there has been an attempt to reduce child poverty by promoting the benefits of work. However, what would you say to those parents on benefits who have large families who could be worse off financially if they were to give up their benefits to take up a low-paid job? While child poverty may have been reduced, as you said, the children in the deepest poverty are those who are in families where the parents are not in work. What discussions have you had with your Westminster colleagues about lifting those children out of poverty whose parents are dependent on benefits?

Edwina Hart: We certainly work with the UK Government to look at all measures that will help to take children out of poverty. Obviously, I cannot comment on the benefit system as it is not a devolved matter.

Leanne Wood: It may not be a devolved matter, but it is clearly a matter that impacts on children in Wales. Another report has come out today that says that people who are seeking advice on benefits and unemployment are unable to get through to the relevant Government departments—21 million calls to Government call centres went unanswered last year. This results in long waits for claims, and it clearly impacts on child poverty. I accept that it is not a devolved matter, but, as it impacts on

bwysig ein bod yn ei ddefnyddio fel cynllun gweithredu, a bu fy Nirprwy Weinidog yn gweithio'n galed ar ffyrdd ymarferol a phragmatig o hyrwyddo'r agenda.

O ystyried yr ystadegau ar gyfer tlodi ymhlith plant, yr ydym am i bethau wella, ond dangosodd adroddiad diweddar Sefydliad Joseph Rowntree, diolch i ostyngiadau sylweddol yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf, fod cyfran y plant sy'n byw mewn cartrefi incwm isel yng Nghymru yr un peth â'r cyfartaledd ar gyfer y DU gyfan bellach, sy'n welliant.

Leanne Wood: Llywodraeth San Steffan sy'n parhau yn gyfrifol am lawer o'r dulliau sydd ar gael i fynd i'r afael â thlodi ymhlith plant, a gwnaed ymdrech i leihau tlodi ymhlith plant drwy hyrwyddo manteision gwaith. Fodd bynnag, beth fydddech yn ei ddweud wrth y rhieni hynny sy'n cael budd-daliadau ac sydd â theuluoedd mawr ac a allai fod ar eu colled yn ariannol pe baent yn rhoi'r gorau i gael budd-daliadau ac yn dechrau swydd ar gyflog isel? Er bod tlodi ymhlith plant wedi lleihau efallai, fel y dywedwch, y plant sy'n dioddef y tlodi gwaethaf yw'r rhieni sydd mewn teuluoedd lle nad yw'r rhieni'n gweithio. Pa drafodaethau a gawsoch gyda'ch cyd-aelodau yn San Steffan am ddod â'r plant hynny sydd â'u rhieni'n ddibynnol ar fudd-daliadau allan o dlodi?

Edwina Hart: Yr ydym yn sicr yn gweithio gyda Llywodraeth y DU i ystyried yr holl fesurau a fydd yn helpu dod â phlant allan o dlodi. Yn amlwg, ni allaf wneud sylw am y system budd-daliadau gan nad yw'n fater sydd wedi ei ddatganoli.

Leanne Wood: Efallai nad yw'n fater sydd wedi ei ddatganoli, ond mae'n amlwg yn fater sy'n effeithio ar blant yng Nghymru. Cyhoeddwyd adroddiad arall heddiw sy'n dweud bod pobl sy'n ceisio cyngor am fudd-daliadau a diweithdra yn methu cysylltu ag adrannau perthnasol y Llywodraeth—yr oedd 21 miliwn o alwadau i ganolfannau galwadau'r Llywodraeth heb eu hateb y llynedd. Mae hynny'n achosi aros yn hir am hawliadau, ac mae'n amlwg yn cael effaith ar dlodi ymhlith plant. Derbyniaf nad yw'n fater

children in Wales, would you be prepared to take the issue up with the relevant Ministers in the Department for Work and Pensions?

Edwina Hart: Now that you have raised that specific point with me, I would be more than happy to include it in my discussions with Wales Office Ministers.

sydd wedi ei ddatganoli, ond gan ei fod yn effeithio ar blant yng Nghymru, a fydddech yn barod i drafod y mater hwn gyda'r Gweinidogion perthnasol yn yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau?

Edwina Hart: Gan eich bod wedi codi'r mater penodol hwnnw gyda mi, byddwn yn fwy na pharod i'w gynnwys yn fy nhrafodaethau gyda Gweinidogion Swyddfa Cymru.

Polisiau Adfywio Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru Welsh Assembly Government Regeneration Policies

Q8 David Melding: Will the Minister outline how the Welsh Assembly Government's regeneration policies are benefiting Wales? OAQ0627(SJR)

Edwina Hart: The Welsh Assembly Government is taking a strategic approach to regeneration in Wales. This includes the setting up of the Heads of the Valleys partnership, the six ministerial-led groups implementing the Wales spatial plan and the Communities First initiative.

David Melding: Do you agree with me that we are not building enough homes at the moment, particularly affordable homes? This has a disastrous effect on the mobility of labour, and it also fails to regenerate communities to their full potential, not least because the building industry adds so much to the local economy.

Edwina Hart: I concur that the building of houses does add much to a local economy, and it requires many skills that are also important in a local economy. We are looking at the issue of affordable houses, and I think that it is essential that we continue to prioritise this as part of Government policy.

Alun Ffred Jones: Cyhoeddwyd adroddiad heddiw gan Arsyllfa Wledig Cymru ar dlodi ac eithrio cymdeithasol yng nghefn gwlad Cymru. Mae'r adroddiad yn dangos patrwm tebyg, o ran tlodi, mewn ardaloedd yng ngogledd-orllewin Cymru, de-orllewin Cymru ac yn y Cymoedd, sy'n groes i'r patrwm sydd i'w weld yn y mynegai amddifadedd a gyhoeddwyd gennych. Gwn nad ydych wedi cael cyfle i weld yr

C8 David Melding: A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu sut y mae polisiau adfywio Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn dod â budd i Gymru? OAQ0627(SJR)

Edwina Hart: Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn mabwysiadu ymagwedd strategol tuag at adfywio yng Nghymru. Mae hyn yn cynnwys sefydlu partneriaeth Blaenau'r Cymoedd, y chwe grŵp a arweinir gan weinidogion sy'n gweithredu cynllun gofodol Cymru a menter Cymunedau yn Gyntaf.

David Melding: A gytunwch â mi nad ydym yn adeiladu digon o gartrefi ar hyn o bryd, yn enwedig tai fforddiadwy? Caiff hyn effaith drychinebus ar allu pobl i symud i gael gwaith, ac mae hefyd yn methu ag adfywio cymunedau i'w llawn potensial, yn bennaf gan fod y diwydiant adeiladu yn ychwanegu cymaint at yr economi leol.

Edwina Hart: Cytunaf fod adeiladu tai yn ychwanegu llawer at economi leol, ac mae angen llawer o sgiliau sydd hefyd yn bwysig mewn economi leol. Yr ydym yn ystyried y mater o ran tai fforddiadwy, a chredaf ei bod yn hanfodol inni barhau i flaenoriaethu hyn fel rhan o bolisi'r Llywodraeth.

Alun Ffred Jones: The Wales Rural Observatory published a report today on poverty and social exclusion in rural Wales. The report portrays a similar pattern, with regard to poverty, in parts of north-west Wales, south-west Wales and in the Valleys, which contradicts the pattern that is depicted in the deprivation index that you published. I know that you will not have had the opportunity to see this report, but will you

adroddiad hwn, ond a wnewch ei ystyried a dod ag ymateb i'r pwyllgor perthnasol maes o law?

Edwina Hart: Obviously, I have not had an opportunity to consider that report, but it is one of the reports that I will read, and I am more than happy to take it to my committee.

consider it and return to the appropriate committee with a response in due course?

Edwina Hart: Yn amlwg, nid wyf wedi cael cyfle i ystyried yr adroddiad hwnnw, ond mae'n un o'r adroddiadau y byddaf yn eu darllen, ac yr wyf yn ddigon fodlon ei gyflwyno i'm pwyllgor.

2.30 p.m.

Lleihau Camddefnyddio Sylweddau yn y Gogledd Reducing Substance Abuse in North Wales

Q9 Brynle Williams: Will the Minister make a statement on strategies to reduce substance abuse in north Wales? OAQ0614(SJR)

C9 Brynle Williams: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am strategaethau i leihau camddefnyddio sylweddau yn y Gogledd? OAQ0614(SJR)

Edwina Hart: The Welsh strategy to tackle substance misuse is contained in the document 'Tackling Substance Misuse in Wales: A Partnership Approach'. The 22 community safety partnerships in Wales are taking it forward at a local level.

Edwina Hart: Mae strategaeth Cymru ar gyfer mynd i'r afael â chamddefnyddio sylweddau i'w gweld yn y ddogfen 'Delio â Chamddefnyddio Sylweddau yng Nghymru: Y Dull Partneriaeth'. Mae'r 22 o bartneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol yng Nghymru yn bwrw ymlaen â hi ar lefel leol.

Brynle Williams: The recently published International Narcotics Control Board report highlighted changes in trends of substance misuse in the UK and singled out the use of methamphetamine as the greatest emerging drug problem. What assurances can you give that the drug treatment services in north Wales are adapting to face the changes that are highlighted in the report, and are adequately prepared for increased methamphetamine use?

Brynle Williams: Yr oedd yr adroddiad a gyhoeddwyd yn ddiweddar gan y Bwrdd Rheoli Cyffuriau Rhyngwladol yn tynnu sylw at newidiadau mewn tueddiadau camddefnyddio sylweddau yn y DU, a soniai'n benodol am ddefnyddio methamffetamin fel y broblem gyffuriau fwyaf sy'n datblygu. Pa sicrwydd y gallwch ei roi bod y gwasanaethau trin cyffuriau yn y gogledd yn addasu i wynebu'r newidiadau y mae'r adroddiad yn tynnu sylw ataynt, a'u bod wedi paratoi'n ddigonol ar gyfer cynnydd mewn defnyddio fethamffetaminau?

Edwina Hart: It is interesting that you have raised this point today, because, in committee, we have been looking at the crack cocaine issue and at which drugs are replacing which on the streets. Obviously, I will take the point that you raised into account, but, since 2003, £4.6 million has been allocated from the substance misuse fund to help to deliver services in north Wales. I assure you that the people whom I deal with in this sector are very much on top of the issues and of what is required.

Edwina Hart: Mae'n ddiddorol eich bod wedi codi'r pwynt hwn heddiw, oherwydd yn y pwyllgor buom yn edrych ar broblem crac cocên ac ar ba gyffuriau sy'n cymryd lle rhai eraill ar y strydoedd. Wrth gwrs, byddaf yn ystyried y pwynt a godwyd gennych, ond er 2003 dyrannwyd £4.6 miliwn o'r gronfa camddefnyddio cyffuriau i helpu darparu gwasanaethau yn y gogledd. Gallaf eich sicrhau bod y bobl yr wyf yn ymwneud â hwy yn y sector hwn yn mynd i'r afael â'r materion ac â'r hyn sy'n angenrheidiol.

Janet Ryder: While drug use is increasing, you are watching over a system that is allowing in-patient treatment to decline in north Wales. For example, in north Wales, over the next two years, we are going to lose seven of the original 20 contracted beds for drug detox treatment. What work, if any, is being done to establish how much capacity is required throughout Wales, but particularly in north Wales, and when will that work be completed?

Janet Ryder: Tra mae defnyddio cyffuriau ar gynydd, yr ydych yn goruchwyllo system sy'n caniatáu i driniaeth cleifion mewnol ddirywio yn y gogledd. Er enghraifft, yn y gogledd, yn ystod y ddwy flynedd nesaf, byddwn yn colli saith o'r 20 o welyau gwreiddiol a gontractiwyd ar gyfer triniaeth dadwenwyno cyffuriau. Pa waith, os o gwbl, sy'n cael ei wneud i benderfynu faint o adnoddau sy'n angenrheidiol ledled Cymru, ond yn y gogledd yn arbennig, a phryd y cwblheir y gwaith hwnnw?

Edwina Hart: The community safety partnerships in north Wales are responsible for implementing the Welsh substance misuse strategy in their areas. We view what is going on in terms of which places are available and that is not just beds, but what type of treatment is available. I look regularly at capacity issues and, as a Government, we put substantial resources in to ensure better services.

Edwina Hart: Mae'r partneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol yn y gogledd yn gyfrifol am weithredu strategaeth camddefnyddio cyffuriau Cymru yn eu hardaloedd. Lluniwn farn ar yr hyn sy'n digwydd o ran pa leoedd sydd ar gael ac nid gwelyau'n unig yw hynny, ond pa fath o driniaeth sydd ar gael. Byddaf yn edrych yn rheolaidd ar faterion yn ymwneud ag adnoddau, ac fel Llywodraeth yr ydym yn dyrannu adnoddau sylweddol i sicrhau gwell gwasanaethau.

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

Gwasanaethau ar gyfer Teithwyr Trenau (Sir y Fflint) Services for Rail Passengers (Flintshire)

Q1 Sandy Mewies: What contribution is the Welsh Assembly Government making to the improvement of services for rail passengers in Flintshire? OAQ0727(EDT)

C1 Sandy Mewies: Pa gyfraniad y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ei wneud i wella gwasanaethau ar gyfer teithwyr trenau yn sir y Fflint? OAQ0727(EDT)

The Minister for Economic Development and Transport (Andrew Davies): Agreement has been reached with Flintshire County Council about funding for Flint railway station from the Assembly Government's transport grant. A number of other improvements for rail passengers in north Wales, supported by the Welsh Assembly Government, will also be of benefit to passengers in Flintshire.

Y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth (Andrew Davies): Cafwyd cytundeb gyda Chyngor Sir y Fflint ynghylch ariannu gorsaf reilffordd y Fflint drwy grant trafndiaeth Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Bydd nifer o welliannau eraill ar gyfer teithwyr trenau yn y gogledd, a gefnogir gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, hefyd o fudd i deithwyr yn sir y Fflint.

Sandy Mewies: You have mentioned the improvements that are going to happen at Flint station, which will make life much better for passengers, like me, who use the station regularly. Would you agree that partnerships between Assembly funding,

Sandy Mewies: Yr ydych wedi crybwyll y gwelliannau sydd i ddigwydd yng ngorsaf y Fflint, a fydd yn gwneud bywyd lawer yn haws i deithwyr, fel fi, sy'n defnyddio'r orsaf yn rheolaidd. A fydddech yn cytuno bod angen partneriaethau ariannu rhwng y Cynulliad, yr

local authority funding and Network Rail are needed, not just for services, but for infrastructure such as stations, to ensure that public transport is welcoming to those who use it and that it will support, enhance and encourage public transport use?

Andrew Davies: We work in partnership, not just with train operating companies, which would primarily mean Arriva Trains Wales, but also First Great Western in south Wales—I am meeting Moir Lockhead, the chief executive, later today—and Virgin Trains in north Wales, but with the transport consortia and the British Transport Police. I recently announced joint funding with Arriva Trains Wales and the transport police of an additional 21 community support officers to improve passenger and staff safety on the rail franchise in Wales. That is a good example of that partnership, as well as of improving the infrastructure, particularly in places such as Flint station, where we hope that work will start shortly.

Eleanor Burnham: I am pleased to hear that you are so supportive because I chair a little charity called Making Tracks in Colwyn Bay that works with the transport police on the matter of engaging youngsters. The other issue that I have in mind is, following the borderlands electrification workshop that was held with Taith on Monday in Clwyd Theatr Cymru, I believe that there are concerns about the possible lack of Welsh Assembly Government funding to bring this wonderful scheme to fruition, that is, electrification from Wrexham through Flintshire and onwards to Bidston. Will you be putting your full support behind this wonderful scheme?

Andrew Davies: The business case for the Wrexham-Bidston line has not been presented yet. We have been working with the various stakeholders, and I know, for example, that the Member of Parliament for Wrexham, Ian Lucas, has been in the forefront and leading consideration of this issue. I have been working with him and all the other stakeholders in looking at the business case, but until I receive that business case, I cannot say whether, as a Government,

awdurdod lleol a Network Rail, nid yn unig ar gyfer gwasanaethau, ond hefyd ar gyfer seilwaith megis gorsafoedd, er mwyn sicrhau bod cludiant cyhoeddus yn groesawgar i'r rheini hynny sy'n ei ddefnyddio ac y bydd yn cynorthwyo, yn gwella ac yn annog defnyddio cludiant cyhoeddus?

Andrew Davies: Yr ydym yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth, nid yn unig gyda chwmnïau trenau, sef Trenau Arriva Cymru yn bennaf, ond hefyd First Great Western yn y debyddaf wyf yn cyfarfod â Moir Lockhead, y prif weithredwr, yn ddiweddarach heddiw-a Threnau Virgin yn y gogledd, ond hefyd gyda'r consortia cludiant a Heddlu Trafnidiaeth Prydain. Cyhoeddais yn ddiweddar ein bod, ar y cyd â Threnau Arriva Cymru a'r heddlu trafndiaeth, yn ariannu 21 o swyddogion cymorth cymunedol ychwanegol i wella diogelwch teithwyr a staff ar y fasnachfaint rheilffyrdd yng Nghymru. Mae hynny'n enghraifft dda o'r bartneriaeth honno, yn ogystal â gwella'r seilwaith, yn arbennig mewn mannau fel gorsaf y Fflint, lle y bydd gwaith yn dechrau'n fuan, gobeithio.

Eleanor Burnham: Yr wyf yn falch o glywed eich bod mor gefnogol, oherwydd yr wyf yn cadeirio elusen fach o'r enw Making Tracks ym Mae Colwyn sy'n gweithio gyda'r heddlu cludiant i ymgysylltu â phobl ifanc. Y mater arall sydd gennyf i'w godi yw, ar ôl gweithdy trydaneiddio'r gororau a gynhaliwyd gyda Taith ddydd Llun yn Clwyd Theatr Cymru, credaf fod pryderon ynghylch y prinder arian posibl gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i sicrhau bod y cynllun gwych hwn yn dwyn ffrwyth, hynny yw, trydaneiddio o Wrecsam drwy sir y Fflint ac ymlaen i Bidston. A fyddwch yn rhoi eich cefnogaeth lawn i'r cynllun gwych hwn?

Andrew Davies: Nid yw'r achos busnes ar gyfer llinell Wrecsam-Bidston wedi ei gyflwyno eto. Yr ydym wedi bod yn gweithio gyda rhanddeiliaid amrywiol a gwn, er enghraifft, fod Ian Lucas, yr Aelod Seneddol dros Wrecsam, wedi bod ar flaen y gad ac yn arwain trafodaethau ar y mater hwn. Yr wyf wedi bod yn gweithio gydag ef a'r holl randdeiliaid eraill i edrych ar yr achos busnes, ond tan imi gael yr achos busnes hwnnw, ni allaf ddweud a allwn ei gefnogi,

we are able to support it. It is not just about the Assembly Government, of course; it would also involve negotiations with Network Rail.

Mark Isherwood: I have spoken to you in the past in support of that, therefore, that is encouraging. However, Arriva Trains Wales has stated that it believes that stations in north Wales have missed out on some of the investment opportunities that have benefited the rest of the franchise area, because of a lack of effective partnership between the train operator, the Welsh Assembly Government and local authorities. What lead will the Welsh Assembly Government be taking to remedy this situation, and how will it be moving things forward with Flintshire County Council?

Andrew Davies: If Arriva Trains Wales has specific concerns about north Wales, it has not raised them with me. We work closely with Arriva Trains Wales, and, indeed, Network Rail. Historically, in the previous franchise arrangements, before the Wales and the border franchise was established, there was considerable investment in south Wales. That was with the previous franchisee. We are committed to improving the rail infrastructure in north Wales and are working with Arriva Trains Wales, Network Rail and Taith, the transport consortium, to deal with some of the railway infrastructure problems. I have regular meetings with Arriva Trains Wales and we are taking this forward.

fel Llywodraeth. Nid mater i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad yn unig yw hyn, wrth gwrs; byddai hefyd yn golygu cael trafodaethau gyda Network Rail.

Mark Isherwood: Yr wyf wedi siarad o blaid hynny gyda chi yn y gorffennol, felly mae hynny'n galonogol. Fodd bynnag, mae Trenau Arriva Cymru wedi dweud ei fod yn credu bod gorsafoedd yn y gogledd wedi colli allan ar rai o'r cyfleoedd buddsoddi sydd wedi bod o fudd i weddill ardal y fasnachfaint, oherwydd diffyg partneriaeth effeithiol rhwng y cwmni trenau, Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ac awdurdodau lleol. Pa arweiniad y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ei roi er mwyn unioni'r sefyllfa hon, a sut y bydd yn symud pethau ymlaen gyda Chyngor Sir y Fflint?

Andrew Davies: Os oes gan Drenau Arriva Cymru bryderon penodol ynghylch y gogledd, nid yw wedi eu trafod gyda mi. Yr ydym yn cydweithio'n agos â Threnau Arriva Cymru, a Network Rail yn wir. Yn hanesyddol, yn y trefniadau masnachfaint blaenorol, cyn sefydlu masnachfaint Cymru a'r gororau, gwelwyd cryn fuddsoddi yn y de. Gwnaed hynny gyda deiliad blaenorol y fasnachfaint. Yr ydym wedi ymrwmo i wella'r seilwaith rheilffyrdd yn y gogledd ac yn cydweithio â Threnau Arriva Cymru, Network Rail a Taith, y consortiwm cludiant, i fynd i'r afael â rhai o broblemau'r seilwaith rheilffyrdd. Byddaf yn cael cyfarfodydd rheolaidd gyda Threnau Arriva Cymru ac yr ydym yn bwrw ymlaen â hyn.

Cyfarwyddeb REACH

The REACH Directive

Q2 Peter Black: What discussions has the Minister had with Welsh businesses regarding the impact of the registration, evaluation and authorisation of chemicals (REACH) directive? OAQ0740(EDT)

Andrew Davies: I have had no direct discussions with businesses on this issue, however my officials have engaged with Welsh industry through a number of different meetings and facilitation exercises. The Assembly Government is currently considering arrangements for an industry-led

C2 Peter Black: Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi eu cael gyda busnesau Cymru ynghylch effaith y gyfarwyddeb cofrestru, gwerthuso ac awdurdodi cemegau (REACH)? OAQ0740(EDT)

Andrew Davies: Nid wyf wedi cael dim trafodaethau uniongyrchol gyda busnesau ar y mater hwn, ond mae fy swyddogion wedi ymgysylltu â diwydiant Cymru drwy nifer o wahanol gyfarfodydd ac ymarferion hwyluso. Ar hyn o bryd mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ystyried trefniadau ar gyfer grŵp ffocws

focus group to provide a forum for regular engagement.

Peter Black: Thank you for that answer, Minister. I am disappointed that you have not had any discussions on this. I ask you to talk to INCO in Clydach, which is concerned about the impact of this directive on its business, because it both imports and exports raw materials. It feels that it will be taxed twice as a result of this directive, and that, as a result, its jobs and business will be exported to Canada. Could you please talk to it about this to see whether the Assembly Government can assist?

Andrew Davies: While I have not had a meeting with INCO about this issue, I had a previous meeting with the company about the implications of the EU battery directive on its operations, and I think that it has been grateful for the amount of support we have given and for our lobbying of the UK Government, which we believe has helped influence EU legislation. INCO has been consulted as part of the REACH consultation exercise, along with companies such as Dow Corning, which is just down the road in Barry. Therefore, while I have not met anyone from the company, my officials have done so on a regular basis and, certainly, we will be using the information provided to ensure, as far as we can, that the implementation of REACH does not disadvantage the chemical industry in Wales.

David Lloyd: Nid oes rheidrwydd i ddarparu gwybodaeth iechyd a diogelwch am gemegau o dan REACH. A ydych yn hapus gyda'r sefyllfa honno?

Andrew Davies: This is one of the issues that officials are working on, not just from my department, but from that of Carwyn Jones. We are working jointly on this and on what the implications are. This is a major piece of legislation. At the moment, the proposed regime replaces 40 pieces of existing legislation, and this will act—particularly now, with an enlarged EU—as a single regulatory framework for the handling and the registration of chemicals. Clearly, we will need to look at the health and safety

dan arweiniad y diwydiant a fyddai'n fforwm ar gyfer ymgysylltu rheolaidd.

Peter Black: Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. Yr wyf yn siomedig nad ydych wedi trafod hyn o gwbl. Gofynnaf ichi siarad â chwmni INCO yng Nghlydach, sy'n pryderu ynghylch effaith y gyfarwyddeb hon ar ei fusnes, gan ei fod yn mewnforio ac yn allforio deunyddiau crai. Teimla y caiff ei drethu ddwywaith oherwydd y gyfarwyddeb hon, ac o ganlyniad bydd ei swyddi a'i fusnes yn cael eu hallforio i Ganada. A fydddech yn fodlon siarad â'r cwmni am hyn i weld pa un a all Llywodraeth y Cynulliad fod o gymorth iddo?

Andrew Davies: Er nad wyf wedi cyfarfod ag INCO ynghylch y mater hwn, cefais gyfarfod blaenorol gyda'r cwmni ynghylch goblygiadau cyfarwyddeb batris yr UE i'w weithrediadau, a chredaf fod y cwmni'n ddiolchgar inni am y cymorth a roesom ac am ein gwaith yn lobbio Llywodraeth y DU. Credwn fod hynny wedi helpu dylanwadu ar ddeddfwriaeth yr UE. Ymgynghorwyd ag INCO fel rhan o ymarfer ymgynghori REACH, ynghyd â chwmnïau fel Dow Corning, sydd daflriad carreg i ffwrdd yn y Barri. Felly, er nad wyf wedi cyfarfod â neb o'r cwmni, mae fy swyddogion wedi gwneud hynny'n rheolaidd, a byddwn yn sicr yn defnyddio'r wybodaeth a gafwyd i sicrhau, cyn belled ag y gallwn, nad yw gweithredu REACH yn rhoi'r diwydiant cemegau yng Nghymru o dan anfantaes.

David Lloyd: Under REACH, there is no obligation to provide health and safety guidance on chemicals. Are you happy with that situation?

Andrew Davies: Dyma un o'r materion y mae swyddogion yn gweithio arno, nid yn unig o'm hadran i, ond hefyd o adran Carwyn Jones. Yr ydym yn cydweithio ar hyn ac ar y goblygiadau. Mae hwn yn ddarn pwysig o ddeddfwriaeth. Ar hyn o bryd, mae'r gyfundrefn arfaethedig yn disodli 40 o ddarnau o ddeddfwriaeth sy'n bodoli eisoes, a bydd yn gweithredu—yn enwedig yn awr gan fod yr UE yn fwy—fel un fframwaith rheoliadol ar gyfer trin a thrafod a chofrestru cemegau. Yn amlwg bydd angen inni edrych

implications of that. Health and safety concerns are one of the driving forces behind the REACH legislation.

ar oblygiadau iechyd a diogelwch hynny. Pryderon ynghylch iechyd a diogelwch sy'n rhannol gyfrifol am lunio deddfwriaeth REACH.

2.40 p.m.

Lisa Francis: European commissioner Günter Verheugen said last January that it would be very important to ensure that small and medium-sized enterprises were well up to speed in the implementation of the new system, and received proper guidance. You mentioned that your officials are involved in talks and meetings. Can you give us an idea of what they will do specifically to help small businesses in Wales to ensure that they are not left behind in this matter?

Lisa Francis: Fis Ionawr diwethaf dywedodd Günter Verheugen, y comisiynydd Ewropeaidd, y byddai'n bwysig iawn sicrhau bod busnesau bach a chanolig yn gweithredu'r system newydd mewn da bryd, a'u bod yn cael canllawiau priodol. Soniech fod eich swyddogion yn cynnal trafodaethau a chyfarfodydd. A allwch roi syniad inni o'r hyn y byddant yn ei wneud yn benodol i helpu busnesau bach yng Nghymru i sicrhau na fyddant ar ei hôl hi o ran y mater hwn?

Andrew Davies: One of our concerns is that while it may be fairly easy to engage with the large companies—the INCOs and the Dow Corning of the world—SMEs might have much more of a problem in dealing with the proposed legislation. My officials and those of Carwyn Jones have been at great pains to engage with small and medium-sized enterprises to ensure that their views and interests are represented.

Andrew Davies: Un o'n pryderon yw'r ffaith, er ei bod yn weddol hawdd ymgysylltu â'r cwmnïau mawr—INCOs a Dow Corning y byd—y gallai fod lawer yn anoddach i fusnesau bach a chanolig ymdrin â'r ddeddfwriaeth arfaethedig. Mae fy swyddogion i a swyddogion Carwyn Jones wedi ymdrechu'n galed i ymgysylltu â busnesau bach a chanolig i sicrhau bod eu barn a'u buddiannau yn cael eu cynrychioli.

Hybu Twf Busnesau (Sir y Fflint) Encouraging Business Growth (Flintshire)

Q3 Sandy Mewies: Will the Minister make a statement on encouraging business growth in Flintshire? OAQ0728(EDT)

C3 Sandy Mewies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am hybu twf busnesau yn sir y Fflint? OAQ0728(EDT)

Andrew Davies: 'Wales: A Vibrant Economy' sets out our vision for strong and sustainable growth, and for further increases in employment and earnings throughout Wales. Achievements in Flintshire include a 21 per cent increase in new VAT registrations between 1999 and 2004, a larger rise than for Wales as a whole.

Andrew Davies: Mae 'Cymru: Economi yn Ffyfnu' yn gosod allan ein gweledigaeth ar gyfer twf cadarn a chynaliadwy, ac ar gyfer cynyddu ymhellach gyflogaeth ac enillion ledled Cymru. Ymhlith yr hyn a gyflawnwyd yn sir y Fflint mae cynnydd o 21 y cant mewn cofrestriadau TAW newydd rhwng 1999 a 2004, cynnydd uwch nag a gafwyd yng Nghymru gyfan.

Sandy Mewies: What specific support is being given to encourage manufacturing in Flintshire?

Sandy Mewies: Pa gymorth penodol sy'n cael ei roi i annog gweithgynhyrchu yn sir y Fflint?

Andrew Davies: We have an extensive range of business support measures, for example, regional selective assistance and the Assembly investment grant on the financial

Andrew Davies: Mae gennym ystod eang o fesurau cymorth busnes, er enghraifft, cymorth rhanbarthol dewisol a grant buddsoddi'r Cynulliad ar yr ochr ariannol. O

side. Given the problems of the manufacturing sector in general—not just in Wales, but particularly in the UK and the European Union—Flintshire is the only part of Wales that has seen an increase in manufacturing employment since 1999. That is, to a large extent, with the support of the Assembly Government. Most recently, you will be aware of the £5.2 million regional selective assistance offer made to Airbus UK to create an additional 650 jobs. It is a good example of the focused support that we are able to give to a company such as Airbus UK, as well as other manufacturing companies.

Janet Ryder: You are right to say that Flintshire is perhaps the only area in north Wales that shows any growth. It is not showing the same amount of growth as regions in England, and if you look at other areas of north Wales, the numbers of businesses registered for VAT have declined in Gwynedd and Anglesey, and Denbighshire and Conwy have stood still. What on earth will you do to turn around your economic programme to ensure that the whole of north Wales benefits, and that all of the regions see job growth?

Andrew Davies: Yesterday, Alun Ffred was hanging out the begging bowl on numerous occasions and now we have Janet Ryder and Plaid whingeing for Wales again. The fall in manufacturing employment—[*Interruption.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order. One supplementary question at a time. The Minister is about to answer.

Alun Cairns *rose*—

The Presiding Officer: Order. You are not even in north Wales, Alun.

Brynle Williams: Airbus UK is one of the major employers in Flintshire, and we are pleased to have the industry there. Unfortunately, the planning regulations and other issues have meant that the expansion of businesses in Flintshire has not been matched by the housing capacity. What can you do to remedy this problem, which is holding back the growth of many successful businesses,

ystyried problemau'r sector gweithgynhyrchu yn gyffredinol—nid yn unig yng Nghymru, ond yn arbennig yn y DU a'r Undeb Ewropeaidd—sir y Fflint yw'r unig ardal yng Nghymru sydd wedi gweld cynnydd mewn cyflogaeth gweithgynhyrchu er 1999. Sicrhawyd hynny gyda chymorth Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, i raddau helaeth. Yn fwyaf diweddar, byddwch yn ymwybodol o'r cymorth rhanbarthol dewisol o £5.2 miliwn a gynigiwyd i Airbus UK i greu 650 o swyddi ychwanegol. Mae'n enghraifft dda o'r cymorth wedi'i dargedu y mae modd inni ei roi i gwmni fel Airbus UK, yn ogystal â chwmnïau gweithgynhyrchu eraill.

Janet Ryder: Yr ydych yn llygad eich lle pan ddywedwch mai sir y Fflint yw'r unig ardal yn y gogledd efallai sy'n dangos unrhyw dwf. Nid yw'n dangos yr un faint o dwf â rhanbarthau yn Lloegr, ac os edrychwch ar ardaloedd eraill yn y gogledd, mae nifer y busnesau sydd wedi cofrestru ar gyfer TAW wedi gostwng yng Ngwynedd ac yn Ynys Môn, ac mae sir Ddinbych a Chonwy wedi aros yn eu hunfan. Beth yn y byd a wnewch i drawsnewid eich rhaglen economaidd i sicrhau bod y gogledd i gyd yn elwa, a bod pob rhanbarth yn gweld cynnydd mewn swyddi?

Andrew Davies: Ddoe clywsom Alun Ffred yn gofyn droeon am arian a heddiw clywn Janet Ryder a'r Plaid yn swnian dros Gymru unwaith eto. Bu'r lleihad mewn cyflogaeth gweithgynhyrchu—[*Torri ar draws.*]

Llywydd: Trefn. Un cwestiwn atodol ar y tro. Mae'r Gweinidog ar fin ateb.

Alun Cairns *a gododd*—

Llywydd: Trefn. Nid ydych yn y gogledd hyd yn oed, Alun.

Brynle Williams: Mae Airbus UK yn un o brif gyflogwyr sir y Fflint, ac yr ydym yn falch o gael y diwydiant yno. Yn anffodus, mae'r rheoliadau cynllunio a materion eraill wedi golygu nad oes cynnydd wedi bod yn nifer y tai yn sir y Fflint i gyfateb ag ehangiad busnesau yno. Beth allwch ei wneud i unioni'r sefyllfa hon, sy'n atal twf sawl busnes llwyddiannus, nid yn unig yn sir

not just in Flintshire but in the whole of north Wales?

Andrew Davies: At that level, planning is not a matter for the Assembly Government—it is a matter for local authorities. We have looked at this issue in my regular meetings with Flintshire County Council on economic development and transport issues, particularly in the context of the Wales spatial plan and the need for increased housing. The council is aware of that, and although I do not lead on the spatial plan area in north Wales—Sue Essex does—it is an issue that is the subject of regular dialogue with Flintshire County Council and all local authorities in north Wales.

y Fflint ond ledled y gogledd?

Andrew Davies: Ar y lefel honno, nid mater i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad yw cynllunio—mater i awdurdodau lleol ydyw. Yr ydym wedi edrych ar y mater hwn yn fy nghyfarfodydd rheolaidd gyda Chyngor Sir y Fflint ar faterion trafnidiaeth a datblygu economaidd, yn arbennig yng nghyd-destun cynllun gofodol Cymru a'r angen am fwy o dai. Mae'r cyngor yn ymwybodol o hynny, ac er nad fi sy'n arwain ardal y cynllun gofodol yn y gogledd—Sue Essex sy'n gwneud—mae'n fater sy'n destun trafodaeth reolaidd gyda Chyngor Sir y Fflint a phob awdurdod lleol yn y gogledd.

Cynnal a Chadw Ffyrdd Road Maintenance

Q4 Kirsty Williams: What action is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to help local authorities to tackle the road maintenance backlog? OAQ0731(EDT)

C4 Kirsty Williams: Pa gamau gweithredu y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn eu cymryd i helpu awdurdodau lleol i fynd i'r afael â'r gwaith sydd wedi cronni o ran cynnal a chadw ffyrdd? OAQ0731(EDT)

Andrew Davies: The Welsh Assembly Government is developing with partners an objective measure of the local road maintenance backlog.

Andrew Davies: Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, gyda'i phartneriaid, yn datblygu mesur gwrthrychol o'r gwaith sydd wedi cronni o ran cynnal a chadw ffyrdd lleol.

The project commenced in October and will conclude this summer, making use of new survey technology, namely surface condition assessment for the national network of roads, known as SCANNER, for recording the surface condition of roads at traffic speed.

Dechreuodd y prosiect ym mis Hydref a bydd yn dod i ben yn yr haf eleni, ac mae'n defnyddio technoleg arolwg newydd, sef asesiad o gyflwr arwynebau'r rhwydwaith ffyrdd cenedlaethol, a elwir yn SCANNER, ar gyfer cofnodi cyflwr arwynebau ffyrdd yn unol â chyflymder traffig.

Kirsty Williams: Your own transport statistics, published last year, show that 25 per cent of A-class roads in Wales are already in poor condition or will need to be monitored closely over the next four years. You say that you have already begun the work of assessing the backlog, but the Welsh Local Government Association is concerned, given the current levels of funding going to local authorities, that there is very little that they will be able to do regarding the repairs that are needed once that work has been finished. What financial assistance can you give to local authorities?

Kirsty Williams: Dengys eich ystadegau trafnidiaeth eich hun, a gyhoeddwyd y llynedd, fod 25 y cant o ffyrdd dosbarth A yng Nghymru mewn cyflwr gwael eisoes neu y bydd angen eu monitro'n agos dros y pedair blynedd nesaf. Fe ddywedwch eich bod eisoes wedi dechrau'r gwaith o asesu'r gwaith sydd wedi cronni, ond mae Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru yn pryderu, o ystyried faint o arian a roddir i awdurdodau lleol ar hyn o bryd, mai ychydig iawn y bydd yn gallu ei wneud o ran y gwaith atgyweirio y bydd ei angen pan fydd y gwaith hwnnw wedi'i orffen. Pa gymorth ariannol y

gallwch ei roi i awdurdodau lleol?

Andrew Davies: I discussed this with individual local authorities, with the Welsh Local Government Association's transport spokespersons and all its cabinet members for highways at a recent conference. I said that we would need to have agreed objective evidence for the state of local roads before any decision on funding could be made.

Kirsty Williams: Powys County Council already has that evidence. The maintenance backlog in my county is growing at a rate of £3 million per annum, and it is estimated that the council will need between £30 million and £50 million to do something about the state of its A-class roads. Are you saying that you simply do not believe councils when they tell you these figures? What extra evidence will you be looking for before you come up with the cash?

Andrew Davies: It was agreed with the WLGA that this study should be commissioned, so it has been commissioned and it will report this summer. There will then be an agreed basis for my officials and me to go forward in consultation with the WLGA to make an assessment of any backlog in local road maintenance.

John Griffiths: I am pleased that you have had those discussions with local authorities, because there are considerable issues with the roads in Newport East and that backlog of repair. I know that the local authority feels that it has not had the resources to allow it to have a sensible programme of maintenance, which, in the long term, would be cost-effective. Do any special considerations apply to roads that have those defects and are also part of the national cycle route?

Andrew Davies: We would have to look at any special request that was over and above the funding that I already provide to local authorities for local road maintenance, which is part of the local government budget. However, if there is a particularly serious case, I will consider it, but any requests for additional funding would need to have a

Andrew Davies: Bûm yn trafod hyn gydag awdurdodau lleol unigol, gyda llefarwyr trafnidiaeth Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru a phob un o'i haelodau cabinet dros drafnidiaeth mewn cynhadledd yn ddiweddar. Dywedais y byddai angen inni gael tystiolaeth wrthrychol gytûn am gyflwr ffyrdd lleol cyn y gellid gwneud unrhyw benderfyniad ar arian.

Kirsty Williams: Mae gan Gyngor Sir Powys y dystiolaeth honno eisoes. Mae'r gwaith sydd wedi cronni ar gynnal a chadw ffyrdd yn fy sir yn tyfu £3 miliwn y flwyddyn, ac amcangyfrifir y bydd angen rhwng £30 miliwn a £50 miliwn ar y cyngor i wneud rhywbeth ynghylch cyflwr ei ffyrdd dosbarth A. A ydych yn dweud nad ydych, yn syml, yn credu cynghorau pan roddant y ffigurau hyn i chi? Pa dystiolaeth ychwanegol y byddwch yn disgwyl ei chael cyn ichi roi'r arian?

Andrew Davies: Cytunwyd gyda CLILC y dylid comisiynu'r astudiaeth hon. Felly, gwnaed hynny a bydd yn cael ei chyflwyno ar ffurf adroddiad yn yr haf eleni. O ganlyniad, bydd gan fy swyddogion a minnau sail gytûn ar gyfer ymgynghori â CLILC er mwyn asesu unrhyw waith sydd wedi cronni ar gynnal a chadw ffyrdd lleol.

John Griffiths: Yr wyf yn falch eich bod wedi cael y trafodaethau hynny gydag awdurdodau lleol, oherwydd mae yna broblemau sylweddol ar ffyrdd yn Nwyrain Casnewydd a'r gwaith atgyweirio hwnnw sydd wedi cronni. Gwn fod yr awdurdod lleol o'r farn nad yw wedi cael yr adnoddau i'w alluogi i gael rhaglen synhwyrol o gynnal a chadw a fyddai, yn y pen draw, yn gost effeithiol. A oes unrhyw ystyriaethau arbennig yn gymwys i ffyrdd lle mae'r diffygion hynny ac sydd hefyd yn rhan o'r llwybr seiclo cenedlaethol?

Andrew Davies: Byddai'n rhaid inni edrych ar unrhyw gais arbennig a oedd yn fwy na swm yr arian yr wyf yn ei roi i awdurdodau lleol eisoes ar gyfer cynnal a chadw ffyrdd lleol, sy'n rhan o'r gyllideb llywodraeth leol. Fodd bynnag, os oes achos difrifol iawn, gwnaf ei ystyried, ond byddai angen i unrhyw geisiadau am arian ychwanegol fod ar sail

sound basis.

Janet Davies: Whatever the figures are, we can all see the poor condition of the roads and I am sure that you would agree with me on that, Minister. Sometimes potholes are painted red, then yellow and then blue until you get a positive rainbow of colours around them. On the other hand, thanks to road safety funding, some parts of the road are well maintained and have road safety measures in place, but that leads to inequality when you go from one part of a road to another. You can have a lovely road but then you come across lumps and bumps and potholes that you could bury a sheep in. *[Interruption.]*

The Presiding Officer: Order.

Janet Davies: What are you doing to reconcile the inequalities in the condition of roads, often occurring within a short distance on the same road?

Andrew Davies: I am sorry, but I missed the last part.

The Presiding Officer: So did I, unfortunately. What is wrong with Members today? When you came into the new Chamber, there was a distinct improvement in your ability to listen, but that seems to have deteriorated. You must understand what will happen if Members persist in trying to ask supplementary questions when sitting down. When they next seek to ask a supplementary, I might not even see them—although, there is no way in which I cannot see people in this Chamber. Let us say that I might not recognise them. *[Laughter.]* Janet Davies, could you please repeat your question?

Janet Davies: I think that it was just the last bit that you missed, Minister. What are you going to do to reconcile these inequalities in roads within a close area? It is important that roads should be more consistent as you drive along.

Andrew Davies: I have responsibility for trunk roads in Wales, but local roads are a matter for the local authority. I do not agree with your statement that the roads are in poor

gadarn.

Janet Davies: Beth bynnag fo'r ffigurau, gallwn i gyd weld mor wael yw'r ffyrdd, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y byddech yn cytuno â mi ar hynny, Weinidog. Weithiau caiff tyllau yn y ffordd eu peintio'n goch, yna'n felyn ac yna'n las nes idynt fod yn bob lliw dan haul. Ar y llaw arall, diolch i arian ar gyfer diogelwch ar y ffyrdd, caiff rhai rhannau o'r ffordd eu cynnal a'u cadw'n dda a bydd mesurau diogelwch ar y ffyrdd ar waith. Ond mae hynny'n arwain at anghydraddoldeb pan ewch o un rhan o'r ffordd i un arall. Gallwch gael ffordd hyfryd, ond yna dewch ar draws tyllau ac ati y gallech gladdu dafad ynddynt. *[Torri ar draws.]*

Y Llywydd: Trefn.

Janet Davies: Beth ydych yn ei wneud i unioni'r anghydraddoldebau o ran cyflwr ffyrdd, sy'n digwydd yn aml o fewn pellter byr ar yr un ffordd?

Andrew Davies: Mae'n ddrwg gennyf, ond collais y rhan olaf.

Y Llywydd: A minnau, yn anffodus. Beth sy'n bod ar Aelodau heddiw? Pan ddaethoch i mewn i'r Siambr newydd, yr oedd gwelliant amlwg yn eich gallu i wrando, ond ymddengys ei fod wedi gwaethygu. Rhaid ichi ddeall beth fydd yn digwydd os bydd Aelodau'n dal i geisio gofyn cwestiynau atodol ar eu heistedd. Pan fyddant yn ceisio gofyn cwestiwn atodol y tro nesaf, efallai na fyddaf yn eu gweld hyd yn oed—er nad yw'n bosibl imi beidio â gweld pobl yn y Siambr hon. Gadewch inni ddweud efallai na fyddaf yn eu hadnabod. *[Chwerthin.]* Janet Davies, a allech ailadrodd eich cwestiwn, os gwelwch yn dda?

Janet Davies: Credaf mai dim ond y rhan olaf a gollwyd gennyh, Weinidog. Beth fyddwch chi'n ei wneud i unioni'r anghydraddoldebau hyn o ran ffyrdd o fewn pellter agos? Mae'n bwysig sicrhau bod ffyrdd yn fwy cyson wrth ichi yrru arnynt.

Andrew Davies: Yr wyf fi'n gyfrifol am gefnffyrdd yng Nghymru, ond yr awdurdod lleol sy'n gyfrifol am ffyrdd lleol. Ni chytunaf â'ch datganiad bod y ffyrdd mewn

condition. Having travelled throughout Europe, I know that trunk and local roads in Wales are in good condition.

2.50 p.m.

However, the WLGA makes a strong case that its local road maintenance backlog is growing. As I said in my response to Kirsty Williams, we need an agreed objective basis for deciding what deterioration there is, what backlog exists, and, if additional money is needed, what scale of improvement is needed. However, until I have that research, there is no basis on which I can make a decision.

Nick Bourne: I am glad that the Minister belatedly recognised that there is a backlog problem. He seemed to suggest that there was not and that things were improving, when that is not the case. If he were to speak to any local authority, he would find that out. Given that that is the case and given that I accept that he has responsibility only for the trunk roads, what is he saying to local authorities about the financial settlement, which has meant that many have had to cut back their budgets for this, as it is seen as a soft area? Powys is certainly an example. Many of these authorities—and Powys is again an example—have bad accident rates, partly because of the nature of the terrain and the fact that there are no dual carriageways and so on. How is the Minister making that a priority in reducing some of the dreadful accidents that we see in rural Wales, not least in Powys?

Andrew Davies: It is entirely a matter for local authorities to decide how they spend any grant or funding that we give them, whether on road maintenance, education, social services, housing or whatever. If an authority decides to give the indicative allocations that we have given for a particular purpose to another area of its policy delivery, that is a matter for the authority. However, if it does that, it cannot then come back to me and say that it needs additional money for local road maintenance.

cyflwr gwael. Ar ôl teithio ledled Ewrop, gwn fod cefnffyrdd a ffyrdd lleol yng Nghymru mewn cyflwr da.

Fodd bynnag, mae CLILC yn cyflwyno dadl gref fod y gwaith sydd wedi cronni o ran cynnal a chadw ffyrdd lleol yn tyfu. Fel y dywedais yn fy ymateb i Kirsty Williams, mae angen sail wrthrychol gytûn arnom i benderfynu pa gwaethygu sydd wedi digwydd, faint o waith sydd wedi cronni, ac os oes angen arian ychwanegol, faint o welliant sydd ei angen. Fodd bynnag, nes imi gael y gwaith ymchwil hwnnw, nid oes gennyf sail i allu gwneud penderfyniad.

Nick Bourne: Yr wyf yn falch fod y Gweinidog wedi cydnabod, yn hwyr, fod yna broblem o ran y gwaith sydd wedi cronni. Edrychai fel petai'n awgrymu nad oedd a bod pethau'n gwella, pan nad yw hynny'n wir. Pe byddai'n siarad ag unrhyw awdurdod lleol, byddai'n darganfod hynny. O ystyried mai dyna'r sefyllfa ac o ystyried fy mod yn derbyn ei fod yn gyfrifol am gefnffyrdd yn unig, beth y mae'n ei ddweud wrth awdurdodau lleol ynghylch y setliad ariannol, sydd wedi golygu bod nifer wedi gorfod cwtogi eu cyllidebau ar gyfer hyn oherwydd ei ystyried yn faes llai pwysig? Mae Powys yn un enghraifft. Mae gan nifer o'r awdurdodau hyn—ac mae Powys yn enghraifft unwaith eto—gyfraddau damweiniau gwael, yn rhannol oherwydd natur y tir a'r ffaith nad oes unrhyw ffyrdd deuol ac ati. Sut y mae'r Gweinidog yn rhoi blaenoriaeth i hynny o ran gostwng rhai o'r damweiniau erchyll a welir yng Nghymru wledig, ym Mhowys yn arbennig?

Andrew Davies: Awdurdodau lleol yn unig sy'n gyfrifol am benderfynu sut y maent yn gwario unrhyw grant neu arian a roddwn iddynt, boed ar gyfer cynnal a chadw ffyrdd, addysg, gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, tai neu beth bynnag. Os bydd awdurdod yn penderfynu rhoi'r dyraniadau dangosol a roddwyd gennym at ddiben penodol i faes arall o'i bolisi, mater i'r awdurdod yw hynny. Fodd bynnag, os yw'n gwneud hynny, ni all ofyn imi am arian ychwanegol ar gyfer cynnal a chadw ffyrdd lleol.

**Busnesau Bach a Chanolig eu Maint
Small and Medium-sized Enterprises**

Q5 Christine Gwyther: Will the Minister outline what action is being taken to assist small and medium-sized enterprises trading in the international markets?
OAQ0750(EDT)

Andrew Davies: A comprehensive range of services that have been held up as a role model to other UK regions is currently delivered by WalesTrade International. These are designed to support and to suit the individual needs of Welsh small and medium-sized enterprises in all key aspects of international trade development.

Christine Gwyther: As we are moving into the next period of Objective 1, which is now convergence funding, can you give me some indication of how you are contacting companies in west Wales and the Valleys to find out how they could best be supported by that new funding?

Andrew Davies: WalesTrade International has been successful in using the current Objective 1 funding that it has received through the export assist programme to help many companies throughout the Objective 1 region to increase their overseas trading capability. I have been on several trade missions, particularly to America, and have seen small companies able to break into the market on the basis of that financial support, which would not otherwise have been available to them. We feel that that programme has been successful, and we will extend that under the convergence programme. A full evaluation is being undertaken, but the early indications are that it has been successful and we would want to extend it.

Alun Cairns: Given the fact that the Welsh figures continue to decline in the index of production and the index of manufacturing, which has become a bit of a tradition under this administration and which obviously impacts on our ability to export, how successful would you say you have been in terms of exporting?

Andrew Davies: We have been very

C5 Christine Gwyther: A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu pa gamau a gymerir i gynorthwyo busnesau bach a chanolig eu maint i fasnachu mewn marchnadoedd rhyngwladol? OAQ0750(EDT)

Andrew Davies: Ar hyn o bryd caiff amrywiaeth gynhwysfawr o wasanaethau sy'n batrymau ardderchog i ranbarthau eraill yn y DU eu darparu gan MasnachCymru Rhyngwladol. Fe'u cynllunnir i gynorthwyo a diwallu anghenion unigol busnesau bach a chanolig yng Nghymru ym mhob agwedd allweddol ar ddatblygu masnach ryngwladol.

Christine Gwyther: Gan ein bod yn symud i mewn i gyfnod nesaf Amcan 1, sef arian cydgyfeirio yn awr, a allwch roi syniad imi sut yr ydych yn cysylltu â chwmnïau yn y gorllewin a'r Cymoedd i weld sut y gallai'r arian newydd hwnnw eu cynorthwyo yn y ffordd orau?

Andrew Davies: Mae MasnachCymru Rhyngwladol wedi bod yn llwyddiannus wrth ddefnyddio'r arian presennol Amcan 1 a gafodd drwy'r rhaglen cymorth allforio i helpu nifer o gwmnïau ledled rhanbarth Amcan 1 i gynyddu eu hadnoddau masnachu tramor. Yr wyf wedi bod ar lawer cenhadaeth fasnach, yn enwedig i America, ac wedi gweld cwmnïau bach yn llwyddo yn symud i mewn i'r farchnad ar sail y cymorth ariannol hwnnw, na fyddai wedi bod ar gael iddynt fel arall. Teimlwn fod y rhaglen honno wedi bod yn llwyddiannus, a byddwn yn ei hehangu o dan y rhaglen cydgyfeirio. Mae gwerthusiad llawn ar y gweill ar hyn o bryd, ond yn ôl yr arwyddion cynnar mae wedi bod yn llwyddiannus a byddem am ei hehangu.

Alun Cairns: O gofio bod y ffigurau ar gyfer Cymru yn parhau i ostwng yn y mynegai cynhyrchu a'r mynegai gweithgynhyrchu, sydd wedi dod yn draddodiad i raddau o dan y weinyddiaeth hon, ac sy'n amlwg yn effeithio ar ein gallu i allforio, pa mor llwyddiannus yr ydych wedi bod o ran allforio, yn eich barn chi?

Andrew Davies: Yr ydym wedi bod yn

successful. In fact, between 1999 and 2005, Welsh exports rose by 33.8 per cent, compared with a rise of just 25.6 per cent for the United Kingdom as a whole. Therefore, our export performance has been very credible.

Alun Cairns: I am not surprised that you used those selective figures. If you consider the more recent trend, however, you will see that exports are down by 9.1 per cent on the same quarter last year, and, while there has been a 2.9 per cent increase in the past 12 months in Wales, the increase in the UK has been 9.1 per cent. On both measures, we are at the bottom of the league table yet again. Is this what you call a success?

Andrew Davies: It is your use of figures that is rather selective, Alun. I looked at the bigger picture over an extended period, rather than looking at month-by-month or annual fluctuations. The growth over that period of six years, which is nearly 8 per cent above that for the United Kingdom as a whole, is a substantial improvement. Given that we are talking about manufacturing, I remind Alun Cairns that 360,000 jobs were lost in manufacturing between 1979 and 1997, so I will not take any lessons on the manufacturing sector from the Tories.

Jenny Randerson: Minister, a quarter of the most deprived wards in Wales are in Cardiff, Newport and the Vale of Glamorgan. East Wales as a whole has levels of VAT registration that are barely half that of the UK as a whole. East Wales has seen an increase of more than 10 per cent in the numbers of people who are economically inactive. Minister, given the interest and enthusiasm over the fresh round of EU funding, do you agree that it is very important that we do not neglect the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises in east Wales? What policies are you developing to ensure that we have a better record in future?

Andrew Davies: As I have reported to the Economic Development and Transport Committee on many occasions, while we have been successful in getting another round of convergence programme funding from Europe, it is likely that what is now the Objective 2 area of Wales will receive a

llwyddiannus iawn. Yn wir, rhwng 1999 a 2005, cynyddodd allforion o Gymru 33.8 y cant, o'u cymharu â chynnydd o ddim ond 25.6 y cant ar gyfer y Deyrnas Unedig gyfan. Felly, mae ein perfformiad o ran allforio wedi bod yn gredadwy iawn.

Alun Cairns: Nid wyf yn synnu eich bod wedi defnyddio'r ffigurau dethol hynny. Os ystyriwch y duedd fwy diweddar, fodd bynnag, fe welwch fod allforion wedi gostwng 9.1 y cant yn ystod yr un chwarter y llynedd, ac er bod cynnydd o 2.9 y cant yn ystod y 12 mis diwethaf yng Nghymru, bu cynnydd o 9.1 y cant yn y DU. Yr ydym ar waelod y tabl unwaith eto ar y ddau gyfrif. Ai dyma yr ydych yn ei alw'n llwyddiant?

Andrew Davies: Eich dewis chi o ffigurau sydd braidd yn ddethol, Alun. Edrychais ar y darlun mwy dros gyfnod estynedig, yn hytrach nag edrych ar amrywiadau misol neu flynyddol. Mae'r twf dros y cyfnod hwnnw o chwe blynedd, sydd bron wyth y cant yn uwch nag ar gyfer y Deyrnas Unedig gyfan, yn welliant sylweddol. O ystyried ein bod yn siarad am weithgynhyrchu, hoffwn atgoffa Alun o'r 360,000 o swyddi a gollwyd ym maes gweithgynhyrchu rhwng 1979 ac 1997, felly, ni chymeraf unrhyw wersi am y sector gweithgynhyrchu gan y Toriaid.

Jenny Randerson: Weinidog, mae chwarter y wardiau mwyaf difreintiedig yng Nghymru yng Nghaerdydd, Casnewydd a Bro Morgannwg. Yn y dwyrain, fel rhanbarth cyfan, mae'r lefelau cofrestriadau TAW prin yn hanner y cofrestriadau ar gyfer y DU yn gyfan. Mae'r dwyrain wedi gweld cynnydd o fwy na 10 y cant yn nifer y bobl sy'n economaidd anweithgar. Weinidog, o gofio'r diddordeb a'r brwdfrydedd am y cylch nesaf o arian yr UE, a gytunwch ei bod yn bwysig iawn peidio ag esgeuluso anghenion busnesau bach a chanolig yn y dwyrain? Pa bolisiau yr ydych yn eu datblygu i sicrhau y bydd y sefyllfa'n well yn y dyfodol?

Andrew Davies: Fel yr wyf wedi ei ddweud wrth y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth droeon, er ein bod wedi llwyddo i gael rhagor o arian gan Ewrop o dan y rhaglen cydgyfeirio, mae'n debygol y bydd ardal Amcan 2 Cymru yn cael llai o arian. Serch hynny, fel yr wyf wedi ei

reduced level of funding. Nevertheless, as I have reported to committee on the development of the assisted areas map, we continue to make the commitment that we will try to get the best deal we can for parts of Wales other than those at tier 1, which have full assisted-area status. We have been successful so far in maximising the coverage in Wales, and we see that as an important tool in attracting investment into the non-Objective 1 or the non-assisted areas of Wales as well.

ddweud wrth y pwyllgor ar ddatblygiad y map ardaloedd a gynorthwyr, yr ydym yn parhau i ymrwymo i geisio sicrhau'r cytundeb gorau ar gyfer rhannau o Gymru heblaw'r rheini yn haen 1, sydd â statws llawn ardal a gynorthwyr. Yr ydym wedi llwyddo hyd yma i fanteisio i'r eithaf ar y cwmpas yng Nghymru, ac ystyriwn fod hynny'n offeryn pwysig i ddenu buddsoddiad i'r ardaloedd o Gymru nad ydynt yn rhan o Amcan 1 neu'r ardaloedd o Gymru na chynorthwyr yn ogystal.

Economi Gorllewin De Cymru The Economy of South Wales West

C6 David Lloyd: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am economi Gorllewin De Cymru? OAQ0718(EDT)

Q6 David Lloyd: Will the Minister make a statement on the economy of South Wales West? OAQ0718(EDT)

Andrew Davies: Employment levels and earnings in south-west Wales have risen. The success of the SA1 Swansea waterfront development, Baglan Energy Park, and Coed Darcy demonstrate the growing confidence in this region. Our vision for the Welsh economy as set out in 'Wales: A Vibrant Economy' will build on the significant progress made to date.

Andrew Davies: Mae lefelau cyflogaeth ac enillion yn y de-orllewin wedi cynyddu. Mae llwyddiant datblygiad SA1 Glannau Abertawe, Parc Ynni Baglan a Choed Darcy yn dangos yr hyder cynyddol yn y rhanbarth hwn. Bydd ein gweledigaeth ar gyfer economi Cymru a nodir yn 'Cymru: Economi yn Ffynnu' yn adeiladu ar y cynnydd sylweddol a wnaed hyd yma.

David Lloyd: Yn Abertawe, dim ond 8.8 y cant o fusnesau sy'n hunangyflogedig o'u cymharu â'r 12.7 y cant ar gyfartaledd drwy Brydain Fawr. Beth ydych chi'n ei wneud fel Gweinidog i hybu entrepreneuriaeth yn Abertawe?

David Lloyd: In Swansea, only 8.8 per cent of businesses are self-employed compared with the average of 12.7 per cent throughout Great Britain. What are you doing as Minister to promote entrepreneurship in Swansea?

Andrew Davies: The successful entrepreneurship action plan has been developed by the Welsh Development Agency, and we will continue, post the merger with the WDA on 3 April, to build on the substantial success that we have had in helping people to set up their own businesses. That includes a wide range of projects and initiatives, from those in education, where entrepreneurship has been part of the curriculum, through to targeted support provided by the WDA and a range of other public and private sector partners. Therefore, we look to build on the success that we believe that we have already had.

Andrew Davies: Datblygwyd y cynllun gweithredu entrepreneuriaeth llwyddiannus gan Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru, a byddwn yn parhau i adeiladu ar y llwyddiant sylweddol a gawsom wrth helpu pobl i sefydlu eu busnesau eu hunain, ar ôl uno â WDA ar 3 Ebrill. Mae hynny'n cynnwys ystod eang o brosiectau a mentrau, o'r rheini ym myd addysg, lle y mae entrepreneuriaeth wedi bod yn rhan o'r cwricwlwm, i gymorth wedi'i dargedu a roddir gan WDA ac amrywiol bartneriaid eraill yn y sector cyhoeddus a'r sector preifat. Felly, gobeithiwn adeiladu ar y llwyddiant y credwn inni ei gael eisoes.

Alun Cairns: Minister, if your policies are all so successful—because you have quoted

Alun Cairns: Weinidog, os yw eich holl bolisiau mor llwyddiannus—gan eich bod

some success in response to every question; first WalesTrade International and now the entrepreneurship action plan—why are we the poorest nation or region of the United Kingdom? If they were all so successful, we would not be at the bottom of the league table of exports, prosperity or of any other measure. To follow up from Dai Lloyd's point about entrepreneurship, it is obviously not working. I highlighted the figures from the *Global Entrepreneurship Monitor*, which show that entrepreneurship figures among women are the lowest in the UK again. When will you realise that your policies are failing, and that you need to switch direction at some point?

Andrew Davies: The Conservatives and Plaid Cymru may well criticise our policies, but I find it interesting that I never hear any policy prescriptions or alternatives being put forward. [*Interruption.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order. I have already ordered Members not to try to ask further supplementaries by barracking. It just does not work well given the wonderful acoustics of this fine building.

3.00 p.m.

Andrew Davies: As my colleagues have just pointed out, the opposition benches are a policy-free zone. You mentioned the *Global Entrepreneurship Monitor*, and, as Professors David Brooksbank and Dylan Jones-Evans said at the launch of the research only a few weeks ago that there has been a substantial increase in total entrepreneurial activity as measured by the GEM survey since the survey started. The rate of increase has not been sustained, but, compared with where we were in 1999, and certainly where we were in 1997 when your Government, thankfully, left office, there has been substantial economic development and progress and there is increasing prosperity, as measured by average weekly earnings in Wales.

wedi cyfeirio at ryw fath o lwyddiant wrth ymateb i bob cwestiwn; Masnach Cymru Rhyngwladol yn gyntaf ac yn awr y cynllun gweithredu entrepreneuriaeth—pam mai ni yw'r genedl neu'r rhanbarth tlotaf yn y Deyrnas Unedig? Os oeddent i gyd mor llwyddiannus, ni fyddem ar waelod y tabl o ran allforion, ffyniant neu unrhyw fesur arall. I ddilyn pwynt Dai Lloyd am entrepreneuriaeth, mae'n amlwg nad yw'n gweithio. Tynnais sylw at y ffigurau yn *Global Entrepreneurship Monitor*, sy'n dangos mai'r ffigurau ar gyfer entrepreneuriaeth ymhlith merched yw'r isaf yn y DU unwaith eto. Pryd y sylweddolwch fod eich polisiau yn methu, a bod angen ichi newid cyfeiriad yn hwyr neu'n hwyrach?

Andrew Davies: Digon hawdd i'r Ceidwadwyr a Phlaid Cymru feirniadu ein polisiau, ond mae'n ddiddorol nad wyf byth yn clywed unrhyw ragnodion polisi neu ddewisiadau eraill yn cael eu cynnig. [*Torri ar draws.*]

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Yr wyf eisoes wedi gorchymyn Aelodau i beidio â cheisio gofyn cwestiynau atodol pellach drwy ymyrryd. Yn syml nid yw'n gweithio'n dda o gofio acwsteg ardderchog yr adeilad gogoneddus hwn.

Andrew Davies: Fel y mae fy nghyd-Aelodau newydd ei amlygu, mae'r gwrthbleidiau yn ddi-bolisi. Crybwyllwyd *Global Entrepreneurship Monitor* gennych, ac fel y dywedodd yr Athro David Brooksbank a'r Athro Dylan Jones-Evans wrth lansio'r ymchwil ychydig wythnosau'n ôl yn unig, bu cynnydd sylweddol yng nghyfanswm y gweithgarwch entrepreneuriaidd fel y caiff ei fesur gan arolwg GEM ers i'r arolwg ddechrau. Nid cyfradd y cynnydd wedi ei chynnal, ond o'i chymharu â'n sefyllfa yn 1999, ac yn sicr â'n sefyllfa yn 1997 pan ddaeth cyfnod eich Llywodraeth chi mewn grym i ben, diolch byth, cafwyd datblygiad economaidd a chynnydd sylweddol ac mae ffyniant yn cynyddu, fel y caiff ei fesur gan enillion wythnosol cyfartalog yng Nghymru.

Ffigurau Swyddi yn Nwyrain De Cymru Job Figures for South Wales East

Q7 Jocelyn Davies: Will the Minister make a statement on job figures for South Wales East? OAQ0714(EDT)

C7 Jocelyn Davies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ffigurau swyddi yn Nwyrain De Cymru? OAQ0714(EDT)

Andrew Davies: According to the labour force survey, there were 257,000 people in employment in South Wales East in 2004, which is 5,000 more than the number in 2001.

Andrew Davies: Yn ôl yr arolwg o'r llafurlu, yr oedd 257,000 o bobl mewn cyflogaeth yn Nwyrain De Cymru yn 2004, sy'n 5,000 yn fwy na'r nifer yn 2001.

Jocelyn Davies: You will know that, since 1999, we have lost 14,000 manufacturing jobs in the south-east but have somehow managed to gain the same number of public sector jobs over that period. Would you describe that as sustainable?

Jocelyn Davies: Fe wyddoch, er 1999, inni golli 14,000 o swyddi gweithgynhyrchu yn y de-ddwyrain ond ein bod rywsut wedi llwyddo i ennill yr un nifer o swyddi yn y sector cyhoeddus yn ystod y cyfnod hwnnw. A fydddech yn disgrifio'r sefyllfa honno fel sefyllfa gynaliadwy?

Andrew Davies: You mentioned manufacturing jobs, but that is only one part of the private sector. If you look at the private sector overall, Wales is the only part of the UK where, since 1999, the increase in employment in the private sector has exceeded that in the public sector. You fail to point out that in South Wales East, there has been a very substantial increase in the number of people employed in the financial services and IT sectors, as well as in many other dynamic growth sectors. I have already said that manufacturing has experienced significant difficulties, but even in that sector, there has been an increase in employment in some of our major companies.

Andrew Davies: Yr oeddech yn sôn am swyddi gweithgynhyrchu, ond dim ond un rhan o'r sector preifat yw hynny. Os edrychwch ar y sector preifat yn gyffredinol, Cymru yw'r unig ran o'r DU lle mae'r cynnydd o ran cyflogaeth yn y sector preifat, er 1999, wedi bod yn uwch na'r cynnydd yn y sector cyhoeddus. Ni lwyddoch i grybwyll y cynnydd sylweddol iawn yn Nwyrain De Cymru yn nifer y bobl a gyflogir yn y sector gwasanaethau ariannol a'r sector TG, yn ogystal ag mewn llawer sector twf deinamig arall. Yr wyf eisoes wedi dweud bod y sector gweithgynhyrchu wedi cael anawsterau sylweddol, ond hyd yn oed yn y sector hwnnw, gwelwyd cynnydd mewn cyflogaeth yn rhai o'n prif gwmnïau.

Cysylltiadau Economaidd gydag Iwerddon Economic Links with Ireland

Q8 Christine Gwyther: Will the Minister make a statement on economic links with Ireland? OAQ0749(EDT)

C8 Christine Gwyther: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gysylltiadau economaidd ag Iwerddon? OAQ0749(EDT)

Andrew Davies: Wales and Ireland have extensive economic links. In 2005, for example, exports to Ireland grew by 19.4 per cent to £832 million, making it the third most important market for Welsh goods, after the United States and Germany. The forecasts for bidirectional economic links continue to be positive.

Andrew Davies: Mae cysylltiadau economaidd helaeth rhwng Cymru ac Iwerddon. Yn 2005, er enghraifft, cynyddodd allforion i Iwerddon 19.4 y cant i £832 miliwn, gan olygu mai dyma oedd y drydedd marchnad bwysicaf i nwyddau o Gymru, ar ôl yr Unol Daleithiau a'r Almaen. Mae'r rhagolygon ar gyfer cysylltiadau economaidd

i'r ddau gyfeiriad yn dal yn gadarnhaol.

Christine Gwyther: Will you join me in commending the work of the INTERREG team over the last six years in fostering economic links with Ireland? When Rhodri Morgan launched the programme in Dublin Castle, he said that it would be about not only the projects in the programme, but the softer relationships that would develop with that programme. Therefore, I ask you to join me in commending the work done, not just by the people in Welsh European Funding Office, but by the development officers working on the ground.

Christine Gwyther: A ymunwch â mi i gymeradwyo gwaith tîm INTERREG yn ystod y chwe blynedd diwethaf wrth feithrin cysylltiadau economaidd ag Iwerddon? Pan lansiodd Rhodri Morgan y rhaglen yng Nghastell Dilyn, dywedodd y byddai'n ymwneud nid yn unig â'r prosiectau a oedd yn rhan o'r rhaglen, ond â'r berthynas ysgafnach a fyddai'n datblygu gyda'r rhaglen honno. Felly, gofynnaf ichi ymuno â mi i gymeradwyo'r gwaith a wnaed, nid yn unig gan y bobl yn Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru, ond gan y swyddogion datblygu sy'n gweithio ar lawr gwlad.

Andrew Davies: You will know, Christine, as chair of the INTERREG programme monitoring committee, that there has been substantial success—[*Interruption.*] The Tories can jeer from the side, but they could not point to economic success when they managed the Welsh economy. Theirs was an economic-success-free zone as well as a policy-free zone.

Andrew Davies: Fe wyddoch, Christine, fel cadeirydd pwyllgor monitro rhaglen INTERREG, bod cryn lwyddiant—[*Torri ar draws.*] Gall y Torïaid wawdio o'r ochr, ond ni allent enwi unrhyw lwyddiant economaidd pan oeddent hwy yn rheoli economi Cymru. Ni fu unrhyw lwyddiant economaidd yn ystod eu cyfnod hwy, nac unrhyw bolisïau.

The territorial co-operation programme from 2007 to 2013 will be a key measure for us to build on, particularly in terms of links between Wales and Ireland, not just in terms of exports, but of increasing investment. We have seen the benefits of increasing investment from Irish businesses such as Quinn Radiators in Newport and many others. The programme has been very successful and we want to build on that success.

Bydd y rhaglen cydweithio tiriogaethol o 2007 i 2013 yn fesur allweddol inni adeiladu arno, yn arbennig o ran cysylltiadau rhwng Cymru ac Iwerddon, nid yn unig mewn allforion, ond o ran cynyddu buddsoddiad. Yr ydym wedi gweld buddiannau buddsoddiad cynyddol gan fusnesau o Iwerddon megis Quinn Radiators yng Nghasnewydd a sawl un arall. Bu'r rhaglen yn llwyddiannus iawn ac yr ydym am adeiladu ar y llwyddiant hwnnw.

Y Strategaeth Datblygu Economaidd The Economic Development Strategy

Q9 Irene James: Will the Minister make a statement about the Welsh Assembly Government's economic development strategy? OAQ0756(EDT)

C9 Irene James: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am strategaeth datblygu economaidd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru? OAQ0756(EDT)

Andrew Davies: The consultation on 'Wales: A Vibrant Economy', the Assembly Government's strategic framework for economic development, ended on 28 February. Officials are currently preparing a summary of responses. Early indications show that the 'WAVE' document and framework have been generally well

Andrew Davies: Daeth yr ymgynghori ar 'Cymru: Economi yn Ffynnu', fframwaith strategol Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar gyfer datblygu economaidd, i ben ar 28 Chwefror. Mae swyddogion wrthi ar hyn o bryd yn paratoi crynodeb o ymatebion. Dengys arwyddion cynnar fod y ddogfen 'Cymru: Economi yn Ffynnu' a'r fframwaith wedi

received.

Irene James: As the Assembly Member for Islwyn—an area that has suffered as a result of manufacturing decline over past decades—will you join me in welcoming the naming of the Chartist bridge at a ceremony attended by your Cabinet colleague, Sue Essex? That marks the opening of the Sirhowy enterprise way, which is a key road link opening up transport in Islwyn. With the prospect of over 110 new jobs at the new Blackwood Gate retail park, I would be delighted if you could visit Islwyn in the near future to see how economic investment is delivering for my constituency.

Andrew Davies: I would be delighted to visit Islwyn. As you pointed out, in terms of delivery, which is a key issue in helping local communities and driving economic development, there is an integrated approach across the whole of the Government. All Assembly Government Ministers work together closely to deliver for communities such as those in your constituency and in every constituency in Wales.

Alun Ffred Jones: Yn ôl adroddiad gan undeb y GMB yn ddiweddar, honnir mai dim ond 6 y cant o'r swyddi newydd sydd wedi'u creu yng Ngwynedd sy'n swyddi llawn amser. A fyddai hynny'n esbonio pam mae'r ffigurau GVA yn dal i fod yn gymharol isel yn y gogledd-orllewin, tra bod diweithdra hefyd, yn swyddogol, yn dal i fod yn isel?

Andrew Davies: I have not had a chance to look at the GMB research. I have asked my officials to look at that and I will come back with a more detailed response on the findings of the GMB. Nevertheless, I hope that our policies are delivering for Gwynedd as they are doing for most other parts of north-west Wales. However, we understand that there are particular challenges in those areas. We believe that the investment that we are making in a whole range of infrastructure projects such as the CAST technium at Parc Menai in Bangor, and many others, are helping to build the foundation for a sustainable and dynamic economy in north-west Wales.

cael croeso cynnes ar y cyfan.

Irene James: Fel Aelod y Cynulliad dros Islwyn—ardal sydd wedi dioddef oherwydd dirywiad mewn gweithgynhyrchu dros y degawdau diwethaf—a ymunwch â mi i groesawu achlysur enwi pont y Siartwyr mewn seremoni a fynychwyd gan eich cyd-Weinidog yn y Cabinet, Sue Essex? Yr oedd yr achlysur yn dathlu agor ffordd fenter Sirhywi, sy'n gyswllt ffordd allweddol i agor y system drafnidiaeth yn Islwyn. Gyda'r posibilrwydd o greu dros 110 o swyddi newydd ym mharc adwerthu newydd Blackwood Gate, byddwn yn hynod falch pe gallech ymweld ag Islwyn yn y dyfodol agos i weld sut y mae buddsoddiad economaidd yn sicrhau llwyddiant yn fy etholaeth i

Andrew Davies: Byddai'n bleser gennyf ymweld ag Islwyn. Fel yr oeddech yn dweud, o ran cyflawni, sy'n fater allweddol i helpu cymunedau lleol a hybu datblygiad economaidd, mae yna ymagwedd integredig drwy'r Llywodraeth gyfan. Mae holl Weinidogion Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn cydweithio'n agos i sicrhau llwyddiant i gymunedau megis y rheini yn eich etholaeth chi ac ym mhob etholaeth yng Nghymru.

Alun Ffred Jones: A recent report by the GMB union claims that only 6 per cent of the new jobs created in Gwynedd are full-time posts. Would that explain why the GVA figures are still relatively low in the north-west, while unemployment is also officially quite low?

Andrew Davies: Ni chefais gyfle i edrych ar ymchwil GMB. Gofynnais i'm swyddogion edrych arni a dychwelaf gydag ymateb manylach ar ganfyddiadau GMB. Serch hynny, gobeithio bod ein polisïau yn darparu ar gyfer Gwynedd fel ar gyfer y rhan fwyaf o rannau eraill y gogledd-orllewin. Fodd bynnag, deallwn fod yr ardaloedd hynny'n wynebu heriau penodol. Credwn fod y buddsoddiad a wnawn mewn amrywiaeth helaeth o brosiectau seilwaith megis techniw CAST ym Mharc Menai ym Mangor, a llawer prosiect arall, yn helpu adeiladu'r sylfaen ar gyfer economi gynaliadwy a deinamig yn y gogledd-orllewin.

Carl Sargeant: Economic development is important to my constituency of Alyn and Deeside, to Flintshire and to the whole of Wales. The opposition parties think that if they keep saying that it is bad people will believe them. They will never believe the past history of the Tory Governments. British Steel—now Corus—in my constituency, under a Conservative Government, saw the highest number of redundancy notices served in one day.

Minister, thank you for your support. Will you support other companies in Alyn and Deeside in economic stability? [*Laughter.*]

Alun Cairns: That is a knockout question.

Carl Sargeant: They do not like it.

Alun Cairns: I do not think that—

The Presiding Officer: Order. I will have to look for the cards in my left pocket if this continues. Minister?

Andrew Davies: This is just one example of the hundreds of companies that we have helped across Wales, through financial support and other support mechanisms. As I said in answer to an earlier question, this has established the foundation for a dynamic sustainable economy in Flintshire and north-east Wales, as in other parts of Wales.

Carl Sargeant: Mae datblygu economaidd yn bwysig i'm hetholaeth i, sef Alun a Glannau Dyfrdwy, i sir y Fflint ac i Gymru gyfan. Cred y gwrthbleidiau, drwy barhau i'w farnu, y bydd pobl yn eu credu. Ni chredant fyth hanes Llywodraethau'r Torïaid yn y gorffennol. O dan Lywodraeth Geidwadol gwelodd British Steel—Corus erbyn hyn—yn fy etholaeth i y nifer uchaf o hysbysiadau diswyddo yn cael eu cyflwyno mewn un diwrnod.

Weinidog, diolch ichi am eich cefnogaeth. A gefnogwch gwmmniau eraill yn Alun a Glannau Dyfrdwy tuag at sefydlogrwydd economaidd? [*Chwerthin.*]

Alun Cairns: Dyna ichi gwestiwn penigamp.

Carl Sargeant: Nid ydynt yn ei hoffi.

Alun Cairns: Ni chredaf—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Bydd yn rhaid imi edrych am y cardiau yn fy mhoced chwith os bydd hyn yn parhau. Weinidog?

Andrew Davies: Un enghraifft yn unig yw hon o'r cannoedd o gwmmniau a gynorthwywyd gennym ledled Cymru, drwy gymorth ariannol a systemau cymorth eraill. Fel y dywedais wrth ateb cwestiwn cynharach, mae hyn wedi gosod y sylfaen ar gyfer economi gynaliadwy ddeinamig yn sir y Fflint a'r gogledd-ddwyrain, fel mewn rhannau eraill o Gymru.

Seilwaith Trafnidiaeth ym Mhowys Transport Infrastructure in Powys

Q10 Nick Bourne: Will the Minister provide an update on the Welsh Assembly Government's policies for improving the transport infrastructure in Powys? OAQ0742(EDT)

Andrew Davies: Work has recently commenced on the A479 Talgarth relief road and the Bronllys bypass. The Brecon to Newtown element of the Traws Cambria bus service was launched on 25 January.

Nick Bourne: I have written to the Minister about progress in deciding the way forward

C10 Nick Bourne: A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am bolisiau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer gwella'r seilwaith trafndiaeth ym Mhowys? OAQ0742(EDT)

Andrew Davies: Dechreuodd gwaith yn ddiweddar ar ffordd liniaru Talgarth, yr A479, ac ar ffordd osgoi Bronllys. Lanswyd yr elfen o Aberhonddu i'r Drenewydd o wasanaeth bws Traws Cambria ar 25 Ionawr.

Nick Bourne: Ysgrifennais at y Gweinidog i weld pa gynnydd a wnaed wrth benderfynu'r

in relation to the Newbridge to Cwmbach stretch on the A470. Can the Minister update the Assembly on that?

ffordd ymlaen mewn perthynas â'r rhan o'r A470 sy'n rhedeg o Bontnewydd i Gwmbach. A all y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r Cynulliad am hynny?

Andrew Davies: I will write to you on that issue.

Andrew Davies: Ysgrifennaf atoch ynglŷn â'r mater hwnnw.

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

Gwasanaethau a Strategaethau sy'n Effeithio ar Blant Services and Strategies Affecting Children

C1 David Lloyd: Pa drafodaethau diweddar y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cynnal gydag aelodau'r Cabinet ynghylch gwella gwasanaethau i blant? OAQ0208(BM)

Q1 David Lloyd: What recent discussions has the Minister held with Cabinet members regarding improving services for children? OAQ0208(BM)

C7 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Pa drafodaethau diweddar y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cynnal gydag Aelodau'r Cabinet ynghylch gweithredu strategaethau llywodraethol sy'n effeithio ar blant? OAQ0205(BM)

Q7 Rhodri Glyn Thomas: What recent discussions has the Minister held with Cabinet Ministers on the implementation of governmental strategies affecting children? OAQ0205(BM)

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): Meetings of the Cabinet sub-committee on children and young people are held monthly in term time. In addition, I hold regular bilateral meetings with other Ministers to discuss children's issues, the most recent of which were on 12 January with Jane Davidson, and on 20 February with Brian Gibbons.

Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt): Cynhelir cyfarfodydd is-bwyllgor y Cabinet ar blant a phobl ifanc bob mis yn ystod y tymor. Yn ogystal, caf finnau gyfarfodydd dwyochrog rheolaidd gyda Gweinidogion eraill i drafod materion yn ymwneud â phlant, a chynhaliwyd y cyfarfodydd diweddaraf hynny ar 12 Ionawr gyda Jane Davidson ac ar 20 Chwefror gyda Brian Gibbons.

David Lloyd: As regards your meeting with Jane Davidson and as regards behaviour management in schools, is prone restraint now outlawed in schools in Wales?

David Lloyd: O ran eich cyfarfod gyda Jane Davidson ac o ran rheoli ymddygiad mewn ysgolion, a yw atal wyneb i lawr bellach wedi'i wahardd mewn ysgolion yng Nghymru?

Jane Hutt: I will have to come back to you on that matter, after I have spoken to my colleague, the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning.

Jane Hutt: Bydd yn rhaid imi ddychwelyd atoch ar y mater hwnnw, ar ôl imi siarad â'm cyd-Weinidog, y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes.

3.10 p.m.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: In terms of your meetings with the Minister for Health and Social Services, will you discuss with him the need to ensure that tertiary autism services in Cardiff are retained, and that they

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: O ran eich cyfarfodydd gyda'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, a fyddwch yn trafod gydag ef yr angen i sicrhau y caiff y gwasanaethau awtistiaeth trydyddol yng

are retained quickly so that we can also retain the services of Dr Judith Piggott, who is carrying out important work. If we lose this essential service, many families will have to go across the border to England; for many of these families, it is enough of a burden to have to travel to Cardiff to get these services. I know that you are committed to these services, Minister. Will you therefore ensure that the Cabinet takes swift action on this matter to ensure that they are retained in Wales?

Jane Hutt: I understand that a valuable service has evolved, under the leadership of Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust, with the support of the university. I am glad that the local health boards that are responsible across the region are now actively considering the future of this service to safeguard those services, and indeed safeguard those children and young people who have benefited from them.

Mark Isherwood: Cross-cutting issues such as substance misuse, sexually transmitted infections, bullying, sexuality, and domestic violence all impact on children and young people. Real solutions will only be delivered if we tackle the cause as well as the symptoms. Youthlink Wales works exclusively on prevention among vulnerable young people in these areas. It has been funded by Government since 1985, but funding has now been withdrawn, and it will have to shut up shop in six weeks unless it receives a reprieve. In these circumstances, will you respond to the Wales Council for Voluntary Action and the all-Wales voluntary sector substance misuse network, and meet Youthlink Wales, possibly with your colleague, Edwina Hart, and review this decision, before the vulnerable young people of Wales lose this vital support on prevention work?

Jane Hutt: This is a matter for the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration, Edwina Hart, in relation to the substance misuse strategy and the community safety programme. However, I am aware that this

Nghaerdydd eu cadw, ac y cânt eu cadw'n gyflym er mwyn inni hefyd allu cadw gwasanaethau Dr Judith Piggott, sy'n gwneud gwaith pwysig. Os collwn y gwasanaeth pwysig hwn, bydd yn rhaid i nifer o deuluoedd groesi'r ffin i Loegr; i lawer o'r teuluoedd hyn, mae'n ddigon o faich gorfod teithio i Gaerdydd i fanteisio ar y gwasanaethau hyn. Gwn eich bod wedi ymrwymo i'r gwasanaethau hyn, Weinidog. A fyddwch yn sicrhau camau cyflym, felly, gan y Cabinet ar y mater hwn i sicrhau y cânt eu cadw yng Nghymru?

Jane Hutt: Deallaf fod gwasanaeth gwerthfawr wedi esblygu, o dan arweinyddiaeth Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Caerdydd a'r Fro, gyda chymorth y brifysgol. Yr wyf yn falch fod y byrddau iechyd lleol sy'n gyfrifol ar draws y rhanbarth bellach yn rhoi ystyriaeth weithredol i ddyfodol y gwasanaeth hwn er mwyn diogelu'r gwasanaethau hynny, ac yn wir i ddiogelu'r plant a'r bobl ifanc hynny sydd wedi elwa ohonynt.

Mark Isherwood: Mae materion trawsbynciol megis camddefnyddio sylweddau, heintiau a drosglwyddir yn rhywiol, bwlio, rhywioldeb, a thrais yn y cartref i gyd yn effeithio ar blant a phobl ifanc. Dim ond os awn i'r afael â'r achos yn ogystal â'r symptomau y down o hyd i atebion go iawn. Mae Cyswllt Ieuenctid Cymru yn gweithio'n benodol ar atal ymhlith pobl ifanc ddiamddiffyn yn y meysydd hyn. Mae wedi ei ariannu gan y Llywodraeth er 1985, ond bellach tynnwyd ei gyllid yn ôl, a bydd yn rhaid iddo roi'r gorau iddi ymhen chwe wythnos oni newidir y penderfyniad hwnnw. O dan yr amgylchiadau hyn, a ymatebwch i Gyngor Gweithredu Gwirfoddol Cymru a rhwydwaith camddefnyddio sylweddau y sector gwirfoddol i Gymru gyfan, a chyfarfod â Chyswllt Ieuenctid Cymru, o bosibl gyda'ch cyd-Weinidog Edwina Hart, i adolygu'r penderfyniad hwn, cyn i bobl ifanc ddiamddiffyn Cymru gollir cymorth hanfodol hwn ar waith atal?

Jane Hutt: Mater i Edwina Hart, y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio, yw hwn o ran y strategaeth camddefnyddio sylweddau a'r rhaglen diogelwch cymunedol. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf

links into the important work done by Cymorth in terms of prevention, and to the work that we are doing in relation to the 'Hidden Harm' strategy, which involves Ministers across the board. I will take back the concerns about Youthlink to discuss with my colleagues.

William Graham: You will be aware, Minister, of the Childline report issued today, which indicates that an increasing number of children contemplate suicide. Children today face numerous pressures, but these tragic actions are often avoidable. Will you outline the strategy to support children and allow them to confide their problems?

Jane Hutt: I was concerned to read the Childline report. The increase in child suicides came up a few weeks ago in the Assembly. We are concerned to examine the figures and the Childline report. We discussed the children's strategies and the anti-bullying strategies in schools and in the community that we are trying to take forward at the joint meeting of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee, the Health and Social Services Committee, the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee, and the Committee on Equality of Opportunity, on Monday, at which we received the report of the Children's Commissioner for Wales. As Minister with responsibility for children, I believe that this needs to be higher up on my agenda.

yn ymwybodol fod hyn yn cysylltu â'r gwaith pwysig a wneir gan Cymorth o ran atal, a'r gwaith yr ydym yn ei wneud o ran y strategaeth 'Niwed Cudd', sy'n cynnwys Gweinidogion o bob adran. Trafodaf y pryderon o ran Cyswllt Ieuencid gyda'm cyd-Weinidogion.

William Graham: Byddwch yn ymwybodol, Weinidog, o'r adroddiad a gyhoeddwyd heddiw gan Childline, sy'n dangos bod nifer gynyddol o blant yn ystyried hunanladdiad. Mae plant heddiw'n wynebu pwysau o bob tu, ond yn aml, gellir osgoi'r gweithredoedd trasig hyn. A amlinellwch y strategaeth i gynorthwyo plant ac i roi cyfle iddynt drafod eu problemau?

Jane Hutt: Yr oeddwn yn pryderu o ddarllen adroddiad Childline. Cyfeiriwyd ychydig wythnosau'n yn ôl yn y Cynulliad at y cynnydd yn nifer y plant sy'n cyflawni hunanladdiad. Yr ydym yn awyddus i archwilio'r ffigurau ac adroddiad Childline. Trafodwyd y strategaethau plant a'r strategaethau gwrth-fwlio mewn ysgolion ac yn y gymuned yr ydym yn ceisio'u datblygu mewn cyd-gyfarfod rhwng y Pwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes, y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, y Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio, a'r Pwyllgor Cyfle Cyfartal, ddydd Llun, lle derbyniwyd adroddiad Comisiynydd Plant Cymru. Fel y Gweinidog sy'n gyfrifol am blant, credaf fod angen imi roi blaenoriaeth uwch i'r mater.

Cydlynu Gwaith Llywodraeth y Cynulliad sy'n Effeithio ar Blant Co-ordinating the Work of the Assembly Government Impacting on Children

Q2 Lynne Neagle: Will the Minister provide an update on her role co-ordinating the work of the Assembly Government impacting on children? OAQ0208(BM)

Jane Hutt: My role enables me to co-ordinate action on initiatives that cross portfolios. Recent examples of cross-cutting initiatives for children include our childcare strategy, 'Childcare is for Children', and the consultation on 'Flying Start' for children from birth up to the age of three in disadvantaged areas.

Lynne Neagle: The children's

C2 Lynne Neagle: A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am ei rôl yn cydlynu gwaith Llywodraeth y Cynulliad sy'n effeithio ar blant? OAQ0208(BM)

Jane Hutt: Mae fy rôl yn fy ngalluogi i gydlynu camau gweithredu ar fentrau sy'n croesi portffolios. Ymhlith yr enghreifftiau diweddar o fentrau trawsbynciol i blant mae ein strategaeth gofal plant, 'Ar gyfer Plant y mae Gofal Plant', a'r ymgynghori ar 'Dechrau'n Deg' i blant o adeg eu geni hyd at dair oed mewn ardaloedd difreintiedig.

Lynne Neagle: Mae gwaith y comisiynydd

commissioner's work is vital in monitoring children's services. I am sure that the Minister will recall that consideration was given to asking the commissioner to monitor the actions and standards on respite care included in the national service framework for children. Could you provide an update on how we will ensure that respite is available to all families with disabled children who need it, and whether the children's commissioner will play a part in that?

Jane Hutt: Again, this issue was raised at the joint committee meeting at which we considered the children's commissioner's report on Monday. This relates to the expectations and the core actions and standards in the national service framework. As you are aware, this is now being monitored by the local health boards, local authorities and their partners, using the self-assessment tool, and it is part of the targets for the standard assessment in terms of funding for the health service. Therefore, I believe that respite care will be monitored by the Government locally and by the children's commissioner.

Jonathan Morgan: The Royal College of Nursing made a request, in one of its reports, to see a dramatic increase in the number of school nurses in Wales. This is also borne out by the children's commissioner; in his annual report, he also calls for a significant increase in the number of school nurses. Why is it taking you so long to reach a decision on that issue?

Jane Hutt: I do not think that it is taking us long, Jonathan. At a recent children's Cabinet meeting, we discussed the issue of school nurses—in fact, a paper was introduced by my colleague, the Minister for Health and Social Services, Dr Brian Gibbons, on this important issue. We agreed that we would have a cross-governmental working group and map out across Wales the differences that emerge in terms of the provision of school nurses. Some areas and some schools are well-served, others are not. Some cluster arrangements with school nursing are working effectively, so we need to evaluate what works best, while recognising that

plant yn hanfodol wrth fonitro gwasanaethau plant. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd y Gweinidog yn cofio'r ystyriaeth a roddwyd i'r cwestiwn a ddylid gofyn i'r comisiynydd fonitro'r camau gweithredu a'r safonau ar ofal seibiant a gynhwyswyd yn y fframwaith gwasanaeth cenedlaethol i blant. A allech roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am y ffordd y byddwn yn sicrhau bod gofal seibiant ar gael i bob teulu â phlant anabl sydd ei angen, ac a fydd gan y comisiynydd plant ran yn hynny?

Jane Hutt: Unwaith eto, codwyd y mater hwn yng nghyd-gyfarfod y pwyllgorau lle buom yn ystyried adroddiad y comisiynydd plant ddydd Llun. Mae a wnelo hyn â'r disgwyliadau a'r camau gweithredu a'r safonau craidd yn y fframwaith gwasanaeth cenedlaethol. Fel y gwyddoch, mae hyn bellach yn cael ei fonitro gan y byrddau iechyd lleol, yr awdurdodau lleol a'u partneriaid, gan ddefnyddio'r pecyn hunanasesu, ac mae'n rhan o'r targedau ar gyfer yr asesiad safonol o ariannu ar gyfer y gwasanaeth iechyd. Felly, credaf y bydd gofal seibiant yn cael ei fonitro gan y Llywodraeth yn lleol a chan y comisiynydd plant.

Jonathan Morgan: Yn un o'i adroddiadau, gwnaed cais gan Goleg Brenhinol y Nyrsys i weld cynnydd sylweddol yn nifer y nyrsys ysgol yng Nghymru. Ategir hyn hefyd gan y comisiynydd plant; yn ei adroddiad blynyddol, mae'n galw hefyd am gynnydd sylweddol yn nifer y nyrsys ysgol. Pam yr ydych yn cymryd cyhyd i ddod i benderfyniad ar y mater hwnnw.

Jane Hutt: Ni chredaf ein bod yn cymryd amser hir, Jonathan. Yn un o gyfarfodydd y Cabinet yn diweddar ar blant, trafodwyd nyrsys ysgol—yn wir, cyflwynwyd papur gan fy nghyd-Aelod, y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, Dr Brian Gibbons, ar y mater pwysig hwn. Cytunwyd y byddem yn sefydlu gweithgor trawslywodraethol ac yn mapio'r gwahaniaethau sy'n codi wrth ddarparu nyrsys ysgol ledled Cymru. Gwasanaethir rhai ardaloedd a rhai ysgolion yn dda, ond nid yw hynny'n wir am ardaloedd ac ysgolion eraill. Mae rhai trefniadau clwstwr gyda nyrsys ysgol yn gweithio'n effeithiol, ac felly mae angen inni

school nurses have a crucial role to play in terms of prevention, counselling, as well as in providing care and support for children who are vulnerable.

werthuso'r hyn sy'n gweithio orau, ac ar yr un pryd gydnabod bod gan nyrsys ysgol ran hanfodol i'w chwarae o ran atal, cwnsela, yn ogystal â darparu gofal a chymorth i blant sy'n agored i niwed.

Gwasanaethau i Blant Children's Services

Q3 Janet Ryder: What priorities has the Minister identified for the next 12 months with regard to children's services?
OAO0204(BM)

Jane Hutt: Children's services are key in terms of delivering on the national service framework, and the co-ordination and implementation of the Children Act 2004. We are also looking in particular this year at how we respond to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, where we have to report to the UN committee on our progress in terms of delivering all the articles of the UN convention.

Janet Ryder: Are you aware that according to the 1999 school premises regulation, which was a Welsh Office circular, children under eight years of age do not figure in the calculation for the amount of land that is allocated to a primary school for team sports. Most primary schools include nurseries and infant schools, and yet this regulation is allowing councils to revisit the amount of land surrounding a primary school and sell off some of that land for development. Will you take it upon yourself to look again at that regulation to ensure that we protect those open spaces, that we deliver for under eight-year-olds the amount of open space that they need to play in and that we stop councils selling off primary school fields?

Jane Hutt: Clearly, this is an area on which I work with my colleague, the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport. The investment that is introduced through Dragon Sport, for example, enables children at primary school level to have access to team sports and to improve their physical activity in all aspects of sport. However, I also appreciate that it is a matter of securing the

C3 Janet Ryder: Pa flaenoriaethau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u nodi ar gyfer y 12 mis nesaf o ran gwasanaethau i blant?
OAO0204(BM)

Jane Hutt: Mae gwasanaethau i blant yn hanfodol wrth ddarparu'r fframwaith gwasanaeth cenedlaethol, a chydlynu a gweithredu Deddf Plant 2004. Yn ogystal, yr ydym yn edrych yn arbennig eleni ar y ffordd yr ydym yn ymateb i Gonfensiwn y Cenedloedd Unedig ar Hawliau'r Plentyn, lle mae'n rhaid inni gyflwyno adroddiad ar ein cynnydd wrth gyflawni holl erthyglau confensiwn y Cenedloedd Unedig i bwyllgor y Cenedloedd Unedig.

Janet Ryder: A ydych yn ymwybodol, yn ôl rheoliad 1999 ynglŷn â safleoedd ysgolion, a oedd yn un o gylchlythrau'r Swyddfa Gymreig, nad yw plant o dan wyth oed yn cael eu cyfrif wrth ddyrannu tir i ysgol gynradd ar gyfer chwaraeon tîm. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o ysgolion cynradd yn cynnwys meithrinfeydd ac ysgolion babanod, ond eto mae'r rheoliad hwn yn caniatáu i gynghorau ailgyfrifo faint o dir sydd o amgylch ysgol gynradd a gwerthu rhywfaint o'r tir hwnnw ar gyfer ei ddatblygu. A gytunwch i edrych ar y rheoliad hwnnw eto er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn diogelu'r mannau agored hyn, ein bod yn darparu'r mannau agored y mae ar blant o dan wyth oed eu hangen i chwarae ynddynt a'n bod yn atal cynghorau rhag gwerthu caeau ysgolion cynradd?

Jane Hutt: Yn amlwg, mae hwn yn faes yr wyf yn gweithio arno gyda'm cyd-Aelod, y Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon. Er enghraifft, mae'r buddsoddiad a gyflwynir drwy Gampau'r Ddraig yn galluogi plant ar lefel ysgol gynradd i chwarae chwaraeon tîm ac i gynyddu eu gweithgarwch corfforol ym mhob agwedd ar chwaraeon. Fodd bynnag,

environment and the playing fields for team sports can take place, and I will look at this regulation with my colleague, the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning.

David Melding: I declare an interest as a trustee of Autism Cymru. I take you back, Minister, to the fact that, within six weeks, we are likely to lose the tertiary autism service base at the University Hospital of Wales. The trust is saying that it is not properly commissioned or funded for this service; the commission is saying that this service provides care for people all over south Wales with autism spectrum disorders, and, therefore, it should not be taking the full hit of the costs for this service. Is it not time that we asked Health Commission Wales to fund this tertiary service, otherwise the whole of secondary care, and even much of primary care, will be disadvantaged because we will lose expertise at the University Hospital of Wales?

Jane Hutt: As I said in my response to Rhodri Glyn, a very important and valuable service has developed, as I understand it, specifically in relation to a particular appointment through funding from the university. However, that is not on a long-term basis; it is part of the network that the child and adolescent mental health strategy is developing as part of the tiered approach to supporting children. We must also remember that local health boards, at present, are very much looking at the first tiers in terms of prevention and the community-intensive treatment teams that they want to develop. However, I have talked to the local health boards and to my colleague, Brian Gibbons about this service; the trust and local health boards are meeting in order to resolve this, and, most importantly, to protect the care of those children and young people who have benefited from the service.

3.20 p.m.

sylweddolaf hefyd fod hwn yn fater o sicrhau'r amgylchedd a'r caeau chwaraeon er mwyn i chwaraeon tîm gael eu cynnal, ac edrychaf ar y rheoliad hwn gyda'm cyd-Aelod, y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes.

David Melding: Datganaf fuddiant fel un o ymddiriedolwyr Awtistiaeth Cymru. Weinidog, hoffwn eich cyfeirio at y ffaith ei bod yn debygol y byddwn, ymhen chwe wythnos, yn colli'r gwasanaeth awtistiaeth trydyddol yn Ysbyty Athrofaol Cymru. Mae'r ymddiriedolaeth yn dweud nad yw'n cael ei chomisiynu na'i chyllido'n gywir ar gyfer y gwasanaeth hwn; mae'r comisiwn yn dweud bod y gwasanaeth hwn yn darparu gofal i bobl ledled de Cymru sydd ag anhwylder yn y sbectrwm awtistig, ac felly ni ddylai fod yn gyfrifol am holl gostau'r gwasanaeth hwn. Onid yw'n bryd inni ofyn i Gomisiwn Iechyd Cymru gyllido'r gwasanaeth trydyddol hwn? Fel arall bydd gofal eilaidd i gyd, a hyd yn oed llawer o ofal sylfaenol, o dan anfantais oherwydd byddwn yn colli arbenigedd yn Ysbyty Athrofaol Cymru?

Jane Hutt: Fel y dywedais yn fy ymateb i Rhodri Glyn, mae gwasanaeth pwysig a gwerthfawr iawn wedi datblygu, yn ôl a ddeallaf, yn benodol mewn cysylltiad â phenodiad penodol gyda gan y brifysgol. Fodd bynnag, nid yw hynny ar sail hirdymor; mae'n rhan o'r rhwydwaith y mae strategaeth iechyd meddwl plant a'r glasoed yn ei ddatblygu fel rhan o'r dull o gynorthwyo plant drwy nifer o haenau. Yn ogystal, rhaid inni gofio bod byrddau iechyd lleol, ar hyn o bryd, i bob pwrpas yn edrych ar yr haenau cyntaf o ran atal a'r timau triniaeth ddwys yn y gymuned y maent yn dymuno'u datblygu. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf wedi siarad â'r byrddau iechyd lleol ac â'm cyd-Weinidog, Brian Gibbons, am y gwasanaeth hwn; mae'r ymddiriedolaeth a byrddau iechyd lleol yn cyfarfod i ddatrys hyn, ac yn bwysicach na dim, i ddiogelu gofal y plant a'r bobl ifanc hynny sydd wedi cael budd o'r gwasanaeth.

Cyflog Cyfartal i Fenywod Equal Pay for Women

Q4 Kirsty Williams: Will the Minister make a statement on equal pay for women? OAQ0201(BM)

C4 Kirsty Williams: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gyflog cyfartal i fenywod? OAQ0201(BM)

Q8 Kirsty Williams: Will the Minister make a statement on the salary gap between men and women? OAQ0202(BM)

C8 Kirsty Williams: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y bwlch rhwng cyflogau dynion a menywod? OAQ0202(BM)

Jane Hutt: Our close the pay gap campaign has now entered its third phase. It aims to progress the equal pay agenda considerably this year with a concerted programme of action targeting all public sector organisations in Wales.

Jane Hutt: Mae ein hymgyrch i gau'r bwlch cyflog bellach wedi cychwyn ar ei thrydydd cyfnod. Ei nod yw gwneud cynnydd sylweddol gyda'r agenda cyflog cyfartal eleni a rhaglen weithredu ar y cyd a fydd yn targedu pob sefydliad yn y sector cyhoeddus yng Nghymru.

Kirsty Williams: One of the barriers to economic activity for many young women is the lack of childcare. There is only one childcare place for every seven children in Wales, and, often, those places are prohibitively expensive for many women. What are you doing to tackle this position? Is it a source of embarrassment to you that this institution still does not have a childcare facility for the people who work here?

Kirsty Williams: Un o'r rhwystrau rhag gweithgarwch economaidd i lawer o fenywod ifanc yw'r prinder gofal plant. Dim ond un lle gofal plant sydd ar gael ar gyfer pob saith plentyn yng Nghymru, ac yn aml mae'r lleoedd hynny yn rhy ddud i lawer o fenywod. Beth yr ydych yn ei wneud i fynd i'r afael â'r sefyllfa hon? A yw'n peri embaras i chi fod y sefydliad hwn yn dal heb gyfleuster gofal plant i'r sawl sy'n gweithio yma?

Jane Hutt: It is clear that there are a number of barriers to tackling unequal pay, of which the lack of childcare is one. This leads to the lack of flexible opportunities, which affect a woman's choices in terms of her career, her return to work and her prospects. Our strategy, childcare is for children, and the Flying Start initiative, which, together, amount to over £70 million of investment that is now coming in to tackling childcare—intervening for our youngest, in terms of the Flying Start initiative—will make a difference. In addition—wearing my ministerial and House Committee hat—the House Committee and I are addressing the issue of childcare in this building, or certainly in Cardiff bay.

Jane Hutt: Mae'n amlwg fod nifer o rwystrau wrth fynd i'r afael â chyflog anghyfartal, ac mae prinder gofal plant yn un ohonynt. Mae hyn yn arwain at brinder cyfleoedd hyblyg, sy'n effeithio ar ddewisiadau menyw o ran ei gyrfa, dychwelyd i'r gwaith a'i dyfodol. Mae ein strategaeth, ar gyfer plant y mae gofal plant, a'r fenter Dechrau'n Deg sydd, gyda'i gilydd, yn werth buddoddiad dros £70 miliwn yn cael eu gweithredu'n awr i fynd i'r afael â gofal plant—gan ymyrryd ar gyfer ein plant ifancaf, o ran y fenter Dechrau'n Deg—yn gwneud gwahaniaeth. Yn ogystal—gan wisgo fy het weinidogol a'm het fel aelod o Bwyllgor y Tŷ—mae Pwyllgor y Tŷ a minnau yn mynd i'r afael â gofal plant yn yr adeilad hwn, neu yn sicr ym mae Caerdydd.

Kirsty Williams: A woman's earning potential throughout her working life will have a huge impact on her retirement income.

Kirsty Williams: Bydd potensial menyw i ennill cyflog drwy gydol ei bywyd gweithio yn cael effaith aruthrol ar ei hincwm

At present, retirement income for women is 57 per cent of what it is for men. Are you, therefore, concerned that your colleagues in Westminster have ruled out the possibility of establishing a universal pension that could protect the rights of women and ensure that women do not have to face old age in poverty?

Jane Hutt: This is yet another barrier that women must overcome. A great deal of work has been done on this by the Equal Opportunities Commission, the Women and Work Commission, which published its report very recently, the trade unions and the Trades Union Congress. It is clear that we have to work with our colleagues in the UK Government, as it is a non-devolved issue, but we have to draw this to their attention under our close the pay gap campaign.

Kirsty Williams: If we could get women into senior positions during their working lives, issues around pensions would, perhaps, not be so critical. Some 75 per cent of Welsh women work in cleaning, catering or clerical services, and women are massively under-represented at senior levels—70 per cent of all NHS staff are women, but only 20 per cent of hospital consultants are female. There are no female police authority chairs, no female university vice-chancellors, and, dare I say it, no female party leaders. How will your campaign address this?

Jane Hutt: Kirsty has managed to bring in all the key aspects in terms of barriers to women's progress and tackling unequal pay. Occupational segregation is clearly key, and there are issues of job segregation to be addressed. I was concerned to hear last week that the index of where women sit in the public and private sectors in Wales shows that we have not made much progress in terms of women in management throughout the public sector, and, apart from improving the number of Welsh women Members of Parliament, we have not made enough progress in ensuring that women reach those important points. In terms of our leaders, we

ymddeol. Ar hyn o bryd, mae incwm ymddeol menywod yn 57 y cant o incwm ymddeol dynion. A ydych, felly, yn pryderu bod eich cyd-aelodau yn San Steffan wedi diystyru posibilrwydd sefydlu pensiwn cyffredinol a allai ddiogelu hawliau menywod a sicrhau na fydd menywod yn wynebu tlodi yn eu henaint?

Jane Hutt: Mae hwn yn rhwystr arall y mae'n rhaid i fenywod ei oresgyn. Gwnaed llawer iawn o waith ar hyn gan y Comisiwn Cyfle Cyfartal, y Comisiwn Menywod a Gwaith, a gyhoeddodd ei adroddiad yn ddiweddar iawn, yr undebau llafur a Chyngres yr Undebau Llafur. Mae'n amlwg fod yn rhaid inni weithio gyda'n cyd-aelodau yn Llywodraeth y DU, gan ei fod yn fater sydd heb ei ddatganoli. Ond rhaid inni ddod â hyn i'w sylw o dan ein hymgyrch i gau'r bwloch cyflogau.

Kirsty Williams: Pe byddai modd inni sicrhau bod menywod yn cael uwch swyddi yn ystod eu bywydau gweithio, mae'n bosibl na fyddai problemau pensiynau mor enbyd. Mae tua 75 y cant o fenywod Cymru yn gweithio mewn gwasanaethau glanhau, arlwyo neu glerigol, ac mae menywod mewn uwch swyddi yn brin iawn—mae 70 y cant o holl staff y GIG yn fenywod, ond dim ond 20 y cant o feddygon ymgynghorol mewn ysbytai sy'n fenywod. Nid oes yr un fenyw yn gadeirydd ar awdurdod heddlu, dim menywod yn is-gangellorion mewn prifysgolion, ac os meiddiaf ddweud, dim arweinwyr pleidiau sy'n fenywod. Sut y bydd eich ymgyrch yn mynd i'r afael â hyn?

Jane Hutt: Llwyddodd Kirsty i gynnwys yr holl agweddau allweddol ar yr hyn sy'n rhwystro cynnydd menywod a mynd i'r afael â chyflog anghyfartal. Mae gwahanu yn ôl galwedigaeth yn amlwg yn allweddol, ac mae yna broblemau gwahanu yn ôl swydd y dylid mynd i'r afael â hwy. Yr oedd yn peri pryder imi glywed yr wythnos diwethaf fod y mynegai o safle menywod yn y sector cyhoeddus a'r sector preifat yng Nghymru yn dangos nad ydynt wedi gwneud fawr o gynnydd o ran menywod sy'n rheolwyr ar draws sector cyhoeddus, ac ar wahân i gynyddu nifer y menywod o Gymru sy'n Aelodau Seneddol, ni wnaed digon o

can recognise the point that you made.

gynnydd gennym i sicrhau bod menywod yn cyrraedd y manau pwysig hynny. O ran eich arweinydd, gallwn gydnabod y pwynt a wnaed gennych.

However, this is also, seriously, a matter of how we tackle job segregation. I launched the Wales resource centre for women in science, engineering, construction and technology, which will provide guidance to women who are considering working, or are already working, in these sectors. It will encourage young people, through improved careers guidance, to break out of the stereotyped roles of caring and cleaning, to ensure that they can move into these important roles and break out of that gender segregation.

Fodd bynnag, mae hyn hefyd, i fod o ddifrif, yn fater o'r ffordd yr awn i'r afael â gwahanu yn ôl y swydd. Lansiais ganolfan adnoddau Cymru i fenywod mewn gwyddoniaeth, peirianeg, adeiladu a thechnoleg, a fydd yn rhoi arweiniad i fenywod sy'n ystyried gweithio, neu sydd eisoes yn gweithio, yn y sectorau hyn. Bydd yn annog pobl ifanc, drwy well canllawiau ar yrfaeod, i gefnu ar rolau ystrydebol megis gofalu a glanhau, i sicrhau y gallant symud i mewn i'r rolau pwysig hyn a rhoi'r gorau i'r gwahanu hwnnw rhwng y ddau ryw.

Ehangu Mynediad at Gyfleusterau Hamdden ar gyfer Pobl Anabl Broadening Access to Leisure Facilities for Disabled People

Q5 Jenny Randerson: Will the Minister make a statement on broadening access to leisure facilities for disabled people? OAQ0210(BM)

C5 Jenny Randerson: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ehangu mynediad i gyfleusterau hamdden ar gyfer pobl anabl? OAQ0210(BM)

Jane Hutt: The provision of leisure centres is the responsibility of local authorities; they are required to ensure that their facilities comply with Part 3 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. This requires service providers to make physical adjustments to their premises to comply with the Act.

Jane Hutt: Cyfrifoldeb awdurdodau lleol yw darparu canolfannau hamdden; mae'n ofynnol iddynt sicrhau bod eu cyfleusterau'n cydymffurfio â Rhan 3 o Ddeddf Gwahaniaethu ar sail Anabledd 1995. Mae hyn yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i ddarparwyr gwasanaethau wneud addasiadau ffisegol yn eu safleoedd i gydymffurfio â'r Ddeddf.

Jenny Randerson: Access to leisure facilities is an important equal opportunities issue for disabled people, as is the provision of free homecare. Minister, as the originator of Labour's now-broken election promise on free homecare, did you attempt to argue with the Minister for Health and Social Services when he first indicated that he was going to break that promise?

Jenny Randerson: Mae mynediad i gyfleusterau hamdden yn fater cyfle cyfartal pwysig i bobl anabl, yn ogystal â darparu gofal cartref am ddim. Weinidog, fel yr un a wnaeth addewid Llafur sydd bellach wedi'i dorri ar ofal cartref am ddim, a wnaethoch geisio dadlau â'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol pan ddywedodd am y tro cyntaf ei fod yn mynd i dorri'r addewid hwnnw.

Jane Hutt: One thing that I would say about the change of policy is that the First Minister, the Minister for Health and Social Services and I have already expressed our regret that we will not be able to fulfil, ultimately, the spirit of the manifesto commitment. However, we have produced a package of considerable new opportunities for disabled

Jane Hutt: Un peth y byddwn yn ei ddweud am newid y polisi yw bod y Prif Weinidog, y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a minnau eisoes wedi dweud ein bod yn gresynu na fyddwn, yn y pen draw, yn gallu gweithredu'n unol ag ysbryd yr ymrwymiad yn ein maniffesto. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym wedi cynhyrchu pecyn o

people.

Shortly after that announcement was made, I went to speak to the annual general meeting of Disability Wales and a conference on independent living—you were at one of them—where I had a full and frank discussion with people in the disability movement. I want to talk to those people about these issues and about how we can make this new package really work for them, and promote equality and independence.

Jenny Randerson: After you left the annual general meeting to which you have just referred, the conversation got even fuller and franker. I can assure you that the disabled community does not believe that the package of measures has in any way sweetened the bitter pill that it has had to swallow. Can you help those people to understand the decision by informing us exactly when it was that your Government decided to abandon its promise? Can you tell us when the decision was taken to investigate the issue again and when the matter came to Cabinet for a decision?

Jane Hutt: Jenny, you know that this took some time. We had a stakeholder group that looked at the whole issue, as any Government would do after an election. We were successful at the election and that enabled us to take forward our 10 manifesto commitments, which we are delivering on. In terms of this manifesto commitment, we set up a group, we worked on it and we took evidence—as you know, Professor Bell provided the evidence on the costing. This is an issue on which the First Minister, the Minister for Health and Social Services and I have already responded and I am sure that there will be an opportunity in the Health and Social Services Committee to scrutinise the background to this decision again. However, I believe that we should be working with our colleagues and the stakeholders in the disability movement to move forward and to work with them, not only in terms of the package that we have offered, but on our pilot scheme on an index of relative need to help us with assessment and to look at

gyfleoedd newydd sylweddol i bobl anabl.

Yn fuan ar ôl gwneud y cyhoeddiad, euthum i siarad â chyfarfod cyffredinol blynyddol Anabledd Cymru a chynhadledd ar fyw'n annibynnol—yr oeddech chi yn un ohonynt—Ile cefais drafodaeth lawn ac agored gyda phobl sy'n weithgar ym maes anabledd. Yr wyf yn dymuno siarad â'r bobl hynny am y materion hyn ac am y ffordd y gallwn sicrhau bod y pecyn newydd hwn yn gweithio'n wirioneddol iddynt hwy, a hyrwyddo cydraddoldeb ac annibyniaeth.

Jenny Randerson: Ar ôl ichi adael y cyfarfod cyffredinol blynyddol yr ydych newydd gyfeirio ato, cafwyd trafodaeth lawnach a mwy agored. Gallaf eich sicrhau nad yw'r gymuned anabl yn meddwl bod y pecyn o fesurau o ddim cysur o gwbl iddynt. A allwch helpu'r bobl hynny i ddeall y penderfyniad drwy ddweud wrthym pryd yn union y penderfynodd eich Llywodraeth beidio â chadw at ei haddewid? A allwch ddweud wrthym pryd y gwnaed y penderfyniad i ymchwilio i'r mater unwaith eto, a phryd y daeth y mater gerbron y Cabinet i'w benderfynu?

Jane Hutt: Jenny, fe wyddoch i hyn gymryd cryn amser. Edrychodd grŵp rhanddeiliaid ar yr holl fater, fel y byddai unrhyw Lywodraeth yn ei wneud ar ôl etholiad. Yr oeddem yn llwyddiannus yn yr etholiad ac yr oedd hynny'n ein galluogi i ddatblygu 10 ymrwymiad ein maniffesto, ac yr ydym yn eu cyflawni. O ran yr ymrwymiad hwn yn y maniffesto, sefydlwyd grŵp, aethpwyd ati a chymerwyd tystiolaeth—fel y gwyddoch, rhoddodd yr Athro Bell y dystiolaeth ar gostiadau. Mae hwn yn fater y mae'r Prif Weinidog, y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a minnau wedi ymateb iddo eisoes, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd cyfle yn y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol i graffu ar gefndir y penderfyniad hwn unwaith eto. Fodd bynnag, credaf y dylem fod yn gweithio gyda'r rhanddeiliaid ac eraill yn y mudiad anabledd er mwyn symud ymlaen a gweithio gyda hwy, nid dim ond o ran y pecyn a gynigiwyd gennym, ond ar ein cynllun peilot ar fynegai angen cymharol i'n helpu wrth asesu ac i

disability-related benefits in relation to our fairer charging policy, which is going to be key.

edrych ar fudd-daliadau anabledd mewn cysylltiad â'n polisi codi tâl tecach, a fydd yn allweddol.

Hyrwyddo Cyfle Cyfartal yn y Canolbarth a'r Gorllewin The Promotion of Equality of Opportunity in Mid and West Wales

Q6 Lisa Francis: Will the Minister make a statement on Welsh Assembly Government initiatives to promote equality of opportunity in Mid and West Wales? OAQ0203(BM)

C6 Lisa Francis: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gynlluniau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i hyrwyddo cyfle cyfartal yn y Canolbarth a'r Gorllewin? OAQ0203(BM)

Jane Hutt: The Welsh Assembly Government supports a number of initiatives that promote equality of opportunity nationally, including those in Mid and West Wales. Next month, we are holding an event in Aberystwyth for people to identify what the priorities are for the Assembly Government to promote disability equality.

Jane Hutt: Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cefnogi nifer o fentrau sy'n hyrwyddo cyfle cyfartal yn genedlaethol, gan gynnwys y rheini yn y Canolbarth a'r Gorllewin. Fis nesaf, byddwn yn cynnal digwyddiad yn Aberystwyth lle gall pobl nodi beth yw blaenoriaethau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar gyfer hyrwyddo cydraddoldeb anabledd.

Lisa Francis: I am glad that you mentioned Aberystwyth. As the former Minister for health, you may be aware that Bronglais Hospital at Aberystwyth could be stripped of its consultant-led maternity services, with women being compelled to travel up to 70 miles, along tortuous roads, to see specialists in Carmarthen. Bronglais also serves west Powys and south Gwynedd, not just Ceredigion. As a Government that is committed to equal opportunities, what will you do to ensure that this ridiculous scheme is not allowed to go ahead?

Lisa Francis: Yr wyf yn falch i chi grybwyll Aberystwyth. Fel y cyn-Weinidog dros iechyd, hwyrach eich bod yn ymwybodol y gallai Ysbyty Bron-glais yn Aberystwyth golli ei wasanaethau mamolaeth o dan arweiniad meddygon ymgynghorol, a fydd yn gorfodi menywod i deithio hyd at 70 o filltiroedd, ar hyd ffyrdd troellog, i weld arbenigwyr yng Nghaerfyrddin. Yn ogystal, mae Bron-glais yn gwasanaethu gorllewin Powys a de Gwynedd, nid Ceredigion yn unig. Fel Llywodraeth sydd wedi ymrwymo i gyfle cyfartal, beth fyddwch yn ei wneud i sicrhau na chaniateir i'r cynllun hurt hwn fynd rhagddo?

Jane Hutt: This is a matter for local consultation, which is being undertaken at the moment, led by the local health boards, the NHS trusts, and the regional office of the Welsh Assembly Government.

Jane Hutt: Mae hwn yn fater ar gyfer ymgynghori lleol, sy'n digwydd ar hyn o bryd, o dan arweiniad y byrddau iechyd lleol, yr ymddiriedolaethau GIG, a swyddfa ranbarthol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru.

Cydymffurfio â Ddeddf Gwahaniaethu ar sail Anabledd Compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act

Q9 Helen Mary Jones: What guidance has the Welsh Assembly Government made available with regard to compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995? OAQ0200(BM)

C9 Helen Mary Jones: Pa ganllawiau sydd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i gydymffurfio â Ddeddf Gwahaniaethu ar sail Anabledd 1995? OAQ0200(BM)

Jane Hutt: Responsibility for the Disability

Jane Hutt: Yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau

Discrimination Act and its subsequent implementation lies with the Department for Work and Pensions. However, the Assembly Government has taken a proactive role in Wales and is working with its partners to ensure that compliance with the Act is achieved throughout the country.

Helen Mary Jones: Does your role in this, given your cross-cutting responsibilities in this regard, extend to giving guidance to your fellow Ministers? Did you make any assessment as to whether Brian Gibbons's decision to break your promise on homecare was compliant with the new duty to promote disability equality that will shortly come on line and with the Assembly duty to promote equality of opportunity for all?

Jane Hutt: The new disability equality duty presents great opportunities. As I said in response to Lisa Francis, we are holding events throughout Wales to discuss and consult on how to take the disability equality scheme forward. We want it to be an exemplar. We have made policy commitments that take us beyond our statutory obligations on disability and health. For example, free prescriptions will make a huge difference to disabled people and people with impairments in Wales. It shows that we are moving forward in tackling the equality agenda.

fydd yn gyfrifol am y Ddeddf Gwahaniaethu ar Sail Anabledd ac am ei gweithredu. Fodd bynnag, mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi chwarae rhan ragweithiol yng Nghymru ac mae'n gweithio gyda'i phartneriaid i sicrhau cydymffurfio â'r Ddeddf ledled y wlad.

Helen Mary Jones: A yw'ch rôl yn hyn, o gofio'ch cyfrifoldebau ar draws pynciau, yn cynnwys rhoi arweiniad i'ch cyd-Weinidogion? A wnaethoch unrhyw asesiad i weld a oedd penderfyniad Brian Gibbons i dorri'ch addewid ar ofal yn y cartref yn cydymffurfio â'r ddyletswydd newydd i hyrwyddo cydraddoldeb i bobl anabl a ddaw i rym cyn hir, ac â dyletswydd y Cynulliad i hybu cyfle cyfartal i bawb?

Jane Hutt: Mae'r ddyletswydd newydd ar gydraddoldeb i bobl anabl yn cynnig cyfleoedd gwyach. Fel y dywedais yn fy ymateb i Lisa Francis, yr ydym yn cynnal digwyddiadau ledled Cymru i drafod ac ymgynghori am y ffordd y dylid gweithredu'r cynllun cydraddoldeb i bobl anabl. Yr ydym am iddo fod yn esiampl. Yr ydym wedi gwneud ymrwymadau polisi sy'n mynd y tu hwnt i'n rhwymedigaethau statudol ar anabledd ac iechyd. Er enghraifft, bydd presgripsiynau am ddim yn gwneud gwahaniaeth mawr i bobl anabl a phobl yng Nghymru sydd â nam ar y synhwyrau. Dengys ein bod yn bwrw ymlaen â'r agenda cydraddoldeb.

Polisiâu Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ynghylch Cefnogi Pobl Anabl The Welsh Assembly Government's Policies for Supporting Disabled People

Q10 Helen Mary Jones: Will the Minister make a progress report on the Welsh Assembly Government's policies for supporting disabled people? OAQ0206(BM)

Jane Hutt: It is important that I am hosting a meeting on 24 March with Disability Wales and the Disability Rights Commission to bring together senior figures and public bodies to look at how we can manage the pressure on local disability organisations and how we can work with Disability Wales and the DRC to help to build the capacity of local disability groups. On Friday, I am addressing a seminar hosted by the WLGA and the DRC to work with local authority senior elected

C10 Helen Mary Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi adroddiad cynnydd am bolisiau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i gefnogi pobl anabl? OAQ0206(BM)

Jane Hutt: Mae'n bwysig fy mod yn cynnal cyfarfod ar 24 Mawrth gydag Anabledd Cymru a'r Comisiwn Hawliau Anabledd i ddwyn ynghyd unigolion pwysig a chyrrff cyhoeddus i ystyried sut y gallwn reoli'r pwysau ar fudiadau anabledd lleol, a sut y gallwn weithio gydag Anabledd Cymru a'r Comisiwn i helpu datblygu gallu grwpiau anabledd lleol. Ddydd Gwener, byddaf yn annerch seminar a gynhelir gan CLILC a'r Comisiwn i weithio gydag aelodau etholedig

members on how they can take forward the new duty on local authorities. As you know, we are also funding Disability Wales to the tune of £50,000 to help us to develop our social model on disability. That will assist us in ensuring that the Welsh Assembly Government is at the forefront of the disability policy arena.

Helen Mary Jones: That is all well and good, but I refer you to my previous supplementary question. I want to press you further in that regard. As the Minister with responsibility for equality, are you comfortable with the fact that the Coalition on Charging is considering taking legal action to establish whether you, as a Government, have breached your statutory duty to promote equality by breaking your promise? Have you discussed the possible legal challenge with the Minister for Health and Social Services? Have you at least suggested to him that he might have the decency to meet the Coalition on Charging, which has evidence that it would like to present to challenge his decision?

Jane Hutt: The Coalition on Charging was one of the first groups that Brian Gibbons met on the day that he made the statement in the Chamber. As I have mentioned, I have met many of its members at the two conferences that I attended. I will be meeting colleagues in the Disability Rights Commission and Disability Wales in the coming weeks. Brian Gibbons and I will meet people to discuss the issues. On our support for disabled people, £11.5 million of European funding has been provided to combat inequality in the labour market under the EQUAL funding programme, and I know that that has been welcomed by disabled people across Wales because it promotes their independence and opportunities for them to be economically active in the labour market.

profiadol mewn awdurdodau lleol ar y ffordd y gallant hwy gyflawni'r ddyletswydd newydd ar awdurdodau lleol. Fel y gwyddoch, yr ydym hefyd yn rhoi cyllid o £50,000 i Anabledd Cymru i'n helpu i ddatblygu ein model cymdeithasol o anabledd. Bydd hynny yn ein helpu i sicrhau bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar y blaen ym maes polisiau anabledd.

Helen Mary Jones: Digon teg, ond hoffwn eich cyfeirio at fy nghwestiwn atodol blaenorol. Hoffwn eich holi ymhellach am hynny. Fel y Gweinidog sydd â chyfrifoldeb dros gydraddoldeb, a ydych yn gyfforddus â'r ffaith bod Coalition on Charging yn ystyried cymryd camau cyfreithiol i weld a ydych chi, fel Llywodraeth, wedi torri'ch dyletswydd statudol i hyrwyddo cydraddoldeb wrth dorri'ch addewid? A ydych wedi trafod yr her gyfreithiol bosibl gyda'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol? A ydych o leiaf wedi awgrymu wrtho y dylai fod mor foesgar â chyfarfod â Coalition on Charging, sydd â thystiolaeth yr hoffai ei chyflwyno i herio ei benderfyniad?

Jane Hutt: Yr oedd Coalition on Charging yn un o'r grwpiau cyntaf y cyfarfu Brian Gibbons â hwy ar y diwrnod y gwnaeth y datganiad yn y Siambr. Fel yr wyf wedi dweud, yr wyf wedi cyfarfod â nifer o'i aelodau yn y ddwy gynhadledd a fynytais. Byddaf yn cyfarfod â swyddogion yn y Comisiwn Hawliau Anabledd ac Anabledd Cymru yn yr wythnosau nesaf. Bydd Brian Gibbons a minnau'n cyfarfod â phobl i drafod y materion. O ran ein cymorth i bobl anabl, darparwyd £11.5 miliwn o arian Ewropeaidd ar gyfer dileu anghydraddoldeb yn y farchnad lafur o dan raglen ariannu EQUAL, a gwn fod pobl anabl ledled Cymru wedi'i groesawu am ei fod yn hyrwyddo eu hannibyniaeth a'r cyfleoedd iddynt fod yn economaidd weithgar yn y farchnad lafur.

Datganiad am Bensiynau Galwedigaethol Statement on Occupational Pensions

The Minister for Economic Development and Transport (Andrew Davies): The UK parliamentary ombudsman, Ann Abraham,

Y Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd (Andrew Davies): Cyflwynodd Ann Abraham, ombwdsmon seneddol y DU,

reported today on her investigation into actions by UK Government bodies relating to the security of final salary occupational pensions. The role of the ombudsman is to consider complaints that individuals have suffered injustice as a consequence of maladministration on the part of UK Government departments and other bodies within her jurisdiction.

The First Minister and I are well aware of the plight of the individuals and their families affected through our many discussions on behalf of former Allied Steel and Wire workers. Following ASW's going into receivership, we have made the reinstating of full pension rights to ASW workers a priority, and we continue to work closely with the Community union on behalf of former ASW workers to ensure reinstatement of their pension entitlements.

Pension policy is a reserved function, but the Assembly Government has nevertheless ensured that the plight of former ASW employees continues to be heard. Following ASW's going into receivership in 2002, as a Government, we brokered a number of meetings with the receivers, the pension trustees and the Department for Work and Pensions, including past and current Secretaries of State, to press the case for the reinstatement of pension entitlements to all those who, like ASW workers, were affected by a pension shortfall. Indeed, it is probable that the well-organised official ASW campaign was instrumental in forming a pension protection fund to ensure that workers get a decent pension if their firm goes bust in the future.

On 14 May 2004, Andrew Smith, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, announced the financial assistance scheme to help those not covered by future legislation. However, it became clear that the financial assistance scheme will not provide blanket support to all members of eligible pension schemes. Indeed, under current legislation, only a small percentage of former ASW workers will benefit. We have continued to press for the inclusion of all affected pension scheme members in the financial assistance scheme, and we raised this matter recently

adroddiad heddiw ar ei hymchwiliad i gamau a gymerwyd gan gyrff Llywodraeth y DU mewn perthynas â diogelwch pensiynau galwedigaethol cyflog terfynol. Rôl yr ombudsmon yw ystyried cwynion bod unigolion wedi cael cam oherwydd camweinyddu gan adrannau Llywodraeth y DU a chyrrff eraill yn ei hawdurdodaeth.

Mae'r Prif Weinidog a minnau yn ymwybodol iawn o sefyllfa'r unigolion yr effeithiwyd arnynt a'u teuluoedd drwy ein trafodaethau niferus ar ran cyn-weithwyr Allied Steel and Wire. Ar ôl i ASW gael ei roi yn nwylo'r derbynnydd, rhoesom flaenoriaeth i adfer hawliau pensiwn llawn gweithwyr ASW, ac yr ydym yn parhau i weithio'n agos gyda'r undeb Community ar ran cyn-weithwyr ASW i sicrhau adfer eu hawliau pensiwn.

Swyddogaeth a gadwyd yn ôl yw'r polisi ar bensiynau, ond eto i gyd mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi sicrhau bod sefyllfa cyn-weithwyr ASW yn dal i gael sylw. Ar ôl i ASW gael ei roi yn nwylo'r derbynnydd yn 2002, trefnwyd nifer o gyfarfodydd gennym fel Llywodraeth â'r derbynwyr, ymddiriedolwyr y pensiwn a'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau, gan gynnwys y cyn-Ysgrifennydd Gwladol a'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol presennol i gyflwyno'r ddaol dros adfer hawliau pensiwn i bob un, fel gweithwyr ASW, a oedd yn wynebu ddiffyg yn eu pensiwn. Yn wir, mae'n debygol fod ymgyrch swyddogol drefnus gweithwyr ASW yn allweddol wrth sefydlu cronfa diogelu pensiynau i sicrhau bod gweithwyr yn cael pensiwn teg os bydd eu cwmni'n mynd i'r wal yn y dyfodol.

Ar 14 Mai 2004, cyhoeddodd Andrew Smith, yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Waith a Phensiynau, y cynllun cymorth ariannol i helpu'r rhai na fydd deddfwriaeth yn y dyfodol yn gymwys iddynt. Fodd bynnag, daeth yn amlwg na fydd y cynllun cymorth ariannol yn rhoi cymorth i bob aelod o gynllun pensiwn cymwys. Yn wir, o dan y ddeddfwriaeth bresennol, dim ond canran fach o gyn-weithwyr ASW fydd yn elwa. Yr ydym wedi parhau i bwysu am i holl aelodau cynlluniau pensiwn yr effeithir arnynt gael eu cynnwys yn y cynllun cymorth, a chodwyd y

with the Secretary of State at a meeting that was jointly chaired by the First Minister and Mick Leahy, the general secretary of the Community union. I was pleased, therefore, to hear the Prime Minister speaking today about expediting the financial assistance scheme, which is still under review. We would fully endorse that.

The ombudsman's report makes five recommendations to the UK Government, one of which is that it should consider whether arrangements should be made to restore the core pension and non-core benefits to those categories of scheme members covered by her report. The UK Government has carefully considered the report, but it does not accept that maladministration occurred, or that taxpayers should cover the costs of the pensions promises made by employers, an amount estimated at some £15 billion. The UK Government has said that responsibility must fall on those companies whose schemes were being wound up, and on the trustees who, with the benefit of professional advice, were responsible for protecting members' interests. There will be much further discussion on this matter, and, as a Government, we will consider the ombudsman's report fully. We will do our part by continuing to push for all former ASW workers in the financial assistance scheme. As a Government, we continue to represent the best interests of the Community union members and their families.

Owen John Thomas: I am quite surprised that only one paragraph in this four-page statement refers to the parliamentary ombudsman's report on pensions. That report found the Government guilty of causing injustice and financial losses to those who suffered the loss of their pensions during the winding-up process. There are recommendations made by the parliamentary ombudsman that you have not mentioned, and I think that I need to do that. They include the recommendation that members must be fully restored, and all scheme benefits should be restored—income-tax-free lump sums, life cover, ill-health cover and survivor benefits. The report also recommends that consolidatory payments—

mater hwn gennym yn ddiweddar gyda'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol mewn cyfarfod a gadeiriwyd ar y cyd gan y Prif Weinidog a Mick Leahy, ysgrifennydd cyffredinol undeb Community. Felly, yr oeddwn yn falch o glywed y Prif Weinidog yn sôn heddiw am gyflwyno'r cynllun cymorth ariannol, sy'n parhau i gael ei adolygu, yn gynharach. Byddem yn cefnogi hynny'n llwyr.

Mae adroddiad yr ombwdsmon yn gwneud pum argymhelliad i Lywodraeth y DU. Un ohonynt yw y dylid ystyried pa drefniadau y dylid eu gwneud i adfer buddiannau pensiwn craidd a buddiannau pensiwn nad ydynt yn rhai craidd ar gyfer y categorïau hynny o aelodau o gynlluniau a drafodir yn ei hadroddiad. Mae Llywodraeth y DU wedi ystyried yr adroddiad yn ofalus, ond nid yw'n derbyn bod achos o gamweinyddu, nac ychwaith y dylai trethdalwyr dalu am gostau addewidion pensiwn a wnaed gan y cyflogwyr, sef tua £15 biliwn yn ôl yr amcangyfrif. Dywedodd Llywodraeth y DU fod yn rhaid i'r cyfrifoldeb gael ei ysgwyddo gan y cwmnïau hynny yr oedd eu cynlluniau'n cael eu dirwyn i ben, a'r ymddiriedolwyr a oedd yn gyfrifol, ar ôl cael cyngor proffesiynol, am ddiogelu buddiannau eu haelodau. Bydd llawer mwy o drafodaeth ar y mater hwn, ac fel Llywodraeth byddwn yn ystyried adroddiad yr ombwdsmon yn llawn. Byddwn yn gwneud ein rhan drwy barhau i bwysu am i holl gyn-weithwyr ASW gael eu cynnwys yn y cynllun cymorth. Fel Llywodraeth, parhawn i gynrychioli buddiannau aelodau undeb Community a'u teuluoedd.

Owen John Thomas: Yr wyf wedi fy synnu braidd mai un paragraff yn unig yn y datganiad hwn o bedair tudalen sy'n cyfeirio at adroddiad yr ombwdsmon seneddol ar bensiynau. Yn ôl yr adroddiad hwnnw, yr oedd y Llywodraeth yn euog o achosi colledion ariannol a gwneud cam â'r rheini a gollodd eu pensiynau yn ystod y broses dirwyn i ben. Gwnaeth yr ombwdsmon argymhellion nad ydych wedi eu crybwyll, a chredaf fod angen imi wneud hynny. Maent yn cynnwys yr argymhelliad bod yn rhaid i aelodau gael eu hadfer yn llawn, ac y dylai pob buddiant o dan gynllun gael ei adfer—cyfandaliadau sy'n rhydd o dreth incwm, yswiriant bywyd, yswiriant rhag salwch a buddiannau i oroeswyr. Mae'r adroddiad

damages, that is—should be offered as a tangible recognition of the distress, outrage, inconvenience and uncertainty suffered. Those are strong words from the parliamentary ombudsman about your colleagues in the New Labour Government in London. The report says that the Government should apologise to scheme trustees for the affects of maladministration on their ability to perform their duties, and that the Government should conduct an earlier review to speed up the wind-up process—I have asked you to do that on several occasions over the last four years.

The financial assistance scheme must be fundamentally changed or replaced, since it is causing further injustices. Clearly, there is not enough money in that fund for it to be effective. Pension language should be clarified, and the industry should take care of the language that it uses in future. Phrases such as ‘guaranteed’ and ‘fully funded’ should not be used if they mislead members, and they certainly have done.

Any members who have suffered other losses, such as those who have been forced to sell their homes because they did not get the pensions that they were relying on, should claim compensation from the DWP compensation scheme. The parliamentary ombudsman’s report comes just a fortnight after the European Commission stated that the legislation put in place by successive UK Governments was insufficient. The ombudsman’s report is a damning indictment of the Government, which now rejects outright the ombudsman’s report—a report that highlights the failure of the Government to provide adequate protection for pension schemes that have gone into the wind-up process.

3.40 a.m.

It is most unusual, if not unprecedented, for the Government to completely reject the findings and recommendations of the parliamentary ombudsman. Therefore, I call on the Welsh Assembly Government to put pressure on the Public Administration Select Committee to hold an inquiry into why the Government has rejected the findings and

hefyd yn argymhell y dylid cynnig iawndal fel cydnabyddiaeth ddiriaethol o’r gofid, y dicter, yr anghyfleustra a’r ansicrwydd a achosir. Mae’r rheini’n eiriau llym gan yr ombwdsmon seneddol am eich cyd-aelodau yn Llywodraeth Llafur Newydd yn Llundain. Dywed yr adroddiad y dylai’r Llywodraeth ymddiheuro i ymddiriedolwyr cynlluniau am effeithiau camweinyddu ar eu gallu i gyflawni eu dyletswyddau, ac y dylai’r Llywodraeth gynnal adolygiad yn gynharach i gyflymu’r broses dirwyn i ben—yr wyf wedi gofyn droeon ichi wneud hynny dros y pedair blynedd diwethaf.

Rhaid i’r cynllun cymorth ariannol gael ei ailwampio’n llwyr neu ei ddisodli, gan ei fod achosi mwy o anghyfiawnder. Yn amlwg, nid oes digon o arian yn y gronfa honno iddi fod yn effeithiol. Dylai iaith pensiynau fod yn fwy eglur, a dylai’r diwydiant fod yn ofalus o ran yr iaith a ddefnyddir ganddo yn y dyfodol. Ni ddylid defnyddio ymadroddion megis ‘gwarantedig’ ac ‘wedi’i ariannu’n llawn’ os ydynt yn camarwain aelodau, ac yn sicr maent wedi gwneud hynny.

Dylai unrhyw aelodau sydd wedi dioddef colledion eraill, megis y rheini sydd wedi gorfod gwerthu eu cartrefi am na chawsant y pensiynau yr oeddent yn dibynnu arnynt, hawlio iawndal o dan gynllun iawndal yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau. Daw adroddiad yr ombwdsmon seneddol prin bythefnos ar ôl i’r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd ddweud bod y ddeddfwriaeth a roddwyd ar waith gan y naill Lywodraeth ar ôl y llall yn y DU yn annigonol. Mae adroddiad yr ombwdsmon yn gondemniad llwyr o’r Llywodraeth, sydd yn awr yn gwrthod adroddiad yr ombwdsmon yn llwyr—adroddiad sy’n tynnu sylw at fethiant y Llywodraeth i ddiogelu’n ddigonol y cynlluniau pensiwn a fyddai wedi mynd i mewn i’r broses ddirwyn i ben.

Mae’n anarferol iawn, os nad heb gynsail, i’r Llywodraeth wrthod darganfyddiadau ac argymhellion yr ombwdsmon seneddol yn llwyr. Felly, galwaf ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i roi pwysau ar y Pwyllgor Dethol ar Weinyddiaeth Gyhoeddus i gynnal ymholiad i’r rheswm pam y mae’r Llywodraeth wedi gwrthod darganfyddiadau ac argymhellion yr

recommendations of the parliamentary ombudsman. The Welsh Assembly Government clearly needs to step up the pressure on its Westminster colleagues if it is not to be seen to have failed yet again to deliver for the people of Wales.

Finally, how many pensions of former ASW workers have been restored to date? Can you give a figure for that?

Andrew Davies: On the last point, I do not have the information to hand.

Owen John Thomas: I think that the answer is—

The Presiding Officer: Order. I believe that the Minister answers questions and Members ask them. [*Interruption.*] Order. We cannot go on like this. Let us have some order and decorum as we deal with this very serious matter.

Andrew Davies: I am also trying to deal with the issue in a serious manner. As I have said, Owen John and Dai Lloyd, I or the First Minister will write to you on this issue. However, I said in my statement that this is a non-devolved matter. As a Government, the First Minister and I have taken the lead on this matter and we have held several meetings. I have held meetings with the trade unions and those involved, including the trustees. The First Minister recently held a meeting with John Hutton, the Secretary of State for the Department of Work and Pensions. The Community union has publicly applauded the role taken by the Assembly Government and the First Minister. It recognises that it was the First Minister who argued strongly for the UK Government to provide more money to pay the pensions of the former Allied Steel and Wire employees.

It is a non-devolved matter, but, nevertheless, I, together with the First Minister, thought it important that I made a statement on behalf of the Assembly Government. Our position is clear, the Community union and its members and the former employees of ASW recognise our role in this, and we will continue to press

ombwdsmon seneddol. Yn amlwg, mae angen i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru roi mwy o bwysau ar ei chyd-aelodau yn San Steffan os nad yw i edrych fel pe bae wedi methu â chyflawni dros bobl Cymru unwaith yn rhagor.

Yn olaf, faint o bensiynau cyn-weithwyr ASW sydd wedi eu hadfer hyd yn hyn? A allwch roi ffigur?

Andrew Davies: Ar y pwynt olaf, nid yw'r wybodaeth gennyf wrth law.

Owen John Thomas: Credaf mai'r ateb yw—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Credaf mai'r Gweinidog sy'n ateb cwestiynau ac mai'r Aelodau sy'n eu gofyn. [*Torri ar draws.*] Trefn. Ni allwn barhau fel hyn. Gadewch inni gael trefn a gwedduster wrth inni ymdrin â'r mater difrifol iawn hwn.

Andrew Davies: Yr wyf fi hefyd yn ceisio ymdrin â'r mater mewn modd difrifol. Fel y dywedais, Owen John a Dai Lloyd, bydd y Prif Weinidog neu minnau yn ysgrifennu atoch ar y mater hwn. Fodd bynnag, dywedais yn fy natganiad nad yw hwn yn fater sydd wedi ei ddatganoli. Fel Llywodraeth, mae'r Prif Weinidog a minnau wedi arwain ar y mater hwn, ac wedi cael nifer o gyfarfodydd. Cefais gyfarfodydd gyda'r undebau llafur a'r rheini sy'n ymwneud â'r mater hwn, gan gynnwys yr ymddiriedolwyr. Cafodd y Prif Weinidog gyfarfod yn ddiweddar gyda John Hutton, yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau. Mae undeb Community wedi cymeradwyo'n gyhoeddus y rhan a chwaraeodd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad a'r Prif Weinidog. Mae'n cydnabod mai'r Prif Weinidog a ddadleuodd yn daer y dylai Llywodraeth y DU ddarparu mwy o arian i dalu pensiynau cyn-weithwyr Allied Steel and Wire.

Nid yw hwn yn fater sydd wedi ei ddatganoli, ond eto i gyd yr oeddwn i, ynghyd â'r Prif Weinidog, yn meddwl ei bod yn bwysig imi wneud datganiad am ran Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Mae ein barn yn glir, mae undeb Community a'i aelodau a chyn-weithwyr ASW yn cydnabod ein rhan yn hyn, a

strongly, as I said in my statement, for the full inclusion of all former ASW workers in the financial assistance scheme. I understand that the Public Administration Select Committee is considering whether to look at this matter, but that is a matter for our parliamentary colleagues in Westminster. However, we will continue to press the case of the ASW members and their families.

Nick Bourne: I thank the Minister for the statement. I appreciate that it is a reserved area, but, like the police, it impacts on everyday life in Wales, particularly for the ASW workers. Like Owen John, I was astounded that only a very small part of your statement dealt with the ombudsman's report. Presumably, it was the ombudsman's report that led to the statement, because it has been published, as has the Government's reaction to it. Therefore, it was disappointing to see it buried away in the hope perhaps that we would not concentrate on that issue. However, it is an important issue—let us be honest about it. I have also acted with the ASW workers and I have been to London with some of them to meet DWP officials to see what can be done under the current legal framework. We are now looking seriously at an ombudsman's report. The ombudsman, Ann Abraham, said in a very carefully worded and researched report—and I hope that the Minister agrees with this and will perhaps indicate whether he has faith in the ombudsman, and, if so, why his Westminster colleagues have been unable, in a way that is unprecedented, to accept the major recommendation in the report of reimbursement of the shortfall—that the Labour Government's action in reducing the minimum funding requirement against advice in 2002, and ignoring actuarial warnings in 2000, was severely criticised.

Official information provided by the Government was described as 'inaccurate', 'incomplete', 'unclear' and 'inconsistent', and it was against that background that this recommendation was made. Why is it that any Government feels able to cherry-pick on ombudsmen's reports when they are made

byddwn yn parhau i bwysio'n daer, fel y dywedais yn fy natganiad, i sicrhau bod pob un o gyn-weithwyr ASW wedi'i gynnwys yn y cynllun cymorth ariannol. Deallaf fod y Pwyllgor Dethol ar Weinyddiaeth Gyhoeddus yn ystyried a ddylai edrych ar y mater hwn, ond mater i'n cyd-aelodau seneddol yn San Steffan yw hynny. Fodd bynnag, byddwn yn parhau i gyflwyno achos aelodau ASW a'u teuluoedd.

Nick Bourne: Diolch i'r Gweinidog am y datganiad. Yr wyf yn sylweddoli ei fod yn fater a gadwyd yn ôl, ond fel yr heddlu, mae'n effeithio ar fywyd pob dydd yng Nghymru, yn enwedig ar weithwyr ASW. Fel Owen John, yr oeddwn yn synnu mai rhan fach iawn o'ch datganiad yn unig a oedd yn ymdrin ag adroddiad yr ombwdsmon. Cymeraf mai adroddiad yr ombwdsmon a barodd i chi wneud y datganiad, oherwydd y mae wedi ei gyhoeddi, fel y cyhoeddwyd ymateb y Llywodraeth iddo. Felly, siom oedd ei weld yn cael ei gladdu yn y gobaith na fyddem efallai yn canolbwyntio ar y mater hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, mae'n fater pwysig—gadewch inni fod yn onest ynglŷn â hyn. Yr wyf fi hefyd wedi gweithredu gyda gweithwyr ASW, ac wedi bod i Lundain gyda rhai ohonynt i gyfarfod â swyddogion yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau i weld beth y gellir ei wneud o dan y fframwaith cyfreithiol cyfredol. Dywedodd Ann Abraham, yr ombwdsmon, mewn adroddiad sydd wedi'i eirio'n a'i ymchwilio'n ofalus iawn—a gobeithio bod y Gweinidog yn cytuno â hyn ac y bydd hwyrach yn dweud wrthym a oes ganddo ffydd yn yr ombwdsmon, ac os felly, pam y mae ei gyd-aelodau yn San Steffan wedi methu â derbyn prif argymhelliad yr adroddiad sef ad-dalu'r diffyg, rhywbeth nad yw erioed wedi digwydd o'r blaen—fod penderfyniad y Llywodraeth Lafur i leihau'r gofyniad ariannu isafswm yn 2002, a hynny'n groes i'r cyngor a roddwyd, ac anwybyddu rhybuddion gan yr actiwariaid yn 2000, wedi'i feirniadu'n hallt.

Disgrifiwyd gwybodaeth swyddogol a roddwyd gan y Llywodraeth fel gwybodaeth 'anghywir', 'anghyflawn', 'aneglur' ac 'anghyson', a gwnaed yr argymhelliad hwn yn y cyd-destun hwnnw. Pam mae unrhyw Lywodraeth yn teimlo y gall ddewis a dethol ymhlith adroddiadau ombwdsmon pan gânt

independently of Government? That is why the ombudsman was introduced by a Labour Government, so why does a Labour Government feel unable to accept this main recommendation? Have you been in contact with the ombudsman's office to say that you have faith in her, Minister? Given that the Government failed to take notice of the warnings on the minimum funding requirement in 2002, have you been in touch with John Hutton—and I will pause while you take advice—to ask why actuarial warnings were ignored in 2000 and why that part of the ombudsman report has not been accepted? I notice that, in your statement you said the following.

‘There will be much further discussion on this matter, and, as a Government, we will consider the ombudsman's report fully.’

If you have not yet considered it fully, why has that key recommendation—the central recommendation for these workers—already been rejected? I can see that the First Minister is surprised, but I am reading this from the statement. If it says that in the statement and it has not yet been considered fully, how can that key recommendation be ignored? This goes to the core of the matter. How can you reject the independent recommendations of the ombudsman on these central matters relating to the payment of these workers in Wales and elsewhere who have lost out because of your Government's inaction—or ‘maladministration’, as it was described by the ombudsman?

Andrew Davies: I do not know where to start. I said in my written statement that the UK Government has carefully considered the report; I did not say that the Assembly Government had done so. I also said very carefully that this is a reserved matter; it is not a matter over which we have any responsibility. I felt, however, that it was important that we, as a Government, gave a statement to Members this afternoon. It was published at midnight last night, and I said in my report that we will consider the ombudsman's report fully. With all due respect, we have not had full time to consider the matter, but there is a constitutional issue

eu gwneud yn annibynnol ar Lywodraeth? Dyna pam y cyflwynodd Llywodraeth Lafur yr ombwdsmon. Felly, pam mae Llywodraeth Lafur yn teimlo na all dderbyn y prif argymhelliad hwn? A fuoch mewn cysylltiad â swyddfa'r ombwdsmon i ddweud bod gennych ffydd ynnddi, Weinidog? O gofio bod y Llywodraeth wedi methu â chymryd sylw o'r rhybuddion am y gofyniad ariannu isafswm yn 2002, a ydych wedi cysylltu â John Hutton—ac fe gymeraf seibiant tra byddwch yn cael cyngor—i holi pam yr anwybyddwyd rhybuddion yr actiwariaid yn 2000, a pham na dderbyniwyd y rhan honno o adroddiad yr ombwdsmon? Sylwais ichi ddweud y canlynol yn eich datganiad.

‘Bydd llawer mwy o drafodaeth ar y mater hwn, ac, fel Llywodraeth, byddwn yn ystyried adroddiad yr ombwdsmon yn llawn.’

Os nad ydych wedi ei ystyried yn llawn eto, pam mae'r argymhelliad allweddol hwnnw—yr argymhelliad canolog ar gyfer y gweithwyr hyn—wedi ei wrthod eisoes? Gallaf weld bod y Prif Weinidog wedi'i synnu, ond yr wyf yn darllen hyn o'r datganiad. Os dywed hynny yn y datganiad ac os nad yw wedi ei ystyried yn llawn eto, sut y gellir anwybyddu'r argymhelliad allweddol hwnnw? Mae hyn yn mynd i graidd y mater. Sut y gallwch wrthod argymhellion annibynnol yr ombwdsmon ar y materion canolog hyn yn ymwneud â thalu'r gweithwyr hyn yng Nghymru ac mewn mannau eraill sydd wedi colli allan oherwydd diffyg gweithredu gan eich Llywodraeth—neu ‘gamweinyddiaeth’, fel y'i disgrifiwyd gan yr ombwdsmon?

Andrew Davies: Ni wn ble i ddechrau. Dywedais yn fy natganiad ysgrifenedig fod Llywodraeth y DU wedi ystyried yr adroddiad yn ofalus; ni ddywedais fod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi gwneud hynny. Dywedais hefyd yn ofalus iawn fod hwn yn fater a gadwyd yn ôl; nid yw'n fater y mae gennym unrhyw gyfrifoldeb drosto. Fodd bynnag, credwn ei bod yn bwysig i ni, fel Llywodraeth, roi datganiad i Aelodau y prynhawn hwn. Fe'i cyhoeddwyd ganol nos neithiwr, a dywedais yn fy adroddiad i y byddwn yn ystyried adroddiad yr ombwdsmon yn llawn. Gyda phob parch, nid ydym wedi cael llawer o amser i ystyried y

at stake here. This is a parliamentary ombudsman's report about the UK Government's actions. The House of Commons might have a point of view about interfering in a report to the Assembly on the Assembly Government's actions. I have been careful in my statement to say that, where we represent the interests of those affected by Allied Steel and Wire's going into administration, we have presented their case to the UK Government and will continue to do so, but the ombudsman's report is aimed at the UK Government, not at us. Nevertheless, neither the First Minister nor I have had time to fully consider it but we will do so and, if necessary, we will come back with further reports either to committee or to Plenary.

Jenny Randerson: Thank you for your statement, Minister, although it provides absolutely no hope for the ASW workers who have suffered so badly as a result of the Government's 'inaccurate', 'incomplete', 'unclear' and 'inconsistent' handling of the issue. Nothing but the full restoration of pension values for all those people affected will do. The one sentence in which you say that you will continue to push for the inclusion of all former ASW workers into the financial assistance scheme is pitifully inadequate.

I am sad to see a statement in which you say that you were pleased to hear the Prime Minister talking about expediting the financial assistance scheme. I would have expected you, given that this is a non-devolved issue but that you are a member of the Government of Wales, to take a strong line on behalf of the people and workers of Wales on this issue.

3.50 p.m.

I have never seen a UK Government response to an ombudsman's report that is anything like the response that we have seen today. I was watching John Hutton on the television this morning, and I had to blink, because I could not believe that I was hearing a Minister immediately, publicly and totally casting aside the considered comments of the

mater, ond mae mater cyfansoddiadol yn y fantol yma. Adroddiad ombwdsmon seneddol yw hwn ar gamau gweithredu Llywodraeth y DU. Efallai y byddai gan Dŷ'r Cyffredin safbwynt ynghylch ymyrryd ag adroddiad i'r Cynulliad ar gamau gweithredu Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Bûm yn ofalus yn fy natganiad i ddweud, lle yr ydym yn cynrychioli buddiannau'r rheini yr effeithiwyd arnynt gan y ffaith fod Allied Steel and Wire wedi ei roi yn nwylo'r gweinyddwr, ein bod wedi cyflwyno eu hachos i Lywodraeth y DU ac y byddwn yn parhau i wneud hynny. Ond mae adroddiad yr ombwdsmon wedi ei anelu at Lywodraeth y DU, nid atom ni. Er hynny, nid wyf fi na'r Prif Weinidog wedi cael amser i'w ystyried yn llawn. Ond byddwn yn gwneud hynny, ac os bydd angen down yn ôl ag adroddiadau pellach naill ai i'r pwyllgor neu i'r Cyfarfod Llawn.

Jenny Randerson: Diolch am eich datganiad, Weinidog, er nad yw'n rhoi unrhyw obaith o gwbl i'r gweithwyr yn ASW sydd wedi dioddef cymaint o ganlyniad i ddull 'anghywir', 'anghyflawn', 'aneglur' ac 'anghyson' y Llywodraeth o ymdrin â'r mater. Ni fydd dim byd llai nag adfer gwerthoedd pensiwn yn llawn i'r holl bobl hynny yr effeithiwyd arnynt yn gwneud y tro. Mae'r un frawddeg lle y dywedwch y byddwch yn dal i bwysio i gynnwys holl gynweithwyr ASW yn y cynllun cymorth ariannol yn druenus o annigonol.

Trist imi yw gweld datganiad lle y dywedwch eich bod yn falch clywed Prif Weinidog y DU yn siarad am gyflymu'r cynllun cymorth ariannol. Byddwn wedi disgwyl i chi, o gofio bod hwn yn fater sydd heb ei ddatganoli ond eich bod yn aelod o Lywodraeth Cymru, arddel safbwynt cadarn ar ran pobl a gweithwyr yng Nghymru ar y mater hwn.

Nid wyf erioed wedi gweld ymateb Llywodraeth y DU i adroddiad ombwdsmon sy'n debyg i'r ymateb a welwyd heddiw. Yr oeddwn yn gwyltio John Hutton ar y teledu y bore yma, ac fe'm syfrdanwyd, oherwydd ni allwn gredu fy mod yn clywed Gweinidog yn bwrw sylwadau ystyriol yr ombwdsmon o'r neilltu ar unwaith, yn gyhoeddus ac yn llwyr.

ombudsman. He said that the case had simply not been made. We are used to governments arguing about details, but it is quite amazing to see the UK Government totally brush aside the constitutional safeguards that it has put in place to deal with an issue of this significance. If I were the ombudsman, I would be seriously questioning the point of doing the job at all from now on. I question where the ombudsman system stands today after the Government's response on this issue. I am not just talking about the parliamentary ombudsman; I am also talking about all other commissioners and ombudsmen. How can we expect NHS trusts, local health boards and local government to respond to reports by ombudsmen with respect and the kind of decision-making that we have come to regard as normal practice for them when the UK Government simply ignores what has been said?

Minister, can we have your assurance today that you are going to take a stronger line than simply pushing for an extension of the financial assistance scheme? We need something better from our Government here, and people out there are expecting something better. Do you also agree with what I believe is the overwhelming view here today that John Hutton is wrong when he says that £15 billion will be far too much for the public purse to bear, when he is expecting those private individuals involved and their families to bear it? Could you go through the ombudsman's report in much greater detail—and I totally appreciate that you have not had time to do that—and point out to the Government where it has been inaccurate, incomplete, unclear and inconsistent in the documentation that was sent to ASW employees, who had put their faith in their pension scheme?

Andrew Davies: I do not think that the Assembly Government can be faulted in any way; it has shown strength and commitment in supporting the former ASW workers. That is recognised by the workers' own union, Community, which has publicly applauded the stance that we have taken and the work undertaken, particularly by the First Minister. I will be guided by the Presiding Officer, but there is an issue in that this is a parliamentary

Dywedodd nad oedd yr achos wedi'i wneud. Yr ydym wedi arfer â llywodraethau yn dadlau ynglŷn â manylion, ond mae'n rhyfeddol gweld Llywodraeth y DU yn bwrw o'r neilltu'n llwyr y mesurau cyfansoddiadol a roddodd ar waith i ymdrin â mater mor bwysig â hwn. Pe bawn i'n ombudsmon, byddwn yn amau o ddifrif bwrpas gwneud y gwaith o gwbl o hyn ymlaen. Cwestiynaf beth yw sefyllfa'r system ombudsmon heddiw ar ôl ymateb y Llywodraeth ar y mater hwn. Nid am yr ombudsmon seneddol yn unig yr wyf yn sôn; yr wyf yn sôn hefyd am yr holl gomisiynwyr a'r ombudsmyn eraill. Sut y gallwn ddisgwyl i ymddiriedolaethau'r GIG, byrddau iechyd lleol a llywodraeth leol ymateb i adroddiadau gan ombudsmyn gyda pharch a'r math o brosesau penderfynu yr ydym wedi dod i'w hystyried yn arferol ganddynt, pan bydd Llywodraeth y DU yn anwybyddu'r hyn a ddywedwyd?

Weinidog, a allwch roi sicrwydd inni heddiw eich bod yn mynd i arddel safwynt cadarnach na dim ond gwthio i ymestyn y cynllun cymorth ariannol? Mae angen inni gael rhywbeth gwell gan ein Llywodraeth yma, ac mae'r cyhoedd yn disgwyl rhywbeth gwell. A gytunwch hefyd â'r farn ysgubol yma heddiw, mi gredaf, fod John Hutton yn anghywir pan ddywed y bydd £15 biliwn yn faich llawer rhy fawr i bwrs y wlad ei ysgwyddo, pan ddisgwylia i'r unigolion preifat hynny dan sylw a'u teuluoedd ysgwyddo'r baich? A allech fynd drwy adroddiad yr ombudsmon lawer yn fanylach—ac yr wyf yn gwerthfawrogi'n llwyr nad ydych wedi cael amser i wneud hynny—a thynnu sylw'r Llywodraeth at y rhannau anghywir, anghyflawn, aneglur ac anghyson hynny yn y dogfennau a anfonwyd at weithwyr ASW, a oedd wedi ymddiried yn eu cynllun pensiwn?

Andrew Davies: Ni chredaf y gellir gweld bai ar Lywodraeth y Cynulliad o gwbl; mae wedi dangos cryfder ac ymrwymiad i gefnogi cyn-weithwyr ASW. Cydnabyddir hynny gan undeb y gweithwyr eu hunain, Community, sydd wedi canmol yn gyhoeddus y safbwynt a arddelwyd gennym a'r gwaith a wnaed, yn arbennig gan y Prif Weinidog. Caf fy arwain gan y Llywydd, ond y ffaith yw mai adroddiad ombudsmon seneddol yw hwn

ombudsman's report about the UK Government's action. The report does not ask us to take action and, therefore, it is appropriate for the UK Government to respond in its own way, just as it is a matter for us to respond to any report that may criticise our actions as an Assembly Government.

The ombudsman's report is lengthy—I understand that it is more than 260 pages. We will consider it more fully, as I said in my statement, and I am more than happy to give a fuller report to committee on the implications that there may be for us as a Government. However, I completely refute any allegation that the Assembly Government has been less than robust in supporting the case for the former ASW workers.

Carl Sargeant: I declare an interest as a member of the Community union.

I thank the Minister for making this statement today. It underlines the importance that he places on this matter, although it is not devolved, and the support that there has been for ASW workers. It is important that we make a point of depoliticising this issue. Jenny Randerson made a general statement and used the words 'your Government', but this is a non-devolved matter, and this just shows the importance that you give this, because you have brought it to the Assembly. The following words are not mine, but those of the Community union.

'The First Minister argues strongly for a UK Government to provide more money to pay for the pensions of the ex-ASW employees.'

I did not say that; it was said by those representing the people on the ground. It is important that it is recognised that you, Minister, and the First Minister have met John Hutton in Westminster to discuss these important issues. In the future, it is important that we keep putting pressure on the UK Government to get an outcome that is right for the ASW workers, and I hope that you will give your commitment to continue to support them, in conjunction with the Community union. I congratulate the union,

yn glŷn â chmau gweithredu Llywodraeth y DU. Nid yw'r adroddiad yn gofyn inni weithredu, ac felly mae'n briodol i Lywodraeth y DU ymateb yn ei ffordd ei hun, yn yr un modd ag y mae'n fater i ni ymateb i unrhyw adroddiad a all feirniadu ein gweithredoedd ni fel Llywodraeth y Cynulliad.

Mae adroddiad yr ombwdsmon yn un hirfaith—deallaf ei fod yn fwy na 260 o dudalennau. Byddwn yn ei ystyried yn llawnach, fel y dywedais yn fy natganiad, ac yr wyf yn fwy na pharod i roi adroddiad llawnach i'r pwyllgor am y goblygiadau posibl i ni fel Llywodraeth. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn gwadu'n llwyr unrhyw honiadau na fu Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn gwbl gadarn wrth gefnogi'r achos dros gyn-weithwyr ASW.

Carl Sargeant: Datganaf fuddiant fel aelod o undeb Community.

Diolch i'r Gweinidog am wneud y datganiad hwn heddiw. Mae'n tanlinellu'r pwysigrwydd y mae'n ei roi i'r mater hwn, er nad yw wedi'i ddatganoli, a'r gefnogaeth a fu i weithwyr ASW. Mae'n bwysig inni bwysleisio dadwleidyddoli'r mater hwn. Gwnaeth Jenny Randerson ddatganiad cyffredinol a defnyddio'r geiriau 'eich Llywodraeth', ond mae hwn yn fater sydd heb ei ddatganoli, ac mae hyn yn dangos y pwysigrwydd a roddwch i hyn, oherwydd yr ydych wedi dod ag ef gerbron y Cynulliad. Nid fy ngeiriau i mo'r canlynol, ond geiriau undeb Community.

Mae'r Prif Weinidog yn dadlau'n gryf y dylai Llywodraeth y DU ddarparu mwy o arian i dalu am bensiynau cyn-weithwyr ASW.

Nid fi a ddywedodd hynny; fe'i dywedwyd gan y rheini sy'n cynrychioli'r bobl ar lawr gwlad. Mae'n bwysig cydnabod y ffaith eich bod chi, Weinidog, a'r Prif Weinidog wedi cwrdd â John Hutton yn San Steffan i drafod y materion pwysig hyn. Yn y dyfodol, mae'n bwysig inni barhau i roi pwysau ar Lywodraeth y DU i sicrhau canlyniad sy'n iawn i weithwyr ASW, a gobeithio y byddwch yn ymrwymo i barhau i'w cefnogi, ar y cyd ag undeb Community. Yw wyf yn llongyfarch yr undeb, a Michael Leahy, ar y

and Michael Leahy, on the work that has been done up to now.

Andrew Davies: I am more than happy to give that commitment. We will continue to support the union in its campaign. This matter is going through the European courts at the moment, and we await the judgment on that. That decision will be germane to this issue. However, all that I can do is repeat what I have said before. From the moment ASW went into administration, we have worked with the union—formerly ISTC, now the Community union—in support of its campaign, and we will continue to do so.

Alun Ffred Jones: Thank you, Minister, for making a statement. You have concentrated on the plight of the ASW workers. However, the saga relating to Friction Dynamics Ltd is still unfolding; 80 employees were unfairly sacked with no pension provision, as the owner pulled a fast one to dodge his responsibilities. Labour Ministers in London and Cardiff have offered warm words of comfort to the workers but, as yet, no action has been taken. The owner, Mr Smith, is still at it, closing his new Dynamix Friction company, sacking 23 workers, while starting a new company and re-employing. The question that I want to ask is simple. Will you help these workers who are still waiting for justice by telling your Labour counterpart in Westminster to honour the ombudsman's recommendations? Yes or no?

Andrew Davies: Our record on supporting Friction Dynamics employees is equally as robust as it is for former ASW workers. In fact, many issues over and above the pensions issue have arisen as a result of Friction Dynamics going out of business, and we have continued to pursue them with the UK Government Ministers, both at the Department for Work and Pensions and at the Department of Trade and Industry. The union involved is fully aware of our commitment as a Government, and our support as Ministers, to the cause of the former Friction Dynamics workers.

gwaith a wnaed hyd yma.

Andrew Davies: Yr wyf yn fwy na pharod i ymrwymo i hynny. Byddwn yn parhau i gefnogi'r undeb yn ei ymgyrch. Mae'r mater hwn gerbron Llysoedd Ewrop ar hyn o bryd, a disgwylw'n y dyfarniad ar hynny. Bydd y penderfyniad hwnnw'n sylfaenol i'r mater hwn. Fodd bynnag, y cyfan y gallaf ei wneud yw ailadrodd yr hyn a ddywedais eisoes. O'r eiliad y cafodd ASW ei roi yn nwylo'r gweinyddwr, yr ydym wedi gweithio gyda'r undeb—ISTC gynt, ond undeb Community bellach—i gefnogi ei ymgyrch, a byddwn yn parhau i wneud hynny.

Alun Ffred Jones: Diolch, Weinidog, am wneud datganiad. Yr ydych wedi canolbwyntio ar sefyllfa gweithwyr ASW. Fodd bynnag, mae'r saga sy'n ymwneud â Friction Dynamics Ltd yn dal i ddatblygu; diswyddwyd 80 o gyflogeion yn annheg heb unrhyw ddarpariaeth bensiwn, wrth i'r perchennog dwyllo pawb er mwyn osgoi ei gyfrifoldebau. Mae Gweinidogion Llafur yn Llundain a Chaerdydd wedi cynnig geiriau o gysur i'r gweithwyr ond, hyd yma, ni chymerwyd unrhyw gamau gweithredu. Mae'r perchennog, Mr Smith, wrthi o hyd, yn cau ei gwmmi newydd Dynamix Friction, yn diswyddo 23 o weithwyr, tra mae'n dechrau cwmni newydd ac ail-gyflogi. Mae'r cwestiwn yr wyf am ei ofyn yn un syml. A wnewch chi helpu'r gweithwyr hyn sy'n dal i aros am gyfiawnder drwy ddweud wrth eich gweinidog Llafur cyfatebol yn San Steffan am barchu argymhellion yr ombwdsmon? Gwnewch neu na wnewch?

Andrew Davies: Mae ein record o gefnogi cyflogeion Friction Dynamics yr un mor gadarn ag yw i gyn-weithwyr ASW. Yn wir, mae nifer o faterion yn ychwanegol at bensiynau wedi codi oherwydd bod Friction Dynamics wedi mynd i'r wal, ac yr ydym wedi parhau i weithredu arnynt gyda Gweinidogion Llywodraeth y DU, yn yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau ac yn yr Adran Masnach a Diwydiant. Mae'r undeb dan sylw yn hollol ymwybodol o'n hymrwymiad fel Llywodraeth, a'n cefnogaeth fel Gweinidogion, i achos cyn-weithwyr Friction Dynamics.

**Dirprwyo Swyddogaethau o dan Ddeddf Cymdogaethau Glân a'r Amgylchedd
2005 i'r Prif Weinidog
Delegation of Functions under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act
2005 to the First Minister**

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

the National Assembly for Wales:

acting under section 62(1)(b) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, resolves to delegate functions of the National Assembly contained in or under section 104 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 to the First Minister, save those which by law cannot be so delegated.

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

This delegation will be made in the knowledge that those functions will, as appropriate, be further delegated to portfolio Ministers and to staff. (NDM2920)

Mick Bates: I would like to raise a couple of small issues regarding this piece of legislation, which the Welsh Liberal Democrats welcome. The first makes reference to the enforcement powers issued to local authorities. In the appraisal, it states that the maximum fine is £50,000. Who will receive the money raised from any fines?

My second point relates to the assessment of costs that the Assembly would incur if there were a large number of appeals. From which budget line will that money come? It says in the regulatory impact assessment that the average cost of an appeal is £1,080.

Finally, I just want to comment on the enormous list of consultees who were contacted regarding this piece of legislation. It is noted that no responses were received from local authorities. As a general point on the consultation process, do you have any figures—not today, but could you forward

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

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

gan weithredu dan adran 62(1)(b) Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998, yn penderfynu dirprwyo i'r Prif Weinidog swyddogaethau'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol a gynhwysir yn neu o dan adran 104 Deddf Cymdogaethau Glân a'r Amgylchedd 2005, ac eithrio'r rhai na ellir, yn ôl y gyfraith, eu dirprwyo yn y modd hwnnw.

Ni fydd dim yn y cynnig hwn yn lleihau goruchafiaeth awdurdod y Cynulliad llawn nac yn lleihau rôl pwyllgorau'r Cynulliad wrth arfer y swyddogaethau uchod.

Gwneir y dirprwyo hwn ar y ddealltwriaeth y dirprwyir y swyddogaethau hynny ymhellach, fel y bo'n briodol, i Weinidogion portffolio ac i staff. (NDM2920)

Mick Bates: Hoffwn godi ambell fater bach o ran y darn hwn o ddeddfwriaeth, sy'n cael croeso gan Ddemocratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru. Mae'r cyntaf yn cyfeirio at y pwerau gorfodi a roddwyd i awdurdodau lleol. Yn yr arfarniad, dywed mai £50,000 yw'r ddirwy fwyaf sy'n bosibl. Pwy fydd yn cael yr arian a godir yn sgîl unrhyw ddirwyon?

Mae a wnelo fy ail bwynt â'r broses o asesu costau y byddai'r Cynulliad yn eu tynnu pe bai nifer fawr o apeliadau. O ba linell yn y gyllideb y daw'r arian hwnnw? Dywed yr asesiad o effaith reoleiddiol mai £1,080 yw cost apêl ar gyfartaledd.

Yn olaf, hoffwn wneud sylw am y rhestr enfawr o bobl yr ymgynghorwyd â hwy ac y cysylltwyd â hwy ynglŷn â'r darn hwn o ddeddfwriaeth. Sylwir na chafwyd unrhyw ymatebion gan awdurdodau lleol. Fel pwynt cyffredinol am y broses ymgynghori, a oes gennych unrhyw ffigurau—nid heddiw, ond a

them to us—on the percentage of responses to consultations on legislation?

The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside (Carwyn Jones): We are dealing here with a simple delegation of powers under primary legislation. However, because there have been no appeals to the National Assembly since the enactment of the legislation in 2001, it is difficult to give a figure regarding how much this will cost. We would seek to recoup the costs, but that is not something that falls within my budget.

I will write to Mick about the situation regarding fines or financial measures, given the fact that it is contained in the primary legislation. I will clarify the matter in writing to him.

4.00 p.m.

*Cynnig (NDM2920): O blaid 44, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM2920): For 44, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Butler, Rosemary
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Janet
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
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Laura Anne
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val

allech eu hanfon atom—ar ganran yr ymatebion i ymgynghoriadau am ddeddfwriaeth?

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad (Carwyn Jones): Yr ydym yn ymdrin yma ag achos syml o ddirprwyo pwerau o dan ddeddfwriaeth sylfaenol. Fodd bynnag, am na chyflwynwyd unrhyw apeliadau i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ers deddfu yn 2001, mae'n anodd rhoi ffigur o ran faint y bydd hyn yn ei gostio. Byddem yn ceisio adennill y costau, ond nid yw hynny'n rhywbeth sy'n rhan o'm cyllideb i.

Byddaf yn ysgrifennu at Mick am y sefyllfa o ran dirwyon neu fesurau ariannol, o gofio bod hyn wedi ei gynnwys yn y ddeddfwriaeth sylfaenol. Byddaf yn egluro'r mater yn ysgrifenedig iddo.

Melding, David
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

Cymeradwyo Deddfwriaeth o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 24.25 Approval of Legislation under Standing Order No. 24.25

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

the National Assembly for Wales, acting under Standing Order No. 24.25: *Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, gan weithredu'n unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 24.25:*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p><i>1. considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office on 7 March 2006 on the draft the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 (Commencement No.1 and Savings) (Wales) Order 2006; and</i></p> <p><i>2. approves that the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 (Commencement No.1 and Savings) (Wales) Order 2006 are made in accordance with:</i></p> <p><i>a) the draft Order laid in the Table Office on 21 February 2006; and</i></p> <p><i>b) the regulatory appraisal laid in the Table Office on 7 February 2006. (NDM2921)</i></p> | <p><i>1. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Deddfau a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 7 Mawrth 2006 ynghylch y Gorchymyn drafft, Gorchymyn Deddf Cymdogaethau Glân a'r Amgylchedd 2005 (Cychwyn Rhif 1 ac Arbedion) (Cymru) 2006; a</i></p> <p><i>2. yn cymeradwyo bod Gorchymyn Deddf Cymdogaethau Glân a'r Amgylchedd 2005 (Cychwyn Rhif 1 ac Arbedion) (Cymru) 2006 yn cael ei wneud yn unol ag:</i></p> <p><i>a) y Gorchymyn drafft a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 21 Chwefror 2006; a</i></p> <p><i>b) yr arfarniad rheoliadol a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 7 Chwefror 2006. (NDM2921)</i></p> |
|---|--|

*Cynnig (NDM2921): O blaid 46, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
 Motion (NDM2921): For 46, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Butler, Rosemary
 Cairns, Alun
 Chapman, Christine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane

Davies, Andrew
 Davies, Janet
 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
 Isherwood, Mark
 James, Irene
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Laura Anne
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Melding, David
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

Cynnig o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 31 a gyflwynwyd gan Huw Lewis Huw Lewis's Standing Order No. 31 Motion

Motion (NDM2837): to propose that

the National Assembly for Wales, acting under Standing Order No. 31.2:

supports in principle legislation to amend the general medical services contract to require from GPs an annual health review for looked-after children.

Amendment 1 in the name of Jane Hutt: Delete all after 'supports in principle legislation to' and replace with:

ensure that all looked-after children have the right support to improve their health and

Cynnig (NDM2837): cynnig bod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, gan weithredu'n unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 31.2:

yn cefnogi mewn egwyddor ddeddfwriaeth i ddiwygio'r contract gwasanaethau meddygol cyffredinol i fynnu bod meddygon teulu yn darparu adolygiad iechyd blynyddol ar gyfer plant sy'n derbyn gofal.

Gwelliant 1 yn enw Jane Hutt: Dileu popeth ar ôl 'yn cefnogi mewn egwyddor ddeddfwriaeth i' a'i ddisodli â:

sicrhau bod pob plentyn sy'n derbyn gofal yn cael y gefnogaeth briodol i wella eu hiechyd

wellbeing, which will include an annual health review. Regulations should be amended to strengthen local authorities' arrangements before placing a child to ensure that the necessary support services such as health and education are agreed prior to placement of the child. In addition, when placing a child, the new arrangements should include consideration being given to the distance from the child's parental home, to allow (where appropriate) looked-after children to maintain valuable contact with their family and communities.

The Presiding Officer: I have selected amendment 1 in the name of Jane Hutt.

Huw Lewis: I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales, acting under Standing Order No. 31.2:

supports in principle legislation to amend the general medical services contract to require from GPs an annual health review for looked-after children. (NDM2837)

I pay tribute to Gwenda Thomas, whose work in this arena inspired this proposal. We would all accept that our aspirations for our children in care have been historically far too low. Too often, we have settled for the minimum standard being reached. In education, for example, we have classified a single GCSE as an achievement, while in other countries such as Denmark, 6 out of 10 looked-after children can expect to go to university.

A university professor discussing his own work in this area told me that, too often, healthcare models for looked-after children involved nothing more than paper being moved from the 'not done' file to the 'done' file, without there being any benefit for the child. We must break that pattern, and I hope that we can make a contribution towards doing so today.

I have recently undertaken a considerable amount of research into the situation facing Wales's most vulnerable and deprived children through my work on child poverty

a'u lles, a fydd yn cynnwys adolygiad iechyd blynyddol. Dylid diwygio rheoliadau i gryfhau trefniadau awdurdodau lleol cyn lleoli plentyn, i sicrhau y cytunir ar y gwasanaethau cefnogi angenrheidiol megis iechyd ac addysg cyn lleoli'r plentyn. Yn ychwanegol, wrth leoli plentyn, dylai'r trefniadau newydd ystyried y pellter o gartref rhieni'r plentyn, er mwyn caniatáu (lle bo hynny'n briodol) i blant sy'n derbyn gofal gadw cyswllt gwerthfawr â'u teulu a'u cymunedau.

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliant 1 yn enw Jane Hutt.

Huw Lewis: Cynigiau fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, gan weithredu'n unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 31.2:

yn cefnogi mewn egwyddor ddeddfwriaeth i ddiwygio'r contract gwasanaethau meddygol cyffredinol i fynnu bod meddygon teulu yn darparu adolygiad iechyd blynyddol ar gyfer plant sy'n derbyn gofal. (NDM2837)

Yr wyf yn rhoi teyrnged i Gwenda Thomas; ei gwaith hi yn y maes hwn sydd wedi ysbrydoli'r cynnig hwn. Byddem i gyd yn derbyn bod ein dyheadau ar gyfer ein plant sydd mewn gofal wedi bod lawer yn rhy isel yn y gorffennol. Yn rhy aml, yr ydym wedi bodloni ar gyrraedd y safon ofynnol. Mewn addysg, er enghraifft, yr ydym wedi gosod cael un TGAU fel gyflawniad, ond mewn gwledydd eraill fel Denmarc, gall 6 o bob 10 o blant sy'n cael gofal ddisgwyl mynd i'r brifysgol.

Dywedodd athro prifysgol wrthyf wrth drafod ei waith ei hun yn y maes hwn nad yw modelau iechyd ar gyfer plant sy'n cael gofal lawer yn rhy aml yn golygu dim mwy na symud papur o'r ffeil 'heb ei gyflawni' i'r ffeil 'cyflawnwyd', heb fod unrhyw fudd i'r plentyn. Rhaid inni dorri'r patrwm hwnnw, a gobeithio y gallwn gyfrannu at wneud hyn heddiw.

Yr wyf wedi gwneud cryn dipyn o waith yn ddiweddar ar y sefyllfa y mae'r plant mwyaf difreintiedig a diamddiffyn yng Nghymru yn ei hwynebu drwy fy ngwaith ar dlodi ymhlith

and ahead of today's discussion. I have been struck by the prominence of rights-based initiatives, focusing on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. That is, of course, a fundamental document of global importance, but it will not, by itself, deliver better outcomes for children. Statements of rights, of themselves, deliver nothing.

Children in the care system have a right to a university education, but how many will in fact be able to exercise that right? This emphasis on rights underpins our model of work with children, and yet, in Scandinavia, where the outcomes for looked-after children could set a benchmark for us, they focus on delivery—a collaborative approach to deliver meaningful results—and their intervention comes much earlier. That has to be our focus today, not just in terms of looking at the entitlements of looked-after children, but in ensuring that we deliver a package that transforms the experience and the expectations of these children.

I think that we will find consensus on this point today, which is why I welcome the amendment tabled by Jane Hutt and the cross-party work already done in this area, through the work of the Health and Social Services Committee and the work done by David Melding, whom I know now has a long-standing interest in these issues.

The purpose of my initial motion was to better formalise the healthcare received by looked-after children. There is stark and profoundly disturbing evidence that demonstrates the greater needs of looked-after children in terms of both mental and physical health. I am delighted that this principle has been accepted by the Assembly Government and has sparked in it a deeper commitment to tackling health and educational inequalities among looked-after children. If the amendment and motion are carried today, the subsequent legislation will more comprehensively deal with the situation for which my initial motion was simply a starting point. Therefore I support the Government amendment wholeheartedly.

plant a chyn y drafodaeth heddiw. Fe'm trawyd mor amlwg yw mentrau'n seiliedig ar hawliau, sy'n canolbwyntio ar Gonfensiwn y Cenhedloedd Unedig ar Hawliau'r Plentyn. Mae hon yn ddogfen sylfaenol o bwysigrwydd byd-eang, wrth gwrs, ond ar ei phen ei hun ni all sicrhau canlyniadau gwell i blant. Ni all datganiadau o hawliau, ynddynt eu hunain, sicrhau dim.

Mae gan blant yn y system ofal hawl i gael addysg prifysgol, ond faint mewn gwirionedd fydd yn gallu arfer yr hawl honno? Mae'r pwyslais hwn ar hawliau yn ategu ein model o waith gyda phlant. Ac ato, yn Llychlyn, lle y gallai'r canlyniadau ar gyfer plant sy'n cael gofal osod meincnod inni, maent yn canolbwyntio ar gyflawni—dull cydweithrediadol ar gyfer sicrhau canlyniadau ystyrlon—ac maent yn ymyrryd yn gynharach o lawer. Dyna y mae'n rhaid inni ganolbwyntio arno heddiw, nid yn unig o ran edrych ar hawliadau plant sy'n cael gofal, ond hefyd wrth sicrhau ein bod yn darparu pecyn sy'n trawsnewid profiad a disgwyliadau'r plant hyn.

Credaf y cawn gonsensws ar y mater hwn heddiw, a dyna pam y croesawaf y gwelliant a gyflwynwyd gan Jane Hutt a'r gwaith trawsbleidiol a wnaed yn y maes hwn eisoes, drwy waith y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a'r gwaith a wnaed gan David Melding, sydd, mi wn, â diddordeb maith yn y materion hyn bellach.

Diben fy nghynnig cychwynnol oedd ffurfioli'n well y gofal iechyd a gaiff plant sy'n cael gofal. Mae yna dystiolaeth glir ac arswydus iawn sy'n dangos yr anghenion mwy sylweddol sydd gan blant sy'n cael gofal o ran iechyd meddwl ac iechyd corfforol. Yr wyf yn falch iawn fod Lywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi derbyn yr egwyddor hon ac wedi ysgogi ymrwymiad dyfnach i fynd i'r afael ag anghydraddoldebau ymhlith plant sy'n cael gofal o ran iechyd ac addysg. Os caiff y gwelliant a'r cynnig eu derbyn heddiw, bydd y ddeddfwriaeth ddilynol a fydd yn dilyn yn delio'n fwy cynhwysfawr â'r sefyllfa nad oedd fy nghynnig cychwynnol yn ddim ond man cychwyn iddo. Felly, yr wyf yn cefnogi gwelliant y Llywodraeth yn llwyr.

Statistics alone cannot describe the trauma caused, and the damage done, to a child's chances through inadequate care arrangements. However, the numbers present stark reading. According to Barnardo's, and taking average figures, care leavers are 50 times more likely to go to prison, 60 times more likely to become homeless, and 88 per cent more likely to become drug users. The Social Care Institute for Excellence highlights the fact that looked-after children and young people are much more likely to experience teenage pregnancy. We must recognise that family circumstances and their own experiences to the point where children enter care will have frequently created serious disadvantage. Last year, National Statistics showed that half of all young people in local authority care were assessed as having a mental health disorder. There is no questioning the level of the challenge ahead.

We have a clear role in the Assembly, in addition to the role of local authorities, but when we, as politicians, ask ourselves whether we are the best corporate parents that we can be, the answer has to be 'no'. Things have to change, and that means not just warm words and sympathy today, but radical action and the destruction of roadblocks that prevent authorities being good parents. Those are the roadblocks preventing most looked-after children from getting an education or healthcare worthy of the name. Just as those of us with children see being a parent as the most important part of our lives, councillors and others must view being a corporate parent as the most important part of their job.

As my original motion indicates, historically, there has been a profound failure to address the health needs of looked-after children. The Waterhouse report showed that without suitable checks and advice, children become more susceptible to abuse. That report and subsequent legislation has led to an improvement in the care of looked-after children. Health checks and educational plans have now become statutory, although, in reality, the provision remains, at best, patchy across England and Wales.

Ni all ystadegau yn unig ddisgrifio'r trawma a achosir, a'r niwed a wneir, i gyfleoedd plentyn drwy drefniadau gofal annigonol. Fodd bynnag, mae'r niferoedd yn peri cryn bryder. Yn ôl Barnardo's, a chan gymryd ffigurau cyfartalog, mae'r rheini sy'n gadael gofal 50 gwaith yn fwy tebygol o fynd i'r carchar, 60 gwaith yn fwy tebygol o fod yn ddigartref, ac 88 y cant yn fwy tebygol o gamddefnyddio cyffuriau. Mae'r Sefydliad Gofal Cymdeithasol ar gyfer Rhagoriaeth yn tynnu sylw at y ffaith fod plant a phobl ifanc sy'n cael gofal lawer yn fwy tebygol o feichiogi tra byddant yn eu harddegau. Rhaid inni gydnabod y bydd amgylchiadau teuluol a'u profiadau eu hunain hyd at yr adeg pan fydd plant yn dechrau cael gofal wedi creu anfantais ddifrifol yn aml. Y llynedd, dangosodd Ystadegau Gwladol fod hanner y bobl ifanc sydd yng ngofal awdurdod lleol wedi cael asesiad yn dangos bod ganddynt anhwylder iechyd meddwl. Nid oes amheuaeth am faint yr her sydd o'n blaenau.

Mae gennym rôl glir yn y Cynulliad, yn ogystal â rôl awdurdodau lleol, ond pan fyddwn ni, fel gwleidyddion, yn ein holi'n hunain ai ni yw'r rhieni corfforaethol gorau posibl, rhaid mai 'na' yw'r ateb. Rhaid i bethau newid, ac mae hynny'n golygu mwy na geiriau caredig a chydymdeimlad heddiw. Mae hefyd yn golygu cymryd camau mawr a chwalu'r rhwystrau sy'n atal awdurdodau rhag bod yn rheini da. Dyna'r rhwystrau sy'n atal y rhan fwyaf o blant sy'n cael gofal rhag cael addysg neu ofal iechyd sy'n deilwng o'r enw. Yn union fel y bydd y rheini ohonom sydd â phlant yn ystyried mai bod yn rhiant yw'r rhan bwysicaf yn ein bywydau, rhaid i gynghorwyr ac eraill ystyried mai bod yn rhiant corfforaethol yw'r rhan bwysicaf o'u swydd hwy.

Fel y dywed fy nghynnig gwreiddiol, yn y gorffennol bu methiant difrifol i ddiwallu anghenion iechyd plant sy'n cael gofal. Dangosodd adroddiad Waterhouse fod plant yn fwy tebygol o gael eu cam-drin os na chânt archwiliadau a chyngor priodol. Mae'r adroddiad hwnnw a'r ddeddfwriaeth a ddilynodd wedi arwain at welliant yng ngofal plant sy'n cael gofal. Mae archwiliadau iechyd a chynlluniau addysgol yn statudol bellach, er bod y ddarpariaeth, mewn gwirionedd, yn dal yn anghyson ar draws

Cymru a Lloegr.

The national service framework for children goes some of the way in implementing the changes necessary in theory, but the reality of joined-up delivery is still not there. In 2005, a longitudinal study in Manchester looking at children in care with mental health problems concluded that young people with complex and multiple problems are at the apex of multiagency concern, yet their needs are not being met. It goes on to say:

‘Such young people defy simple one-shot therapies or services. Their needs, and the escalating costs if they remain unmet, require the bringing together of different professional disciplines, agencies and budgets’.

That is the key to approaching this issue.

The child and adolescent mental health services provision in Wales is in urgent need of overhaul, and it is acutely obvious that unless the service provision is in place in Wales, we can regulate until we are blue in the face but the delivery will not be forthcoming. We need to look at what can be delivered.

An interesting model currently operating in Nottingham has developed a service that not only provides statutory annual health checks for looked-after children, but it makes itself responsible for a direct health service covering nursing support, health promotion, sexual health services to young people in residential homes and health support for their carers and social workers. Health advice for looked-after children is also provided to health visitors, school nurses, GPs, other health professionals, social workers, foster carers and adoption placements. There is also a dedicated training course for these professionals. The team also links in with health services, including accident and emergency departments, sexual health services, drugs services, youth offending teams, youth protection teams, and so on.

Mae'r fframwaith gwasanaeth cenedlaethol ar gyfer plant yn cyfrannu rhywfaint at weithredu'r newidiadau sy'n angenrheidiol mewn egwyddor. Ond y gwir yw nad oes darpariaeth gydgyssylltiedig o hyd. Yn 2005, daeth astudiaeth arhydol ym Manceinion, a oedd yn edrych ar blant mewn gofal sydd â phroblemau iechyd meddwl, i'r casgliad mai pobl ifanc sydd â phroblemau cymhleth a lluosog yw prif bryder llawer i asiantaeth. Ond eto nid yw eu hanghenion yn cael eu diwallu. Aiff yn ei flaen i ddweud:

Nid yw anghenion pobl ifanc o'r fath yn cael eu diwallu gan therapïau neu wasanaethau untro. Mae eu hanghenion, a'r costau cynyddol os byddant yn dal i beidio â chael eu diwallu, yn galw am uno gwahanol ddisgyblaethau proffesiynol, asiantaethau a chyllidebau.

Mae hynny'n allweddol er mwyn ymdrin â'r mater hwn.

Mae dirfawr angen diwygio'r gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl a ddarperir i blant a'r glasod yng Nghymru, ac mae'n amlwg iawn, os na ddarperir gwasanaethau yng Nghymru, y gallwn reoleiddio tan ddydd y farn, ond ni fydd hynny'n sicrhau'r ddarpariaeth. Mae angen inni edrych ar yr hyn y gellir ei ddarparu.

Mae model diddorol sydd ar waith yn Nottingham ar hyn o bryd wedi datblygu gwasanaeth sy'n darparu archwiliadau iechyd blynyddol statudol i blant sy'n cael gofal. Ond mae hefyd yn gwneud ei hun yn gyfrifol am wasanaeth iechyd uniongyrchol sy'n cwmpasu cymorth nyrsio, hybu iechyd, gwasanaethau iechyd rhyw i bobl ifanc mewn cartrefi preswyl, a chymorth iechyd i'w gofalwyr a'u gweithwyr cymdeithasol. Darperir cyngor iechyd ar gyfer plant sy'n cael gofal hefyd i ymwelwyr iechyd, nyrsys ysgol, meddygon teulu, gweithwyr proffesiynol iechyd eraill, gofalwyr maeth a lleoliadau mabwysiadu. Mae yna hefyd gwrs hyfforddiant penodol ar gyfer y gweithwyr proffesiynol hyn. Mae'r tîm hefyd yn gysylltiedig â gwasanaethau iechyd, gan gynnwys adrannau damweiniau ac achosion brys, gwasanaethau iechyd rhyw,

gwasanaethau cyffuriau, timau troseddau ieuentid, timau diogelu ieuentid, ac ati.

Young people are signposted to any service that they may need and are referred for medical management as appropriate, or followed up by the team. Some of that is happening in some parts of Wales, but there is not enough of it and it is found in too few authorities. If we produce anything short of this all-encompassing approach with new regulations, we risk betraying some children in our care.

Caiff pobl ifanc eu cyfeirio at unrhyw wasanaeth y gall fod arnynt ei angen, a chânt eu cyfeirio ar gyfer rheolaeth feddygol fel sy'n briodol, neu bydd y tîm yn ymdrin â hynny. Mae rhywfaint o hynny'n digwydd mewn rhai rhannau o Gymru, ond nid oes digon ohono ac mae'n digwydd mewn rhy ychydig o awdurdodau. Os byddwn yn methu â chyflwyno'r dull hollgynhwysol hwn gyda rheoliadau newydd, mae perygl y byddwn yn bradychu rhai o'r plant sydd yn ein gofal.

I know that some people closely involved with looked-after children will say that, often, GPs are perhaps not best placed to deliver health checks for a number of reasons. They feel that visits can be stigmatising and that GPs perhaps cannot afford the time or do not have the expertise to deal with the multiple problems that these children face. While that too readily excuses bad practice, I accept that health visitors and specialist nurses can offer a better, more trusted option. What I would like to see, however, is the record of that health check, whether provided by a nurse, health visitor, or paediatrician, go onto the local GP record. Not only would that lock-in doctors to the care of vulnerable children, but it would ensure that a proper medical history is transferable should a child be moved out of the area.

Gwn y bydd rhai pobl sy'n ymwneud llawer â phlant sy'n cael gofal yn dweud, yn aml, nad yw meddygon teulu, efallai, yn y sefyllfa orau i ddarparu archwiliadau iechyd am nifer o resymau. Teimlant y gall stigma fod yn gysylltiedig ag ymweliadau ac nad oes gan feddygon teulu, efallai, yr amser na'r arbenigedd i ymdrin â'r problemau niferus y mae'r plant hyn yn eu hwynebu. Er bod hynny'n esgusodi arfer gwael yn rhy hawdd, derbynïaf y gall ymwelwyr iechyd a nyrsys arbenigol fod yn ddewis gwell y gellid ymddiried mwy ynddo. Yr hyn yr hoffwn ei weld, fodd bynnag, yw cofnod o'r archwiliadau iechyd hynny, p'un a gânt eu darparu gan nyrs, ymwelydd iechyd, neu bediatregydd, yn cael ei roi ar gofnod y meddyg teulu lleol. Byddai hyn nid yn unig yn sicrhau bod meddygon yn gysylltiedig â'r gwaith o ofalu am blant diamddiffyn, ond byddai'n sicrhau y gellir trosglwyddo hanes meddygol priodol os bydd plentyn yn symud o'r ardal.

4.10 p.m.

This issue of the movement of vulnerable children is crucial. We have recently seen a huge increase in the number of children in care in Wales, which has been accompanied by an increase in the number of children being placed many miles away from their families and communities. This has an incredibly destabilising impact on the child. Increasingly, we are seeing authorities passing their children on to other councils, up to 100 miles away, without the necessary care plans being in place. This leaves an already vulnerable child languishing in a bureaucratic no-man's-land. They are cut

Mae mater symud plant diamddiffyn yn hanfodol. Yn ddiweddar gwelwyd cynnydd anferth yn nifer y plant mewn gofal yng Nghymru, ochr yn ochr â chynnydd yn nifer y plant sy'n cael eu lleoli filltiroedd lawer oddi wrth eu teuluoedd a'u cymunedau. Mae hyn yn cael effaith ansefydlog iawn ar y plentyn. Gwelwn awdurdodau'n gynyddol yn trosglwyddo'u plant i gynghorau eraill, hyd at 100 milltir i ffwrdd, heb roi'r cynlluniau gofal angenrheidiol ar waith. Mae hyn yn golygu y bydd plentyn sydd eisoes yn ddiamddiffyn yn byw mewn byd biwrocraidd lle nad oes neb yn gofidio

adrift from their families and familiar surroundings, and with not even a corporate parent worthy of the name.

I welcome the Assembly Government's amendment. I trust that it signals draft legislation that will offer an all-encompassing approach to improving outcomes for looked-after children. We need a health check that means something, and not just a list of what the problems are. We need a genuine action plan that swings a full primary healthcare response into action, built around the child. We need a health and education plan that is not a ticked box, but a genuine multiagency approach to provide every individual with care and support.

We need a range of measures that stops local authorities aiming at the minimum statutory duty as their target. Any new legislation in this area must also develop the preventative capacity in local government. Can we say with any confidence that every child in care in Wales is there because it was the absolute last resort, or have we just failed to give the family the right support when it needed it most?

I hope for cross-party support for this proposal, as a step in the right direction, leading not just to rights and entitlements, but to outcomes for the children that we are concerned with.

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Brian Gibbons): I propose amendment 1 in the name of Jane Hutt. Delete all after 'supports in principle legislation to' and replace with:

ensure that all looked-after children have the right support to improve their health and well being, which will include an annual health review. Regulations should be amended to strengthen local authorities' arrangements before placing a child to ensure that the necessary support services such as health and education are agreed prior to placement of the child. In addition, when placing a child, the new arrangements should include

amdano. Cânt eu gwahanu oddi wrth eu teuluoedd a'u hamgylchedd cyfarwydd, heb hyd yn oed riant corfforaethol gwerth sôn amdano.

Yr wyf yn croesawu gwelliant Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Hyderaf ei fod yn arwydd o ddeddfwriaeth ddrafft a fydd yn cynnig ymagwedd hollgynhwysol tuag at wella canlyniadau i blant sy'n cael gofal. Mae arnom angen archwiliad iechyd sy'n golygu rhywbeth, nid dim ond rhestr o'r problemau. Mae arnom angen cynllun gweithredu gwirioneddol sy'n rhoi ymateb gofal iechyd sylfaenol llawn ar waith, wedi'i lunio o amgylch y plentyn. Mae arnom angen cynllun iechyd ac addysg sy'n fwy na thicio blychau, ond sy'n ymagwedd amlasiantaeth wirioneddol tuag at roi gofal a chymorth i bob unigolyn.

Mae arnom angen amrywiaeth o fesurau sy'n atal awdurdodau lleol rhag anelu at y ddyletswydd statudol ofynnol fel eu targed. Rhaid i unrhyw ddeddfwriaeth newydd yn y maes hwn hefyd ddatblygu'r adnoddau ataliol mewn llywodraeth leol. A allwn ddweud yn hyderus bod pob plentyn mewn gofal yng Nghymru mewn gofal am mai dyna oedd y dewis olaf, neu a ydym wedi methu â rhoi'r cymorth priodol i'r teulu pan oedd ei angen fwyaf?

Gobeithiaf gael cefnogaeth ar draws y pleidiau i'r cynnig hwn, fel cam i'r cyfeiriad cywir, gan arwain nid yn unig at hawliau a hawliadau, ond at ganlyniadau i'r plant yr ydym yn ymwneud â hwy.

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Brian Gibbons): Cynigiaf welliant 1 yn enw Jane Hutt. Dileu popeth ar ôl 'yn cefnogi mewn egwyddor ddeddfwriaeth i' a'i ddisodli â:

sicrhau bod pob plentyn sy'n derbyn gofal yn cael y gefnogaeth briodol i wella eu hiechyd a'u lles, a fydd yn cynnwys adolygiad iechyd blynyddol. Dylid diwygio rheoliadau i gryfhau trefniadau awdurdodau lleol cyn lleoli plentyn, i sicrhau y cytunir ar y gwasanaethau cefnogi angenrheidiol megis iechyd ac addysg cyn lleoli'r plentyn. Yn ychwanegol, wrth leoli plentyn, dylai'r trefniadau newydd ystyried y pellter o gartref

consideration being given to the distance from the child's parental home, to allow (where appropriate) looked-after children to maintain valuable contact with their family and communities.

I too pay tribute to Gwenda Thomas's work in the Assembly on children's issues, particularly vulnerable children. Equally, I thank Huw for his interest in this subject area. I believe that all Assembly Members know that this is not the first time that Huw has tried to intervene, using the opportunity under Standing Order No. 31, to ensure that children in Wales get the best start in life.

As Huw said, this is not a party issue. Members of other parties have equally championed the cause of vulnerable children through their own initiatives; Huw particularly mentioned David Melding in that context. The Record of Proceedings reflects the positive contributions that were made by many Members to the November debate in Plenary on looked-after children. Therefore, I will be surprised, and possibly disappointed, if we do not see a strong vote of support for the spirit of this resolution and, hopefully, for the Government amendment.

Research shows that there is a high prevalence of mental disorder, ill health and disadvantage among looked-after children, and looked-after children in particular have very special needs. Without it being underpinned by a proper health assessment, the work of meeting these needs will almost certainly be inadequate.

The Welsh Assembly Government therefore welcomes and fully supports the principle of the motion that Huw has proposed to improve the health and wellbeing of looked-after children. However, changing just the general medical services contract on its own may represent an advance on too narrow a front. Several of Huw's points suggest that this is a wider and more complex area. Our amendment intends to reflect the intention to deal with the much wider agenda and many of the challenges that Huw outlined in his speech. That is why we tabled our amendment.

rhieni'r plentyn, er mwyn caniatáu (lle bo hynny'n briodol) i blant sy'n derbyn gofal gadw'r cyswllt gwerthfawr â'u teulu a'u cymunedau

Yr wyf fi hefyd yn rhoi teyrnged i waith Gwenda Thomas yn y Cynulliad ar faterion yn ymwneud â phlant, yn arbennig plant diamddiffyn. Hoffwn hefyd ddiolch i Huw am ei ddiddordeb yn y pwnc hwn. Credaf fod pob Aelod o'r Cynulliad yn gwybod nad dyma'r tro cyntaf i Huw geisio ymyrryd, gan fanteisio ar y cyfle o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 31, i sicrhau bod plant yng Nghymru yn cael y dechrau gorau mewn bywyd.

Fel y dywedodd Huw, nid mater i blaid benodol yw hwn. Mae aelodau o bleidiau eraill wedi hyrwyddo achos plant diamddiffyn yn yr un modd drwy eu mentrau eu hunain; soniodd Huw yn benodol am David Melding yn y cyd-destun hwnnw. Mae Cofnod y Trafodion yn adlewyrchu'r cyfraniadau cadarnhaol a wnaed gan lawer Aelod i'r ddadl ym mis Tachwedd yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ar blant sy'n cael gofal. Felly, byddaf yn synnu, ac efallai'n siomedig os na welwn bleidlais gref o gefnogaeth i ysbryd y penderfyniad hwn a, gobeithio, i welliant y Llywodraeth.

Dengys ymchwil fod nifer o achosion o anhwylder iechyd meddwl, salwch ac anfantais ymhlith plant sy'n cael gofal, a bod gan blant sy'n cael gofal yn benodol anghenion arbennig iawn. Heb ategu hyn gan asesiad iechyd priodol, bydd y bydd y gwaith o ddiwallu'r anghenion hyn bron yn sicr yn annigonol.

Felly, mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn croesawu ac yn cefnogi'n llawn egwyddor y cynnig a gynigiwyd gan Huw i wella iechyd a lles plant sy'n cael gofal. Fodd bynnag, efallai y bydd newid y contract gwasanaethau meddygol cyffredinol yn unig yn ddatblygiad rhy gul. Mae nifer o bwyntiau Huw yn awgrymu bod hwn yn faes ehangach a mwy cymhleth. Nod ein gwelliant yw adlewyrchu'r bwriad i ymdrin ag agenda llawer iawn ehangach a nifer o'r heriau a amlinellodd Huw yn ei arait. Dyna pam yr ydym wedi cyflwyno ein gwelliant.

The law currently requires looked-after children to have a health assessment; it is every six months for children under five years of age, and annually for every child between five and 18 years of age. However, sadly, despite this, in the year ending 31 March 2005, less than 60 per cent of looked-after children had a timely health assessment, and over 27 per cent of looked-after children were not registered with a general practitioner. This represents an operational issue in terms of the particular resolution that we are considering. Provisions in the Children Act 2004 emphasised the importance of improving children's physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing, and placed a specific duty on statutory parties to work with local authorities to promote the wellbeing of looked-after children. As I said, good health is dependent on a number of factors, including children's schooling, the social environment in which they live and the resilience of their family links. At the root of that is good assessment and planning to ensure that the appropriate support and services are in place before a child is placed.

The amendment proposes to strengthen the current arrangements to ensure that the necessary support services are agreed upon between the various agencies before a placement is made, and to ensure that the necessary communication and liaison arrangements are in place. If the Assembly supports this amendment, I will present a more detailed report at the next stage. The type of additional requirements would include a proposal that looked-after children be assigned to a named health professional who would take responsibility for ensuring that the child's health needs are identified before they are referred to an appropriate service, that systems are in place to maintain accurate records of a child's legal status and that health assessments are conducted and health plans delivered. Robust tracking of a child's placement is needed and processes must be in place to ensure that the placement is not too far from the home area of the child.

In conclusion, I will respond to one or two of the points that Huw made. It is true that many GPs are more than capable of undertaking this exercise, but this would not be the case

Mae'r gyfraith ar hyn o bryd yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i blant sy'n cael gofal gael asesiad iechyd; bob chwe mis i blant o dan bump oed, a bob blwyddyn i bob plentyn rhwng pump a 18 oed. Fodd bynnag, yn anffodus, er hyn, yn y flwyddyn a ddaeth i ben ar 31 Mawrth 2005, llai na 60 y cant o blant sy'n cael gofal a oedd yn cael asesiad iechyd amserol, ac yr oedd dros 27 y cant o blant sy'n cael gofal heb eu cofrestru gyda meddyg teulu. Problem weithredol yw hon o ran y datrysiaid penodol yr ydym yn ei ystyried. Yr oedd darpariaethau yn Neddf Plant 2004 yn pwysleisio pwysigrwydd gwella iechyd corfforol ac iechyd meddwl a lles emosiynol plant, ac yn gosod dyletswydd benodol ar garfanau statudol i weithio gydag awdurdodau lleol i hybu lles plant sy'n cael gofal. Fel y dywedais, mae iechyd da yn dibynnu ar nifer o ffactorau, gan gynnwys addysg plant, yr amgylchedd cymdeithasol lle maent yn byw a chryfder eu cysylltiadau teuluol. Wrth wraidd hyn mae gwaith asesu a chynllunio da i sicrhau bod y cymorth a'r gwasanaethau priodol ar waith cyn y caiff plentyn ei leoli.

Mae'r gwelliant yn cynnig atgyfnerthu'r trefniadau cyfredol i sicrhau cytuno ar y gwasanaethau cymorth angenrheidiol rhwng yr asiantaethau amrywiol cyn trefnu lleoliad, ac i sicrhau bod y trefniadau cyfathrebu a chysylltu angenrheidiol ar waith. Os bydd y Cynulliad yn cefnogi'r gwelliant hwn, byddaf yn cyflwyno adroddiad manylach yn ystod y cam nesaf. Byddai'r math o ofynion ychwanegol yn cynnwys cynnig bod gweithiwr iechyd proffesiynol wedi ei enwi yn cael ei benodi ar gyfer plant sy'n cael gofal ac a fyddai'n gyfrifol am sicrhau bod anghenion iechyd y plentyn yn cael eu nodi cyn ei gyfeirio at wasanaeth priodol, bod systemau ar waith i gadw cofnodion cywir o statws cyfreithiol y plentyn, a bod asesiadau iechyd yn cael eu gwneud a chynlluniau iechyd yn cael eu darparu. Mae angen dull cadarn i olrhain lleoliad y plentyn, a rhaid cael prosesau ar waith i sicrhau nad yw'r lleoliad yn rhy bell o fro mebyd y plentyn.

I gloi, ymatebaf i un neu ddau o'r pwyntiau a wnaeth Huw. Mae'n wir fod nifer o feddygon teulu'n gallu ymgymryd â'r ymarfer hwn yn hawdd, ond ni fyddai hyn yn wir ym mhob

in every instance; there are, clearly, other expert primary healthcare workers, health visitors, looked-after-children nurses or even community medical officers who would do the job just as well and in a more holistic way. Equally, the point about the unified health record and the transfer of this information into the mainstream health record is very important. Hopefully, with 'Informing Healthcare', we will be able to deliver precisely what you require. Therefore, I would be grateful if Members supported the amendment, while acknowledging the spirit of the motion proposed in the name of Huw Lewis.

Helen Mary Jones: I begin by saying how grateful we are in the Plaid Cymru group to Huw Lewis for proposing this very important motion today. I concur with almost everything he said. I have professional experience of the needs of looked-after children, particularly of their health needs. In my work as a social worker, I witnessed some heartbreaking scenarios, and I know that that is something that is shared by many Members in the Chamber.

I particularly associate myself with the comments that Huw Lewis made about mental health services. I very often saw fairly minor mental health needs, such as needs for counselling and support, escalating to serious mental illness because that child or young person was unable to access primary-level services. Very often, those services were simply not in existence and general practice was not set up to provide them, any more, it must be said, than were many of the other professionals working with the young person able to identify that what they were seeing was a mental health need and not simply bad behaviour.

I draw the Chamber's attention to the children's commissioner's frustration with regard to child and adolescent mental health services. He has asked the Government to properly resource the strategy or to come clean and say that it is not a priority. In the context of our debate today, we must ask the Government to escalate and speed up the work that it is doing. I am the last person to suggest that nothing is being done—we know that work is ongoing—but we are talking, as

achos; mae'n amlwg fod nifer o weithwyr gofal iechyd sylfaenol arbenigol eraill, ymwelwyr iechyd, nyrsys plant sy'n cael gofal, neu hyd yn oed swyddogion meddygol cymunedol, a fyddai'n gwneud y gwaith cystal, ac mewn ffordd fwy cyfannol. Yn yr un modd, mae'r pwynt ynglŷn â'r cofnod iechyd unedig a throsglwyddo'r wybodaeth hon i'r cofnod iechyd prif ffrwd yn bwysig iawn. Gobeithio, gyda 'Hysbysu Gofal Iechyd', y gallwn gyflawni'r union beth y mae arnoch ei angen. Felly, byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe byddai Aelodau'n cefnogi'r gwelliant, gan gydnabod ysbryd y cynnig a gynigiwyd yn enw Huw Lewis.

Helen Mary Jones: Dechreuaf drwy ddweud mor ddiolchgar yr ydym yng ngrŵp Plaid Cymru i Huw Lewis am gynnig y cynnig pwysig iawn hwn heddiw. Cytunaf â bron popeth a ddywedodd. Mae gennyf brofiad proffesiynol o anghenion plant sy'n cael gofal, yn enwedig eu hanghenion iechyd. Yn fy ngwaith fel gweithiwr cymdeithasol, bûm yn dyst i rai sefyllfaoedd torcalonnus, a gwn fod nifer o Aelodau yn y Siambr wedi cael yr un profiad.

Cytunaf yn arbennig â'r sylwadau a wnaeth Huw Lewis am wasanaethau iechyd meddwl. Gwelais fân anghenion iechyd meddwl yn aml, megis anghenion am gyngor a chymorth, a fyddai'n troi'n salwch meddwl difrifol oherwydd nad oedd y plentyn neu'r person ifanc hwnnw yn gallu cael y gwasanaethau sylfaenol. Yn aml iawn, nid oedd y gwasanaethau hynny yn bodoli ac nid oedd meddygon teulu yn gallu eu darparu, ddim mwy, rhaid dweud, nag yr oedd nifer o bobl broffesiynol eraill a oedd yn gweithio gyda'r person ifanc yn gallu nodi mai'r hyn yr oeddent yn ei weld oedd angen iechyd meddwl, nid ymddygiad gwael.

Tynnaf sylw'r Siambr at rwystredigaeth y comisiynydd plant o ran gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl i blant a'r glasoed. Mae wedi gofyn i'r Llywodraeth sicrhau adnoddau digonol ar gyfer y strategaeth, neu i gyfaddef nad yw'n flaenoriaeth. Yng nghyd-destun ein dadl heddiw, rhaid inni ofyn i'r Llywodraeth gynyddu'r gwaith y mae'n ei wneud a'i gyflymu. Fi yw'r person olaf i awgrymu nad oes dim yn cael ei wneud—gwyddom fod gwaith yn mynd rhagddo—ond yr ydym yn

Huw Lewis rightly said, about children's lives here. Every day that a young person cannot get the mental health or other health support that he or she needs should be a matter of grave concern and shame to us all, particularly in terms of children in the looked-after system, for whom, as Huw Lewis so rightly said, we should all feel a responsibility, along with county councillors.

4.20 p.m.

I take this opportunity to urge the Government to resource not only the assessment needs, but also the needs that are identified, particularly, mental health needs, and, for older looked-after children, including, sadly, many young women who find themselves working in the sex industry, strong sexual health advice and support.

This group will support this motion. We welcome it strongly, but I have some concerns about the amendment. I take on board what both Huw Lewis and the Minister have said about the need for a more comprehensive approach on this, but I am concerned as to the timescale that that comprehensive approach may take. If the legislation as proposed today had simply been passed as it stood, it might not have hit all the buttons, but it would have hit one of the buttons, and action would have begun. I would appreciate some indication, perhaps from the Minister at the next Health and Social Services Committee, since he will not have an opportunity to respond to this debate, as to the timescale for the action proposed in the Government amendment. This is a matter of urgency. We are talking about the life chances of some of the most vulnerable young people in our country, and we need to take urgent action. The Plaid Cymru group will happily support the motion. We are not prepared to support the amendment, but we will continue to support the motion, even if it is amended, because it will represent some substantial progress.

Once again, I congratulate Huw Lewis. He is not a Member with whom I always see eye to eye, but, on this occasion, he is absolutely

siarad, fel y dywedodd Huw Lewis, a hynny'n gywir, am fywydau plant. Dylai pob diwrnod pan na all person ifanc gael y cymorth iechyd meddwl neu gymorth iechyd arall y mae arno ef neu hi ei angen fod yn destun pryder a chywilydd mawr inni bob un, yn enwedig o ran plant sy'n cael gofal, a dylem oll, fel y dywedodd Huw Lewis, a hynny'n gywir, deimlo cyfrifoldeb drostynt, ynghyd â chynghorwyr sir.

Manteisiaf ar y cyfle hwn i annog y Llywodraeth i sicrhau adnoddau digonol, nid yn unig ar gyfer yr anghenion asesu, ond hefyd ar gyfer yr anghenion a nodir, yn arbennig anghenion iechyd meddwl, ac ar gyfer plant hŷn sy'n cael gofal, gan gynnwys, yn anffodus, nifer o ferched ifanc sy'n gweithio yn y diwydiant rhyw, cyngor a chymorth cadarn ar iechyd rhyw.

Bydd y grŵp hwn yn cefnogi'r cynnig. Fe'i croesawn yn frwd, ond yr wyf yn pryderu braidd am y gwelliant. Yr wyf yn derbyn yr hyn a ddywedodd Huw Lewis a'r Gweinidog am yr angen am ymagwedd fwy cynhwysfawr tuag at hyn, ond yr wyf yn pryderu ynghylch yr amserlen bosibl ar gyfer yr ymagwedd gynhwysfawr hon. Pe bai'r ddeddfwriaeth fel y'i cynigir heddiw wedi ei chymeradwyo fel yr oedd, mae'n bosibl na fyddai wedi bodloni'r holl ofynion. Ond byddai wedi bodloni un o'r gofynion, a byddai'r camau gweithredu wedi dechrau. Byddwn yn gwerthfawrogi rhyw arwydd, efallai gan y Gweinidog yn y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol nesaf, gan na chaiff gyfle i ymateb i'r ddadl hon, o'r amserlen ar gyfer y camau gweithredu a gynigir yng ngwelliant y Llywodraeth. Mae hyn yn fater o frys. Yr ydym yn siarad am gyfleoedd bywyd rhai o'r bobl ifanc fwyaf diamddiffyn yn ein gwlad, ac mae angen inni weithredu ar fyrder. Bydd grŵp Plaid Cymru yn barod iawn i gefnogi'r cynnig. Nid ydym yn barod i gefnogi'r gwelliant, ond byddwn yn dal i gefnogi'r cynnig, hyd yn oed os caiff ei ddiwygio, oherwydd bydd yn dangos rhywfaint o gynnydd sylweddol.

Unwaith eto, yr wyf yn llongyfarch Huw Lewis. Nid yw'n Aelod yr wyf bob amser yn cytuno ag ef, ond y tro hwn mae'n gwbl

right in saying that action on behalf of looked-after children is something that everyone in this Chamber, I am sure, will be prepared to support.

Jonathan Morgan: I start by thanking Huw Lewis for bringing this motion to the Chamber today. The Welsh Conservative group will support the principle of what Huw is trying to achieve and we will also support the amendment. I thought, when initially looking at this proposal, that it did not go far enough—I did not think that Huw was as ambitious as he might have been. However, the Government clearly feels that it can take this further and widen the net to ensure that a wider group of young people is included in this proposal.

We are talking about a significant number of young people whose start in life has been a fairly dismal one. We are talking about children who, for whatever reason, are no longer with their parents, they have been removed by a court order, because a court has determined, along with support from the local authority, that their parents are unable to look after them—they may have been the subject of abuse, or their parents may have been drug addicts or abusive. We are talking about a dismal and awful start in life. These are children with many psychological problems, some with physical problems, and anything that we can do to ensure that their lives, starting from the point at which they become looked-after children, are improved by virtue of access to appropriate healthcare advice, support and services, should be welcomed by everyone in this Chamber.

Sometimes it is merely about providing someone for these young people to talk to. We are, after all, talking about young people whose experiences have not just been particularly awful in terms of their personal circumstances, but whose experience of civil servants, social workers or the courts would, I imagine, make them rather suspicious of authority. Merely providing someone with a professional background, whether it is a GP, a pharmacist or perhaps a nurse, in circumstances where they can lend a sympathetic ear, is a pretty good start.

gywir i ddweud bod y camau a gymerir ar ran plant sy'n cael ofal yn rhywbeth y bydd pawb yn y Siambr hon, mae'n siŵr gen i, yn barod i'w cefnogi.

Jonathan Morgan: Dechreuaf drwy ddiolch i Huw Lewis am gyflwyno'r cynnig hwn i'r Siambr heddiw. Bydd grŵp Ceidwadwyr Cymru yn cefnogi egwyddor yr hyn y mae Huw yn ceisio'i gyflawni, a byddwn hefyd yn cefnogi'r gwelliant. Yr oeddwn yn meddwl, wrth edrych ar y cynnig hwn i ddechrau, nad oedd yn mynd yn ddigon pell—nid oeddwn yn credu bod Huw mor uchelgeisiol ag y gallasai fod. Fodd bynnag, mae'r Llywodraeth yn amlwg yn teimlo y gall fynd â hyn ymhellach, ac ehangu'r cwmpas i sicrhau bod grŵp ehangach o bobl ifanc yn cael ei gynnwys yn y cynnig hwn.

Yr ydym yn siarad am nifer sylweddol o bobl ifanc sydd wedi cael dechrau digon digalon mewn bywyd. Yr ydym yn siarad am blant nad ydynt, am ba reswm bynnag, gyda'u rhieni bellach, wedi eu symud gan orchymyn llys, oherwydd bod llys wedi penderfynu, ynghyd â chefnogaeth gan yr awdurdod lleol, na all eu rhieni ofalu amdanynt—efallai iddynt gael eu cam-drin, neu efallai fod eu rhieni'n gaeth i gyffuriau neu'n dreisgar. Yr ydym yn siarad am ddechrau digalon ac ofnadwy mewn bywyd. Maent yn blant sydd â nifer o broblemau seicolegol, rhai â phroblemau corfforol, a dylai pawb yn y Siambr hon groesawu unrhyw beth y gallwn ei wneud i sicrhau y caiff eu bywydau, yn dechrau o'r adeg pan gânt eu rhoi mewn gofal am y tro cyntaf, eu gwella drwy roi cyfle iddynt gael cyngor gofal iechyd, cymorth a gwasanaethau priodol.

Weithiau, y cyfan sydd ei angen yw rhywun i'r plant ifanc hyn siarad ag ef. Wedi'r cyfan, yr ydym yn sôn am bobl ifanc sydd â'u profiadau nid yn unig wedi bod yn arbennig o ofnadwy o ran eu hamgylchiadau personol, ond y byddai eu profiad o weision sifil, gweithwyr cymdeithasol neu'r llysoedd, byddwn yn dychmygu, yn eu gwneud hytrach yn amheus o awdurdod. Mae darparu rhywun sydd â chefnidir proffesiynol yn unig, boed yn feddyg teulu, yn fferyllydd neu efallai'n nyrs, mewn amgylchiadau lle y gallant wrando gyda chydymdeimlad, yn ddechrau eithaf da.

I have a couple of points of clarification to raise, although it is probably more accurate for me to raise these issues with the Government. According to the annual report of the chief inspector of social services, we have somewhere in the region of 4,380 looked-after children in Wales at the moment—a marked increase from where we were four, five or six years ago. Can the Government confirm that that is the number of young people that this policy will be aimed at, because within that, of course, we have a cost implication, which we are happy to support? I would only flag up one particular concern, which is that, if we seek to amend any of the contractual obligations that exist with any of the health professions, we ensure that the resources are there to meet the demand because I think that it is important that if we are going to make this particular change, and it will be a significant change, that we ensure that the resources are there to support those 4,380 young people.

May I ask that, once this proposal is carried further, we seek to consult with the relevant professional bodies? I understand that the British Medical Association was not consulted on this proposal, but I think that widening the range of professionals who might be involved in delivering this agenda, by bringing them on board and asking for their professional advice as to how to further this cause, would be quite useful. It would also save them from having a shock when the policy is implemented. I hope that they will be consulted on the implications of this policy.

May I also seek some assurance that, within the context of what the chief inspector of social services said in his annual report, particularly about the implementation of the common assessment framework, whatever the Government comes up with at the end of the day will be designed to fit in with what is being proposed and supported by the chief inspector? In his report, he says that the common assessment framework is there to provide a standard and consistent approach for assessing children's needs, intended for use with children who have additional needs and those at risk of poor outcomes. I hope that the Government's suggestion, including

Mae gennyf ychydig bwyntiau i'w hegluro, er ei bod hwyrach yn fwy cywir imi godi'r materion hyn gyda'r Llywodraeth. Yn ôl adroddiad blynyddol y prif arolygydd gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, mae gennym oddeutu 4,380 o blant yn cael gofal yng Nghymru ar hyn o bryd—cynnydd amlwg o'i gymharu â'r sefyllfa bedair, pump neu chwe blynedd yn ôl. A all y Llywodraeth gadarnhau mai dyna nifer y bobl ifanc y bydd y polisi hwn ei anelu atynt, oherwydd yn y cyd-destun hwnnw, wrth gwrs, mae gennym oblygiad o ran cost, yr ydym yn barod i'w gefnogi? Dim ond un pryder penodol y byddwn yn tynnu sylw ato, sef, os ceisiwn ddiwygio unrhyw un o'r rhwymedigaethau cytundebol sy'n bodoli gydag unrhyw un o'r proffesiynau iechyd, ein bod yn sicrhau bod digon o adnoddau ar gael i ymateb i'r galw. Credaf ei bod yn bwysig, os bwriadwn wneud y newid penodol hwn, a bydd yn newid sylweddol, inni sicrhau bod digon o adnoddau ar gael i gynorthwyo'r 4,380 o bobl ifanc hynny.

A gaf ofyn, ar ôl i'r cynnig hwn fynd ymhellach, ein bod yn ceisio ymgynghori â'r cyrff proffesiynol perthnasol? Deallaf nad ymgynghorwyd â Chymdeithas Feddygol Prydain ar y cynnig hwn. Ond credaf y byddai'n ddefnyddiol iawn ehangu ystod y bobl broffesiynol a allai fod yn gysylltiedig â darparu'r agenda hon, drwy eu cynnwys a gofyn am eu cyngor proffesiynol ynglŷn â sut i ddatblygu'r achos hwn. Byddai hefyd yn eu harbed rhag cael syndod pan fyddai'r polisi'n cael ei weithredu. Gobeithio yr ymgynghorir â hwy ar oblygiadau'r polisi hwn.

A gaf fi hefyd geisio rhywfaint o sicrwydd, yng nghyd-destun yr hyn a ddywedodd y prif arolygydd gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yn ei adroddiad blynyddol, yn enwedig o ran gweithredu'r fframwaith asesu cyffredin, y bydd penderfyniad terfynol y Llywodraeth wedi'i gynllunio i gyd-fynd â'r hyn a gaiff ei gynnig a'i gefnogi gan y prif arolygydd? Yn ei adroddiad, dywed mai diben y fframwaith asesu cyffredin yw darparu dull safonol a chyson o asesu anghenion plant, gyda'r bwriad o'i ddefnyddio gyda phlant sydd ag anghenion ychwanegol a'r rheini y mae perygl iddynt ddioddef canlyniadau gwael. Gobeithio y bydd awgrym y Llywodraeth,

Huw's recommendation and what is suggested in the amendment, will fit in with what the authorities, be they in social services, education, or a medical setting, are supposed to be doing at the moment in a co-ordinated way.

In his introduction, Huw raised the issue of how services are co-ordinated and the role of social services and I would ask the Government to consider whether we are providing enough resources for training social workers. Social workers are the professionals who tend to have the most contact with this cohort of young people. A health professional—a GP or a nurse—may, at the end of this process, see that particular cohort individually once a year, but the social workers will have ongoing contact. Is sufficient training provided for social workers to be able to identify the sorts of problems that you anticipate might otherwise be picked up by some other health professional? I would ask you to look at that, as you develop this policy.

Finally, I reiterate our support and ask that this matter be brought back as quickly as possible so that we can make all the necessary changes.

Jenny Randerson: Thank you, Huw, for bringing forward a simple, straightforward and imaginative proposal that could make a big difference to the young people concerned because, as has been said, those young people already have so many disadvantages and such a tough call in life in general. It is a great pity that the Labour Party in the Assembly has to rely on its backbenchers to bring forward positive policy ideas, when the Government seems to lack the initiative to push these issues forward.

*Daeth y Llywydd i'r Gadair am 4.28 p.m.
The Presiding Officer took the Chair at 4.28 p.m.*

The thrust of what Huw proposes is keenly felt at the preventative end of medicine. I think that it is important that we look at the preventative aspect and this simple proposal would be thrusting directly at that. The Welsh Liberal Democrats will not be

gan gynnwys argymhelliad Huw a'r hyn a awgrymir yn y gwelliant, yn cyd-fynd â'r hyn y mae'r awdurdodau, boed o fewn gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, addysg, neu faes meddygol, i fod yn ei wneud ar hyn o bryd mewn ffordd gydgyssylltiedig.

Yn ei gyflwyniad, cyfeiriodd Huw at y ffordd y caiff gwasanaethau eu cydgysylltu a rôl gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, a byddwn yn gofyn i'r Llywodraeth ystyried a ydym yn darparu digon o adnoddau i hyfforddi gweithwyr cymdeithasol. Gweithwyr cymdeithasol yw'r bobl broffesiynol sy'n tueddu i gysylltu fwyaf â'r garfan hon o bobl ifanc. Gallai gweithiwr iechyd proffesiynol-meddyg teulu neu nyrs-ar ddiwedd y broses hon, weld y garfan benodol honno'n unigol unwaith y flwyddyn. Ond bydd gan y gweithwyr cymdeithasol gysylltiad parhaus â hwy. A oes digon o hyfforddiant yn cael ei ddarparu i weithwyr cymdeithasol er mwyn iddynt allu nodi'r mathau o broblemau y byddech yn rhagweld a allai gael eu nodi fel arall gan ryw weithiwr iechyd proffesiynol arall? Gofynnaf ichi edrych ar hynny, wrth ichi ddatblygu'r polisi hwn.

Yn olaf, hoffwn ailddatgan ein cefnogaeth a gofyn am i'r mater hwn gael ei drafod eto cyn gynted â phosibl er mwyn inni allu gwneud yr holl newidiadau angenrheidiol.

Jenny Randerson: Diolch ichi, Huw, am gyflwyno cynnig syml, uniongyrchol a llawn dychymyg a allai wneud gwahaniaeth mawr i'r bobl ifanc dan sylw oherwydd, fel y dywedwyd, mae gan y bobl ifanc hynny gymaint o anfanteision eisoes a bywyd anodd iawn yn gyffredinol. Mae'n drueni mawr bod yn rhaid i'r Blaid Lafur yn y Cynulliad ddibynnu ar aelodau'r meinciau cefn i gyflwyno syniadau polisi cadarnhaol, pan ymddengys nad oes gan y Llywodraeth y cymhelliant i wthio'r materion hyn ymlaen.

Mae hanfod yr hyn a gynigir gan Huw yn berthnasol iawn i'r elfen ataliol mewn meddygaeth. Credaf ei bod yn bwysig inni edrych ar yr elfen ataliol, a byddai'r cynnig syml hwn yn anelu'n uniongyrchol at hynny. Ni fydd Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru

supporting the Government amendment and, in that, I would associate myself with the comments made by Helen Mary Jones. We feel that this amendment takes a simple, straightforward and effective proposal and simply kicks it into the long grass. We have no commitment from the Government on a timescale for this or on the obligations that will go with the proposals that are put forward in the Government's amendment. Will they be simple guidance to local authorities, provided with no extra funding?

4.30 p.m.

Will it, however, take the form of regulations? There is no commitment to that, and we are putting it off for the long term. It is very disappointing indeed that the Government has to have a proposal such as Huw's to persuade it that the basic, common-sense approach it sets out needs to be put into force. In the long run, I would want the Government to be much clearer on timescale, effectiveness and the mechanisms that it will use. It will simply not be good enough if another Member's proposal under Standing Order No. 31 gets kicked into the long grass by the Government in the hope that it can put off until next year or the year after what could be done this year. Basically, we need the regulations that Huw proposes; we do not need Government words. We need regulations and action, not promises for the future.

Brian Gibbons: Just to explain part of the rationale behind this, and why we feel that the amendment is necessary, including the important point that Jonathan made with regard to being more holistic, it would not be quite as simple as you suggest to implement the GMS requirement, because making this mandatory would almost certainly involve a change to the GP contract itself, and the essential or additional services that are part of the UK contract. It may not be anything like as simple as you suggest to introduce a change to the national contract, and, in part, we are proposing the amendment to allow us to circumvent that and to be able to act on the core of Huw's proposal more quickly and judiciously.

Jenny Randerson: That is an interesting

yn cefnogi gwelliant y Llywodraeth, ac yn hynny byddwn yn cytuno â'r sylwadau a wnaed gan Helen Mary Jones. Credwn fod y gwelliant hwn yn mynd â chynnig syml, uniongyrchol ac effeithiol a'i luchio o'r neilltu. Ni welwn ymrwymiad gan y Llywodraeth o ran amserlen ar gyfer hyn nac o ran y rhwymedigaethau a fydd yn gysylltiedig â'r cynigion a gyflwynir yng ngwelliant y Llywodraeth. A fyddant yn ganllawiau syml i awdurdodau lleol, a ddarperir heb unrhyw arian ychwanegol?

A fydd hyn, fodd bynnag, ar ffurf rheoliadau? Nid oes dim ymrwymiad i hynny, ac yr ydym yn oedi ei gyflwyno. Mae'n siomedig iawn fod angen i'r Llywodraeth gael cynnig fel yr un a gyflwynodd Huw i'w hargyhoeddi fod angen rhoi'r atebion synnwyr cyffredin a nodir yn y cynnig hwnnw ar waith. Yn y pen draw, byddwn am i'r Llywodraeth fod lawer yn gliriach ynglŷn ag amserlen, effeithiolrwydd a'r mecanweithiau y bydd yn eu defnyddio. Ni fydd yn ddigon da os bydd y Llywodraeth yn gohirio cynnig gan Aelod arall o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 31 yn y gobaith y gall oedi'r hyn y gellid ei wneud eleni tan y flwyddyn nesaf neu'r flwyddyn ganlynol. Yn y bôn, mae arnom angen y rheoliadau a gynigia Huw; nid oes arnom angen geiriau gan y Llywodraeth. Mae arnom angen rheoliadau a chamau gweithredu, nid addewidion ar gyfer y dyfodol.

Brian Gibbons: Os caf egluro rhan o'r rhesymeg dros hyn, a pham yr ydym yn teimlo bod angen y gwelliant, gan gynnwys y pwynt pwysig a wnaeth Jonathan o ran bod yn fwy cyfannol, ni fyddai gweithredu'r gofyniad gwasanaethau meddygol cyffredinol mor syml ag a awgrymwch. Y rheswm yw y byddai gwneud hyn yn orfodol bron yn sicr yn golygu newid yn y contract meddygon teulu ei hun, neu'r gwasanaethau hanfodol neu ychwanegol sy'n rhan o gontract y DU. Efallai nad yw newid y contract cenedlaethol mor syml ag a awgrymwch, ac yn rhannol yr ydym yn cynnig y gwelliant i'n galluogi i osgoi hynny a gallu gweithredu ar graidd cynnig Huw yn gyflymach ac yn fwy gofalus.

Jenny Randerson: Mae hwnnw'n esboniad

explanation, and I thank you for it. However, it makes a worrying situation rather worse, because, rather than it being that, buried in this verbiage that the Government has produced is a commitment that, somewhere and at some point, the change that Huw suggests will take place and will be included in the GP contract—you are quite right that it does not directly say that, but I picked up the fact that it probably would happen at some point—you are saying that you are not going to do that, but that you will try to take a different approach. I cannot see how you can have annual medical check-ups of the nature that Huw suggests without that change to the contract. With all due respect, Minister, we have just been dealing with legislation in the Health and Social Services Committee that will change the GP contract, and it went through on the nod. We suggest it, it gets done, and it is not the first lot of changes that we have had.

Brian Gibbons: The regulations that we are bringing through in committee, to which you referred, are regulations on the various additional services: the directed services and the local enhanced services and so on that are optional for GPs and which do not have the sense of compulsion that you seem to think they have. A change to the GP contract would have that element of compulsion, but unless that was a negotiated change, the time that that would take would be significantly longer or equally as long. There are people such as community medical officers and community consultant paediatricians who are extremely experienced and knowledgeable about carrying out children's assessments holistically. You fail to recognise that potential expertise; those people may be better placed than some GPs to do this. That is with the caveat that Huw Lewis mentioned that it needs to be integrated into the GP record, but we may actually get a better quality service that will result in better outcomes.

Jenny Randerson: We seem to have some form of shadow boxing here, because it would have been a great deal more helpful had the Government set out its real reasons for objecting to Huw Lewis's proposal.

diddorol, a diolch ichi amdano. Fodd bynnag, mae'n gwneud sefyllfa bryderus hytrach yn waeth, oherwydd, yn hytrach na hynny, ynghanol y geiriau gwag hyn gan y Llywodraeth mae ymrwymiad rywle a rhywbryd y caiff y newid a awgrymir gan Huw ei wneud a'i gynnwys yn y contract meddygon teulu—yr ydych yn gywir nad yw'n dweud hynny'n uniongyrchol, ond deallais y ffaith y byddai'n debygol o ddigwydd rywbryd—yr ydych yn dweud nad ydych am wneud hynny, ond y byddwch yn ceisio dilyn llwybr gwahanol. Ni allaf weld sut y gallwch gael archwiliadau meddygol blynyddol o'r math a awgryma Huw heb y newid hwnnw yn y contract. Gyda phob dyledus barch, Weinidog, yr ydym newydd fod yn ymdrin â deddfwriaeth yn y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a fydd yn newid y contract meddygon teulu, a chafodd ei dderbyn heb drafodaeth. Caiff ei awgrymu gennym, caiff ei gyflawni, ac nid dyma'r newidiadau cyntaf inni eu cael.

Brian Gibbons: Mae'r rheoliadau a gyflwynir gennym yn y pwyllgor, fel yr oeddech yn cyfeirio, yn rheoliadau ar yr amrywiol wasanaethau ychwanegol: y gwasanaethau cyfeiriedig a'r gwasanaethau ychwanegol lleol ac ati sy'n ddewisol i feddygon teulu ac nad ydynt yn orfodol yn yr ystyr a gredwch. Byddai newid yn y contract meddygon teulu yn golygu'r elfen honno o orfodaeth. Ond oni bai bod hwnnw'n newid wedi'i negodi, byddai hynny yn cymryd llawer mwy o amser neu'n cymryd llawn cymaint o amser. Mae yna bobl, megis swyddogion meddygol cymunedol a phediatregwyr ymgynghorol cymunedol, sy'n hynod brofiadol a gwybodus ynglŷn â gwneud asesiadau plant yn gyfannol. Yr ydych yn methu â chydabod yr arbenigedd posibl hwnnw; efallai fod y bobl hynny mewn gwell sefyllfa i wneud hyn na rhai meddygon teulu. Hynny yw, gyda'r cafeat y cyfeiriodd Huw Lewis ato fod angen ei integreiddio yng nghofnod y meddyg teulu, ond efallai y cawn wasanaeth o safon uwch a fydd yn arwain at ganlyniadau gwell.

Jenny Randerson: Ymddengys mai geiriau gwag sydd yma, oherwydd byddai wedi bod llawer yn fwy defnyddiol pe bai'r Llywodraeth wedi gosod allan ei rhesymau gwirioneddol dros wrthwynebu cynnig Huw

Although community medical officers might have a useful role to play, I do not think that they would wholly serve the issues that Huw Lewis has set out.

One of the key issues about these young people is that so many of them lead a lifestyle that includes many upheavals. They move from one placement to another. They need the certainty of having a GP, and one way of ensuring that would be to have this legal obligation. This information would then be passed on. If they changed their GP because they changed their placement, it would then pass from that GP to the next with their patient record, and we need to ensure that that takes place.

I regret that the Government has not come forward with the real reasons as to why it is objecting to Huw's proposal and why this compromise has been cobbled together. I am sure that, in the long run, if they are put in place, these proposals will be an improvement on the current scandalous situation, but, in the short term, they do not provide the immediate change that Huw's simple, straightforward proposal promised.

Karen Sinclair: I welcome this debate and congratulate Huw Lewis on his proposal under Standing Order No. 31. I do not need to point out to anyone here that we have been provided with enough evidence over the years, from a range of sources, including academics, committee reports, voluntary sector groups, social workers and our own constituency postbags, to remind us that the issue of looked-after children in Wales remains a glaring social injustice that we, as a Government, have not sufficiently addressed. There is more that we must do and I welcome this debate as an important contribution to that agenda.

The question of looked-after children and how we begin to bridge the still vast and embarrassing inequalities that exist between children in care and their peers should automatically give the topic a special precedence in public policy that other issues do not have. After all, all they have is us. As

Lewis. Er y gallai fod gan swyddogion meddygol cymunedol ran ddefnyddiol, ni chredaf y byddent yn ateb y diben yn llwyr o ran y materion a osodwyd allan gan Huw Lewis.

Un o'r materion allweddol am y bobl ifanc hyn yw bod nifer ohonynt yn byw bywydau sy'n golygu llawer o newid. Byddant yn symud o leoliad i leoliad. Mae angen iddynt gael sicrwydd fod ganddynt feddyg teulu, ac un ffordd i sicrhau hynny fyddai darparu'r rhwymedigaeth gyfreithiol hon. Yna, câi'r wybodaeth hon ei throsglwyddo. Pe baent yn newid eu meddyg teulu am eu bod yn newid eu lleoliad, yna câi ei throsglwyddo o'r meddyg teulu hwnnw i'r un nesaf gyda'u cofnodion meddygol, a rhaid inni sicrhau bod hynny'n digwydd.

Mae'n ddrwg gennyf nad yw'r Llywodraeth wedi rhoi ei gwir resymau dros wrthwynebu cynnig Huw a thros ddyfeisio'r cyfaddawd hwn. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd y cynigion hyn, os cânt eu gweithredu, yn y pen draw yn gwella'r sefyllfa gywilyddus bresennol. Ond yn y cyfnod byr nid ydynt yn darparu'r newid uniongyrchol yr oedd cynnig syml, didwyll Huw yn ei addo.

Karen Sinclair: Yr wyf yn croesawu'r ddadl hon ac yn llongyfarch Huw Lewis ar ei gynnig o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 31. Nid oes angen imi dynnu sylw neb yma at y ffaith ein bod wedi cael digon o dystiolaeth dros y blynyddoedd, o nifer o ffynonellau, gan gynnwys academyddion, adroddiadau pwyllgorau, grwpiau'r sector gwirfoddol, gweithwyr cymdeithasol a llythyrau yn ein hetholaethau ein hunain, i'n hatgoffa bod mater plant sy'n cael gofal yng Nghymru yn dal yn achos amlwg o anghyfiawnder cymdeithasol nad ydym ni, fel Llywodraeth, wedi mynd i'r afael ag ef. Rhaid inni wneud mwy, a chroesawaf y ddadl hon fel cyfraniad pwysig at yr agenda honno.

Dylai mater plant sy'n cael gofal a'r modd y dechreuwn gau'r agendor cywilyddus rhwng plant mewn gofal a'u cyfoedion roi blaenoriaeth arbennig i'r pwnc, yn awtomatig, mewn polisi cyhoeddus na roddir i faterion eraill. Wedi'r cyfan, ni yw'r cyfan sydd ganddynt. Fel Cynulliad Cenedlaethol,

a National Assembly, together with local authorities, we are entrusted with ensuring their safety, promoting their development and widening their life chances, and we must not let them down. One of the primary aims in this regard should be ensuring that the health of children in care is fully catered for. Research highlights that that is not the case. They have mental and physical needs that do not show up in children of a similar age, and in shocking numbers, and that is why I fully support the annual general health check for looked-after children that is being proposed today. An annual review would better enable us to identify and tackle the health disparity that exists.

The Office for National Statistics report of 2004 telling us that children in care are eight times more likely to have a mental health problem sends shivers down my spine. Every time that I read about looked-after children, I feel particularly enraged about these problems. That is why I believe that our care and health systems have to become far more proactive in their management and treatment of looked-after children. By intervening and tackling problems earlier, we can, hopefully, prevent the onset of the physical and mental problems that are so typically and unfortunately associated with our children in care.

Huw graphically outlined the problems that are then carried on into adult life. Refocusing our systems so that we achieve a balance between front-end, preventative services and reactive, problem-based services, will also help our care and health services to better focus on using their finite resources for maximum benefit. This approach will fit well into our agenda for healthcare as outlined in the Wanless report, in tackling problems at source instead of waiting for them to manifest themselves in disease and poor health. I urge the Government to consider this seriously and to take forward the health review proposals contained in it.

Jenny's caustic comments are typical of what

ynghyd ag awdurdodau lleol, ein cyfrifoldeb ni yw sicrhau eu diogelwch, hybu eu datblygiad ac ehangu eu cyfleoedd mewn bywyd, a rhaid inni beidio â'u siomi. Dylai sicrhau bod iechyd plant mewn gofal yn cael sylw priodol fod yn un o'r prif nodau yn y cyswllt hwn. Dengys ymchwil nad yw hynny'n digwydd. Mae ganddynt anghenion meddyliol a chorfforol nad ydynt yn amlwg mewn plant o'r un oed, ac mewn niferoedd dychrynlyd, a dyna pam yr wyf yn cefnogi'n llawn yr archwiliad iechyd cyffredinol blynyddol ar gyfer plant sy'n cael gofal fel sy'n cael ei gynnig heddiw. Byddai adolygiad blynyddol yn ein galluogi'n well i nodi'r annhegwch iechyd sy'n bodoli ac i fynd i'r afael ag ef.

Mae adroddiad y Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol ar gyfer 2004 sy'n dweud wrthym fod plant mewn gofal wyth gwaith yn fwy tebygol o gael problemau iechyd meddwl yn gyrru ias i lawr fy nghefn. Bob tro pan byddaf yn darllen am blant sy'n cael gofal, teimlaf yn arbennig o ddig am y problemau hyn. Dyna pam y credaf fod angen i'n systemau gofal ac iechyd fod lawer yn fwy rhagweithiol yn y ffordd y maent yn rheoli ac yn trin plant sy'n cael gofal. Drwy ymyrryd a mynd i'r afael â phroblemau'n gynharach, y gobaith yw y gallwn atal y problemau corfforol a meddyliol a gysylltir mor nodweddiadol ac anffodus â'n plant sydd mewn gofal rhag dechrau.

Amlinellodd Huw y problemau sy'n parhau wedyn yn ystod eu bywydau fel oedolion mewn modd graffig iawn. Bydd rhoi ffocws o'r newydd i'n systemau er mwyn inni gael cydbwysedd rhwng gwasanaethau ataliol rheng flaen, a gwasanaethau ymatebol yn seiliedig ar broblemau, hefyd yn helpu ein gwasanaethau gofal ac iechyd i ganolbwyntio'n well ar ddefnyddio'u hadnoddau prin i sicrhau'r budd mwyaf. Bydd y dull hwn yn cyd-fynd yn dda â'n agenda ar gyfer gofal iechyd fel yr amlinellir yn adroddiad Wanless, wrth fynd at wraidd problemau yn hytrach nag aros iddynt ddod yn amlwg drwy afiechydon ac iechyd gwael. Pwysaf ar y Llywodraeth i ystyried hyn o ddifrif a gweithredu ar y cynigion adolygu iechyd sydd ynddo.

Mae sylwadau hallt Jenny yn nodweddiadol

we have come to expect from her and I was particularly saddened that she demeaned the right to and the need for Standing Order No. 31 debates, which allow backbenchers to helpfully feed into Government policy. I was very saddened by her comments, but I was uplifted by the support given by backbenchers in other parties, who value the role of Standing Order No. 31 and see that what it can be used for can be extremely useful.

4.40 p.m.

David Melding: I thank Huw Lewis for giving the Assembly the opportunity to discuss this important issue in some detail. We will probably discuss it in the months ahead as the Government comes back with firm proposals. It is a good use of the Standing Order 31 mechanism, and it is to be commended. I am prepared to accept the Government's good intentions in proposing an amendment to this measure, but we must wait to see the detail when the Government returns with its worked-up proposal.

It is quite a complicated issue, which is why I have listened with some care to why amending the GP contract is not perhaps the best way to do this. It is a convenient way to do this, and it is something that we have control over, which is why it is tempting to use that route. However, there is a wider issue, and we need to deliver an annual health check from health professionals at the top of their game and with expertise in this area. That may not be the GP, or even the practice nurse, so we need to explore a more general approach. If we cannot see any progressive outcome that way, we may have to attempt another mechanism.

In the future, I would be quite happy to see the Assembly amend the GP contract. As Chair of the Health and Social Services Committee, I told the British Medical Association directly that its pretence that we could always have a UK system when these issues are devolved through the Assembly is not sustainable. They should not be devolved if we are never going to make use of that, and

o'r hyn yr ydym yn ei ddisgwyl ganddi bellach, a chefais fy siomi'n arbennig pan wawdiodd yr hawl i gael dadleuon o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 31 a'r angen amdanynt, sy'n galluogi aelodau'r meinciau cefn i gyfrannu'n ddefnyddiol at bolisi'r Llywodraeth. Cefais fy siomi'n fawr gan ei sylwadau, ond codwyd fy nghalon gan y gefnogaeth a roddwyd gan aelodau meinciau cefn y pleidiau eraill, sy'n gwerthfawrogi rôl Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 31 ac yn gweld y gall fod yn eithriadol o ddefnyddiol.

David Melding: Diolch i Huw Lewis am roi cyfle i'r Cynulliad drafod y mater pwysig hwn yn fanwl. Mae'n debyg y byddwn yn ei drafod dros y misoedd nesaf wrth i'r Llywodraeth ddychwelyd gyda chynigion cadarn. Mae'n ffordd dda o ddefnyddio Rheol Sefydlog 31, a dylid ei gymeradwyo. Yr wyf yn barod i dderbyn bwriadau da'r Llywodraeth wrth gynnig gwelliant i'r mesur hwn, ond rhaid inni aros i weld y manylion pan ddaw'r Llywodraeth yn ôl gyda'i chynnig cadarn.

Mae'n fater digon cymhleth, a dyna pam yr wyf wedi gwrando'n ddigon astud ar y ffaith nad addasu'r contract meddygon teulu, hwyrach, yw'r ffordd orau i wneud hyn. Mae'n ffordd gyfleus i wneud hyn, ac mae'n rhywbeth y gallwn ei reoli, a dyna pam y mae'n demtasiwn defnyddio'r llwybr hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, mae mater ehangach i'w ystyried, ac mae angen inni ddarparu archwiliad iechyd blynyddol gan weithwyr iechyd proffesiynol sy'n flaenllaw yn eu maes ac sydd hefyd yn arbenigwyr yn eu maes. Efallai nad y meddyg teulu yw hwnnw, na'r nyrs practis hyd yn oed. Felly, rhaid inni ystyried dull mwy cyffredinol. Os na allwn weld dim cynnydd felly, efallai y bydd angen inni roi cynnig ar fecanwaith arall.

Yn y dyfodol, byddwn yn ddigon bodlon gweld y Cynulliad yn diwygio contract meddygon teulu. Fel Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, dywedais wrth Gymdeithas Feddygol Prydain yn uniongyrchol na ellir cynnal ei honiad y gallem bob amser gael system ar gyfer y DU lle y caiff y materion hyn eu datganoli drwy'r Cynulliad. Ni ddylid eu datganoli os nad

have a contract that is more fit for Welsh purposes than a UK contract could be. The Minister seems to want to intervene, but I accept in this instance that you have reasons to explore another avenue.

Brian Gibbons: We are using the opportunities in the new contract to develop Wales-specific solutions. The latest revision of the GP contract—which is in areas outside the essential and additional services—demonstrates how we are using that flexibility. We are going down that road, as you suggest.

David Melding: I would be happy to see that strategy developed even further. However, I do not want to dwell on negative points, because it has been a good debate. I will not go over the issues of where looked-after children are particularly vulnerable in terms of their health—we know that they are, and there are some very severe issues.

We need to be much more ambitious. Since the mid 1990s, we have heard some awful stories, in the Waterhouse report and the reports of the Social Service Inspectorate for Wales. We have realised that what we have done for looked-after children for generations has been grossly inadequate. Part of the problem is that we have had such low expectations—we have seen these people as being so vulnerable that it is practically impossible to intervene in a positive way and to give them hope for the future. Looked-after children are children—they have expectations, hopes and aspirations for the future. They probably need more intensive intervention and help, but if they are given a stable environment, encouragement and praise, they will do very well. In Denmark, over half of the looked-after children end up in the higher education system. I am not an expert on the Danish system, but it appears that the structure there is much more positive, whereas we have under-achieved in this area for far too long.

I am happy to support the amendment. We

ydym am wneud defnydd o hynny, a dylid cael contract sy'n fwy addas at ddibenion Cymru nag y gallai contract ar gyfer y DU fod. Ymddengys fod y Gweinidog am ymyrryd, ond yr wyf yn derbyn y tro hwn fod gennych resymau dros ystyried llwybr arall.

Brian Gibbons: Yr ydym yn defnyddio'r cyfleoedd yn y contract newydd i ddatblygu atebion sy'n benodol i Gymru. Mae diwygiad diweddaraf y contract meddygon teulu—sydd mewn meysydd y tu hwnt i'r gwasanaethau hanfodol ac ychwanegol—yn dangos sut yr ydym yn defnyddio'r hyblygrwydd hwnnw. Yr ydym yn mynd i'r cyfeiriad hwnnw, fel yr awgrymwch.

David Melding: Byddwn yn fodlon gweld y strategaeth honno'n cael ei datblygu ymhellach hyd yn oed. Fodd bynnag, nid wyf am ymhelaethu ar sylwadau negyddol, oherwydd bu'n ddadl dda. Nid wyf am drafod yr agweddau hynny lle mae plant sy'n cael gofal yn arbennig o ddiamddiffyn o ran eu hiechyd—gwyddom eu bod yn ddiamddiffyn, ac mae yna rai materion difrifol iawn.

Mae angen inni fod lawer yn fwy uchelgeisiol. Ers canol y 1990au, clywsom rai storïau erchyll yn adroddiad Waterhouse ac yn adroddiadau Arolygiaeth Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru. Yr ydym wedi sylweddoli bod yr hyn a wnaethom dros genedlaethau o blant sy'n cael gofal wedi bod yn ddychrynlyd o annigonol. Rhan o'r broblem oedd fod gennym ddisgwyliadau mor isel—yr ydym wedi ystyried bod y bobl hyn mor ddiamddiffyn fel ei bod bron yn amhosibl ymyrryd mewn ffordd gadarnhaol a rhoi gobaith iddynt ar gyfer y dyfodol. Plant yw plant sy'n cael gofal—mae ganddynt ddisgwyliadau, gobeithion a dyheadau am y dyfodol. Mae'n debyg fod arnynt angen ymyriad dwysach, ond os rhoddir amgylchedd cadarn, anogaeth a chanmoliaeth iddynt, byddant yn gwneud yn dda iawn. Yn Nenmarc, mae dros hanner y plant sy'n cael gofal yn cyrraedd y system addysg uwch. Nid wyf yn arbenigwr ar y system yn Nenmarc, ond ymddengys fod y strwythur yno lawer yn fwy cadarnhaol, ond yr ydym ni wedi bod yn tangyflawni yn y maes hwn lawer yn rhy hir.

Yr wyf yn barod i gefnogi'r gwelliant.

will scrutinise what the Government does with it. I am grateful to Huw for raising this subject, and I know that looked-after children is an issue that will be discussed regularly by the Assembly, as it has been over the seven years since its establishment. It is not an issue that we will go away from, because we need to raise our game. Once the game is at a high level, we need to maintain it and this will certainly be a step in the right direction.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Yr wyf innau hefyd yn llongyfarch Huw Lewis ar ddwyn y cynnig gerbron y Cynulliad—mae'n gynnig eithriadol o bwysig ac mae'n ymwneud â rhai o'r bobl bwysicaf yn ein cymdeithas a'r bobl sydd angen ein cefnogaeth fwyaf. Ni fu'r record yn y gorffennol yn dda, ac mae mawr angen gweithredu yn y maes hwn. Gwn fod fy rhagflaenydd fel Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol wedi cymryd diddordeb mawr yn y mater hwn, ac wedi sicrhau bod y pwyllgor hefyd â diddordeb ynddo. Byddaf yn parhau â hynny. Yr wyf braidd yn siomedig bod y Llywodraeth wedi dwyn y gwelliant hwn gerbron, ac ni fedraf ei gefnogi. Yr hyn sy'n bwysig yw symud ymlaen gyda'r cynnig y mae Huw wedi ei osod, a cheisio sicrhau bod gweithredu yn dilyn mor gyflym ag sy'n bosibl.

Huw Lewis: First, I broadly welcome the Minister's response and that from other parties. Helen Mary Jones pertinently mentioned mental health problems, and the need for early intervention there—early intervention would probably be inexpensive in that regard if the systems were in place to deliver it.

Rhodri Glyn, as Chair of the relevant committee, has committed himself to taking a continuing interest in monitoring this situation, and I welcome that. I know that, while David Melding is a Member of the Assembly, he too will make sure that this issue is kept alive and monitored.

Jonathan mentioned the crucial issue of resources, and he is quite right; we have to prioritise resources and commit and, as reality dictates, face up to the issue that if we prioritise this particular area of our work, we

Byddwn yn craffu ar yr hyn a wnaiff y Llywodraeth ag ef. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i Huw am gyflwyno'r pwnc hwn, a gwn fod plant sy'n cael gofal yn fater sy'n cael ei drafod yn rheolaidd gan y Cynulliad, fel y sydd wedi digwydd yn ystod y saith mlynedd ers ei sefydlu. Nid yw'n fater y byddwn yn troi ein cefnau arno, am fod angen inni wella. Ar ôl inni wella, bydd angen inni barhau'r gwelliant hwnnw, a bydd hyn yn bendant yn gam i'r cyfeiriad cywir.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I also congratulate Huw Lewis on bringing this proposal before the Assembly—it is an exceptionally important proposal relating to some of the most important people in our society and those who most need our support. The record in the past has not been good, and there is a dire need to act in this area. I am aware that my predecessor as Chair of the Health and Social Services Committee has taken a great deal of interest in this matter, and has ensured that the committee also has taken an interest in it. I will continue to do so. I am rather disappointed that the Government has proposed this amendment, and I cannot support it. What is important is that we move forward with the motion tabled by Huw, and try to ensure that action follows as swiftly as possible.

Huw Lewis: Yn gyntaf, yr wyf yn croesawu'n gyffredinol ymateb y Gweinidog ac ymateb y pleidiau eraill. Soniodd Helen Mary Jones yn berthnasol iawn am broblemau iechyd meddwl a'r angen am ymyrryd yn gynnar yn hyn—byddai ymyrryd yn gynnar yn debygol o fod yn rhad o ran hynny pe bai'r systemau ar waith i'w gyflwyno.

Mae Rhodri Glyn, fel Cadeirydd y pwyllgor perthnasol, wedi ymrwymo i barhau i fonitro'r sefyllfa hon, a chrosawaf hynny. Gwn, tra bydd David Melding yn Aelod o'r Cynulliad, y bydd yntau hefyd yn sicrhau y caiff y mater hwn ei gadw'n fyw ac y caiff ei fonitro.

Soniodd Jonathan am fater hanfodol adnoddau, ac mae'n hollol iawn; rhaid inni flaenoriaethu adnoddau ac ymrwymo, ac fel sy'n anochel, wynebu'r broblem os blaenoriaethwn y maes penodol hwn yn ein

will not prioritise something else quite as much. One thing that we have to keep in mind when making those difficult decisions is that the bill for the damage done to looked-after children—any child—will be paid; it will be paid by society, their community, their families and most of all by them, regardless of whether we do this stuff or not. The bill for inaction will be many times greater than the bill for taking action. Research that I have undertaken for this debate alone has revealed statistics showing that the potential drift towards criminality would cost, and does cost, many more times the cost of the intervention needed to prevent this from happening in the first place.

Jenny, I am prepared to take your comments as broad support for the issues and the debate today. However, I accept that the expansion into the wider issue inherent in the amendment—the inclusion of other health professionals—is worth accepting. As a small country, we could do many wonderful things if we could find the courage within ourselves to prioritise issues such as this, and rigorously and boldly chase them down. I mentioned the example of Denmark, and how it has been prepared to prioritise this particular social injustice visited upon a particular group of children. While we have to recognise that the resource implication is heavy, and the timescale involved is long, the results are there. There is no more genius inherent in the Danish people than there is in the Welsh people. This could be done. There are examples of best practice all over the UK. We have the ability to draw those strands together and make uniform that best practice across our small country.

Therefore, I welcome the response of Members here today. I am sure that my own local Labour Party will be increasingly distressed that I have now brought two motions under Standing Order No. 31 to the Chamber, and have achieved something resembling cross-party consensus with both. I will have to justify myself at our next monthly meeting. [*Laughter.*] However, in the meantime, I thank Members for their contributions.

gwaith na fyddwn yn rhoi llawn cymaint o flaenoriaeth i rywbeth arall. Un peth y mae'n rhaid ei gadw mewn cof wrth wneud y penderfyniadau anodd hyn yw mai cymdeithas, eu cymuned, eu teuluoedd ac yn anad neb hwy eu hunain fydd yn talu cost y niwed a wneir i blant sy'n cael gofal— unrhyw blentyn—p'un a wnawn y pethau hyn neu beidio. Bydd y pris am fethu â gweithredu lawer yn fwy na'r pris am weithredu. Mae'r ymchwil a wnaed gennyf ar gyfer y ddadl hon yn unig wedi datgelu ystadegau sy'n dangos y byddai'r duedd at droseddu yn costio, ac mae yn costio, lawer gwaith mwy na chost yr ymyrryd angenrheidiol i atal hyn rhag digwydd yn y lle cyntaf.

Jenny, yr wyf yn barod i dderbyn eich sylwadau fel cefnogaeth gyffredinol i'r materion a'r ddadl heddiw. Fodd bynnag, derbyniaf fod y mater ehangach yn gynhenid yn y gwelliant—sef cynnwys gweithwyr proffesiynol iechyd eraill—yn werth ei dderbyn. Fel gwlad fach, gallem wneud nifer o bethau gwych pe baem yn ddigon dewr i flaenoriaethu materion megis hwn, a mynd i'r afael â hwy yn drwyadl ac yn feiddgar. Soniais am yr enghraifft o Ddenmarc a'r ffordd y mae wedi bod yn barod i flaenoriaethu'r anghyfiawnder cymdeithasol penodol hwn i grŵp penodol o blant. Er bod rhaid inni gydnabod bod y goblygiad adnoddau yn drwm, ac mae'r amserlen ar ei gyfer yn hir, mae'r canlyniadau i'w gweld. Nid yw pobl Denmarc yn fwy deallus na phobl Cymru. Gellid gwneud hyn. Mae yna enghreifftiau o arfer gorau ledled y DU. Mae gennym y gallu i dynnu'r llinynnau hynny ynghyd a chysoni'r arfer gorau hwnnw ar draws ein gwlad fach.

Felly, croesawaf ymateb yr Aelodau yma heddiw. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd aelodau'r Blaid Lafur leol yn fy ardal i yn gynyddol ofidus fy mod wedi cyflwyno dau gynnig o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 31 yn y Siambr, ac wedi llwyddo i gael rhyw fath o gonsensws ar draws y pleidiau gyda'r ddau. Bydd yn rhaid imi gyfiawnhau fy hun yn ein cyfarfod misol nesaf. [*Chwerthin.*] Fodd bynnag, yn y cyfamser, diolch i'r Aelodau am eu cyfraniadau.

Gwelliant 1: O blaid 37, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 15.

Amendment 1: For 37, Abstain 0, Against 15.

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bourne, Nick
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Glyn
Dunwoody, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Neagle, Lynne
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Williams, Brynle

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

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

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment carried.*

Motion (NDM2837) as amended: to propose that

the National Assembly for Wales, acting under Standing Order No. 31.2:

supports in principle legislation to ensure that all looked-after children have the right support to improve their health and wellbeing, which will include an annual health review. Regulations should be amended to strengthen local authorities' arrangements before placing a child to ensure that the necessary support services such as health and education are agreed prior to the placement of the child. In

Cynnig (NDM2837) fel y'i diwygiwyd: cynnig bod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, gan weithredu'n unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 31.2:

yn cefnogi mewn egwyddor ddeddfwriaeth i sicrhau bod pob plentyn sy'n derbyn gofal yn cael y gefnogaeth briodol i wella eu hiechyd a'u lles, a fydd yn cynnwys adolygiad iechyd blynyddol. Dylid diwygio rheoliadau i gryfhau trefniadau awdurdodau lleol cyn lleoli plentyn, i sicrhau y cytunir ar y gwasanaethau cefnogi angenrheidiol megis iechyd ac addysg cyn lleoli'r plentyn. Yn ychwanegol, wrth leoli plentyn, dylai'r

addition, when placing a child, the new arrangements should include consideration being given to the distance from the child's parental home, to allow (where appropriate) looked-after children to maintain valuable contact with their family and communities.

trefniadau newydd ystyried y pellter o gartref rhieni'r plentyn, er mwyn caniatáu (lle bo hynny'n briodol) i blant sy'n derbyn gofal gadw'r cyswllt gwerthfawr â'u teulu a'u cymunedau.

4.50 p.m.

*Cynnig fel y'i diwygiwyd: O blaid 48, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 6.
Amended motion: For 48, Abstain 0, Against 6.*

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

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

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

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
German, Michael
Randerson, Jenny
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig fel y'i diwygiwyd.
Amended motion carried.*

Y Llywydd: Llongyfarchaf Huw Lewis am yr ail waith. **The Presiding Officer:** I congratulate Huw Lewis for the second time.

Cynnig Trefniadol Procedural Motion

Y Llywydd: Cyn i mi alw'r busnes o dan eitem 8, datganaf o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 6.21 na fydd digon o amser ar ôl ar gyfer y ddadl fer, sydd i gychwyn am 5 p.m., os na wnawn ymestyn y cyfarfod. Felly, gwahoddaf y Trefnydd i gynnig ein bod yn ymestyn y cyfarfod.

The Presiding Officer: Before I call for the business under item 8, I declare under Standing Order No. 6.21 that there will not be sufficient time for the short debate, which is to commence at 5 p.m., unless we extend the meeting. I therefore invite the Business Minister to propose that we extend the meeting.

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): I propose that

the National Assembly, under Standing Order No. 6.19, agrees to extend today's Plenary meeting until 6.15 p.m.

Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt): Cynigiau fod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 6.19, yn cytuno i ymestyn Cyfarfod Llawn heddiw tan 6.15 p.m.

Y Llywydd: Ni chredaf y byddai hynny'n gamddefnydd o'n gweithdrefnau, felly a oes 10 Aelod o blaid y cynnig? Gwelaf fod Galwaf am bleidlais ar y cynnig trefniadol.

The Presiding Officer: I do not believe that would be an abuse of procedures, so are there 10 Members in favour of the motion? I see that there are. I call for a vote on the procedural motion.

*Cynnig: O blaid 39, Ymatal 1, Yn erbyn 3.
Motion: For 39, Abstain 1, Against 3.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hutt, Jane
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene

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

Davies, Janet
Idris Jones, Denise
Jones, Ann

Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Lloyd, David
 Melding, David
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Kirsty

Ymataliodd yr Aelod canlynol:
 The following Member abstained:

Lloyd, Val

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

Dadl am y Gymanwlad Commonwealth Debate

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

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

1. welcomes the events being staged by the Assembly today to celebrate Commonwealth Day;

1. yn croesawu'r digwyddiadau a gynhelir gan y Cynulliad heddiw i ddathlu Diwrnod y Gymanwlad;

2. extends its warmest thanks to the Parliament of New South Wales for the magnificent gift of the Mace;

2. yn diolch o galon i Senedd De Cymru Newydd am y rhodd ysblennydd o Fyrllysg;

3. welcomes the contribution of those individuals from many Commonwealth countries who have made their homes in Wales, working in vital services and enriching local communities;

3. yn croesawu cyfraniad yr unigolion hynny o nifer o wledydd y Gymanwlad sydd wedi ymgartrefu yng Nghymru, gan weithio mewn gwasanaethau hanfodol a chyfoethogi cymunedau lleol;

4. reinforces the commitment of the Assembly to the principles of free and fair trade; and

4. yn ategu ymrwymiad y Cynulliad i egwyddorion masnachu rhydd a theg; a

5. looks forward to the further development of these contacts in the future. (NDM2922)

5. yn edrych ymlaen at ddatblygu'r cysylltiadau hyn ymhellach i'r dyfodol. (NDM2922)

John Griffiths: I am pleased to speak in support of this motion, which is timely and appropriate given that we have celebrated

John Griffiths: Mae'n bleser gennyf siarad o blaid y cynnig hwn, sy'n amserol ac yn briodol o gofio inni ddathlu Diwrnod y

Commonwealth Day this week. We marked it in the Assembly today by having a question-and-answer session and a debate with schoolchildren from across Wales, which was impressive in terms of the questions that they asked, and their views and issues. Pupils from Cathays High School also performed a very entertaining and skilful dance for us earlier. This debate also marks the occasion.

It is also timely that we have this debate because the Assembly Government is about to launch its international sustainable development framework, and it is Fairtrade Fortnight. In addition, we have seen developing links with the Commonwealth since devolution, and the opening of our new building the other week was marked by the presentation of the wonderful Mace that rests before you from the Parliament of New South Wales. We are very grateful for that, and for the parliament taking forward the memorandum of understanding, which has now been in place for some 11 years and is due to be reaffirmed this year, concentrating on education, science and technology, and the arts.

The Commonwealth is a great and unique coming together of 53 different countries with a combined population of around 1.8 billion people, representing around 30 per cent of the world's population and around 25 per cent of the world's land mass. It is fantastic to see those countries coming together and co-operating for peace, tolerance, understanding, development and fairness, which is so important in the current world climate where there is so much uncertainty, conflict and mistrust.

In that context, it is important that we mark this day, as we are doing with this motion. I agree with it, especially the part that refers to the enrichment experienced in Wales as a result of Commonwealth citizens coming to live here and playing a vital part by working in our public services. In fact, my own experiences in Pill, the dockland area of Newport, reflect that. When I was growing up there, people from right across the Commonwealth came to work in public services and provided a great deal of enrichment, creating a vibrant, dynamic, colourful mix of cultural diversity that I

Gymanwlad yr wythnos hon. Nodwyd y diwrnod yn y Cynulliad heddiw drwy gael sesiwn holi ac ateb a dadl gyda phlant ysgol o bob rhan o Gymru, a wnaeth gryn argraff arnaf gan y cwestiynau a ofynnwyd ganddynt a'u barn a'u materion. Cyflwynwyd dawns ddifyr a medrus inni hefyd gan ddisgyblion o Ysgol Uwchradd Cathays. Mae'r ddadl hon hefyd yn nodi'r achlysur.

Mae hefyd yn amserol inni fod yn cael y ddadl hon gan fod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar fin lansio'i fframwaith datblygu cynaliadwy rhyngwladol, ac mae'n Bythefnos Masnach Deg. Yn ogystal, gwelsom gysylltiadau'n datblygu gyda'r Gymanwlad ers datganoli, ac yn agoriad ein hadeilad newydd yr wythnos o'r blaen cyflwynwyd y Byrlysg gwych sydd o'ch blaenau gan Lywodraeth De Cymru Newydd. Yr ydym yn ddiolchgar iawn am hynny ac am benderfyniad y senedd i fynd â memorandwm cyd-ddealltwriaeth yn ei flaen, sydd wedi bod ar waith ers rhyw 11 mlynedd ac sy'n cael ei ailddatgan eleni, gan ganolbwyntio ar addysg, gwyddoniaeth a thechnoleg a'r celfyddydau.

Mae'r Gymanwlad yn gynulliad gwych ac unigryw o 53 o wahanol wledydd gyda phoblogaeth o ryw 1.8 biliwn i gyd, sydd tua 30 y cant o boblogaeth y byd a thua 25 y cant o dirfas y byd. Mae'n wych gweld y gwledydd hynny'n dod at ei gilydd ac yn cydweithio dros heddwch, goddefgarwch, dealltwriaeth, datblygiad a thegwch, sydd mor bwysig yn y byd sydd ohoni lle mae cymaint o ansicrwydd, gwrthdaro ac amheuaeth.

Yn y cyd-destun hwnnw, mae'n bwysig inni nodi'r diwrnod hwn, fel y gwnawn gyda'r cynnig hwn. Cytunaf ag ef, yn enwedig y rhan sy'n cyfeirio at gyfoethogi cymunedau yng Nghymru am fod dinasyddion o'r Gymanwlad yn dod i fyw yma ac yn chwarae rhan bwysig drwy weithio yn ein gwasanaethau cyhoeddus. A dweud y gwir, mae fy mhrofiadau i yn y Pîl, ardal dociau Casnewydd, yn adlewyrchu hynny. Pan oeddwn yn tyfu i fyny yno, deuai pobl o bob cwr o'r Gymanwlad i weithio mewn gwasanaethau cyhoeddus a chyfoethogi'r ardal gryn dipyn, gan greu cymysgedd egniol,

suppose was most obvious in clothing, music and food, but more widely in the general culture. I certainly felt that my own upbringing was enriched by that, and I know that many other people living in the Pill area also felt that and still do.

An important aspect of devolution is that it has made Wales much more of a world citizen. It has upped our profile exponentially on the world stage, with great benefit to us. It has also allowed us to help Commonwealth countries and others by being more engaged with them, by building stronger links, and by adding value to the UK's international development work.

Part of that work is fair trade. The Assembly Government has a commitment to make Wales a fair-trade country, which has been backed by the funding of a post of development officer to work with the Wales fair trade forum. This week, we have provided funding for a banana farmer from the Windward Isles to come to Wales, to travel around speaking at public meetings and different events, spreading the fair-trade message. In addition, in working around Fairtrade Fortnight, we have funded a leaflet describing 10 ways in which people can change the world at the checkout, as part of promoting fair trade and this fortnight. Value Wales (Procurement) is also developing a pilot scheme, engaging with local authorities so that they may buy fair trade bananas to make them available in schools and other places through the local authorities, which is important. Therefore, quite a lot is happening on the fair trade and procurement front.

Another important aspect of trade is free trade. I know that many people feel strongly, and I share the feeling, that the agricultural export subsidies of the European Union do a great deal of damage to the economies of the developing world, including the Commonwealth countries. We support the UK Government in calling for those agricultural export subsidies to be phased out by 2010. I know that our Ministers have often made representations to that effect.

ddeinamig a lliwgar o amrywiaeth ddiwylliannol a oedd i'w weld yn bennaf mewn gwisg, cerddoriaeth a bwyd, ond yn fwy eang yn y diwylliant yn gyffredinol. Yn sicr, teimlwn fod fy magwraeth wedi ei chyfoethogi gan hynny, a gwn fod nifer o bobl eraill sy'n byw yn ardal y Pîl hefyd wedi teimlo hynny ac yn dal i wneud.

Un agwedd bwysig ar ddatganoli yw ei fod wedi gwneud Cymru lawer yn fwy o ddinesydd y byd. Mae wedi cynyddu ein proffil yn aruthrol ar lwyfan y byd, gyda llawer o fudd inni. Mae hefyd wedi caniatáu inni gynorthwyo gwledydd y Gymanwlad ac eraill drwy gael mwy o gysylltiad â hwy, drwy feithrin cysylltiadau cryfach, a thrwy ychwanegu gwerth at waith datblygu rhyngwladol y DU.

Rhan o'r gwaith hwnnw yw masnach deg. Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi ymrwmo i wneud Cymru'n wlad masnach deg, sydd wedi ei gefnogi gan gyllid i ariannu gwaith swyddog datblygu i gydweithio â fforwm masnach deg Cymru. Yr wythnos hon, rhoesom arian i ffermwr banana o'r Ynysoedd Windward ddod i Gymru, i deithio o amgylch a siarad mewn cyfarfodydd cyhoeddus a gwahanol ddigwyddiadau a lledaenu neges masnach deg. Yn ogystal, gan ddefnyddio Pythefnos Masnach Deg fel canolbwynt, yr ydym wedi ariannu taflen sy'n disgrifio 10 ffordd y gall pobl newid y byd wrth y ddesg dalu, fel rhan o hyrwyddo masnach deg a'r pythefnos hwn. Mae Gwerth Cymru (Caffael) hefyd yn datblygu cynllun peilot, sy'n cynnwys awdurdodau lleol fel y gallant brynu bananas masnach deg a'u darparu mewn ysgolion a lleoedd eraill drwy'r awdurdodau lleol, ac mae hynny'n bwysig. Felly, mae cryn lawer yn digwydd ym maes masnach deg a chaffael.

Agwedd bwysig arall ar fasnach yw masnach rydd. Gwn fod nifer o bobl yn teimlo'n gryf, ac yr wyf o'r un deimlad â hwy, fod cymorthdaliadau allforio amaethyddol yr Undeb Ewropeaidd yn gwneud niwed mawr i economi'r byd sy'n datblygu, gan gynnwys gwledydd y Gymanwlad. Cefnogwn Lywodraeth y DU am alw am i'r cymorthdaliadau allforio amaethyddol hynny gael eu diddymu'n raddol erbyn 2010. Gwn fod y Gweinidogion wedi cyflwyno

sylwadau'n aml i'r perwyl hwnnw.

A great deal of attention has inevitably focused on our forthcoming international sustainable development framework, which is significant and exciting. We have had some 200 responses to the consultation and the framework will be launched in the spring. It will contain firm action by the Assembly Government for working towards the Millennium development goals that are so important for health, education, poverty and development generally. The framework will offer a great deal of potential and opportunities to take these matters forwards. It will deal with international emergencies, and I know that there is a great wish in Wales to help when those emergency situations arise. There may well be a disaster emergency committee Cymru so that there will be a more identifiably Welsh response.

Many people would like to see a boosting of the capacity of our international development sector and organisations. There is a great deal of backing for strengthening the promotion and support for fair and ethical trade.

To turn briefly to the countries that might benefit under the framework, Lesotho is often mentioned and so is Somaliland. I know that Somaliland is a country with a significant diaspora population in Wales, which is certainly the long-standing case in Cardiff and Newport and is significant in terms of links. I am sure that each Member is familiar with Lesotho and the 20-year links that have been forged by Dolen Cymru. I was lucky enough to visit Lesotho last autumn, and it is clear that those links are immensely strong and are still developing. Teachers from Wales were in Lesotho when I was there, and it was interesting to talk to them and to hear at first hand of the great professional development advantages that they obtained from that visit. They talked of the pupils in Lesotho—with class sizes of 100 perhaps—being so impressive in terms of their application, discipline and attention. It was tremendous to see them showing the commitment of walking for more than two hours to get to school in the morning and over two hours to get home in the late afternoon. They are often in single-storey block buildings with no electricity. To think

Yn anochel, mae llawer o sylw wedi canolbwyntio ar ein fframwaith datblygu cynaliadwy rhyngwladol, sy'n arwyddocaol ac yn gyffrous. Cawsom ryw 200 o ymatebion i'r ymgynghori, a chaiff y fframwaith ei lansio yn y gwanwyn. Bydd yn cynnwys gweithredu cadarn gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad i weithio tuag at nodau datblygu'r Mileniwm, sydd mor bwysig ar gyfer iechyd, addysg, tlodi a datblygu'n gyffredinol. Bydd y fframwaith yn cynnig nifer o gyfleoedd i weithredu ar y materion hyn. Bydd yn ymdrin ag argyfyngau rhyngwladol, a gwn fod awydd mawr yng Nghymru i helpu pan fydd yr argyfyngau hynny'n digwydd. Mae'n ddigon posibl y bydd yna bwyllgor argyfwng i Gymru er mwyn cael ymateb mwy penodol o Gymru.

Byddai nifer o bobl yn hoffi gweld hwb i'n sector a'n sefydliadau datblygu rhyngwladol. Mae yna lawer o gefnogaeth i gryfhau hyrwyddo a chefnogi masnach deg a moesegol.

Gan droi'n fyr at y gwledydd a allai elwa o dan y fframwaith, sonnir yn aml am Lesotho yn ogystal â Somaliland. Gwn fod cryn nifer o bobl wedi dod o Somaliland i fyw yng Nghymru dros y blynyddoedd, sy'n sicr yn wir am Gaerdydd a Chasnewydd ers amser hir, ac mae'n bwysig o ran cysylltiadau. Yr wyf yn siŵr fod pob Aelod yn gyfarwydd â Lesotho a'r cysylltiadau a ffurfiwyd gan Dolen Cymru ers 20 mlynedd. Bûm yn ddigon ffodus i ymweld â Lesotho yr hydref diwethaf, ac mae'n amlwg fod y cysylltiadau hynny'n gryf iawn ac yn parhau i ddatblygu. Yr oedd athrawon o Gymru yn Lesotho pan oeddwn i yno, ac yr oedd yn ddi-ddorol siarad â hwy a chlywed yn uniongyrchol am y buddiannau mawr i'w datblygiad proffesiynol o'r daith. Yr oeddent yn sôn am y disgyblion yn Lesotho—gyda dosbarthiadau hwyrach o 100 o ddisgyblion—sydd mor drawiadol o ran dyfalbarhad, eu disgyblaeth a'u gallu i ganolbwyntio. Yr oedd yn wych gweld eu hymrwymiad yn cerdded dros ddwy awr i gyrraedd yr ysgol yn y bore a thros ddwy awr i fynd adref ar ddiwedd y prynhawn. Maent yn aml mewn adeiladau bloc unllawr heb ddim trydan. Mae meddwl y gellir datblygu

that education can be taken forward as effectively as it is in those circumstances is a huge tribute to the children, the teachers, the parents and everyone involved.

addysg mor effeithiol ag a wneir o dan yr amgylchiadau hynny yn deyrnged enfawr i'r plant, yr athrawon, y rhieni a phawb sy'n gysylltiedig.

5.00 p.m.

Unfortunately, a great deal of the effort that is going into Lesotho is hugely undermined by the terrible HIV/AIDS problem. The theme of Commonwealth Day this week is health and vitality. In that context, unfortunately, well over half of the 40 million citizens in the world with HIV/AIDS are Commonwealth citizens. Lesotho is one of the worst-affected countries. We were told when we were there that almost one in three Lesotho citizens between the ages of 15 and 45 are affected by HIV/AIDS. This problem hugely undermines everything that they are trying to do. So, I hope that we can continue to engage with Lesotho and give some assistance in dealing with those terrible problems. The need is great in Lesotho and I hope that our international development framework will lead to greater assistance and support from Wales.

Yn anffodus, caiff llawer o'r ymdrech yn Lesotho ei thanseilio'n fawr gan y broblem HIV/AIDS ofnadwy. Thema Diwrnod y Gymanwlad yr wythnos hon yw iechyd a bywiogrwydd. Yn y cyd-destun hwnnw, yn anffodus, mae ymhell dros hanner y 40 miliwn o ddinasyddion y byd sy'n dioddef gan HIV/AIDS yn ddinasyddion y Gymanwlad. Mae Lesotho yn un o'r gwledydd yr effeithir arni fwyaf. Dywedwyd wrthym pan oeddem yno fod HIV/AIDS yn effeithio ar bron un dinesydd o bob tri yn Lesotho rhwng 15 a 45 oed. Mae'r broblem hon yn tanseilio popeth y maent yn ceisio'i wneud. Felly, gobeithio y gallwn barhau i weithio gyda Lesotho a rhoi ychydig gymorth i fynd i'r afael â'r problemau arswydus hynny. Mae'r angen yn daer yn Lesotho, a gobeithio y bydd ein fframwaith datblygu rhyngwladol yn arwain at fwy o gymorth gan Gymru.

In conclusion, this debate, as I mentioned earlier, is timely and opportune. Devolution has made Wales more of a world citizen. We are part of the prosperous world, which gives us a moral responsibility to work to add value to the UK's international development effort. The international development framework, developments concerning fair and ethical trade and other developments constitute a big step forward in helping Wales to fulfil that very important moral responsibility to help the world's poor.

I gloi, mae'r ddadl hon, fel y soniais yn gynharach, yn amserol. Mae datganoli wedi golygu bod Cymru yn un o ddinasyddion y byd i raddau mwy. Yr ydym yn rhan o fyd ffyniannus, sy'n rhoi cyfrifoldeb moesol inni weithio i ychwanegu gwerth at ymdrech datblygu rhyngwladol y DU. Mae'r fframwaith datblygu rhyngwladol, datblygiadau mewn masnach deg a moesegol a datblygiadau eraill yn gam mawr ymlaen i helpu Cymru i gyflawni'r cyfrifoldeb moesol pwysig iawn hwnnw i helpu tlodion y byd.

Alun Cairns: Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this debate. It is important to thank the Business Committee and the Business Minister for agreeing to such a debate being tabled at the request of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association executive.

Alun Cairns: Diolch am y cyfle i gyfrannu at y ddadl hon. Mae'n bwysig diolch i'r Pwyllgor Busnes a'r Trefnydd am gytuno i ddadl fel hon gael ei chyflwyno ar gais gweithrediaeth Cymdeithas Seneddol y Gymanwlad.

As has been said, health and vitality is the theme behind the Commonwealth Day celebrations this week. Commonwealth Day itself was on Monday, but I cannot think of a

Fel y dywedwyd eisoes, iechyd a bywiogrwydd yw thema dathliadau Diwrnod y Gymanwlad yr wythnos hon. Yr oedd Diwrnod y Gymanwlad ei hun ddydd Llun,

better day for this debate to be held—and given that we did not have a formal session on Monday—than the day of the Commonwealth Games opening ceremony in Australia. I use this opportunity to congratulate the Welsh team and to wish it well in bringing success to Wales and in promoting our nation throughout the Commonwealth and the world.

There is no doubt that the Commonwealth has played a significant part in the development of Wales as a nation and of the UK. It has contributed largely to the diversity of our nation, from which we have benefited in terms of healthcare and business and entrepreneurship, and in terms of the cultural enrichment that has come as a result of our links with the Commonwealth. To highlight a specific example, on Monday, I had the privilege of attending Hafod Primary School, which is in a Communities First area in Swansea. I went to the school with every expectation of having to make allowances for a challenging educational environment, largely because of the diverse make-up of the pupils, 46 per cent of whom come from an ethnic minority background, and where nine different languages are spoken by the pupils. However, how wrong I was to hold that view, because the standards of education and discipline and the positive culture in the school were fantastic. That proves to me that every school, with the right sort of environment and attitude, can succeed, irrespective of its make-up.

John Griffiths highlighted the special link that Wales has with Lesotho, which has evolved over many years. However, the Assembly branch of the CPA is seeking to develop that relationship on an Assembly-to-parliament basis, and some Members had the opportunity last year of establishing and forming that relationship in a fact-finding mission to establish how we can best work. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is seeking to support the democracy and new parliament in Lesotho and to build on that relationship by bringing officials from Lesotho to the Assembly, and through officials from the Assembly going to Lesotho, so that we can support the good relationship that already exists between non-governmental organisations.

ond ni allaf feddwl am ddiwrnod gwell i gynnal y ddadl hon—ac o gofio na chawsom gyfarfod ffurfiol ddydd Llun—na diwrnod seremoni agor Gemau'r Gymanwlad yn Awstralia. Manteisiaf ar y cyfle hwn i longyfarch tîm Cymru ac i ddymuno'n dda iddo i ddod â llwyddiant i Gymru ac i hyrwyddo ein gwlad ledled y Gymanwlad a'r byd.

Yn ddiau, mae'r Gymanwlad wedi chwarae rhan fawr yn natblygiad Cymru fel gwlad ac yn natblygiad y DU. Mae wedi cyfrannu'n helaeth at amrywiaeth ein gwlad, a chawsom fudd o hynny mewn gofal iechyd a busnes ac entrepreneuriaeth, ac yn y cyfoethogi diwylliannol sydd wedi deillio o'n cysylltiadau â'r Gymanwlad. I dynnu sylw at enghraifft benodol, ddydd Llun cefais y fraith o fynychu Ysgol Gynradd Hafod, sydd mewn ardal Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn Abertawe. Euthum i'r ysgol gan ddisgwyl gorfod ystyried amgylchedd addysgol heriol, yn bennaf oherwydd amrywiaeth y disgyblion. Mae 46 y cant ohonynt yn dod o gefndiroedd lleiafrifoedd ethnig, a siaredir naw o ieithoedd gwahanol gan y disgyblion. Fodd bynnag, yr oedd y syniad hwnnw mor anghywir, gan fod safonau'r addysg a'r ddisgyblaeth a'r diwylliant cadarnhaol yn yr ysgol yn wych. Mae hynny'n profi imi y gall pob ysgol lwyddo, gyda'r math cywir o amgylchedd ac agwedd, waeth beth fo'i chyfansoddiad.

Tynnodd John Griffiths sylw at y cyswllt arbennig rhwng Cymru a Lesotho sydd wedi datblygu dros flynyddoedd lawer. Fodd bynnag, mae cangen Cymdeithas Seneddol y Gymanwlad yn y Cynulliad yn ceisio datblygu'r berthynas honno rhwng y Cynulliad a'r senedd, a chafodd rhai Aelodau y cyfle y llynedd i greu'r berthynas honno mewn cenhadaeth ymchwiliol i sefydlu sut y gallwn weithio gyda'n gilydd orau. Mae Cymdeithas Seneddol y Gymanwlad yn ceisio cefnogi'r ddemocratiaeth a'r senedd newydd yn Lesotho, a datblygu'r berthynas honno drwy drefnu i swyddogion o Lesotho ddod i'r Cynulliad, a thrwy drefnu i swyddogion o'r Cynulliad fynd i Lesotho, fel y gallwn gefnogi'r berthynas dda sy'n bodoli eisoes rhwng sefydliadau y tu allan i'r

llywodraeth.

We have had celebrations today, and John Griffiths has highlighted the question-and-answer session that took place in the old Chamber. In addition, pupils from Cathays High School performed a song and dance in an international language, if you like, in the Neuadd of the new Chamber. In my conversations with them, they told me that they are seeking to raise money to buy 10 cows for Lesotho, and the income from those cows will go towards funding a school in one of the towns in Lesotho. That demonstrates what can be achieved by non-governmental organisations and the education system, but also through the Assembly Government and the Assembly itself. The purpose of the CPA is to promote democracy and personal development, and to strengthen democracy in these nations. We are doing everything that we can to support that.

I want to highlight an issue that was brought to my attention by delegates from Malawi at the last CPA conference. They expressed concerns that the NHS in the UK, and specifically in Wales, is recruiting from Malawi clinicians, and nurses in particular, who have a speciality in HIV/Aids. Clearly, there is a shortage of such professionals here, but Malawi has a greater need for them. Bearing in mind the resources that Malawi invests in such skills and medical care, it has concerns that we are poaching nurses and attracting them with our higher standards of living and higher salary levels. As a result, the executive of the CPA took the matter up with the Minister, and he has taken positive action to prevent that from happening.

It is already the policy of the Welsh health service not to recruit people with these vital skills from some of these developing nations, but there was a concern that there is potential for back-door entry through agency nursing. I know that agency nursing is not used to the same degree as it was, but I recognise the fact that the Minister for Health and Social Services has introduced steps that will prevent that from happening from now on, if it was happening at all; I am not saying that it

Yr ydym wedi bod yn dathlu heddiw, ac mae John Griffiths wedi tynnu sylw at y sesiwn holi ac ateb a gynhaliwyd yn yr hen Siambr. Yn ogystal, mae disgyblion o Ysgol Uwchradd Cathays wedi bod yn perfformio cân a dawns mewn iaith ryngwladol, fel petai, yn Neuadd y Siambr newydd. Pan oeddwn yn siarad â hwy, dywedent wrthym eu bod yn ceisio codi arian i brynu 10 buwch ar gyfer Lesotho, a bydd yr incwm o'r gwartheg hynny'n mynd at ariannu ysgol yn un o drefi Lesotho. Mae hynny'n dangos yr hyn y gall sefydliadau anllywodraethol a'r system addysg ei gyflawni, ond hefyd yr hyn y gellir ei gyflawni drwy Lywodraeth y Cynulliad a'r Cynulliad ei hun. Diben Cymdeithas Seneddol y Gymanwlad yw hyrwyddo democratiaeth a datblygiad personol, ac atgyfnerthu democratiaeth yn y gwledydd hyn. Yr ydym yn gwneud popeth a allwn i gefnogi hynny.

Yr wyf am dynnu sylw at fater a ddygwyd i'm sylw gan gynadleddwyr o Malawi yng nghynhadledd ddiwethaf Cymdeithas Seneddol y Gymanwlad. Sonient am bryderon fod y GIG yn y DU, ac yn benodol yng Nghymru, yn recriwtio clinigwyr o Malawi, a nyrsys yn benodol, sydd ag arbenigedd ym maes HIV/AIDS. Mae'n amlwg fod prinder gweithwyr proffesiynol o'r fath yma, ond mae mwy o'u hangen ar Malawi. O gofio'r adnoddau y mae Malawi yn eu buddsoddi mewn sgiliau a gofal meddygol o'r fath, mae'r wlad yn pryderu ein bod yn dwyn nyrsys a'u denu gyda'n safonau byw uwch a'n cyflogau uwch. O ganlyniad, cododd gweithrediaeth Cymdeithas Seneddol y Gymanwlad y mater gyda'r Gweinidog, ac mae ef wedi cymryd camau cadarnhaol i atal hynny rhag digwydd.

Polisi gwasanaeth iechyd Cymru eisoes yw peidio â recriwtio pobl sydd â'r sgiliau hanfodol hyn o rai o'r gwledydd hyn sy'n datblygu. Ond yr oedd pryder fod yna bosibilrwydd iddynt gyrraedd drwy'r drws cefn drwy asiantaethau nyrsio. Gwn na ddefnyddir asiantaethau nyrsio i'r un graddau ag yn y gorffennol, ond yr wyf yn cydnabod y ffaith fod y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol wedi cyflwyno camau a fydd yn atal hynny rhag

was, but that was certainly the accusation that came from Malawi. We can therefore communicate to Malawi at the next conference that action has been taken on that.

I am conscious that time is short, therefore I will conclude by saying that I am grateful to Assembly Members for agreeing to this debate in celebration of the Commonwealth Day. It is important to recognise that Wales gets an awful lot out of being part of the Commonwealth, but some of the developing nations within the Commonwealth will get an awful lot more if we play our full part.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Yr wyf finnau hefyd yn croesawu'r ddadl hon. Manteisiaf ar y cyfle i dalu teyrnged i'r gwaith a gyflawnir gan Gymdeithas Seneddol y Gymanwlad. Yr wyf yn gwybod bod nifer o Aelodau yn weithgar iawn gyda'r mudiad hwnnw—Alun Cairns a John Griffiths ymhlith eraill—ac mae'r cysylltiad yn eithriadol o bwysig i ni fel sefydliad gwleidyddol yng Nghymru.

Mae cyfeiriad yn y cynnig hwn at y cyfraniad a wneir i fywyd Cymru gan gobl o wledydd eraill yn y Gymanwlad, a phwysig iawn yw nodi hynny. Fel y dywedodd Alun Cairns, yn aml iawn, daw'r bobl hyn i fyw yng Nghymru, ac mae ansawdd eu bywydau yn gwella o ganlyniad. Serch hynny, dônt â sgiliau arbennig gyda hwy a allai fod yn hynod o ddefnyddiol yn eu gwledydd eu hunain, nid yn unig ym maes iechyd, ond ym maes datblygu'r economi ac mewn meysydd eraill. Mae cyfrifoldeb arnom, wrth gydnabod y cyfraniad a wneir gan y bobl hyn, i fod yn ymwybodol o'n cyfrifoldebau moesol tuag at y gwledydd hynny lle mae mawr angen pobl broffesiynol sydd â'r sgiliau i'w cyfoethogi a'u datblygu.

5.10 p.m.

Yr wyf am weld Cymru yn chwarae ei rhan yn y Gymanwlad. Gan fod ein hadnoddau yn brin o ran yr hyn y gallwn ei gyflawni yn rhyngwladol ac yn y Gymanwlad, pwysaf yn drwm ar Lywodraeth Cymru i ystyried sefydlu'r berthynas hon â Lesotho ar sylfaen llawer cadarnach a llawer mwy swyddogol,

digwydd o hyn ymlaen, os oedd yn digwydd o gwbl; ni ddywedais fod hynny'n digwydd, ond yn sicr dyna'r cyhuddiad a ddaeth o Malawi. Felly, gallwn gyfleu i swyddogion Malawi yn y gynhadledd nesaf y camau sydd wedi'u cymryd ar hynny.

Yr wyf yn ymwybodol fod yr amser yn brin, felly, deuaif i ben drwy ddweud fy mod yn ddiolchgar i Aelodau'r Cynulliad am gytuno i gynnal y ddadl hon i ddathlu Diwrnod y Gymanwlad. Mae'n bwysig cydnabod bod Cymru yn cael llawer o fudd o fod yn rhan o'r Gymanwlad, ond bydd rhai o'r gwledydd yn y Gymanwlad sy'n datblygu Gymanwlad yn cael llawer mwy o fudd os chwaraewn ein rhan yn llawn.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I also welcome this debate. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the work of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. I know that many Members are very active with the association—Alun Cairns and John Griffiths among others—and this link is extremely important for us as a political institution in Wales.

The motion refers to the contribution which people from other Commonwealth nations make to the life of Wales, and it is very important to note that. As Alun Cairns said, these people very often come to live in Wales and the quality of their lives improves as a result. However, they bring with them important skills that could be extremely useful in their own countries, not only in health, but in economic development and in other fields. We have a responsibility, in acknowledging the contribution made by these people, to be aware of our moral obligation towards those nations where there is a great need for professionals who have the skills to enrich and develop them.

I want to see Wales playing its part in the Commonwealth. Since our resources are scarce in terms of what we can achieve internationally and in the Commonwealth, I strongly urge the Government of Wales to consider establishing this relationship with Lesotho on a far firmer and a far more

er mwyn inni allu, yn ein ffordd fach ein hunain, gyfrannu yn greadigol tuag at ddatblygiad y wlad honno.

Mae problemau yno, gan gynnwys HIV a datblygiad economaidd. Buaswn yn falch o weld Cymru yn chwarae ei rhan i sicrhau bod y gwaith hwnnw'n cael ei ddatblygu.

Mae'r ddadl hon i'w chroesawu. Gobeithiaf weld ein cyfraniad o fewn y Gymanwlad, fel sefydliad gwleidyddol cymharol newydd, yn datblygu.

Eleanor Burnham: Thank you for allowing me to speak in the short debate.

The Presiding Officer: Order. This is not the short debate; it is the debate on the Commonwealth.

Eleanor Burnham: Thank you for allowing me a short intervention in this important debate, Presiding Officer.

The Commonwealth for me means family and friends, because my grandfather's brother left these shores in 1910, and set up a farming community in Wanganui, New Zealand. I am proud of the fact that we have a commonwealth of nations. I had the privilege, when I first became an Assembly Member, of being a member of the Assembly branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. When we go abroad, we go as ambassadors for Wales. The good that ensues from the friendships of the Commonwealth is immense.

The only issue that concerns me is that the Commonwealth needs to strengthen action against some of its members who have a bad record on human rights. These countries are usually under dictatorship rule. If we could do more in that regard, I am sure that we would all be able to celebrate our Commonwealth even more meaningfully.

Lorraine Barrett: I wish to give my support to Lesotho. I have already had some involvement in helping Dolen Cymru. However, today, I will speak briefly about a country that is technically not in the Commonwealth, but which should be.

official basis, so that we, in our own small way, can contribute creatively to the development of that country.

There are problems there, including HIV and economic development. I should be pleased to see Wales playing its part in ensuring that that work is developed.

This debate is to be welcomed. I hope to see our contribution, as a relatively new political institution, develop within the Commonwealth.

Eleanor Burnham: Diolch am ganiatáu imi siarad yn y ddadl fer.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid y ddadl fer yw hon; y ddadl ar y Gymanwlad ydyw.

Eleanor Burnham: Diolch am ganiatáu ymyriad byr imi yn y ddadl bwysig hon, Lywydd.

I mi, mae'r Gymanwlad yn golygu teulu a ffrindiau, oherwydd gadawodd brawd fy nhad-cu y wlad hon yn 1910, gan sefydlu cymuned ffermio yn Wanganui yn Seland Newydd. Yr wyf yn ymfalchio yn y ffaith fod gennym gymanwlad o wledydd. Cefais y fraint, pan ddeuthum yn Aelod Cynulliad gyntaf, o fod yn aelod o gangen Cymdeithas Seneddol y Gymanwlad yn y Cynulliad. Pan awn dramor, awn fel llysgenhadon dros Gymru. Mae'r daioni sy'n deillio o gyfeillgarwch y Gymanwlad yn anferth.

Yr unig fater sy'n peri pryder imi yw fod angen i'r Gymanwlad atgyfnerthu'r camau a gymerir yn erbyn rhai o'i haelodau sydd â record wael o ran hawliau dynol. Fel rheol, caiff y gwledydd hyn eu rheoli gan unben. Pe gallem wneud mwy yn hynny o beth, yr wyf yn siŵr y gallem i gyd ddatlu ein Cymantwlad mewn ffordd sydd hyd yn oed yn fwy ystyrlon.

Lorraine Barrett: Yr wyf am roi fy nghefnogaeth i Lesotho. Yr wyf eisoes wedi cymryd wrth helpu Dolen Cymru. Fodd bynnag, heddiw byddaf yn siarad yn fyr am wlad nad yw yn y Gymanwlad yn dechnegol, ond a ddylai fod. Gelwid Somaliland yn

Somaliland was known as the Somaliland Protectorate until independence in 1960, when it became the Somali Republic. Over many years of conflict, culminating in the civil war during the 1980s, the people of Somaliland withdrew from the union with Somalia, and eventually formed their own Government in 2003.

There is a strong historic link between Somaliland and Cardiff, and I was delighted to welcome the speaker of the Somaliland Parliament, Mr Abdillahi, to our new Assembly building recently. He was very proud to be part of our official opening on 1 March, and I thank you for that, Presiding Officer.

Somaliland is struggling. While it has managed to build health centres and a new hospital in Hargeisa, as well as schools and two universities, it needs a lot of support from the international community. It desperately needs international recognition. Somaliland has achieved peace and has established a Government and relative stability, only 20 years after experiencing the most devastating civil war, when its capital, Hargeisa, was literally flattened.

Members of the Somali community in Cardiff are doing what they can to help their homeland, many of whom came here when that homeland was destroyed. However, they, and the Somaliland Government, need our help. I am not sure whether it is possible for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association here to give support to Somaliland, but I would ask us all to consider ways in which we can help this brave country help itself.

Y Llywydd: Galwaf ar arweinydd grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru, yna arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru, ac yna arweinydd yr wrthblaid i gloi.

Michael German: I hope that we will not all speak together, although I am sure that we will all speak with one voice on this matter.

I echo John Griffiths's points. I agree with his exposition of the purpose of the

Brotectoriaeth Somalia tan ei hannibyniaeth yn 1960, pan ddaeth yn Weriniaeth Somalia. Yn ystod blynyddoedd lawer o wrthdaro, a arweiniodd at y rhyfel cartref yn yr 1980au, tynnodd pobl Somaliland yn ôl o'r undeb â Somalia, gan greu eu Llywodraeth eu hunain yn y pen draw yn 2003.

Mae cyswllt hanesyddol cryf rhwng Somaliland a Chaerdydd, ac yr oeddwn yn falch cael croesawu llefarydd Senedd Somaliland, Mr Abdillahi, i adeilad newydd y Cynulliad yn ddiweddar. Yr oedd yn falch iawn o fod yn rhan o'n hagoriad swyddogol ar 1 Mawrth, a diolch ichi am hynny, Llywydd.

Mae Somaliland yn wynebu anawsterau. Er ei bod wedi llwyddo i adeiladu canolfannau iechyd ac ysbyty newydd yn Hargeisa, yn ogystal ag ysgolion a dwy brifysgol, mae arni angen llawer o gymorth gan y gymuned ryngwladol. Mae arni angen dybryd am gydnabyddiaeth ryngwladol. Mae Somaliland wedi sicrhau heddwch ac wedi sefydlu Llywodraeth a sefydlogrwydd cymharol, a hynny brin 20 mlynedd ar ôl rhyfel cartref dinistriol, pan gafodd ei phrifddinas, Hargeisa, ei dinistrio'n llwyr.

Mae aelodau'r gymuned Somali yng Nghaerdydd, nifer ohonynt wedi dod yma pan ddinistriwyd eu mamwlad, yn gwneud yr hyn a allant i helpu'r famwlad honno. Fodd bynnag, mae angen ein cymorth ni arnynt hwy ac ar Lywodraeth Somaliland. Nid wyf yn siŵr a yw'n bosibl i Gymdeithas Seneddol y Gymanwlad yma roi cymorth i Somaliland, ond gofynnaf inni bob un ystyried ffyrdd y gallwn helpu'r wlad ddewr hon i helpu ei hun.

The Presiding Officer: I call on the leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrat group, then the leader of the Welsh Conservatives, and then the leader of the opposition to close.

Michael German: Gobeithio na fydd pob un ohonom yn siarad gyda'n gilydd, er y bydd pob un ohonom yn unfryd ar y mater hwn, mae'n siŵr.

Ate gaf bwyntiau John Griffiths. Cytunaf â'i esboniad o ddiben y Gymanwlad, ac mae'r

Commonwealth, and the benefits and the great satisfaction that we all gain from being part of this commonwealth of nations is immense.

I will focus narrowly on the issue that Alun, John and Lorraine raised, namely Lesotho. It was a great privilege for John and me to be able to represent you as Assembly Members in Lesotho, and to greet here, just last week, the country's minister for education. The high commissioner was here for the official opening, but the Minister for education met Jane Davidson and some Members. There is an enormous amount of background work being done in Lesotho. It is 21 years since that relationship was established, and we have exchanged teachers in both directions—I have been into schools here in south Wales and seen teachers from Lesotho teaching, and have had the privilege of seeing it happening the other way around in Lesotho.

I am going to be blatant about my request to this Assembly. You heard Alun Cairns talk about the 10 cows appeal. That came about when John Griffiths and I visited Molapo High School, and we asked the headteacher what he wanted for his school. We fully expected him to say more teachers, books or equipment, but his answer was '10 cows'. Both John and I gave a quizzical look at this. The headteacher said that about a third of his pupils were orphans—several dozen were not just orphans, with both parents dead through HIV/AIDS, but they had no family whatsoever. He had bunked these children in a spare classroom at the end of the school grounds, but, of course, he had to find ways of feeding them. Secondary education is not free in Lesotho, but there were many fields around the school so, if he had 10 cows, he would be able to find sufficient money to pay for food to keep these children not only alive, but in education.

Cathays High School, whose pupils were performing in the Assembly today, has taken it upon itself—as the school that has exchange arrangements with Molapo High School—to try to find ways of raising

manteision a'r boddhad mawr a gaiff pob un ohonom yn sgîl bod yn rhan o'r gymanwlad hon o wledydd yn anferth.

Canolbwyntiaf ar y mater a godwyd gan Alun, John a Lorraine, sef Lesotho. Yr oedd yn ffraind fawr i John a minnau allu eich cynrychioli fel Aelodau Cynulliad yn Lesotho, ac i gyfarch gweinidog y wlad dros addysg yma yr wythnos diwethaf. Yr oedd yr uchel gomisiynydd yma ar gyfer yr agoriad swyddogol, ond cyfarfu'r gweinidog dros Addysg â Jane Davidson a rhai Aelodau. Gwneir llawer iawn o waith cefndir yn Lesotho. Mae 21 mlynedd ers i'r berthynas honno gael ei sefydlu, ac yr ydym wedi cyfnewid athrawon y ddwy ffordd—yr wyf wedi bod mewn ysgolion yma yn y de ac wedi gweld athrawon o Lesotho yn addysgu, ac wedi cael y ffraind o weld hynny'n digwydd i'r gwrthwyneb yn Lesotho.

Yr wyf am siarad yn blwmp ac yn blaen ynglŷn â'm cais i'r Cynulliad hwn. Clywsoch Alun Cairns yn sôn am apêl y 10 buwch. Daeth hynny i fodolaeth pan ymwelodd John Griffiths a minnau ag Ysgol Uwchradd Molapo, a gofynnwyd i'r pennaeth beth yr oedd arno ei angen ar gyfer ei ysgol. Yr oeddem yn disgwyl iddo ddweud rhagor o athrawon, llyfrau neu offer, ond ei ateb oedd '10 buwch'. Edrychodd John a minnau arno ychydig yn rhyfedd pan ddywedodd hyn. Dywedodd y pennaeth fod tua dwy ran o dair o'i ddisgyblion yn amddifaid—yr oedd dwsinau lawer ohonynt nid yn unig yn amddifaid, a'u rhieni wedi marw o HIV/AIDS, ond heb ddim teulu o gwbl. Yr oedd wedi lletya'r plant hyn mewn ystafell ddosbarth wag ym mhen arall tir yr ysgol, ond, wrth gwrs, yr oedd wedi gorfod dod o hyd i ffyrdd i'w bwydo. Nid yw addysg uwchradd yn rhad ac am ddim yn Lesotho, ond yr oedd llawer o gaeau o amgylch yr ysgol. Felly, pe byddai ganddo 10 buwch, byddai'n gallu cael digon o arian i dalu am fwyd i gadw'r plant hyn, nid yn unig yn fyw, ond mewn addysg.

Mae Ysgol Uwchradd Cathays, ac mae eu disgyblion yn perfformio yn y Cynulliad heddiw, wedi penderfynu—fel yr ysgol sydd â threfniadau cyfnewid ag Ysgol Uwchradd Molapo—dod o hyd i ffyrdd i godi digon o

sufficient money for 10 cows. Cows in Lesotho cost a huge amount of money compared with cows here; you do not just simply ship them out, but you send out the cash. What they are going to do—and this is why I need the support of all Assembly Members—is sell books donated by Assembly Members and their staff. We have lots of second-hand books—most Assembly Members have rooms full of books—so I suggest that Members sign those books and put them in a box on the other side of the link bridge that pupils from Cathays High School will collect.

The sort of titles that would raise a lot of money—enough, perhaps, to buy 10 cows in one go—would be Jordan's autobiography, signed by David Melding, or *Margaret Thatcher: The Golden Years*, signed by Huw Lewis. How about *Proportional Representation: A Definitive Guide*, signed by Carl Sargeant? Perhaps, Alun, you have a copy of *The Benn Diaries* lurking in your cupboard.

Glyn Davies: I have a copy of Margaret Thatcher's autobiography at home, which I would be prepared to donate, if Huw Lewis or Carl Sargeant were prepared to sign it.

Michael German: I am sure that we would accept such a generous offer from Glyn Davies; that will go into the Record. How about a guide to safari hunting, signed by Lorraine Barrett? How about *Dressing Well on a Budget*, signed by the Presiding Officer? These are the sorts of things that I would hope that Members would see as practical ways to raise money.

This is a very long-standing relationship of 21 years with Lesotho, and I hope that Members would like to play a small part in ensuring that we bring some life back into the lives of that group of children, as an exemplar of how we can take on board the work that is being done by others, by schools, by Dolen Cymru and by those around us. I am grateful for the opportunity to have spoken, Presiding Officer, and I look forward to the donation of your books.

arian i brynu 10 buwch. Mae gwartheg yn Lesotho yn costio llawer iawn o arian o'u cymharu â gwartheg yma; nid ydych yn eu hanfon yno, ond yr ydych yn anfon yr arian. Yr hyn y maent am ei wneud—a dyna pam y mae angen cefnogaeth holl Aelodau'r Cynulliad arnaf—yw gwerthu llyfrau wedi eu rhoi gan Aelodau'r Cynulliad a'u staff. Mae gennym lawer o lyfrau ail law—mae gan y rhan fwyaf o Aelodau'r Cynulliad ystafelloedd yn llawn llyfrau—felly, awgrymaf y dylai Aelodau lofnodi'r llyfrau hynny a'u rhoi mewn blwch yr ochr arall i'r bont gyswllt a bydd disgyblion o Ysgol Uwchradd Cathays yn eu casglu.

Y math o deitlau a fyddai'n codi llawer o arian—digon, efallai, i brynu 10 buwch ar unwaith—fyddai hunangofiant Jordan, wedi ei lofnodi gan David Melding, neu *Margaret Thatcher: The Golden Years*, wedi ei lofnodi gan Huw Lewis. Beth am *Proportional Representation: A Definitive Guide*, wedi ei lofnodi gan Carl Sargeant? Efallai, Alun, fod gennych gopi o *The Benn Diaries* yn eich cwpwrdd.

Glyn Davies: Mae gennyf gopi o hunangofiant Margaret Thatcher gartref, y byddwn yn barod i'w roi yn rhodd, pe bai Huw Lewis neu Carl Sargeant yn barod i'w lofnodi.

Michael German: Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddem yn derbyn cynnig mor garedig gan Glyn Davies; bydd hynny'n cael ei gofnodi. Beth am ganllaw i hela saffari, wedi ei lofnodi gan Lorraine Barrett? Beth am *Dressing Well on a Budget*, wedi ei lofnodi gan y Llywydd? Dyma'r math o bethau y byddwn yn gobeithio y byddai Aelodau yn eu hystyried yn ffyrdd ymarferol i godi arian.

Mae'r berthynas hon â Lesotho wedi ei hen sefydlu ac wedi para 21 mlynedd, a gobeithio y byddai'r Aelodau yn hoffi gwneud rhan fechan i sicrhau ein bod yn rhoi ychydig fywyd yn ôl i fywydau'r grŵp hwnnw o blant, fel enghraifft o'r ffordd y gallwn gymryd rhan yn y gwaith a wneir gan eraill, gan ysgolion, gan Dolen Cymru a chan y rheini o'n cwmpas. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am y cyfle i siarad, Lywydd, ac edrychaf ymlaen at eich gweld yn rhoi eich llyfrau.

Nick Bourne: That is a difficult act to follow. I support this motion, and hope that this will be part of a tradition when on, or near to, Commonwealth Day, we mark it in this way. The Commonwealth is an important institution, and I am sure that we all agree that we would want to mark it with some debate on relevant issues within the Commonwealth.

As others have done, I pay tribute to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and to its chair, Alun Cairns. The association has done sterling work for us all. It has represented us overseas, for example, in Lesotho, which we have been hearing about. I also note that today, as Alun has said, the Commonwealth Games open in Melbourne. It is a fitting time for us to wish all the best to Team Wales, on the assumption that Andrew Davies has not taken out a copyright on that term. I wish all the best, on behalf of us all, to Team Wales, in the Commonwealth Games.

5.20 p.m.

Many have touched on Lesotho—Lorraine, Mike, Alun and John among them—and the important links that we have with that country and the serious health challenge that is faced in Lesotho. It is right that we recognise that, given the theme of health and vitality that is the Commonwealth theme for this year. I very much associate myself with the comments made by Alun, and others, about the need to ensure that we do not poach, either deliberately or negligently, medical staff from those countries who are trained in HIV/AIDS care because it is clearly such a serious issue in southern Africa. It is similarly a very serious issue in Botswana. I welcome what the Minister has done in this regard because it is an important step forward to make sure that we ensure that we do not poach these people from Lesotho.

We are going to have to be very careful about sending out Mike and John again, in case they come back with more requests for 10 cows. We can probably manage the books, but goodness knows what will happen if we send them a second time. However, I am certainly trying to think of some suitable

Nick Bourne: Mae'n anodd dilyn hynny. Yr wyf yn cefnogi'r cynnig hwn, a gobeithio y bydd hyn yn rhan o draddodiad pan fyddwn ar Ddiwrnod y Gymanwlad, neu tua'r adeg honno, yn ei nodi fel hyn. Mae'r Gymanwlad yn sefydliad pwysig, ac yr wyf yn siŵr ein bod i gyd yn cytuno y byddem am ei nodi gyda rhyw fath o drafodaeth ar faterion sy'n berthnasol yn y Gymanwlad.

Fel y mae eraill wedi gwneud, yr wyf yn rhoi teyrnged i Gymdeithas Seneddol y Gymanwlad a'i chadeirydd, Alun Cairns. Mae'r gymdeithas wedi gwneud gwaith campus ar ran pob un ohonom. Mae wedi ein cynrychioli dramor, er enghraifft, yn Lesotho, fel y clywsom. Sylwaf hefyd fod Gemau'r Gymanwlad, fel y dywedodd Alun, yn dechrau yn Melbourne heddiw. Mae'n briodol yn awr inni ddymuno'r gorau i Dîm Cymru, a chymryd nad yw Andrew Davies wedi trefnu hawlfraint ar y term Saesneg. Dymuniadau gorau, ar ran pob un ohonom, i Dîm Cymru, yng Ngemau'r Gymanwlad.

Mae llawer wedi sôn am Lesotho—Lorraine, Mike, Alun a John yn eu plith—a'r cysylltiadau pwysig sydd gennym â'r wlad honno a'r her ddifrifol i iechyd a wynebir yn Lesotho. Mae'n iawn inni gydnabod hynny, o gofio thema iechyd a bywiogrwydd sy'n thema i'r Gymanwlad eleni. Yr wyf yn cytuno llawer â'r sylwadau a wnaed gan Alun, ac eraill, ynglŷn â'r angen i sicrhau nad ydym yn dwyn, naill ai'n fwrriadol neu'n esgeulus, staff meddygol o'r gwledydd hynny sydd wedi eu hyfforddi mewn gofal HIV/AIDS, oherwydd mae'n amlwg yn fater difrifol yn neheudir Affrica. Yn yr un modd, mae'n fater difrifol iawn yn Botswana. Croesawaf yr hyn y mae'r Gweinidog wedi ei wneud yn y cyswllt hwn, oherwydd mae'n gam pwysig ymlaen i wneud yn siŵr ein bod yn sicrhau na fyddwn yn dwyn y bobl hyn o Lesotho.

Rhaid inni fod yn ofalus iawn ynglŷn ag anfon Mike a John eto, rhag ofn iddynt ddychwelyd gyda mwy o geisiadau am 10 buwch. Gallwn reoli'r llyfrau mae'n siŵr, ond dyn a wŷr beth a ddigwydd os anfonwn hwy yr ail waith. Fodd bynnag, byddaf yn sicr yn ceisio meddwl am lyfrau addas i bobl

titles for people to sign in the weeks ahead, so that we can raise the funds for those cows. I will come back to Mike with some suggested titles and signatures, perhaps later in the week. I am very grateful for the opportunity to speak in what clearly is an important debate, as everybody who has spoken has recognised.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Yr wyf i hefyd am ddweud pa mor falch yr wyf o gael cyfle i gyfrannu at y ddadl hon. Diolchaf i John am y ffordd gytbwys yr agorodd y ddadl. Cyfeiriodd at y rhodd o'r byrlysg, a diolchaf iddo am wneud hynny. Yr wyf yn falch bod y Llywydd wedi dod o hyd i le diogel ar ei gyfer yn y Cynulliad, yn ddigon pell o'r Aelodau; pan oedd y Llywydd a minnau yn aelodau o Dŷ'r Cyffredin, cafwyd sawl damwain gyda'r byrlysg yn y fan honno, ac yr ydym yn mawr hyderu na fydd yr un peth yn digwydd yn y Cynulliad.

Diolch hefyd i John am gyfeirio at ein cysylltiadau â nifer o wledydd y Gymanwlad. Cyfeiriodd yn arbennig at ardal y Pîl yng Nghasnewydd, lle mae nifer fawr o bobl sy'n hano o'r Gymanwlad wedi ymgartrefu a bellach wedi dod yn ddinasyddion Cymreig. Yr ydym yn falch o'r ffordd y maent yn cyfoethogi ein bywydau yng Nghymru. Cyfeiriodd hefyd at waith ehangach y Gymanwlad a chyfeiriodd Alun Cairns yn briodol at y ffaith bod Gemau'r Gymanwlad yn agor heddiw—yr oeddwn yn falch o weld y Ddraig Goch yn chwifio yno pan ddaeth Tîm Cymru i'r arena.

Gwnaeth Alun bwynt hynod o bwysig. Cawsom gyfle i'w holi ynglŷn â'i waith gyda chymdeithas y Gymanwlad yn y Pwyllgor ar Faterion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol. Cyfeiriodd bryd hynny at y broblem sy'n poeni pobl Malawi, ein bod yn cymryd staff y gwasanaeth iechyd, yn arbennig staff ag arbenigedd ar HIV/AIDS, a bod angen i ni ystyried goblygiadau hynny. Pe bai'r gymdeithas yn gallu gwneud y math hwnnw o waith, sef mynd ar ymweliadau a dod yn ôl gyda neges felly, byddai'n help i ni ystyried yr effaith ar eu gwledydd nhw o ddenu staff yma. Yr wyf yn falch ei fod wedi cyfeirio at hynny.

eu llofnodi yn yr wythnosau i ddod, fel y gallwn godi'r arian ar gyfer y gwartheg hynny. Byddaf yn cysylltu â Mike gyda rhai awgrymiadau am deitlau a llofnodion, efallai yn ddiweddarach yn yr wythnos. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am y cyfle i siarad yn yr hyn sy'n ddadl bwysig, fel yr oedd pawb sydd wedi siarad yn cydnabod.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I also want to say how grateful I am for the opportunity to contribute to this debate. I thank John for the balanced way in which he opened the debate. He referred to the gift of the mace, and I thank him for doing so. I am glad the Llywydd has found a safe place for it in the Assembly, far enough away from Members; when the Llywydd and I were members of the House of Commons, there were several accidents with the mace there, and we hope the same thing will not happen in the Assembly.

I also thank John for referring to our connections with many Commonwealth countries. He referred particularly to the Pill area of Newport, where many people who hail from the Commonwealth have settled and have become Welsh citizens. We are proud of the way they enrich our lives in Wales. He also referred to the wider work of the Commonwealth, and Alun Cairns referred appropriately to the fact that the Commonwealth Games open today—I was proud to see the Red Dragon flying there when Team Wales came into the arena.

Alun made an extremely important point. We had an opportunity to question him about his work with the Commonwealth association in the Committee on European and External Affairs. At that meeting, he referred to the problem which concerns the people of Malawi that we are taking their health service staff, especially those who specialise in HIV/AIDS, and that we need to consider the consequences of doing so. If the association could do that sort of work, namely visit a country and come back with messages of that kind, it would help us to consider the implications of taking staff from abroad on their own countries. I am glad that he referred to that.

Cyfeiriaf hefyd at sylwadau nifer o siaradwyr ynglŷn â'r cysylltiad pwysig â Lesotho. Yr ydym i gyd wedi gwerthfawrogi'r cysylltiad yn y blynyddoedd a fu. Un peth yr oeddwn yn meddwl amdano yn ystod yr holl gyfeiriadau at Lesotho—ac yr wyf yn eu croesawu—oedd y ffaith bod sefydlu'r Cynulliad wedi golygu bod statws cenedlaethol Cymru wedi codi ar y llwyfan rhyngwladol a'n bod bellach yn gallu gwneud cysylltiadau llawer iawn mwy clos gyda gwledydd fel Lesotho, a bod statws y cysylltiad wedyn yn codi oherwydd bod gennym sefydliad democrataidd yng Nghymru sy'n gallu lleisio ein sylwadau. Yr wyf yn falch iawn bod hynny wedi digwydd. Yr hyn sy'n ddiddorol am y cysylltiad â Lesotho yw bod pob cynrychiolydd, o bob plaid, wedi cyfeirio ato, gan gynnwys Lorraine Barrett, Mike German, Nick Bourne, Alun Cairns, Rhodri Glyn Thomas, and so on. Everyone has referred to this important relationship.

I will also refer to the comments made by many speakers about our important relationship with Lesotho. We have all, in the past, appreciated that relationship. One thing that came to my mind during all the references to Lesotho—which I welcome—was the fact that establishing the Assembly has meant that the national status of Wales has risen on the international stage, and that we can now have a much closer relationship with countries such as Lesotho. The status of that relationship then increases because we have a democratic institution in Wales that can voice our opinions. I am very pleased that that has happened. What is interesting about the relationship with Lesotho is that it has been mentioned by every representative, from each party, including Lorraine Barrett, Mike German, Nick Bourne, Alun Cairns, Rhodri Glyn Thomas, and so on. Everyone has referred to this important relationship.

Yr wyf hefyd yn ddiolchgar i Mike German am beidio â'm henwi mewn cysylltiad â llyfr, er fy mod yn siŵr y bydd ganddo un neu ddwy o berlau eraill i'w cyflwyno pan fydd wedi cael rhestr tipyn yn hwy. Ond, cyflwynodd hynny mewn ysbryd priodol.

I am also grateful to Mike German for not naming me in connection with a book, although I am sure he will have one or two other pearls to reveal when he has expanded his list somewhat. Nonetheless, the spirit in which he presented that was appropriate.

Teimlaf mai'r hyn sydd fwyaf defnyddiol wrth drafod gwledydd y Gymanwlad yw nad oes dim byd tebyg i brofiad personol, fel yr hyn a gawn o ymweld â gwledydd eraill. Mae'r profiad hwnnw yn cyfoethogi'n trafodaethau. Gwelsom hynny yn yr hyn a ddywedodd John, Mike ac Alun. Mae ymweliadau â gwledydd eraill yn hynod bwysig.

I feel what is most useful when discussing Commonwealth countries is that there is nothing like personal experience, such as the experience we gain from visiting other countries. That experience enriches our discussions. We saw that in comments made by John, Mike and Alun. Visits to other countries are extremely important.

Yr wyf am gyfeirio, yn fyr, at fy ymweliad â Kashmir, sydd yn rhannol o dan reolaeth Pacistan. Yr oeddwn yno ym mis Ionawr 2005, ac, ymhen 10 mis, cafwyd daeargryn erchyll yno. Bûm ym mhrifddinas ranbarthol Kashmir, Muzaffarabad, yn siarad â phobl mewn ysgolion, ysbytai, gweithleoedd, a gwersylloedd i ffoaduriaid, ac, o fewn 10 mis, chwalwyd y cyfan gan ddaeargryn anferthol. Mae'n sicr bod pobl y bu i mi gwrdd â nhw yn ystod yr ymweliad hwnnw wedi colli eu bywydau yn y daeargryn, â'u teuluoedd bellach ym amddifad.

I will refer, briefly, to my visit to Kashmir, which is partially under the control of Pakistan. I was there in January 2005, and within 10 months, a terrible earthquake struck the area. I visited the regional capital of Kashmir, Muzaffarabad, and spoke to people in schools, hospitals, workplaces and refugee camps, and within 10 months they were all destroyed by a massive earthquake. I am sure that people whom I met during that visit will have lost their lives in that earthquake, leaving their families bereft.

Mae'r apêl am arian a chymorth yn llawer

The appeal for funds and assistance is much

mwy perthnasol pan fyddwch yn gwybod am beth yr ydych yn sôn. Gwn pa mor anodd i'r gwasanaethau brys yw mynd i ardal fel Muzaffarabad. I fynd o Islamabad i Kashmir, mae'n rhaid mynd drwy'r mynyddoedd, ac nid yw'r ffordd yn lletach na'r ffordd a welwch rhwng dwy fferm—ffyrdd cul iawn, heb fawr o arwyneb arnynt. Mae bron yn amhosibl ichi gludo cymorth i'r bobl druenus hynny ar hyd y ffyrdd; mae'n rhaid ichi wneud hynny mewn awyrennau. Meddyliwch am yr Wyddfa, nid fel ardal anial, ond fel ardal sydd yn gartref i filoedd o bobl, o'r gwaelod i'r copa; dyna'r math o ardal a geir o Muzaffarabad tua'r mynyddoedd. Gallwch ddychmygu, felly, yr hyn sydd wedi digwydd i'r bobl druenus hynny.

Yr wyf yn gwerthfawrogi'r ffaith bod pobl o Gymru wedi cyfrannu'n helaeth tuag at ddelio â'r daeargryn, a diolchwn fod pobl o Gymru wedi mynd yno i helpu. Diolchwn hefyd fod mudiadau megis Oxfam, Cymorth Cristnogol, Cronfa Achub y Plant ac ati wedi bod yn gymaint o gymorth i'r bobl hynny sydd wedi dioddef. Yr unig gyd-destun y gallaf ei roi yw bod y daeargryn wedi effeithio ar dair miliwn o bobl, sef yr un nifer â phoblogaeth Cymru. Yr ydym i gyd yn ymwybodol bod arnynt angen mwy o gymorth.

Diolchaf i bawb a gymerodd ran yn y ddadl bwysig hon. Gobeithiaf eich bod yn teimlo ei bod yn werth yr ymdrech inni gynnal dadl o'r fath, ac y gallwn, o hyn ymlaen, gyfoethogi ein dadleuon drwy ein cysylltiadau â gwledydd y tu hwnt i ffiniau Cymru.

Y Llywydd: Byddaf yn cyfleu eich diolchgarwch i Senedd De Cymru Newydd am y rhodd hardd o'r byrillysg. Drwy'r llusern y prynhawn yma, bron nad yw'r haul yn adlewyrchu arno.

more relevant when you know what you are talking about. I know how difficult it is for the emergency services to reach an area such as Muzaffarabad. Travelling from Islamabad to Kashmir, you have to traverse the mountains, where the road is no wider than the road between two farms—very narrow roads, without much surface. It is nigh on impossible to carry aid to those unfortunate people by road; you have to use aeroplanes. Think of Snowdon, not as a desolate place, but as an area that is home to thousands of people, from its foothills to its peak; that is the sort of area you see from Muzaffarabad towards the mountains. You can then imagine what has befallen those unfortunate people.

I appreciate the fact that people from Wales have contributed generously towards the earthquake relief effort, and we are grateful that people from Wales have gone there to help. We are also grateful to organisations such as Oxfam, Christian Aid, Save the Children Fund and so on, which have been of such great assistance to those who have suffered. The only context that I can give is that three million people have been affected by the earthquake, which is the equivalent of the population of Wales. We are all aware that they need more assistance.

I thank everyone who has participated in this important debate. I hope you feel that it has been worth the effort for us to have such a debate, and that we can, from now on, enrich our debates through our contacts with countries beyond the borders of Wales.

The Presiding Officer: I will convey your gratitude to the Parliament of New South Wales for the handsome gift of the mace. The sun is almost reflecting off it through the lantern this afternoon.

*Cynnig (NDM2922): O blaid 38, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM2922): For 38, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine

Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Glyn
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Essex, Sue
 Francis, Lisa
 German, Michael
 Gibbons, Brian
 Graham, William
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 Isherwood, Mark
 James, Irene
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Jones, Laura Anne
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Sinclair, Karen
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

Dadl Fer Short Debate

Sicrhau Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol yn Nwyrain De Cymru Achieving Social Justice in South Wales East

Laura Anne Jones: I welcome the opportunity to present this short debate on achieving social justice in South Wales East. In line with Standing Orders, I will allow one minute to Jocelyn Davies and Mark Isherwood.

Laura Anne Jones: Croesawaf y cyfle i gyflwyno'r ddadl fer hon ar sicrhau cyfiawnder cymdeithasol yn Nwyrain De Cymru. Yn unol â Rheolau Sefydlog, byddaf yn caniatáu un funud i Jocelyn Davies a Mark Isherwood.

5.30 p.m.

What is social justice? To me, social justice is providing equality of opportunity—providing people with the opportunities and the freedom to make the best choices so that they and their families can live the best possible lives. Social justice is the narrowing of the gap in wealth, justice, governance and opportunity.

Beth yw cyfiawnder cymdeithasol? I mi, mae cyfiawnder cymdeithasol yn golygu cyfle cyfartal—rhoi cyfleoedd a rhyddid i bobl wneud y dewisiadau gorau fel y gallant hwy a'u teuluoedd gael y bywydau gorau posibl. Mae cyfiawnder cymdeithasol yn golygu lleihau'r gagendor o ran cyfoeth, cyfiawnder, llywodraethu a chyfle.

Why is it that in twenty-first century Wales

Pam mae cynifer o bethau o hyn yn rhwystro

there are still so many barriers for people wishing to better their lives? Why is it that in twenty-first century Wales we still have such poor housing that those living in it become ill? Why is it that young people wishing to stay in their communities are forced to move elsewhere due to a lack of affordable housing and of job opportunities? Why is south-east Wales still blighted by crime and anti-social behaviour? Why is it that Wales still does not have an adequate transport infrastructure—the key to a vibrant economy, wealth and opportunity—that enables people to choose where they live, work and are educated?

After seven years of a Labour Welsh Assembly Government, relatively little has been achieved. There has been a lot of talk, but little action. The people of south-east Wales deserve for all of us to be working towards social justice. Social justice should be at the heart of all policies, across all portfolios.

We all deserve to grow up in a country in which the streets are safe, and not in a broken society and communities blighted by drug abuse, family breakdown and high rates of crime. In Wales, there is a clear need to focus on improving health, creating better jobs and skills, developing strong and safe communities and helping more people into work.

If there is one thing that I have learned in my time in the Assembly, it is that we cannot go on pulling the same levers hoping to get a different result. Many areas of Wales unquestionably suffer from deprivation. In the most recent Assembly social justice report, the Labour Government could do nothing other than concur that too many Welsh families are experiencing the effects of poverty. Phrases such as ‘poor health’, ‘low educational attainment’, ‘substance misuse’, ‘benefit dependency’ and ‘economic inactivity’ are uttered in the same breath. These are tough challenges, and we must address them.

Many people do not enjoy the opportunities and freedoms that most of us here take for

pobl sydd am wella eu bywydau yn yr unfed ganrif ar hugain yng Nghymru? Pam mae gennym yng Nghymru, yn yr unfed ganrif ar hugain, dai mor wael nes bod y rheini sy'n byw ynddynt yn mynd yn sâl? Pam mae'r bobl ifanc hynny sydd am aros yn eu cymunedau yn cael eu gorfodi i symud oddi yno oherwydd prinder tai fforddiadwy a chyfle i gael swyddi? Pam mae troseddu ac ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yn dal yn rhemp yn y de-ddwyrain? Pam nad oes gan Gymru seilwaith trafniadaeth digonol eto—yr allwedd i economi ffyniannus, cyfoeth a chyfle—sy'n galluogi pobl i ddewis ble maent yn byw, yn gweithio ac yn cael eu haddysg?

Ar ôl saith mlynedd o Lywodraeth Lafur yng Nghynulliad Cymru, ni chyflawnwyd fawr ddim. Bu llawer o siarad, ond prin fu'r gweithredu. Mae trigolion y de-ddwyrain yn haeddu ein bod i gyd yn gweithio tuag at gyfiawnder cymdeithasol. Dylai cyfiawnder cymdeithasol fod wrth wraidd pob polisi, ar draws pob portffolio.

Yr ydym i gyd yn haeddu byw mewn gwlad lle mae'r strydoedd yn ddiogel, ac nid mewn cymdeithas a chymunedau drylliedig, lle mae camddefnyddio cyffuriau, teuluoedd yn chwalu a throseddu yn rhemp. Yng Nghymru, mae angen glir am ganolbwyntio ar wella iechyd, creu swyddi a sgiliau gwell, datblygu cymunedau cryf a diogel, a helpu mwy o bobl i mewn i waith.

Un o'r pethau yr wyf wedi'i ddysgu yn fy nghyfnod yn y Cynulliad yw na allwn barhau i dynnu'r un liferi gan obeithio cael canlyniad gwahanol. Mae nifer o ardaloedd yng Nghymru yn diamau yn dioddef amddifadedd. Yn yr adroddiad diweddaraf gan y Cynulliad ar gyfiawnder cymdeithasol, ni allai'r Llywodraeth Lafur wneud mwy na chytuno bod gormod o deuluoedd yng Nghymru yn dioddef effeithiau tlodi. Sonir am 'iechyd gwael' 'cyrhaeddiad addysgol isel', 'camddefnyddio sylweddau', 'dibyniaeth ar fudd-daliadau' ac 'anweithgarwch economaidd' yn yr un anadl. Mae hyn i gyd yn her anodd, a rhaid inni fynd i'r afael â hi.

Mae nifer o bobl yn methu mwynhau'r cyfleoedd a'r rhyddid y bydd y rhan fwyaf

granted. Wards in Merthyr Tydfil, Newport, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen feature high in the overall index of multiple deprivation. It is a fact that there is a concentration of inter-related problems in too many of our communities, such as high unemployment, poor health, poor services, poor quality of environment, inadequate housing and crime. South-east Wales has some of the most disadvantaged communities in the UK. They are deprived communities, where people live in poor housing.

The growing shortage of affordable housing in south-east Wales is preventing large numbers of people from buying a home. The problem is particularly acute in rural areas, where price rises have pushed many properties out of the price range of many local people. Last year, the biggest house price increases were in Blaenau Gwent and Merthyr Tydfil, which came top in the Land Registry's property price increase figures for the third consecutive quarter, with recorded increases of more than 27 per cent in both areas.

Housing is one of the key pillars of social justice, but unless affordable housing is made a priority, problems will continue to mount up. Labour has imposed massive cuts on affordable housing, while homelessness, waiting lists for housing, and house prices have increased. Young people and the elderly in south-east Wales are those least able to afford the quality housing that they deserve. So why has this Labour Assembly Government massively cut funding for social and affordable housing? Why is not more being done to help people to get a foot on the property ladder?

I grew up in south-east Wales and I regularly speak to friends who can no longer afford to live close to their families, in the towns and villages in which they grew up. We need more affordable housing in order to sustain our urban and rural communities. Our rural communities face many obstacles because of isolation, lack of opportunities and difficulties in accessing the opportunities that are available. Having grown up in rural Monmouthshire, I am well aware of the

ohonom yma yn eu cymryd yn ganiataol. Mae wardiau ym Merthyr Tudful, Casnewydd, Caerffili, Blaenau Gwent a Thor-faen yn agos i'r brig yn y mynegai amddifadedd lluosog cyffredinol. Mae'n ffaith fod problemau rhyng-gysylltiedig yn crynhoi mewn gormod o lawer o'n cymunedau, fel diweithdra uchel, iechyd gwael, gwasanaethau gwael, amgylchedd o ansawdd gwael, tai annigonol a throseddau. Mae rhai o gymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig y DU yn y de-ddwyrain. Maent yn gymunedau difreintiedig lle mae pobl yn byw mewn tai gwael.

Mae prinder cynyddol o dai fforddiadwy yn y de-ddwyrain yn rhwystro niferoedd mawr o bobl rhag prynu cartref. Mae'r broblem yn arbennig o wael mewn ardaloedd gwledig, lle mae cynnydd mewn prisiau wedi gwthio llawer o eiddo y tu hwnt i'r hyn y gall nifer o bobl leol ei fforddio. Y llynedd, gwelwyd y cynnydd mwyaf ym mhrisiau tai ym Mlaenau Gwent a Merthyr Tudful, a ddaeth i'r brig yn rhestr ffigurau'r Gofrestrfa Tir o ran cynnydd mewn ym mhrisiau eiddo am y trydydd chwarter yn olynol, gyda chodiadau o fwy na 27 y cant wedi eu cofnodi yn y ddwy ardal.

Mae tai yn un o gonglfeini cyfiawnder cymdeithasol. Ond nes bydd tai fforddiadwy yn flaenoriaeth, bydd problemau'n parhau i gronni. Mae Llafur wedi gorfodi toriadau anferth ar dai fforddiadwy, er bod digartrefedd, rhestrau aros am dai a phrisiau tai wedi cynyddu. Pobl ifanc a'r henoed yn y de-ddwyrain yw'r rheini na all fforddio'r tai o safon y maent yn eu haeddu. Felly, pam mae Llywodraeth Lafur y Cynulliad wedi gwneud toriadau anferth yn yr arian ar gyfer tai cymdeithasol a thai fforddiadwy? Pam na wneir mwy i helpu pobl i wneud y cam cyntaf hwnnw tuag at brynu eiddo?

Cefais fy magu yn y de-ddwyrain, a byddaf yn aml yn siarad â ffrindiau na allant bellach fforddio byw'n agos i'w teuluoedd yn y trefi a'r pentrefi lle cawsant eu magu. Mae arnom angen mwy o dai fforddiadwy er mwyn cynnal ein cymunedau trefol a gwledig. Mae ein cymunedau gwledig yn wynebu nifer o rwystrau am eu bod yn anghysbell, oherwydd prinder cyfleoedd ac anawsterau rhag manteisio ar y cyfleoedd sydd ar gael. Gan imi gael fy magu yn Sir Fynwy wledig, yr

barriers that are faced in rural communities. We need to tackle this issue through an integrated approach to strategic planning, involving communities from the outset in planning issues.

To do this, social justice must be a key factor across portfolios. For instance, transport plays a major part in regeneration. A good transport infrastructure is the key to a vibrant economy, wealth creation and jobs. Many people in south-east Wales rely on public transport in all aspects of their lives. Where is the promised rail link for south-east Wales? When is work going to begin? Without it you will not encourage much needed investment in these areas of need. Businesses will not be attracted to these areas, jobs will not be created and education will be limited, as will the provision of services and quality of life.

As one elderly constituent rightly pointed out to me recently, what is the point of the Government giving her a free bus pass if there are no buses to get on? We need to link villages to towns to cities and back to villages. South-east Wales needs investment to enable people to choose where to live, work and be educated, to open up opportunities and to widen access to services and facilities.

Transport still remains one of the biggest barriers for people with disabilities. When it comes to social justice, it is vital that the Welsh Assembly Government places disabled people high on its policy agenda. I am sure that Members would agree that every disabled child should enjoy the same opportunities as any other child. I recently visited Crownbridge School in Griffithstown, which is a special school that has benefited enormously from a generous donation from the Lords Taverners of a trampoline and a minibus. Those gifts have gone a long way towards improving the lives and opportunities of those disabled people. It is a shame that, in twenty-first century Wales, we have to rely on gifts from charities to provide these vital tools for children's education. Crownbridge school is the only school of its

wyf yn ymwybodol iawn o'r rhwystrau sy'n wynebu cymunedau gwledig. Rhaid inni fynd i'r afael â'r broblem hon drwy ddull integredig o gynllunio strategol, gan gynnwys cymunedau o'r dechrau mewn materion cynllunio.

Er mwyn gwneud hyn, rhaid i gyfiawnder cymdeithasol fod yn ffactor allweddol ar draws y portffolios. Er enghraifft, mae trafnidiaeth yn allweddol mewn adfywio. Mae seilwaith trafnidiaeth yn allweddol i economi ffyniannus, creu cyfoeth a swyddi. Mae nifer o bobl yn y de-ddwyrain yn dibynnu ar gludiant cyhoeddus ym mhob agwedd ar eu bywydau. Ble mae'r cyswllt rheilffordd a addawyd ar gyfer y de-ddwyrain? Pryd y bydd y gwaith yn dechrau? Hebdo, ni fyddwch yn annog buddsoddi y mae ei ddirfawr angen yn yr ardaloedd anghenus hyn. Ni chaiff busnesau eu denu i'r ardaloedd hyn, ni chaiff swyddi eu creu, a bydd cyfyngiadau ar addysg, darparu gwasanaethau ac ansawdd bywyd.

Fel y dywedodd un o'm hetholwyr hyn yn ddiweddar, beth yw diben cael tocyn bws am ddim gan y Llywodraeth os nad oes bysiau ar gael? Rhaid inni gysylltu trefi â phentrefi â dinasoedd ac yn ôl i'r pentrefi. Rhaid buddsoddi yn y de-ddwyrain er mwyn galluogi pobl i ddewis ble i fyw, gweithio a chael eu haddysg, cynyddu cyfleoedd ac ehangu cyfleoedd i fanteisio ar wasanaethau a chyfleusterau.

Mae cludiant yn dal ymhlith y rhwystrau pennaf i bobl ag anableddau. O ran cyfiawnder cymdeithasol, mae'n hanfodol i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru osod pobl anabl yn uchel ar ei hagenda bolisi. Mae'n siŵr gennyf y byddai Aelodau'n cytuno y dylai pob plentyn anabl gael yr un cyfleoedd ag unrhyw blentyn arall. Bûm ar ymweliad yn ddiweddar ag Ysgol Crownbridge yn Griffithstown, ysgol arbennig sydd wedi elwa'n fawr o rodd hael gan Lords Taverners, sef trampolîn a bws mini. Mae'r rhoddion hynny wedi gwneud llawer i wella bywydau a chyfleoedd y bobl anabl hynny. Mae'n drueni ein bod ni, yn yr unfed ganrif ar hugain yng Nghymru, yn gorfod dibynnu ar roddion gan elusennau i ddarparu'r cyfarpar hanfodol hwn ar gyfer addysg plant. Ysgol Crownbridge yw'r unig un o'i bath yn yr

type in the area and I hope that the Torfaen constituency follows other areas in recognising the demand for this type of education and looks to provide this school with the facilities and space that it so desperately needs. We must break down all barriers.

Too many older people in Wales experience financial insecurity, isolation and poor access to services. That means that, although people can now expect to live longer, the quality of life of many in retirement is not satisfying or enjoyable. Poor health, poor housing and a fear of crime can all limit an older person's independence and ability to participate in the life of their communities.

The Assembly takes anti-social behaviour seriously, but I still see the effects of it across south-east Wales far too often. In Bettws in Newport, for example, community leaders were recently calling for closed-circuit television to be installed at a spot where a man was found critically injured. Tragically, he later died. The whole estate was shocked, and many people are still too frightened to go out in the evenings to the shops. Local people had reported gangs hanging around the area for a long time. Why was not something done? Following the crime, Newport City Council stated that no funding was available to it for the extension of the city's CCTV system. We need to take positive action.

Anti-social behaviour continues to plague south-east Wales. Nearly 4,000 youngsters were arrested in Gwent last year. Why are teenagers in south-east Wales turning to crime, and what is the Assembly doing to help prevent that? Are we providing enough opportunities and facilities for them? Why is anti-social behaviour happening in the first place? Is it due to boredom and a lack of opportunities? Anti-social behaviour is at its peak.

We need to ensure that there is access at every stage of a person's life to learning within his or her own community, or close to where he or she lives, whether academic,

ardal, a gobeithio y bydd etholaeth Tor-faen yn dilyn ardaloedd eraill wrth gydnabod y galw am y math hwn o addysg a cheisio darparu'r cyfleusterau a'r lle y mae cymaint o'u hangen ar yr ysgol hon. Rhaid inni chwalu pob rhwystr.

Mae gormod o bobl hŷn yng Nghymru yn wynebu ansicrwydd ariannol, arwahanrwydd a gwasanaethau nad ydynt yn gyfleus iawn. Er y gall pobl ddisgwyl byw'n hwy bellach, golyga hyn nad yw ansawdd bywyd nifer o bobl sydd wedi ymddeol yn rhoi boddhad a mwynhad iddynt. Gall iechyd gwael, tai gwael ac ofn troseddu gyfyngu ar annibyniaeth pobl hŷn a'u gallu i gymryd rhan ym mywyd eu cymunedau.

Mae'r Cynulliad yn ystyried bod ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yn fater difrifol, ond gwelaf effeithiau hyn ar draws y de-ddwyrain yn rhy aml. Yn y Betws, Casnewydd, er enghraifft, yr oedd arweinwyr y gymuned yn ddiweddar yn galw am osod teledu cylch cyfyng mewn man lle daethpwyd o hyd i ddyn wedi'i anafu'n ddifrifol. Yn drasig, bu farw'n ddiweddarach. Bu'n sioc ddirfawr i'r ystâd gyfan, ac mae nifer yn rhy ofnus hyd heddiw i fentro allan i'r siopau gyda'r nos. Yr oedd pobl leol wedi tynnu sylw'r awdurdodau at grwpiau yn loetran o amgylch yr ardal ers tro. Pam na wnaethpwyd dim? Yn dilyn y trosedd, dywedodd Cyngor Dinas Casnewydd nad oedd arian ar gael iddo ehangu system teledu cylch cyfyng y ddinas. Mae angen inni gymryd camau cadarnhaol.

Mae ymddygiad gwrth-gymdeithasol yn dal yn broblem yn y de-ddwyrain. Arestwyd ymron i 4,000 o bobl ifanc yng Ngwent y llynedd. Pam mae pobl yn eu harddegau yn y de-ddwyrain yn troi at droseddu, a beth mae'r Cynulliad yn ei wneud i helpu atal hynny? A ydym yn darparu digon o gyfleoedd a chyfleusterau iddynt? Pam mae ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yn digwydd yn y lle cyntaf? Ai oherwydd diflastod a phrinder cyfleoedd? Mae ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol wedi cyrraedd ei anterth.

Mae angen inni sicrhau bod cyfle i bobl ddysgu yn eu cymunedau neu'n agos i'r fan lle maent yn byw, boed yn addysg academiaidd, galwedigaethol neu sgiliau

vocational or life-skills education. Many barriers still exist that prevent people from taking up working and learning opportunities. Without good education, there cannot be social justice. The Assembly Government's challenge is to break the cycle of deprivation. There has been some progress, but still too many people in Wales are being born into poverty, are growing up in poverty and are dying in poverty. We need to target poverty and injustice at every stage of a person's life. That way we can stop deprivation becoming a way of life and being passed on through generations.

Since Labour came into power, it has purposely produced a culture that is heavily reliant on the state. There is too much reliance on the state. This reduces opportunity and freedom. Communities are not created from the top down; they are built from the bottom up. Our communities need to be supported so that they can take more ownership of their own destinies. Clearly, there is a need for joint working and partnership when setting out to tackle poverty and deprivation. It is vital that we work with one another. We must continue to work with the voluntary, community and private sectors and look to enhance the important role that social enterprises play.

We must face the challenges of today's Wales and find solutions to the problems that we face in today's society for the sake of south-east Wales, and for the sake of Wales.

5.40 p.m.

Jocelyn Davies: Thank you, Laura, for your generosity in allowing me some of your time. I, too, grew up in the south-east, but I think that I must have grown up in a completely different south-east from you, because I do not think that it was a paradise before 1997. I am pretty confident that the Minister, or rather her deputy this afternoon, will not be all that open to this new Tory theme of talking social justice.

In the south-east Valleys, we remember all too well the more familiar and time-tested Tory themes of blaming the deprived for the situation in which they find themselves. Laura, the past Tory Secretaries of State for

bywyd a hynny ar bob adeg yn eu bywydau. Mae llawer o rwystrau o hyd sy'n atal pobl rhag manteisio ar gyfleoedd gwaith a dysgu. Heb addysg dda ni ellir sicrhau cyfiawnder cymdeithasol. Yr her i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad yw torri'r cylch amddifadedd. Cafwyd ychydig gynnydd, ond mae gormod o bobl yng Nghymru o hyd yn cael eu geni a'u magu mewn tlodi ac yn marw mewn tlodi. Mae angen inni dargedu tlodi ac anghyfiawnder ar bob adeg ym mywydau pobl. Fel hynny gallwn atal amddifadedd rhag troi'n ffordd o fyw sy'n cael ei throsglwyddo o genhedlaeth i genhedlaeth.

Ers i Lafur ddod i rym, mae'n fwriadol wedi creu diwylliant sy'n dibynnu'n drwm ar y wladwriaeth. Mae gormod o ddibyniaeth ar y wladwriaeth. Mae hyn yn lleihau cyfleoedd a rhyddid. Ni chaiff cymunedau eu creu o'r brig i'r bôn; cânt eu ffurfio o'r bôn i'r brig. Mae angen cefnogaeth ar ein cymunedau er mwyn iddynt allu rheoli'u tynged eu hunain. Yn amlwg, mae angen cydweithio a gweithio mewn partneriaeth wrth fynd ati i ymdrin â thlodi ac amddifadedd. Mae'n hanfodol inni weithio gyda'n gilydd. Rhaid inni barhau i weithio gyda'r sectorau gwirfoddol, cymunedol a phreifat ac anelu at wella rôl bwysig mentrau cymdeithasol.

Rhaid inni wynebu'r her yng Nghymru heddiw a dod o hyd i atebion i'r problemau a wynebwn mewn cymdeithas, er budd y de-ddwyrain ac er budd Cymru.

Jocelyn Davies: Diolch, Laura, am fod mor hael â chaniatáu rhywfaint o'ch amser imi. Fe'm magwyd i hefyd yn y de-ddwyrain, ond rhaid fy mod yn byw mewn de-ddwyrain cwbl wahanol i chi, oherwydd ni chredaf ei bod yn baradwys cyn 1997. Yr wyf yn lled hyderus na fydd y Gweinidog, neu ei dirprwy y prynhawn yma, yn llwyr groesawu'r thema Doriaidd newydd hon o siarad am gyfiawnder cymdeithasol.

Yng nghymoedd y de-ddwyrain yr ydym i gyd yn cofio'n dda y themâu Toriaidd cyfarwydd a pharhaus o feio'r difreintiedig am y sefyllfa yr oeddent ynddi. Laura, nid yw'r cyn Ysgrifenyddion Gwladol Cymru

Wales have not done you many favours in that regard. Most of us remember the passionless and right-wing John Redwood. I am afraid that he will take a bit of living down. Perhaps we could acknowledge the efforts of the more palatable one-nation Tory, Peter Walker, but he was a wet who was given the post of Secretary of State as a punishment from Margaret Thatcher. *[Interruption.]* It is not rubbish, he readily admits it. He announced the Valleys initiative. Laura will not remember this as she is not old enough, William, but you will. This was a regeneration programme that was to transform the Valleys. No-one noticed anything other than the announcement. I think that I would be on very safe ground if I said that it was not all that successful—unless you can give us some examples of how successful it was.

Achieving social justice in the south-east, as anywhere else, will take a concerted and prolonged effort, involving many partners, including the Tory Party, because the causes are complex and of long standing. There are no simple solutions, but, Deputy Minister, we should welcome the fact that social justice is now on the Tory agenda.

Mark Isherwood: I had the privilege of meeting Peter Walker last week, and I can assure you that his version of events is very different from yours. I will give you an example: inward investment into Wales in the 1980s and the early 1990s was 22 per cent of total UK inward investment. We were the highest recipient of inward investment in the whole of the UK, and the UK was second only to America internationally. His description of the Valleys initiative was somewhat different from yours.

I will not talk about John Redwood other than to say that he is the man who launched the affordable housing schemes that were first abandoned by Labour, but it then changed the name, and now it is trying to take the credit for them. Margaret Thatcher called for a property-owning democracy, and Gordon Brown has now called for a home-owning democracy. We have heard reference to the right to buy today. The right to buy

Torïaidd wedi gwneud llawer drosoch yn y cyd-destun hwnnw. Mae'r rhan fwyaf ohonom yn cofio John Redwood, y dyn oeraidd ac adain dde. Mae arnaf ofn y bydd yn anodd ichi wneud iawn amdano. Efallai y gallwn gydnabod ymdrechion Peter Walker, y Tori un-genedl fwy derbynol, ond Tori cymedrol oedd hwnnw a gafodd swydd Ysgrifennydd Gwladol fel cosb gan Margaret Thatcher. *[Torri ar draws.]* Nid nonsens mohono; mae'n cyfaddef hynny ei hun. Cyhoeddodd fenter y Cymoedd. Ni fydd Laura yn cofio hynny am nad yw'n ddigon hen, William, ond fe gofiwch chi. Rhaglen adfywio ydoedd a oedd i drawsnewid y Cymoedd. NI sylwodd neb ar fawr ddim mwy na'r cyhoeddiad. Credaf y byddwn ar dir digon diogel petawn yn dweud na fu'n gymaint o lwyddiant â hynny—oni allwch roi enghreifftiau inni o'i llwyddiant.

Bydd angen ymdrech barhaus ar y cyd, gan gynnwys nifer o bartneriaid, a'r Blaidd Doriïaidd yn eu plith, i sicrhau cyfiawnder cymdeithasol yn y de-ddwyrain, oherwydd bod yr achosion yn gymhleth ac yn bodoli ers amser maith. Nid oes yna atebion syml, ond, Ddirprwy Weinidog, dylem groesawu'r ffaith fod cyfiawnder cymdeithasol bellach ar agenda'r Torïaid.

Mark Isherwood: Cefais yr anrhydedd o gyfarfod â Peter Walker yr wythnos diwethaf, a gallaf eich sicrhau bod ei fersiwn ef o bethau yn wahanol iawn i'ch fersiwn chi. Rhoddaf enghraifft ichi: yr oedd mewnfuddsoddi i Gymru yn y 1980au a dechrau'r 1990au yn 22 y cant o holl fewnfuddsoddiad y DU gyfan. Ni a gafodd y mewnfuddsoddiad mwyaf yn y DU gyfan, ac yr oedd y DU yn ail yn unig i America yn rhyngwladol. Yr oedd ei ddisgrifiad o fenter y Cymoedd gryn dipyn yn wahanol i'ch disgrifiad chi.

Nid wyf am siarad am John Redwood ar wahân i'r ffaith mai ef a lansiodd y cynlluniau tai fforddiadwy a ollyngwyd gan Lafur ar y cychwyn, ond yna a newidiodd yr enw a bellach mae'n ceisio cymryd y clod amdanynt. Galwodd Margaret Thatcher am ddemocratiaeth lle mae pobl yn berchen ar eiddo, a bellach mae Gordon Brown wedi galw am ddemocratiaeth lle mae pobl yn berchen ar gartrefi. Clywsom gyfeiriad

scheme has been the most successful low-cost home ownership scheme ever, but discounts for council tenants have not increased with house prices under Labour. Some argue that demand for affordable housing for rent will never be met if we continue to lose housing stock through the right to buy, but the facts do not bear this out. Sales are made to sitting tenants, so a property sold under the right to buy would not have become available to a new tenant for many years, even if it had not been sold. Of those who bought under the right to buy—and these are facts from academic research—between 1980 and 1990, more than three fifths are still in residence. Logic says that ending the right to buy scheme now would provide, on average, a new letting only 10 or more years hence. By contrast, investment in new dwellings provides lettings from the day that the buildings are completed. Wales now faces a shortage of 35,000 new homes just to meet present demand. Is it not, therefore, a betrayal of social justice that Labour has cut new affordable housing by 75 per cent on the levels inherited from the previous Conservative Government?

The Presiding Officer: It is now my pleasure to invite, yet again today, although in another capacity, Huw Lewis to speak.

The Deputy Minister for Communities (Huw Lewis): Thank you, Presiding Officer. I hope that that consensual nonsense is over and that we can get on with a proper debate during this section of the afternoon.

I had to smile when I saw the title of Laura Anne Jones's short debate. A debate on social justice in south-east Wales led by the Tory Party: it is like having to listen to Attila the Hun delivering a lecture on town planning and regeneration to the population of ancient Rome just after the place had burned to the ground. However, it is nice to hear the Tories at least attempting to use the language of social justice, although I am sure that a lot of them have just recently looked it up in the dictionary. Their new leader in

heddiw at yr hawl i brynu. Y cynllun hawl i brynu yw'r cynllun perchnogaeth cartrefi rhad mwyaf llwyddiannus erioed, ond nid yw'r disgownt i denantiaid cyngor wedi cynyddu gyda phrisiau tai o dan Lafur. Mae rhai yn dadlau na chaiff y galw am dai fforddiadwy ar rent byth ei ddiwallu os byddwn yn parhau i golli stoc tai drwy'r hawl i brynu, ond nid yw'r ffeithiau'n cadarnhau hyn. Caiff tai eu gwerthu i denantiaid meddiannol, felly, ni fyddai eiddo wedi ei werthu o dan yr hawl i brynu wedi bod ar gael i denant newydd am flynyddoedd, hyd yn oed pe na byddai'n cael ei werthu. O'r rheini a brynodd o dan yr hawl i brynu—a dyma'r ffeithiau o waith ymchwil academiaidd—rhwng 1980 a 1990, mae mwy na thri o bob pump yn parhau i fyw yno. Felly, yn rhesymegol, byddai dileu'r cynllun hawl i brynu yn awr, ar gyfartaledd, yn darparu gosodiad newydd ymhen dim ond 10 mlynedd neu fwy wedi hynny. I'r gwrthwyneb, mae buddsoddi mewn anheddau newydd yn cynnig gosodiadau o'r diwrnod y caiff yr adeiladau eu gorffen. Mae prinder o 35,000 o gartrefi newydd yng Nghymru i ddiwallu'r galw ar hyn o bryd yn unig. Onid yw Llafur yn bradychu cyfiawnder cymdeithasol, felly, drwy dorri tai fforddiadwy newydd 75 y cant o'r lefelau a etifeddwyd gan y Llywodraeth Geidwadol flaenorol?

Y Llywydd: Mae'n bleser gennyf yn awr wahodd Huw Lewis i sirarad unwaith eto heddiw, ond yn rhinwedd ei swydd arall.

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Gymunedau (Huw Lewis) Diolch, Lywydd. Gobeithio bod y nonsens cydsyniol ar ben ac y gallwn fwrw ati i gael dadl go iawn yn ystod y rhan hon o'r prynhawn.

Daeth gwên i'm hwyneb pan welais deitl dadl fer Laura Anne Jones. Dadl ar gyfiawnder cymdeithasol yn y de-ddwyrain yn cael ei harwain gan y Blaid Doriaidd; mae'n gyfystyr â gorfod gwrandao ar Attila yr Hyn yn traddodi darlith ar gynllunio ac adfywio trefol i boblogaeth yr hen Rufain ar ôl i'r lle losgi i'r llawr. Fodd bynnag, mae'n braf clywed y Toriaid yn ymdrechu o leiaf i ddefnyddio iaith cyfiawnder cymdeithasol, er fy mod yn siŵr mai dim ond yn ddiweddar y mae nifer ohonynt wdi troi at y geiriadur i weld ei

Westminster seems to be encouraging them to use this sort of language, but it is painful to listen to it. It is like having to watch John Redwood trying to mouth the words of 'Mae Hen Wlad fy Nhadau' over and over again on a loop tape.

Glyn Davies: I have listened to what you said, Huw, and, over the years, I have also thought that the language of the Conservative Party was too harsh. However, by today, I think that it is terrific to hear David Cameron and Members here saying what they are saying. Laura chose this subject because it is important to her. I would have thought that if you cared at all about social justice in Wales, you would welcome that, instead of joining Jocelyn in making petty remarks about history, undermining the very agenda that you claim to support. You stand here and put your heart on your sleeve, but, obviously, what you really want is the old-fashioned, Labour-orientated, based-on-envy war.

Huw Lewis: I welcome it, Glyn, but I question its sincerity, and I think that the entire population of south-east Wales will join me in that. That history is too recent and real. Communities, such as that which I represent, are still living through that history; it has not just gone away since 1997. The effects will be with us for a long time.

We have had two debates on social justice from the Tory Party in the last two weeks, but if it genuinely believes that those tokens will convince the Welsh public that it has changed and that it is a party that now suddenly cares for the poor, then its opinion of the Welsh people must be very low. You must think that we came down with the last shower. The Tory Government's record on child poverty, for instance, was to inherit a country in which one in nine children lived in poverty, under Jim Callaghan, and to leave it with one in three. They trebled it. That was the worst record in the European Union and in living memory. That is the reality of Tory government.

ystyr. Ymddengys fod eu harweinydd newydd yn San Steffan yn eu hannog i ddefnyddio'r math hwn o iaith, ond mae'n boenus gorfod gwrando arni. Mae fel gorfod gwyllo John Redwood yn ceisio ynganu geiriau 'Mae Hen Wlad fy Nhadau' dro ar ôl tro ar dâp ailadrodd.

Glyn Davies: Yr wyf wedi gwrando ar yr hyn a ddywedwch, Huw, a thros y blynyddoedd credais i hefyd fod iaith y Blaid Geidwadol yn rhy gras. Fodd bynnag, erbyn heddiw, credaf ei bod yn wych clywed David Cameron a'r Aelodau yma yn dweud yr hyn y maent yn ei ddweud. Dewisodd Laura y pwnc hwn gan ei fod yn bwysig iddi. Pe byddech yn pryderu o gwbl am gyfiawnder cymdeithasol yng Nghymru, byddwn wedi meddwl y byddech yn croesawu hynny, yn hytrach nag ymuno â Jocelyn a gwneud sylwadau pitw am hanes, gan danseilio'r union agenda yr ydych yn honni ei chefnogi. Yr ydych yn sefyll yma yn dangos eich teimladau i bawb, ond, yn amlwg, yr hyn yr ydych am ei weld mewn gwirionedd yw'r rhyfel Llafur hen ffasiwn yn seiliedig ar eiddgedd.

Huw Lewis: Yr wyf yn ei groesawu, Glyn, ond yn amau ei ddiwylledd, a chredaf y bydd holl boblogaeth y de-ddwyrain yn cytuno â mi yn hynny. Mae'r hanes hwnnw yn rhy ddiweddar a byw. Mae cymunedau, megis y gymuned yr wyf yn ei chynrychioli, yn dal i fyw drwy'r hanes hwnnw; nid yw wedi diflannu er 1997. Bydd yr effeithiau i'w gweld am gryn amser.

Cawsom ddwy ddadl am gyfiawnder cymdeithasol gan y Blaid Doriaidd yn ystod y pythefnos diwethaf, ond os yw'n credu'n wirioneddol y bydd yr ymdrechion hynny'n darbwylo'r cyhoedd yng Nghymru ei bod wedi newid a'i bod bellach yn blaid sy'n sydyn yn gofalu am y tlodion, yna mae'n rhaid nad oes ganddi lawer o feddwl o'r Cymry. Rhaid eich bod yn meddwl ein bod yn hanner pan. Dengys hanes tlodi plant, er enghraifft, fod y Llywodraeth Doriaidd wedi etifeddu gwlad lle yr oedd un plentyn o bob naw yn byw mewn tlodi, o dan Jim Callaghan, a'i gadael gydag un o bob tri. Treblwyd eu nifer. Dyna oedd y sefyllfa waethaf yn yr Undeb Ewropeaidd ac mewn cof. Dyna realiti llywodraeth Doriaidd.

Alun Cairns: Will you give way?

Huw Lewis: I do not have time, Alun. I would like to, but time is too short.

That was the reality of social justice—if you can call it that—under the Tories. I did welcome the comments that you made today, Jocelyn, and I hope that they will be echoed by your colleagues as they work towards an ever-closer union with the Welsh Conservative Party.

In contrast, social justice is the cornerstone of Welsh Labour's vision for this country. It is our reason for being, and nowhere is that message more important than in south-east Wales, which encompasses the majority of the most deprived communities in the country. The Tory vision, as explored by Laura Anne Jones today, and by Mark Isherwood last week, does not centre on supporting communities but on letting them get on with it. First, you complain that we are too interventionist and top-down, and then you complain that a community or voluntary group in your own patch is not afforded what you consider to be adequate funding. That is not a genuine approach to social justice.

The Tories praise the strength and the vision of the third sector. That is fair enough, but I have to tell them that the reason social enterprise co-operatives, voluntary groups and community groups are so robust in Wales is because they carried parts of this country for a generation while the Tory Party left our communities to rot. We are now in a position from which we can build on our strength, which was forged in adversity through the Communities First programme and our credit unions in particular. We know that the Communities First programme, for example, is not perfect, but consider how new and innovative this programme and approach have been. If you ask those communities whether they would like the programme to continue, you will get a unanimous 'yes'. Would the Tories commit to guaranteeing the future of Communities First, or is your policy to abandon those communities in poverty?

Alun Cairns: A wnewch chi ildio?

Huw Lewis: Nid oes gennyf amser, Alun. Hoffwn wneud, ond mae'r amser yn rhy brin.

Dyna oedd realiti cyfiawnder cymdeithasol—os gallwch ei alw'n hynny—o dan y Torïaid. Yr oeddwn yn croesawu'r sylwadau a wnaethoch heddiw, Jocelyn, a gobeithio y bydd eich cyd-Aelodau yn eu hadleisio wrth weithio tuag at undeb agosach fyth â Phlaid Geidwadol Cymru.

I'r gwrthwyneb, cyfiawnder cymdeithasol yw conglaen gweledigaeth Llafur Cymru ar gyfer y wlad hon. Dyna'r rheswm dros ein bodolaeth, ac mae'r neges honno'n bwysicach yn y de-ddwyrain nag yn unman, lle mae mwyafrif cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig y wlad. Nid yw gweledigaeth y Torïaid, fel y'i harchwiliwyd gan Laura Anne Jones heddiw, a chan Mark Isherwood yr wythnos diwethaf, yn canolbwyntio ar gefnogi cymunedau, ond ar adael iddynt fwrw ati eu hunain. Yn gyntaf, yr ydych yn cwyno ein bod yn rhy ymyraethol ac yn gweithredu o'r brig i'r bôn, ac wedyn yr ydych yn cwyno na chaiff grŵp cymunedol neu wirfoddol yn eich ardal yr hyn a ystyriwch sy'n arian digonol. Nid yw hynny'n ymagwedd ddilys tuag at gyfiawnder cymdeithasol.

Mae'r Torïaid yn canmol cryfder a gweledigaeth y trydydd sector. Mae hynny'n ddigon teg, ond rhaid imi eu hysbysu mai'r rheswm pam mae mentrau cymdeithasol cydweithredol, grwpiau gwirfoddol a grwpiau cymunedol mor gadarn yng Nghymru yw am eu bod wedi cario rhannau o'r wlad hon am genhedlaeth tra gadawai'r Blaid Dorïaidd i'n cymunedau bydru. Yr ydym bellach mewn sefyllfa lle y gallwn adeiladu ar ein cryfder, a feithrinwyd mewn adfyd drwy'r rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf a'n hundebau credyd yn arbennig. Gwyddom nad yw'r rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, er enghraifft, yn berffaith, ond ystyriwch mor newydd ac arloesol y mae'r rhaglen a'r ymagwedd hon wedi bod. Os gofynnwch i'r cymunedau hynny a fyddent yn dymuno i'r rhaglen barhau, cewch ateb cadarnhaol unfrydol. A fyddai'r Torïaid yn fodlon ymrwymo i warantu dyfodol Cymunedau yn

Would you give a pledge now that, under a future Conservative/Plaid Cymru administration, Communities First would be safe in your hands?

I will take the intervention now, Alun.

Alun Cairns: I am grateful for the opportunity, because a moment ago the Member did not have any time. I am glad that he is now willing to allow me to make a contribution.

In answer to his question, I will say, just wait for our manifesto. Allow me to ask you one question. The Labour Party has been in power for nine years. If things are going so well, why is Wales the poorest part of the United Kingdom? We are now poorer in comparison with England than we have been since records began. Are you really proud of that, and what does that offer in terms of social justice?

5.50 p.m.

Huw Lewis: If you were a student of history, Alun, you would realise that, when you have faced the kinds of statistics on poverty, unemployment, deprivation, poor housing, poor educational attainment and all the rest of it, putting all that right in nine years would be nothing short of a miracle. I will come back to this point in a moment.

The Tory Party put 1 million children into poverty when it was in power; Labour has lifted 700,000 back out again. We will continue on that mission until child poverty is eradicated. That is another pledge that David Cameron and Nick Bourne have failed to mirror and match. If the Tories are serious about child poverty as an issue, let us hear them match our commitment to eradicating it by 2020. That is the dividing line. That is the clear red water between Labour and the Tories and their little helpers in Plaid Cymru—hopefully, you excepted, Jocelyn. I hope that there are exceptions.

In Wales, we have successfully brought child poverty down from the highest rate in the

Gyntaf, neu ai eich polisi yw gadael y cymunedau hynny mewn tloedi? A addawch yn awr, o dan weinyddiaeth Geidwadol/Plaid Cymru yn y dyfodol, y byddai Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn ddiogel yn eich dwylo?

Derbyniaf yr ymyriad yn awr, Alun.

Alun Cairns: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am y cyfle, oherwydd eiliad yn ôl nid oedd gan yr Aelod ddim amser. Yr wyf yn falch ei fod bellach yn fodlon caniatáu imi wneud cyfraniad.

I ateb ei gwestiwn, dywedaf, arhoswch i weld ein maniffesto. Gadewch imi ofyn un cwestiwn ichi. Bu'r Blaid Lafur mewn grym ers naw mlynedd. Os yw pethau'n mynd rhagddynt cystal, pam mai Cymru yw'r rhan dlotaf o'r Deyrnas Unedig? Yr ydym bellach yn dlotach o'n cymharu â Lloegr nag y buom ers dechrau cadw cofnodion. A ydych mewn gwirionedd yn ymfalchïo yn hynny, a beth sydd gan hynny i'w gynnig o ran cyfiawnder cymdeithasol?

Huw Lewis: Pe byddech yn astudio hanes, Alun, byddech yn sylweddoli, pan fyddwch wedi wynebu'r mathau o ystadegau ar dlodi, diweithdra, amddifadedd, tai gwael, cyrhaeddiad addysgol gwael a'r holl bethau eraill, y byddai unioni'r sefyllfa gyfan ymhen naw mlynedd yn hollol wyrthiol. Dychwelaf at y pwynt hwn maes o law.

Disgynnodd 1 filiwn o blant i dlodi o dan y Blaid Doriaidd; mae Llafur wedi llwyddo i godi 700,000 yn ôl allan. Byddwn yn parhau â'r genhadaeth honno nes caiff tloedi plant ei ddiddymu. Mae hynny'n addewid arall y methodd David Cameron a Nick Bourne ei adlewyrchu a'i gyfateb. Os yw'r Toriaid o credu o ddifrif fod tloedi plant yn fater pwysig, gadewch inni eu clywed yn datgan yr un ymrwymiad i'w ddiddymu erbyn 2020. Dyna'r llinell sy'n rhannu'r ddwy blaid. Dyna'r dŵr coch clir rhwng Llafur a'r Toriaid a'u cynorthwywyr bach ym Mhlaid Cymru—heb eich cynnwys chi, gobeithio, Jocelyn. Gobeithio bod yna eithriadau.

Yng Nghymru, yr ydym wedi llwyddo i ostwng tloedi plant o'r gyfradd uchaf yn y

United Kingdom to the national average. My implementation plan on eradication, which reflects Rhodri Morgan's commitment to match and go beyond the UK Government targets, will be discussed by the Cabinet in the next two weeks.

To come back to your point, Alun, I have often said that the primary political project of my generation of Welsh Labour politicians will be to clear up the mess that the Tories left behind after 18 years of Government, particularly in south-east Wales. That mess was so bad that it may take a generation to tackle, not just nine years. That is our mission.

In conclusion, being criticised by the Tories on social justice issues is rather like being barracked while you are trying to effect repairs to your home by the very same vandals who smashed your windows in the first place. 'Tory Party' and 'social justice in south-east Wales' are a contradiction in terms.

Y Llywydd: Dyna ddiwedd ein trafodion am heddiw.

Deyrnas Unedig i'r cyfartaledd cenedlaethol. Caiff fy nghynllun gweithredu ar ddiweddymu, sy'n adlewyrchu ymrwymiad Rhodri Morgan i gyrraedd a rhagori ar dargedau Llywodraeth y DU, ei drafod gan y Cabinet yn ystod y pythefnos nesaf.

I ddychwelyd at eich pwynt chi, Alun, yr wyf wedi dweud yn aml mai prif brosiect gwleidyddol fy nghenedlaeth i o wleidyddion Llafur Cymru fydd clirio'r annibendod a adawodd y Torïaid ar ôl 18 mlynedd o Lywodraeth, yn arbennig yn y de-ddwyrain. Yr oedd yr annibendod hwnnw cynddrwg fel y gallai gymryd cenhedlaeth i fynd i'r afael ag ef, nid dim ond naw mlynedd. Dyna yw ein cenhadaeth.

I gloi, mae cael eich beirniadu gan y Torïaid ar faterion cyfiawnder cymdeithasol yn debyg i gael eich gwawdio wrth geisio gwneud gwaith atgyweirio i'ch cartref gan yr union fandaliaid a dorrodd eich ffenestri yn y lle cyntaf. Mae'r termau 'Plaid Doriäidd' a 'chyfiawnder cymdeithasol yn y de-ddwyrain' yn gwrth-ddweud ei gilydd.

The Presiding Officer: That brings today's proceedings to a close.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5.52 p.m.
The meeting ended at 5.52 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)

Neges gan Ei Mawrhydi Y Frenhines, Pennaeth y Gymanwlad **A Message from Her Majesty The Queen, Head of the Commonwealth**

Her Majesty The Queen: There are few feelings more satisfying than waking to a new day with a sense of wellbeing. Good health is a precious gift. Yet many do not share in this. Some forty million people today are living with HIV/AIDS, well over half of whom are Commonwealth citizens. Half a million women die each year in pregnancy and childbirth—and the death of any mother has huge consequences for the rest of the family. Yet very many of these deaths are preventable with adequate healthcare. Ignorance and lack of understanding about these issues sometimes breed uncertainty, even fear and the inclination to turn from those who are unwell. But we know, for example, that someone who is HIV positive can, with proper support, lead a full and rewarding life.

I am pleased that Commonwealth governments are playing their part in tackling disease and improving health for all. Polio, for example, used to cast its shadow across many countries. Today, thanks to concerted international action, just a handful still need to eliminate polio. The same approach and commitment to other global scourges, such as malaria and tuberculosis, can achieve equally impressive results.

There is also much we can do through non-governmental organisations and especially as individuals. Poor health is sometimes linked to the way we choose to live. But many of us can often take steps to eat better food or take more exercise. We can also as communities work to improve our surroundings to make them cleaner, safer places in which to live.

The importance of good health is so wonderfully exemplified on the sports field. Sporting events can be the spur to extraordinary human achievement. Sport also demonstrates the value of co-operation and team-work, and the importance of mental and physical control. In Melbourne, in just a few days' time, I will be opening what are known as 'The Friendly Games'. Commonwealth athletes will gather once more in a spirit of goodwill and fellowship, and will strive to achieve new heights of excellence. As we watch our finest sportsmen and women compete, we will see clearly what exercise at the very highest level can contribute to both body and spirit.

There is a traditional proverb which says, 'He who has health has hope, and he who has hope has everything.' This year, as governments search for new ways to tackle these important challenges, we as individuals can also play our part so that, in pursuing health and vitality for all, we bring hope to the world.

Elizabeth R.

13 March 2006

<http://www.commonwealthday.com>