



**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Cofnod y Trafodion**

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

**Dydd Mercher, 27 Medi 2006
Wednesday, 27 September 2006**

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

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

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

Cwestiynau am Lywodraeth Leol i'r Gweinidog Cyllid Questions on Local Government to the Finance Minister

Diwygio Etholiadol Electoral Reform

C1 Alun Ffred Jones: A oes gan y Gweinidog unrhyw gynlluniau i gwrdd â Gweinidogion y Deyrnas Unedig i drafod diwygio etholiadol? OAQ0858(LGP)

The Finance Minister (Sue Essex): I have no plans to meet UK Ministers to discuss electoral reform.

Alun Ffred Jones: Gan nodi bod eich partneriaid yn yr Alban wedi cytuno ar bleidleisio cyfrannol ar gyfer etholiadau lleol yr Alban, a yw'r Llywodraeth yng Nghymru o'r farn y dylid sefydlu system debyg, neu a ydyw eisoes wedi cymryd safiad yn erbyn hynny?

Sue Essex: Actually, this issue was discussed following the Sunderland report, during the first Assembly. It was put before the then Local Government and Housing Committee, and this particular suggestion for proportional representation for local elections was not accepted. Certainly, the Assembly Government at the time expressed that it would not seek to change the existing voting system.

Jonathan Morgan: Minister, as you are responsible for local government in Wales, I am keen to know your opinion. Do you think that introducing PR for local government elections in Wales might help to improve voter participation, bearing in mind that, in many parts of Wales, voter participation is incredibly low, which is rather worrying if you consider the democratic deficit that exists as a result?

Sue Essex: Unfortunately, life is not as simple as that. Changing the system to PR would not necessarily get more people to take part. The reality of the last two Assembly

Q1 Alun Ffred Jones: Does the Minister have any plans to meet United Kingdom Ministers to discuss electoral reform? OAQ0858(LGP)

Y Gweinidog Cyllid (Sue Essex): Nid oes gennyf gynlluniau i gwrdd â Gweinidogion y DU i drafod diwygio etholiadol.

Alun Ffred Jones: Given that your partners in Scotland have agreed to use proportional representation for local elections there, is the Government in Wales of the opinion that we should set up a similar system here, or has it already taken a stand against that?

Sue Essex: Fel y mae'n digwydd, trafodwyd hyn yn dilyn adroddiad Sunderland, yn ystod y Cynulliad cyntaf. Fe'i cyflwynwyd gerbron yr hen Bwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Thai, ac ni dderbyniwyd yr awgrym arbennig hwn o gael cynrychiolaeth gyfrannol ar gyfer etholiadau lleol. Yn sicr, dywedodd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar y pryd na fyddai'n ceisio newid y system bleidleisio bresennol.

Jonathan Morgan: Weiniadog, gan eich bod yn gyfrifol am lywodraeth leol yng Nghymru, yr wyf yn awyddus i glywed eich barn. A ydych yn credu y gallai cyflwyno cynrychiolaeth gyfrannol ar gyfer etholiadau llywodraeth leol yng Nghymru helpu cynyddu nifer y bobl sy'n pleidleisio, o gofio bod cyfranogiad etholwyr yn rhyfeddol o isel mewn sawl rhan o Gymru, sy'n destun pryder braidd pan ystyriwch y diffyg democrataidd sy'n bodoli o ganlyniad?

Sue Essex: Yn anffodus, nid yw bywyd mor syml â hynny. Ni fyddai newid i system cynrychiolaeth gyfrannol o reidrwydd yn cael mwy o bobl i gymryd rhan. Y gwir yw bod y

elections, in which PR is used, is that we have seen the numbers fall. The turnout in the second Assembly elections was disappointing to many of us, so I do not see the evidence to suggest that there is a read-through from the form of electoral representation into participation. Tomorrow is Democracy Day; it has been organised by the Electoral Commission for young people. We have to get people to want to come out to vote, and that is a far more complicated issue than just changing the voting system.

Ann Jones: Sue, whatever electoral reform lies ahead, do you agree that it is important that people are on the register in the first place so that they can take part in any election? Will the Welsh Assembly Government promote active involvement in the registration scheme before 15 October?

Sue Essex: Yes. If people want to exercise their right to vote, it is a fundamental requirement that they are on the register. You and I have discussed this many times in relation to your campaign for your area. Many people whom you believe should be on the register are not. There are complex reasons for that, but we know that we have to work actively on the ground to ensure that electoral registration officers and their teams get as many people on the register as possible. This issue was discussed at the electoral forum that we set up, and I hope that this is at the fore for all electoral administration workers in the run-up to the next election.

niferoedd yn y ddau etholiad diwethaf i'r Cynulliad, lle defnyddiwyd cynrychiolaeth gyfrannol, wedi gostwng. Yr oedd y nifer a bleidleisiodd yn etholiadau'r ail Gynulliad yn siom i nifer ohonom, felly, nid wyf yn gweld y dystiolaeth sy'n awgrymu bod y naill beth yn arwain at y llall o ran cynrychiolaeth etholiadol a chyfranogiad. Mae'n Ddiwrnod Democratiaeth yfory; fe'i trefnwyd ar gyfer pobl ifanc gan y Comisiwn Etholiadol. Rhaid inni sicrhau bod pobl yn dymuno pleidleisio, ac mae hynny'n fater llawer mwy cymhleth na dim ond newid y system bleidleisio.

Ann Jones: Sue, ni waeth pa ddiwygio etholiadol sydd ar y gorwel, a ydych yn cytuno ei bod yn bwysig bod pobl ar y gofrestr yn y lle cyntaf, fel y gallant gymryd rhan mewn unrhyw etholiad? A all Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru annog pobl i gofrestru cyn 15 Hydref?

Sue Essex: Gall. Os yw pobl am arfer eu hawl i bleidleisio, mae'n ofyniad hanfodol i'w henwau fod ar y gofrestr. Yr ydych chi a minnau wedi trafod hyn droeon yng nghydestun eich ymgyrch yn eich ardal. Mae enwau nifer o bobl, a ddylai fod ar y gofrestr yn eich barn chi, heb fod ar y gofrestr. Mae rhesymau cymhleth dros hynny, ond gwyddom fod yn rhaid inni fod yn weithgar ar lawr gwlad i sicrhau bod swyddogion cofrestru etholiadol a'u timau yn cael enwau cynifer o bobl â phosibl ar y gofrestr. Trafodwyd y mater hwn yn y fforwm etholiadol a sefydlwyd gennym, a gobeithio bod hyn yn flaenoriaeth i'r holl weithwyr gweinyddu etholiadol yn y cyfnod cyn yr etholiad nesaf.

Cydweithredu o fewn Llywodraeth Leol Collaboration within Local Government

Q2 Denise Idris Jones: Will the Minister make a statement about greater collaboration within local government? OAQ0873(LGP)

C2 Denise Idris Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am fwy o gydweithredu o fewn llywodraeth leol? OAQ0873(LGP)

Sue Essex: A number of major initiatives encourage greater collaboration across Wales between local government and their partners, including the 'Making the Connections' improvement fund and the Welsh Local Government Association's regional partnership boards. The First Minister went

Sue Essex: Mae nifer o fentrau mawr yn annog mwy o gydweithredu ledled Cymru rhwng llywodraeth leol a'u partneriaid, gan gynnwys y gronfa wella 'Creu'r Cysylltiadau' a byrddau partneriaeth rhanbarthol Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru. Soniodd y Prif Weinidog am y rheini

through those when he was at a partnership conference in your constituency fairly recently.

Denise Idris Jones: Do you agree that greater collaboration within local government must be our key priority in improving the delivery of local services? What action are you taking to ensure that the partnerships that are shaping the future of collaborative working in Wales are making progress and sharing best practice? I am a member of Conwy's local strategic partnership, as you know, but I have difficulty attending its meetings if they are not held on Mondays or Fridays.

Sue Essex: In terms of encouraging this through local government, Chris Chapman and I met every local authority but one over the summer. I met Conwy County Council representatives fairly recently. There is huge enthusiasm about taking this agenda forward. People know that there are some difficulties around legal issues and workforce planning. Conwy has been leading on back-room services, such as housing benefit, council tax benefit and the collection of council tax. If we manage to get collaboration around those agendas, it would be worthwhile and would ensure a more effective use of resources. I support the work that Conwy council is doing very strongly in this area.

David Lloyd: O gofio nad oes safleoedd tirlenwi ar ôl yn ninas a sir Abertawe, beth ydych yn ei wneud i hyrwyddo cydweithio rhwng awdurdodau lleol o ran ymdrin â gwastraff?

Sue Essex: This is not my responsibility, but that of Carwyn Jones. I visited Swansea recently, and it was an issue of concern to everyone there. In terms of what we are doing across Wales, there have been extra resources to support collaboration. Local authorities realise—and I do not think that any local authority would demur from this—that they cannot find all the answers within their own area and that some collaboration is needed, not just around landfill resources if there is an issue regarding the final residue from waste disposal, but around the

pan oedd mewn cynhadledd bartneriaeth yn eich etholaeth yn gymharol ddiweddar.

Denise Idris Jones: A gytunwch y dylai mwy o gydweithredu ym maes llywodraeth leol fod yn flaenoriaeth allweddol inni wrth wella'r modd y darperir gwasanaethau lleol? Pa gamau yr ydych yn eu cymryd i sicrhau bod y partneriaethau sy'n llywio gwaith cydweithredol yng Nghymru i'r dyfodol yn gwneud cynnydd ac yn rhannu'r arfer gorau? Yr wyf yn aelod o bartneriaeth strategol leol Conwy, fel y gwyddoch, ond fe'i caf yn anodd mynychu ei chyfarfodydd oni chânt eu cynnal ar ddydd Llun neu ar ddydd Gwener.

Sue Essex: O ran annog hyn drwy lywodraeth leol, cafodd Chris Chapman a minnau gyfarfod gyda phob awdurdod lleol heblaw un yn ystod yr haf. Cyfarfûm i â chynrychiolwyr Cyngor Sir Conwy yn gymharol ddiweddar. Mae llawer o frwdfrydedd o ran datblygu'r agenda hon. Gŵyr pobl fod yna rai anawsterau'n ymwneud â materion cyfreithiol a chynllunio gweithlu. Mae Conwy wedi arwain o ran gwasanaethau swyddfa, megis budd-dal tai, budd-dal treth gyngor a chasglu treth gyngor. Os llwyddwn i gael cydweithrediad yn yr agendâu hynny, byddai'n werthfawr a byddai'n sicrhau defnyddio adnoddau'n fwy effeithiol. Yr wyf yn cefnogi'n gryf iawn y gwaith y mae cyngor Conwy yn ei wneud yn y maes hwn.

David Lloyd: Given that there are no landfill sites left in the city and county of Swansea, what are you doing to promote collaboration between local authorities on waste disposal?

Sue Essex: Nid fy nghyfrifoldeb i yw hyn, ond cyfrifoldeb Carwyn Jones. Ymwelais ag Abertawe yn ddiweddar, ac yr oedd yn destun pryder i bawb yno. O ran yr hyn yr ydym yn ei wneud ledled Cymru, cafwyd adnoddau ychwanegol i gefnogi cydweithredu. Mae awdurdodau lleol yn sylweddoli—ac ni chredaf y byddai unrhyw awdurdod lleol yn anghytuno â hyn—na allant gael yr holl atebion yn eu hardaloedd eu hunain a bod angen rhywfaint o gydweithredu, nid yn unig o ran adnoddau tirlenwi os oes problem o ran y gweddill terfynol ar ôl gwaredu gwastraff,

mechanical processing of those wastes that cannot be recycled. It is a matter of going through the mechanics of doing that, which is not easy for some authorities because there are public sensitivities around these issues.

David Lloyd: Gan aros gyda'r pwnc o gydweithio rhwng awdurdodau lleol, byddwch yn cofio i ni gael cyflwyniad yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus ym mis Mawrth gan Gyngor Dinas a Sir Abertawe a Cyngor Sir Ddinbych am y defnydd o danwydd gwyrdd yn fflydoedd eu cerbydau. Daeth yn glir bod y ddwy sir yn gwneud gwaith rhagorol o ran hybu'r defnydd o danwydd gwyrdd, megis LPG a biodiesel, yn eu ceir a'u faniau swyddogol. Fodd bynnag, gellir cyflawni mwy. Beth ydych yn ei wneud i hyrwyddo'r math hwn o fenter ac i hybu mwy o weithgaredd a'r defnydd o danwydd gwyrdd yn ein siroedd?

Sue Essex: Without wishing to push the matter aside, this is the responsibility of Andrew Davies. I worked on this when I had responsibility for transport. He has been leading on the whole issue of fuel efficiency and fleets of cars. I have talked to many organisations and representatives, and not just of local government, about this. The original question was about the collaboration initiative. The key message that came across from those people to whom I spoke over the summer was, 'Let us try to focus on those areas where we can deliver the most and show the most benefit'. That does not mean to say that we will not progress on green fuels, because there is a real—if you will excuse the pun—head of steam around this issue, which has been ongoing for some time, especially around LPG. If you listen to the people and organisations on the ground, you will see that there is no shortage of good ideas on collaboration, but they have a capacity issues in terms of ensuring that they deal with that. Therefore, there will inevitably be prioritisation, and a concentration on the collaborations that will deliver the best bang for the buck over the next few years.

2.10 p.m.

ond o ran prosesu'n fecanyddol y gwastraff hwnnw na ellir ei ailgylchu. Mater o fynd drwy'r prosesau o wneud hynny ydyw, rhywbeth nad yw'n hawdd i rai awdurdodau gan fod y cyhoedd yn sensitif ynghylch y materion hyn.

David Lloyd: To continue with the subject of collaboration between local authorities, you will recall that the Local Government and Public Services Committee was given a presentation in March by the City and County of Swansea Council and Denbighshire County Council on the use of green fuels in their fleets of vehicles. It became clear that these two counties are doing excellent work in promoting green fuels, such as LPG and biodiesel, in their official cars and vans. However, much more can be achieved. What are you doing to promote this kind of initiative and to promote more activity and greater use of green fuels in our counties?

Sue Essex: Heb geisio gwthio'r mater o'r neilltu, cyfrifoldeb Andrew Davies yw hyn. Bûm yn gweithio ar y mater hwn pan oeddwn yn gyfrifol am drafnidiaeth. Ef sydd wedi bod yn arwain ar holl fater effeithlonrwydd tanwydd a fflydoedd ceir. Yr wyf wedi siarad â nifer o sefydliadau a chynrychiolwyr, ac nid ym maes llywodraeth leol yn unig, ynghylch hyn. Y fenter gydweithredu oedd pwnc y cwestiwn gwreiddiol. Y neges allweddol a wnaed yn amlwg gan y bobl hynny y siaradais â hwy yn ystod yr haf oedd, 'Beth am geisio canolbwyntio ar y meysydd hynny lle gallwn gyflawni fwyaf a dangos y budd mwyaf'. Nid yw hynny'n golygu na fyddwn yn gwneud cynnydd o ran tanwydd gwyrdd, oherwydd—ac esgusodwch y mwysair—mae'r mater hwn yn codi stêm, ac wedi bod yn gwneud hynny ers cryn amser, yn enwedig yng nghyd-destun LPG. Os gwrandewch ar y bobl a'r sefydliadau ar lawr gwlad, gwelwch nad oes prinder syniadau da ar gyfer cydweithredu, ond mae ganddynt broblemau gallu ac adnoddau i sicrhau eu bod yn ymdrin â hynny. Felly, mae'n anorfod y bydd blaenoriaethu a chanolbwyntio ar y cynlluniau cydweithredu a fydd yn gwneud y gwahaniaeth mwyaf am bob punt yn ystod yr ychydig flynyddoedd nesaf.

Alun Cairns: Would you also accept that there is often a case for better collaboration between the Welsh Assembly Government and local government? One area of policy that comes to mind is that of offering free school breakfasts. If there is significant budget underspend in this area, would you not agree that—accepting the principles and intentions of the Welsh Assembly Government—that budget could be extended to improving lunches? Some local authorities have gone to significant expense but need more money to improve the quality of lunches, in line with the UK Prime Minister’s agenda as well as that of the Welsh Assembly Government.

Sue Essex: The free breakfast initiative was brought in for well-researched reasons. In fact—*[Interruption.]* I hear the noises off—

The Presiding Officer: Order. I heard no noises.

Sue Essex: Do not encourage him to make even louder noises. I could have a long discussion with David about that. It was based on sound evidence. People in areas where it is being put in place are very pleased with it, to the point that I would challenge any of you to put forward a policy of taking it away. One or two authorities have made less progress than others, for some complicated reasons. Nevertheless, the policy is good, and it is increasingly being taken up. We will not be going back on it.

The wider issue of nutrition in schools, although related, is a different point. We put more money into the budget last year to look at the whole issue of nutritional value and education on the quality of food in schools. So, it is not an either/or situation. That work is being done.

The Presiding Officer: I call David Melding.

David Melding: I do not have a question.

The Presiding Officer: I was under the impression that you wanted to intervene

Alun Cairns: A fyddech yn derbyn hefyd fod dadl yn aml iawn dros gael gwell cydweithredu rhwng Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a llywodraeth leol? Un maes polisi a ddaw i’r meddwl yw cynnig brechwast am ddim mewn ysgolion. Os oes tanwario cyllideb sylweddol yn y maes hwn, oni fyddech yn cytuno—a derbyn egwyddorion a bwriadau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru—y gellid ymestyn y gyllideb honno i wella ciniawau ysgol? Mae rhai awdurdodau lleol wedi gwario arian sylweddol, ond mae angen mwy o arian arnynt i wella ansawdd ciniawau, yn unol ag agenda Prif Weinidog y DU yn ogystal ag agenda Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru.

Sue Essex: Cyflwynwyd y fenter brechwast am ddim am resymau yr ymchwiliwyd yn drwyadl iddynt. Yn wir—*[Torri ar draws.]* Gallaf glywed y synau o’r cefn—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Ni chlywais i synau.

Sue Essex: Peidiwch â’i annog i wneud synau uwch fyth. Gallwn drafod hynny’n helaeth gyda David. Yr oedd yn seiliedig ar dystiolaeth gadarn. Mae pobl mewn ardaloedd lle mae’n cael ei weithredu yn fodlon iawn arno, i’r graddau y byddwn yn herio unrhyw un ohonoch i gyflwyno polisi i’w ddiddymu. Mae ambell awdurdod wedi bod yn arafach na’i gilydd, am rai rhesymau cymhleth. Fodd bynnag, mae’r polisi yn un da, ac mae’r fenter ar gynnydd. Ni fyddwn yn ei diddymu.

Mae’r mater ehangach o faetheg mewn ysgolion, er ei fod yn gysylltiedig, yn bwynt gwahanol. Rhoesom fwy o arian yn y gyllideb y llynedd i edrych ar holl faes gwerth maeth ac addysg am ansawdd bwyd mewn ysgolion. Felly, nid sefyllfa naill ai/neu ydyw. Mae’r gwaith hwnnw’n cael ei wneud.

Y Llywydd: Galwaf ar David Melding.

David Melding: Nid oes gennyf gwestiwn.

Y Llywydd: Cefais yr argraff eich bod am ymyrryd gynnau.

earlier.

Adolygiad Beecham The Beecham Review

The Presiding Officer: I call Michael German, who is speaking, in this case, as a Welsh Liberal Democrat spokesperson.

Y Llywydd: Galwaf ar Michael German, sy'n siarad, yn yr achos hwn, fel llefarydd ar ran Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru.

Q3 The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrat Group (Michael German): How does the Minister intend to take forward the recommendations of the Beecham review?
OAQ0894(LGP)

C3 Arweinydd Grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Michael German): Sut mae'r Gweinidog yn bwriadu gweithredu argymhellion adolygiad Beecham?
OAQ0894(LGP)

Sue Essex: We have all welcomed the Beecham report as a landmark document and accepted the thrust of its recommendations. I intend to publish a fuller response in the autumn, which will set out our actions in the next phase of our public service reform.

Sue Essex: Croesawyd adroddiad Beecham gan bob un ohonom fel dogfen o bwys, a derbyniwyd byrdwn ei argymhellion. Bwriadaf gyhoeddi ymateb llawnach yn yr hydref, a fydd yn gosod allan ein camau gweithredu yng nghan nesaf ein gwaith o ddiwygio gwasanaethau cyhoeddus.

Michael German: In your response, I know that you will take account of the fact that the Beecham review includes all public services, not just local government. We are talking about other services, as well as local government. One area that I would encourage you to look at—and I would be grateful if you could tell me whether or not you are considering this—is increased collaboration between blue-light services. Beecham talked about using services that are not reserved to Wales, including the police. Will you be including those in your response? Will you consider the three blue-light services?

Michael German: Yn eich ymateb, gwn y byddwch wedi ystyried y ffaith bod adolygiad Beecham yn cynnwys pob gwasanaeth cyhoeddus, ac nid llywodraeth leol yn unig. Yr ydym yn sôn am wasanaethau eraill, yn ogystal â llywodraeth leol. Un maes y byddwn yn eich annog i edrych arno—a byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallech ddweud wrthyf a ydych yn ystyried hyn ai peidio—yw mwy o gydweithredu rhwng gwasanaethau golau glas. Soniodd Beecham am ddefnyddio gwasanaethau nad ydynt yn gyfyngedig i Gymru, gan gynnwys yr heddlu. A fyddwch yn cynnwys y rheini yn eich ymateb? A fyddwch yn ystyried y tri gwasanaeth golau glas?

Sue Essex: This point was put to the First Minister yesterday, and he gave some examples of where there is collaboration. No public sector organisation is exempt from this. We have made that quite clear. Where efficiency gains and more effective service delivery can be secured through collaboration, those opportunities should be seized. It is not just about blue-light services working together, as there could be greater collaboration with those in other public sector areas. That will not escape the review, and my colleagues, Edwina Hart and Brian Gibbons, will take the lead on that work.

Sue Essex: Codwyd y pwynt hwn gyda'r Prif Weinidog ddoe, a rhoddodd rai enghreifftiau o feysydd lle mae cydweithredu. Nid oes yr un sefydliad yn y sector cyhoeddus wedi'i eithrio o hyn. Yr ydym wedi gwneud hynny'n eglur. Os gellir sicrhau arbedion effeithlonrwydd a darparu gwasanaethau mwy effeithiol drwy gydweithredu, dylid achub ar y cyfleoedd hynny. Nid mater o gael gwasanaethau golau glas i gydweithio yn unig yw hyn, oherwydd gellid cael mwy o gydweithredu gyda'r rheini mewn meysydd eraill yn y sector cyhoeddus. Bydd yr adolygiad yn ystyried hynny, a bydd fy nghyd-Weinidogion, Edwina Hart a Brian

Gibbons, yn arwain yn y gwaith hwnnw.

Michael German: There is clear synergy between the blue-light services, given the work that they do, which is why I raised this question with the First Minister yesterday and with you today. The First Minister's response was that you need to incentivise people to work together. Could you give me some indication of how incentivisation might work in this particular sector? Is it money?

Michael German: Mae cytgorod amlwg rhwng y gwasanaethau golau glas, o ystyried y gwaith a wnânt, a dyna fy rheswm dros godi'r cwestiwn hwn gyda'r Prif Weinidog ddoe a chyda chi heddiw. Ymateb y Prif Weinidog oedd bod angen rhoi cymhelliant i bobl weithio gyda'i gilydd. A allech roi rhyw arwydd imi o'r modd y gallai creu cymhelliant weithio yn y sector penodol hwn? Ai mater o arian ydyw?

Sue Essex: Sometimes it is money; I cannot remember whether or not the ambulance and police services are involved in some of the collaboration schemes that we have funded. Sometimes incentivisation comes through recognition of people doing a good job. This is one of the trickiest areas to deal with. Our public services board, which includes representatives from the public and private sectors, is trying to set out where we might try different forms of incentives. Policy improvement grants were a financial incentive, in terms of performance.

Sue Essex: Arian ydyw weithiau; ni allaf gofio a yw'r gwasanaethau heddlu ac ambiwlans yn ymwneud â rhai o'r cynlluniau cydweithredu yr ydym wedi eu hariannu. Weithiau daw cymhelliant drwy gydnabod bod pobl yn gwneud gwaith da. Dyma un o'r meysydd anoddaf eu trin. Mae ein bwrdd gwasanaethau cyhoeddus, sy'n cynnwys cynrychiolwyr o'r sectorau cyhoeddus a phreifat, yn ceisio gosod allan y gallem roi cynnig ar ffurfiau gwahanol o gymell. Yr oedd grantiau gwella polisi yn gymhelliant ariannol, o ran perfformiad.

I would hope that we would not automatically have to put financial incentives in place for what is, essentially, good practice. We will have to wait and see how tricky some of the collaborations are. Recognition of those who go the extra mile in making sure that their service delivery is better is the common response that has come back to me in terms of what people would like to see as an incentive. All of us in this Chamber can do that, not just the Government.

Byddwn yn gobeithio na fyddai'n rhaid inni yn awtomatig gynnig cymhellion ariannol ar gyfer yr hyn sydd, yn ei hanfod, yn arfer da. Bydd yn rhaid inni aros i weld pa mor ddyrys yw rhai o'r achosion o gydweithredu. Cydnabod y rheini sy'n gwneud ymdrech ychwanegol i sicrhau bod y gwasanaeth a ddarperir ganddynt yn well yw'r ymateb cyffredin yr wyf wedi'i gael am yr hyn yr hoffai pobl ei weld fel cymhelliant. Gall pob un ohonom yn y Siambr hon wneud hynny, nid yn unig y Llywodraeth.

Leighton Andrews: You will recall that in the Beecham review there is a recommendation that there should be an implementation team, led by the First Minister and the Permanent Secretary. Would you agree that it is important that public-service reform is led and driven from the top? It must get buy-in at all levels, of course. Would you also agree that it is important that it is led politically?

Leighton Andrews: Fe gofiwch fod adolygiad Beecham wedi argymhell y dylid sefydlu tîm gweithredu, dan arweiniad y Prif Weinidog a'r Ysgrifennydd Parhaol. A ydych yn cytuno ei bod yn bwysig i'r gwaith o ddiwygio gwasanaethau cyhoeddus gael ei arwain a'i sbarduno o'r brig? Rhaid sicrhau ymrwymiad ar bob lefel, wrth gwrs. A fydddech yn cytuno hefyd ei bod yn bwysig i'r gwaith gael ei arwain yn wleidyddol?

Sue Essex: I agree. The Beecham report had a lot of recommendations for us as an Assembly Government, and many of those could be read across to the Assembly as a

Sue Essex: Byddwn. Yr oedd adroddiad Beecham yn cynnwys nifer o argymhellion inni fel Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, a gallai llawer o'r rheini fod yn berthnasol ar draws y

whole. Beecham very much stressed leadership, and I believe that if we do not show leadership and drive this forward, much of his and his team's work will be frittered away. We have given careful thought to how we might show that leadership; I spoke with our senior civil service team yesterday on just that point. There is no doubt that it requires some fundamental changes in how we do business. Whether that is called 'political'—perhaps not in the party political sense, but in terms of us as elected representatives—or not, driving that forward is our duty.

Jocelyn Davies: We have heard a lot about collaboration, and I know that good practice exists, but public bodies in Wales do not have a long, proud history of working together. Is it not time that you considered seeking powers to ensure that you can oblige public bodies in Wales to work together where necessary?

Sue Essex: I do not necessarily agree with your first comment, that we do not have a good record of this. It is interesting that, as you dig deeper and speak to lots of people, you find some good examples of working together. I have mentioned previously in the Chamber the many good examples of this prior to local government reorganisation. The reorganisation broke up a lot of the existing good practice. There are good examples, and some very good practice, but not enough of it. Mike raised the issue of incentivisation, which is the carrot approach; the other approach is to use a stick and make it a duty to collaborate. That is a possibility in terms of legislation—it has happened in education—and I do not rule it out, as it may be a back stop. However, the best way is for that change to happen from within—you have to win hearts and minds on this. We can provide leadership, and, quite rightly, as Leighton says, we must do that, but this is such a complex area of public service delivery that if you do not get buy-in, and the willingness of the staff on the ground to do this, it will not succeed. This is why the activities of Public Service Management Wales, which is about working on the skills and capacity of the public sector workforce across Wales, is such a vital component of

Cynulliad cyfan. Un o'r pethau yr oedd Beecham yn eu pwysleisio oedd arweiniad, a chredaf, os na fyddwn yn rhoi arweiniad ac yn datblygu hyn, y bydd llawer o'i waith ef a gwaith ei dîm yn cael ei wastraffu. Yr ydym wedi ystyried yn ofalus sut y gallem roi'r arweiniad hwnnw; siaradais â'n tîm uwch wasanaeth sifil ddoe ynglŷn â'r mater hwnnw. Yn ddiaw, mae angen rhai newidiadau sylfaenol yn y ffordd yr ydym yn cynnal ein busnes. P'un a elwir hynny'n 'wleidyddol'—efallai nid o ran gwleidyddiaeth plaid, ond o'n rhan ni fel cynrychiolwyr etholedig—neu beidio, mae'n ddyletswydd arnom i ddatblygu hynny.

Jocelyn Davies: Yr ydym wedi clywed cryn dipyn am gydweithredu, a gwn fod yna arferion da, ond nid oes gan gyrff cyhoeddus yng Nghymru hanes hir, balch o gydweithio. Onid yw'n bryd ichi ystyried ceisio cael pwerau i sicrhau y gallwch orfodi cyrff cyhoeddus yng Nghymru i gydweithio lle mae angen?

Sue Essex: Nid wyf yn cytuno o reidrwydd â'ch sylw cyntaf, sef nad oes gennym record dda o hyn. Mae'n ddiddorol, wrth ichi ymchwilio ymhellach a siarad â nifer o bobl, eich bod yn gweld rhai enghreifftiau da o gydweithio. Yr wyf wedi sôn eisoes yn y Siambr am nifer o enghreifftiau da o hyn cyn ad-drefnu llywodraeth leol. Daeth nifer o'r arferion da a oedd yn bodoli i ben yn sgîl yr ad-drefnu. Mae yna enghreifftiau da, a rhai arferion da iawn, ond nid oes digon ohonynt. Soniodd Mike am gynnig cymhellion, sef yr ymagwedd wobrwyo; y dull arall yw defnyddio cosb a'i gwneud yn ddyletswydd cydweithredu. Mae hynny'n bosibilrwydd o ran deddfwriaeth—mae hynny wedi digwydd ym maes addysg—ac nid wyf yn ei ddiystyru, oherwydd gallai fod yn ateb wrth gefn. Fodd bynnag, y ffordd orau i'r newid hwnnw ddigwydd yw o'r tu mewn—rhaid ichi gael cefnogaeth lwyr i hyn. Gallwn roi arweiniad, ac mae Leighton yn llygad ei le pan ddywed fod rhaid inni wneud hynny. Ond mae hwn yn faes mor gymhleth o ran darparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus fel na fydd yn llwyddo os na chewch ymrwymiad, a pharodrwydd y staff ar lawr gwlad i wneud hyn. Dyna pam mae gweithgareddau Rheoli yng Ngwasanaeth Cyhoeddus Cymru, sy'n ymwneud â gweithio ar sgiliau a gallu

this. The best way to do this is to get people wanting to do this themselves, and getting job satisfaction from it. That is where the change will come.

David Melding: Sir Jeremy, in an excellent and subtle report—I think that we would all agree on that—says that the citizen’s model has a lot to commend it, but it is clearly not a panacea, especially if it just used as an excuse to downplay choice. The First Minister talked about choice yesterday, and some of us thought his remarks were something of a rowing back by him, although his version of choice struck me as a Hobsian model, rather than the vigorous choice that people need to empower themselves as consumers of modern and effective public services. Do you think that it is important that you build as much choice as possible into the model of public services that we have in Wales, recognising that there are some practical limits on how many choices people can handle?

Sue Essex: I think that the most interesting thing about the Beecham report was the emphasis on outcomes. Sometimes, that would involve choice, but often it was around setting clear standards and expectations that people should have in their public services.

2.20 p.m.

In my experience, and I have represented people for many years, people like to have confidence in that standard; I am not talking about a poor standard, but a quality standard of service, whether it is in social care, refuse collection, or standards for their children at school. That is what predominates their thinking, and elements of choice may also come into it. However, that is not the prime driver of what people look for—they want their standards, whether it is in hospitals or schools; Beecham stressed that clearly. We often concentrate on inputs; he was clear that we should look at the outputs and outcomes—that is what matters, and what people care about.

gweithlu’r sector cyhoeddus ledled Cymru, yn elfen mor hanfodol yn hyn. Y ffordd orau i wneud hyn yw sicrhau bod pobl am wneud hyn eu hunain, a chael boddhad yn eu swydd wrth wneud hynny. Dyna lle bydd y newid yn digwydd.

David Melding: Dywed Syr Jeremy, mewn adroddiad ardderchog a chynnil—credaf y byddai pob un ohonom yn cytuno â hynny—fod llawer i’w ddweud dros fodel y dinesydd, ond yn amlwg nid yw’n ateb pob problem, yn enwedig os caiff ei ddefnyddio fel esgus i leihau dewis. Soniodd y Prif Weinidog ddoe am ddewis, ac yr oedd rhai ohonom o’r farn fod ei sylwadau’n dangos ei fod wedi ailystyried i ryw raddau, er bod ei fersiwn o ddewis, yn fy marn i, yn fodel Hobsiaidd yn hytrach na’r dewis grymus y mae ar bobl ei angen i’w grymuso’u hunain fel defnyddwyr gwasanaethau cyhoeddus modern ac effeithiol. A gredwch ei bod yn bwysig i’r model gwasanaethau cyhoeddus sydd gennym yng Nghymru gynnwys cymaint o ddewis â phosibl, gan gydnabod bod yna rai terfynau ymarferol o ran faint o ddewisiadau y gall pobl ddelio â hwy?

Sue Essex: Credaf mai’r peth mwyaf diddorol am adroddiad Beecham oedd y pwyslais ar ganlyniadau. Weithiau, byddai hynny’n ymwneud â dewis, ond yn aml, yr oedd yn ymwneud â phennu safonau a disgwyliadau clir a ddylai fod gan bobl o’u gwasanaethau cyhoeddus.

Yn fy profiad i, ac yr wyf wedi cynrychioli pobl ers blynyddoedd lawer, mae pobl yn hoffi teimlo’n hyderus ynglŷn â’r safon honno; nid wyf yn sôn am safon wael, ond yn hytrach gwasanaeth o safon, p’un a yw’n ymwneud â gofal cymdeithasol, casglu sbwriel neu safonau ar gyfer eu plant yn yr ysgol. Dyna sydd uchaf ym meddyliau pobl, a gall elfennau o ddewis hefyd fod yn rhan ohono. Fodd bynnag, nid dyna’r prif beth sy’n ysgogi’r hyn y mae pobl am ei gael—maent am weld safonau, p’un a yw’r safonau hynny mewn ysbytai neu ysgolion; pwysleisiai Beecham hynny’n glir. Yr ydym yn aml yn canolbwyntio ar fewnbynnau; dywedodd yn glir y dylem ystyried yr allbynnau a’r canlyniadau—dyna sy’n

bwysig, a'r hyn y mae pobl yn pryderu yn ei gylch.

David Melding: There is common ground here; I do not believe that anyone in the Chamber would disagree that what people want are high standards in their public services, without question. If that can be delivered directly through a citizen model that does not have great choice built in it, I do not suppose that that outcome would be greatly objected to. However, many of us believe that you need choice to ensure that public services perform to the maximum efficiency. On your policy, do you agree with Sir Jeremy that, to have the highest standards, you need information that can be compared between authorities and institutions, which is freely available, and which the public can understand? He makes a specific recommendation—he says that the Welsh Assembly Government should publish an annual report on public services, and how they are meeting the new standards that have been demanded. Will you publish that annual report?

Sue Essex: Without pre-empting what I will say in my statement, we can all agree that there is much common sense in that. The performance agenda has moved on apace, which Sir Jeremy stressed strongly; indeed, the performance framework that we have put in, particularly around local government, will provide the context for that.

I have one more point on choice. Those of us who live in Cardiff have excellent refuse collection—it has been excellent for all the years that I can remember. There is no choice over your refuse collection, and there is no point anyone debating that; we have one refuse collection, which happens to be good. If it was not good, where would that leave me? There is a large area of public service that does not have choice as part of it, so let us get things in perspective. What would be useful, if I was getting a rubbish service, which I am not—that is another pun on 'rubbish'—is some comparative data, so that I could look across the border and say, 'If they are getting it better in Caerphilly, why

David Melding: Mae tir cyffredin yma; ni chredaf y byddai neb yn y Siambr yn anghytuno mai'r hyn y mae pobl am ei gael, yn ddiaw, yw safonau uchel yn eu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus. Os gellir cyflwyno hynny'n uniongyrchol drwy fodel dinesydd heb lawer o ddewis ynghlwm wrtho, ni thybiaf y byddai gwrthwynebiad cryf i'r canlyniad hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, cred nifer ohonom fod angen dewis er mwyn sicrhau bod gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yn gweithio mor effeithlon â phosibl. O ran eich polisi chi, a ydych yn cytuno â Syr Jeremy pan ddywed fod angen gwybodaeth sy'n ddealladwy i'r cyhoedd, sydd ar gael yn hawdd ac y gellir ei chymharu rhwng awdurdodau a sefydliadau er mwyn sicrhau'r safonau uchaf? Mae'n gwneud argymhelliad penodol—dywed y dylai Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru gyhoeddi adroddiad blynyddol ar wasanaethau cyhoeddus, a sut y maent yn cyrraedd y safonau newydd sydd wedi eu mynnu. A fyddwch yn cyhoeddi'r adroddiad blynyddol hwnnw?

Sue Essex: Heb achub y blaen ar yr hyn y byddaf yn ei ddweud yn fy natganiad, gallwn gytuno bob un fod llawer o synnwyr cyffredin yn hynny. Mae'r agenda o ran perfformiad wedi symud ymlaen yn gyflym, pwynt a bwysleisiwyd yn gryf gan Syr Jeremy; yn wir, bydd y fframwaith perfformiad sydd ar waith gennym, yn enwedig mewn perthynas â llywodraeth leol, yn darparu'r cyd-destun ar gyfer hynny.

Mae gennyf un pwynt arall i'w wneud am ddewis. Mae gan y rheini ohonom sy'n byw yng Nghaerdydd wasanaeth casglu sbwriel ardderchog—mae wedi bod yn wasanaeth ardderchog dros y blynyddoedd. Ni allwch ddewis eich gwasanaeth casglu sbwriel, ac nid oes diben i neb ddadlau am hynny; mae gennym un gwasanaeth casglu sbwriel, sy'n digwydd bod yn un da. Pe na bai'n wasanaeth da, beth fyddwn i'n ei wneud? Mae yna faes eang mewn gwasanaethau cyhoeddus lle nad oes dewis, felly, gadewch inni roi pethau yn eu cyd-destun. Yr hyn a fyddai'n ddefnyddiol, pe bawn yn cael gwasanaeth sy'n dda i ddim, er nad yw hynny'n wir, fyddai rhywfaint o ddata cymharol, fel y

are we not doing it in Cardiff?'. That is where we are progressing—comparative data to inform people and drive up standards when they are not adequate. That is an important focus; it is not a league table where we are looking at comparable data to point the finger at certain people if they are at the bottom—although we could all be on the league table and still not be good enough, or we could all be at the bottom of the league, and still be doing well—but comparative data where performance is not good enough. The interesting thing, again, is that there has been a real change of attitude in local government. Where once upon a time it would have seen that as threatening, it no longer sees it as such—it believes that it is essential in driving standards up higher.

gallwn edrych dros y ffin a dweud, 'Os ydynt yn cael gwasanaeth gwell yng Nghaerffili, pam nad ydym ni yng Nghaerdydd?'. Dyna ble'r ydym yn gwneud cynnydd—data cymharol i roi gywbod i bobl a gwella safonau pan nad ydynt yn ddigonol. Mae hwnnw'n ffocws pwysig; nid tabl cynghrair mohono lle'r ydym yn edrych ar ddata cymharol er mwyn pwyntio'r bys at bobl benodol os ydynt ar y gwaelod—er y gallem bob un fod ar y tabl cynghrair ond eto heb fod yn ddigon da, neu gallem bob un fod ar waelod y gynghrair ond eto'n perfformio'n dda—ond data cymharol lle nad yw'r perfformiad yn ddigon da. Yr hyn sy'n ddi-ddorol, unwaith eto, yw bod newid gwirioneddol wedi'i weld o ran agwedd llywodraeth leol. Ar un adeg, byddai wedi ystyried hynny'n fygythiad, ond nid yw'n ei ystyried felly mwyach—mae'n credu ei fod yn hanfodol er mwyn sicrhau safonau uwch.

Treth Dwristiaeth Tourism Tax

Q4 Glyn Davies: Will the Minister make a statement on any proposals to impose a 'tourism tax' on visitors to Wales as a way of funding local government? OAQ0868(LGP)

C4 Glyn Davies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am unrhyw gynigion i osod 'treth dwristiaeth' ar ymwelwyr i Gymru fel ffordd i ariannu llywodraeth leol? OAQ0868(LGP)

Sue Essex: The Assembly Government has no plans to introduce such a tax in Wales.

Sue Essex: Nid oes gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad unrhyw gynlluniau i gyflwyno treth o'r fath yng Nghymru.

Glyn Davies: I understand that that would be the position, but there is a lot of fear among the industry that Michael Lyons might make a recommendation that the funding of local government could be done, in part, in this way. Are you involved in any of the discussions that have led to this? What advice might you have given to Michael Lyons in terms of preparing his report? Are you able to rule out a tourism tax in Wales, if one is suggested?

Glyn Davies: Deallaf mai dyna fyddai'r sefyllfa, ond mae llawer o bryder ymhlith y diwydiant y gallai Michael Lyons argymhell y gallai'r broses o ariannu llywodraeth leol gael ei chyflawni, yn rhannol, fel hyn. A ydych yn rhan o unrhyw rai o'r trafodaethau a arweiniodd at hyn? Pa gyngor y gallech fod wedi'i roi i Michael Lyons wrth iddo baratoi ei adroddiad? A allwch ddiystyru cyflwyno treth dwristiaeth yng Nghymru, os awgrymir treth o'r fath?

Sue Essex: I do not believe that I could have made it any clearer than that, Glyn. I presume that you will all issue your press releases, saying, 'The Minister has made it clear that there are no plans to introduce such a tax in Wales'. That would be a major way of relieving the fears that have been wound up, would it not? I suspect that you will not, but it would be quite nice if you did.

Sue Essex: Ni chredaf y gallwn fod wedi dweud hynny'n gliriach, Glyn. Cymeraf y byddwch bob un yn cyhoeddi eich datganiadau i'r wasg, gan ddweud, 'Mae'r Gweinidog wedi gwneud yn glir nad oes unrhyw gynlluniau i gyflwyno treth o'r fath yng Nghymru'. Oni fyddai hynny'n ffordd dda i leddfu'r pryderon? Tybiaf na fyddwch yn gwneud hynny, ond byddai'n beth braf pe

byddech yn gwneud hynny.

I cannot answer for Sir Michael Lyons, who has been set the task, primarily, of looking at the balance of funding, taxation and structures in England. I have given evidence, or rather, I have made my comments known; that is all in the public domain. The committee spoke to Sir Michael, but I do not remember the bed tax or tourist tax being raised. In fairness to him, what he did was just to run through a series of taxes, many of which are used in other countries and say, 'These other taxes are there'.

Ni allaf ateb ar ran Syr Michael Lyons, sydd wedi cael y dasg, yn y lle cyntaf, o ystyried gydbwysedd cyllid, trethiant a strwythurau yn Lloegr. Yr wyf wedi rhoi tystiolaeth, neu yn hytrach, yr wyf wedi cynnig fy sylwadau; mae popeth wedi ei gyhoeddi. Siaradodd y pwyllgor â Syr Michael, ond ni allaf gofio a drafodwyd y dreth gwelyau neu'r dreth dwristiaeth. |I fod yn deg ag ef, yr hyn a wnaeth oedd nodi cyfres o drethi, nifer ohonynt sy'n cael eu defnyddio mewn gwledydd eraill, a dweud, 'Mae'r trethi eraill hyn yno'.

I cannot answer for the Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks or for future Governments, but I would have thought that it would be highly unlikely that anyone would want to do that in Wales, at a time when the tourism industry is developing so marvellously and doing so well. We would not want to penalise the industry or hold it back in any way, but I cannot speak for future Governments, only for this one. Even if Michael Lyons brought the facility in, I do not think that we would have any intention of taking it up here. It would not be appropriate for Wales; what is done in England is up to England.

Ni allaf ateb ar ran y Gweinidog dros Fenter, Arloesi a Rhwydweithiau na Llywodraethau'r dyfodol, ond tybiaf y byddai'n annhebygol iawn y byddai neb am wneud hynny yng Nghymru, ar adeg pan fo'r diwydiant twristiaeth yn datblygu mor dda ac yn gwneud cystal. Ni fyddem am gosbi'r diwydiant na'i rwystro mewn unrhyw ffordd, ond ni allaf siarad ar ran Llywodraethau'r dyfodol, dim ond y Llywodraeth hon. Hyd yn oed pe bai Michael Lyons yn cyflwyno'r dreth, ni chredaf y byddai'n fwiad o gwbl gennym ei chyflwyno yma. Ni fyddai'n briodol i Gymru; dewis Lloegr yw'r hyn sy'n digwydd yn Lloegr.

Denise Idris Jones: Minister, I am sure that you would agree that much information that is wrong has been put into the media regarding the so-called 'bed tax'. I know that many hoteliers in Llandudno are worried about this. Is it not the case that the Conservative Party's claims of a bed tax to fund local government in Wales are false and misleading, as there are no such plans?

Denise Idris Jones: Weinidog, yr wyf yn siŵr y byddech yn cytuno bod llawer o'r wybodaeth am yr hyn a elwir yn 'dreth gwelyau' yn y cyfryngau yn anghywir. Gwn fod nifer o westywy'r yn Llandudno yn pryderu am hyn. Onid yw'n wir bod honiadau'r Blaid Geidwadol ynghylch treth gwelyau i ariannu llywodraeth leol yng Nghymru yn anwir ac yn gamarweiniol, gan nad oes unrhyw gynlluniau o'r fath?

Sue Essex: As I said very clearly, Denise, there are no such plans, and you can reassure your constituents in Llandudno that this is exactly what we have said. Sir Michael Lyons is perfectly free to say what he said—and he only raised it as a possibility. He raised the possibility of other taxes as well, almost like a palette of taxes that could be available to the Government. It is up to him what he says in his report, but, for the reasons that I gave to Glyn, we are proud of our tourism industry in Wales: it has improved

Sue Essex: Fel y dywedais yn glir iawn, Denise, nid oes unrhyw gynlluniau o'r fath, a gallwch dawelu meddwl eich etholwyr yn Llandudno mai dyna'n union yr ydym wedi'i ddweud. Mae Syr Michael Lyons yn berffaith rydd i ddweud yr hyn a ddywedodd—ac fel posibilrwydd yn unig y soniodd am y peth. Soniodd am bosibilrwydd trethi eraill hefyd, bron fel paled o drethi a allai fod ar gael i'r Llywodraeth. Ei ddewis ef yw'r hyn y mae'n ei ddweud yn ei adroddiad, ond, am y rhesymau a roddais i Glyn, yr ydym yn falch

enormously and is playing, and will play, a major part in the economic regeneration of Wales. I can see little reason why anyone—although I cannot preclude what future Governments might do—would introduce a tax that could impede that progress.

Leighton Andrews: Are you aware that the front page of today's *South Wales Echo* suggests that one council in Wales—Cardiff County Council—is proposing a tax that would certainly hit tourists? It is looking at proposals for a congestion-charge tax of £8 a day, which would obviously hit tourists to the capital city. It would equally, and, from my point of view, more importantly, hit my constituents, who commute to work in the capital city. Do you agree that—

The Presiding Officer: Order. I believe that this supplementary question should relate to something called a tourist tax, which I would generally interpret to be a tax upon tourists. I do not think that those of your constituents who commute to Cardiff could be described as tourists—at least not during the day. That was a good try.

Tynnwyd cwestiwn 5, OAQ0889(LGP), yn ôl.

o'n diwydiant twristiaeth yng Nghymru: mae'r diwydiant wedi gwella'n aruthrol ac mae'n chwarae, a bydd yn chwarae, rhan fawr yn adfywiad economaidd Cymru. Ni allaf weld rheswm o gwbl pam y byddai neb—er na allaf ddiystyru'r hyn y gallai Llywodraethau'r dyfodol ei wneud—yn cyflwyno treth a allai rwystro'r cynnydd hwnnw.

Leighton Andrews: A wyddoch fod tudalen flaen y *South Wales Echo* heddiw yn awgrymu bod un cyngor yng Nghymru—Cyngor Sir Caerdydd—yn cynnig treth a fyddai'n bendant yn effeithio ar dwristiaid? Mae'n ystyried cynigion i gyflwyno treth ar dâl atal tagfeydd o £8 y diwrnod, a fyddai'n amlwg yn effeithio ar dwristiaid sy'n ymweld â'r brifddinas. Byddai hefyd, ac yn bwysicach na hynny yn fy nhyb i, yn effeithio ar fy etholwyr, sy'n teithio i'r brifddinas i weithio. A ydych yn cytuno bod—

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Credaf y dylai'r cwestiwn atodol hwn ymwneud â rhywbeth a elwir yn dreth dwristiaeth, y byddwn i'n ei dehongli'n gyffredinol fel treth ar dwristiaid. Ni chredaf y gellid disgrifio eich etholwyr sy'n teithio i Gaerdydd i weithio fel twristiaid—o leiaf nid yn ystod y dydd. Ond yr oedd yn ymgais dda.

Question 5, OAQ0889(LGP), is withdrawn.

Codiadau yn y Dreth Gyngor Council Tax Increases

C6 Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Ieuan Wyn Jones): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am godiadau yn y dreth gyngor er 1997? OAQ0852(LGP)

Sue Essex: Council tax yearly rises have varied: the highest was 11.8 per cent in 1998-99, and the lowest, 3.8 per cent in 2005-06. The second lowest, by the way, was the 4.5 per cent increase this year.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Yn yr ateb hwnnw, yr hyn nad yw'r Gweinidog yn ei ddweud yw fod y dreth gyngor yn Band D bron wedi dyblu rhwng 1997 ac eleni, o £496 i £962. Ar wahân i'r ffaith bod codiadau wedi bod yn

Q6 The Leader of the Opposition (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Will the Minister make a statement on council tax increases since 1997? OAQ0852(LGP)

Sue Essex: Mae'r codiadau blynyddol yn y dreth gyngor wedi amrywio: yr uchaf oedd 11.8 y cant yn 1998-99, a'r isaf oedd 3.8 y cant yn 2005-06. Yr ail isaf, gyda llaw, oedd y codiad o 4.5 y cant eleni.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: What the Minister did not say in that answer is that Band D council tax nearly doubled between 1997 and this year, from £496 to £962. Apart from the fact that increases have been substantial during

sylweddol yn ystod cyfnod Llafur mewn Llywodraeth yn Llundain a Chaerdydd, mae'r canran o incwm pensïynwyr sy'n cael ei wario ar y dreth gyngor wedi codi o 12.7 i 18.5 y cant. Mae pensïynwyr yn gwario mwy o'u hincwm yn awr ar y dreth gyngor nag oeddynt bron i 10 mlynedd yn ôl. Gŵyr y Gweinidog, yn dilyn pwysau gan y gwrthbleidiau, fod help wedi ei roi i bensïynwyr sydd wedi codi mwy nag un band treth gyngor eleni. Pa help mae'r Gweinidog yn disgwyl ei roi i bensïynwyr y flwyddyn nesaf?

2.30 p.m.

Sue Essex: If I had put all that in my answer, I would have been well over the 50 words that I am allowed. I could also say that what you failed to notice or mention is that, in the last three years, certainly since I have been Finance Minister, council tax rises have been at their lowest, at 6 per cent, 3.8 per cent and 4.5 per cent. I could almost throw the question back at you and ask, 'What support did I receive from you in trying to control those tax levels to keep them down to what I call a fair and reasonable level?'. We have all had endless debates about the rights and wrongs of council tax as a property tax, but I do not think that you can but admit that I have done my best, in the last three years, to ensure that council tax rises were at a fair level for taxpayers, wherever they are in Wales.

Mark Isherwood: Minister, the average council tax for a band D property in Wales has risen from £462 when Labour came to power in 1997 to £962 this year. I make that a £500 increase. You told Plenary, in November 2003, that revaluation was not a euphemism for an increase in council tax, but Wales has seen a 4 per cent increase in local government revenue from this process alone. One home in every three moved up at least one band, and only 8 per cent went down. In four counties in my region, more than one home in every three went up at least one band, which, as we have heard, has hit pensioners particularly hard. What action will you take to limit future council tax increases across Wales? What assurance can you give to those pensioners and lower income

Labour's time in Government in London and Cardiff, the percentage of their income that pensioners spend on council tax has gone up from 12.7 to 18.5 per cent. Pensioners now spend more of their income on council tax than they did nearly 10 years ago. The Minister knows that, following opposition pressure, assistance was given to pensioners who moved up more than one council tax band this year. What assistance does the Minister anticipate providing for pensioners next year?

Sue Essex: Pe byddwn wedi rhoi hynny i gyd yn fy ateb, byddwn ymhell dros y 50 gair a ganiateir i mi. Gallwn ddweud hefyd mai'r hyn na wnaethoch sylwi ohono na'i grybwyll yw fod codiadau treth gyngor, yn ystod y tair blynedd diwethaf, ac yn bendant ers imi fod yn Weinidog Cyllid, wedi bod ar eu hisaf, sef 6 y cant, 3.8 y cant a 4.5 y cant. Gallwn hyd yn oed daflu'r cwestiwn yn ôl atoch a gofyn, 'Pa gefnogaeth a gefais gennych chi wrth geisio rheoli'r lefelau treth hynny i'w cadw'n isel ar lefel yr wyf fi'n ei galw'n deg a rhesymol?'. Yr ydym oll wedi dadlau'n ddiwedd am yr hyn sy'n gywir ac yn anghywir am y dreth gyngor fel treth eiddo, ond ni chredaf y gallwch ond cyfaddef fy mod wedi gwneud fy ngorau, yn ystod y tair blynedd diwethaf, i sicrhau bod codiadau treth gyngor ar lefel deg i drethdalwyr, ble bynnag y maent yng Nghymru.

Mark Isherwood: Weinidog, mae'r dreth gyngor gyfartalog ar eiddo band D yng Nghymru wedi codi o £462 pan ddaeth Llafur i rym yn 1997 i £962 eleni. Cyfrifaf fod hynny'n gynnydd o £500. Dywedsoch wrth y Cyfarfod Llawn, ym mis Tachwedd 2003, nad oedd ailbrizio yn fwythair am gynnydd mewn treth gyngor, ond mae Cymru wedi gweld cynnydd o 4 y cant yn refferiwl llywodraeth leol o'r broses hon yn unig. Symudodd un cartref o bob tri i fyny un band o leiaf, a dim ond 8 y cant a aeth i lawr. Mewn pedair sir yn fy rhanbarth i, symudodd mwy nag un cartref o bob tri i fyny un band o leiaf, sydd, fel y clywsom, wedi taro pensïynwyr yn arbennig o galed. Pa gamau y byddwch yn eu cymryd i gyfyngu codiadau treth gyngor yn y dyfodol ledled Cymru? Pa

households, as well as the general population, who are so concerned about this issue?

Sue Essex: Let us go back a bit to consider the history: it predates you, Mark, but it does not predate your party. When the proposals for revaluation came in front of the committee—I think that it was in February 2002—there was general agreement across the political parties, whether they agreed with a property tax or not, that this was a sensible thing to do because, if you have a property tax, it has to be revalued. That was the basis of it and, of course, there were differential results. If house prices have gone up more, since the introduction of original council tax, in the area that you represent or in which you live, than in surrounding areas, then more properties will have gone up a band. That is just simple logic and you do not need me to go through that.

Going back to Ieuan's point, it might pain you to hear me say this, but it is true that we had the biggest increase in council tax yield—18 per cent—when the Tories were in control. If you look at the year in which revaluation came in, the increase in the yield was 9.5 per cent, which is just a bit more than the average. Again, because I came in with the principle of capping—it was not something that I particularly liked doing, but I did it—it meant that local authorities that were intent on taking advantage of revaluation could not do so. I take you from the dark years when the Tories were in Government, when there was an increase of 18 per cent, to the current year, when the increase in the yield will be 5.9 per cent. I ask that you go back and look at those figures again before you stand up and make comparisons in the future.

sicrwydd y gallwch ei roi i'r pensïynwyr a'r cartrefi hynny sydd ag incwm is, yn ogystal â'r boblogaeth gyffredinol, sydd mor bryderus am y mater hwn?

Sue Essex: Gadewch inni fynd yn ôl ychydig i ystyried yr hanes: digwyddodd cyn eich amser chi, Mark, ond nid eich plaid. Pan gyflwynwyd y cynigion ar gyfer ailbrizio i'r pwyllgor—ym mis Chwefror 2002, mi gredaf—cytunwyd yn gyffredinol ar draws y pleidiau gwleidyddol, p'un a oeddent yn cytuno â threth eiddo neu beidio, fod hyn yn beth synhwyrol i'w wneud oherwydd, os oes gennych dreth eiddo, rhaid ei hailbrizio. Dyna'r sylfaen, ac wrth gwrs cafwyd canlyniadau gwahaniaethol. Os yw prisiau tai wedi codi mwy, ers cyflwyno'r dreth gyngor wreiddiol, yn yr ardal a gynrychiolir gennych chi neu yn yr ardal lle yr ydych yn byw, nag mewn ardaloedd cyfagos, yna bydd mwy o gartrefi wedi symud i fand uwch. Rhesymsg syml yw hynny, ac nid oes angen imi fynd drwy hynny ichi.

Gan fynd yn ôl at bwynt Ieuan, efallai y bydd yn boenus ichi fy nghlywed yn dweud hyn, ond mae'n wir mai yn ystod y cyfnod pan oedd y Torïaid mewn grym y gwelsom y cynnydd mwyaf mewn incwm treth gyngor, sef 18 y cant. Os edrychwch ar y flwyddyn pan gyflwynwyd y broses ailbrizio, y cynnydd yn yr incwm oedd 9.5 y cant, sydd ychydig yn fwy na'r cyfartaledd. Unwaith eto, gan fy mod wedi cyflwyno egwyddor capio—rhywbeth nad oeddwn yn hoffi ei wneud yn arbennig, ond fe'i gwneuthum—golygai nad oedd yn bosibl i awdurdodau lleol a oedd am fanteisio ar y broses ailbrizio wneud hynny. Awn ymlaen o'r blynyddoedd tywyll pan oedd y Torïaid mewn grym, pan fu cynnydd o 18 y cant, i'r flwyddyn bresennol, pan fydd y cynnydd yn yr incwm yn 5.9 y cant. Gofynnaf ichi fynd yn ôl ac edrych ar y ffigurau hynny unwaith eto cyn sefyll i fyny a gwneud cymariaethau yn y dyfodol.

Newid y System Bleidleisio Amending the Voting System

Q7 William Graham: What discussions has the Minister had regarding plans to amend the voting system for the 2008 local government elections? OAQ0881(LGP)

C7 William Graham: Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi'u cael ynghylch cynlluniau i newid y system bleidleisio ar gyfer etholiadau llywodraeth leol 2008?

OAQ0881(LGP)

Sue Essex: The Assembly has no enabling powers to alter electoral systems in local government, and I have had no discussions regarding plans to amend the voting system, as I said earlier to Alun Ffred. The 2008 local government elections will be held using the same electoral system as used previously: candidates receiving the most number of votes will be elected.

William Graham: Can you assure me that with the new provisions for voting by proxy and by post in particular, sufficient resources will be given to local authorities to ensure that all polling stations have an adequate number of clerks?

Sue Essex: Extra resources are coming in from the Electoral Administration Act 2006, which was enacted fairly recently, and those resources will be distributed to local authorities. It is inconceivable that people would be running polling stations without having an adequate number of polling clerks. However, as I said in response to Anne, we have an electoral planning group on which every political party, including yours, is represented and I will ensure that your concerns about adequate numbers of polling clerks are taken forward.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Yn eich ymateb i gwestiwn Alun Ffred Jones, cyfeiriasoch yn benodol at adroddiad Sutherland, gan ddweud nad oedd yr argymhellion hynny'n dderbyniol i chi fel plaid. A ydych yn awr yn agor cil y drws i dderbyn argymhellion gwahanol ynglŷn â phleidleisio cyfrannol? A ydych yn herio'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol i ganfod yr argymhellion gwahanol hynny, ac a ydych chi fel Llywodraeth yn cydnabod na allwch ffurfio Llywodraeth ar ôl etholiadau 2007, a'ch bod yn chwilio am bartneriaid clymblaid i'ch cefnogi?

Sue Essex: What I do know is that I will not be a part of that Government. It is for any future Government, of whatever colour and

Sue Essex: Nid oes gan y Cynulliad ddim pwerau galluogi i newid systemau etholiadol mewn llywodraeth leol, ac nid wyf wedi cael unrhyw drafodaethau ynghylch cynlluniau i newid y system pleidleisio, fel y dywedais wrth Alun Ffred yn gynharach. Caiff etholiadau llywodraeth leol 2008 eu cynnal gan ddefnyddio'r un system etholiadol ag a ddefnyddiwyd yn flaenorol: yr ymgeiswyr a fydd yn cael y nifer mwyaf o bleidleisiau fydd yn cael eu hethol.

William Graham: A allwch fy sicrhau, gyda'r darpariaethau newydd ar gyfer pleidleisio drwy ddirprwy a thrwy'r post yn arbennig, y bydd awdurdodau lleol yn cael adnoddau digonol i sicrhau bod gan bob gorsaf pleidleisio niferoedd digonol o glercod?

Sue Essex: Mae adnoddau ychwanegol yn cael eu cyflwyno dan y Ddeddf Gweinyddu Etholiadau 2006, a ddaeth i rym yn gymharol ddiweddar, a chaiff yr adnoddau hynny eu dosbarthu i awdurdodau lleol. Mae'n amhosibl dirnad y byddai pobl yn rhedeg gorsafydd pleidleisio heb ddigon o glercod pleidleisio. Fodd bynnag, fel y dywedais mewn ymateb i Anne, mae gennym grŵp cynllunio etholiadau y caiff pob plaid wleidyddol, gan gynnwys eich plaid chi, ei chynrychioli arno a byddaf yn sicrhau bod eich pryderon ynghylch niferoedd digonol o glercod pleidleisio yn cael sylw.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: In your answer to the question by Alun Ffred Jones, you specifically referred to the Sutherland report, saying that those recommendations were not acceptable to you as a party. Are you now opening the door to accept different recommendations regarding proportional representation? Are you challenging the Liberal Democrats to find those new recommendations, and do you as a Government acknowledge that you will not be in a position to form a Government following the 2007 elections, and that you are looking for coalition partners to support you?

Sue Essex: Yr hyn yr wyf yn ei wybod yw na fyddaf yn rhan o'r Llywodraeth honno. Mater i unrhyw Lywodraeth yn y dyfodol, ar ba

shape, to make its own decisions. I was responding to a particular point raised by Jonathan that, unfortunately, with the Assembly elections being the only attempt at PR in Wales, the evidence of there being greater participation if there is PR is contrary to that. That is unfortunate, but it is true.

ffurf bynnag, yw gwneud ei phenderfyniadau ei hun. Yr oeddwn yn ymateb i bwynt penodol a godwyd gan Jonathan sef, gan mai etholiadau'r Cynulliad, yn anffodus, yw'r unig ymgais i gael cynrychiolaeth gyfrannol yng Nghymru, fod y dystiolaeth o fwy o gyfranogiad os ceir cynrychiolaeth gyfrannol yn mynd yn groes i hynny. Mae hynny'n anffodus, ond yn wir.

Adroddiadau Budd y Cyhoedd Public Interest Reports

Q8 Mark Isherwood: Will the Minister make a statement on how public interest reports are used by local government? OAQ0866(LGP)

C8 Mark Isherwood: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y ffordd mae llywodraeth leol yn defnyddio adroddiadau sydd o fudd i'r cyhoedd? OAQ0866(LGP)

Sue Essex: The Auditor General for Wales issues public interest reports when audit work reveals concerns that should, legitimately, be made public. They are addressed as much to the public as they are to the audited body, but would normally include recommendations to which the audited body would have to respond.

Sue Essex: Bydd Archwilydd Cyffredinol Cymru yn cyhoeddi adroddiadau sydd o fudd i'r cyhoedd pan fydd gwaith archwilio'n datgelu pryderon a ddylai, yn gyfreithlon, gael eu cyhoeddi. Cânt eu cyfeirio at y cyhoedd yn gymaint ag i'r corff a archwiliwyd, ond byddent fel arfer yn cynnwys argymhellion y byddai'n rhaid i'r corff a archwiliwyd ymateb iddynt.

Mark Isherwood: At long last, after allegations going back a decade, and despite resistance that I, and others, have encountered in trying to have these investigated, the PricewaterhouseCoopers public interest report on Flintshire's housing repair service has been completed. The report confirms what we have been telling the Assembly Government for year. It states that corporate management relating to the council as a whole is in need of review. Why have you previously rejected every request for an investigation? Why did the eventual investigation only occur because of determined action by a few principled individuals, and what action are you now taking to sort out this whole sorry mess?

Mark Isherwood: O'r diwedd, ar ôl honiadau a wnaed ddegawd yn ôl, ac er gwaethaf gwrthwynebiad a gefais i ac eraill wrth geisio sicrhau ymchwilio iddynt, mae'r adroddiad gan Pricewaterhouse Coopers sydd o fudd i'r cyhoedd ar wasanaeth atgyweirio tai sir y Fflint wedi'i gwblhau. Mae'r adroddiad yn cadarnhau'r hyn yr ydym wedi ei ddweud wrth Lywodraeth y Cynulliad ers blwyddyn. Dywed fod angen adolygu rheolaeth gorfforaethol mewn perthynas â'r cyngor yn gyfan. Pam yr ydych hyd yma wedi gwrthod pob cais am ymchwiliad? Pam mai oherwydd gweithredu penderfynol gan rai unigolion egwyddorol yn unig y cynhaliwyd yr ymchwiliad yn y pen draw, a pha gamau yr ydych yn eu cymryd yn awr i roi trefn ar yr holl lanast hwn?

Sue Essex: We have discussed this matter many times. The auditing organisations are established to do exactly that; it is not for me to do their job for them, and they would not be happy if I were to try. Many authorities have auditors' reports that point the finger at things that they are not happy with; that is the nature of auditors' reports for local

Sue Essex: Yr ydym wedi trafod y mater hwn droeon. Sefydli'r y cyrff archwilio i wneud hynny'n union; nid fy ngwaith i yw gwneud hynny drostynt, ac ni fyddent yn hapus pe byddem yn ceisio gwneud hynny. Bydd nifer o awdurdodau yn cael adroddiadau archwilwyr sy'n pwyntio bys at bethau nad ydynt yn hapus yn eu cylch; dyna

authorities. That does not mean to say that they are failing badly; it just means that service areas—and this will happen across the piece, Mark, in all 22 authorities—have to be addressed. I am confident that Flintshire will address those housing issues. I have its assurance that it will do so, and we will have to watch and see that.

yw natur adroddiadau archwilwyr i awdurdodau lleol. Nid yw hynny'n golygu eu bod yn methu'n ddifrifol; mae'n golygu'n unig fod yn rhaid mynd i'r afael â meysydd gwasanaeths—a bydd hyn yn digwydd ym mhob un o'r 22 o awdurdodau, Mark. Yr wyf yn hyderus y bydd sir y Fflint yn mynd i'r afael â'r problemau tai hyn. Mae wedi fy sicrhau y bydd yn gwneud hynny, a bydd yn rhaid inni wyllo a gweld hynny.

Ailfandio'r Dreth Gyngor Council Tax Rebanding

Q9 Jenny Randerson: Will the Minister make a statement on the effect of council tax rebanding on Cardiff Central? OAQ0895(LGP)

C9 Jenny Randerson: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am effaith ailfandio'r dreth gyngor ar Ganol Caerdydd? OAQ0895(LGP)

Sue Essex: Following revaluation, 34 per cent of properties remained in the same band in Cardiff, 2 per cent dropped a band, and 64 per cent moved up a band. Of the properties that moved up, 78 per cent moved up by only one band, 21 per cent moved up by two bands and 1 per cent moved up by three bands. Of course, it must be remembered that house prices in Cardiff have risen much faster than the national average.

Sue Essex: Yn dilyn ailbriso, arhosodd 34 y cant o dai yn yr un band yng Nghaerdydd, symudodd 2 y cant i lawr un band, a symudodd 64 y cant i fyny un band. O'r tai a symudodd i fyny, symudodd 78 y cant i fyny un band yn unig, symudodd 21 y cant i fyny ddau fand a symudodd 1 y cant i fyny dri band. Wrth gwrs, rhaid cofio bod prisiau tai yng Nghaerdydd wedi codi lawer yn gyflymach na'r cyfartaledd cenedlaethol.

Jenny Randerson: I am particularly interested in your last point, because that has an impact on people's cost of living. I am sure that you will remember a report produced over the summer that showed that, when taking into account average wage levels and housing costs, Cardiff is the most expensive place to live in the UK. That rather gives the lie to the idea that is sometimes put about that Cardiff is some sort of prosperous haven. Minister, have you done any analysis of the long-term impact of rebanding on housing costs in Cardiff or, indeed, in the whole of Wales? If you have not, will you undertake to do so?

Jenny Randerson: Mae gennyf ddiddordeb arbennig yn eich pwynt olaf, oherwydd caiff hynny effaith ar gostau byw pobl. Yr wyf yn siŵr y cofiwch adroddiad a luniwyd yn ystod yr haf ac a oedd yn dangos, ar ôl ystyried lefelau cyflog cyfartalog a chostau tai, mai Caerdydd yw'r lle drutaf i fyw yn y DU. Mae hynny'n taflu cwmwl dros y syniad a roddir weithiau bod Caerdydd yn rhyw fath o hafan ffyniannus. Weinidog, a ydych wedi dadansoddi effaith hirdymor ailfandio ar gostau tai yng Nghaerdydd neu, yn wir, yng Nghymru gyfan? Os nad ydych, a wnewch addo gwneud hynny?

Sue Essex: What you reflect on in talking about Cardiff is that people recognise Cardiff as being a wonderful place in which to live. It is one of the big success stories of any city in the UK. Various people have been involved in making that happen, and it is something that we should celebrate. In terms of attracting students, I think that it has been designated as the best place to be a student.

Sue Essex: Yr hyn yr ydych yn sôn amdano wrth siarad am Gaerdydd yw bod pobl yn cydnabod bod Caerdydd yn lle arbennig iawn i fyw. Caerdydd yw un o'r llwyddiannau mawr mewn unrhyw ddinas yn y DU. Mae amryw o obl wedi bod yn rhan o hynny, ac mae'n rhywbeth y dylem ei ddathlu. O ran denu myfyrwyr, credaf fod y ddinas wedi ei henwi fel y lle gorau i fod yn fyfyrwr. Mae i

There are benefits to that in the economy and in the investment in quality of life. As you rightly said, there is an issue of affordability of housing, which concerns many of us who live in Cardiff, and those who represent Cardiff constituencies feel strongly about that. We have to ensure that the issue of affordable housing is at the heart of all our policies, and we are certainly doing that in the Assembly Government. Affordable housing matters not just in Cardiff, of course, but also in Swansea and rural areas and so on.

hynny fanteision o ran yr economi a'r buddsoddi mewn ansawdd bywyd. Fel yr oeddech yn dweud, yn gywir ddigon, mae yna broblem o ran gallu fforddio tai, sy'n achos pryder i nifer ohonom sy'n byw yng Nghaerdydd, ac mae'r rheini sy'n cynrychioli etholaethau Caerdydd yn teimlo'n gryf ynghylch hynny. Rhaid inni sicrhau bod gallu fforddio tai wrth wraidd ein holl bolisiâu, ac yr ydym yn bendant yn gwneud hynny yn Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Mae gallu fforddio prynu tai yn bwysig nid yn unig yng Nghaerdydd, wrth gwrs, ond hefyd yn Abertawe ac mewn ardaloedd gwledig, ac ati.

2.40 p.m.

In terms of revaluation, the Michael Lyons report and the responses that we gave emphasised that revaluation should not just be done once, which is perhaps the answer to your question. The issue is that revaluation must be done regularly to ensure that the bandings reflect the true value of properties. I was impressed with the situation in Denmark, where rebanding and revaluation takes place every two years, so it is a rolling programme; it is not a case of having one and then it is left for another 10 or 15 years.

O ran ailbrisió, yr oedd adroddiad Michael Lyons a'r ymatebion a roddwyd gennym yn pwysleisio nad unwaith yn unig y dylid cael ailbrisió, a dyna'r ateb i'ch cwestiwn efallai. Y pwynt yw bod yn rhaid ailbrisió'n rheolaidd er mwyn sicrhau bod y bandiau'n adlewyrchu gwir werth eiddo. Gwnaeth y sefyllfa yn Nenmarc argraff dda arnaf, lle mae proses ailfandio ac ailbrisió bob dwy flynedd, ac felly mae'n rhaglen dreigl; nid ei chynnal unwaith ac yna ei gadael am 10 neu 15 mlynedd arall.

Cyfrifoldebau Statudol Statutory Responsibilities

Q10 Laura Anne Jones: How is the Welsh Assembly Government ensuring that local authorities are able to carry out their statutory responsibilities? OAQ0871(LGP)

C10 Laura Anne Jones: Sut mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn sicrhau bod awdurdodau lleol yn gallu cyflawni eu cyfrifoldebau statudol? OAQ0871(LGP)

Sue Essex: Local authorities and their councillors are responsible for meeting their statutory obligations and duties. However, the Welsh Assembly Government grant-funds several organisations, including the WLGA improvement team and equalities unit, which offers support and advice to local authorities on a wide range of subjects and statutory responsibilities.

Sue Essex: Mae awdurdodau lleol a'u cynghorwyr yn gyfrifol am gyflawni eu rhwymedigaethau a'u dyletswyddau statudol. Fodd bynnag, mae grantiau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ariannu nifer o sefydliadau, gan gynnwys tîm gwella ac uned gydraddoldeb CLILC, sy'n cynnig cymorth a chynngor i awdurdodau lleol ar ystod eang o bynciau a chyfrifoldebau statudol.

Laura Anne Jones: As I understand it, Wales has a statutory responsibility to provide fostering services. The Fostering Network Wales has recently raised concerns that hundreds of Welsh foster carers are struggling financially due to a £3 million funding shortfall, with nearly half of the 22

Laura Anne Jones: Fel y deallaf, mae gan Gymru gyfrifoldeb statudol i ddarparu gwasanaethau maethu. Mae Rhwydwaith Maethu Cymru yn ddiweddar wedi mynegi pryderon am fod gan gannoedd o ofalwyr maeth yng Nghymru anawsterau ariannol oherwydd diffyg ariannol o £3 miliwn, a bron

local authorities not paying enough to foster carers. Although the responsibility lies with the local authorities, as you have outlined, I hope that the Assembly Government will look into ensuring that local councils are able to pay these allowances. Will you give an assurance that you will support and work with local authorities to improve the current situation, because it clearly cannot continue?

Sue Essex: You raise an important point—fostering services are crucial for many children in Wales. I am the Minister for local government, but Brian Gibbons takes the lead in this area. He has heard your comments, and I am sure that he will respond to them.

i hanner y 22 o awdurdodau lleol heb fod yn talu digon i ofalwyr maeth. Er mai'r awdurdodau lleol sy'n gyfrifol, fel yr oeddech yn amlinellu, gobeithio y bydd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ystyried sicrhau bod cynghorau lleol yn gallu talu'r lwfansau hyn. A wnewch fy sicrhau y byddwch yn cefnogi awdurdodau lleol ac yn gweithio gyda hwy i wella'r sefyllfa bresennol, oherwydd mae'n amlwg na all barhau?

Sue Essex: Yr ydych yn codi pwynt pwysig—mae gwasanaethau maethu yn hanfodol i lawer o blant yng Nghymru. Fi yw'r Gweinidog dros lywodraeth leol, ond Brian Gibbons sy'n arwain yn y maes hwn. Mae wedi clywed eich sylwadau, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd yn ymateb iddynt.

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau Questions to the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills

Asesiadau'r Cwricwlwm Cenedlaethol National Curriculum Assessments

Q1 William Graham: Will the Minister make a statement on 'National Curriculum Assessments of 7 and 11 year olds: Wales, 2006 (Provisional Results)'? OAQ1002 (ELL)

The Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (Jane Davidson): High standards of performance are being maintained. Between 83 per cent and 89 per cent of seven-year-olds achieved at least level 2 in each of the individual core subjects. Between 75 per cent and 86 per cent of 11-year-olds achieved at least level 4 in each of the individual core subjects.

William Graham: At a time when we have grown accustomed and have welcomed ever-improving exam results, it is surprising that the test results at key stages 1 and 2 this year are generally lower than those for last year. Are you confident that the changes that you have made to the curriculum are improving our children's academic performance?

Jane Davidson: If you look at key stage 1, because the expected level is consistently in the mid-to-high 80s, you would not always

C1 William Graham: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am 'Asesiadau'r Cwricwlwm Cenedlaethol: Disgyblion 7 ac 11 oed: Cymru, 2006 (Canlyniadau Dros Dro)? OAQ1002 (ELL)

Y Gweinidog dros Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau (Jane Davidson): Mae safonau perfformiad uchel yn cael eu sicrhau. Llwyddodd rhwng 83 y cant ac 89 y cant o blant saith oed i gyrraedd o leiaf lefel 2 ym mhob un o'r pynciau craidd unigol. Llwyddodd rhwng 75 y cant ac 86 y cant o blant 11 oed i gyrraedd o leiaf lefel 4 ym mhob un o'r pynciau craidd unigol.

William Graham: A ninnau wedi dod yn gyfarwydd â chanlyniadau arholiadau sy'n gwella o hyd ac wedi croesawu hynny, mae'n syndod bod canlyniadau'r profion ar gyfer cyfnodau allweddol 1 a 2 eleni yn is ar y cyfan na'r rheini ar gyfer y llynedd. A ydych yn hyderus bod y newidiadau a wnaed gennych yn y cwricwlwm yn gwella perfformiad academaidd ein plant?

Jane Davidson: Os edrychwch ar gyfnod allweddol 1, gan fod y lefel ddisgwyliedig yn gyson yn yr 80au canol i'r 80au uchel, ni

expect it to be going upwards—it would be difficult to show large improvements with such high standards. At key stage 2, we must remember that the figure has gone up some 16 percentage points since 1998. Mathematics results are still particularly pleasing with a further 1.1 per cent increase in the number of pupils gaining the expected level or above. The figure now stands at 81 per cent, which is our best-ever outcome, and our results are higher than those across border.

William Graham: When one considers that communication skills are vital for future employment, especially in the growing services sector, are you alarmed by the 10 per cent gap between girls and boys in terms of English at key stages 1 and 2?

Jane Davidson: If we were to consider communication skills, rather than English, for example—and we have talked much about this in committee—they come through under the key skills agenda. Wales is outperforming the rest of the UK in terms of that agenda—in terms of some 16 per cent of all key skills awards and some 29 per cent of some of the wider key skills awards. Following the work of Richard Doherty's group, I will make an announcement early next year about how we are taking forward the moderation assessment arrangements to bring in the skills analysis at year 5, as he recommended.

David Lloyd: Yn dilyn cwestiwn William Graham, mae'n wir dweud bod merched yn perfformio'n well na bechgyn ym mhob un o'r asesiadau hyn, nid dim ond o ran Saesneg. Mae hyn yn fater sy'n achosi cryn bryder, felly beth yn benodol ydych chi'n ei wneud ynglŷn â hyn?

Jane Davidson: Mae'n bwysig gweld bod safonau pawb yn codi yn gyffredinol—o ran bechgyn a merched. Yr ydym yn gweithio gydag Estyn ar hyn o bryd i weld a yw'n bosibl i'r Llywodraeth wneud mwy i dacio'r bwlch.

fyddech bob amser yn disgwyl i'r ffigur gynyddu—byddai'n anodd dangos gwelliannau mawr gyda safonau mor uchel. Ar gyfnod allweddol 2, rhaid inni gofio bod y ffigur wedi mynd i fyny tuag 16 phwynt canran er 1998. Mae'r canlyniadau mathemateg yn dal yn arbennig o dda gyda chynnydd o 1.1 y cant eto yn nifer y disgyblion a gyrhaeddodd y lefel ddisgwyliedig neu'n uwch. Erbyn hyn, mae'r ffigur yn 81 y cant, ein canlyniad gorau erioed, ac mae ein canlyniadau yn uwch na'r rheini dros y ffin.

William Graham: Pan ystyrir bod sgiliau cyfathrebu yn hanfodol i gyflogaeth yn y dyfodol, yn enwedig yn y sector gwasanaethau sy'n tyfu, a yw'r bwlch o 10 y cant rhwng bechgyn a merched yng nghyfnodau allweddol 1 a 2 mewn Saesneg yn eich achosi pryder ichi?

Jane Davidson: Pe byddem yn ystyried sgiliau cyfathrebu, yn hytrach na Saesneg, er enghraifft—ac yr ydym wedi trafod hyn yn helaeth yng nghyfarfodydd y pwyllgor—maent yn dod dan yr agenda sgiliau allweddol. Mae Cymru yn perfformio'n well na gweddill y DU o ran yr agenda honno—sef tuag 16 y cant o'r holl ddyfarniadau sgiliau allweddol a thua 29 y cant o rai o'r dyfarniadau sgiliau allweddol ehangach. Yn dilyn y gwaith gan grŵp Richard Doherty, byddaf yn gwneud cyhoeddiad ddechrau'r flwyddyn nesaf am y ffordd yr ydym yn mynd symud ymlaen gyda'r trefniadau asesu safoni i gyflwyno'r dadansoddiad sgiliau ym mlwyddyn 5, fel yr argymhellodd ef.

David Lloyd: Following on from William Graham's question, it is true to say that girls perform better than boys in all of these assessments, not just in terms of English. This is a matter of great concern, so what are you doing specifically about this?

Jane Davidson: It is important to acknowledge that standards are being raised generally—for boys and girls. We are currently working with Estyn to see whether the Government can do more to deal with the gap.

**Yr Ymgyrch Darllen ac Ysgrifennu
The Reading and Writing Campaign**

Q2 William Graham: Will the Minister outline the Welsh Assembly Government's participation in the Reading and Writing campaign (RaW)? OAQ1009(ELL)

C2 William Graham: A all y Gweinidog amlinellu cyfranogiad Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn yr ymgyrch Darllen ac Ysgrifennu (RaW)? OAQ1009(ELL)

Jane Davidson: My officials met representatives of the BBC to ensure synergy between the Reading and Writing campaign and the Welsh Assembly Government's basic skills strategy, 'Words Talk: Numbers Count'. We have ensured that our target audience is catered for and we collaborate on materials. We also agreed that the focus of our campaigns should be complementary.

Jane Davidson: Mae fy swyddogion wedi cyfarfod â chynrychiolwyr y BBC i sicrhau synergedd rhwng yr ymgyrch Darllen ac Ysgrifennu a strategaeth sgiliau sylfaenol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, sef 'Geiriau'n Galw: Rhifau'n Cyfri'. Yr ydym wedi sicrhau darparu ar gyfer ein cynulleidfa darged ac yr ydym yn cydweithredu ar ddeunyddiau. Cytunwyd yn ogystal y dylai canolbwynt ein hymgyrchoedd fod yn gydategol.

William Graham: With one in four adults in Wales having only entry-level literacy, which is well below GCSE level, it is vital that we address this issue quickly and decisively. Campaigns such as Reading and Writing could support the Welsh Assembly Government's basic skills strategy. Could you point me in the right direction to find those programmes that are attracting adults with poor skills to education programmes?

William Graham: Gan fod un oedolyn o bob pedwar yng Nghymru yn llythrennog ar lefel mynediad yn unig, sydd dipyn yn is na lefel TGAU, mae'n hanfodol inni fynd i'r afael â'r mater hwn yn gyflym ac yn benderfynol. Gallai ymgyrchoedd fel Darllen ac Ysgrifennu ategu strategaeth sgiliau sylfaenol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. A allech roi awgrym imi pa raglenni sy'n denu oedolion sydd â sgiliau gwael i mewn i raglenni addysg?

Jane Davidson: If you remember, the recent 1-2-3 numeracy campaign resulted in requests for nearly 25,000 adult packs and more than 65,000 young people's packs. We must remember that the RaW campaign is aimed at 25 to 54-year-olds, as it is focused on using the entertainment sector. It is great that it is complementary to the work that we are able to offer through colleges, work-based training providers and others. We also have the Employer's Pledge, which has been signed by 160 organisations so far in Wales, covering more than 200,000 employees. The Employer's Pledge is about working with adult basic skills. I could not deal with this issue without commending to Members the superb work of the trade union movement because, through the Wales union learning fund, there are a large number of projects where adults with low basic skills particularly are supported by their union in enhancing their abilities. Up to level 1, those courses are free.

Jane Davidson: Os cofiwch, arweiniodd yr ymgyrch rifedd ddiweddar, sef 1-2-3, at geisiadau am bron 25,000 o becynnau i oedolion a thros 65,000 o becynnau i bobl ifanc. Rhaid inni gofio bod yr ymgyrch Darllen ac Ysgrifennu wedi'i hanelu at bobl 25 i 54 oed, ac mae'n canolbwyntio ar ddefnyddio'r sector adloniant. Mae'n wych ei bod yn ategu'r gwaith y gallwn ei gynnig drwy golegau, darparwyr hyfforddiant yn y gwaith ac eraill. Yn ogystal, mae gennym Addewid y Cyflogwr, sydd wedi'i lofnodi gan 160 o sefydliadau yng Nghymru hyd yma, gan gwmpasu dros 200,000 o gyflogeion. Mae Addewid y Cyflogwr yn ymwneud â gweithio gyda sgiliau sylfaenol oedolion. Ni fedrwn ymdrin â'r mater hwn heb dynnu sylw'r Aelodau at waith gwych y mudiad undebau llafur, oherwydd drwy gronfa ddysgu undebau Cymru mae nifer fawr o brosiectau lle y caiff oedolion sydd â sgiliau sylfaenol isel yn arbennig eu cynorthwyo gan eu hundeb i wella eu

galluoedd. Mae'r cyrsiau hynny am ddim hyd at lefel 1.

Addysg Uwch drwy Gyfrwng y Gymraeg Welsh-medium Higher Education

C3 Owen John Thomas: Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Gweinidog wedi eu cynnal ynghylch cynlluniau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer addysg uwch drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg? OAQ1008(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Yr wyf yn cyfarfod yn gyson â rhanddeiliaid allweddol, gan gynnwys sefydliadau addysg uwch a chyrff myfyrwyr. Mae darpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg yn eitem sefydlog ar agenda'r cyfarfodydd hyn.

Owen John Thomas: Dyma ddatganiad o'r *Western Mail*. Mae'n dweud y penodwyd pwyllgor o chwech i ystyried dysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg mewn rhai adrannau o goleg prifysgol Aberystwyth. Dyddiad y papur yw Tachwedd 1968. Bron 40 mlynedd wedyn, serch twf aruthrol yn nifer yr ysgolion uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg, mae addysg uwch cyfrwng Cymraeg yn parhau i gael ei thrin fel ystyriaeth ymylol, sy'n derbyn 0.3 y cant yn unig o gyllideb addysg uwch Cymru. Ble mae'r corff sy'n sicrhau cysylltiadau cryf rhwng ysgolion uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg a'n sefydliadau addysg uwch? Pryd y cawn gyllideb ddigonol o £15 miliwn y flwyddyn i brif-ffrydio addysg uwch cyfrwng Cymraeg yn ein colegau?

Jane Davidson: Nid yw hynny'n wir. Mae'r Llywodraeth hon wedi gwneud ymrwymiad yn y strategaeth addysg uwch i ddatblygu'r gwasanaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg. Mae'r 0.3 y cant hwnnw yn ychwanegol at yr arian y mae prifysgolion yn ei gael i ddysgu myfyrwyr drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

Mae hefyd yn bwysig dweud bod £4 miliwn mwy o arian yn y system yn awr oherwydd fy ymrwymiad i i'r strategaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg mewn prifysgolion. Mae ysgoloriaethau a chymrodoriaethau ar gael, ac mae mwy o staff yn cael y cyfle i ddysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Mae premiwm gan Gyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch Cymru, sydd hefyd yn gwneud arolwg o'r costau

Q3 Owen John Thomas: What discussions has the Minister had regarding Welsh Assembly Government plans for Welsh-medium higher education? OAQ1008(ELL)

Jane Davidson: I regularly meet with key stakeholders, including higher education institutions and student bodies. Welsh-medium provision is a standing agenda item at these meetings.

Owen John Thomas: Here is a statement from the *Western Mail*. It says that a committee of six people was appointed to consider Welsh-medium teaching in some departments at University College of Wales Aberystwyth. The paper is dated November 1968. Almost 40 years later, despite the incredible growth in the number of Welsh-medium secondary schools, Welsh-medium higher education is still a peripheral consideration, which receives only 0.3 per cent of the HE education budget in Wales. Where is the body to ensure strong links between Welsh-medium secondary schools and our HE institutions? When will we have an adequate budget of £15 million a year to mainstream Welsh-medium higher education in our colleges?

Jane Davidson: **Jane Davidson:** That is not true. This Government has made a commitment in its HE strategy to develop the Welsh-medium service. That 0.3 per cent is additional to the other funding that universities receive to teach students through the medium of Welsh.

It is also important to say that an additional £4 million is now in the system because of my commitment to the Welsh-medium education strategy in universities. Scholarships and fellowships are available, and more staff are given the opportunity to teach through the medium of Welsh. There is the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales premium, which is also undertaking a

sydd ar gael o ran creu darpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg.

review of the costs that are available in terms of creating Welsh-medium provision.

2.50 p.m.

Ar hyn o bryd, yr wyf yn aros am werthusiad at y dyfodol gan sefydliad sy'n gwbl annibynnol i'r cyngor cyllido. Credaf fod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn gwneud llawer gydag ymrwymiad mawr. Dyna'r gwahaniaeth rhwng heddiw a 1968.

At the moment, I am awaiting an appraisal for the future from an organisation which is completely independent of the funding council. I believe the Assembly Government is doing a great deal and with great commitment. That is the difference between now and 1968.

Cyllideb y Portffolio Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau The Budget for the Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Portfolio

C4 Ieuan Wyn Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gyllideb y portffolio addysg, dysgu gydol oes a sgiliau? OAQ0988(ELL)

Q4 Ieuan Wyn Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the budget for the education, lifelong learning and skills portfolio? OAQ0988(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Dros £1.5 biliwn yw cyllideb y portffolio addysg, dysgu gydol oes a sgiliau ar gyfer 2006-07. Mae'r gwariant gros a gyllidwyd gan awdurdodau lleol i ysgolion wedi cynyddu i dros £2.1 biliwn yn 2006-07. Mae gwariant ar bob disgybl unigol yng Nghymru bellach yn £4,870, sy'n gynydd ar y gwariant yn 2005-06, sef £4,291.

Jane Davidson: The education, lifelong learning and skills portfolio budget for 2006-07 is over £1.5 billion. The gross budgeted schools expenditure by local authorities has risen to over £2.1 billion in 2006-07. Average per-pupil funding in Wales now stands at £4,870, which is an increase from the expenditure in 2005-06, which was £4,291.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Yn ystod yr wythnosau diwethaf, daeth dirprwyaeth o brifathrawon cynradd i'm gweld i gwyno am y toriad y maent yn ei ddisgwyl i gyllidebau eu hysgolion y flwyddyn nesaf. Fore Llun diwethaf, cefais gyfarfod gyda llywodraethwyr un o ysgolion uwchradd yr ynys a ddywedodd bod y toriadau ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf yn golygu y bydd rhaid diswyddo athrawon. Cefais gyfarfod gyda'r awdurdod addysg a oedd yn dweud y bydd £1.5 biliwn o doriad yng nghyllideb y cyngor sir oherwydd polisiau'r Llywodraeth o ran arbedion i wella effeithlonrwydd a newid yn y fformiwla. Pa sicrwydd allwch chi ei roi i drethdalwyr Ynys Môn na fydd hyn yn digwydd y flwyddyn nesaf ac y bydd arian digonol yn y gyllideb?

Ieuan Wyn Jones: During the past few weeks, a delegation of primary school headteachers visited me to complain about the cuts they expect in school budgets for next year. Last Monday morning, I met with the governors of one secondary school in Anglesey who said that the cuts for next year will mean that they have to sack teachers. I met with the education authority, who said that there will be a cut of £1.5 billion in the council's budget because of the Government's policies on efficiency savings and changes in the formula. What assurance can you give the taxpayers on Anglesey that this will not happen next year and that there will be adequate funding in the budget?

Jane Davidson: Yr ydych yn gofyn y cwestiwn hwn cyn y broses gyllido, sydd braidd yn rhyfedd gan fod y broses gyllido—yr ydych yn rhan ohoni—yn sicrhau lefelau'r arian a ddarperir i bob gwasanaeth, ac i

Jane Davidson: You are asking this question prior to the budgetary process, which is rather strange since the budgetary process—and you are part of it—ensures the levels of funding provided for every service, and for

bopeth yn y Cynulliad. O ran yr arbedion i wella effeithlonrwydd, bydd y swyddfa archwilio yn hysbysu'r Gweinidog Cyllid cyn diwedd y flwyddyn sut y gwnaeth yr awdurdodau lleol eu harbedion effeithlonrwydd y flwyddyn hon. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd y Gweinidog Cyllid yn ystyried y canfyddiadau hynny wrth osod lefelau cyllideb y flwyddyn nesaf.

The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives (Nick Bourne): I have no doubt that the Minister shared my delight in seeing that more Welsh students were applying to Welsh universities this year. I suspect that the reason for that is not difficult to see. It is our policy, adopted by the Assembly, of no top-up fees that has led to that—a policy that the Minister was not so keen on at the time. What budgetary assessment has she made of that very welcome development of more Welsh students studying at Welsh universities with no top-up fees, and what provision does she intend to make in the budget in that regard?

Jane Davidson: I point out once again, since there is always a rewriting of history in this Chamber, that the Labour Party made it clear in its manifesto for the last election that there would be no top-up fees in Wales. We have delivered on that commitment. We also had the Rees report, which looked at a considered, evidence-based way forward. We have maintained our commitment. You can read the facts in my report to the committee at its last meeting—[*Interruption.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order. I will not have this shouting. I commented yesterday about Welshpool market; this sounds more like Carmarthen mart.

Jane Davidson: Thank you, Presiding Officer. You may read my report to committee, which demonstrates that there has been a slight fall-off in the number of students applying to universities in Wales this year, but it also demonstrated a slight increase in the number of students choosing to stay in Wales—but we have also seen that in previous years.

everything in the Assembly. As regards the efficiency savings, the audit office will inform the Finance Minister before the end of the year how local authorities have made their efficiency savings this year. I am sure the Finance Minister will consider those findings when setting budget levels for next year.

Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru (Nick Bourne): Mae'n sicr fod y Gweinidog mor falch â minnau fod mwy o fyfyrwyr o Gymru yn gwneud cais i brifysgolion Cymru eleni. Tybiaf nad yw'n anodd gweld y rheswm am hynny. Ein polisi ni, a fabwysiadwyd gan y Cynulliad, o ddileu ffioedd atodol sydd wedi arwain at hynny—polisi nad oedd y Gweinidog yn hoff iawn ohono ar y pryd. Pa asesiad cyllidebol a wnaed ganddi o'r datblygiad hwnnw sy'n cael cymaint o groeso fod mwy o fyfyrwyr o Gymru yn astudio mewn prifysgolion yng Nghymru heb ffioedd atodol, a pha ddarpariaeth y mae'n bwriadu ei gwneud yn y gyllideb yn hynny o beth?

Jane Davidson: Pwysleisïaf unwaith yn rhagor, oherwydd bod hanes bob amser yn gorfod cael ei ailysgrifennu yn y Siambr hon, fod y Blaid Lafur wedi pwysleisio yn ei manifestio ar gyfer yr etholiad diwethaf na fyddai unrhyw ffioedd atodol yng Nghymru. Yr ydym wedi cyflawni'r ymrwymiad hwnnw. Yn ogystal, cawsom adroddiad Rees, a oedd yn ystyried ffordd ymlaen a oedd yn ystyriol ac yn seiliedig ar dystiolaeth. Yr ydym wedi cadw ein hymrwymiad. Gallwch ddarllen y ffeithiau yn fy adroddiad i'r pwyllgor yn ei gyfarfod diwethaf—[*Torri ar draws.*]

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Nid wyf am dderbyn y gweiddi hwn. Soniais ddoe am farchnad y Trallwng; mae hyn yn debycach i fart Caerfyrddin.

Jane Davidson: Diolch, Lywydd. Gallwch ddarllen fy adroddiad i'r pwyllgor, sy'n dangos gostyngiad bychan yn nifer y myfyrwyr a wnaeth gais i brifysgolion yng Nghymru eleni, ond dangosodd hefyd gynnydd bach yn nifer y myfyrwyr a ddewisodd aros yng Nghymru—ond gwelsom hynny mewn blynyddoedd blaenorol hefyd.

The Presiding Officer: Order. Sometimes, I am tempted to intervene personally in these debates. As you know, I take a passionate interest in Welsh higher education and I will not let these discussions deteriorate. I call Peter Black.

Peter Black: It is a pleasure to be the symbol of your not letting this debate deteriorate.

Minister, PricewaterhouseCoopers published a report earlier this year on behalf of the Welsh Local Government Association, in which it identified a £749 million gap between the resources available and the funding required to make all schools fit for purpose by 2010 in all 22 local authorities in Wales. The report concludes that no Welsh council will reach that target by 2010 and only just over half will achieve it by 2015. Now that you have had the summer recess to digest this report, could you tell us how you intend to respond to it, please?

Jane Davidson: We respond to the plans of local authorities. As the Estyn report in January made clear, local authorities need to exercise all of their responsibilities, not just in terms of school maintenance but also in looking at whether the schools that they have are in the right places for the pupils whom they serve. There is no point in looking at issues just around the refurbishment and maintenance of existing stock if school buildings are in the wrong places for the pupils. That message has been strongly given to the local authorities by Estyn and by the audit office, and I backed that up when I talked to directors of education and council members at my meeting earlier this month.

Peter Black: Thank you for that answer, Minister. At least I can give you the credit of being consistent with the First Minister in passing the buck onto Welsh local authorities in this regard. As you made a commitment of some sorts in your manifesto to try to achieve this fitness-for-purpose target by 2010, what

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Weithiau, yr wyf yn cael fy nhemtio i ymyrryd yn bersonol yn y dadleuon hyn. Fel y gwyddoch, mae gennyf ddiddordeb angerddol mewn addysg uwch yng Nghymru ac nid wyf am adael i'r trafodaethau hyn ddirywio. Galwaf ar Peter Black.

Peter Black: Mae'n bleser gwybod mai fi yw'r un sy'n gyfrifol am beidio â gadael i'r ddadl hon ddirywio.

Weinidog, cyhoeddodd PricewaterhouseCoopers adroddiad yn gynharach eleni ar ran Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, lle yr oedd yn nodi bwlch o £749 miliwn rhwng yr adnoddau sydd ar gael a'r arian y mae ei angen i wneud pob ysgol yn addas at y diben erbyn 2010, ym mhob un o'r 22 awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru. Daeth yr adroddiad i'r casgliad na fyddai'r un cyngor yng Nghymru yn cyrraedd y targed hwnnw erbyn 2010, ac ychydig dros hanner yn unig fydd yn ei gyrraedd erbyn 2015. Gan i chi gael gwyliau'r haf i ddarllen yr adroddiad hwn, a allech ddweud wrthym sut y bwriadwch ymateb iddo?

Jane Davidson: Yr ydym yn ymateb i gynlluniau awdurdodau lleol. Fel y pwysleisiwyd gan adroddiad Estyn ym mis Ionawr, mae angen i awdurdodau lleol ymarfer eu holl gyfrifoldebau, nid yn unig o ran cynnal a chadw ysgolion, ond hefyd wrth edrych i weld a yw'r ysgolion sydd ganddynt yn y manau cywir ar gyfer y disgyblion y maent yn eu gwasanaethu. Nid oes diben edrych ar faterion yn ymwneud ag adnewyddu a chynnal a chadw'r stoc bresennol yn unig os yw adeiladau'r ysgolion yn y manau anghywir ar gyfer y disgyblion. Cafodd y neges honno ei chyfleu'n glir i'r awdurdodau gan Estyn a chan y swyddfa archwilio, a chefnogais hynny pan siaradais â chyfarwyddwyr addysg ac aelodau cynghorau yn fy nghyfarfod yn gynharach y mis hwn.

Peter Black: Diolch am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog. O leiaf gallaf eich canmol am fod yn gyson â'r Prif Weinidog wrth roi'r bai ar awdurdodau lleol Cymru yn hyn o beth. Gan i chi wneud rhyw fath o ymrwymiad yn eich maniffesto i geisio cyflawni'r targed hwn o fod yn addas at y diben erbyn 2010, pa waith

work are you doing with local authorities to try to put a partnership in place to achieve a more realistic target, and what extra resources are you bringing to the table to achieve that?

Jane Davidson: Our manifesto commitment to invest £560 million in school buildings has not only been delivered, but also exceeded. Our work with local authorities looks at partnerships to ensure that not only the school building improvement grant is spent on school buildings, but also that there is a notional allocation in the general capital funding. We are working closely with local authorities to ensure that they use all of the resources provided by the Assembly Government in taking this important agenda forward. Every party in the Assembly will want to see money used wisely and well to upgrade school buildings in Wales.

yr ydych yn ei wneud gydag awdurdodau lleol i geisio rhoi partneriaeth ar waith i gyrraedd targed mwy realistig, a pha adnoddau ychwanegol yr ydych yn eu cyflwyno i gyflawni hynny?

Jane Davidson: Mae yn unig mae ein hymrwymiad maniffesto i fuddsoddi £560 miliwn mewn adeiladau ysgol wedi ei gyflawni, ond rhagorwyd ar hynny hefyd. Mae ein gwaith gydag awdurdodau lleol yn edrych ar bartneriaethau er mwyn sicrhau nid yn unig bod y grant gwella adeiladau ysgolion yn cael ei wario ar adeiladau ysgolion, ond hefyd bod dyraniad tybiannol yn y cyllid cyfalaf cyffredinol. Yr ydym yn gweithio'n agos gydag awdurdodau lleol i sicrhau eu bod yn defnyddio'r holl adnoddau a ddarperir gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad wrth ddatblygu'r agenda bwysig hon. Bydd pob plaid yn y Cynulliad yn dymuno gweld defnyddio arian yn ddoeth ac yn dda i godi safon adeiladau ysgol yng Nghymru.

Caffael Lleol Local Procurement

Q5 Brynle Williams: Will the Minister make a statement on local procurement by schools in Wales? OAQ1012(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Schools have the delegated authority to manage their budgets, and their procurement expenditure represents around 6 to 12 per cent of total budgets. Value Wales is looking at how to help to improve value for money and ensure that schools are aware of all available contracts, working closely with local authority directors of education.

Brynle Williams: I was encouraged by your recent announcement with regard to measures to improve food in Welsh schools, and the emphasis placed on that in 'Appetite for Life'. What consideration will you give to incorporating local procurement more centrally into Estyn's inspection framework, to ensure that the improvements in nutrition go hand in hand with sustainability?

Jane Davidson: I am grateful for your comments, Brynle, because the Value Wales food group has produced the 'Food for

C5 Brynle Williams: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gaffael lleol gan ysgolion yng Nghymru? OAQ1012(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Mae gan ysgolion awdurdod wedi ei ddirprwyo i reoli eu cyllidebau eu hunain, ac mae eu gwariant caffael yn cynrychioli tua 6 i 12 y cant o gyfanswm y cyllidebau. Mae Gwerth Cymru yn edrych ar y ffordd i helpu gwella gwerth am arian a sicrhau bod ysgolion yn ymwybodol o'r holl gontractau sydd ar gael, gan weithio'n agos gyda chyfarwyddwyr addysg awdurdodau lleol.

Brynle Williams: Fe'm calonogwyd gan eich cyhoeddiad yn ddiweddar am fesurau i wella bwyd mewn ysgolion yng Nghymru, a'r pwyslais a roddir ar hynny yn 'Blas am Oes'. Pa ystyriaeth a roddwch i ymgorffori caffael lleol yn fwy canolog yn fframwaith arolygu Estyn, er mwyn sicrhau bod y gwelliannau mewn maeth yn digwydd law yn llaw â chynaliadwyedd?

Jane Davidson: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am eich sylwadau, Brynle, oherwydd bod y grŵp bwyd Gwerth Cymru wedi cynhyrchu'r

Thought' guidance and the food case studies, and has strongly promoted the sustainable development and local procurement agenda. The Food in Schools working group has also suggested that sustainability, seasonality and local procurement should be taken forward, while ensuring food safety. That is also contained in 'Appetite for Life'. We asked Estyn to look at the issues about school meals provision, on which it has reported back. We need to move further forward in the delivery of the Appetite for Life agenda before we look at whether or not the specific issue of local procurement should be a matter for education inspection. We also use other inspections through environmental health, in relation to standards and support in terms of food safety from the appropriate bodies.

canllawiau 'Cnoi Cil' a'r astudiaethau achos ar fwyd, ac wedi hyrwyddo'r agenda datblygu cynaliadwy a chaffael lleol. Yn ogystal, mae'r gweithgor Bwyd mewn Ysgolion wedi awgrymu y dylid datblygu cynaliadwyedd, natur dymhorol a chaffael lleol, gan sicrhau diogelwch bwyd. Mae hynny hefyd wedi'i gynnwys yn 'Blas am Oes'. Gofynnwyd i Estyn edrych ar y materion ynglŷn â darpariaeth prydau ysgol, ac mae wedi cyflwyno adroddiad ar hyn. Mae angen inni symud ymlaen ymhellach gyda darparu'r agenda Blas am Oes cyn inni ystyried a ddylai caffael lleol yn benodol fod yn fater i'r arolygiaeth addysg ai peidio. Yr ydym hefyd yn defnyddio arolygiaethau eraill drwy iechyd amgylcheddol, mewn perthynas â safonau a chymorth o ran diogelwch bwyd gan y cyrff priodol.

3.00 p.m.

Elin Jones: A gytunwch y dylai awdurdodau lleol ac ysgolion fynnu caffael bwyd ffres mewn dogfennau tendro er mwyn sicrhau bod mwyfwy o'r bwyd sydd ar gael yn ein hysgolion yn cael ei brynu'n lleol?

Elin Jones: Would you agree that local authorities and schools should insist on procuring fresh food in tender documents, in order to ensure that more of the food provided in our schools is sourced locally?

Jane Davidson: Yr ydym yn annog awdurdodau lleol i weithio gyda'u hysgolion i sicrhau bod safon y bwyd mewn ysgolion yn ddigon da. Cyn diwedd y Cynulliad hwn, byddwn yn rhoi cyfle i Aelodau'r Cynulliad feddwl am reoliadau newydd yn hyn o beth.

Jane Davidson: We are encouraging local authorities to work with their schools to ensure that food in schools is of an adequate standard. Before the end of this Assembly, we will give Assembly Members the opportunity to think about new regulations in this regard.

Canlyniadau TGAU a Lefel A GCSE and A-level results

Q6 Val Lloyd: Will the Minister make a statement on this year's GCSE and A-level results? OAQ1014(ELL)

C6 Val Lloyd: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y canlyniadau TGAU a Lefel A eleni? OAQ1014(ELL)

Jane Davidson: This year's GCSE and A-level results were excellent. The GCSE pass rate rose to over 98 per cent and over 62 per cent of GCSE passes were at grades A* to C. A-level entries overall and A-grade pass rates were up on 2005 and the Welsh baccalaureate results were also extremely positive.

Jane Davidson: Yr oedd canlyniadau TGAU a Safon Uwch eleni yn ardderchog. Cododd y gyfradd lwyddo TGAU i dros 98 y cant, ac yr oedd dros 62 y cant o'r rhai a lwyddodd wedi ennill graddau A* i C. Yr oedd nifer yr ymgeiswyr Safon Uwch a nifer yr ymgeiswyr a gafodd radd A wedi cynyddu o'u cymharu â 2005, ac yr oedd canlyniadau bagloriaeth Cymru yn hynod gadarnhaol hefyd.

Val Lloyd: All pupils must be congratulated on their hard work, which has led to those

Val Lloyd: Rhaid llongyfarch y disgyblion i gyd am eu gwaith caled, a arweiniodd at y

results. What level of analysis of those results is undertaken, and has it raised issues that can be addressed so as to maximise pupils' potential?

Jane Davidson: Analysis of the results is undertaken at local authority and school level. That way, for example, with the new raising attainment and individual standards in education in Wales programme, we can look at individual schools working with local authorities and the Assembly Government in setting attainment targets locally so that we can use results in driving forward the agenda.

Jocelyn Davies: All of us congratulate the teachers and the young people on their success this year. However, I think that you would also accept that far too many pupils still leave school lacking basic skills. When do you envisage that illiteracy will be a thing of the past in Wales?

Jane Davidson: It will take us some time. We took a specific all-age strategic approach to basic skills, which has been warmly welcomed, not just by the sector in Wales but elsewhere. We encourage our schools to have quality marks in the primary and secondary sectors. In post-16 education we have the Employer's Pledge in place, and we have additional adult literacy programmes in place, not least those which that I mentioned earlier, supported by WULF. We also have a large tail, particularly in terms of adults, many of whom worked in industrial jobs in Wales, who have poor levels of literacy and numeracy. Therefore, we are working on the one hand to ensure that the young people of the future do not have those problems, and, on the other, we are working to ensure that our adults can be brought back into better employment by raising their skills.

Laura Anne Jones: What action are you taking to ensure that rigour remains in the A-level and GCSE examinations in order to maintain the confidence of the business community?

Jane Davidson: The examination awarding

canlyniadau hynny. I ba raddau y caiff y canlyniadau hynny eu dadansoddi, ac a yw hynny wedi codi materion y gellir mynd i'r afael â hwy er mwyn sicrhau bod disgyblion yn cyflawni eu potensial llawn?

Jane Davidson: Dadansoddir y canlyniadau ar lefel yr awdurdod lleol a'r ysgol. Fel hynny, er enghraifft, gyda'r safonau gwella cyrhaeddiad a'r safonau unigol newydd ym maes addysg yn rhaglen Cymru, gallwn ddisgwyl i ysgolion unigol gydweithio â llywodraeth leol a Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i bennu targedau cyrhaeddiad yn lleol, fel y gallwn ddefnyddio'r canlyniadau i hyrwyddo'r agenda.

Jocelyn Davies: Mae pob un ohonom yn llongyfarch yr athrawon a'r bobl ifanc ar eu llwyddiant eleni. Fodd bynnag, credaf y byddech hefyd yn derbyn bod llawer gormod o ddisgyblion o hyd yn gadael yr ysgol heb sgiliau sylfaenol. Pryd yr ydych yn rhagweld y bydd terfyn ar anllythrennedd yng Nghymru?

Jane Davidson: Bydd yn cymryd cryn amser inni. Yr ydym wedi mabwysiadu ymagwedd strategol benodol i bob oedran at sgiliau sylfaenol, sydd wedi cael croeso mawr, nid yn unig gan y sector yng Nghymru, ond gan eraill. Yr ydym yn annog ein hysgolion i gael nodau ansawdd yn y sector cynradd a'r sector uwchradd. Ym maes addysg ôl-16 mae Addewid y Cyflogwr ar waith, ac mae rhaglenni llythrennedd ychwanegol i oedolion ar waith, ac yn anad dim y rhai y soniais amdanynt yn gynharach sy'n cael eu cefnogi gan WULF. Mae gennym hefyd gynffon hir, yn enwedig o ran oedolion, nifer ohonynt wedi gweithio mewn swyddi diwydiannol yng Nghymru, sydd â sgiliau llythrennedd a rhifedd gwael. Felly, awn ati ar y naill llaw i sicrhau na fydd pobl ifanc yn y dyfodol yn cael y problemau hynny, ac ar y llall, awn ati i sicrhau bod modd cael swyddi gwell i'n hoedolion drwy wella eu sgiliau.

Laura Anne Jones: Pa gamau yr ydych yn eu cymryd i sicrhau bod arholiadau Safon Uwch a TGAU yn dal yn brawf trylwyr er mwyn cynnal hyder byd busnes?

Jane Davidson: Mae'r cyrff dyfarnu

bodies are always acutely aware that there is an annual flurry over whether or not exams are easier, whether or not they are still fit for purpose, whether or not there are more opportunities for plagiarism or any other aspect that would cause us to have concerns about the level of performance in the examinations. They are kept under constant review, not only by all the awarding bodies, but by our own curriculum authority inside the Assembly Government, and the corresponding bodies in other parts of the UK. You will be aware that there are some specific discussions currently going on around coursework, considering where it is appropriate for coursework to make a contribution towards a qualification and where it could be reduced in looking at more examination type of conditions in terms of delivery. I can assure you that issues around the rigour of examinations remain high on all our agendas, because we want to be able to trust our systems.

arholiadau bob amser yn ymwybodol iawn bod dadlau bob blwyddyn a yw arholiadau yn haws ai peidio, a ydynt yn dal yn addas at y diben, a oes mwy o gyfleoedd i gopïo gwaith o ffynonellau eraill, neu unrhyw agwedd arall a fyddai'n achosi pryder inni ynglŷn â lefel y perfformiad yn yr arholiadau. Cânt eu hadolygu'n barhaus, nid yn unig gan y cyrff dyfarnu, ond gan ein hawdurdod cwricwlwm ein hunain yn Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, a'r cyrff cyfatebol yn y rhannau eraill o'r DU. Fe wyddoch fod rhai trafodaethau penodol yn mynd rhagddynt ar hyn o bryd ynglŷn â gwaith cwrs, sy'n ystyried ble mae'n briodol i waith cwrs gyfrannu tuag at gymhwyster, a ble y gellid ei leihau drwy edrych ar amodau sy'n debycach i amodau arholiad i gyflawni hynny. Gallaf roi sicrwydd ichi fod materion trylwyredd arholiadau yn parhau'n uchel ar agenda pob un ohonom, oherwydd ein bod am allu ymddiried yn ein systemau.

Cau Ysgolion Closing Schools

Q7 Leanne Wood: Will the Minister make a statement on the procedure for closing schools? OAQ1001(ELL)

C7 Leanne Wood: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y weithdrefn ar gyfer cau ysgolion? OAQ1001(ELL)

Jane Davidson: The statutory procedure requires full local consultation and then, in light of responses to that consultation, the publication of statutory notices. Two months are allowed for objections to be raised. If objections arise, it falls to me to decide, on the balance of the arguments presented, whether or not the proposals should be approved.

Jane Davidson: O dan y weithdrefn statudol, mae'n ofynnol ymgynghori'n llawn yn lleol ac yna, yng ngoleuni ymatebion i'r ymgynghori hwnnw, mae'n ofynnol cyhoeddi hysbysiadau statudol. Rhoddir deufis i gyflwyno gwrthwynebiadau. Os bydd gwrthwynebiadau, rhaid i mi benderfynu, ar sail y dadleuon a gyflwynwyd, a ddylai'r cynigion gael eu cymeradwyo ai peidio.

Leanne Wood: As you are aware, a number of schools have closed in Communities First wards. I know that decisions to close schools are taken by local authorities, but, as you have just said, you can overturn those decisions on appeal.

Leanne Wood: Fel y gwyddoch, mae nifer o ysgolion wedi cau mewn wardiau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf. Gwn fod penderfyniadau i gau ysgolion yn cael eu gwneud gan awdurdodau lleol, ond fel yr ydych newydd ei ddweud, gallwch chi wrthdroi'r penderfyniadau hynny ar apêl.

Does your Government take into account Communities First priorities during that appeal process?

A yw eich Llywodraeth yn ystyried blaenoriaethau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf yn ystod y broses apelio?

Jane Davidson: The factor that is absolutely paramount in discussions about any

Jane Davidson: Y ffactor hollbwysig mewn trafodaethau am unrhyw benderfyniad i ad-

reorganisation of schools is the quality of education. The guidance, which was agreed by the Assembly in 2003, I think, makes it clear that that is the fundamental discussion at the local level. However, we also have to be fully aware that the figures, in terms of the number of young people in Wales, are diving. The prediction is that it is likely that there will be more than 110,000 empty places in our schools by 2013, for example. Therefore, we know that we have to ensure that local authorities look at how they deliver education effectively in their areas. Any proposal that does not deliver at least a similar quality of education, and preferably an increased quality of education, does not pass over the threshold.

Leighton Andrews: Minister, one issue that has arisen in discussions on school closures with groups of parents campaigning to keep schools open, is that of the relative roles of the local authority and then of the Welsh Assembly Government on appeal. Will you would look at the guidance to see whether you think that it fully and clearly addresses for parents the different roles that each has?

Jane Davidson: I am happy to look at the guidance. If you feel that there is a particular aspect of it that does not fully address that issue, I would be very happy to look at that again, because it is important that people understand these issues. Broadly, I think that all Assembly Members understand the need to ensure that parents understand that the responsibility for where schools are located lies with the local authority, in terms of local authority maintained schools. It is then up to local authorities to ensure that the buildings, the curriculum and the location are fit for purpose. Those are, in a sense, the parameters that local authorities will work within when they look at these issues.

Jenny Randerson: One way in which you could improve the quality of education throughout Wales, while coping at the same time with the falling numbers of young people, would be to look at a reduction in the average class size. Have you done any assessment of the impact on the budget of reducing class sizes in primary schools to 25 pupils, for example?

drefnu ysgolion yw ansawdd yr addysg. Mae'r canllawiau y cytunwyd arnynt gan y Cynulliad yn 2003, mi gredaf, yn ei gwneud yn glir mai dyna hanfod y drafodaeth yn lleol. Fodd bynnag, rhaid inni hefyd fod yn hollol ymwybodol fod y ffigurau am nifer y bobl ifanc yng Nghymru yn gostwng. Rhagwelir y bydd dros 110,000 o leoedd gwag yn ein hysgolion erbyn 2013, er enghraifft. Felly, gwyddom fod yn rhaid inni sicrhau bod awdurdodau lleol yn ystyried sut y maent yn darparu addysg yn effeithiol yn eu hardaloedd. Ni fydd unrhyw gynnig nad yw'n darparu o leiaf addysg o'r un safon, neu addysg o safon uwch os oes modd, yn dderbyniol.

Leighton Andrew: Weinidog, un mater sydd wedi codi mewn trafodaethau ynglŷn â chau ysgolion gyda grwpiau o rieni sy'n ymgyrchu i gadw ysgolion ar agor, yw rôl yr awdurdod lleol ac yna rôl Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar apel. A wnewch chi edrych ar y canllawiau i weld a ydynt, yn eich tyb chi, yn mynd i'r afael yn llawn ac yn eglur i rieni â'r gwahanol rolau sydd gan y naill a'r llall?

Jane Davidson: Yr wyf yn fwy na pharod i edrych ar y canllawiau. Os teimlwch fod agwedd benodol arnynt yn methu ymdrin â'r mater hwnnw'n llawn, byddwn yn barod iawn i ailystyried hynny, oherwydd mae'n bwysig i bobl ddeall y materion hyn. Yn gyffredinol, credaf fod holl Aelodau'r Cynulliad yn deall yr angen am sicrhau bod rhieni'n deall mai'r awdurdod lleol sy'n gyfrifol am leoli ysgolion, o ran ysgolion a gynhelir gan yr awdurdod lleol. Awdurdodau lleol wedyn sy'n gorfod sicrhau bod yr adeiladau, y cwricwlwm a'r lleoliad yn addas at y diben. Dyna'r fframwaith, mewn ffordd, y bydd awdurdodau lleol yn gweithio o'i fewn wrth ystyried y materion hyn.

Jane Randerson: Un ffordd y gallech wella ansawdd addysg ledled Cymru, ac ar yr un pryd ymdopi â'r niferoedd llai o bobl ifanc, fyddai ystyried gostyngiad ym maint dosbarthiadau ar gyfartaledd. A ydych wedi asesu effaith lleihau maint dosbarthiadau mewn ysgolion cynradd i 25 o ddisgyblion ar y gyllideb, er enghraifft?

Jane Davidson: We have not done an assessment of the impact on the budget, but what we have done—and Estyn has already published this—is an assessment of whether or not the evidence tells us that that reduction would deliver sufficiently improved outcomes. The evidence that Estyn came forward with did not suggest that that would be the case. It is important to state that class sizes in Wales are decreasing. Every year that the statistics are produced, we have seen the numbers of teachers go up, the numbers of staff who support teachers go up substantially, and class sizes go down.

Jane Davidson: Nid ydym wedi asesu'r effaith ar y gyllideb, ond yr hyn yr ydym wedi ei wneud—ac mae Estyn eisoes wedi cyhoeddi hyn—yw asesu a yw'r dystiolaeth yn dweud wrthym y byddai'r gostyngiad hwnnw'n helpu gwella canlyniadau'n ddigonol. Nid oedd y dystiolaeth a gyflwynwyd gan Estyn yn awgrymu y byddai hynny'n digwydd. Mae'n bwysig dweud bod maint dosbarthiadau yng Nghymru yn gostwng. Am bob blwyddyn pan gynhyrchir yr ystadegau, gwelwom nifer yr athrawon yn cynyddu, nifer y staff sy'n cynorthwyo athrawon yn codi'n sylweddol, a maint dosbarthiadau'n gostwng.

Blaenoriaethau'r Portffolio Portfolio Priorities

Q8 Janet Ryder: Will the Minister make a statement on her portfolio priorities over the next eight months? OAQ0998(ELL)

C8 Janet Ryder: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ei blaenoriaethau portffolio dros yr wyth mis nesaf? OAQ0998(ELL)

C11 Ieuan Wyn Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ei blaenoriaethau yn y portffolio Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau? OAQ0989(ELL)

Q11 Ieuan Wyn Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on her priorities within the Education, Lifelong learning and Skills portfolio? OAQ0989(ELL)

Jane Davidson: Our priorities are to meet the commitments made in 'Wales: A Better Country' and 'The Learning Country', which are to put learners' interests first, overcome barriers to learning, and to promote equality of opportunity, high expectations and standards, including our recent commitment to raising achievement and individual standards in education through the RAISE programme.

Jane Davidson: Ein blaenoriaethau yw cyflawni'r ymrwymadau a wnaed yn 'Cymru: Gwlad Well ac 'Y Wlad sy'n Dysgu', sef rhoi blaenoriaeth i fuddiannau dysgwyr, goresgyn rhwystrau i ddysgu, a hybu cyfle cyfartal, disgwyliadau a safonau uchel, gan gynnwys ein hymrwymiad yn ddiweddar i wella cyflawniad a safonau unigol ym maes addysg drwy'r rhaglen Rhagori.

3.10 p.m.

Janet Ryder: Yesterday, I asked the First Minister about your Government's priorities for adult education and continuing education for adults. As you know, many part-time students are adults, and therefore the Graham review is incredibly important to them. In committee in June, you promised to report back in the autumn with your response to that report. It is not included in the forward look for Plenary, so when will you report back on the Graham review?

Janet Ryder: Ddoe, holais y Prif Weinidog ynglŷn â blaenoriaethau eich Llywodraeth ar gyfer addysg i oedolion ac addysg barhaus i oedolion. Fel y gwyddoch, mae nifer o fyfyrwyr rhan amser yn oedolion, ac felly mae adolygiad Graham yn hynod bwysig iddynt. Yn y pwyllgor ym mis Mehefin, addawsoch ddod yn ôl yn yr hydref gyda'ch ymateb i'r adroddiad hwnnw. Nid yw wedi'i gynnwys yn y flaenraglen i'r Cyfarfod Llawn, felly, pryd y byddwch yn adrodd yn ôl ar adolygiad Graham?

Jane Davidson: I will have to check with

Jane Davidson: Bydd yn rhaid imi

officials when I will report back on the Graham review. However, you will remember that we have already allocated £10 million in the budget to take forward the recommendations from the Graham review. You will also know that I gave a commitment to report in the autumn on the broad issues around adult education and community education, and that that was fulfilled in a contribution in my Minister's report to committee last week.

Janet Ryder: The figure that came up in committee in June, when you discussed this last, was £10.6 million. I am glad that you have confirmed that that is still in the budget, because many people associated with adult education and part-time education were concerned that perhaps it was not. They are concerned that there does not seem to be a timetable for moving the recommendations forward. We do not yet know which option you will go for; will it be model 6, which combined the support models, and at what level will that support be made? There are many questions that many people want answered. We would be grateful if we could have confirmation as to when in the autumn you will respond to that.

Jane Davidson: I can assure you that we will respond as soon as we can, as we always do.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: Yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn cydnabod na allwch gyflawni'r amcanion yr ydych wedi eu hamlinellu yn eich ateb gwreiddiol heb fod gan awdurdodau lleol gyllid digonol. Gofynnais gwestiwn atodol i chi ar gwestiwn 4; cymeraf i chi gamgymryd fy mod yn sôn am y setliad ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf. Fodd bynnag, nid oeddwn yn sôn am y setliad ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf; yr oeddwn yn dweud bod Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn bellach yn dweud, oherwydd bod arbedion effeithlonrwydd ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf, ac oherwydd newidiadau yn y fformiwla, y bydd yn cael £1.5 miliwn yn llai, beth bynnag fydd y setliad. Derbynïaf ei bod efallai yn anodd i'r Gweinidog ateb y cwestiwn hwn ar draws y Cynulliad, ond a all roi addewid i mi ei bod yn fodlon edrych ar hynny, ac y bydd yn ysgrifennu ataf i egluro'r cefndir?

gadarnhau gyda'r swyddogion pryd y byddaf yn adrodd yn ôl ar adolygiad Graham. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym eisoes wedi dyrannu £10 miliwn yn y gyllideb i weithredu argymhellion adolygiad Graham. Fe wyddoch hefyd imi wneud ymrwymiad i gyflwyno adroddiad yn yr hydref ar y materion cyffredinol o ran addysg i oedolion ac addysg gymunedol, a bod hynny wedi'i wneud mewn cyfraniad yn fy adroddiad fel Gweinidog i'r pwyllgor yr wythnos diwethaf.

Jane Ryder: Y ffigur a grybwyllwyd yn y pwyllgor ym mis Mehefin, y tro diwethaf ichi drafod hyn, oedd £10.6 miliwn. Yr wyf yn falch ichi gadarnhau ei fod yn y gyllideb o hyd, gan fod nifer o bobl ym maes addysg i oedolion ac addysg ran-amser yn pryderu efallai nad oedd yn y gyllideb. Maent yn pryderu am ei bod yn ymddangos nad oes amserlen ar gyfer gweithredu'r argymhellion. Ni wyddom eto beth fydd eich dewis, ai model 6, a oedd yn cyfuno'r modelau cymorth, ac ar ba lefel y caiff y cymorth hwnnw ei roi? Mae yna nifer o gwestiynau y mae llawer o bobl am gael atebion iddynt. Byddem yn ddiolchgar pe gallem gael cadarnhad ynglŷn â phryd, yn ystod yr hydref, y byddwch yn ymateb i hynny.

Jane Davidson: Gallaf roi sicrwydd ichi y byddwn yn ymateb cyn gynted ag y bo modd, fel y gwnawn bob amser.

Ieuan Wyn Jones: I am sure you acknowledge that you cannot meet the objectives which you outlined in your original reply without adequate funding to local authorities. I asked you a supplementary question to question 4; I take it that you mistakenly thought that I was talking about the settlement for next year. However, I was not talking about that; I was saying that the Isle of Anglesey County Council has now said that, because of efficiency savings for next year, and because of changes in the formula, it will receive £1.5 million less, whatever the settlement is. I accept that it might be difficult for the Minister to answer this question across the Assembly, but can she give me a pledge that she will consider this, and write to me to explain the background?

Jane Davidson: Mae hwnnw'n gwestiwn diddorol—mae cwestiynau am gyllideb awdurdodau lleol yn gwestiynau i'm cyd-Aelod, Sue Essex. Yn fy mhorthffolio i, byddaf yn cyhoeddi'r ffigur addysg cyn i'r awdurdodau lleol wneud eu cyllidebau. Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd pobl yn hapus â hynny. Yr wyf yn hapus i glywed y bydd Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru yn gwneud sylwadau am arbedion drwy wella effeithlonrwydd awdurdodau lleol cyn y bydd yr awdurdodau lleol yn gosod eu cyllidebau ar gyfer y dyfodol. Mae sut y gwneir hynny, a faint o arian a roddir i hynny, yn fater i'r awdurdodau lleol.

Jeff Cuthbert: Do you agree that the promotion and support of the take-up of free school breakfasts for primary children remains a key priority? This is because it not only improves nutrition but, undoubtedly, improves attainment in the longer term, and will help, in due course, to reduce basic skills problems. Do you also agree that it would be nice, at some point, for the people of Wales to know what the opposition parties would do, should they ever get the chance? Would they keep the scheme as it is, make it compulsory, or abolish it?

The Presiding Officer: Order. I take it that that was a rhetorical question.

Jane Davidson: I maintain the Government's commitment—and this party's commitment—to the provision of free school breakfasts. Having just returned from the Labour Party conference in Manchester, it was really interesting to note how many people were supportive of the Assembly Government's agenda on free school breakfasts. People wanted to know about it, because issues around food in schools come high up on the education agenda. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, as dieticians always say, and a free and healthy school breakfast at the start of the day has only a positive effect on those pupils who are participating.

I am also really pleased that over 600 schools—it is hardly a small take-up—have now committed to taking this forward. [Interruption.] The leader of Plaid Cymru

Jane Davidson: That is an interesting question—questions on local authority budgets are questions for my colleague, Sue Essex. In my portfolio, I shall be publishing the figure for education before local authorities compile their budgets. I am sure people will be happy with that. I am glad to hear that the Wales Audit Office will be commenting on the efficiency savings by local authorities before authorities set their budgets for the future. How that is done, and how much funding should be allocated, is a matter for the local authorities.

Jeff Cuthbert: A ydych yn cytuno bod y gwaith o hyrwyddo a chefnogi'r cynllun darparu brecwast yn yr ysgol am ddim i blant ysgol gynradd yn dal yn flaenoriaeth allweddol? A hynny am ei fod nid yn unig yn gwella maeth ond, yn ddi-os, am ei fod yn gwella cyrhaeddiad yn y tymor hwy a fydd, ymhen amser, yn helpu lleihau problemau sgiliau sylfaenol. A ydych yn cytuno hefyd y byddai'n braf i bobl Cymru, rywbyrd, gael gwybod beth fyddai'r gwrthbleidiau'n ei wneud, pe baent byth yn cael y cyfle? A fyddent yn cadw'r cynllun fel y mae, yn ei wneud yn orfodol, ynteu'n ei ddiddymu?

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Cymeraf mai cwestiwn rthregol oedd hwnnw.

Jane Davidson: Yr wyf yn cadw at ymrwymiad y Llywodraeth—ac ymrwymiad y blaid hon—i ddarparu brecwast am ddim mewn ysgolion. A minnau newydd ddychwelyd o gynhadledd y Blaid Lafur ym Manceinion, yr oedd yn wir yn diddorol sylwi faint o bobl a oedd yn cefnogi agenda Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar frechwast am ddim mewn ysgolion. Yr oedd pobl am gael gwybod amdani, oherwydd mae materion sy'n ymwneud â bwyd mewn ysgolion yn uchel ar yr agenda addysg. Brecwast yw pryd pwysicaf y dydd, fel y dywed dietegwyr bob amser, a dim ond effaith bositif y gall brecwast ysgol iachus ei chael ar y disgyblion hynny sy'n cymryd rhan.

Yr wyf hefyd yn falch iawn bod dros 600 o ysgolion—nad yw'n nifer fach o bell ffordd—wedi ymrwymo i roi hyn ar waith. [Torri ar draws.] Mae arweinydd Plaid

shouts from a sedentary position, but I am sure that he would support the fact that, in his local authority, over 77 per cent of primary schools are taking this up.

The Presiding Officer: Order. I wish that Ministers would not encourage the leader of any party—two of whom are particularly remiss in this direction—to make comments when seated. Do not listen to them, Minister.

Jane Davidson: I am grateful for your advice, Presiding Officer, and I am happy not to listen to sedentary comments. This is a really good policy, and I hope that people will support it, because it is good for young people.

William Graham: It is extraordinary that you continue to spin on this policy that you know to be useless. Local authority after local authority are doing their best to spin it out so that they do not have to implement it before May, when you will be got rid of.

Jane Davidson: That is an interesting spin on events. I cannot think of another policy area where 600 schools have voluntarily signed up for an initiative. This is not a compulsory initiative by the Assembly Government and never has been. We said from the beginning that we would offer the facility to all schools. I hope that, in due course, all schools will take it up, but the fact that we already have 600 primary schools signed up to it show that it is good. If you visit any of those schools—I know that you must be avoiding that, given what you have just said—you will hear from the headteachers—[*Interruption.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order. What is wrong with you all today?

Jane Davidson: I was going to say that otherwise I need to send you on a numeracy course. A great number of schools—600 schools—are committed to something that will take children's lives forward.

Alun Cairns: I demand that you withdraw that.

Cymru yn gweiddi o'i gadair, ond yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai'n cefnogi'r ffaith bod dros 77 y cant o ysgolion cynradd yn rhoi hyn ar waith yn ei awdurdod lleol ef.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Byddai'n dda gennyf pe na bai Gweinidogion yn annog arweinydd unrhyw blaid—mae dau ohonynt yn arbennig o esgeulus yn y cyswllt hwnnw—i wneud sylwadau pan fyddant ar eu heistedd. Peidiwch â gwrando arnynt, Weinidog.

Jane Davidson: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am eich cyngor, Lywydd, ac yr wyf yn fodlon peidio â gwrando ar sylwadau a wneir gan aelodau ar eu heistedd. Mae hwn yn bolisi da iawn, a gobeithio y bydd pobl yn ei gefnogi, gan ei fod yn dda i bobl ifanc.

William Graham: Mae'n rhyfeddol eich bod yn parhau i roi sbin ar y polisi hwn y gwyddoch eifod yn ddiwerth. Mae'r naill awdurdod lleol ar ôl y llall yn gwneud ei orau i'w osgoi fel nad oes rhaid iddynt ei weithredu cyn mis Mai, pan gawn wared arnoch.

Jane Davidson: Mae hynny'n sbin diddorol ar bethau. Ni allaf feddwl am yr un maes polisi arall lle mae 600 o ysgolion wedi cytuno i ddilyn menter o'u gwirfodd. Nid menter orfodol gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad yw hon, ac ni fu erioed yn orfodol. Yr ydym wedi dweud o'r cychwyn y byddem yn cynnig y cyfleuster i bob ysgol. Gobeithio y bydd pob ysgol yn manteisio arni maes o law, ond mae'r ffaith bod 600 o ysgolion cynradd wedi cytuno i ddilyn y fenter yn dangos ei bod yn dda. Os ymwelwch ag unrhyw rai o'r ysgolion hynny—rhaid eich bod yn osgoi gwneud hynny, o ystyried yr hyn yr ydych newydd ei ddweud—clywch y penaethiaid yn dweud—[*Torri ar draws.*]

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Beth sy'n bod ar bawb heddiw?

Jane Davidson: Yr oeddwn am ddweud bod angen imi, fel arall, eich anfon ar gwrs rhifedd. Mae nifer fawr o ysgolion—600 o ysgolion—wedi ymrwymo i rywbeth a fydd yn cyfoethogi bywydau plant.

Alun Cairns: Mynnaf eich bod yn tynnu hynny'n ôl.

The Presiding Officer: Order. I heard nothing that was disorderly, but I have heard lots of noise that was very disorderly.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Ni chlywais ddim a oedd yn afreolus, ond clywais lawer o sŵn a oedd yn afreolus iawn.

Question 9, OAQ0907(ELL), has been withdrawn.

Tynnwyd cwestiwn 9, OAQ0907(ELL), yn ôl.

I call on Laura Anne Jones to ask the final question in an orderly fashion.

Galwaf ar Laura Anne Jones i ofyn y cwestiwn olaf mewn ffordd ddisgybledig.

Hyfforddiant Athrawon Teacher Training

Q10 Laura Anne Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on teacher training in Wales? OAQ1020(ELL)

C10 Laura Anne Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am hyfforddiant athrawon yng Nghymru? OAQ1020(ELL)

Jane Davidson: We are restructuring initial teacher training so that it can deliver teachers with qualified-teacher status to better meet the needs of maintained schools in Wales. We also continue to offer a range of incentives aimed at attracting the best quality, highly committed students to train and teach in Wales.

Jane Davidson: Yr ydym yn ailstrwythuro hyfforddiant cychwynnol athrawon fel y gall ddarparu athrawon â statws athro cymwysedig i fodloni'n well anghenion ysgolion a gynhelir yng Nghymru. Yr ydym hefyd yn parhau i gynnig amrywiaeth o gymhellion gyda'r nod o ddenu'r myfyrwyr gorau a mwyaf ymroddedig i gael hyfforddiant ac i addysgu yng Nghymru.

Laura Anne Jones: As you know, the Department for Education and Skills has recommended that all headteachers are trained in safer recruitment. A headmistress in my constituency applied for this training, only to be rejected because she was the head of a Welsh school. I am concerned that there may be certain disparities between the Welsh and English education arrangements, with Wales lagging behind England. Is this sort of training available in Wales?

Laura Anne Jones: Fel y gwyddoch, mae'r Adran Addysg a Sgiliau wedi argymhell bod pob pennaeth yn cael ei hyfforddi i recriwtio'n fwy diogel. Gwnaeth pennaeth yn fy etholaeth i gais am yr hyfforddiant hwn, ond cafodd ei gwrthod am ei bod yn bennaeth ar ysgol Gymraeg. Yr wyf yn pryderu efallai fod anghysondebau rhwng trefniadau addysg Cymru a Lloegr, a bod Cymru'n llusgo y tu ôl i Loegr. A yw'r math hwn o hyfforddiant ar gael yng Nghymru?

Jane Davidson: I am happy to write to you on that issue, but I will just say, categorically, that Wales has its own education system. That is devolution, to which this Government remains committed. We do not always look to what is happening in England to determine what we do in Wales, as you do.

Jane Davidson: Yr wyf yn fodlon ysgrifennu atoch am y mater hwnnw, ond dywedaf, yn bendant, fod gan Gymru ei system addysg ei hun. Dyna yw datganoli, ac mae'r Llywodraeth hon wedi ymrwymo i hynny. Nid ydym bob amser yn edrych ar yr hyn sy'n digwydd yn Lloegr i benderfynu beth a wnawn yng Nghymru, fel yr ydych chi.

Y Llywydd: Diolch yn fawr i'r Gweinidog am brynghawn difyr iawn.

The Presiding Officer: I thank the Minister for a very entertaining afternoon.

Datganiad ar Gyllid y GIG Statement on NHS Finances

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Brian Gibbons): I reported to Plenary in February that the forecast net deficit for 2005-06 for the NHS in Wales was approximately £20 million. This comprised of a deficit of approximately £25 million for trusts, and a surplus of approximately £4 million to £5 million for local health boards. The final audited outturn was a deficit of £26 million for NHS trusts and a net underspend of £2 million for local health boards. Two local health boards and seven NHS trusts therefore failed to meet their financial targets.

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Brian Gibbons): Dywedais mewn Cyfarfod Llawn ym mis Chwefror mai tuag £20 miliwn oedd y diffyg ariannol net tybiedig am 2005-06 ar gyfer y GIG yng Nghymru. Yr oedd hyn yn cynnwys diffyg o ryw £25 miliwn ar gyfer ymddiriedolaethau, a gwarged o ryw £4 miliwn i £5 miliwn ar gyfer byrddau iechyd lleol. Y swm terfynol a archwiliwyd oedd diffyg ariannol o £26 miliwn ar gyfer ymddiriedolaethau'r GIG a thanwariant net o £2 filiwn ar gyfer byrddau iechyd lleol. Felly, methodd dau fwrdd iechyd lleol a saith o ymddiriedolaethau'r GIG â chyrraedd eu targedau ariannol.

3.20 p.m.

The Welsh Assembly Government recognised that 2005-06 would be a difficult financial year for the NHS. We acknowledged that significant levels of efficiency would be required to bridge the gap between the increases in funding and the estimated increases in costs. We set challenging targets for further reductions in waiting times and there were increased efficiency requirements and the implementation of the pay modernisation programme to consider. Overall, the health service budget increased by 7 per cent. This included additional funding of £32 million to support reductions in waiting times and approximately £108 million to support NHS pay reform for staff, including consultants. We required that our priorities be delivered within the financial resources available.

Cydnabu Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru y byddai 2005-06 yn flwyddyn ariannol anodd i'r GIG. Cydnabuom y byddai angen lefelau sylweddol o effeithlonrwydd er mwyn pontio'r bwlch rhwng y cynnydd mewn ariannu a'r cynnydd tybiedig mewn costau. Pennwyd targedau heriol gennym i leihau amseroedd aros ymhellach, a bu'n rhaid ystyried cynnydd mewn gofynion effeithlonrwydd ac wrth weithredu'r rhaglen moderneiddio cyflogau. At ei gilydd, cynyddodd cyllideb y gwasanaeth iechyd 7 y cant. Yr oedd hyn yn cynnwys ariannu ychwanegol o £32 miliwn tuag at leihau amseroedd aros, a thua £108 miliwn i ddiwygio cyflogau staff y GIG, gan gynnwys meddygon ymgynghorol. Yr oeddem am i'n blaenoriaethau gael eu cyflawni o fewn yr adnoddau ariannol sydd ar gael.

The NHS still has significant opportunities to increase efficiency to achieve financial balance and meet service targets without impacting on the quality of care provided to patients. This is a theme that we will be progressing more systematically with the service in 2006-07. The extent of the financial gap in the NHS was the subject of much speculation early in the last financial year. At one point, the NHS Confederation had estimated a gap of £70 million, but financial monitoring information provided by NHS organisations indicated that this forecast

Mae gan y GIG gyfleoedd ardderchog i gynyddu effeithlonrwydd er mwyn sicrhau cydbwysedd ariannol a chyrraedd targedau'r gwasanaeth heb effeithio ar ansawdd y gofal a ddarperir i gleifion. Mae hon yn thema y byddwn yn ei datblygu'n fwy systematig gyda'r gwasanaeth yn 2006-07. Yr oedd bwlch ariannol y GIG yn destun cryn ddyfalu ar ddechrau'r flwyddyn ariannol ddiwethaf. Ar un adeg, amcangyfrifodd Cydffederasiwn y GIG fwllch o £70 miliwn, ond dangosodd gwybodaeth monitro ariannol a ddarparwyd gan sefydliadau'r GIG fod y rhagolwg hwn

was significantly overstated. There have been a number of criticisms in the past about the ability of the NHS to produce robust financial forecasts. One of the main difficulties in forecasting an accurate position last year was the progress in implementing 'Agenda for Change'. Even at the end of the financial year, less than 50 per cent of staff had been assimilated onto the new pay spines. This meant that trusts were using incomplete information to estimate the full-year cost of the new contract. Despite these uncertainties, the forecast deficit for 2005-06 remained relatively stable from September onwards, at approximately £20 million, and the year-end outturn was very similar to these forecasts.

The Assembly Government takes the financial health of the NHS seriously. A number of initiatives and controls have been introduced to ensure that the financial position is managed. The financial performance of NHS organisations is monitored throughout the year by the regional offices. They will work with any organisation that is reporting difficulties to ensure that speedy action is taken to remedy the problem. If an organisation is facing problems that it cannot recover in-year, or has underlying problems that affect its ability to meet its statutory financial targets, that organisation must produce a strategic change and efficiency plan. The plan is approved by senior officials within the department. In such instances, senior officials may instigate an independent review of the financial management of an organisation to ensure the production of a robust plan. If concerns persist, they will send in a financial recovery team to help the board to seek alternative ways of improving the value for money of their services. This has happened in three communities to date.

Ultimately, the responsibility for meeting statutory financial targets lies with an organisation's accounting officer and the Welsh Assembly Government's head of the Department of Health and Social Services, as an accounting officer, has the power to intervene when she considers it necessary. In addition to these controls, support is provided

yn ormodol. Yn y gorffennol, beirniadwyd gallu'r GIG i lunio rhagolygon ariannol cadarn. Un o'r prif anawsterau o ran rhagweld swm cywir y llynedd oedd y cynnydd wrth weithredu 'Agenda ar gyfer Newid'. Hyd yn oed ar ddiwedd y flwyddyn ariannol, yr oedd llai na 50 y cant o'r staff wedi'u cymathu i'r graddfeydd cyflog newydd. Yr oedd hyn yn golygu bod ymddiriedolaethau'n defnyddio gwybodaeth anghyflawn i amcangyfrif cost y contract newydd am flwyddyn gyfan. Er gwaethaf yr ansicrwydd hynny, parhaodd rhagolwg y diffyg ariannol ar gyfer 2005-06 yn gymharol sefydlog o fis Medi ymlaen, sef tuag £20 miliwn, ac yr oedd y canlyniad ar ddiwedd y flwyddyn yn debyg iawn i'r rhagolygon hyn.

Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn cymryd sefyllfa ariannol y GIG o ddirif. Cyflwynwyd nifer o fentrau a rheolaethau er mwyn sicrhau bod y sefyllfa ariannol yn cael ei rheoli. Caiff perfformiad ariannol sefydliadau'r GIG ei fonitro drwy gydol y flwyddyn gan y swyddfeydd rhanbarthol. Byddant yn gweithio gydag unrhyw sefydliad sy'n cael anawsterau er mwyn sicrhau gweithredu ar fyrder i wella'r broblem. Os bydd sefydliad yn wynebu problemau na ellir eu datrys yn ystod y flwyddyn honno, neu os bydd ganddo broblemau sylfaenol sy'n effeithio ar ei allu i gyrraedd y targedau ariannol statudol, rhaid i'r sefydliad hwnnw gynhyrchu newid strategol a chynllun effeithlonrwydd. Caiff y cynllun ei gymeradwyo gan uwch swyddogion yn yr adran. Mewn achosion o'r fath, mae'n bosibl y bydd uwch swyddogion yn gwneud adolygiad annibynnol o'r gwaith o reoli arian sefydliad er mwyn sicrhau bod cynllun cadarn ar waith. Os bydd y pryderon yn para, byddant yn anfon tîm adfer ariannol er mwyn helpu'r bwrdd i geisio ffyrdd eraill i wella'r elfen gwerth am arian yn eu gwasanaethau. Mae hyn wedi digwydd mewn tair cymuned hyd yn hyn.

Yn y pen draw, swyddog cyfrifo'r sefydliad sy'n gyfrifol am gyrraedd y targedau ariannol statudol, ac mae gan bennaeth Adran Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, fel swyddog cyfrifo, bŵer i ymyrryd pan fydd yn ystyried hynny'n briodol. Yn ogystal â'r rheolaethau hyn, rhoddir cymorth gan yr uned ddarparu a

by the delivery and support unit to help organisations to achieve their key service targets. Further assistance has been provided by the modernisation assessments, undertaken by the National Leadership and Innovation Agency for Healthcare towards the end of the financial year.

Although 2005-06 was forecast to be a difficult financial year, the outturn deficit was significantly less than originally anticipated and represented less than 1 per cent of the total funding. The Assembly Government has put in place a series of measures to support NHS organisations that are in financial difficulty, and ultimately to intervene when necessary. The pressures experienced in 2005-06 are continuing in some areas in the current financial year, and officials are working closely with the organisations that are in difficulty. While acknowledging that all areas are under some pressure, it is still only a relatively small number of organisations that are failing to manage the situation resolutely. A joint plan is being prepared by the west Wales health communities to restore financial balance across the area. Officials have also approved joint plans for the Conwy and Denbighshire communities and Swansea. Also, plans for north-east Wales, north Glamorgan, Gwent and the ambulance trust are still under discussion.

Helen Mary Jones: I am sure that we are all enormously relieved to hear the Minister say how seriously the Assembly Government is taking this issue. It begs the question of how slow progress would be if they were not taking the situation seriously, as this is a grave concern. It still remains unclear what percentage of these deficits is due to underfunding and the fact that the new funding formula has not been fully implemented. What percentage is due, to put it in the Minister's own language, to failure to identify efficiencies by various bodies? Others might consider using other words, but let us stick to those for today. It seems extraordinary that, after nine years of a Labour Government, we still have this level of deficit.

I will say no more about this now, other than

chymorth i helpu sefydliadau i gyflawni eu targedau gwasanaethau allweddol. Rhoddwyd cymorth ychwanegol drwy'r asesiadau moderneiddio, a wnaed gan yr Asiantaeth Arweiniad ac Arloesedd Cenedlaethol ar gyfer Iechyd tua diwedd y flwyddyn ariannol.

Er rhagweld y byddai 2005-06 yn flwyddyn ariannol anodd, yr oedd y diffyg ariannol gryn dipyn yn is nag a ragwelwyd, ac yr oedd yn llai nag 1 y cant o gyfanswm yr arian. Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi rhoi cyfres o fesurau ar waith i gefnogi sefydliadau'r GIG sy'n cael anawsterau ariannol, ac i ymyrryd yn y pen draw pan fydd angen. Mae'r pwysau a gafwyd yn 2005-06 yn parhau mewn rhai ardaloedd yn y flwyddyn ariannol gyfredol, ac mae swyddogion yn gweithio'n agos gyda'r sefydliadau sy'n wynebu anhawster. Er ein bod yn cydnabod bod rhywfaint o bwysau ar bob ardal, nifer fach yn unig o sefydliadau sy'n methu â rheoli'r sefyllfa ar eu pen eu hunain. Mae cynllun ar y cyd yn cael ei baratoi gan gymunedau iechyd y gorllewin er mwyn adfer cydbwysedd ariannol ledled yr ardal. Mae swyddogion hefyd wedi cymeradwyo cynlluniau ar y cyd ar gyfer cymunedau Conwy a sir Ddinbych ac ar gyfer Abertawe. Hefyd, mae trafodaethau'n parhau ynghylch cynlluniau ar gyfer y gogledd-ddwyrain, gogledd Morgannwg, Gwent, a'r ymddiriedolaeth ambiwlans.

Helen Mary Jones: Yr wyf yn siŵr ein bod i gyd yn falch clywed y Gweinidog yn dweud bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn cymryd y mater hwn gymaint o ddifrif. Cyfyd y cwestiwn pa mor araf y byddai'r cynnydd pe na baent yn cymryd y mater o ddifrif, gan fod hyn yn bryder o'r mwyaf. Erys yn aneglur pa ganran o'r diffyg ariannol hwn sydd o ganlyniad i dangyllido a'r ffaith na weithredwyd y fformiwla ariannu newydd yn llawn. Gan ddefnyddio geiriau'r Gweinidog, pa ganran sydd i'w phriodoli i fethiant ar ran gwahanol gyrff i nodi arbedion effeithlonrwydd? Efallai y byddai eraill yn defnyddio geiriau eraill, ond gadewch inni gadw at y rhain heddiw. Ymddengys yn hynod fod gennym y lefel hon o ddiffyg ariannol, ar ôl naw mlynedd o Lywodraeth Lafur.

Ni ddywedaf ragor am hyn yn awr, ar wahân

to ask the Minister specific questions. Minister, your statement does not address the issue of accumulated debts or the plans to deal with them. Can you confirm that such debts stand at about £82 million? By all means, put me right if that is not so. Also, can you confirm how the level of accumulated debt is being addressed by the planning process that you have outlined today?

Your statement mentions £32 million for the waiting lists. Can you confirm that this was intended to be, and is, non-recurrent funding? Can you tell us how you intend to address the sustainability issues raised by the auditor general with regard to this one-off funding to deal with waiting lists? Do you share my grave concern that, despite the level of one-off funding, some patients are still waiting more than 12 months?

Minister, you referred to the difficulties in forecasting because of 'Agenda for Change'. Will you commit to fully funding the deficit that you identify of approximately £20 million for last year? Further, you mentioned three communities—which I have always thought to be an odd word, as I am not sure what a health 'community' is; perhaps health 'organisation' is better in this regard—that have financial recovery plans. For the sake of clarity, are those the ones referred to at the end of your statement? Do you have a timeframe in which you expect all health bodies to be delivering within their budgets?

Finally, have you an estimate of the likely overall shortfalls for the current financial year? What discussions have you had with the various health communities or health bodies about the efficiency plans' potential effects on services? It is my understanding that the Swansea trust is already talking about closing beds: will other trusts and providers be in the same position? Can you give us a guarantee that services will not be affected by the drive for efficiency, with which none of us would disagree, of course?

Brian Gibbons: Starting with the last question first, anybody who has read the reports of the Audit Commission, or the

i ofyn cwestiynau penodol i'r Gweinidog. Weinidog, nid yw eich datganiad yn mynd i'r afael â mater dyledion croniadol na'r cynlluniau i ddelio â hwy. A allwch gadarnhau bod dyledion o'r fath yn agos at £82 miliwn? Mae croeso ichi fy nghywiro os nad yw hynny'n wir. Hefyd, a allwch gadarnhau sut y mae'r broses gynllunio a amlinellwyd gennych heddiw yn mynd i'r afael â lefel y ddyled groniadol?

Mae eich datganiad yn sôn am £32 miliwn ar gyfer y rhestrau aros. A allwch gadarnhau mai dyma'r bwriad, ac mai swm untro ydyw? A allwch ddweud wrthym sut y bwriadwch fynd i'r afael â'r materion cynaliadwyedd a godwyd gan yr archwilydd cyffredinol o ran yr arian untro hwn i ymdrin â rhestrau aros? A ydych chi fel finnau yn pryderu bod rhai cleifion yn dal i aros dros 12 mis, er gwaethaf lefel yr arian untro?

Weinidog, bu ichi gyfeirio at yr anawsterau wrth lunio rhagolwg oherwydd 'Agenda ar gyfer Newid'. A wnewch ymrwymo'n llawn i ariannu'r diffyg arian yr ydych yn ei nodi, sef tuag £20 miliwn ar gyfer y llynedd? Yn ogystal, yr oeddech yn sôn am dair cymuned—gair yr wyf bob amser wedi ei ystyried yn rhyfedd gan nad wyf yn siŵr beth yw 'cymuned' iechyd; efallai fod 'sefydliad' iechyd yn well yn y cyd-destun hwn—sydd â chynlluniau adfer arian. Er mwyn eglurder, ai dyna'r rhai y cyfeirir atynt ar ddiwedd eich datganiad? A oes gennych amserlen pryd yr ydych yn disgwyl i bob corff iechyd gyflawni popeth o fewn eu cyllidebau?

I gloi, a oes gennych amcangyfrif o'r diffygion cyffredinol tebygol am y flwyddyn ariannol bresennol? Pa drafodaethau yr ydych wedi eu cael gyda'r amrywiol gymunedau iechyd neu gyrff iechyd am effeithiau posibl y cynlluniau effeithlonrwydd ar wasanaethau? Deallaf fod ymddiriedolaeth Abertawe eisoes yn trafod cau gwelyau: a fydd ymddiriedolaethau a darparwyr eraill yn yr un sefyllfa? A allwch roi sicrwydd inni na fydd yr angen am effeithlonrwydd, nad oes yr un ohonom yn anghytuno ag ef, yn effeithio ar wasanaethau?

Brian Gibbons: I ddechrau gyda'r cwestiwn olaf yn gyntaf, byddai unrhyw un sydd wedi darllen adroddiadau'r Comisiwn Archwilio,

Wales Audit Office subsequently, would see it pointed out that, in many instances, the big challenge for the NHS is to move people out of beds and into non-bed-based provision. Much of what is proposed in Swansea is entirely in line with that position. Indeed, that is the direction in which we want to go, and that is good practice.

I would certainly think that the accumulated debt is more than £80 million; I would think that it is in the order of £100 million. Some of that debt, as my predecessor indicated, will be written off once organisations achieve financial balance for two successive years; that is a commitment that we have entered into. The debt that is not being written off will, obviously, have to be recovered from the SCEPs as they are rolled out. Some SCEPs will have to be delivered within one to two years, but we recognise that some communities might have a slightly longer waiting time.

The phrase 'community' is used because, often, the debt is not something that can be transferred to a single organisation. It may be that the partnership working between the local health board and the trust, in particular communities, is not as good as it should be; there might have been an example of that in Ceredigion, where it was felt that the local health board needed to take a bit more responsibility in working to secure a more stable financial situation.

3.30 p.m.

Over 60 per cent of people have been allocated to their position on 'Agenda for Change'. We are still working to try to implement 'Agenda for Change' during this financial year, but we are not in a position to make a definitive commitment. Part of the challenge in delivering 'Agenda for Change' is the concomitant introduction of the electronic staff record. It is an issue that has delayed the situation, although we are in a better position than some other countries in the United Kingdom in terms of rolling out 'Agenda for Change'.

It is too early to give you a figure for the end of this financial year. This time last year, some of the projections about the size of the

neu Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru ar ôl hynny, yn sylweddoli mai'r her fawr i'r GIG mewn nifer o achosion yw symud pobl o welyau ac i ddarpariaeth gofal dydd. Mae llawer o'r hyn a gynigir yn Abertawe yn gwbl gydnaws â'r cynnig hwnnw. Yn wir, dyna'r trywydd yr ydym am ei ddilyn, ac mae hynny'n arfer da.

Byddwn yn sicr yn meddwl bod y ddyled gronadol yn fwy nag £80 miliwn; byddwn yn tybio ei bod yn agos at £100 miliwn. Fel y dywedodd fy rhagflaenydd, caiff rhywfaint o'r ddyled honno ei dileu pan fydd sefydliadau'n sicrhau cydbwysedd ariannol am ddwy flynedd yn olynol; dyna'r ymrwymiad y cytunwyd arno. Yn amlwg, bydd yn rhaid i'r ddyled na chaiff ei dileu ddod o goffrau'r SCEPs wrth eu cyflwyno. Bydd yn rhaid gweithredu rhai SCEPs ymhen blwyddyn neu ddwy, ond yr ydym yn sylweddoli y bydd yn rhaid i rai cymunedau aros ychydig yn hirach.

Defnyddir y term 'cymuned' oherwydd, yn aml, nid yw dyled yn rhywbeth y gellir ei throsglwyddo i un sefydliad. Efallai nad yw'r bartneriaeth waith rhwng y bwrdd iechyd lleol a'r ymddiriedolaeth cystal ag y dylai fod mewn cymunedau penodol; efallai fod Ceredigion yn enghraifft o hynny, lle y teimlwyd bod angen i'r bwrdd iechyd lleol gymryd ychydig mwy o gyfrifoldeb dros weithio i sicrhau sefyllfa ariannol fwy sefydlog.

Mae dros 60 y cant o bobl wedi'u penodi i'w swydd ar 'Agenda ar gyfer Newid'. Yr ydym yn dal i weithio i geisio gweithredu 'Agenda ar gyfer Newid' yn ystod y flwyddyn ariannol hon, ond nid ydym mewn sefyllfa i wneud ymrwymiad pendant. Rhan o'r her sydd ynghlwm wrth gyflwyno 'Agenda ar gyfer Newid' yw'r broses gydredol o gyflwyno'r cofnod staff electronig. Mae'n fater sydd wedi peri oedi yn y sefyllfa, er ein bod mewn sefyllfa well na rhai o wledydd eraill y Deyrnas Unedig o ran cyflwyno 'Agenda ar gyfer Newid'.

Mae'n rhy gynnar i roi ffigur ichi ar gyfer diwedd y flwyddyn ariannol hon. Yr adeg hon y llynedd, goramcangyfrifwyd yn

deficit were significantly over-estimated, and we do not want to get into that situation. As I indicated in my statement, a number of the organisations that are currently reporting the largest deficits are being subjected to external financial scrutiny by the intervention teams. Any attempt to give a definitive figure for the end of the year will depend on what the intervention teams will produce, as well as more information from the consequences of 'Agenda for Change'.

On the waiting lists money, the money is allocated on an annual basis, but we have made clear to the health service that we have an annual budget. There was a situation last year whereby demands were made on the budget by opposition parties, which introduced an element of uncertainty in terms of making definitive promises. However, we have given a signal to the health service in Wales, by announcing our 2009 targets, that we place a priority on providing continuity of funding to these organisations. We are urging the organisations to proceed on the basis that the money will be there through to 2009. Following the excellent success in achieving the waiting times targets at the end of March, there was no bounce or deterioration in the performance leading into April, May and June, which has been a historic feature of the health service. One of the reasons for that, apart from better efficiency, was the assurance that the money would be there and that people were able to plan over the end of the financial year into the next financial year. We want that good practice to continue.

Jonathan Morgan: I thank you for the statement, Minister, but many people inside and outside the Chamber will be concerned at the financial state of the NHS in Wales, particularly as we are looking at an annual debt in the region of £20 million to £24 million. It is of particular concern that you were happy to admit, without any concern on your face, which was quite a shock, that the accumulative debt is somewhere in the region of £100 million, which is an astronomical figure. No doubt, you and the First Minister will say that it only represents a tiny percentage of the budget, but it is still £100 million. It is a lot of money, particularly

sylweddol rai o'r amcanestyniadau o ran maint y diffyg, ac nid ydym am fod yn y sefyllfa honno. Fel y dywedais yn fy natganiad, mae nifer o'r sefydliadau sy'n sôn am y diffygion mwyaf ar hyn o bryd yn destun proses graffu ariannol allanol gan y timau ymyrryd. Bydd unrhyw ymdrech i roi ffigur pendant ar gyfer diwedd y flwyddyn yn dibynnu ar yr hyn y bydd y timau ymyrryd yn ei gynhyrchu, yn ogystal â rhagor o wybodaeth o ganlyniadau'r 'Agenda ar gyfer Newid'.

O ran cyllid rhestrau aros, caiff y cyllid ei ddyrannu'n flynyddol, ond yr ydym wedi egluro wrth y gwasanaeth iechyd fod gennym gyllideb flynyddol. Y llynedd, gosododd y gwrthbleidiau ofynion ar y gyllideb, a achosodd elfen o ansicrwydd wrth wneud addewidion pendant. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym wedi rhoi arwydd i'r gwasanaeth iechyd yng Nghymru, drwy gyhoeddi ein targedau ar gyfer 2009, ein bod yn rhoi blaenoriaeth i sicrhau bod y cyllid a ddarperir i'r sefydliadau hyn yn parhau. Yr ydym yn pwyso ar y sefydliadau i weithredu ar y sail y bydd yr arian ar gael hyd at 2009. Yn dilyn y llwyddiant ardderchog wrth gyflawni'r targedau amseroedd aros ddiwedd mis Mawrth, ni welwyd unrhyw naid na dirywiad o ran perfformiad ym mis Ebrill, Mai a Mehefin, sydd wedi bod yn un o nodweddion hanesyddol y gwasanaeth iechyd. Un o'r rhesymau dros hynny, ar wahân i well effeithlonrwydd, oedd y sicrwydd y byddai'r arian ar gael a'r ffaith y gallai pobl gynllunio dros ddiwedd y flwyddyn ariannol i mewn i'r flwyddyn ariannol nesaf. Yr ydym am i'r arfer da hwnnw barhau.

Jonathan Morgan: Diolchaf ichi am y datganiad, Weinidog, ond bydd nifer o bobl yn y Siambr a'r tu allan yn pryderu am gyflwr ariannol y GIG yng Nghymru, yn arbennig gan ein bod yn sôn am ddyled flynyddol o ryw £20 miliwn i £24 miliwn. Mae'n fater o bryder mawr eich bod yn fodlon cyfaddef, heb arlliw o bryder ar eich wyneb, a oedd yn gryn sioc, fod y ddyled groniadol tua £100 miliwn, sy'n ffigur anferth. Byddwch chi a'r Prif Weinidog, hyn sicr, yn dweud mai canran fach iawn yn unig o'r gyllideb yw'r swm hwnnw, ond mae'n £100 miliwn er hynny. Mae'n swm sylweddol o arian, yn arbennig o ystyried

when you consider some of the pressures faced by NHS trusts and local health boards the length and breadth of the nation.

If you consider the annual debt, what does that figure go up to when you take into account the debts of Health Commission Wales? I am reminded that, in an oral answer given by the First Minister on 13 June this year, he confirmed that the annual debt of the NHS would increase by approximately £10 million if you take into account the debt of Health Commission Wales. Is that roughly the estimate as of today? If that is the case, the annual debt is not approximately £24 million; it is somewhere in the region of £34 million. I would be grateful if you could confirm whether or not that is the case.

I have been in contact with all NHS trusts in Wales, and every response indicates problems in implementing 'Agenda for Change'. We know that this has been a significant challenge to NHS trusts. Do you accept any responsibility for the position that they have been put in? I accept as much as anyone that all NHS bodies have a duty to ensure sound financial management. However, many bodies have said that they simply cannot deliver the agenda and the priorities that you have set, with the budget that you have allocated. Do you accept any responsibility for the position that they are in?

What concerns have been raised with your department about the financial pressures and the impact on preparing for the 2009 targets? Are you aware that some trusts now believe that they are unable to keep to the present target of 12 months for the in-patient list and 12 months for the out-patient waiting list while trying to meet and prepare for the 2009 target? I know that Cardiff and the Vale NHS Trust has raised this as a problem and it is now being raised by other trusts. Do you accept that not only will it make it difficult for NHS trusts to meet the 2009 target, but that there will be pressures in Wales as of today simply because of the financial pressures that they face in trying to keep to the current waiting-time strategy that is in place?

rhywfaint o'r pwysau sy'n wynebu ymddiriedolaethau'r GIG a byrddau iechyd lleol ym mhob cwr o'r wlad.

Os ystyriwch y ddyled flynyddol, faint yn uwch fydd y ffigur hwnnw os ystyriwch ddyledion Comisiwn Iechyd Cymru? Cofiaf, mewn ymateb llafar gan y Prif Weinidog ar 13 Mehefin eleni, iddo gadarnhau y byddai dyled flynyddol y GIG yn cynyddu tua £10 miliwn os ystyriwch ddyled Comisiwn Iechyd Cymru. Ai dyna yw'r amcangyfrif bras heddiw? Os felly, nid tua £24 miliwn yw'r ddyled flynyddol; ond tua £34 miliwn. Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallech gadarnhau ai dyma yw'r sefyllfa ai peidio.

Yr wyf wedi cysylltu â holl ymddiriedolaethau'r GIG yng Nghymru, ac mae pob ymateb yn cyfeirio at broblemau wrth weithredu 'Agenda ar gyfer Newid'. Gwyddom i hyn fod yn her sylweddol i ymddiriedolaethau'r GIG. A ydych yn derbyn unrhyw gyfrifoldeb dros y sefyllfa a wynebir ganddynt? Derbyniaf yn llwyr fod dyletswydd ar holl gyrff y GIG i sicrhau rheolaeth ariannol gadarn. Fodd bynnag, mae llawer corff wedi dweud yn syml na allant gyflawni'r agenda a'r blaenoriaethau a bennwyd gennych, o fewn y gyllideb a ddyrannwyd gennych. A ydych yn derbyn unrhyw gyfrifoldeb dros eu sefyllfa?

Pa bryderon a godwyd gyda'ch adran am y pwysau ariannol a'r effaith ar baratoi ar gyfer targedau 2009? A ydych yn ymwybodol bod rhai ymddiriedolaethau bellach o'r farn na allant gynnal y targed presennol o 12 mis ar gyfer y rhestr cleifion mewnol a 12 mis ar gyfer y rhestr aros i gleifion allanol wrth geisio bodloni targed 2009 a pharatoi ar ei gyfer? Gwn fod Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Caerdydd a'r Fro wedi codi'r mater hwn fel problem, ac mae bellach yn cael ei godi gan ymddiriedolaethau eraill. A ydych yn derbyn y bydd nid yn unig yn ei gwneud yn anodd i ymddiriedolaethau'r GIG gyrraedd targed 2009, ond y bydd pwysau yng Nghymru o heddiw ymlaen oherwydd y pwysau ariannol a wynebant wrth geisio cynnal y strategaeth bresennol sydd ar waith ar gyfer amseroedd aros?

I notice that, on the front page of the statement, you say that you acknowledged that significant levels of efficiency would be required to bridge the gap between increases in funding and estimated increases in cost. You admitted that when it came to the funding of herceptin. You said that, for LHBs to fund any increased costs from herceptin, they would need to find those either from the increases in the budget or through increased efficiency savings. I accept that, however, I am not aware, in relation to either 'Agenda for Change' or any of the new clinical contracts, of you admitting that the NHS would have to find the additional money through efficiency savings if there were gaps between the funding that had been allocated and the estimated increases in cost. I do not think that, at any point—and you can correct me if I am wrong—in the Chamber you have admitted that there were gaps between the funding that had been allocated and the increases in the costs associated with the new clinical contracts for consultants and GPs and the 'Agenda for Change' programme that was brought in for the nursing profession. Therefore, I would be grateful if you could clarify when you acknowledged that there was a gap between the funding that had been allocated by your department and the estimated increase in costs that had been identified by the NHS trusts.

Do you regret miscalculating elements of the new clinical contracts, as, according to the British Medical Association, your department miscalculated elements of the general medical services contracts? The BMA had told you that your figures were wrong and yet your department still proceeded with the figures that you had. If you had got those right in the first place, many LHBs and trusts might not have been left in so many difficulties. [ASSEMBLY MEMBERS: 'Hear, hear.']

Brian Gibbons: I will deal with the last point first in view of the eloquent support that you are getting from your backing group in a sedentary position. Jonathan will know that the new professional contracts, particularly the GMS contract, which he referred to, was

Ar dudalen flaen y datganiad, sylwaf eich bod yn dweud ichi gydnabod y byddai angen lefelau effeithlonrwydd sylweddol er mwyn cau'r bwlch rhwng y codiadau mewn ariannu a'r codiadau a amcangyfrifir mewn cost. Yr oeddech yn cyfaddef hynny wrth drafod a ddylid ariannu herceptin. Yr oeddech yn dweud, er mwyn i BILlau ariannu unrhyw gostau cynyddol o ddarparu herceptin, y byddai angen iddynt wneud hynny naill ai o'r codiadau yn y gyllideb neu drwy fwy o arbedion effeithlonrwydd. Fodd bynnag, derbyniaf nad wyf yn ymwybodol, o ran 'Agenda ar gyfer Newid' neu unrhyw un o'r contractau clinigol newydd, eich bod wedi cyfaddef y byddai'n rhaid i'r GIG ddod o hyd i'r arian ychwanegol drwy arbedion effeithlonrwydd pe byddai unrhyw fylchau rhwng y cyllid a oedd wedi ei ddyrannu a'r codiadau a amcangyfrifir yn y gost. Ni chredaf, ar unrhyw adeg—a gallwch fy nghywiro os wyf yn anghywir—ichi gyfaddef yn y Siambr fod bylchau rhwng y cyllid a oedd wedi ei ddyrannu a'r codiadau yn y costau sy'n gysylltiedig â'r contractau clinigol newydd i feddygon ymgynghorol a meddygon teulu a'r rhaglen 'Agenda ar gyfer Newid' a gafodd ei chyflwyno ar gyfer y proffesiwn nyrsio. Felly, byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallech egluro pryd y bu ichi gydnabod bod yna fwlch rhwng y cyllid a oedd wedi ei ddyrannu gan eich adran ac amcangyfrif y cynnydd mewn costau a oedd wedi ei nodi gan ymddiriedolaethau'r GIG.

A ydych yn edifar am gamgyfrifo elfennau yn y contractau clinigol newydd, gan fod eich adran, yn ôl Cymdeithas Feddygol Prydain, wedi camgyfrifo elfennau yn y contractau gwasanaethau meddygol cyffredinol? Yr oedd y Gymdeithas wedi dweud wrthyfch fod eich ffigurau'n anghywir, ond parhaodd eich adran i weithredu gyda'r ffigurau a oedd gennych. Pe byddech wedi cyfrifo'r ffigurau hynny'n gywir i ddechrau, efallai na fyddai llawer BILl ac ymddiriedolaeth wedi cael cynifer o anawsterau. [AELODAU'R CYNULLIAD: 'Clywch, clywch.']

Brian Gibbons: Ymdriniaf â'r pwynt olaf yn gyntaf oherwydd y gefnogaeth huawdl yr ydych yn ei chael gan eich cefnogwyr o'u seddau. Fe wŷr Jonathan mai contract i'r DU gyfan oedd y contractau proffesiynol newydd, yn arbennig y contract

a UK contract, so it was not negotiated exclusively in Wales. Therefore, we were not total masters of our own destiny in that situation. The same applies for 'Agenda for Change', which is part of a UK-wide contract that all of us involved in the health service throughout the United Kingdom have to try to resolve together. Therefore, I do not believe that the accusation that we made miscalculations holds any water. We negotiated a consultant contract in Wales and, generally, all the feedback that I am getting shows that the consultant contract that we have introduced in Wales has been an outstanding success. Consultants working in the NHS in Wales recognise that we have offered them an exceptionally good deal and they are very pleased to be working here in Wales rather than elsewhere. I am sure that you know that from your own conversations with consultants.

3.40 p.m.

In relation to the local delivery plans for 2009, again I am sure that you are aware—I think that I have reported it to committee—that all health communities in Wales have to work out their plans for 2009, and all the communities have delivered their local delivery plans to the Assembly and they have been signed off. It is true to say that the most difficult one to sign off was the plan from Cardiff and the Vale NHS Trust, but we have been able to reach agreement with the trust on that. Working with our regional office and, where necessary, with the delivery support unit, we will work with those communities to ensure that they are delivering against those targets. So far, it looks very encouraging that we will deliver on the targets that we set for April 2007. Equally good progress is being made with diagnostics and therapies, but much more work has to be done to deliver on those.

There is no doubt that tremendous efficiencies need to be delivered in the health service and I am sure that you have read the

gwasanaethau meddygol cyffredinol y cyfeiriodd ato, ac ni chafodd ei negodi'n benodol yng Nghymru. Felly, nid oeddem yn gwbl gyfrifol am ein tynged yn hynny o beth. Mae'r un peth yn berthnasol i 'Agenda ar gyfer Newid', sy'n rhan o contract i'r DU gyfan y mae'n rhaid i bob un ohonom sy'n ymwneud â'r gwasanaeth iechyd ledled y Deyrnas Unedig geisio'i ddatrys gyda'n gilydd. Felly, ni chredaf fod y cyhuddiad ein bod wedi camgyfrifo yn dal dŵr. Negodwyd contract i feddygon ymgynghorol yng Nghymru, ac yn gyffredinol mae'r holl adborth a gâf yn dangos bod y contract i feddygon ymgynghorol a gyflwynwyd gennym yng Nghymru yn llwyddiant ysgubol. Mae meddygon ymgynghorol sy'n gweithio yn y GIG yng Nghymru yn cydnabod ein bod wedi cynnig cytundeb eithriadol o dda iddynt, ac y maent yn falch o fod yn gweithio yma yng Nghymru yn hytrach nag yn rhywle arall. Yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn gwybod hynny o'ch sgysiau eich hun gyda meddygon ymgynghorol.

O ran y cynlluniau cyflenwi lleol ar gyfer 2009, unwaith eto yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn ymwybodol—credaf imi gyflwyno adroddiad i'r pwyllgor ar hyn—ei bod yn rhaid i bob cymuned iechyd yng Nghymru bennu ei chynlluniau ar gyfer 2009, ac mae pob cymuned wedi cyflwyno'i chynlluniau cyflenwi lleol i'r Cynulliad a'r cynlluniau hynny wedi'u cymeradwyo. Mae'n wir dweud mai'r cynllun mwyaf anodd i'w gymeradwyo oedd cynllun Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Caerdydd a'r Fro, ond llwyddwyd i ddod i gytundeb gyda'r ymddiriedolaeth yn hynny o beth. Drwy weithio gyda'n swyddfa ranbarthol, a chyda'r uned cymorth cyflenwi lle bydd angen, byddwn yn gweithio gyda'r cymunedau hynny i sicrhau eu bod yn cyflawni yn ôl y targedau hynny. Hyd yma, mae'n edrych yn debygol iawn y byddwn yn cyrraedd y targedau a bennwyd gennym ar gyfer mis Ebrill 2007. Mae cynnydd llawn crystal ym maes diagnosteg a therapïau, ond mae angen llawer mwy o waith i gyrraedd y targedau hynny.

Yn ddiamau, mae angen sicrhau arbedion sylweddol yn y gwasanaeth iechyd, ac yr wyf yn siŵr ichi ddarllen adroddiad Swyddfa

Wales Audit Office report on day-case surgery. Again, if you look at that report and the information returns on it, even in that one area, there is considerable evidence. However, many health communities need to be doing more in terms of cancelled operations and discharges and admissions at out-patient and in-patient clinics. They need to be doing more to manage demand into the health service. Working with NLIAH, we can achieve these efficiencies, and that will be the basis for putting the service on a healthy footing. I confirm that the debt of Health Commission Wales is in the order of £10 million, as we have said before.

Finally on the accumulated debt, as I said, part of the debt is historic. As I said to Helen Mary Jones, provided that organisations can achieve a financial balance over several years, then that debt will be written off. However, the rest of the debt must be redressed through the strategic change and efficiency plan process, which is not a writing-off of debts, but a way in which organisations rebalance their services so that they can work within the financial resources that are available to them. We expect the health service to work seriously with the SCEP. Again, that is something that the Wales Audit Office mentioned—not in its most recent report, but in the one before that—namely that some people felt that the SCEP was an optional extra or some sort of window dressing. Clearly, that is not the case and the fact that we have appointed intervention and turnaround teams to go into various health organisations and communities across Wales is a clear indication of our intention.

Jenny Randerson: I have listened very carefully to your statement and to the questions and answers. In preparation for this, I looked back at the statement that you made on the same topic last February. I am interested in the change of tone. Although there were references in last February's statement to the need for efficiency, it dwelt on the need for reorganisation. You said that

Archwilio Cymru ar lawdriniaeth achosion dydd. Eto, os edrychwch ar yr adroddiad hwnnw a'r wybodaeth a ddychwelwyd mewn ymateb iddo, hyd yn oed yn yr un maes hwnnw, mae yna dystiolaeth sylweddol. Fodd bynnag, mae angen i nifer o gymunedau iechyd wneud mwy o ran llawdriniaethau sy'n cael eu canslo, a'r broses o ryddhau a derbyn cleifion mewn clinigau i gleifion allanol a chleifion mewnol. Mae angen iddynt wneud mwy i reoli'r galw ar y gwasanaeth iechyd. Drwy weithio gydag NLIAH, gallwn sicrhau'r arbedion hyn, a hynny fydd y sylfaen i osod y gwasanaeth ar sail gadarn. Gallaf gadarnhau fod gan Gomisiwn Iechyd Cymru ddyled o tua £10 miliwn, fel yr ydym wedi ei ddweud o'r blaen.

Yn olaf, o ran y ddyled groniadol, fel y dywedais, mae rhan o'r ddyled yn hanesyddol. Fel y dywedais wrth Helen Mary Jones, os gall sefydliadau sicrhau cydbwysedd ariannol dros nifer o flynyddoedd, caiff y ddyled honno ei dileu. Fodd bynnag, rhaid ad-dalu gweddill y ddyled drwy'r broses newid strategol a'r cynlluniau arbedion. Nid dileu dyledion yw hynny, ond yn hytrach ffordd i sefydliadau ail-gydbwysu'u gwasanaethau er mwyn gallu gweithio o fewn yr adnoddau ariannol sydd ar gael iddynt. Disgwyliwn i'r gwasanaeth iechyd gydweithio o ddifrif gyda'r SCEP. Eto, mae hynny'n rhywbeth y cyfeiriodd Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru ato—nid yn ei hadroddiad diweddaraf, ond yn yr un blaenorol—sef bod rhai'n teimlo mai dewis ychwanegol neu ryw fath o ateb arwynebol oedd y SCEP. Yn amlwg, nid yw hynny'n wir, ac mae'r ffaith ein bod wedi penodi timau ymyrryd a datrys i weithio gydag amrywiol sefydliadau a chymunedau iechyd ledled Cymru yn arwydd clir o'n bwriad.

Jenny Randerson: Yr wyf wedi gwrandu'n astud ar eich datganiad ac ar y cwestiynau a'r atebion. Wrth baratoi, edrychais yn ôl ar y datganiad a wnaed gennych ar yr un pwnc fis Chwefror diwethaf. Mae'r newid tòn yn ddi-ddorol. Er bod cyfeirio at yr angen am effeithlonrwydd yn natganiad mis Chwefror diwethaf, y prif ffocws oedd yr angen am ad-drefnu. Dywedaso

'without reorganisation, we cannot have a heb ad-drefnu, ni allwn sicrhau hinsawdd

safe financial climate in the NHS.'

There is no reference to that in this statement. Some might say that that could be connected to the fact that it has run into some heavy weather and that we are rapidly moving towards an election. However, could you clarify whether or not your current views on the need for NHS reorganisation are the same as those expressed in February? I am seriously concerned about the overall funding for Health Commission Wales on an ongoing basis. It is a pity that, when you make statements to us, you often underplay the issue of Health Commission Wales, which has very serious challenges to face in terms of balancing its books and its efficiency. Could you clarify where exactly the ambulance service is, in terms of its progress in line with 'Agenda for Change'? My recollection is that when we last heard about it, it was remarkably slow to move on it. I suspect that we are probably trying to save some money, given the service's financial difficulties, by moving slowly on this. It could, however, have been a general inefficiency issue.

We heard this week that the ambulance service needs £140 million-worth of capital investment and £20 million upfront. When you look at next year's financial situation, will you reassure us that you will take this issue into account? I would not expect you to give us any more detail at this stage, but we would value reassurance on that.

You dwell at length in your statement on trusts and local health boards. I think that of course you can get efficiencies; any big organisation can. You raised the issue of day-care surgery, and I thought that some of the statistics were very worrying—not just because some areas were slow to take it up as an issue and as a set of procedures, but also because some had a large predicted number of day-case operations every year, yet achieved nothing like their predicted targets. That suggests a worrying gap between the vision and the reality. However, any large organisation will have inefficiencies within it. It will never be perfectly efficient. I am concerned that we still cannot work out which areas are being run inefficiently and

ariannol ddiogel i'r GIG.

Nid oes cyfeiriad o gwbl at hynny yn y datganiad hwn. Gallai rhai ddweud mai'r rheswm am hynny yw ei fod mewn trybini a'n bod yn prysur agosáu at etholiad. Fodd bynnag, a allech egluro a ydych yn parhau o'r farn a fynegwyd gennych ym mis Chwefror am yr angen i ad-drefnu'r GIG? Yr wyf yn pryderu'n fawr iawn am yr ariannu cyffredinol i Gomisiwn Iechyd Cymru. Wrth roi datganiadau inni, mae'n drueni eich bod yn aml yn osgoi sôn yn ormodol am Gomisiwn Iechyd Cymru, sy'n wynebu heriau difrifol iawn wrth geisio mantoli ei lyfrau a'i effeithlonrwydd. A allech egluro sefyllfa'r gwasanaeth ambiwlans ar hyn o bryd, o ran ei gynnydd yn unol ag 'Agenda ar gyfer Newid'? Pan glywsom ddiwethaf, yr oedd yn araf iawn i weithredu, hyd y cofiaf. Yr wyf yn amau ein bod fwy na thebyg yn ceisio arbed rhywfaint o arian, o gofio anawsterau ariannol y gwasanaeth, drwy symud yn araf ar hyn. Fodd bynnag, gallasai fod yn fater effeithlonrwydd cyffredinol.

Clywsom yr wythnos hon fod angen gwerth £140 miliwn o fuddsoddiad cyfalaf ac £20 miliwn ar y gwasanaeth ambiwlans yn awr. Pan edrychwch ar sefyllfa ariannol y flwyddyn nesaf, a wnewch chi ein sicrhau y byddwch yn ystyried y mater hwn? Ni fyddwn yn disgwyl ichi roi mwy o fanylion inni ar hyn o bryd, ond byddem yn gwerthfawrogi sicrwydd ar hynny.

Yr ydych yn sôn yn helaeth yn eich datganiad am ymddiriedolaethau a byrddau iechyd lleol. Credaf wrth gwrs y gallwch sicrhau effeithlonrwydd; gall unrhyw sefydliad mawr wneud hynny. Yr oeddech yn codi mater llawdriniaeth gofal dydd, a theimlwn fod rhai o'r ystadegau yn destun pryder mawr—nid yn unig am fod rhai ardaloedd yn araf yn mynd i'r afael â hyn fel mater ac fel set o driniaethau, ond hefyd am fod rhai wedi rhagweld nifer fawr o lawdriniaethau gofal dydd bob blwyddyn, ond eto heb gyrraedd dim byd yn agos i'w targedau disgwylidig. Mae hynny'n awgrymu bwlech sy'n peri gofid rhwng y weledigaeth a'r realiti. Fodd bynnag, mewn unrhyw sefydliad mawr fe fydd aneffeithlonrwydd. Ni fydd byth yn gwbl

which have a serious problem with their funding. I want to raise the particular issue of the Townsend formula. We moved towards the Townsend formula only in years of plenty. We have had years of famine lately; we are not moving towards achieving that formula and those targets. Some areas are now being permanently disadvantaged in relation to that formula, because we are not making the progress towards it that was envisaged when the system was set up by your predecessor. I ask you to look again at the process that we agreed on here of moving towards that formula only in good years.

My LHB in Cardiff—I have just read its most recent papers—has a total recurrent shortfall of £7.7 million. It is obvious that it is looking to deal with this problem by reductions in service to the patients. I welcome your assurance that you are examining how trusts and LHBs respond to what is a financial crisis for many of them not by going for efficiencies but by going for reductions in services. There is a serious problem throughout Wales of trusts and LHBs taking the obvious solution rather than the more painful long-term one of becoming more efficient.

Finally, I would like to mention the out-of-hours service. I have had the figures from every LHB throughout Wales, and they show that, in 2004-05, £2.5 million extra was put into that service beyond estimates across Wales by different LHBs. In 2005-06, £3.5 million extra was put in. Perhaps you could explain to us how the reality of the cost of this service has been so different from the estimate, and explain to us the mechanism by which those allocations of funding for LHBs were made, and how it is that we have this ongoing problem. Do you have an estimate for any variation from the theoretical allocation of money for LHBs for the out-of-hours service in the current financial year?

effeithlon. Yr wyf yn pryderu na allwn eto weld pa ardaloedd sydd â phroblem ddifrifol gyda'u hariannu. Hoffwn godi mater penodol fformiwla Townsend. Yr ydym wedi symud tuag at fformiwla Townsend mewn blynyddoedd breision yn unig. Yr ydym wedi cael blynyddoedd o newyn yn ddiweddar; nid ydym yn symud tuag at gyflawni'r fformiwla honno na'r targedau hynny. Erbyn hyn mae rhai ardaloedd o dan anfantais yn barhaol o ran y fformiwla honno, am nad ydym yn gwneud cynnydd tuag at yr hyn a ragwelwyd pan sefydlwyd y system gan eich rhagflaenydd. Gofynnaf ichi edrych eto ar y broses o symud tuag at y fformiwla mewn blynyddoedd da yn unig, fel y cytunwyd yma.

Mae gan fy mwrdd iechyd lleol yng Nghaerdydd—ac yr wyf newydd ddarllen ei bapurau diweddaraf—gyfanswm o ddiffyg cylchol o £7.7 miliwn. Mae'n amlwg ei fod yn ceisio mynd i'r afael â'r broblem hon drwy doriadau mewn gwasanaethau i'r cleifion. Croesawaf eich sicrwydd eich bod yn archwilio sut y mae ymddiriedolaethau a byrddau iechyd lleol yn ymateb i'r hyn sy'n argyfwng ariannol i nifer ohonynt, drwy ddewis cwtogi gwasanaethau nid drwy ddewis effeithlonrwydd. Mae yna broblem ddifrifol ledled Cymru lle mae ymddiriedolaethau a byrddau iechyd lleol yn dewis yr ateb amlwg yn hytrach na'r ateb hirdymor mwy poenus o fod yn fwy effeithlon.

I gloi, hoffwn sôn am y gwasanaeth y tu allan i oriau. Cefais y ffigurau gan bob bwrdd iechyd lleol yng Nghymru, ac maent yn dangos bod £2.5 miliwn ychwanegol wedi ei roi i'r gwasanaeth hwnnw yn 2004-05 y tu hwnt i amcangyfrifon ledled Cymru gan wahanol fyrddau iechyd lleol. Yn 2005-06 rhoddwyd £3.5 miliwn ychwanegol iddynt. Efallai y gallech egluro wrthym sut mae cost wirioneddol y gwasanaeth hwn wedi bod mor wahanol i'r amcangyfrif, ac egluro wrthym y peirianwaith ar gyfer dyrannu'r arian hwnnw i'r byrddau iechyd lleol, a pham y mae'r broblem hon gyda ni o hyd. A oes gennych amcangyfrif ar gyfer unrhyw amrywiad o'r dyraniad ariannol damcaniaethol ar gyfer byrddau iechyd lleol ar gyfer y gwasanaeth y tu allan i oriau yn y flwyddyn ariannol gyfredol?

Brian Gibbons: There are a number of questions there. The reconfiguration of services remains an absolutely crucial part of engineering increased efficiency in the health service. However, the set of proposals that has emerged from the various 'Designed for Life' consultations are not yet complete, so there are constraints on what I can say in relation to those reconfigurations. Even if you look at the vast majority of proposals coming forward, you will see that there is a consensus.

3.50 p.m.

There is a shared objective among all of the people putting forward proposals as to how their set of proposals will allow service reconfiguration to improve efficiency. That has been a positive outcome of the consultation process, which has significantly moved along the awareness of the agenda.

There are constraints on what I can say about that, but we should be in no doubt that service reconfiguration is fundamental to the efficiencies that are required in the national health service. Equally, if we improved performance in the Welsh health service to the top quartile of performers, we would be able to save tens of thousands of bed days each year, hundreds of thousands of emergency admission bed days, and tens of thousands of new out-patient appointments. Therefore, there is considerable scope for significant improvement in the efficiency of the service if all of the service were to operate at the level of efficiency of the top quartile. Given that there is significant improvement and efficiency to be gained, the role of organisations such as NLIAH is crucial to help us to do that.

There is no doubt that Health Challenge Wales is under significant financial pressure. It has realised that it has to try to live within the allocated resource. It lives in an uncertain world, because many of the treatments that it is involved in commissioning are low-volume, high-cost areas, and we cannot underestimate the challenges facing it. I do not think that there is any difference for Health Challenge Wales as opposed to anyone else in that particular context.

Brian Gibbons: Mae yma nifer o gwestiynau. Mae ailgyflunio gwasanaethau'n dal yn rhan hanfodol o greu gwell effeithlonrwydd yn y gwasanaeth iechyd. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'r set o gynigion sydd wedi ymddangos o'r gwahanol ymgynghoriadau i 'Cynllun Oes' wedi'u cwblhau eto, felly, mae cyfyngiadau ar yr hyn y gallaf ei ddweud mewn cysylltiad â'r ailgyflunio hwnnw. Hyd yn oed os edrychwch ar y mwyafrif llethol o gynigion a drafodir, fe welwch fod consensws.

Mae gan yr holl bobl sy'n cyflwyno'r cynigion am yn ffordd y bydd eu set o gynigion yn caniatáu i ailgyflunio gwasanaethau wella effeithlonrwydd nod cyffredin. Dyna un o ganlyniadau cadarnhaol y broses ymgynghori, sydd wedi datblygu ymwybyddiaeth o'r agenda'n sylweddol.

Mae yna gyfyngiadau ar yr hyn y gallaf ei ddweud am hynny, ond nid oes amheuaeth nad yw ailgyflunio'r gwasanaeth yn hanfodol i'r effeithlonrwydd sydd angenrheidiol yn y gwasanaeth iechyd. Yn yr un modd, pe baem yn gwella perfformiad yn y gwasanaeth iechyd yng Nghymru i'r chwarter uchaf o berfformwyr, gallem arbed degau o filoedd o ddiwrnodau gwely bob blwyddyn, cannoedd ar filoedd o ddiwrnodau gwely brys, a degau ar filoedd o apwyntiadau cleifion allanol newydd. Felly, mae cryn gyfle i wella effeithlonrwydd y gwasanaeth yn sylweddol pe bai'r gwasanaeth i gyd yn gweithredu ar lefel effeithlonrwydd y chwarter uchaf. O gofio y gellir cael gwelliant ac effeithlonrwydd sylweddol, mae rôl sefydliadau megis AGAAGI yn hanfodol i'n cynorthwyo i gyflawni hynny.

Nid oes amheuaeth nad yw Her Iechyd Cymru o dan bwysau ariannol sylweddol. Mae wedi sylweddoli ei bod yn rhaid iddo geisio byw o fewn yr adnoddau a ddyrennir. Mae'n byw mewn byd ansicr, oherwydd mae nifer o'r triniaethau y mae'n eu comisiynu yn rhai llai cyffredin, cost uchel ac ni allwn danbrisió'r heriau sy'n ei wynebu. Ni chredaf fod unrhyw wahaniaeth i Her Iechyd Cymru o'i gymharu ag unrhyw un arall yn y cyd-destun penodol hwnnw.

It is fair to say that the ambulance service was slow in getting off the mark in relation to 'Agenda for Change'. I do not have the figures with me, but I would think that, over the past three to four months, the ambulance service has gone from being one of the worst to one of the best performers. There has been a substantial improvement in the inclusion of people on the 'Agenda for Change' spine now, so that is good.

We are waiting for the business case on the capital programme, which will be subject to evaluation. As we have always said, we are committed to working with the ambulance service to put in place the type of capital investment that is needed. From having spoken with staff of the ambulance service, I think that they feel as though it has the personnel to deliver the type of service that we all want in Wales; it is simply a matter of providing that adequate workforce with the tools to do the job. That is the basis on which we are negotiating with the ambulance service on its investment needs.

I would love to see us being able to make more progress towards the Townsend targets. However, as I have reported on a number of occasions, the issue is not any reluctance to proceed to implement Townsend; it is just that we need to be sure that the methodology that we are using is fully fit for purpose and robust, particularly the new round of Welsh health survey statistics returns that we have achieved. As I reported to the Health and Social Services Committee, we have asked the University of York to undertake an evaluation of the robustness of the new Welsh health survey as the instrument to move the Townsend allocation forward. The expert group on allocations will get a report, next month, hopefully, on the preliminary work that is being done. We need to have a robust tool to do this, because the only thing that is worse than having no effective mechanism is having an inaccurate mechanism. If we go down the road of having a Townsend formula that does not really reflect healthcare need, we will make the situation worse rather than better. As soon as we can get a robust mechanism as far as I am concerned, we must move in that direction.

Mae'n deg dweud bod y gwasanaeth ambiwlans wedi bod yn araf yn dechrau gyda'r 'Agenda ar gyfer Newid'. Nid yw'r ffigurau gennyf, ond byddwn yn tybied bod y gwasanaeth ambiwlans, dros y tri neu bedwar mis diwethaf, wedi mynd o fod yn un o'r perfformwyr gwaethaf i fod yn un o'r perfformwyr gorau. Gwelwyd gwelliant sylweddol o ran cynnwys pobl ar yr 'Agenda ar gyfer Newid', felly, mae hynny'n beth da.

Yr ydym yn disgwyl cael yr achos busnes ar y rhaglen gyfalaf a fydd yn destun gwerthuso. Fel yr ydym wedi ei ddweud o'r cychwyn cyntaf, yr ydym wedi ymrwymo i weithio gyda'r gwasanaeth ambiwlans i roi'r math o fuddsoddiad cyfalaf angenrheidiol ar waith. Ar ôl siarad â staff y gwasanaeth ambiwlans, credaf eu bod yn teimlo bod ganddynt y personél i darparu'r math o wasanaeth y mae ei eisiau ar bob un ohonom yng Nghymru; mae'n fater syml o ddarparu'r offer i'r gweithlu digonol hwnnw i wneud y gwaith. Dyna sail ein negodi gyda'r gwasanaeth ambiwlans am ei anghenion buddsoddi.

Hoffwn yn fawr ein gweld yn gallu gwneud mwy o gynnydd tuag at dargedau Townsend. Fodd bynnag, fel yr wyf wedi dweud droeon, nid amharodrwydd i fynd ati i weithredu Townsend yw'r broblem; mae angen inni fod yn siŵr fod y fethodoleg yr ydym yn ei defnyddio yn addas at y diben ac yn gadarn, yn enwedig y cylch newydd o ystadegau'r arolwg iechyd yng Nghymru a gyflawnwyd gennym. Fel yr adroddais wrth y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, yr ydym wedi gofyn i Brifysgol Caerefrog wneud gwerthusiad o gadernid arolwg iechyd newydd Cymru fel yr offeryn i ddatblygu dyraniad Townsend. Bydd y grŵp arbenigol ar ddyraniadau yn cael adroddiad, fis nesaf gobeithio, am y gwaith rhagarweiniol sy'n cael ei wneud. Mae angen inni gael offeryn cadarn i wneud hyn gan mai'r unig beth sy'n waeth na pheidio â chael mecanwaith effeithiol yw cael mecanwaith gwallus. Os awn ar hyd llwybr cael fformiwla Townsend nad yw'n adlewyrchu angen gofal iechyd mewn gwirionedd, fe wnawn y sefyllfa'n waeth yn hytrach nag yn well. Cyn gynted ag y gallwn gael mecanwaith cadarn, yn fy marn i, rhaid inni symud i'r cyfeiriad hwnnw.

I think that I have covered all of your questions.

The Presiding Officer: Perhaps she might like to write to you if not.

Brian Gibbons: I forgot to respond on out-of-hours services. We recognise that we inherited a legacy of a very uncoordinated service. The funds were allocated on the basis that those places where it was thought that the cost of delivering the service would be greatest would get more resources. Consequently, places like Powys received a relatively generous allocation compared with other parts of the health service in other parts of Wales, where the cost of delivering the service was thought to be less expensive, probably.

However, part of the reason why we are going down the debts route is to try to develop better care pathways for patients. It is also an acknowledgement of the fact that the out-of-hours system, which was predominantly based on the independent contractor model, was not totally efficient and that a more integrated system, which the delivering emergency care services project will provide us with, will hopefully be more efficient and will deliver a financial benefit, as well as clinical benefits for patients.

Y Llywydd: Ac yn olaf, galwaf ar ddau Gadeirydd y pwyllgor iechyd—yr un blaenorol a'r un presennol.

David Melding: Minister, you said that this is a difficult financial year and that there is a need for efficiency savings. However, how will you ensure that health organisations do not hide behind these definite pressing needs for tighter financial management, and do not fulfil the need to achieve our priority areas in improving certain services, such as mental health? We know that the current baseline of mental health services across Wales is often not adequate; it is rarely good and very rarely excellent. We must drive up the quality of mental health services and that will cost money. I do not want to see progress in this area slowed down because of financial factors. We need to take a strategic approach to improve these services.

Credaf imi ateb eich holl gwestiynau.

Y Llywydd: Efallai y byddai'n dymuno ysgrifennu atoch os na wnaethoch.

Brian Gibbons: Anghofiais sôn am wasanaethau y tu allan i oriau. Cydnabyddwn inni etifeddu gwasanaeth di-drefn iawn. Dyrannwyd yr arian ar y sail y byddai'r lleoedd hynny lle y credid y byddai cost darparu gwasanaeth ar ei uchaf yn cael mwy o adnoddau. O ganlyniad, cafodd ardaloedd megis Powys ddyraniad cymharol hael o'i chymharu â rhannau eraill o'r gwasanaeth iechyd yng ngweddill Cymru, lle y credid bod cost cyflwyno'r gwasanaeth yn debygol o fod yn llai drud.

Fodd bynnag, rhan o'r rheswm pam yr ydym yn dilyn y llwybr dyledion yw ceisio datblygu gwell llwybrau gofal i gleifion. Mae hefyd yn gydnabyddiaeth o'r ffaith nad oedd y gwasanaeth y tu allan i oriau, a oedd yn seiliedig yn bennaf ar fodel contractwyr annibynnol, yn gwbl effeithlon a bod system fwy integredig y bydd y prosiect cyflwyno gwasanaethau gofal brys yn ei darparu, yn fwy effeithlon, gobeithio, ac yn sicrhau budd ariannol yn ogystal â buddiannau clinigol i gleifion.

The Presiding Officer: And finally, I call on two health committee Chairs—the former and the present.

David Melding: Weinidog, yr oeddech yn dweud bod hon yn flwyddyn ariannol anodd a bod angen arbedion effeithlonrwydd. Fodd bynnag, sut y byddwch yn sicrhau nad yw sefydliadau iechyd yn cuddio y tu ôl i'r anghenion enbyd pendant hyn am reolaeth ariannol dynnach ac yn methu â chyflawni'r angen i gyrraedd ein meysydd blaenoriaeth wrth wella gwasanaethau penodol, megis iechyd meddwl? Gwyddom fod y llinell sylfaen bresennol o wasanaethau iechyd meddwl ledled Cymru yn aml yn annigonol; anaml y mae'n dda ac yn anaml iawn y mae'n ardderchog. Rhaid inni godi safon gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl, a bydd hynny'n costio arian. Nid wyf am weld cynnydd yn y maes hwn yn arafu oherwydd

ffactorau ariannol. Mae angen inni gael dull strategol i wella'r gwasanaethau hyn.

Brian Gibbons: Mental health services are a classic example, and we are almost going back to the question that Helen Mary raised at the beginning. The recent review of the mental health service pointed out that that service, among many others, is particularly inefficient and is not giving the best care to patients. That is because not enough is being delivered in the community and too much expenditure is focused on in-patient facilities.

Brian Gibbons: Mae gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl yn enghraifft glasurol, ac yr ydym bron â dychwelyd at y cwestiwn a godwyd gan Helen Mary ar y dechrau. Yr oedd yr adolygiad yn ddiweddar o'r gwasanaeth iechyd meddwl yn dangos bod y gwasanaeth, ymhlith nifer o rai eraill, yn arbennig o aneffeithlon ac nad yw'n rhoi'r gofal gorau i gleifion. Mae hynny am nad oes digon yn cael ei darparu yn y gymuned a gormod o wariant yn canolbwyntio ar gyfleusterau cleifion mewnol.

A consistent message in that review was that, even though, in a number of organisations, bed occupancy in mental health services was over 100 per cent, the answer was not to provide more beds, but rather to re-orientate care more towards the community. We are seeing good examples of that here in Cardiff. The community mental health teams are being reinforced and supplemented by crisis intervention teams, and more services are going into the community. Patients who are looked after in the community are getting seven, eight or nine visits a day, rather than being admitted to hospitals. I hope that we can deliver the most clinically appropriate service for our patients. In this situation, we are in a virtual circle. Special clinical services are also often more efficient in this case.

Neges gyson yn yr adolygiad hwnnw, er bod cyfradd llenwi gwelyau gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl dros 100 y cant mewn nifer o sefydliadau, oedd nad darparu rhagor o welyau oedd yr ateb, ond yn hytrach ailgyfeiriadu gofal yn fwy tuag at y gymuned. Yr ydym yn gweld enghreifftiau da o hyn yma yng Nghaerdydd. Caiff y timau iechyd meddwl cymunedol eu hatgyfnerthu a'u hategu gan dimau ymyriadau argyfwng, ac mae rhagor o wasanaethau yn mynd i'r gymuned. Bydd cleifion sy'n cael gofal yn y gymuned yn cael saith, wyth neu naw ymweliad y dydd diwrnod, yn hytrach na'u derbyn i ysbytai. Gobeithio y gallwn gyflwyno'r gwasanaethau sydd fwyaf priodol yn glinigol i'n cleifion. Yn y sefyllfa hon, yr ydym mewn cylch bron. Mae gwasanaethau clinigol arbennig hefyd yn am yn fwy effeithlon yn yr achos hwn.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Weinidog, yr ydych wedi cydnabod bod dyledion o ymhell dros £100 miliwn yn y gwasanaeth iechyd bellach, a bod dyled flynyddol o ryw £34 miliwn. Yr ydych hefyd wedi cydnabod y bydd pwysau ariannol ar y gyllideb iechyd a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yn ystod y flwyddyn ac, yn wir, y blynyddoedd i ddod. Cododd David Melding y pwynt hwn hefyd, ond ai'r gwasanaethau hynny sy'n tueddu i fod yn wasanaethau nad ydynt ar flaen yr agenda fydd yn dioddef o ganlyniad i hynny?

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Minister, you have acknowledged that there are now debts totalling way over £100 million in the health service, and that there is an annual debt of some £34 million. You have also acknowledged that there will be financial pressure on the health and social services budget during this year and, indeed, for years to come. David Melding also raised this point, but is it those services which tend not to be at the top of the agenda that will suffer as a result of that?

Yr ydych hefyd wedi nodi bod gofynion o ran buddsoddi rhyw £140 miliwn yn y gwasanaeth ambiwlans, a bod angen buddsoddiad ychwanegol er mwyn ymateb i ofynion 'Agenda ar gyfer Newid'. Mae eich

You have also noted that there are investment demands of around £140 million in the ambulance service, and that additional investment is needed to respond to the requirements of 'Agenda for Change'. Your

Llywodraeth, fwy nag unwaith yn y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ac yn y Siambr hon, wedi dweud eich bod yn mynd i ymateb i'r anghenion hynny.

Government, on more than one occasion in the Health and Social Services Committee and in the Chamber, has said that you will respond to those needs.

4.00 p.m.

O ble mae'r arian yn dod? Mae gennych ddyledion ar y naill law, a chyllideb sydd o dan bwysau ar y llaw arall, ac yna mae'r gofynion hyn am arian yn dod atoch. A allwch ymrwymo i sicrhau y bydd y gwasanaeth iechyd, yn benodol, yn cael y buddsoddiad sydd ei angen—y gwasanaeth ambiwlans yn benodol? A ydym yn mynd i gael y buddsoddiad sydd ei angen, ac a allwch roi sicrwydd hefyd na fydd gwasanaethau fel gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl yn dioddef yn sgîl hynny?

Where will the money come from? You have debts on the one hand, and a budget that is under pressure on the other, and then you get these requirements for money. Can you commit to ensuring that the health service, in particular, gets the investment it needs—the ambulance service in particular? Will we get the investment that is needed, and can you also assure us that services such as mental health will not suffer as a consequence?

Brian Gibbons: I have dealt with the ambulance service and mental health. Your question is crucial, but, equally, we all know the financial disciplines that we operate in this institution. We know that we get a block allocation for the services that we provide, and we know that the various portfolios get their allocations from that. There is no point in any of us dreaming up wish lists that will have resource implications way beyond what can be conceivably delivered. This is where the challenge of delivering efficiencies in the service is crucial, and where service redesign is needed, and, particularly, where difficult decisions must be made; Jenny Randerson also raised this issue, and I did not touch upon it.

Brian Gibbons: Yr wyf wedi ymdrin â'r gwasanaeth ambiwlans ac iechyd meddwl. Mae eich cwestiwn yn un hanfodol, ond yn yr un modd gwyddom i gyd am y disgyblaethau ariannol a weithredir gennym yn y sefydliad hwn. Gwyddom y cawn ddyraniad bloc ar gyfer y gwasanaethau a ddarparwn, a gwyddom y caiff yr amrywiol bortffolios eu dyraniadau o hynny. Nid oes diben i neb ohonom freuddwydio am restr o ddymuniadau a fydd â goblygiadau adnoddau ymhell y tu hwnt i'r hyn y gellir ei ddarparu mewn gwirionedd. Dyma ble mae'r her o sicrhau effeithlonrwydd yn y gwasanaeth yn hanfodol, a ble mae angen ail-gynllunio gwasanaethau ac, yn bennaf, ble mae'n rhaid gwneud penderfyniadau anodd; cododd Jenny Randerson y pwynt hwn hefyd, ac ni soniais amdano.

One of the challenges that we give an organisation, if running an existing service that needs to change because it is financially inefficient, is that it must always ask itself, first, to profile the service that it is delivering. Then, before it implements any change, it must spell out how that same service will be delivered in an improved or reconfigured way. We do not want a situation in which there will be a cut-and-run mentality, whereby an organisation that is under financial pressure looks around, sees the soft option, and believes that if it institutes a cut here and a cut there, without taking any cognisance of the services provided, that will

Un her a osodwn i sefydliad, os yw'n darparu gwasanaeth y mae angen ei newid am ei fod yn ariannol aneffeithlon, yw ei bod yn rhaid iddo ofyn iddo'i hun bob amser, yn gyntaf, amlinellu'r gwasanaeth a ddarperir ganddo. Yna, cyn iddo wneud unrhyw newidiadau, rhaid iddo esbonio sut y darperir yr un gwasanaeth hwnnw mewn ffordd well neu ailgyfluniol. Nid ydym am gael sefyllfa lle y bydd meddylfryd o gwtogi'n ddifeddwl, lle mae sefydliad sydd dan bwysau ariannol yn edrych o amgylch, yn gweld y dewis hawdd ac yn credu, os bydd yn cwtogi yma ac acw, heb gymryd sylw o'r gwasanaethau a ddarperir, y bydd popeth yn iawn; ni fyddai

be all right; that would not be acceptable to us. Where efficiencies are required—and they will be required—the bottom line will be whether the service that is being provided can continue to be delivered in the same way, if that is adequate, or, alternatively, whether it can be provided in a better way. Mental health services are an excellent example of this.

hynny'n dderbyniol inni. Pan fydd angen mesurau effeithlonrwydd—a bydd eu hangen—diwedd y gân fydd a yw'n bosibl parhau i ddarparu'r gwasanaeth yn yr un modd, os yw hynny'n ddigonol, neu, fel arall, a ellir ei ddarparu mewn ffordd well. Mae gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl yn enghraifft wych o hyn.

Dirprwyo Swyddogaethau o dan Ddeddf Galluedd Meddyliol 2005 i'r Prif Weinidog
Delegation of Functions under the Mental Capacity Act 2005 to the First Minister

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

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

the National Assembly for Wales, acting under section 62(1) (b) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, resolves to delegate all functions of the National Assembly contained within the Mental Capacity Act 2005 to the Assembly First Minister, save those which by law cannot be so delegated: (NDM3212)

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, gan weithredu'n unol ag adran 62 (1) (b) Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998, yn penderfynu dirprwyo i'r Prif Weinidog holl swyddogaethau'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol a gynhwysir o fewn Deddf Galluedd Meddyliol 2005, ac eithrio'r rhai na ellir, yn ôl y gyfraith, eu dirprwyo yn y modd hwnnw. (NDM3212)

Members may be interested to know that the Mental Capacity Act 2005 is scheduled to be commenced in England and Wales in April 2007. There are two particularly important elements of the Act that are devolved to Wales. They are on developing policy and setting regulations for the independent mental capacity advocate, and developing policy and setting further regulations for carrying out research on people who lack mental capacity as defined in the Act. For the regulations to be made in these areas, it will be necessary for the powers to be delegated to the First Minister by Plenary, which is the purpose of this motion.

Efallai y bydd diddordeb gan yr Aelodau wybod bod Deddf Galluedd Meddyliol 2005 i ddod i rym yng Nghymru a Lloegr ym mis Ebrill 2007. Mae dwy elfen bwysig yn y Ddeddf sydd wedi eu datganoli i Gymru. Maent yn ymwneud â datblygu polisi a gosod rheoliadau ar gyfer yr eiriolwr galluedd meddyliol annibynnol, a datblygu polisi a gosod rheoliadau pellach ar gyfer gwneud gwaith ymchwil ar bobl nad oes ganddynt alluedd meddyliol yn ôl diffiniad y Ddeddf. Er mwyn gweithredu'r rheoliadau yn y meysydd hyn, bydd angen i'r Cyfarfod Llawn ddirprwyo'r pwerau i'r Prif Weinidog, a dyna ddiben y cynnig hwn.

Helen Mary Jones: The Plaid Cymru group will support this delegation. This is an important piece of legislation, which needs to be implemented as soon as possible. However, I wish to ask the Minister for further information about the independent advocate, which is an important role. I am concerned, and I wonder whether the Minister shares my concern, that that

Helen Mary Jones: Bydd grŵp Plaid Cymru'n cefnogi'r dirprwyo hwn. Mae hon yn ddeddfwriaeth bwysig ac y mae angen ei gweithredu cyn gynted â phosibl. Fodd bynnag, hoffwn ofyn i'r Gweinidog am fwy o wybodaeth am yr eiriolwr annibynnol, sy'n rôl bwysig. Yr wyf yn pryderu, a thybed a yw'r Gweinidog hefyd yn pryderu, y bydd rôl yr eiriolwr yn gyfyngedig i'r cleifion hynny

advocate's role will be limited only to those patients who have no-one else to speak for them. I am thinking particularly of a situation where you may have an elderly couple, where perhaps one partner may not have the power to advocate as strongly for the other as they would wish. Will it be possible, Minister, to develop a code of practice around the independent advocate in Wales, so that there can be some flexibility for those people who are not without anyone in the world, but whose nearest and dearest may also need support in order to act as an advocate for them, to have the services and the support of the independent advocate, whose role we very much welcome. Can the Minister also tell us, in terms of developing the code of practice, whether we will have a separate code in Wales? If we will not have a separate code in Wales, what input will he have into the code that would be developed jointly?

Jenny Randerson: Briefly, and following the same theme as Helen Mary, I would be interested to know what steps are being taken in Wales to ensure that services will be provided through the medium of Welsh. In terms of the vulnerable people that we are talking about in relation to this legislation, the use of their preferred language, if it happens to be Welsh, could be the key to their safety, happiness and security. The Welsh Liberal Democrats will, of course, support this motion.

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Brian Gibbons): Helen Mary is right that the regulations that we are discussing are, effectively, for people who have no-one else to speak up for them. Clearly, in the situation that Helen Mary used to try to illustrate her case, one would, in the first instance, look to whether or not a family member would be an appropriate advocate. In some cases, close friends might be the appropriate person. The substance of these regulations really only apply to those people in circumstances where there would be no-one else—effectively, the unbefriended.

I am not sure to which code of practice you were referring, but I will take an intervention if you want to clarify that.

Helen Mary Jones: I may not have used the

nad oes ganddynt neb arall i siarad ar eu rhan yn unig. Yr wyf yn meddwl yn benodol am sefyllfa lle y gallai pâr oeddrannus gynnwys un partner nad yw'n gallu eirioli mor gryf dros y llall ag y byddai'n ei ddymuno. A fydd yn bosibl, Weinidog, datblygu cod ymarfer o amgylch yr eiriolwr annibynnol yng Nghymru fel y gall fod ychydig hyblygrwydd i'r bobl hynny nad ydynt heb neb yn y byd, ond y gallai fod angen cymorth ar eu hanwyliaid hefyd i weithredu fel eiriolwr iddynt, i gael gwasanaeth a chymorth yr eiriolwr annibynnol, sy'n cael croeso brwd gennym. A all y Gweinidog ddweud wrthym hefyd, o ran datblygu cod ymarfer, a fydd gennym god ar wahân yng Nghymru? Os na fydd gennym god ar wahân yng Nghymru, beth fydd ei gyfraniad i'r cod a fyddai'n cael ei lunio ar y cyd?

Jenny Randerson: Yn fyr, a chan ddilyn yr un thema â Helen Mary, hoffwn wybod pa gamau a gaiff eu cymryd yng Nghymru i sicrhau y caiff gwasanaethau eu darparu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. O ran y bobl ddiamddiffyn y soniwn amdanynt mewn cysylltiad â'r ddeddfwriaeth hon, gallai defnyddio'u dewis iaith, os y Gymraeg yw honno, fod yn allweddol i'w diogelwch, eu hapusrwydd a'u sicrwydd. Bydd Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru, wrth gwrs, yn cefnogi'r cynnig hwn.

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Brian Gibbons): Mae Helen Mary yn gywir wrth ddweud mai ar gyfer pobl nad oes ganddynt neb arall i siarad ar eu rhan y mae'r rheoliadau a drafodir gennym mewn gwirionedd. Yn amlwg, o ran y sefyllfa a ddefnyddiodd Helen Mary i geisio egluro'i hachos, dylid ystyried yn gyntaf a fyddai aelod o'r teulu'n eiriolwr priodol. Mewn rhai achosion, efallai mai cyfaill agos fyddai'r person priodol. Mae hanfodion y rheoliadau hyn yn gymwys yn unig i'r bobl hynny mewn amgylchiadau lle na fyddai neb arall—pobl ddigyfaill, mewn gwirionedd.

Nid wyf yn siŵr at ba god ymarfer yr oeddech yn cyfeirio, ond fe gymeraf ymyriad os hoffech egluro hynny.

Helen Mary Jones: Efallai na ddefnyddiais

right term, but I am thinking of the terms under which the independent advocate will be acting in Wales, whether that is a code of practice or guidance to which he or she will be working.

Brian Gibbons: We will be expecting a proper regulatory process and—and this is subject to correction later on—I think that even the Care Council for Wales or some such body would have a role. We want good quality advocates, rather than some sort of ad hoc system. We would want some rigour and vigour in the system.

I can only agree with the point that Jenny made. Certainly in relation to people giving consent for research purposes, and for people who are effectively unbefriended, the ability to access a bilingual service is absolutely crucial.

yr ymadrodd cywir, ond yr wyf yn cyfeirio at y telerau y bydd yr eiriolwr annibynnol yn gweithredu danynt yng Nghymru, boed hynny'n god ymarfer neu'n ganllawiau y bydd ef neu hi yn eu dilyn.

Brian Gibbons: Byddwn yn disgwyl proses reoleiddio briodol a chredaf—ac mae'n bosibl y caiff hyn ei gywiro'n ddiweddarach—y bydd gan Gyngor Gofal Cymru neu gorff arall tebyg hyd yn oed ran i'w chwarae. Yr ydym am gael eiriolwyr o safon, yn hytrach na rhyw fath o system ad hoc. Byddem am gael system fanwl gywir a chadarn.

Ni allaf ond gytuno â'r pwynt a wnaeth Jenny. Yn bendant, o ran pobl yn rhoi caniatâd at ddibenion ymchwil, a phobl ddigyfaill i bob pwrpas, mae'r gallu i gael gwasanaeth dwyieithog yn hollol hanfodol.

Cynnig (NDM3212): O blaid 41, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.

Motion (NDM3212): For 41, Abstain 0, Against 0.

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

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

Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd i'r Gadair am 4.08 p.m.
 The Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair at 4.08 p.m.*

Adroddiad Blynyddol y Sector Gwirfoddol The Annual Report of the Voluntary Sector

**The Minister for Social Justice and
 Regeneration (Edwina Hart):** I propose that

**Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder
 Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio (Edwina Hart):**
 Cynigiaf fod

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

*notes the action taken to implement the
 voluntary sector scheme in the period up to
 31 March 2006, and agrees to publish the
 annual report. (NDM3213)*

*yn nodi'r camau a gymerwyd i weithredu
 cynllun y sector gwirfoddol yn y cyfnod hyd
 at 31 Mawrth 2006 ac yn cytuno i gyhoeddi'r
 adroddiad blynyddol. (NDM3213)*

The report fully describes the achievements that have occurred over the last year, and, for me, demonstrates once again the enormous contribution that the voluntary and the community sectors make to the social and economic wellbeing of Wales. There are many examples of achievement and I will list a few. The establishment of the funding and compliance sub-committee is a major step forward, and I thank Ann Jones for chairing that committee as a member of the voluntary sector partnership council, and also Helen Mary Jones for participating on the committee.

Mae'r adroddiad yn rhoi disgrifiad llawn o'r hyn a gyflawnwyd dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf, ac i mi mae'n dangos unwaith yn rhagor y cyfraniad enfawr a wneir gan y sector gwirfoddol a'r sector cymunedol i les cymdeithasol ac economaidd Cymru. Mae yna nifer o enghreifftiau o gyflawni a rhestraf rai ohonynt. Mae sefydlu'r is-bwyllgor ariannu a chydymffurfio yn gam mawr ymlaen, a diolch i Ann Jones am gadeirio'r pwyllgor hwnnw fel aelod o gyngor partneriaeth y sector gwirfoddol, a hefyd i Helen Mary Jones am gymryd rhan yn y pwyllgor.

The Year of the Volunteer has been successful, and it has highlighted for individuals the joy of volunteering, and what volunteers do; there has been a focus on volunteers during the year. We have had the launch of the employee volunteer initiative, which was also important. It is important for employees and employers to understand what can be gained from volunteering—the extra skills and dimensions that it brings to your life. It has been an important initiative. We

Mae Blwyddyn y Gwirfoddolwr wedi bod yn llwyddiannus, ac mae unigolion wedi profi pleser gwirfoddoli, a'r hyn y mae gwirfoddolwyr yn ei wneud; canolbwyntiwyd ar wirfoddolwyr yn ystod y flwyddyn. Gwelwyd lansio'r fenter gweithwyr yn gwirfoddoli, a oedd hefyd yn bwysig. Mae'n bwysig i gyflogeion a chyflogwyr ddeall beth y gellir ei ennill o wirfoddoli—y sgiliau a'r agweddau ychwanegol newydd ar eich bywyd. Mae wedi bod yn fenter bwysig.

have also had the launch of the Russell Commission programme, the launch of the corporate challenge initiative, and the partnership agreement with the Welsh Council for Voluntary Action, the county voluntary councils and volunteer bureaux.

4.10 p.m.

Volunteering depends on volunteers, who remain the lifeblood of their communities. I do not think that we can say too often in Wales that we rely on volunteers. They are there, giving of their all, and giving a lot of additional value to society. Therefore, volunteering remains at the forefront of Assembly policy. Volunteers need to be properly valued and supported, and more effort is needed to recruit and retain them. To volunteer is not easy—you have to give up your time and give a commitment to the organisation that you are involved in—and it is important that volunteers are valued in those roles.

The Assembly is playing its part through five separate activities. First, it is providing more secure funding to the volunteer bureaux and, secondly, it is working with the WCVA to develop comprehensive training programmes for trustees and volunteers. We must emphasise that to be a trustee is not an easy job these days, with the legislation as it stands, and it is important that we can give confidence to those who are prepared to act as trustees for some quite small organisations, but also for some quite large organisations, with quite a lot of money involved. Thirdly, we are continuing to fund the national volunteering website and, by doing so, I think that we have done a good job. That has been a useful website for people to find out about issues. Fourthly, the Assembly is continuing to fund the creation of new volunteering opportunities through the active communities, millennium volunteers, and volunteering in Wales programmes. Fifthly, a new three-year programme to promote youth volunteering, with £1 million in each year, has arisen from the Russell Commission and it is important that we have allocated the money for that.

Hefyd, lanswyd rhaglen y Comisiwn Russell, y fenter her gorfforaethol, a'r cytundeb partneriaeth gyda Chyngor Gweithredu Gwirfoddol Cymru, y cynghorau gwirfoddoli sirol a'r cymdeithasau gwirfoddoli.

Mae'r maes gwirfoddoli'n dibynnu ar wirfoddolwyr, sef enaid eu cymunedau o hyd. Ni chredaf y gallwn ddweud yn rhy aml yng Nghymru ein bod yn dibynnu ar wirfoddolwyr. Maent yno, yn rhoi i'r eithaf, ac yn rhoi llawer o werth ychwanegol i gymdeithas. Felly, mae gwirfoddoli'n dal yn flaenoriaeth ym mhollisiau'r Cynulliad. Mae angen gwerthfawrogi a chefnogi gwirfoddolwyr yn briodol, ac mae angen mwy o ymdrech i'w recriwtio a'u cadw. Nid yw'n hawdd gwirfoddoli—rhaid ichi roi o'ch amser ac ymrwymo i'r sefydliad yr ydych yn rhan ohono—ac mae'n bwysig i wirfoddolwyr gael eu gwerthfawrogi yn y rolau hynny.

Mae'r Cynulliad yn gwneud ei ran drwy bum gweithgaredd ar wahân. Yn gyntaf, mae'n darparu mwy o gyllid sicr i'r cymdeithasau gwirfoddoli, ac yn ail mae'n gweithio gyda Chyngor Gweithredu Gwirfoddol Cymru i ddatblygu rhaglenni hyfforddi cynhwysfawr i ymddiriedolwyr a gwirfoddolwyr. Rhaid inni bwysleisio nad yw'n hawdd bod yn ymddiriedolwr y dyddiau hyn, gyda deddfwriaeth fel y mae, ac mae'n bwysig gallu ennyn hyder y rheini sy'n fodlon gweithredu fel ymddiriedolwyr i rai sefydliadau cymharol fach, ond hefyd i rai sefydliadau cymharol fawr, lle mae cryn lawer o arian dan sylw. Yn drydydd, yr ydym yn parhau i ariannu'r wefan wirfoddoli genedlaethol, a thrwy wneud hynny credaf inni wneud gwaith da. Mae hon wedi bod yn wefan ddefnyddiol i bobl gael gwybodaeth. Yn bedwerydd, mae'r Cynulliad yn dal i ariannu'r gwaith o greu cyfleoedd gwirfoddoli newydd drwy'r rhaglenni cymunedau gweithredol, gwirfoddolwyr y mileniwm a gwirfoddoli yng Nghymru. Yn bumed, mae rhaglen newydd dair blynedd i hybu gwirfoddoli ymysg pobl ifanc, gyda chyllideb o £1 filiwn bob blwyddyn, wedi deillio o Gomisiwn Russell, ac mae'n bwysig ein bod wedi dyrannu'r arian ar gyfer hynny.

As an Assembly, we value highly the importance of partnership working and building constructive relationships between the Assembly and the voluntary and community sectors. We have invested over £162 million directly in the voluntary organisations in Wales in 2005-06. The Assembly Government has also agreed to implement all of the recommendations of the independent commission that reviewed the scheme. To date, a total of 32 recommendations have been signed off and we have worked closely with the sector to implement these changes. These include making three-year funding periods for grants to the voluntary sector a requirement. I think that this is the start of the process, not the end of it. We are doing this as a Government, and I urge all our partners across Wales to do the same. We are only paying lip service to our voluntary sector agreements unless we are prepared to do something on the funding agenda. Obviously, there will be some short-term schemes and if schemes are specifically designed as short-term projects, we will spell out that the funding mechanism for such schemes is only for one or two years.

We have also adopted a minimum 12-week period for all our consultations. We are publishing a forward plan of consultations, because we send out an awful lot of consultation documents, across all departments, and some of them will be of interest to certain parts of the voluntary sector, but not all. I thought it important that we publish an advance list, so that people can dip into it and see which ones they want to discuss and respond to. We have also improved the arrangements for cascading consultation papers and information via the county voluntary councils and sector networks. This is important, because if you are a small organisation in a little town, you need someone to prod you to say, 'This document is quite interesting and you will have a view on this; do you want to respond to it?' We have also tried to encourage more local groups to become involved with local and national networks. Sometimes, groups of people are quite isolated in their

Fel Cynulliad, mae pwysigrwydd gweithio mewn partneriaeth a meithrin perthynas adeiladol rhwng y Cynulliad a'r sector gwirfoddol a'r sector cymunedol yn cael ei werthfawrogi'n fawr gennym. Yr ydym wedi buddsoddi dros £162 miliwn yn uniongyrchol yn y sefydliadau gwirfoddol yng Nghymru yn 2005-06. Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad hefyd wedi cytuno i weithredu holl argymhellion y comisiwn annibynnol a adolygodd y cynllun. Hyd yn hyn, mae cyfanswm o 32 o argymhellion wedi eu cymeradwyo, ac yr ydym wedi gweithio'n agos gyda'r sector i weithredu'r newidiadau hyn. Mae'r rhain yn cynnwys sicrhau bod cyfnodau ariannu tair blynedd ar gyfer grantiau i'r sector gwirfoddol yn ofynnol. Credaf mai dyma ddechrau'r broses, nid ei diwedd. Yr ydym yn gwneud hyn fel Llywodraeth, ac anogaf ein holl bartneriaid ledled Cymru i wneud yr un fath. Dim ond esgus cefnogi ein cytundebau sector gwirfoddol y byddwn os nad ydym yn barod i wneud rhywbeth ar yr agenda ariannu. Yn amlwg, fe fydd rhai cynlluniau tymor byr, ac os caiff cynlluniau eu llunio'n benodol fel prosiectau tymor byr, byddwn yn egluro mai am flwyddyn neu ddwyn unig y bydd y mecanwaith arian ar gael ar gyfer cynlluniau o'r fath.

Yr ydym hefyd wedi mabwysiadu cyfnod gofynnol o 12 wythnos ar gyfer ein holl ymgynghoriadau. Yr ydym yn cyhoeddi blaengynllun o ymgynghori, gan ein bod yn cyhoeddi nifer fawr o ddogfennau ymgynghori, ar draws yr holl adrannau, rai ohonynt o ddiddordeb i rai rhannau o'r sector gwirfoddol, ond nid y cyfan. Yr oeddwn yn credu ei bod yn bwysig inni gyhoeddi rhestr ymlaen llaw, fel y gall pobl gael cipolwg arni a gweld pa rai maent am eu trafod ac ymateb iddynt. Yr ydym hefyd wedi gwella'r trefniadau ar gyfer rhaeadru papurau ymgynghori a gwybodaeth drwy'r cynghorau gwirfoddoli sirol a rhwydweithiau'r sector. Mae hyn yn bwysig, oherwydd os sefydliad bach ydych chi mewn tref fach, mae angen rhywun i'ch procio a dweud, 'Mae'r ddogfen hon yn ddigon diddorol a bydd gennych farn am hyn; a ydych am ymateb iddi?' Yr ydym hefyd wedi ceisio annog mwy o grwpiau lleol i gymryd rhan mewn rhwydweithiau lleol a chenedlaethol. Weithiau, mae grwpiau o bobl

organisations and it is good for them to talk to others; they need not think that people are going to try to pinch their funding, it is just good to share some ideas, to discuss mutual problems and look at the common challenges that many organisations face. We recognise that we have more challenges now than ever, by increasing partnership working. Therefore, we are taking steps to build the capacity of the infrastructure organisations: the WCVA, the CVCs and the volunteer bureaux.

We are also introducing core funding, linked to a partnership agreement. This is quite important. There are issues around core funding—there are a lot of difficulties in this regard—but it is important that we do this. We will set out outcomes and performance targets that organisations are required to meet in exchange for stable long-term funding. I think that that is a fair balance between us and the sector.

Work continues on preparing a new strategic action plan for the voluntary sector scheme, and it will set out a clear vision for the sector and a clear programme for delivering the commitments in the scheme. The plan will go out to public consultation in December and work remains on course for the new plan to be launched in early summer 2007, following the forthcoming Assembly elections.

As we are all aware, the Beecham report has been published and has highlighted the changing face of public service delivery in Wales. Voluntary and community organisations are often more user-led, flexible, innovative and able to provide personalised local services, and we need to recognise that. It also makes them especially suited, I believe, to playing a part in the reform of major public services, as well as to delivering specific local programmes. The sector, clearly, has a strong role, and Beecham has advocated for the sector to support the citizen model by championing the voice of citizens and service users.

yn ddigon ynysig yn eu sefydliadau ac mae'n beth da iddynt siarad ag eraill; nid oes angen iddynt feddwl bod pobl am geisio dwyn eu harian, dim ond ei bod yn dda rhannu rhai syniadau, trafod problemau cyffredin ac edrych ar yr heriau cyffredin sy'n wynebu nifer o sefydliadau. Yr ydym yn cydnabod bod gennym fwy o heriau yn awr nag erioed, drwy fwy o weithio mewn partneriaeth. Felly, yr ydym yn cymryd camau i feithrin gallu'r sefydliadau seilwaith: Cyngor Gweithredu Gwirfoddol Cymru, y cynghorau gwirfoddoli sirol a'r cymdeithasau gwirfoddoli.

Yr ydym hefyd yn cyflwyno arian craidd, yn gysylltiedig â chytundeb partneriaeth. Mae hyn yn gymharol bwysig. Mae problemau ynghlwm ag arian craidd—mae nifer o anawsterau yn y cyswllt hwn—ond mae'n bwysig inni wneud hyn. Byddwn yn gosod allan ganlyniadau a thargedau perfformiad y bydd yn ofynnol i sefydliadau eu cyflawni yn gyfnewid am arian hirdymor sefydlog. Credaf fod hyn yn gydbwysedd teg rhyngom ni a'r sector.

Mae'r gwaith ar baratoi cynllun gweithredu strategol newydd ar gyfer y cynllun sector gwirfoddol yn mynd rhagddo, a bydd yn gosod allan weledigaeth glir ar gyfer y sector a rhaglen glir ar gyfer cyflawni'r ymrwymadau yn y cynllun. Bydd ymgynghori cyhoeddus am y cynllun ym mis Rhagfyr ac mae'r gwaith ar y cynllun newydd a gaiff ei lansio ddechrau'r haf 2007, yn dilyn etholiadau'r Cynulliad, yn parhau ar y trywydd iawn.

Fel y gwyddom i gyd, cyhoeddwyd adroddiad Beecham ac mae wedi tynnu sylw at natur darpariaeth gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru sy'n newid. Caiff sefydliadau gwirfoddol a sefydliadau cymunedol yn aml eu harwain yn fwy gan ddefnyddwyr, ac maent yn fwy hyblyg, yn fwy arloesol a gallant ddarparu gwasanaethau lleol personol, ac mae angen inni gydnabod hynny. Mae hefyd yn eu gwneud yn arbennig o addas, mi gredaf, i chwarae rhan yn y gwaith o ddiwygio gwasanaethau cyhoeddus pwysig, yn ogystal â chyflawni rhaglenni lleol penodol. Mae gan y sector, yn amlwg, rôl gadarn, ac mae Beecham wedi annog y sector i gefnogi model y dinesydd drwy hyrwyddo llais dinasyddion a defnyddwyr

gwasanaethau.

The strategic action plan will obviously take account of these important issues and make local partnerships more citizen-focused by highlighting collaborative models and any current weaknesses in services' design and delivery. By working together and continuing to nurture and develop productive partnership in the voluntary sector and beyond, we can all help to make a real difference to the lives of people living in our communities. As I commend this report to the Assembly, and commend the work of the voluntary sector, I also commend the work of the voluntary sector partnership, which cuts across party lines and takes in many voluntary organisations. It is important that, in all possible ways, we are united on issues to do with the voluntary sector, as it is a valuable sector to us in Wales; we rely on it, and its people give added value to people in communities.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I remind Members that I have not imposed a three-minute limit, and I do not think that it will be necessary for me to do so. However, I ask Members to be mindful of the fact that we have two debates to go, and there may well be a debate on a change to Standing Orders, and we have to finish on time, unless we ask for an extension. I have five speakers, so Members can work it out for themselves. Your co-operation is appreciated.

Helen Mary Jones: I believe that we would all agree, and I know that the Minister would agree, that the voluntary sector scheme, the partnership and the partnership council have been a unique and positive factor of public life in Wales since devolution. I concur with many of the Minister's remarks about the positive developments outlined in this report. However, I also hope that the Minister will agree with me that there is no room for complacency in any of these issues. I take the opportunity offered by this debate to raise two concerns; one for now, and the other for the future.

Bydd y cynllun gweithredu strategol yn amlwg yn ystyried y materion pwysig hyn ac yn sicrhau bod partneriaethau lleol yn canolbwyntio'n fwy ar y dinesydd drwy dynnu sylw at fodolau cydweithredol ac unrhyw wendidau cyfredol wrth gynllunio a darparu gwasanaethau. Drwy gydweithio a pharhau i feithrin a datblygu partneriaeth gynhyrchiol yn y sector gwirfoddol a thu hwnt, gallwn i gyd helpu gwneud gwahaniaeth go iawn i fywydau pobl yn ein cymunedau. Wrth imi gymeradwyo'r adroddiad hwn i'r Cynulliad, a chymeradwyo gwaith y sector gwirfoddol, cymeradwyaf hefyd waith partneriaeth y sector gwirfoddol, sy'n mynd ar draws llinellau plaid ac yn cynnwys nifer o sefydliadau gwirfoddol. Mae'n bwysig, ym mhob ffordd bosibl, inni fod yn gytûn ar faterion sy'n ymwneud â'r sector gwirfoddol, am ei fod yn sector gwerthfawr i ni yng Nghymru; yr ydym yn dibynnu arno, ac y mae ei bobl yn rhoi gwerth ychwanegol i bobl mewn cymunedau.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Atgoffaf Aelodau nad wyf wedi gosod terfyn o dair munud, ac ni chredaf y bydd angen imi wneud hynny. Fodd bynnag, gofynnaf i Aelodau gofio'r ffaith fod gennym ddwy ddadl arall, ac efallai y bydd dadl ar newid mewn Rheolau Sefydlog, a rhaid inni orffen mewn pryd, oni ofynnwn am estyniad. Mae gennyf bum siaradwr, felly, gall Aelodau ei weithio allan eu hunain. Gwerthfawrogir eich cydweithrediad.

Helen Mary Jones: Credaf y byddem i gyd yn cytuno, a gwn y byddai'r Gweinidog yn cytuno, fod cynllun y sector gwirfoddol, y bartneriaeth a'r cyngor partneriaeth wedi bod yn elfen unigryw a chadarnhaol ym mywyd cyhoeddus Cymru ers datganoli. Cytunaf â nifer o sylwadau'r Gweinidog am y datblygiadau cadarnhaol a amlinellir yn yr adroddiad hwn. Fodd bynnag, gobeithio hefyd y bydd y Gweinidog yn cytuno â mi nad oes rheswm dros fod yn hunanfodlon ynglŷn ag rai o'r materion hyn. Manteisiaf ar y cyfle a gynigir gan y ddadl hon i godi dau bryder; y naill ar gyfer yn awr, a'r llall ar gyfer y dyfodol.

My current concern is about issues of Mae fy mhryder presennol yn ymwneud â

compliance with the funding code and compliance with the scheme generally. These concerns come as no surprise to the Minister, as I raise them with her regularly, and I know that Ann Jones, Chair of the compliance committee, does the same. We have seen wide variation between Government departments and Assembly sponsored public bodies, and indeed between Minister, in the level of their commitment to the amount of information that they are prepared to make available. Some are committed, some try hard, and others, frankly, do not appear to be committed or trying hard at all. I agree that the development of the finance and compliance sub-committee has been important—I concur with the Minister on that—but I also want to share with the Assembly the frustrations felt by some of us who participate in that process. It can take a long time to get information, and I urge the Minister to work with her colleagues to ensure a consistent standard of compliance, particularly with the funding code. As the Minister said, there will always be some one-off, short-term initiatives, but we really have to get the commitment to three-year funding turned into reality. As the scheme progresses, I hope, after 2007, there will be need for rigour, and perhaps more rigour than has been heretofore, in scrutinising delivery and, possibly, if necessary, exposing failures.

My second, and more medium-term, concern, relates to our new constitutional arrangements after 2007. The voluntary sector partnership council will not be able to carry on in quite the same way as it has with the new separation between the Executive and the Assembly as a parliamentary body. The Government, of course, will wish to set up its own mechanisms for consulting the sector. I believe that it is essential for there to be a formal and public mechanism; I am sure that the Minister would concur. However, it is also important that the Standing Orders address the relationship between the whole Assembly and the voluntary sector. We will need a formal mechanism—and I know that this is under consideration by the Committee on Standing Orders—to scrutinise the Government on the implementation of the scheme, and I advocate that we look at the

chydymffurfio â'r cod ariannu a chydymffurfio â'r cynllun yn gyffredinol. Ni fydd y pryderon hyn yn peri syndod i'r Gweinidog, gan fy mod yn eu codi gyda hi'n rheolaidd, a gwn fod Ann Jones, Cadeirydd y pwyllgor cydymffurfio, yn gwneud yr un fath. Gwelsom amrywiaeth eang rhwng adrannau'r Llywodraeth a chyrrff cyhoeddus a noddur gan y Cynulliad, ac yn wir rhwng Gweinidogion, o ran eu hymrwymiad in faint o wybodaeth y maent yn barod i'w rhyddhau. Mae rhai wedi ymrwymo, mae rhai'n ymdrechu'n galed, ac mae eraill, a bod yn onest, yn ymddangos fel nad ydynt wedi ymrwymo nac yn ymdrechu'n galed o gwbl. Cytunaf fod datblygu'r is-bwyllgor cyllid a chydymffurfio wedi bod yn bwysig—cytunaf â'r Gweinidog ar hynny—ond yr wyf hefyd am rannu gyda'r Cynulliad y rhwystredigaethau a deimlir gan rai ohonom sy'n cyfrannu at y broses honno. Gall gymryd cryn amser i gael gwybodaeth, ac anogaf y Gweinidog i weithio gyda'i chyd-Weinidogion i sicrhau safon gyson o gydymffurfio, yn enwedig â'r cod ariannu. Fel y dywedodd y Gweinidog, bydd yna rai mentrau unigol, byrdymor bob amser, ond rhaid i ni wireddu'r ymrwymiad i broses ariannu tair blynedd. Wrth i'r cynllun fynd rhagddo, gobeithio, ar ôl 2007, bydd angen grymuster, ac efallai fwy o rymuster nag a gafwyd eisoes, wrth graffu ar ddarparu ac, o bosibl, ar ddatgelu methiannau os bydd angen.

Mae fy ail bryder, sy'n fwy yn y tymor canolig, yn ymwneud â'n trefniadau cyfansoddiadol newydd ar ôl 2007. Ni fydd cyngor partneriaeth y sector gwirfoddol yn gallu parhau'n union fel y mae gyda'r gwahanu nerwydd rhwng y Weithrediaeth a'r Cynulliad fel corff seneddol. Bydd y Llywodraeth, wrth gwrs, am osod ei mecanweithiau ei hun ar gyfer ymgynghori â'r sector. Credaf ei bod yn hanfodol cael dull ffurfiol a chyhoeddus; yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai'r Gweinidog yn cytuno. Fodd bynnag, mae hefyd yn bwysig i'r Rheolau Sefydlog fynd i'r afael â'r berthynas rhwng y Cynulliad cyfan a'r sector gwirfoddol. Bydd arnom angen mecanwaith ffurfiol—a gwn fod hynny'n cael ei ystyried gan y Pwyllgor ar Reolau Sefydlog—i graffu ar y Llywodraeth o ran gweithredu'r cynllun, ac anogaf y dylem edrych ar fodol y Pwyllgor

model of the Committee on Equality of Opportunity and how it has used standing advisers to bring in advice from the sector to any Assembly committee that scrutinises actions under the scheme.

There may be a particular need for scrutiny, because, while I greatly welcome what the Minister said about this current Government's long-term commitment, some trends are arising that could damage what has already been achieved—I am thinking in particular of the centralising trends in the plans to deliver the new European convergence funds. It is important that, as a whole Assembly, we are able to keep an eye on what is happening with that and other trends.

4.20 p.m.

The relationship between the Assembly, and the Assembly Government, and the voluntary sector has been one aspect of public life in Wales of which we can feel proud since devolution. It is important that the relationship does not become cosy and that we are prepared, as opposition parties and backbench Assembly Members, to scrutinise the Assembly Government on what it does, and not on what it says. It is important that these positive arrangements are maintained under the new constitutional arrangements after 2007.

Mick Bates: The Welsh Liberal Democrats welcome the report. As the previous speaker said, we consider this to be one of the great successes of the Assembly in terms of the way in which the voluntary sector in Wales has been given a place at the table. I consider it to be important having spent many years, as did many Assembly Members, sitting in many voluntary group meetings looking for funding and recognition; we often fought our way into local authority funding streams to be told that the funding was for 12 months, before spending the whole year anxiously waiting to discover where the funding for the next 12 months would come from. That experience has been turned by the Assembly into practical mechanisms through the voluntary sector partnership. Notwithstanding the difficulties with the new arrangements, and the need for new Standing Orders, the

Cyfle Cyfartal a y ffordd y mae wedi defnyddio cynghorwyr sefydlog i ddarparu cynngor gan y sector i unrhyw bwyllgor yn y Cynulliad sy'n craffu ar weithredoedd o dan y cynllun.

Efallai fod angen arbennig am graffu, oherwydd, er fy mod yn croesawu'n fawr yr hyn a ddywedodd y Gweinidog am ymrwymiad hirdymor y Llywodraeth gyfredol hon, mae rhai tueddiadau'n codi a allai niweidio'r hyn a gyflawnwyd eisoes—yr wyf yn meddwl yn arbennig am y tueddiadau canoli yn y cynlluniau i ddarparu'r cronfeydd cydgyfeirio Ewropeaidd newydd. Mae'n bwysig, fel Cynulliad cyfan, inni allu cadw golwg ar yr hyn sy'n digwydd gyda hynny a chyda thueddiadau eraill.

Mae'r berthynas rhwng y Cynulliad a Llywodraeth y Cynulliad a'r sector gwirfoddol wedi bod yn un agwedd ar fywyd cyhoeddus yng Nghymru y gallwn ymfalchio ynddi ers datganoli. Mae'n bwysig i'r berthynas beidio â mynd yn rhy gysurus ac inni fod yn barod, fel y gwrthbleidiau ac Aelodau meinciau cefn y Cynulliad, i graffu ar Lywodraeth y Cynulliad yn yr hyn y mae'n ei wneud, nid yn yr hyn a ddywed. Mae'n bwysig cynnal y trefniadau cadarnhaol hyn dan y trefniadau cyfansoddiadol newydd ar ôl 2007.

Mick Bates: Mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn croesawu'r adroddiad. Fel y dywedodd y siaradwr blaenorol, ystyriwn mai hwn yw un o lwyddiannau mawr y Cynulliad o ran y ffordd y mae'r sector gwirfoddol wedi cael lle amlwg yng Nghymru. Credaf ei bod yn bwysig, ar ôl treulio blynyddoedd lawer, fel nifer o Aelodau'r Cynulliad, yn eistedd mewn nifer o gyfarfodydd grwpiau gwirfoddol yn chwilio am arian a chydabyddiaeth; yr oeddem yn aml yn ymladd ein ffordd i mewn i ffrydiau ariannu awdurdodau lleol i glywed bod yr arian am 12 mis, cyn treulio'r flwyddyn gyfan yn disgwyl yn bryderus i weld o ble y deuai'r arian am y 12 mis nesaf. Mae'r Cynulliad wedi troi'r profiad hwnnw'n fecanweithiau ymarferol drwy bartneriaeth y sector gwirfoddol. Er yr anawsterau gyda'r trefniadau newydd, a'r angen am Reolau

momentum that has been built, and the good work of the voluntary sector partnership, will continue.

There remain four major challenges that need to be addressed within what is an excellent framework. The first challenge is that we do not become complacent about one of the main aims of dialogue and co-operation with the voluntary sector. These are easy words that lead to the process of consultation; as someone who has worked with many voluntary organisations, I know that they are often inundated by consultative documents. As I have asked previously, if someone out there finds an effective way of undertaking consultation, please tell me, because, all too often, voluntary organisations are inundated and time is taken up with consultation. This is not to undervalue the process, but we need to recognise that representative structures should be used in a cascade system, where a group of smaller voluntary groups can be represented within the consultation process.

The second challenge is that the proofing of policies is not always as thorough as I would like it to be. Great strides have been made through the Assembly Committee for Equality of Opportunity, and the driver of legislation has ensured that the voluntary sector is well-represented in many planning policies. However, in terms of general economic planning within local authorities, the voluntary sector is sometimes overlooked. This leads to my next point about the areas where we need joined-up government. Strategic delivery issues sometimes mean that the voluntary sector is not placed at the table when those strategic decisions are made.

Only today, I attended a meeting of the Powys Local Health Board, where, because of the financial pressures, it is looking to create bigger partnerships with a voluntary sector that itself often struggles for funding. It will be asked to deliver more and more services. There is a case to be made in this regard, particularly in the area of mental health services, for someone to look at a robust mechanism to ensure that the proofing of policies includes a robust financial arrangement that goes beyond one portfolio.

Sefydlog newydd, bydd y momentwm a sicrhawyd, a gwaith da partneriaeth y sector gwirfoddol, yn parhau.

Erys pedair her fawr y mae angen mynd i'r afael â hwy o fewn yr hyn sy'n fframwaith rhagorol. Yr her gyntaf yw inni beidio â mynd yn hunanfodlon ynglŷn ag un o'r prif nodau, sef deialog a chydweithredu â'r sector gwirfoddol. Mae'r rhain yn eiriau hawdd sy'n arwain at y broses o ymgynghori; fel rhywun sydd wedi gweithio gyda nifer o sefydliadau gwirfoddol, gwn eu bod yn cael eu boddi'n aml gan ddogfennau ymgynghorol. Fel y gofynnais yn flaenorol, os bydd unrhyw un yn dod o hyd i ffordd effeithiol i gynnal ymgynghoriad, a wnewch chi ddweud wrthyf, oherwydd yn rhy aml caiff sefydliadau gwirfoddol eu boddi a threulir llawer o amser yn ymgynghori. Nid tansilio gwerth y broses yw hyn, ond mae angen inni gydnabod y dylid defnyddio strwythurau cynrychioliadol mewn system raeadru, lle y gall grŵp o grwpiau gwirfoddol llai gael ei gynrychioli yn y broses ymgynghori.

Yr ail her yw nad yw'r gwaith o brawfesur polisïau bob amser mor drylwyr ag yr hoffwn iddo fod. Gwnaed cynnydd mawr drwy Bwyllgor Cyfle Cyfartal y Cynulliad, ac mae'r ysgogwr deddfwriaeth wedi sicrhau bod y sector gwirfoddol yn cael ei gynrychioli'n dda mewn nifer o bolisïau cynllunio. Fodd bynnag, o ran cynlluniau economaidd cyffredinol mewn awdurdodau lleol, caiff y sector gwirfoddol ei anwybyddu weithiau. Mae hyn yn arwain at fy mhwynt nesaf ynglŷn â'r meysydd lle y mae angen inni sicrhau llywodraeth gydgysylltiedig. Mae materion cyflawni strategol weithiau'n golygu na chaiff y sector gwirfoddol ei gynnwys pan wneir y penderfyniadau strategol hynny.

Heddiw ddiwethaf, bŵm mewn cyfarfod o Fwrdd Iechyd Lleol Powys, lle mae, oherwydd y pwysau ariannol, yn ceisio creu partneriaethau mwy o faint gyda sector gwirfoddol sydd ei hun yn aml yn ei chael yn anodd sicrhau arian. Gofynnir iddo ddarparu mwy a mwy o wasanaethau. Mae yna achos yn hyn o beth, yn enwedig ym maes gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl, dros ofyn i rywun edrych ar fecanwaith cadarn i sicrhau bod y gwaith o brawfesur polisïau yn cynnwys trefniant ariannol cadarn sy'n mynd

Currently, the Minister's responsibility for the voluntary sector does not carry funding through the health service to ensure that a local health board can commission services from the voluntary sector in a satisfactory way. Those pressures often mean that the voluntary sector is cut out. I am sure that the Minister is aware of the recent problems with the Wales-Council-for-Voluntary-Action-administered mental health fund, which, while opening the door to more voluntary sector organisations applying for funding, has, at the same time, restricted the amount available to those who were already taking part. So, there may be service reductions in certain areas.

Finally, on the general issue of funding, there have been many good European links but I am deeply concerned that one of the great sources that I have used—the European social fund, or Objective 3, as it is now called for the east of Wales—is recognised as one of the main funding sources. It needs to be continued.

I urge the Minister to undertake a scoping study of the voluntary sector in terms of future funding. As this round of European funding comes to an end, the next round will bring more, not fewer, constraints and it is time that we looked at how the continuity of funding—our three-year core funding—will operate under the next round of European structural funding.

Mark Isherwood: We must remove the limits on what the voluntary sector, social enterprises and community groups can do. It is the social entrepreneurs and poverty fighters who can deliver the solutions to the long-term problems in our most deprived communities. They combine public-sector values with private-sector standards. They can succeed where the state has failed. Social justice grows from the ground; it cannot be dropped from the air like a food parcel. Our task is to plant, nurture, water and sow until the cycle becomes self-generating.

Oxfam has rightly recognised the importance of the voluntary sector to the economy and,

y tu hwnt i un portffolio. Ar hyn o bryd, nid yw cyfrifoldeb y Gweinidog dros y sector gwirfoddol yn cynnwys arian drwy'r gwasanaeth iechyd i sicrhau y gall bwrdd iechyd lleol gomisiynu gwasanaethau o'r sector gwirfoddol mewn ffordd foddhaol. Mae'r pwysau hynny'n aml yn golygu na chaiff y sector gwirfoddol ei gynnwys. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod y Gweinidog yn ymwybodol o'r problemau'n ddiweddar gyda'r gronfa iechyd meddwl sy'n cael ei gweinyddu gan Gyngor Gweithredu Gwirfoddol Cymru ac sydd, er yn gyfle i fwy o sefydliadau'r sector gwirfoddol wneud cais am arian, ar yr un pryd wedi cyfyngu'r swm sydd ar gael i'r rhai a oedd eisoes yn cymryd rhan. Felly, fe all fod gostyngiadau mewn gwasanaethau mewn rhai meysydd.

Yn olaf, o ran ariannu'n gyffredinol, cafwyd nifer o gysylltiadau Ewropeaidd da, ond yr wyf yn pryderu'n fawr fod un o'r ffynonellau gwych a ddefnyddiwyd gennyf—cronfa gymdeithasol Ewrop, neu Amcan 3, fel y'i gelwir bellach ar gyfer dwyrain Cymru—yn cael ei chydabod fel un o'r prif ffynonellau ariannu. Mae angen iddi barhau.

Anogaf y Gweinidog i wneud astudiaeth gwmpasu o'r sector gwirfoddol o ran arian yn y dyfodol. Wrth i'r cylch hwn o arian Ewropeaidd ddod i ben, daw'r cylch nesaf â mwy, nid llai, o gyfyngiadau, ac mae'n hen bryd inni edrych ar y ffordd y bydd parhad yr arian—ein harian craidd tair blynedd—yn gweithredu o dan gylch nesaf cronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd.

Mark Isherwood: Rhaid inni ddileu'r terfynau ar yr hyn y gall y sector gwirfoddol, mentrau cymdeithasol a grwpiau cymunedol ei wneud. Yr entrepreneuriaid cymdeithasol a'r ymladdwyr tloidi rhai a all ddarparu'r atebion i'r problemau hirdymor yn ein cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig. Maent yn cyfuno gwerthoedd y sector cyhoeddus â safonau'r sector preifat. Gallant lwyddo lle y mae'r wladwriaeth wedi methu. Daw cyfiawnder cymdeithasol o'r ddaear; ni ellir ei ollwng o'r aer fel pecyn bwyd. Ein tasg ni yw plannu, meithrin, dyfrhau a hau nes bydd y cylch yn hunan-gynhyrchiol.

Mae Oxfam wedi cydnabod, yn gywir ddigon, bwysigrwydd y sector gwirfoddol i'r

as social enterprises told the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee earlier this year, they can make a major impact but, at present, they feel that they are only at the tip of the iceberg.

With that in mind, my response to this voluntary sector annual report will be limited to quoting directly from the feedback that I have received from local voluntary councils in my north-Wales region. The report states that the strategic action plan currently being developed for the future of the voluntary sector will include action by the sector to raise its game in terms of representation, accountability and its ability to enter into and be held responsible for commitments and indicators for measuring the scheme's impact and outcome. The local voluntary council response to that states that there is a capacity issue over how the voluntary sector can reach out to represent all elements of the community. There is a need to strengthen the accountability at a local level and how that then feeds into national agendas. It needs to be recognised that many small voluntary-sector organisations do not wish to engage in strategic developments and consultation, as they are just happy to get on and do things for local people.

Indicators should be cross-linked to funders and organisations with multiple funding streams should only be required to provide one set of monitoring data.

The report states that Ministers will be asked to assist with the development of the draft plan, and local voluntary councils state that it is vital that that remit is taken on board by all departments, not just by the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration, although it would be useful if one department could take the lead on negotiations on behalf of the sector when dealing with Assembly officials.

They ask how the voluntary sector will get access so that they are able to take new initiatives for Ministers to consider. They ask what has been done between the Welsh Assembly Government and local authorities to embed the principles of funding arrangements, such as three-year funding with inflationary uplift. They ask how

economi, ac fel y dywedodd mentrau cymdeithasol wrth y Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio yn gynharach eleni, gallant gael effaith fawr, ond ar hyn o bryd teimlant mai cyfran fechan iawn ydynt.

O gofio hynny, caiff fy ymateb i'r adroddiad blynyddol hwn gan y sector gwirfoddol ei gyfyngu i ddyfynnu'n uniongyrchol o'r adborth a gefais gan gynghorau gwirfoddol lleol yn fy rhanbarth yn y gogledd. Mae'r adroddiad yn dweud y bydd y cynllun gweithredu strategol sy'n cael ei ddatblygu ar hyn o bryd ar gyfer dyfodol y sector gwirfoddol yn cynnwys gweithredu gan y sector i wella cynrychiolaeth, atebolrwydd a'i allu i lunio ymrwymadau a dangosyddion ar gyfer mesur effaith a chanlyniad y cynllun a bod yn atebol amdanynt. Mae ymateb y cyngor gwirfoddol lleol i hynny'n dweud bod mater o allu ac adnoddau ynglŷn â'r ffordd y gall y sector gwirfoddol estyn allan i gynrychioli pob elfen yn y gymuned. Mae angen atgyfnerthu'r atebolrwydd yn lleol a'r modd y mae hynny wedyn yn bwydo i agendâu cenedlaethol. Mae angen cydnabod nad yw nifer o sefydliadau bach yn y sector gwirfoddol yn dymuno ymwneud â datblygiadau strategol ac ymgynghori, am eu bod yn ddigon hapus i fwrw ymlaen i wneud pethau dros bobl leol.

Dylai dangosyddion gael eu croesgysylltu â chyllidwyr, ac un set o ddata monitro yn unig a ddylai fod yn ofynnol i sefydliadau sydd â ffrydiau ariannu lluosog ei darparu.

Mae'r adroddiad yn dweud y gofynnir i Weinidogion helpu datblygu'r cynllun drafft, ac mae cynghorau gwirfoddol lleol yn datgan ei bod yn hanfodol i bob adran ystyried y cylch gwaith hwnnw, nid y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio yn unig, er y byddai'n ddefnyddiol pe gallai un adran arwain mewn negodiadau ar ran y sector wrth ddelio â swyddogion y Cynulliad.

Gofynnant sut y bydd y sector gwirfoddol yn cael mynediad fel y gall gyflwyno mentrau newydd i'r Gweinidogion eu hystyried. Gofynnant beth sydd wedi ei wneud rhwng Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ac awdurdodau lleol i ymgorffori egwyddorion trefniadau ariannu, megis ariannu tair blynedd gyda chynnydd chwyddiannol.

funders will give feedback to organisations on the monitoring information that they submit. They emphasise the need for a more consistent approach to grant schemes to ensure that adequate timing is in place and that decisions are made within original timescales that do not allow slippage. They ask why the funding and compliance sub-committee has not met since March 2005, and question whether there is any real purpose in its meeting in those circumstances.

They state that the year of the volunteer was very poor due to its late start and the relatively small amount of funding made available compared with that in England. They add that not enough was made of the opportunity to flagship volunteering across Wales. They ask whether the Welsh Assembly Government will actively promote the people exchange Wales scheme, encouraging civil servants to participate in volunteering. They ask when activity to promote youth volunteering will be seen on the ground and whether, as no funding has been released, we are to assume that the £1 million over 12 months will now be over six months and whether it is realistic to issue that level of funding over such a short period.

With reference to the partnership agreement with the Wales Council for Voluntary Action, they know that the actual implementation of the new agreement across the infrastructure will only take place from April 2007, and that the review by 31 March 2007 should therefore be delayed until at least 2008.

With reference to European funding, they state that, wherever possible, all-Wales programmes should be developed to support the whole voluntary sector. They identify the need for greater clarity from the Welsh Assembly Government to ensure that any Cymorth funding for supported housing subsumed into local authority revenue support grant is not lost, and they stress the need to recognise the role that the voluntary sector can play in reaching out to people whom educational institutions are presently unable to reach.

There is much more feedback than that, but

Gofynnant sut y bydd cyllidwyr yn rhoi adborth i sefydliadau am y wybodaeth fonitro a gyflwynir ganddynt. Pwysleisiant yr angen am ddull mwy cyson tuag at gynlluniau grant i sicrhau amseru digonol ac y gwneir penderfyniadau o fewn amserlenni gwreiddiol nad ydynt yn caniatáu llithro. Gofynnant pam nad yw'r is-bwyllgor ariannu a chydymffurfio wedi cyfarfod ers mis Mawrth 2005, a gofynnant a oes diben gwirioneddol iddo gyfarfod dan yr amgylchiadau hynny.

Dywedant fod blwyddyn y gwirfoddolwr yn un wael iawn oherwydd iddi gychwyn yn hwyr ac oherwydd y swm cymharol fach o arian a neilltuwyd o'i gymharu â'r arian yn Lloegr. Ychwanegant na fanteisiwyd yn ddigonol ar y cyfle i hyrwyddo gwirfoddoli ledled Cymru. Gofynnant a fydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn mynd ati i hyrwyddo'r rhaglen cyfnewid pobl - Cymru, gan annog gweision sifil i gymryd rhan mewn gweithgareddau gwirfoddoli. Gofynnant pa bryd y gwelir gweithgarwch i hyrwyddo gwirfoddoli ymhlith yr ifanc ar lawr gwlad, ac a ddylem gymryd, gan na ryddhawyd dim arian, y bydd yr £1 filiwn dros 12 mis am chwe mis bellach, ac a yw'n realistig cyflwyno'r lefel honno o ariannu dros gyfnod mor fyr.

Gan gyfeirio at y cytundeb partneriaeth gyda Chyngor Gweithredu Gwirfoddol Cymru, gwyddant mai o fis Ebrill 2007 yn unig y caiff y cytundeb newydd ei roi ar waith ar draws y seilwaith mewn gwirionedd, ac y dylai'r adolygiad erbyn 31 Mawrth 2007 gael ei ohirio, felly, tan o leiaf 2008.

Gan gyfeirio at arian Ewropeaidd, dywedant y dylai rhaglenni Cymru gyfan gael eu datblygu, ble bynnag y mae'n bosibl, i gefnogi'r sector gwirfoddol cyfan. Nodant yr angen am fwy o eglurder gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i sicrhau na chollir unrhyw arian Cymorth ar gyfer tai â chymorth a gaiff ei gynnwys yng ngrantiau cynnal refeniw awdurdodau lleol. Ac y maent yn pwysleisio'r angen am gydnabod y rhan y gall y sector gwirfoddol ei chwarae wrth estyn allan at bobl na all sefydliadau addysgol eu cyrraedd ar hyn o bryd.

Mae llawer mwy o adborth na hynny, ond

time prevents me from addressing it today. Suffice to say that improving our society's sense of wellbeing is a central political challenge of our times, and the voluntary sector has a key role to play in this. Politics must respond to the yearning for social growth as well as the yearning for economic growth.

4.30 p.m.

David Melding: I have been involved in the voluntary sector scheme since the Assembly was established in 1999. I am pleased to commend it. It has been a broadly excellent initiative; in fairness, one has to say that it has been driven by the Labour Government. We have seen several Ministers with a great commitment to the voluntary sector. There are issues around how these policies are implemented and I could address those, if I had time to deliver a longer speech, but the general concept is excellent. We have certainly seen in the independent review that there is a need for a voluntary sector scheme. That is also my experience, having worked on it now for over seven years.

I hope that you will not think it mean of me to say that it is a pity that the statutory basis for the scheme in the Government of Wales Act 2006 is a little weaker than the statutory basis for the local government scheme, because that scheme will have to have a partnership council. It would have been good to have had that obligation in terms of the voluntary sector scheme and to have had a partnership council between the Government and the voluntary sector written into that statute. However, given the track record, I am prepared to wait and see what the Executive does after 2007—whoever is in that position—and whether the mechanisms are robust. Therefore, I will save my judgment until that time.

What is the role of the voluntary sector after 2007? The need for contact with the Executive will be very important, whatever form the partnership council takes. However, we have also heard some Members, including Mick Bates, talk about consultation. Of course, we welcome the fact that there is now a 12-week consultation period, but, in terms of consultation, we need to work smarter and

mae amser yn fy atal rhag ymdrin â hynny heddiw. Digon yw dweud bod gwella ymdeimlad o les yn ein cymdeithas yn un o heriau gwleidyddol allweddol ein hoes, ac mae gan y sector gwirfoddol ran allweddol yn hynny. Rhaid i wleidyddiaeth ymateb i'r dyhead am dwf cymdeithasol yn ogystal â'r dyhead am dwf economaidd.

David Melding: Bùm yn gysylltiedig â chynllun y sector gwirfoddol ers sefydlu'r Cynulliad yn 1999. Mae'n bleser gennyf ei gymeradwyo. Bu'n fenter ardderchog yn gyffredinol; i fod yn deg, rhaid dweud mai Llywodraeth Lafur sydd wedi'i hyrwyddo. Cawsom nifer o Weinidogon gydag ymrwymiad ardderchog i'r sector gwirfoddol. Cyfyd materion ynghylch sut y gweithredir y polisiau hyn, a gallwn ymdrin â'r rheini pe byddai gennyf amser i roi araith hwy, ond mae'r cysyniad cyffredinol yn ardderchog. Gwelsom yn sicr yn yr adolygiad annibynnol fod angen cael cynllun sector gwirfoddol. Dyna fy mhrofiad innau hefyd, ar ôl gweithio arno bellach ers dros saith mlynedd.

Gobeithio na fyddwch yn meddwl fy mod yn grintach wrth ddweud ei bod yn drueni fod sail statudol y cynllun yn Neddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006 ychydig yn wannach na'r sail statudol i'r cynllun llywodraeth leol, oherwydd bydd yn rhaid i'r cynllun hwnnw gael cyngor partneriaeth. Byddai wedi bod yn dda cael y rhwymedigaeth honno mewn perthynas â chynllun y sector gwirfoddol, a sicrhau bod cyngor partneriaeth rhwng y Llywodraeth a'r sector gwirfoddol yn cael ei gynnwys yn y statud honno. Fodd bynnag, o gofio'r hanes, yr wyf yn barod i aros i weld beth a wna'r Weithrediaeth ar ôl 2007—pwy bynnag fydd yn y sefyllfa honno—ac a yw'r mecanweithiau'n gadarn. Felly, nid wyf am roi fy marn tan hynny.

Beth fydd rôl y sector gwirfoddol ar ôl 2007? Bydd yr angen am gysylltu â'r Weithrediaeth yn bwysig iawn, beth bynnag fydd ffurf y cyngor partneriaeth. Fodd bynnag, clywyd rhai Aelodau hefyd, gan gynnwys Mick Bates, yn sôn am ymgynghori. Wrth gwrs, croesawn y ffaith fod cyfnod ymgynghori o 12 wythnos bellach, ond o ran ymgynghori, mae angen inni weithio'n fwy effeithiol ac

in different ways, and not just in terms of publishing and consulting or the traditional methods. Perhaps we should undertake more work with the voluntary sector and with polling and focus groups—there are all sorts of mechanisms by which to get grassroots opinions. Furthermore, consultation methods should be used as early as possible in the policy formulation process.

Helen Mary Jones made the excellent point that the Assembly will need a formal mechanism with which to consult with the voluntary sector, and that could take the form of a partnership, similar to the partnership council that we have. It would be a different type of partnership—its workload would certainly be quite different. It may focus much more on the legislative role of the Assembly and how the voluntary sector could influence that and bring forward ideas for Assembly Measures and amendments. Some improvement in the capacity could be looked at here by having a scheme that allows some people from the voluntary sector to work with the Executive in terms of the legislative role and with the Assembly's civil service.

Finally, there is potentially a bigger role in the delivery of public services out there for the voluntary sector. I will mention a specific example on the expert patient programme. The Minister may not be aware of this in great detail, but I was talking to representatives of the Royal National Institute for Deaf People this morning, who mentioned how important it was for people to get follow-up when they are fitted with new hearing aids. It is quite a task for a 75-year-old with arthritis to clean a precision instrument. We need to consider these things and how the voluntary sector could play a role. The need for three-year funding has been mentioned and I am glad that the Assembly is providing that. Our agents out there and the other statutory bodies also need to do that. The recognition of the core and statutory services that the voluntary sector delivers has to be foremost in our minds. However, in general, I commend the Government's work and all who have been involved in the voluntary sector scheme.

The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration (Edwina Hart): I do not

mewn ffyrdd gwahanol, nid yn unig o ran cyhoeddi ac ymgynghori neu'r dulliau traddodiadol. Efallai y dylem wneud mwy o waith gyda'r sector gwirfoddol a chyda grwpiau holi barn a grwpiau ffocws—mae yna bob math o fecanweithiau i gael barn y bobl ar lawr gwlad. At hynny, dylid defnyddio dulliau ymgynghori mor gynnar â phosibl yn y broses o lunio polisi.

Gwnaeth Helen Mary Jones bwynt ardderchog y bydd angen i'r Cynulliad gael dull ffurfiol o ymgynghori â'r sector gwirfoddol, ac y gallai hynny fod ar ffurf partneriaeth, yn debyg i'r cyngor partneriaeth sydd gennym. Byddai'n fath gwahanol o bartneriaeth—byddai ei llwyth gwaith yn wahanol iawn. Gallai ganolbwyntio lawer yn fwy ar rôl ddeddfwriaethol y Cynulliad, a sut y gallai'r sector gwirfoddol ddylanwadu ar hynny a chyflwyno syniadau ar gyfer Mesurau a gwelliannau gan y Cynulliad. Gellid ystyried gwella rhywfaint ar allu drwy gael cynllun sy'n galluogi rhai pobl o'r sector gwirfoddol i weithio gyda'r Weithrediaeth o ran y rôl ddeddfwriaethol a chyda gwasanaeth sifil y Cynulliad.

Yn olaf, mae rôl fwy yn bosibl i'r sector gwirfoddol o ran y gwaith o ddarparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus. Soniaf am enghraifft benodol yn y rhaglen cleifion arbenigol. Efallai na fydd y Gweinidog yn ymwybodol iawn o hyn, ond bûm yn siarad â chynrychiolwyr Sefydliad Cenedlaethol Brenhinol Pobl Fyddar y bore yma, a soniodd mor bwysig yw hi i bobl gael apwyntiadau dilynol pan gânt gymhorthion clyw. Mae'n waith anodd i rywun 75 oed sydd ag arthritis lanhau offer manwl. Mae angen inni ystyried hyn a sut y gallai'r sector gwirfoddol chwarae rhan. Soniwyd am yr angen am ariannu am dair blynedd ac yr wyf yn falch fod y Cynulliad yn darparu hynny. Mae angen i'n hasiantau a chyrrff statudol eraill wneud hynny hefyd. Rhaid inni roi'r sylw mwyaf i gydnabod y gwasanaethau craidd a statudol a ddarperir gan y sector gwirfoddol. Fodd bynnag, yn gyffredinol yr wyf yn cymeradwyo gwaith y Llywodraeth a phawb a fu'n gysylltiedig â chynllun y sector gwirfoddol.

Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio (Edwina Hart):

demur from any of the points made by Helen Mary Jones and David Melding, but, post-May 2007, we must ensure that the good work that we have undertaken in the first two Assemblies continues in our relationship with the voluntary sector. The legislation will change the arrangements. It is important to recognise the role of Government and of the Assembly in those new arrangements and not to be frightened to look outside the box and see what improvements we can introduce to make it easier for the voluntary sector to engage with us.

I was particularly interested in some of the points that David made about consultation, because I feel that we sometimes issue the consultation documents and we feel that that is it; we have done our duty, we have produced the document and the organisations have been advised. We have tried to encourage county voluntary organisations to identify groups and to perhaps hold meetings with them to discuss particular consultation documents. When I have consulted on the work of the integration forum and my strategy on asylum seekers and refugees, we have used organisations to have different types of meetings with small groups—we have not given them the whole lengthy document, but have asked for key questions from them to get their feedback on how they feel things are going. We have to recognise that need in consultation, because some of these organisations will have large research departments that will give you everything, but some are really quite small and are only on the periphery of some documents, but they have a view. We need to try to get their views through rather more forcibly.

Like David and Helen, I feel that there is no room for complacency in anything that we have done. It is important that we recognise that, if we are to have a genuine partnership, we need to look at the issues. Helen spoke about compliance and funding issues, and Ann Jones has spoken to me about her concerns about what is going on in the outside world in terms of funding arrangements and what more we can do. There is a certain frustration out there, because, although we have this group, it takes so long sometimes to get the information in.

Nid wyf yn gwrthwynebu unrhyw bwynt a wnaed gan Helen Mary Jones a David Melding, ond ar ôl mis Mai 2007 rhaid inni sicrhau bod y gwaith da a wnaed yn y ddau Gynulliad cyntaf yn parhau yn ein perthynas â'r sector gwirfoddol. Bydd y ddeddfwriaeth yn newid y trefniadau. Mae'n bwysig cydnabod rôl y Llywodraeth a'r Cynulliad yn y trefniadau newydd hynny, a pheidio ag ofni meddwl yn greadigol a gweld pa welliannau y gallwn eu cyflwyno i'w gwneud yn haws i'r sector gwirfoddol ymgysylltu â ni.

Yr oedd gennyf ddi-ddordeb arbennig yn rhai o'r pwyntiau a wnaeth David am ymgynghori, oherwydd credaf ein bod weithiau'n llaesu dwylo ar ôl dosbarthu'r dogfennau ymgynghori; yr ydym wedi gwneud ein dyletswydd, wedi llunio'r ddogfen ac wedi rhoi gwybod i'r sefydliadau. Yr ydym wedi ceisio annog mudiadau gwirfoddol sirol i nodi grwpiau ac efallai gael cyfarfodydd â hwy i drafod dogfennau ymgynghori penodol. Wrth imi ymgynghori ar waith y fforwm integreiddio a'm strategaeth ar geiswyr lloches a ffoaduriaid, defnyddiwyd sefydliadau i gynnal mathau gwahanol o gyfarfodydd gyda grwpiau bach—ni roddwyd y ddogfen faith gyfan iddynt, ond gofynnwyd am gwestiynau allweddol ganddynt i gael adborth am eu barn am bethau. Rhaid inni gydnabod yr angen hwnnw wrth ymgynghori, oherwydd bydd gan rai o'r sefydliadau hyn adrannau ymchwil mawr a fydd yn rhoi popeth ichi. Ond mai rhai ohonynt yn fach iawn ac i ryw raddau'n unig y mae rhai o'r dogfennau'n berthnasol iddynt, ond mae ganddynt safbwynt. Mae angen inni geisio cael eu barn mewn ffordd hytrach yn fwy grymus.

Fel David a Helen, teimlaf na ellir llaesu dwylo mewn perthynas ag unrhyw beth a wnaed. Mae'n bwysig inni gydnabod bod angen edrych ar y materion er mwyn cael partneriaeth wirioneddol. Soniodd Helen am gydymffurfio a materion ariannu, a soniodd Ann Jones am ei phryderon ynghylch yr hyn sy'n digwydd yn y byd allanol o ran trefniadau ariannu a'r hyn y gallwn ei wneud yn ychwanegol. Mae yna ychydig rwystrredigaeth, oherwydd er bod gennym y grŵp hwn, mae'n cymryd cymaint o amser i gael y wybodaeth weithiau. Yr ydych yn

You realise that you need to get on with it if we are going to take some of these issues forward. Therefore, I hope that we can continue with that concept, but beef it up in many ways to deal with some of the issues that are affecting voluntary organisations that look to the Assembly and this committee to take a lead. There must be consistent standards in terms of funding codes and so on. That is something that I would be more than happy to look at.

In terms of the European funds, this is an issue that I have been looking at with regard to the convergence programme strategic frameworks issues that will arise. I am mindful of the role of the voluntary sector and the impact of the voluntary sector on the work that needs to be done in that area. That is a subject of considerable ongoing discussion and dialogue. In terms of dialogue, I have arranged to meet the chair of the voluntary sector partnership council and the chair of the Wales Council for Voluntary Action, Win Griffiths, to talk about arrangements post-2007, because they have some concerns within that area on behalf of the organisations that they represent.

Mick made another point about the proofing of policies. This is a difficult area when you are engaged in discussions with groups. A lot more can be done, and it is easier in some portfolios than in others to proof discussions of policies. Looking at my own portfolio, the domestic abuse strategy and the policies that have been developed, there are excellent relationships between all of the groups that can help us, not to look at what we are doing at a national level, but at how it all goes down, eventually, to the refuge centres on the ground. Therefore, there is a lot more that can be done in terms of our relationship with the voluntary sector in discussing policies at a very early stage and getting more work done. That leads to more joining up of Government, because, using my portfolio as an example, there are things that will affect not only me, but other colleagues who are also involved in some of these issues. The joining up will be crucial if we are to develop good policies with the voluntary sector.

Mark, I am disappointed by your comments

sylweddoli bod angen ichi fwrw ati i weithredu ar rai o'r materion hyn. Felly, gobeithio y gallwn barhau â'r cysyniad hwnnw, ond bod angen ei ddatblygu mewn llawer ffordd er mwyn ymdrin â rhai o'r materion sy'n effeithio ar fudiadau gwirfoddol, sy'n disgwyl i'r Cynulliad a'r pwyllgor hwn arwain y ffordd. Rhaid wrth safonau cyson o ran codau ariannu, ac ati. Mae hynny'n rhywbeth y byddwn yn fwy na bodlon edrych arno.

O ran arian Ewropeaidd, mae hwn yn fater y bûm yn edrych arno mewn perthynas â'r materion a fydd yn codi gyda fframweithiau strategol y rhaglen gydgyfeirio. Yr wyf yn cadw mewn cof rôl y sector gwirfoddol ac effaith y sector gwirfoddol ar y gwaith y mae angen ei wneud yn y maes hwnnw. Mae hwn yn bwnc a gaiff ei drafod yn eang drwy'r amser. O ran deialog, yr wyf wedi trefnu cwrdd â chadeirydd cyngor partneriaeth y sector gwirfoddol a Win Griffiths, cadeirydd Cyngor Gweithredu Gwirfoddol Cymru, i drafod y trefniadau ar ôl 2007, oherwydd mae ganddynt rai pryderon am y maes hwnnw ar ran y mudiadau a gynrychiolir ganddynt.

Gwnaeth Mick bwynt arall ynghylch prawfesur polisïau. Mae hwn yn faes anodd pan fyddwch yn trafod gyda grwpiau. Gellir gwneud llawer mwy, ac mae'n haws prawfesur trafodaethau am bolisïau mewn rhai portffolios na'i gilydd. Gan edrych ar fy mhortffolio fy hun, y strategaeth cam-drin yn yn cartref a'r polisïau a ddatblygwyd, mae perthynas ardderchog rhwng yr holl grwpiau a all ein helpu, nid edrych ar yr hyn a wnawn ar lefel genedlaethol, ond yn hytrach ar y ffordd y mae hyn oll yn effeithio, yn y pen draw, ar y canolfannau lloches eu hunain. Felly, gellir gwneud llawer iawn mwy o ran ein perthynas â'r sector gwirfoddol wrth drafod polisïau yn gynnar iawn a chyflawni mwy. Mae hynny'n arwain at Lywodraeth fwy cydgysylltiedig oherwydd, gan ddefnyddio fy mhortffolio fel enghraifft, bydd pethau'n effeithio nid yn unig arnaf fi, ond ar gyd-Weinidogion eraill sydd hefyd yn gysylltiedig â rhai o'r materion hyn. Bydd y cydgysylltu'n hanfodol os ydym i ddatblygu polisïau da gyda'r sector gwirfoddol.

Mark, yr wyf yn siomedig yn eich sylwadau

today, because I am issuing the new strategic action plan for the voluntary scheme for consultation. I expect all of these organisations to come in and tell me about all of this. You advised me that people are telling you about these things on your patch, but I visit organisations in that area quite regularly; they tell me about their concerns, but they are broadly happy with the stance that we are taking as a Government with the voluntary sector, and the stance of the Assembly as a whole. I ask that, if organisations have concerns or worries, they put them in writing to me as Minister, because my officials need to be aware of them. We can then see what we can do about them. You used a peculiar phrase about private-sector standards. There are some good standards in the private sector and there are some poor standards in the private sector, and there are some excellent standards in the public sector. What I have found with the voluntary sector is that it wants to take the best of all standards to provide the services that it can provide.

I thank Members for their support. It is a report that reflects progress, but I take clearly the message that was given to me that we cannot be complacent on this agenda if we are to have a genuine partnership. We can only have a genuine partnership when we are prepared to ensure that they have the proper funding to engage in that partnership. We are achieving that. I wish that some of our other partners, and the other partners of the voluntary sector, would adhere to those principles as well as we try to in the Assembly Government.

4.40 p.m.

Cynnig (NDM3213): O blaid 38, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.

Motion (NDM3213): For 38, Abstain 0, Against 0.

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew

heddiw, oherwydd yr wyf yn cyhoeddi'r cynllun gweithredu strategol newydd ar gyfer y cynllun gwirfoddol i ymgynghori arno. Yr wyf yn disgwyl i'r holl fudiadau hyn ddod i ddweud wrthyf am hyn. Yr ydych wedi dweud wrthyf fod pobl yn dweud wrthyf chi am y pethau hyn yn eich ardal chi, ond byddaf yn ymweld â mudiadau yn yr ardal honno yn lled reolaidd; maent yn dweud wrthyf am eu pryderon, ond yn gyffredinol maent yn fodlon â'n hymagwedd fel Llywodraeth tuag at y sector gwirfoddol, ac ymagwedd y Cynulliad cyfan. Gofynnaf, os oes gan fudiadau bryderon, am iddynt eu hanfon yn ysgrifenedig ataf fi fel Gweinidog, oherwydd mae angen i'm swyddogion fod yn ymwybodol ohonynt. Defnyddiwyd ymadrodd rhyfedd gennych am safonau'r sector preifat. Mae yna rai safonau da yn y sector preifat a rhai safonau gwael yn y sector preifat, ac mae yna rai safonau ardderchog yn y sector cyhoeddus. Yr hyn a welais gyda'r sector gwirfoddol yw ei fod am ddefnyddio'r gorau o'r holl safonau i ddarparu'r gwasanaethau y gall eu darparu.

Hoffwn ddiolch i'r Aelodau am eu cymorth. Mae'n adroddiad sy'n adlewyrchu cynnydd, ond derbyniaf yn llwyr y neges a roddwyd imi na allwn laesu dwylo ggyda'r agenda hon os ydym i gael partneriaeth wirioneddol. Dim ond pan fyddwn yn barod i sicrhau bod yr ariannu priodol ar gael i gymryd rhan yn y bartneriaeth honno y bydd gennym bartneriaeth wirioneddol. Yr ydym yn gwneud hynny. Hoffwn pe byddai rhai o'n partneriaid, a phartneriaid eraill y sector gwirfoddol, yn dilyn yr egwyddorion hynny cystal ag yr ydym ni'n ceisio'i wneud yn Llywodraeth y Cynulliad.

Davies, Glyn
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Essex, Sue
 German, Michael
 Gibbons, Brian
 Graham, William
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Gwyther, Christine
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Idris Jones, Denise
 James, Irene
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Laura Anne
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Thomas, Catherine
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Williams, Brynle
 Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

Cymeradwyo Newidiadau i Reolau Sefydlog Approval of Changes to Standing Orders

Jenny Randerson: I propose that

the National Assembly acting under section 46(6) of the Government of Wales Act 1998 and Standing Order No. 37:

1. considers the report of the Business Committee laid in the Table Office on 19 September; and

2. approves the amendments to Standing Orders set out in the report of the Business Committee. (NDM3214)

The Deputy Presiding Officer: No Members wish to speak on this motion. Therefore, I will call for a vote. As this motion calls for a change to Standing Orders, it will require a two-thirds majority vote in favour for it to be carried.

Jenny Randerson: Cynigiau fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, gan weithredu'n unol ag adran 46(6) Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998 a Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 37:

1. yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Busnes a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 19 Medi; a

2. yn cymeradwyo'r gwelliannau i'r Rheolau Sefydlog a geir yn adroddiad y Pwyllgor Busnes. (NDM3214)

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Nid oedd unrhyw Aelodau am drafod y cynnig hwn. Felly, galwaf am bleidlais. Gan fod y cynnig hwn yn galw am newid yn y Rheolau Sefydlog, bydd angen mwyafrif o ddwy ran o dair o blaid i dderbyn y cynnig.

*Cynnig (NDM3214): O blaid 39, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
 Motion (NDM3214): For 39, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Jocelyn
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
James, Irene
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Laura Anne
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Williams, Brynle
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

Dadl Fer Short Debate

Cydyfeirio: Agenda Lisbon a'r Bwlch Sgiliau Convergence: The Lisbon Agenda and the Skills Gap

Jeff Cuthbert: I have agreed to allow Peter Black, Christine Gwyther and Jocelyn Davies to speak for a minute each in this debate.

Jeff Cuthbert: Yr wyf wedi cytuno i ganiatáu i Peter Black, Christine Gwyther a Jocelyn Davies siarad am funud yr un yn y ddadl hon.

Over the next six years, the Assembly Government faces a critical test. Communities within west Wales and the Valleys are struggling with historic and

Dros y chwe mis nesaf, mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn wynebu prawf allweddol. Mae cymunedau yn y Gorllewin ac yn y Cymoedd yn brwydro yn erbyn heriau hanesyddol a

ingrained social and economic challenges. The area's complex social and economic problems are the manifestations of much earlier wounds. Just 10 years ago, young people in the Valleys had a tough time trying to get a job. Labour and the Assembly Government are changing all of that. Objective 1 has been a key weapon in our communities' war on such poverty of aspiration.

Objective 1 has brought many new opportunities, markets, jobs and sources of prosperity. The Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas are equipping our communities with the skills to win the global jobs race. We are learning to adapt to change, to sustain employment and to absorb innovation. With Objective 1, and now the convergence programme, west Wales and the Valleys are proving that Wales has a can-do economy.

As chair of the Objective 1 programme monitoring committee, I have travelled throughout the programme area, visiting projects and meeting beneficiaries. I am proud of the first round's achievements—there has been £3.2 billion of funding to over 1,700 projects and 43,500 additional net jobs, and almost 85,000 people have new skills. As the bidding rounds for Objective 1 end, we must ensure that convergence delivers more of the best.

As the Assembly Member for Caerphilly, I represent some of the most disadvantaged communities within the convergence programme. The Caerphilly borough is a tale of two halves. It has a growing prosperous south and an emerging north that is more isolated from agglomeration effects and dependent on low-value-added jobs.

The challenges for the forthcoming convergence programme are clear. They include higher levels of economic inactivity and unemployment; historically low levels of investment; lower-than-average earnings; poor health; low levels of high skills; large numbers of people with no formal qualifications; high numbers of people with significant literacy and numeracy problems;

heriau cymdeithasol ac economaidd cynhenid. Mae problemau cymdeithasol ac economaidd cymhleth yr ardal yn deillio o broblemau llawer cynharach. Dim ond 10 mlynedd yn ôl, yr oedd pobl ifanc yn y Cymoedd yn cael trafferth cael swyddi. Mae Llafur a Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn newid hyn i gyd. Bu Amcan 1 yn arf allweddol yn rhyfel ein cymuendau yn erbyn diffyg uchelgais o'r fath.

Mae Amcan 1 wedi dod â nifer o gyfleoedd newydd, marchnadoedd, swyddi a ffynonellau ffyniant. Mae agendâu Lisbon a Gothenburg yn darparu'r sgiliau sy'n angenrheidiol i'n cymunedau ennill y ras fyd-eang am swyddi. Yr ydym yn dysgu addasu i newid, cynnal cyflogaeth a derbyn syniadau arloesol. Gydag Amcan 1, a'r rhaglen gydgyfeirio bellach, mae'r Gorllewin a'r Cymoedd yn profi bod gan Gymru economi a all gyflawni pethau.

Fel cadeirydd pwyllgor monitro rhaglen Amcan 1, yr wyf wedi teithio ledled ardal y rhaglen, yn ymweld â phrosiectau ac yn cwrdd â phobl sydd wedi cael budd. Yr wyf yn falch o gyflawniadau'r cylch cyntaf—cyflwynwyd £3.2 biliwn i dros 1,700 o brosiectau a chrewyd 43,500 o swyddi ychwanegol net, ac mae gan bron 85,000 o bobl sgiliau newydd. Wrth i'r cylechoedd ymgynnig ddod i ben ar gyfer Amcan 1, rhaid inni sicrhau bod y rhaglen gydgyfeirio yn sicrhau mwy o ganlyniadau effeithiol.

Fel Aelod y Cynulliad dros Gaerffili, yr wyf yn cynrychioli rhai o'r cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig yn y rhaglen gydgyfeirio. Mae dwy ochr i'r geiniog yn hanes bwrdeistref Caerffili. Mae ardal ddeheuol y fwrdeistref yn ffynnu, ond ymddengys fod yr ardal ogleddol wedi'i hynysu fwy oddi wrth effeithiau crynhoi a'i bod yn dibynnu mwy ar swyddi sy'n ychwanegu gwerth bach.

Mae'r heriau i'r rhaglen gydgyfeirio sydd ar ddod yn glir. Maent yn cynnwys lefelau uwch o anweithgarwch economaidd a diweithdra; lefelau isel o fuddsoddi yn hanesyddol; enillion sy'n is na'r cyfartaledd; iechyd gwael; lefelau isel o sgiliau uchel; niferoedd mawr o bobl heb ddim cymwysterau ffurfiol; niferoedd mawr o bobl sydd â phroblemau llythrennedd a rhifedd sylweddol; lefelau isel

low levels of research and development; low levels of business birth rates; out-migration; and one in five young people not being in education, employment or training.

To meet these challenges head on, the Assembly Government plans to spend around 37 per cent of convergence funding on tackling economic inactivity and the basic skills gap, which equates to roughly £1.1 billion of additional funding over six years to get people off benefits and into work. Complementing the investment in basic skills is an additional 26 per cent of funding within Priority 1 of the European social fund to promote a high-value-added growth.

Supporting these two pillars of investments in people will be an estimated £600 million to regenerate physical barriers to inward investment. Affordable units in major developments are key factors in enabling independent businesses to get a foot on the business ladder. Caerphilly business park is a good example of the success of Objective 1 in this regard. The future regeneration of Bargoed town centre under the convergence programme proves the importance of regenerated centres with modern, low-cost premises.

However, the convergence consultation goes much further. The document's 370 pages contain analysis of many interrelated and complex challenges, which indirectly impact on educational attainment and economic growth. I must say that some of the challenges listed are just too indirect and too distant from the twin goals of jobs and skills. A key challenge for the convergence programme will be to maintain its strategic focus over the next six years. In its mid-term review of the Lisbon agenda, the European Commission stated that countries must practise rigorous prioritisation on growth and jobs if the agenda is to succeed. Convergence must therefore focus on two key areas—higher skills and more and better jobs—and not on projects of tangential benefit.

o ymchwil a datblygu; lefelau isel o gyfraddau busnesau newydd; pobl yn symud o'r ardal; ac un person ifanc o bob pump heb fod mewn addysg, cyflogaeth na hyfforddiant.

Er mwyn wynebu'r heriau hyn yn uniongyrchol, mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn bwriadu gwario tua 37 y cant o arian cydgyfeirio i fynd i'r afael ag anweithgarwch economaidd a'r bwlch sgiliau sylfaenol, sy'n golygu tuag £1.1 biliwn o arian ychwanegol dros chwe blynedd i gael pobl oddi ar fudd-daliadau ac i mewn i waith. Ochr yn ochr â'r buddsoddi mewn sgiliau sylfaenol mae 26 y cant ychwanegol o arian o fewn Blaenoriaeth 1 yng nghronfa gymdeithasol Ewrop i hybu twf sy'n ychwanegu gwerth mawr.

Amcangyfrifir y bydd £600 miliwn yn cefnogi'r ddau fath hwn o fuddsoddi mewn pobl er mwyn adfywio rhwystrau ffisegol rhag mewnfuddsoddi. Mae unedau fforddiadwy mewn datblygiadau mawr yn ffactorau allweddol i alluogi busnesau annibynnol i gystadlu ym myd busnes. Mae parc busnes Caerffili yn enghraifft dda o lwyddiant Amcan 1 yn hyn o beth. Mae'r gwaith o adfywio canol tref Bargoed yn y dyfodol o dan y rhaglen gydgyfeirio yn profi pwysigrwydd canolfannau wedi'u hadfywio sydd ag adeiladau modern, cost isel.

Fodd bynnag, mae'r ymgynghori ar gydgyfeirio yn mynd ymhellach o lawer. Mae'r ddogfen 370 o dudalennau yn cynnwys dadansoddiad o lawer her gymhleth ryngberthynol, sy'n effeithio'n anuniongyrchol ar gyrhaeddiad addysgol a thwf economaidd. Rhaid imi ddweud bod ambell her a restrir ychydig yn rhy anuniongyrchol ac yn crwydro'n rhy bell o'r ddau nod, sef swyddi a sgiliau. Bydd cynnal ei ffocws strategol yn ystod y chwe blynedd nesaf yn her allweddol i'r rhaglen gydgyfeirio. Yn ei adolygiad tymor canolig o agenda Lisbon, dywedodd y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd ei bod yn rhaid i wledydd fod yn llym wrth roi blaenoriaeth i dwf a swyddi os yw'r agenda i lwyddo. Felly, rhaid i gydgyfeirio ganolbwyntio ar ddau faes allweddol—sgiliau uwch a swyddi gwell a mwy ohonynt—ac nid ar brosiectau sydd o fudd ymylol.

The Leitch review of skills in 2005, commissioned by the Treasury, accepts such an analysis. Leitch believes that skills investment would help the UK more than any other single factor to reach the Barcelona council's 2002 target of progressive full employment. Infrastructure and other issues, while important, ought not to shift our focus. No, the success of the convergence programme will lie in its investment in Wales's finest asset: its people.

However, the Welsh economy needs the right skills mix to meet medium and long-term challenges, to fill identified skills gaps ahead of the market, and to create new marketable opportunities. One illustration of the importance of a skills mix was Burberry's decision to keep its factory in Yorkshire open because of the workers' unique skills set. Wales should emulate such niche-market approaches, where necessary.

The people in west Wales and the Valleys have diverse skills needs—53 per cent of adults do not have level 1 numeracy skills, 62 per cent of school leavers in Wales's deprived areas achieve grade D or below in English, maths or science. Yet the signs of growth are beginning to show, with the latest key skills statistics showing Wales outperforming the UK, with a greater share of awards in both main key skills and wider key skills.

Convergence, having embraced the Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas, should look towards the Copenhagen process—I am giving you a bit of a tour around Europe. Copenhagen underlines the vital role that vocational education and training can play in regeneration. It stresses that the growing synergy between flexible education and economic development can be best exemplified through greater investment in vocational pathways to employment.

Objective 1 has proven that part-time, flexible, bite-sized and bespoke courses that provide free crèche facilities and basic skills assistance must be provided as standard. Newport Learning Communities has done

Mae adolygiad Leitch o sgiliau yn 2005, a gomisiynwyd gan y Trysorlys, yn derbyn dadansoddiad o'r fath. Cred Leitch y byddai buddsoddi mewn sgiliau yn helpu'r DU yn fwy nag unrhyw ffactor unigol arall i gyflawni targed 2002 gan gyngor Barcelona o gyflogaeth lawn gynyddol. Ni ddylai seilwaith a materion eraill newid ein ffocws, er eu bod yn bwysig. Na, bydd llwyddiant y rhaglen gydgyfeirio'n dibynnu ar ei buddsoddiad yn ased gorau Cymru: ei phobl.

Fodd bynnag, mae ar economi angen y cyfuniad cywir o sgiliau i ateb heriau tymor canolig a hirdymor, i lenwi bylchau a nodwyd mewn sgiliau cyn y farchnad, ac i greu cyfleoedd newydd y gellir eu marchnata. Un enghraifft o bwysigrwydd cyfuniad o sgiliau oedd penderfyniad Burberry i gadw ei ffatri yn Swydd Efrog ar agor oherwydd sgiliau unigryw y gweithwyr. Dylai Cymru fabwysiadu dulliau tebyg yn y farchnad arbenigol lle mae angen.

Mae gan y bobl yn y gorllewin a'r Cymoedd amrywiol anghenion o ran sgiliau—nid oes gan 53 y cant o oedolion sgiliau rhifedd lefel 1, mae 62 y cant o bobl ifanc sy'n gadael yr ysgol yn ardaloedd difreintiedig Cymru yn ennill gradd D neu is mewn Saesneg, mathemateg neu wyddoniaeth. Eto, mae arwyddion twf yn dechrau ymddangos, a'r ystadegau sgiliau allweddol diweddaraf yn dangos bod Cymru'n gwneud yn well na'r DU, a chyfran uwch o ddyfarniadau mewn prif sgiliau allweddol a sgiliau allweddol ehangach.

Dylai'r rhaglen gydgyfeirio, ar ôl cynnwys agenda Lisbon ac agenda Gothenburg, ystyried proses Copenhagen—yr wyf sm eich tywys o amgylch Ewrop yn awr. Mae Copenhagen yn tanlinellu'r rôl hollbwysig y gall addysg a hyfforddiant galwedigaethol ei chwarae ym maes adfywio. Mae'n pwysleisio y gellir gweld y synergedd cynyddol rhwng addysg hyblyg a datblygu economaidd ar ei orau drwy fuddsoddi mwy mewn llwybrau galwedigaethol i gyflogaeth.

Mae Amcan 1 wedi profi bod yn rhaid cynnig cyrsiau rhan amser, hyblyg, byr wedi'u teilwra'n arbennig sy'n darparu cyfleusterau meithrinfa am ddim a chymorth sgiliau sylfaenol fel mater o reol. Mae Cymunedau

that very thing in my constituency, giving young and adult learners a stepping stone back into the world of work. Shaping courses to suit the needs of learners has been the secret of its success.

The Copenhagen process would facilitate action to retain indigenous skills while embracing the benefit of economic immigration. Ireland knows that the two are not mutually exclusive. Augmentation of our indigenous skills base can be achieved alongside the retention of indigenous skills, such as welding. Ystrad Mynach College was forced to close its welding course earlier this year due, in part, to a sudden influx of Polish welders that led to a fall in demand from local employees for local skilled young people. Such short-term thinking resulted in an established centre of skills training being lost to the community, and the transfer of some skilled workers to Bristol. Once those Polish workers move on, re-establishing training in the college will be difficult. Therefore, convergence must look at how long-term investment in skills could prevent such mistakes in the future.

4.50 p.m.

Convergence will also need to invest more in modern apprenticeships. While apprenticeship students have increased by 64 per cent, we need to go further. Increasing investment in the European guidelines for growth and jobs to 65 per cent in the second round is an excellent move. The Assembly needs to be proud that convergence will be used to bring forward planned investments in programmes that work, such as *Want 2 Work* and *Pathways to Work*.

While increasing basic skills, the Lisbon agenda places fundamental importance on highly skilled jobs. Convergence is set to invest 26 per cent of the total budget on high-end skills. It will target research and development, and rightly so. Ireland's economic success is singularly attributed to its high-tech sector. Convergence must empower west Wales and the Valleys to overcome barriers such as rurality by using technology to create a critical mass of a

sy'n Dysgu yng Nghasnewydd wedi gwneud yr union beth yn fy etholaeth i, gan roi cyfle i ddysgwyr ifanc a dysgwyr sy'n oedolion ddychwelyd i'r byd gwaith. Llunio cyrsiau i ddiwallu anghenion dysgwyr oedd cyfrinach y llwyddiant.

Byddai proses Copenhagen yn hwyluso camau gweithredu i gadw sgiliau cynhenid gan fanteisio ar fudd mewnffudo economaidd. Gŵyr Iwerddon fod y ddau beth yn bosibl. Gellir gwella ein sylfaen sgiliau cynhenid ochr yn ochr â chadw sgiliau cynhenid, megis weldio. Gorfodwyd Coleg Ystrad Mynach i gau ei gwrs weldio yn gynharach eleni yn rhannol oherwydd mewnlifiad sydyn o weldwyr o Wlad Pwyl, a arweiniodd at ostyngiad yn y galw gan gyflogwyr lleol am bobl ifanc fedrus leol. Oherwydd meddylfryd byrdymor felly, collodd y gymuned ganolfan sefydledig o hyfforddiant sgiliau, a throsglwyddwyd rhai gweithwyr medrus i Fryste. Pan fydd y gweithwyr hynny o Wlad Pwyl wedi symud yn eu blaenau, bydd ailsefydlu hyfforddiant yn y coleg yn anodd. Felly, rhaid i'r rhaglen gydgyfeirio ystyried sut y gallai buddsoddi hirdymor mewn sgiliau atal camgymeriadau felly yn y dyfodol.

Bydd angen i'r rhaglen gydgyfeirio hefyd fuddsoddi mwy mewn prentisiaethau modern. Er bod myfyrwyr prentisiaeth wedi cynyddu 64 y cant, mae angen inni wneud mwy. Mae cynyddu buddsoddiad yng nghanllawiau Ewrop ar gyfer twf a swyddi i 65 y cant yn yr ail gylch yn gam ardderchog. Mae angen i'r Cynulliad ymfalchïo yn y ffaith y bydd y rhaglen gydgyfeirio yn cael ei defnyddio i ddod â buddsoddiadau arfaethedig mewn rhaglenni sy'n gweithio, megis *Yn Awyddus* i Weithio a *Llwybrau* at Waith.

Er ei bod yn cynyddu sgiliau sylfaenol, mae agenda Lisbon yn rhoi pwys sylfaenol ar swyddi sgiliau uchel. Mae'r rhaglen gydgyfeirio ar fin buddsoddi 26 y cant o gyfanswm y gyllideb ar sgiliau uwch. Bydd yn targedu ymchwil a datblygu, a hynny'n ddigon cywir. Caiff llwyddiant economaidd Iwerddon ei briodoli'n benodol i'w sector uwch dechnoleg. Rhaid i'r rhaglen gydgyfeirio rymuso'r gorllewin a'r Cymoedd i oresgyn rhwystrau megis gwledigrwydd

working population, supported by businesses and further education.

The research and development contribution to the training of knowledge workers and the improvements in communications and productivity is impressive. Since 1993, a staggering 60 per cent of America's economic growth has been directly linked to basic and advanced research and development. Wales's increasing focus on such factors will empower our businesses to offer new services to the global marketplace.

Therefore, west Wales and the Valleys need a well equipped research and development infrastructure, with nationally competitive research. Building on the Technium projects, links must be made with the higher education sector throughout the convergence area. They must encourage entrepreneurial risk taking, facilitated by early-stage financing, an advanced telecommunications network, and the development of robust technology clusters. Extending these clusters throughout west Wales and the Valleys will be a key determinant of its success.

Convergence is a great opportunity and challenge. Much improvement has been achieved because of Objective 1, but, as challenges remain, convergence must renew itself and target those areas. Strategically, the convergence consultation leaves questions of sub-level action and empowerment unanswered. The Heads of the Valleys regeneration framework is the jewel in the crown of the convergence programme. However, it also underlines the need for sub-regional, cross-border, and interregional connections. Establishing joint working between the new strategic frameworks of thematic, or spatial, groups and the Heads of the Valleys programme will be vital for the efficacy of both. Learning the lessons from Objective 1's mid-term evaluation update, and the ex-ante evaluation will be important, as will be ensuring that all partners have robust exit strategies for post 2013.

The convergence consultation, in fully implementing the Lisbon agenda, points

drwy ddefnyddio technoleg i greu màs critigol o boblogaeth weithio, gyda chefnogaeth busnesau ac addysg bellach.

Mae cyfraniad ymchwil a datblygu i hyfforddi gweithwyr gwybodaeth a'r gwelliannau mewn cyfathrebu a chynhyrchiant yn drawiadol. Er 1993, mae 60 y cant o dwf economaidd America yn uniongyrchol gysylltiedig ag ymchwil a datblygu sylfaenol ac uwch. Bydd ffocws cynyddol Cymru ar ffactorau felly yn grymuso ein busnesau i gynnig gwasanaethau newydd i'r farchnad fyd-eang.

Felly, mae angen seilwaith ymchwil a datblygu cyflawn ar y gorllewin a'r Cymoedd, gydag ymchwil sy'n gystadleuol yn genedlaethol. Gan adeiladu ar y prosiectau Technium, rhaid datblygu cysylltiadau â'r sector addysg uwch drwy'r ardal gydgyfeirio yn gyfan. Rhaid iddynt annog pobl i gymryd risgiau entrepreneuriaidd, yn cael eu hwyluso gan arian yn cynnar yn y broses, rhwydwaith telathrebu uwch, a datblygu clystyrau technoleg cadarn. Bydd ymestyn y clystyrau hyn ledled y gorllewin a'r Cymoedd yn ffactor allweddol wrth benderfynu ei llwyddiant.

Mae'r rhaglen gydgyfeirio yn her ac yn gyfle gwych. Gwelwyd llawer o welliant oherwydd Amcan 1, ond gan fod yna heriau o hyd rhaid i'r rhaglen gydgyfeirio adnewyddu ei hun a thargedu'r ardaloedd hynny. Yn strategol, nid yw'r ymgynghoriad cydgyfeirio yn ateb cwestiynau ynghylch camau gweithredu a grymuso o dan y lefel honno. Fframwaith adfywio Blaenau'r Cymoedd yw uchafbwynt y rhaglen gydgyfeirio. Fodd bynnag, mae hefyd yn tanlinellu'r angen am gysylltiadau is-ranbarthol, ar draws ffiniau a rhwng rhanbarthau. Bydd sefydlu cydweithio rhwng fframweithiau strategol newydd y grwpiau thematig, neu ofodol, a rhaglen Blaenau'r Cymoedd yn hollbwysig i effeithiolrwydd y naill a'r llall. Bydd dysgu gwersi o'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf o werthusiad tymor canolig Amcan 1, a'r gwerthusiad *ex-ante*, yn bwysig, fel y bydd sicrhau bod gan yr holl bartneriaid strategaethau ymadael cadarn ar ôl 2013.

Mae'r ymgynghoriad cydgyfeirio, wrth weithredu agenda Lisbon yn llawn, yn tynnu

encouragingly to future investment in skills and employment, via supported vocational learning to plug the basic skills gaps. Programmes of urban renewal and research and development promise to tackle the twin pressures of globalisation and years of underinvestment in the convergence area. However, strategic delivery, which retains a tight focus on jobs and skills, will be the ultimate determinant of the success of the convergence programme.

Peter Black: I congratulate Jeff on raising this subject, and for bringing some thoughts to the debate, which are helpful and useful.

It is sobering to think that the two key objectives of the Lisbon agenda—boosting jobs by 20 million, and 3 per cent annual growth by 2010—do not look as if they will be met. Jeff is right to emphasise the need to reduce economic inactivity in Wales, and to invest in skills to try to redress that balance, certainly from a Welsh perspective. I support that agenda. However, we should also look to embed a learning-and-training culture among employers, as well as working harder to try to attract those high-tech jobs, and those that give added value to the Welsh economy. The opportunities that we have from the next stage of Objective 1 are immense. However, if we do not use that money correctly, and invest in skills and in bringing those sorts of jobs to Wales, we, too, will miss those targets.

Christine Gwyther: Thank you for raising this issue, Jeff. When people talk about the success of Objective 1, they often talk about the Republic of Ireland as a token of great success, and they often point to roads and infrastructure. In fact, it is because the Republic of Ireland spent so much money on training that its structural funds have been hugely successful and its economy transformed.

Therefore, these convergence funds, starting next year, will be more strategic and I welcome that. They will major on training—and on high-tech training at that. I want to draw an analogy there to the science policy

sylw, yn galonogol, at fuddsoddi mewn sgiliau a chyflogaeth yn y dyfodol, drwy ddysgu galwedigaethol gyda chymorth i lenwi'r bylchau mewn sgiliau sylfaenol. Mae rhaglenni adnewyddu trefol ac ymchwil a datblygu yn addo mynd i'r afael â phwysau globaleiddio a blynyddoedd o danfuddsoddi yn y maes cydgyfeirio. Fodd bynnag, cyflawni strategol, sy'n rhoi ffocws cryf ar swyddi a sgiliau, fydd yn penderfynu llwyddiant y rhaglen gydgyfeirio yn y pen draw.

Peter Black: Hoffwn longyfarch Jeff am godi'r pwnc hwn, ac am ychwanegu rhai sylwadau at y ddadl, sy'n ddefnyddiol ac o gymorth.

Mae'n sobr meddwl ei bod yn ymddangos na fydd y ddau amcan allweddol yn agenda Lisbon—cynyddu swyddi 20 miliwn, a thwf blynyddol o 3 y cant erbyn 2010—yn cael eu cyflawni. Mae Jeff yn llygad ei le wrth bwysleisio'r angen am leihau anweithgarwch economaidd yng Nghymru, a buddsoddi mewn sgiliau i geisio gwneud iawn am hynny, yn sicr o safbwynt Cymru. Cefnogaf yr agenda honno. Fodd bynnag, dylem hefyd ystyried sefydlu diwydiant dysgu a hyfforddi ymhlith cyflogwyr, yn ogystal â gweithio'n galetach i geisio denu'r swyddi uwch dechnoleg hynny, a'r rheini sy'n rhoi gwerth ychwanegol i economi Cymru. Mae'r cyfleoedd sydd gennym o gam nesaf Amcan 1 yn anferth. Fodd bynnag, os na ddefnyddiwn yr arian hwnnw'n gywir, a buddsoddi mewn sgiliau a dod â'r mathau hynny o swyddi i Gymru, byddwn ni hefyd yn methu cyflawni'r targedau hynny.

Christine Gwyther: Diolch am godi'r mater hwn, Jeff. Pan fydd pobl yn sôn am lwyddiant Amcan 1, maent yn sôn yn aml am Weriniaeth Iwerddon fel arwydd o lwyddiant ysgubol, a byddant yn aml yn cyfeirio at ffyrdd a seilwaith. Mewn gwirionedd, mae cronfeydd strwythurol Gweriniaeth Iwerddon wedi bod yn hynod lwyddiannus a'i heconomi wedi'i thrawsnewid oherwydd iddi wario cymaint o arian ar hyfforddiant.

Felly, bydd y cronfeydd cydgyfeirio hyn, gan ddechrau'r flwyddyn nesaf, yn fwy strategol a chroesawaf hynny. Byddant yn rhoi blaenoriaeth i hyfforddiant—a hyfforddiant uwch dechnoleg ar hynny. Hoffwn gymharu

review that my committee, the Enterprise, Innovation and Networks Committee, has just carried out, where we believe that more highly trained and highly entrepreneurial scientists should be available in Wales. It will also major on vocational skills. I was with Carmarthenshire County Council earlier this week, when it talked about its new house-building programme, which will, hopefully, be taking place over the next 12 years. That will need the sort of skills that convergence funding can pay for; it will be there to upskill and reskill our workforce for the benefit of the Welsh economy.

Jocelyn Davies: Thank you, Jeff, for allowing me some time in this important debate. Upskilling is vital and businesspeople tell me all the time that they cannot find adequately skilled staff; at the same time, we have far too many people without a job. One of our problems—and Jeff touched on this earlier—is the lack of basic skills, and significant numbers of pupils are still leaving full-time education without being able to read and do simple maths adequately. That is not acceptable in a modern society. I believe that the eradication of illiteracy should be an ambition and, indeed, a priority for the Government. The success of an education system should be measured not only by the numbers and GCSE grades of school leavers, but also by how it deals with those who struggle a bit with learning. It would be better to teach children to read and to count when they are still children, instead of offering them basic skills packages when they are adults.

The Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks (Andrew Davies): I am grateful for the opportunity to debate the new context for delivering the benefits of European structural funds to Wales. I thank and congratulate Jeff on raising this important issue. Only last week, the Enterprise, Innovation and Networks Committee looked at the consultation document that has been issued on the use of the next round of European funding.

It is worth noting once more the tremendous

hyn â'r adolygiad o'r polisi gwyddoniaeth a wnaed yn ddiweddar gan fy mhwyllgor i, y Pwyllgor Menter, Arloesi a Rhwydweithiau, lle y credwn y dylid sicrhau bod mwy o wyddonwyr hyfforddedig ac entrepreneuraidd iawn ar gael yng Nghymru. Bydd hefyd yn canolbwyntio ar sgiliau galwedigaethol. Yr oeddwn gyda Chyngor Sir Caerfyrddin yn gynharach yr wythnos hon, pan soniwyd am ei raglen adeiladu tai newydd a fydd, gobeithio, yn mynd ymlaen yn ystod y 12 mlynedd nesaf. Bydd angen y mathau o sgiliau arni y gall arian o'r rhaglen gydgyfeirio dalu amdanynt; bydd ar gael i wella sgiliau ein gweithlu a rhoi sgiliau newydd iddynt er lles economi Cymru.

Jocelyn Davies: Diolch, Jeff, am roi ychydig amser i mi yn y ddadl bwysig hon. Mae gwella sgiliau'n hollbwysig, a dywed pobl fusnes wrthyf dros ar ôl tro na allant gael staff sy'n meddu ar sgiliau digonol; ar yr un pryd, mae llawer gormod o bobl yn ddi-waith. Un o'n problemau—a soniodd Jeff am hyn yn gynharach—yw'r diffyg sgiliau sylfaenol, ac mae nifer fawr o ddisgyblion yn gadael addysg lawn amser o hyd heb allu darllen a gwneud mathemateg syml yn ddigonol. Nid yw hynny'n dderbyniol mewn cymdeithas fodern. Credaf y dylai dileu anllhythrenedd fod yn uchelgais, ac yn flaenoriaeth yn wir i'r Llywodraeth. Dylid mesur llwyddiant system addysg nid yn unig yn ôl nifer y bobl sy'n gadael yr ysgol a'u graddau TGAU, ond hefyd yn ôl y ffordd y mae'n ymdrin â'r bobl hynny sydd ag anawsterau dysgu. Byddai'n well addysgu plant i ddarllen a chyfrif pan fyddant yn blant, yn hytrach na chynnig pecynnau sgiliau sylfaenol iddynt pan fyddant yn oedolion.

Y Gweinidog dros Fenter, Arloesi a Rhwydweithiau (Andrew Davies): Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am y cyfle i drafod y cyd-destun newydd ar gyfer sicrhau buddiannau cronfeydd strwythurol Ewropeaidd i Gymru. Hoffwn ddiolch i Jeff a'i longyfarch am godi'r mater pwysig hwn. Wythnos sydd ers i'r Pwyllgor Menter, Arloesi a Rhwydweithiau edrych ar y ddogfen ymgynghori a gyhoeddwyd ar ddefnyddio cylch nesaf yr arian Ewropeaidd.

Mae'n werth nodi unwaith yn rhagor yr hyder

vote of confidence accorded by the European Commission to Wales late last week. Our country is the first of Europe's many nations and regions to win the right to self-audit, which is a tribute to the effectiveness and efficiency of the current European structural fund process. I publicly pay tribute to all those who have made that possible. This is a huge compliment to Wales, to our many community, business, voluntary sector and local government partners, to our Assembly Government business development officials and, in particular, the Welsh European Funding Office staff, to the programme monitoring committees and particularly to Jeff as Chair of the Objective 1 committee, and to Chris Gwyther as Chair of the INTERREG programme monitoring committee.

It is now generally agreed that the current round has been a great success, but the emphasis today is on the future, not the present, and on the new round of European funding and the new dimension introduced by the Lisbon agenda. As Jeff has pointed out, the Lisbon agenda is designed to make Europe the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world by 2010, so that Europe and its regions are better equipped to deal with the effects of global economic and social change. Its focus, since a review in February 2005, is on two primary tasks: delivering stronger, lasting growth on the one hand, and creating more and better jobs on the other.

The award of a second round of European funding for 2007-13 means an extra £1.3 billion to complete the transformation of west Wales and the Valleys. The European social fund share of convergence funding has been increased from 33 per cent to 40 per cent—as Jeff said, a significant development. Therefore, in line with the Lisbon agenda and our policy as a Government, our new programmes will be renewed in a way that reflects the strategic priorities that Jeff outlined a few minutes ago. They will have an even stronger focus on boosting growth and increasing jobs, and a stronger focus on people, our biggest and most precious asset,

aruthrol a ddangoswyd gan y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd yng Nghymru ddiwedd yr wythnos diwethaf. Ein gwlad ni yw'r gyntaf o blith gwledydd a rhanbarthau niferus Ewrop i ennill yr hawl i hunanarchwilio, sy'n deyrnged i effeithiolrwydd ac effeithlonrwydd proses bresennol y gronfa strwythurol Ewropeaidd. Rhof deyrnged gyhoeddus i'r holl bobl hynny sydd wedi gwneud hynny'n bosibl. Mae hyn yn ganmoliaeth enfawr i Gymru, i'n partneriaid dirifedi mewn cymunedau, busnes, y sector gwirfoddol a llywodraeth leol, i'n swyddogion datblygu busnes yn Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, ac yn arbennig i staff Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru, i bwyllgorau monitro'r rhaglen ac yn arbennig i Jeff fel Cadeirydd pwyllgor Amcan 1, ac i Chris Gwyther fel Cadeirydd pwyllgor monitro rhaglen INTERREG.

Cytunir yn gyffredinol bellach i'r cylch presennol fod yn llwyddiant ysgubol, ond mae'r pwyslais heddiw ar y dyfodol, nid ar y presennol, ac ar y cylch newydd o arian Ewropeaidd a'r dimensiwn newydd a gyflwynwyd gan agenda Lisbon. Fel y dywedodd Jeff, cynlluniwyd agenda Lisbon i sicrhau mai Ewrop fydd yr economi fwyaf cystadleuol a dynamig yn y byd sy'n seiliedig ar wybodaeth erbyn 2010, er mwyn i Ewrop a'i rhanbarthau fod mewn sefyllfa well i ymdrin ag effeithiau newidiadau economaidd a chymdeithasol byd-eang. Mae'n canolbwyntio, ers adolygiad ym mis Chwefror 2005, ar ddwy brif dasg: sicrhau twf cryfach sy'n para'n hwy ar y naill law a chreu swyddi gwell a mwy ohonynt ar y llaw arall.

Mae dyfarnu ail gylch o arian Ewropeaidd ar gyfer 2007-13 yn golygu £1.3 biliwn yn ychwanegol i gwblhau'r broses o drawsnewid y gorllewin a'r Cymoedd. Mae cyfran cronfa gymdeithasol Ewrop o arian y rhaglen gydgyfeirio wedi codi o 33 y cant i 40 y cant—sydd, fel y dywedodd Jeff, yn ddatblygiad mawr. Felly, yn unol ag agenda Lisbon a'n polisi ni fel Llywodraeth, caiff ein rhaglenni newydd eu hadnewyddu mewn ffordd sy'n adlewyrchu'r blaenoriaethau strategol a amlinellodd Jeff rai munudau'n ôl. Byddant yn canolbwyntio'n fwy byth ar hybu twf a chynyddu swyddi, ac yn canolbwyntio hyd yn oed yn fwy ar bobl, ein hased mwyaf

as Jeff rightly said. Like Ireland, as Chris Gwyther pointed out, we will invest more in employment and skills, and we will help all of our young people to make a successful transition to the world of work and adult life. These goals are reflected in our priorities for the new EU programmes. As a Minister, I am committed to increasing employment and tackling economic inactivity, to improving skill levels and the adaptability of the workforce, and committed to 'Making the Connections' and the Beecham agenda of modernising and improving the quality of our public services.

5.00 p.m.

I am pleased to confirm today the Government's determination to use ESF convergence funds to address skills gaps and shortages in key sectors of the economy, and to support progression into employment. Jeff's point about the Leitch report was well made. There is to be a follow-up report later this year and I think that, in future years, people will see the Leitch report as a central contribution to addressing the skills deficit that we have now and the priorities for the future. In our proposals for the programme, ESF priority 2 will focus on modernising and developing the economy by developing the skills and adaptability of enterprises and workers, and by supporting new entrants to the labour market, especially young people and those facing particular barriers or disadvantages.

We are now entering phase 2 in the transformation of the west Wales and the Valleys area—our twice-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We intend to build on the excellent foundations laid by the current programme: more than 1,700 projects are receiving support and, with match funding, the programme has led to a total investment in the west Wales and the Valleys economy, currently and over the next few years, that is worth more than £3 billion. Those are just the inputs, and I think that the outputs are very significant indeed. If you look at the official statistics, there has been an increase of

a mwyaf gwerthfawr, fel y dywedodd Jeff, a hynny'n hollol gywir. Fel Iwerddon, fel y dywedodd Chris Gwyther, byddwn yn buddsoddi mwy mewn cyflogaeth a sgiliau, a byddwn yn helpu pob un o'n pobl ifanc i symud yn llwyddiannus i'r byd gwaith ac i fywyd oedolion. Adlewyrchir y nodau hyn yn ein blaenoriaethau ar gyfer rhaglenni newydd yr UE. Fel Gweinidog, yr wyf wedi ymrwmo i gynyddu cyflogaeth a mynd i'r afael ag anweithgarwch economaidd, gwella sgiliau a gallu'r gweithlu i addasu, ac wedi ymrwmo i 'Creu'r Cysylltiadau' ac agenda Beecham o foderneiddio a gwella ansawdd ein gwasanaethau cyhoeddus.

Mae'n bleser gennyf gadarnhau heddiw benderfyniad y Llywodraeth i ddefnyddio cronfeydd cydgyfeirio Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop i fynd i'r afael â bylchau mewn sgiliau a phrinder mewn sectorau allweddol yn yr economi, a chefnogi dilyniant i gyflogaeth. Yr oedd pwynt Jeff am adroddiad Leitch yn un dylus. Bwriedir llunio adroddiad dilynol yn ddiweddarach eleni a chredaf, yn y dyfodol, y bydd pobl yn ystyried adroddiad Leitch yn gyfraniad canolog i fynd i'r afael â'r prinder sgiliau sy'n ein hwynebu ar hyn o bryd a'r blaenoriaethau ar gyfer y dyfodol. Yn ein cynigion ar gyfer y rhaglen, bydd blaenoriaeth 2 yng Nghronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop yn canolbwyntio ar foderneiddio a datblygu'r economi drwy ddatblygu sgiliau busnesau a gweithwyr a'u gallu i addasu, a thrwy gefnogi gweithwyr sy'n newydd i'r farchnad lafur, yn arbennig pobl ifanc a'r rheini sy'n wynebu rhwystrau neu anfanteision penodol.

Yr ydym erbyn hyn yn dechrau ar gam 2 yn y broses o drawsnewid y gorllewin a'r Cymoedd—ein hail gyfle i wneud hyn. Bwriadwn adeiladu ar y sylfeini ardderchog a osodwyd gan y rhaglen bresennol: mae dros 1,700 o brosiectau'n cael cymorth, a chydag arian cyfatebol mae'r rhaglen wedi arwain at fuddsoddiad yn economi'r gorllewin a'r Cymoedd, ar hyn o bryd a thros yr ychydig flynyddoedd nesaf, sy'n werth dros £3 biliwn i gyd. Y mewnbyn yn unig yw hynny, a chredaf fod yr allbwn yn fawr iawn. Os edrychwch ar yr ystadegau swyddogol, cafwyd cynnydd o 57,000 yn y ffigurau

57,000 in the employment figures in the west Wales and the Valleys area—a greater increase than that seen in any other part of Wales. There has been a fall in unemployment that is greater in west Wales and the Valleys than in east Wales and the rest of the UK.

Our ambition is for west Wales and the Valleys to be a vibrant, entrepreneurial region, with a knowledge-based economy and a skilled and innovative workforce, at the cutting edge of sustainable economic development. The new round of European funding programmes and our commitment to the Lisbon agenda will help us to realise this ambition. It is certainly an ambition that this Government is committed to delivering.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: That brings today's proceedings to a close.

cyflogaeth yn ardal y gorllewin a'r Cymoedd—cynnydd mwy nag a welwyd mewn unrhyw ran arall o Gymru. Cafwyd gostyngiad mewn diweithdra sy'n fwy yn y gorllewin a'r Cymoedd nag yn y dwyrain a gweddill y DU.

Ein huchelgais yw i'r gorllewin a'r Cymoedd fod yn rhanbarth bywiog ac entrepreneuriaidd, gydag economi yn seiliedig ar wybodaeth a gweithlu medrus ac arloesol, sydd ar y blaen o ran datblygu economaidd cynaliadwy. Bydd y cylch newydd o raglenni arian Ewropeaidd a'n hymrwymiad i agenda Lisbon yn ein helpu i wireddu'r uchelgais hon. Mae'n sicr yn uchelgais y mae'r Llywodraeth hon wedi ymrwymo i'w chyflawni.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Daw hynny â chyfarfod heddiw i ben.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5.02 p.m.
The meeting ended at 5.02 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, Trish (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)