



**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
The National Assembly for Wales**

**Cofnod y Trafodion
The Record of Proceedings**

**Dydd Mawrth, 15 Mehefin 2010
Tuesday, 15 June 2010**

Cynnwys
Contents

3	Cwestiynau i'r Prif Weinidog Questions to the First Minister
26	Datganiad a Chyhoeddiad Busnes Business Statement and Announcement
35	Datganiad am Ad-drefnu Ysgolion Statement on School Reorganisation
58	Datganiad Deddfwriaethol am y Mesur Arfaethedig ynghylch Hawliau Plant a Phobl Ifanc (Cymru) Legislative Statement on the Proposed Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure
73	Trosedd a Diogelwch Cymunedol Crime and Community Safety
104	Cyfnod Pleidleisio Voting Time
106	Pwynt o Drefn Point of Order

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

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

*Cyfarfu'r Cynulliad am 1.30 p.m. gyda'r Llywydd (Dafydd Elis-Thomas) yn y Gadair.
The Assembly met at 1.30 p.m. with the Presiding Officer (Dafydd Elis-Thomas) in the Chair.*

Y Llywydd: Trefn ar gyfer cwestiynau i'r Prif Weinidog. **The Presiding Officer:** Order for questions to the First Minister.

Cwestiynau i'r Prif Weinidog Questions to the First Minister

Rural Wales

Q1 Brynle Williams: Will the First Minister outline the Welsh Assembly Government's priorities for supporting rural Wales? OAQ(3)2927(FM)

The First Minister (Carwyn Jones): The Welsh Assembly Government is committed to supporting the sustainability of our rural communities. This includes investing £795 million under the rural development plan for the period 2007-13.

Brynle Williams: Thank you for that answer; I welcome that investment. You will be aware of the taskforce that has been set up by the new Government in Westminster to reduce agricultural red tape. Given that the Assembly Government has already recognised the need to tackle this problem, through its review of farm bureaucracy and inspections, do you accept that part of the reason why action is needed so urgently is that Governments here and in Westminster have repeatedly ignored this issue over the last decade, regrettably gold-plating European Union regulations, and piling costs on farm businesses? Will you join me in welcoming the fact that we finally have a Government in Westminster that is committed to standing up for national interests in Brussels?

The First Minister: I cannot comment on farming in England, which is what the review is about. However, I am glad that England is following our lead, as in so many things. As you know, we have a good record in Wales on cutting red tape. The single farm payment form is a real improvement on the old system of the single payment scheme, the sheep annual premium, and the arable area payments scheme, as you will well

Y Gymru Wledig

C1 Brynle Williams: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog amlinellu blaenoriaethau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer cefnogi Cymru wledig? OAQ(3)2927(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog (Carwyn Jones): Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi ymrwymo i gefnogi cynladwyedd ein cymunedau gwledig. Mae hyn yn cynnwys buddsoddi £795 miliwn o dan y cynllun datblygu gwledig yn ystod y cyfnod 2007-13.

Brynle Williams: Diolch ichi am yr ateb hwnnw; yr wyf yn croesawu'r buddsoddiad hwnnw. Gwyddoch am y tasglu sydd wedi'i sefydlu gan y Llywodraeth newydd yn San Steffan i leihau biwrocratiaeth ym maes amaethyddiaeth. Gan fod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad eisoes wedi cydnabod bod angen mynd i'r afael â'r broblem hon, drwy adolygu biwrocratiaeth ac archwiliadau ar ffermydd, a gytunwch mai rhan o'r rheswm pam mae angen gweithredu ar gymaint o frys yw bod Llywodraethau yma ac yn San Steffan wedi anwybyddu hyn dro ar ôl tro yn y degawd diwethaf, a'u bod, gwaetha'r modd wedi euro rheoliadau'r Undeb Ewropeaidd, a phentyrru costau ar fusnesau fferm? A wnewch ymuno â mi i groesawu'r ffaith bod gennym o'r diwedd Lywodraeth yn San Steffan sydd yn benderfynol o sefyll dros fuddiannau cenedlaethol ym Mrwsel?

Y Prif Weinidog: Ni allaf sôn am ffermio yn Lloegr, a dyna destun yr adolygiad. Serch hynny, yr wyf yn falch bod Lloegr yn dilyn ein harweiniad, fel sy'n wir am gynifer o bethau. Fel y gwyddoch, mae gennym hanes da yng Nghymru o leihau biwrocratiaeth. Mae ffurflen y taliad sengl i ffermydd yn welliant mawr ar hen drefn cynllun y taliad sengl, y premiwm defaid blynyddol a'r cynllun taliadau arwynebedd tir â'r fel y

remember. Things are much simpler now. We also have the best record of paying rural payments in Europe. Therefore, I am glad to see that the United Kingdom Government is following our lead.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Yr wyf yn siŵr y buasech yn derbyn bod yn rhaid gweld lles economaidd ardaloedd gwledig o fewn yr economi yn ei chyfanrwydd, ac nid dim ond yng nghyd-destun y taliadau sydd yn mynd yn uniongyrchol i'r diwydiant amaethyddol yng nghefn gwlad. Yr oeddwn yn falch o glywed y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn datgan bod gwasanaeth band eang yn cael ei ledu yng Nghymru, a bod dwy gymuned yn fy etholaeth i—Llanfynydd a Chilycwm—yn derbyn y gwasanaeth hwnnw o'r diwedd. A oes gobaith y caiff y gwasanaeth hwnnw ei ehangu a'i gyflymu i'r ardaloedd hynny sydd, yn draddodiadol, wedi cael trafferthion o ran derbyn gwasanaeth sydd mor hanfodol ar gyfer yr economi y dyddiau hyn?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae cyllid Ewropeaidd ar gael ar gyfer cynlluniau band eang yng nghefn gwlad, ac mae'r arian hwnnw ar gael tan ddiwedd y flwyddyn hon. Yr hyn yr ydym eisiau ei wneud yn awr yw sicrhau bod mwy o arian ar gael erbyn y flwyddyn nesaf. Fodd bynnag, mae'n rhaid ystyried hefyd bod yn rhaid datrys y mater hwn ar lefel Brydeinig. Yr oedd cynllun gan y Llywodraeth flaenorol yn San Steffan i sicrhau bod ardoll yn cael ei rhoi ar filiau ffôn er mwyn talu am fand eang dros Brydain Fawr i gyd. Mae'r cynllun hwnnw wedi mynd yn awr, a gwyddom na fydd y farchnad yn sicrhau band eang dros y rhan fwyaf o Gymru. Felly, yr ydym yn gwneud ein rhan fel Llywodraeth, ac mae'n bwysig hefyd fod Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig yn gwneud ei rhan.

Priorities

Q2 Mohammad Asghar: Will the First Minister outline the Welsh Assembly Government's priorities for South Wales East? OAQ(3)2939(FM)

The First Minister: Our priorities for South Wales East are the same as for the rest of Wales and are set out in the 'One Wales'

cofiwch yn dda. Mae pethau'n symlach o lawer yn awr. Gennym ni hefyd y mae'r hanes gorau o dalu taliadau gwledig yn Ewrop. Felly, yr wyf yn falch o weld bod Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig yn dilyn ein hesiampl.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas: I am sure that you would accept that we must see the economic welfare of rural areas within the economy as a whole, and not just in the context of the payments that go directly to the agricultural industry in rural areas. I was glad to hear the Deputy First Minister state that broadband service is improving in Wales, and that two communities in my constituency—Llanfynydd and Chilycwm—are receiving that service at last. Is there any hope that that service will be expanded and accelerated to those areas that, traditionally, have had difficulty in receiving a service that is so vital for the economy these days?

The First Minister: European funding is available for broadband schemes in rural Wales, and that money is available until the end of this year. What we want to do now is to ensure that more money is available by next year. However, it is also necessary to consider that this matter must be resolved at a British level. The former Westminster Government had a scheme in place to ensure that a levy was placed on telephone bills in order to pay for broadband throughout Great Britain. That scheme has now gone, and we know that the market will not ensure that broadband is available across most of Wales. Therefore, we are doing our part as a Government, and it is also important that the UK Government does its part.

Blaenoriaethau

C2 Mohammad Asghar: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog amlinellu blaenoriaethau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer Dwyrain De Cymru? OAQ(3)2939(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr un yw'n blaenoriaethau ar gyfer De Dwyrain Cymru ag ar gyfer gweddill Cymru ac fe'u gwelir yng

agreement.

Mohammad Asghar: Numerous traders across Newport believe that a direct rail link between Ebbw Vale and the city is essential for their future survival. Recently, it has been sad to see that many businesses in Newport are closed, and that many shop fronts are shuttered down. Considering the great affinity that many people living in the Heads of the Valleys have with Newport, do you agree that opening a direct rail link between Ebbw Vale Parkway and Newport as soon as possible will provide Newport's traders with significant opportunities to flourish in these tough economic times? The Deputy First Minister has indicated that an announcement is to be made shortly. However, can you give a precise promise indicating when you expect these trains from Ebbw Vale to start running directly into Newport, and outline what priority your administration is giving to this important issue?

The First Minister: As you know, we have mentioned this issue many times in the Chamber, and we are committed to remodelling Gaer junction to ensure that trains can come into Newport on the Ebbw valley line. It is important that people travelling from stations down the line from Ebbw Vale have access to Newport as well as to Cardiff, and we are working with Network Rail to ensure that that happens. I am also pleased to say that we anticipate that the improvements at Newport station will be ready in September. That will help as a gateway for Newport and as a gateway for people travelling to the Ryder Cup.

Irene James: First Minister, keeping jobs in south-east Wales is always a priority. On a recent visit, in the Ynysddu ward of my constituency, to Penny and Giles Controls Ltd—a manufacturer of joysticks for all sorts of vehicles; one famous joystick that it made was for the swingometre used on election night—I was impressed by the way in which the ProAct scheme has helped save 65 local jobs. With that in mind, what is your assessment of how ProAct has worked in south-east Wales?

nghytundeb 'Cymru'n Un'.

Mohammad Asghar: Mae nifer o fasnachwyr yng Nghasnewydd yn credu ei bod yn hanfodol cael cysylltiad trenau uniongyrchol rhwng Glynebwy a'r ddinas er mwyn iddynt oroesi yn y dyfodol. Yn ddiweddar, bu'n drist gweld llawer o fusnesau'n cau yng Nghasnewydd a ffenestri llawer o siopau wedi'u byrddio. A chofio'r cysylltiad clòs rhwng llawer o bobl sy'n byw ym Mlaenau'r Cymoedd a Chasnewydd, a gytunwch y bydd agor lein trenau uniongyrchol rhwng Parcffordd Glynebwy a Chasnewydd cyn gynted ag y bo modd yn rhoi cyfleoedd sylweddol i fasnachwyr Casnewydd ffynnu yn yr oes economaidd anodd hon? Mae'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog wedi awgrymu y ceir cyhoeddiad cyn bo hir. Serch hynny, a allwch roi addewid penodol yn dweud pa bryd y disgwyliwch i'r trenau hyn ddechrau rhedeg o Lynebwy yn syth i Gasnewydd, gan ddweud pa flaenoriaeth y mae eich gweinyddiaeth yn ei rhoi i'r mater pwysig hwn?

Y Prif Weinidog: Fel y gwyddoch, yr ydym wedi crybwyll hyn droeon yn y Siambr, ac yr ydym wedi ymrwymo i ailwampio cyffordd Gaer er mwyn sicrhau bod modd i drenau ddod i mewn i Gasnewydd ar reilffordd cwm Ebwy. Mae'n bwysig bod pobl sy'n teithio o orsafoedd yn is i lawr y rheilffordd o Lynebwy'n gallu cyrraedd Casnewydd yn ogystal â Chaerdydd, ac yr ydym yn gweithio gyda Network Rail i sicrhau bod hynny'n digwydd. Yr wyf yn falch o ddweud hefyd ein bod yn rhagweld y bydd y gwelliannau yng ngorsaf Casnewydd yn barod ym mis Medi. Bydd hynny'n gymorth drwy greu porth i Gasnewydd a phorth i bobl sy'n teithio i Gwpan Ryder.

Irene James: Brif Weinidog, mae cadw swyddi yn y de-ddwyrain yn flaenoriaeth o hyd. Gwnaethpwyd cryn argraff arnaf wrth weld sut mae cynllun ProAct wedi cynorthwyo i achub 65 o swyddi lleol pan ymwelais â Penny and Giles Controls Ltd yn ward Ynys-ddu yn fy etholaeth yn ddiweddar. Mae'r cwmni'n gwneud ffyn rheoli ar gyfer pob math o gerbydau; un ffon reoli enwog a wnaeth oedd ar gyfer y swingomedr a ddefnyddiwyd noson yr etholiad. Gyda hynny mewn golwg, sut mae ProAct wedi gweithio

yn y de-ddwyrain yn eich barn chi?

The First Minister: ProAct is an excellent scheme, which still attracts interest from the UK Government. It means that more than 10,000 people who would, otherwise, have ended up on the dole have been provided with a wage and training. It shows how effective Government intervention can be, even in times of economic difficulty.

The Leader of the Opposition (Nick Bourne): Good afternoon, First Minister. Last week, in the *Guardian*, key contributors were asked to identify burning issues that they hope will be dealt with by the Government. You contributed, and I do not disagree with the importance of adoption law and nuisance drivers. However, on the bigger picture stuff, on which many of the other contributors focused, there was talk of the size of the public sector as compared with the private part of the budget—42 per cent was identified by Will Straw, which struck me as not far off what I would go for myself; perhaps a little bit less. Given the importance of growing the private sector, and accepting that we want the cake to grow, so that it would not necessarily mean shrinkage in absolute terms, what would the First Minister think is a reasonably sized public sector in our economy?

The First Minister: The UK average is 20 per cent and the Welsh average is about 24 per cent. To set the context, we have just over 6,000 civil servants working for the Welsh Assembly Government, whereas the equivalent figure in Scotland, including all the agencies that are in-house here, is roughly 22,000, and the equivalent figure in Northern Ireland is 32,000. So, we are not wildly overstaffed here in Wales when it comes to the Assembly Government. I would like to see the percentage of people working in the private sector increase markedly over the next five to 10 years, to get us closer to the UK average, but not at the expense of cutting public sector jobs. You do not rebalance the economy by simply removing jobs from the public sector and hoping that the private sector then grows. You want to see the private sector grow, and you want to ensure that the private sector grows in order to

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae ProAct yn gynllun rhagorol, sy'n dal i ddenu diddordeb gan Lywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig. Mae'n golygu bod mwy na 10,000 o bobl a fyddai fel arall wedi bod ar y clwt wedi cael cyflog a hyfforddiant. Mae'n dangos pa mor effeithiol y gall ymyrryd gan Lywodraeth fod, hyd yn oed mewn oes economaidd anodd.

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Nick Bourne): Prynawn da, Brif Weinidog. Yr wythnos diwethaf, yn y *Guardian*, gofynnwyd i gyfranwyr allweddol sôn am bynciau llosg y maent yn gobeithio y bydd y Llywodraeth yn ymdrin â hwy. Cafwyd cyfraniad gennych chithau, ac nid wyf yn anghytuno â phwysigrwydd cyfraith mabwysiadu a gyrwyr sy'n niwsans. Fodd bynnag, o ran y darlun mwy y canolbwyntiwyd arno gan lawer o'r cyfranwyr eraill, soniwyd am faint y sector cyhoeddus o'i gymharu â rhan breifat y gyllideb—soniodd Will Straw am 42 y cant, ac fe'm trawyd mai rhywbeth tebyg i hynny y byddwn innau am ei weld; ychydig yn llai efallai. Ac ystyried pa mor bwysig yw hi bod y sector preifat yn tyfu, a derbyn ein bod am i'r gacen dyfu, fel na fyddai o anghenraid yn golygu crebachu mewn termau absoliwt, beth ym marn y Prif Weinidog fyddai'n faint rhesymol i'r sector cyhoeddus yn ein heconomi?

Y Prif Weinidog: Cyfartaledd y Deyrnas Unedig yw 20 y cant ac mae'r cyfartaledd yng Nghymru oddeutu 24 y cant. I osod y cyd-destun, mae gennym ychydig dros 6,000 o weision sifil yn gweithio i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad, ond mae'r ffigur cyfatebol yn yr Alban, gan gynnwys yr holl asiantaethau sy'n rhai mewnol yma, oddeutu 22,000, a'r ffigur cyfatebol yng Ngogledd Iwerddon yw 32,000. Felly, o ran Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, nid yw nifer ein staff yn wirion o fawr. Hoffwn weld canran y bobl sy'n gweithio yn y sector preifat yn cynyddu'n sylweddol dros y pum neu 10 mlynedd nesaf, er mwyn inni gau'r bwllch rhyngom a'r cyfartaledd yn y Deyrnas Unedig, ond nid ar draul torri swyddi yn y sector cyhoeddus. Nid drwy ddileu swyddi'r sector cyhoeddus a gobeithio bod y sector preifat yn tyfu wedyn y mae aildafoli'r economi. Yr ydych am weld y sector preifat yn tyfu, ac yr ydych am sicrhau

provide the finance for the public sector to provide the excellent public services that we want to see.

Nick Bourne: I think that the First Minister misunderstood the question; that may be my fault for misphrasing it. I am referring to the size of the public sector in respect of the budget for public spending within the economy rather than the number of people employed. I would not have gone for 42 per cent otherwise, which was identified by Will Straw as the appropriate amount. I was asking for the First Minister's version of that—whether or not he agrees with that figure.

Moving on—you may want to pick up on that—can you provide us with an update on where we are in relation to budget discussions with Westminster? Are you going to go for in-year cuts or are you likely to postpone those cuts until next year? The First Minister welcomed that offer at one stage, saying that it provided flexibility.

The First Minister: It does provide flexibility. We await next week's budget, but some fundamental questions are yet to be answered. First, what is the split between capital and revenue? We need an answer to that. Secondly, will we have the end-year flexibility that we need in order to rollover savings from year to year? Until those questions are answered, it is difficult to give a definitive answer as to whether cuts will be deferred, partially deferred or not deferred at all. When we get those answers, we will be able to provide the people of Wales with a clear indication of what the plan will be for this year.

Nick Bourne: I thank the First Minister for that response. I do not know whether there will be a written statement on this issue by the Minister for Business and Budget; it would be useful, so that Members are updated on the current status of discussions.

1.40 p.m.

I want to move on to a second topic, which is

bod y sector preifat yn tyfu er mwyn darparu'r arian i'r sector cyhoeddus ddarparu'r gwasanaethau cyhoeddus rhagorol yr ydym am eu gweld.

Nick Bourne: Credaf i'r Prif Weinidog gamddeall y cwestiwn: efallai fy mai i oedd hynny am ei gamfynegi. Yr wyf yn cyfeirio at faint y sector cyhoeddus o ran y gyllideb ar gyfer gwariant cyhoeddus yn yr economi yn hytrach nag at nifer y bobl a gyflogir. Fel arall, ni fyddwn wedi sôn am 42 y cant, sef y swm yr oedd Will Straw'n ei weld yn swm priodol. Gofyn am fersiwn y Prif Weinidog o hynny oeddwn i—a yw'n cytuno â'r ffigur hwnnw neu beidio.

A symud ymlaen—efallai yr hoffech ymateb i hynny—a allwch roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf inni ynglŷn ag ymhle yr ydym arni o ran y trafodaethau â San Steffan ynglŷn â'r gyllideb? A ydych yn debygol o ddewis gwneud toriadau yn ystod y flwyddyn hon ynteu a ydych yn debygol o'u gohirio tan y flwyddyn nesaf. Yr oedd y Prif Weinidog yn croesawu'r cynnig hwnnw ar un adeg, gan ddweud ei fod yn rhoi hyblygrwydd.

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'n cynnig hyblygrwydd. Disgwyliwn y gyllideb yr wythnos nesaf, ond mae nifer o gwestiynau sylfaenol i'w hateb eto. Yn gyntaf, beth yw'r rhaniad rhwng cyfalaf a refeniw? Mae angen inni gael ateb ynglŷn â hynny. Yn ail, a gawn yr hyblygrwydd diwedd blwyddyn y mae ei angen arnom er mwyn trosglwyddo arbedion o'r naill flwyddyn i'r llall? Nes inni gael atebion i'r cwestiynau hynny, mae'n anodd rhoi ateb pendant ynglŷn ag a ohirir toriadau, eu gohirio'n rhannol ynteu beidio â'u gohirio o gwbl. Pan gawn yr atebion hynny byddwn yn gallu dweud yn glir wrth bobl Cymru beth fydd y cynllun ar gyfer eleni.

Nick Bourne: Diolch i'r Prif Weinidog am yr ymateb hwnnw. Ni wn a gawn ddatganiad ysgrifenedig ynglŷn â hyn gan y Gweinidog dros Fusnes a'r Gyllideb; byddai'n fuddiol, er mwyn i'r Aelodau gael gwybod beth yw statws y trafodaethau ar hyn o bryd.

Yr wyf am symud ymlaen at ail bwnc, sy'n

important and timely in view of today's written statement from the Secretary of State for Wales on the referendum, which it appears will be held in the first quarter of 2011. Given the imminence of that and the likely need to start a campaign on the 'yes' side soon, to balance the 'no' campaign, which is up and running, I make my oft-repeated request: are you now in a position to say that you will give your full backing to the 'yes' campaign, and will you be willing to get together with other party leaders so that we can have nominees for the 'yes' campaign, so that it can get off the ground, as it has not done so far?

The First Minister: I will give my full backing to a 'yes' campaign, as you would expect me to, and I know that meetings between us are scheduled this week to chart a way forward.

The Construction Industry

Q3 Joyce Watson: Will the First Minister make a statement on Welsh Assembly Government support for workers in the construction industry? OAQ(3)2926(FM)

The First Minister: We assist construction workers by facilitating skills development opportunities and by funding the work of bodies such as the Welsh built environment forum, Construction Excellence in Wales and Construct Wales, which, together with projects such as Arbed, are helping construction employers to develop employment opportunities linked to the low-carbon agenda.

Joyce Watson: Thank you for that answer, First Minister. Do you agree with me that, as we look to rebuild the economy, it is now more important than ever to tackle the shortage of women pursuing careers in the construction industry and to challenge the entrenched gender bias that still exists in some sectors? Do you also agree that the construction industry offers women a genuine career choice and the ability to increase their earning capacity significantly?

The First Minister: I could not agree more,

bwysig ac yn amserol ac ystyried y datganiad ysgrifenedig heddiw gan Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru am y refferendwm. Mae'n ymddangos mai yn ystod chwarter cyntaf 2011 y'i cynhelir. Ac ystyried ei fod mor agos ac y bydd angen dechrau ymgyrchu, mae'n debyg, ar yr ochr 'ie' yn fuan, i wrthbwyso'r ymgyrch 'na' sydd eisoes ar waith, gofynnaf y cwestiwn yr wyf wedi'i ofyn yn aml: a ydych bellach mewn sefyllfa i ddweud y rhowch eich cefnogaeth lawn i'r ymgyrch 'ie' ac a fyddwch yn barod i ymuno ag arweinyddion y pleidiau eraill er mwyn inni enwebu pobl ar gyfer yr ymgyrch 'ie' a rhoi cychwyn arni, gan nad oes dim wedi digwydd hyd yn hyn?

Y Prif Weinidog: Byddaf yn cefnogi ymgyrch 'ie' yn llwyr, fel y byddech yn disgwyl imi ei wneud, a gwn fod cyfarfodydd wedi'u trefnu rhyngom yr wythnos hon i baratoi'r ffordd.

Y Diwydiant Adeiladu

C3 Joyce Watson: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am gefnogaeth Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer gweithwyr yn y diwydiant adeiladu? OAQ(3)2926(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Byddwn yn cynorthwyo gweithwyr adeiladu drwy hwyluso cyfleoedd datblygu sgiliau a thrwy ariannu cyrff megis fforwm amgylchedd adeileidig Cymru, Rhagoriaeth Adeiladu yng Nghymru ac Adeiladu Cymru, sydd, ynghyd â phrosiectau megis Arbed, yn cynorthwyo cyflogwyr yn y maes adeiladu i ddatblygu cyfleoedd gwaith sy'n gysylltiedig â'r agenda carbon isel.

Joyce Watson: Diolch ichi am yr ateb hwnnw, Brif Weinidog. A gytunwch â mi, wrth inni geisio ailadeiladu'r economi, ei bod yn bwysicach nag erioed yn awr inni fynd i'r afael â'r prinder menywod sy'n mynd ar drywydd gyrfa yn y diwydiant adeiladu ac i herio'r rhagfarn ryw sydd wedi bwrw gwreiddiau ac sy'n dal i fodoli mewn ambell sector? A gytunwch hefyd fod y diwydiant adeiladu'n cynnig dewis gyrfa go iawn i fenywod a'r posibilrwydd o wella'u gallu i ennill yn sylweddol?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn cytuno'n llwyr

Joyce. It is important to ensure that opportunities in construction are made available to all, regardless of gender. I know of the Women in Construction campaign that you have been promoting, which ensures that more women, particularly young women, see construction as a career for them. To be frank, we are too small a nation to be able to afford to ignore the potential skills that are available all around us, and so it is important that men and women are given full access to all opportunities.

Joyce Watson: You have referred to my work on the Women in Construction campaign and, through that, I have travelled to colleges throughout Mid and West Wales and seen the tremendous work being done to encourage and inspire women and girls to consider construction as a genuine career choice. I have spoken to many remarkable young women about bettering their lives through the construction industry, many of whom expressed an aspiration to set up their own business after qualifying. Will you join me in congratulating ConstructionSkills and the Association of Women in Property on their work to promote opportunities for women?

The First Minister: I certainly will. It is important that all avenues be explored to enable women to enter an industry that has traditionally been seen as the domain of men, although it cannot be seen in that way in the future.

Darren Millar: First Minister, many workers in the Welsh construction industry are employed by small building firms that employ fewer than 20 people. Many of those firms find it difficult to access opportunities to undertake work in the public sector because of the rolling up of contracts into large projects, which they are unable to undertake. What action is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to ensure that small construction businesses in Wales have the opportunity to tender through the procurement process, and can compete for that work?

The First Minister: First, our 'One Wales' programme includes commitments to make it

â chi, Joyce. Mae'n bwysig sicrhau bod cyfleoedd ar gael i bawb yn y maes adeiladu, boed wryw neu fenyw. Gwn am yr ymgyrch Menywod ym maes Adeiladu yr ydych wedi bod yn ei hyrwyddo, sy'n sicrhau bod rhagor o fenywod, menywod ifanc yn enwedig, yn gweld adeiladu'n yrfa iddynt. A bod yn blwmp ac yn blaen, yr ydym yn genedl rhy fechan i allu fforddio anwybyddu'r sgiliau posibl sydd ar gael ym mhobman o'n cwrmpas, ac felly, mae'n bwysig i ddynion ac i fenywod allu manteisio'n llawn ar bob cyfle.

Joyce Watson: Yr ydych wedi cyfeirio at fy ngwaith ar yr ymgyrch Menywod ym maes Adeiladu, a thrwy honno, yr wyf wedi teithio i golegau ar hyd Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru ac wedi gweld y gwaith aruthrol sydd ar y gweill i annog ac ysbrydoli menywod a merched i ystyried adeiladu'n ddewis go iawn ar gyfer gyrfa. Yr wyf wedi siarad â llawer o fenywod ifanc nodedig am wella'u byd drwy fynd i'r diwydiant adeiladu, ac yr oedd llawer ohonynt yn dweud eu bod yn awyddus i sefydlu eu busnes eu hunain ar ôl cymhwyso. A wnewch ymuno â mi i longyfarch SgiliauAdeiladu a Chymdeithas Menywod mewn Eiddo ar eu gwaith i hyrwyddo cyfleoedd i fenywod?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yn sicr. Mae'n bwysig archwilio pob llwybr i alluogi menywod i ymuno â diwydiant sydd wedi cael ei weld yn draddodiadol yn fyd i ddynion, er na allwn fforddio'i weld felly yn y dyfodol.

Darren Millar: Brif Weinidog, mae llawer o weithwyr yn niwydiant adeiladu Cymru yn cael eu cyflogi gan gwmnïau adeiladu bychain sy'n cyflogi llai nag 20 o bobl. Bydd llawer o'r cwmnïau hynny'n ei chael yn anodd manteisio ar gyfleoedd i wneud gwaith yn y sector cyhoeddus oherwydd bod contractau'n cael eu cyfuno'n brosiectau mawr, na allant ymgymryd â hwy. Pa gamau y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn eu cymryd i sicrhau bod busnesau adeiladu bychain yng Nghymru'n medru cael y cyfle i dendro drwy'r broses caffael, a'u bod yn gallu cystadlu am y gwaith hwnnw?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yn gyntaf, mae ein rhaglen 'Cymru'n Un' yn cynnwys

easier for small local firms in all parts of Wales to access Government contracts. Secondly, we have set out our policy on procurement in 'Opening Doors: The Charter for SME Friendly Procurement', which all public sector bodies in Wales have now signed up to.

Brian Gibbons: First Minister, as you may be aware, the previous Westminster Government provided a £5,000 ex gratia payment to construction workers suffering from pleural plaques. At the time, that compensation was regarded as an example of extravagant expenditure by a party now in government at Westminster. Do you think that that bodes poorly for the current Government's commitment to the health and safety of workers in the construction industry, particularly in the light of its proposal to review health and safety regulations?

The First Minister: I could not agree more. There are isolated examples of where health and safety legislation has perhaps been over-interpreted, but the key point is that, over the past 10 years, some 148 people have been killed at work in the UK. Any lessening of health and safety legislation can only lead to more injuries and deaths at work.

Gareth Jones: Hoffwn ddilyn y trywydd a ddilynodd Darren Millar yn ei gwestiwn yn gynharach. Lle bo cwmnïau o Gymru yn methu ag ennill contractau, a allwch ddweud beth y gellir ei wneud i ddatrys y broblem o safbwynt rhoi esboniad a hyfforddiant i'r busnesau aflwyddiannus a hefyd, efallai, o safbwynt aildrefnu'r prosesau tendro a'r contractau hynny?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae angen gwneud dau beth. Mae'r cyntaf i'r Llywodraeth ei wneud, ac yr ail i'r cwmnïau ei wneud. Fel Llywodraeth, yr ydym yn gweithio gyda chwmnïau yng Nghymru er mwyn sicrhau bod ganddynt y sgiliau i dendro am gytundebau yn y dyfodol ac i gymryd y cyfleoedd sydd ar gael o ran tendro am gytundebau sector cyhoeddus. Mae'n rhaid sicrhau bod y cwmnïau yn gwybod sut i

ymrwymiaidau i'w gwneud yn haws i gwmnïau bychain lleol ym mhob rhan o Gymru gael gafael ar gontractau'r Llywodraeth. Yn ail, yr ydym wedi gosod ein polisi ar gyfer caffael yn 'Agor Drysau: y Siarter ar gyfer Caffael sy'n Gyfeillgar i Fusnesau Bach a Chanolig', ac mae pob corff yn y sector cyhoeddus yng Nghymru wedi addo cydymffurfio â hynny bellach.

Brian Gibbons: Brif Weinidog, fel y gwyddoch efallai, rhoddodd Llywodraeth flaenorol San Steffan daliad ex gratia o £5,000 i weithwyr adeiladu a oedd yn dioddef o blaciau plewrol. Ar y pryd, yr oedd plaid sydd bellach yn llywodraethu yn San Steffan yn meddwl bod yr iawndal hwnnw'n enghraifft o orwario afradlon. A gredwch fod hynny'n argoeli'n wael ar gyfer ymrwymiad y Llywodraeth bresennol i iechyd a diogelwch gweithwyr yn y diwydiant adeiladu, yn enwedig yng ngoleuni ei bwriad o adolygu rheoliadau iechyd a diogelwch?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr wyf yn cytuno'n llwyr. Mae ambell enghraifft ynysig efallai lle mae deddfwriaeth iechyd a diogelwch wedi'i gorddehongli, ond y pwynt allweddol yw, dros y 10 mlynedd diwethaf, fod rhyw 148 o bobl wedi'u lladd yn y gwaith yn y Deyrnas Unedig. Ni all gwanhau deddfwriaeth iechyd a diogelwch ond olygu rhagor o anafiadau a marwolaethau yn y gwaith.

Gareth Jones: I would like to follow on from Darren Millar's earlier question. Where companies from Wales fail to win contracts, can you tell us what can be done to resolve the problem by giving an explanation and training to the unsuccessful businesses and also, perhaps, by reorganising the tendering process and those contracts?

The First Minister: There are two things that need to be done. The first is for the Government, and the second for the companies. As a Government, we work with companies in Wales to ensure that they have the skills to tender for contracts in future and to take advantage of the opportunities that exist for tendering for public sector contracts. It is important to ensure that companies know how to do that, and that we show them how

wneud hynny, ac mae'n bwysig ein bod yn dangos y ffordd ymlaen o ran hynny. Mae hefyd yn bwysig bod cwmnïau yn cydweithio er mwyn tendro. Gall cwmnïau greu consortiwm i dendro am gytundebau a byddai pawb yn elwa oherwydd hynny. Gan fod rhai cwmnïau mor fach, mae'n anodd iawn iddynt dendro am gytundebau mawr, ond pe baent yn gweithio gyda chwmnïau eraill byddai gwell cyfle ganddynt.

Education Policy

Q4 Jonathan Morgan: Will the First Minister outline the Welsh Assembly Government's priorities for education policy in the next six months? OAQ(3)2942(FM)

The First Minister: Our priorities remain as set out in 'One Wales'. You will be aware of the review that has concluded recently on releasing more money for front-line services in education.

Jonathan Morgan: I am grateful to the First Minister for that response. First Minister, you will know that the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning issued a written statement on 12 January on the role of Welsh Ministers in relation to school closures. In the intervening period, I know from answers to questions tabled by Paul Davies that the Minister has been considering whether there should be a review of the guidance on school closures. The timing of my question is perfect this afternoon, as I see that we have a statement later from the Minister on school reorganisation. One particular issue concerns me—I will not mention any particular schools or local authorities—which relates to the process. I have not seen a copy of the statement that the Minister will give later, but if the Assembly Government is to consider reviewing the guidance—which it is well within its rights to do—as the Assembly guidance sets out the framework within which school reorganisation should take place, do you agree that there is little point at this stage in local authorities continuing with any school reorganisation plans while the guidance is in a state of flux? Any school reorganisation planned now, based on the current guidance, may be contrary to different guidance in the

to go about doing that. It is also important that companies work together in order to tender. Companies can create a consortium to tender for contracts and everyone would benefit from that. As some companies are so small, it is very difficult for them to tender for major contracts, but if they were to work with other companies they would have a better chance.

Polisi Addysg

C4 Jonathan Morgan: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog amlinellu blaenoriaethau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer polisi addysg yn y chwe mis nesaf? OAQ(3)2942(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Ein blaenoriaethau o hyd yw'r rheini a geir yn 'Cymru'n Un'. Gwyddoch am yr adolygiad a gwblhawyd yn ddiweddar ynglŷn â rhyddhau rhagor o arian ar gyfer gwasanaethau rheng flaen addysg.

Jonathan Morgan: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r Prif Weinidog am yr ymateb hwnnw. Brif Weinidog, gwyddoch i'r Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes gyhoeddi datganiad ysgrifenedig ar 12 Ionawr am rôl Gweinidogion Cymru yng nghyswllt cau ysgolion. Yn y cyfnod ers hynny, gwn yn sgîl atebion i gwestiynau a gyflwynwyd gan Paul Davies fod y Gweinidog wedi bod yn ystyried a ddylid adolygu'r canllawiau ar gyfer cau ysgolion. Mae amseru fy nghwestiwn yn berffaith y prynhawn yma, oherwydd gwelaf y cawn ddatganiad am ad-drefnu ysgolion gan y Gweinidog yn nes ymlaen. Mae un peth penodol yn fy mhoeni—ni soniaf am unrhyw ysgolion nac am unrhyw awdurdodau lleol penodol—ynglŷn â'r broses. Nid wyf wedi gweld copi o'r datganiad a gawn gan y Gweinidog wedyn, ond os yw Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn bwriadu adolygu'r canllawiau—ac mae ganddi berffaith hawl gwneud hynny—gan fod canllawiau'r Cynulliad yn gosod y fframwaith ar gyfer ad-drefnu ysgolion, a gytunwch nad oes fawr o bwynt i awdurdodau lleol fwrw ymlaen ag unrhyw gynlluniau i ad-drefnu ysgolion ar hyn o bryd a'r canllawiau ar fin cael eu newid? Bydd unrhyw ad-drefnu a gynllunnir yn awr, ar sail y canllawiau presennol, o bosibl yn groes i

future. Do you therefore agree that local authorities should halt their plans and wait for the Assembly Government to further consider the issue?

The First Minister: All I can say is that you should wait for the statement. However, I do not believe that, as a result of the statement, any local authority will have to halt its reorganisation plans.

Jeff Cuthbert: September sees legal entitlement for all of those eligible for 14-19 learning pathways. In the face of potential Tory and Lib Dem cuts, do you agree that it is important that this initiative is rolled ahead and that we look for the very best collaboration across the education sectors?

The First Minister: That is absolutely right. We have to ensure that our young people in particular—and not just young people, as we are talking about lifelong learning—have as much access to as many skills as possible. That means not confining young people to study only the courses that are available in the institutions where they are currently studying. It is essential that as much choice as possible is made available to young people, and not just in urban Wales, but in rural Wales also.

1.50 p.m.

Peter Black: In my region, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council is carrying out a review of sixth forms and proposes to do away with them. That is a common theme in the post-16 education review. What is the view of the Assembly Government on the continuation of sixth forms? Will you propose that sixth forms should give way to colleges, or do you believe that there should be a mix of provision so that parents and pupils have a choice?

The First Minister: I cannot comment particularly on Rhondda Cynon Taf, but, as far as post-16 provision is concerned, it is important that there is choice. How that provision is made is a matter for local education authorities. There is certainly no Assembly Government policy to bring all sixth forms to an end.

ganllawiau gwahanol yn y dyfodol. A gytunwch felly y dylai awdurdodau lleol atal eu cynlluniau a disgwyl i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad ystyried y mater rhagor?

Y Prif Weinidog: Y cyfan y gallaf ddweud yw y dylech aros am y datganiad. Serch hynny, ni chredaf y bydd yn rhaid i unrhyw awdurdod lleol atal ei gynlluniau ad-drefnu yn sgîl y datganiad.

Jeff Cuthbert: Ym mis Medi, bydd gan bawb sy'n gymwys ar gyfer llwybrau dysgu 14-19 hawl a haeddiant cyfreithiol. Yn wyneb y toriadau posibl gan y Torïaid a'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, a gytunwch ei bod yn bwysig inni fwrw ymlaen â'r cynllun hwn ac inni geisio sicrhau'r cydweithredu gorau un ar draws y sectorau addysg?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydych yn llygad eich lle. Rhaid inni sicrhau bod gan ein pobl ifanc yn benodol—ac nid dim ond pobl ifanc, oherwydd ein bod yn sôn am ddysgu gydol oes—fodd o gael gafael ar gynifer o sgiliau ag y bo modd. Mae hynny'n golygu peidio â chyfyngu pobl ifanc i astudio'r cyrsiau hynny'n unig sydd ar gael yn y sefydliadau lle maent yn astudio ar y pryd. Mae'n hanfodol rhoi cymaint o ddewis ag y bo modd i bobl ifanc, ac nid dim ond yn y Gymru drefol, ond yn y Gymru wledig hefyd.

Peter Black: Yn fy rhanbarth i, mae Cyngor Bwrdeistref Rhondda Cynon Taf yn adolygu'r chweched dosbarth mewn ysgolion ac yn bwriadu cael gwared â hwy. Mae honno'n thema gyson yn yr adolygiad o addysg ôl-16. Beth yw barn Llywodraeth y Cynulliad am barhad y chweched dosbarth? A fyddwch yn cynnig y dylai'r chweched dosbarth ildio'i le i golegau, ynteu a gredwch y dylid cael darpariaeth amrywiol er mwyn i rieni a disgyblion gael dewis?

Y Prif Weinidog: Ni allaf sôn yn benodol am sefyllfa Rhondda Cynon Taf, ond o ran y ddarpariaeth ôl-16, mae'n bwysig bod dewis. Gwaith awdurdodau addysg lleol yw penderfynu ynglŷn â'r ddarpariaeth. Yn sicr, nid oes gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad bolisi i ddileu pob chweched dosbarth.

Nerys Evans: Bu ichi amlinellu eich blaenoriaethau yn eich ateb cyntaf i Jonathan Morgan. Mae gweithredu polisi yn ddibynnol ar gyllid. Mae'r Llywodraeth wedi adolygu cyllid y portffolio addysg i weld faint o arian sy'n mynd i wahanol feysydd. Yr wyf yn edrych ymlaen at weld y Llywodraeth yn gweithredu ar hynny. A ydych yn cytuno bod cynlluniau'r Llywodraeth newydd yn Llundain yn mynd yn erbyn polisiâu Llywodraeth Cymru yn llwyr? Tra mae Llywodraeth Cymru wrthi'n ceisio cynyddu'r cyllid sy'n cyrraedd ein dosbarthiadau i wella darpariaeth addysg, mae'r Ceidwadwyr a'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol wrthi'n torri cyllideb Cymru, ac felly cyllideb addysg Cymru, a fydd yn effeithio ar safonau addysg ein plant. A ydych hefyd yn cytuno y dylai Cymru wrthod yn llwyr bolisiâu'r Ceidwadwyr a'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol i gyflwyno ysgolion rhydd, lle gallem weld cwmnïau masnachol rhyngwladol yn addysgu ein plant? A gytunwch y dylai Llywodraeth Cymru ymrwymo i gadw ysgolion Cymru yn y sector cyhoeddus?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yn gyntaf, gwnawn ein gorau, yn ystod y cyfnod pan fydd y gyllideb yn cael ei hystyried, i sicrhau bod ysgolion yn cael eu gwarchod a bod pob ceiniog yn cael ei gwario ar wasanaethau rheng flaen. Nid ydym yn bwriadu symud i system o breifateiddio ysgolion. Mae'r system yr ydym yn ei gweithredu yng Nghymru yn system gydweithredol sy'n sicrhau bod dewis ar gael i bob person ifanc. Mae hefyd yn sicrhau y bydd gennym system arbennig ac ardderchog at y dyfodol.

Public Services

Q5 Andrew R.T. Davies: What discussions has the First Minister had with ministerial colleagues regarding the priorities for public services in Wales? OAQ(3)2935(FM)

The First Minister: I regularly discuss all aspects of public services with ministerial colleagues.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Thank you for that answer, First Minister. One of the key challenges that we face is being able to offer

Nerys Evans: You set out your priorities in your first reply to Jonathan Morgan. Policy implementation is dependent on funding. The Government has reviewed the funding of the education portfolio to see how much money goes to different areas. I look forward to seeing the Government take action on that. Do you agree that the plans of the new Government in London go completely against the Welsh Government's policies? While the Welsh Government is seeking to ensure that increased funding reaches our classrooms to improve education provision, the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats are cutting the Welsh budget, and thereby the Welsh education budget, which will impact on the standards of education for our children. Do you also agree that Wales should reject outright the policies of the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats to introduce academies, where we could see international commercial companies teaching our children? Do you agree that the Welsh Government should commit itself to keeping schools in Wales in the public sector?

The First Minister: First, we will do our best, during the period when the budget is being considered, to ensure that schools are protected and that every penny is spent on front-line services. We do not intend to move to a system of school privatisation. The system that we are operating in Wales is a collaborative system that ensures that choice is available to all young people. It also ensures that we will have an excellent system for the future.

Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus

C5 Andrew R.T. Davies: Pa drafodaethau mae'r Prif Weinidog wedi'u cael gyda chyd-Weinidogion ynghylch y blaenoriaethau ar gyfer gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru? OAQ(3)2935(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Byddaf yn trafod pob agwedd ar wasanaethau cyhoeddus gyda'm cyd-Weinidogion yn rheolaidd.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Diolch ichi am yr ateb hwnnw, Brif Weinidog. Un o'r heriau allweddol a wynebwn yw gallu cynnig

good-quality training to staff, particularly in the national health service. The time allocated to staff training in the health service has sadly decreased over the last couple of years, from six-and-a-half days, on average, per year to five-and-a-half days. Statutory training provision has also decreased and less than 50 per cent of staff now attend statutory training in many specialities. Do you agree that it would be sensible for the Welsh Assembly Government to work with the local health boards to increase the provision of training for these staff, but, above all, to have performance indicators for local health boards so that they do not opt out of offering that statutory and voluntary training in order that we have a well-trained workforce that can meet the challenges that they will face over the next decade?

The First Minister: It is absolutely essential that sufficient training is provided, particularly as medical knowledge changes and as service patterns change. I know that the local health boards will be keen to work with the Minister for Health and Social Services to ensure that the level of training in Wales keeps pace with advances in medical knowledge.

Helen Mary Jones: Brif Weinidog, mae'n rhaid i ni fod yn realistig a sylweddoli nad ydym yn gallu gwario cymaint ar wasanaethau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru ag y byddem yn dymuno ei wneud, oherwydd y sefyllfa bresennol. Er hynny, pan fydd toriadau yn cael eu trafod yn ystod eich trafodaethau cyson yn y Cabinet, a wnewch gymryd gofal arbennig fel arweinydd y broses i sicrhau bod gwasanaethau ar gyfer pobl fwyaf bregus ein cymunedau, yn enwedig plant anabl, yn cael eu hamddiffyn cymaint ag y bo modd, er y bydd yn broses anodd i bawb?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nod unrhyw Lywodraeth gyfrifol yw sicrhau bod gwasanaethau ar gael i'r rhai sydd mewn sefyllfa fregus. Felly, mae hwn yn rhywbeth yr ydym yn ei ystyried yn fanwl wrth edrych ar gyllideb y flwyddyn nesaf. Yr wyf wedi sôn sawl gwaith yn y

hyfforddiant o safon i staff, yn enwedig yn y gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol. Yn anffodus, mae'r amser a neilltuir i hyfforddi staff yn y gwasanaeth iechyd wedi gostwng dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf, o chwe diwrnod a hanner y flwyddyn ar gyfartaledd i bum niwrnod a hanner. Mae'r ddarpariaeth hyfforddi statudol wedi gostwng hefyd a bydd llai na 50 y cant o'r staff bellach yn cael hyfforddiant statudol mewn llawer o feysydd arbenigol. A gytunwch y byddai'n ddoeth i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad weithio gyda'r byrddau iechyd lleol i gynyddu'r ddarpariaeth hyfforddi i'r staff hyn, ond, yn anad dim, y dylid cael dangosyddion perfformiad ar gyfer byrddau iechyd lleol fel na fyddant yn dewis peidio â chynnig yr hyfforddiant statudol a gwirfoddol hwnnw, er mwyn sicrhau bod gennym weithlu sydd wedi'i hyfforddi'n dda sy'n gallu ymateb i'r heriau y byddant yn eu hwynebu dros y ddegawd nesaf?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'n gwbl hanfodol darparu digon o hyfforddiant, yn enwedig wrth i wybodaeth feddygol newid ac wrth i batrymau'r gwasanaeth newid. Gwn y bydd y byrddau iechyd lleol yn awyddus i weithio gyda'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol i sicrhau bod lefel yr hyfforddiant yng Nghymru'n ymateb i'r datblygiadau ym maes gwybodaeth feddygol.

Helen Mary Jones: First Minister, we must be realistic and realise that we cannot spend as much on public services in Wales as we would wish, given the current situation. However, when cuts are being discussed in your regular Cabinet discussions, will you take special care, as the leader of the process, to ensure that services for the most vulnerable in our communities, especially disabled children, are protected as much as possible, although it will be a difficult process for everyone?

The First Prime Minister: The aim of any responsible Government is to ensure that services are available to those who are vulnerable. Therefore, this is something that we consider in detail when looking at the budget for next year. I have mentioned

Siambwr ein bod yn mynd drwy'r gyllideb linell wrth linell er mwyn ystyried beth sy'n bwysig a beth y credwn na allwn ei gyllido yn y dyfodol. Fodd bynnag, mae edrych ar ôl pobl yn bwysig dros ben i'r Llywodraeth hon.

The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats (Kirsty Williams): First Minister, your Welsh-medium education strategy states that its vision is:

'to have an education and training system that responds in a planned way to the growing demand for Welsh-medium education, reaches out to and reflects our diverse communities'.

There is a clear demand for places in Welsh-medium education in the western part of Cardiff. Could you explain to the Assembly how your decision to block the reorganisation of schools in this particular part of the capital fits in with your Welsh-medium education strategy?

The First Minister: The strategy remains in place and is supported by the Government. That does not mean that every single plan put forward to Ministers must automatically be approved; such an approach would not only be unfair, but unlawful. It is important that local authorities bring forward sensible proposals for reorganisation in their areas, and that is something that I know is happening across much of the rest of Wales.

Kirsty Williams: Of course, while there has been much outcry—understandably so—from the parents and pupils of the school that has been affected by your decision to block its reorganisation, this action has wider strategic implications across Wales. Both the Welsh Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Education in Wales have expressed concerns that the decision that you have taken in this case undermines the process that so many of our local authorities are going through in response to your Government's stated policy of responding to demands for Welsh-medium education and of dealing with the problem of surplus places. What confidence can local

several times in the Chamber that we are going through the budget line by line in order to consider what is important and what we believe we cannot fund in the future. However, looking after people is extremely important to this Government.

Arweinydd Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Kirsty Williams): Brif Weinidog, dywed eich strategaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg mai ei gweledigaeth yw:

'cael system addysg a hyfforddiant sy'n ymateb mewn ffordd wedi'i chynllunio i'r galw cynyddol am addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg, sy'n cyrraedd ein cymunedau amrywiol ac yn eu hadlewyrchu'.

Mae'n amlwg bod galw am leoedd mewn addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn rhan orllewinol Caerdydd. A allech esbonio i'r Cynulliad sut mae'ch penderfyniad i rwystro ad-drefnu ysgolion yn y rhan arbennig hon o'r brifddinas yn cydweddu â'ch strategaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'r strategaeth yn dal ar waith ac mae'r Llywodraeth yn ei chefnogi. Nid yw hynny'n golygu ei bod yn rhaid cymeradwyo pob cynllun unigol a gyflwynir i Weinidogion heb ei ystyried; ni fyddai ymagwedd o'r fath ond yn annheg, byddai'n anghyfreithlon hefyd. Mae'n bwysig bod awdurdodau lleol yn cyflwyno cynigion call ar gyfer ad-drefnu yn eu hardaloedd, ac mae hynny'n rhywbeth y gwn sy'n digwydd ar hyd ac ar led gweddill Gymru i raddau helaeth.

Kirsty Williams: Wrth gwrs, mae rhieni a disgyblion yr ysgol yr ataliwyd ei had-drefnu yn sgîl eich penderfyniad yn protestio'n groch—ac mae hynny'n ddealladwy. Fodd bynnag, mae i'r weithred hon oblygiadau strategol ehangach ledled Cymru. Mae Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru a Chymdeithas Cyfarwyddwyr Addysg Cymru ill dwy wedi mynegi pryder bod eich penderfyniad yn yr achos hwn yn tansilio'r broses y mae cynifer o'n hawdurdodau lleol yn mynd drwyddi wrth ymateb i bolisi datganedig eich Llywodraeth, sef ymateb i'r galw am addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg ac ymdrin â phroblem lleoedd gwag. Sut y gall awdurdodau lleol deimlo'n hyderus bod eu

authorities have that their time and effort, and the soul-searching that often goes on during these very difficult processes, will be properly evaluated and judged by your Government?

The First Minister: It is important that local authorities bring forward plans that are robust and can command the support of the local community where possible, particularly plans that follow the processes that are set down. As I have said, Leighton Andrews is making a statement after my questions that will identify to Members a way forward for dealing with objections in future and how local authorities should carry out their statutory duties when it comes to school reorganisation.

Kirsty Williams: I welcome the fact that the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning will be making a statement this afternoon, and wait in anticipation of what he has to say. I hope that the statement will go some way towards assuring local authorities that find themselves in the position of trying to implement your stated Government policy on improving access to Welsh-medium education and cutting surplus places, that their plans will be looked upon fairly and objectively, and that if there are serious concerns about the fundamentals of a certain proposal, these will be raised at an early point during the process. As I understand it, the proposals for the reorganisation of schools in the western part of Cardiff have been with the Welsh Assembly Government for a considerable length of time, and it was only at the very end that the fundamentals of your Government's concerns regarding those proposals were brought to the local authority's attention. A lot of time and effort have been put into the process, and it has been waiting for that decision, only for it to be turned down at the last possible moment. I hope that when the Minister addresses the Chamber later, he will be saying that he will ensure that the process will be timely and fair, and will flag up problems earlier than has been the case in this particular instance, to avoid the disappointment and difficulties that have arisen.

hamser a'u hymdrechion, a'r dwys ystyried sy'n aml yn digwydd yn ystod y prosesau anodd iawn hyn, yn cael eu gwerthuso a'u barnu'n iawn gan eich Llywodraeth?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'n bwysig bod awdurdodau lleol yn cyflwyno cynlluniau sy'n gadarn ac sy'n gallu denu cefnogaeth y gymuned leol lle bo modd, yn enwedig gynlluniau sy'n dilyn y prosesau sydd wedi'u pennu. Fel yr wyf wedi dweud, bydd Leighton Andrews yn rhoi datganiad ar ôl fy nghwestiynau a fydd yn dangos y ffordd ymlaen i'r Aelodau o ran sut y byddwn yn ymdrin â gwrthwynebiadau yn y dyfodol a sut y dylai awdurdodau lleol gyflawni eu dyletswyddau statudol o ran ad-drefnu ysgolion.

Kirsty Williams: Yr wyf yn croesawu'r ffaith y bydd y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg, a Dysgu Gydol Oes yn rhoi datganiad y prynhawn yma, a disgwyliaf yn eiddgar glywed yr hyn y bydd ganddo i'w ddweud. Yr wyf yn gobeithio yr aiff y datganiad rywfaint o'r ffordd tuag at roi sicrwydd i awdurdodau lleol sy'n eu cael eu hunain yn y sefyllfa o orfod ceisio rhoi polisi datganedig eich Llywodraeth ar wella mynediad at addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg a thorri lleoedd gwag ar waith, yr edrychir ar eu cynlluniau mewn ffordd deg a gwrthrychol, ac os oes pryderon difrifol ynglŷn â hanfodion cynnig penodol, y codir y rhain yn fuan yn ystod y broses. Fel y caf ar ddeall, mae'r cynigion ar gyfer ad-drefnu ysgolion yn rhan orllewinol Caerdydd wedi bod gerbron Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ers cryn amser, a dim ond ar ddiwedd un y broses y tynnwyd sylw'r awdurdod lleol at hanfodion pryderon eich Llywodraeth ynglŷn â'r cynigion hynny. Mae'r broses honno wedi golygu llawer o amser ac ymdrech, ac mae wedi bod yn disgwyl am y penderfyniad hwnnw, dim ond iddo gael ei wrthod ar yr eiliad olaf un. Yr wyf yn gobeithio. pan fydd y Gweinidog yn cyfarch y Siambr yn ddiweddarach, y dywed y bydd yn sicrhau bod y broses yn amserol ac yn deg, ac y bydd yn tynnu sylw at broblemau'n gynt nag a ddigwyddodd yn yr achos penodol hwn, er mwyn osgoi'r siom a'r anawsterau sydd wedi codi.

The First Minister: Local authorities must follow the guidance that is set for them. We cannot get involved in the actual process because that, again, would be unlawful. We are, effectively, the appeals body, and we cannot get involved in the mechanics of the decision making in the first place. However, I have to point out that the majority of school reorganisation proposals are approved. Over the past 12 months, in Cardiff, proposals in different parts of the city that have involved the reorganisation of both English-medium and Welsh-medium schools have been approved by Welsh Ministers, which shows that, where plans are put forward that are sensible and robust, there is no difficulty in them being approved by Ministers.

Y Prif Weinidog: Rhaid i awdurdodau lleol ddilyn y canllawiau a bennir ar eu cyfer. Ni allwn ymwneud â'r union broses oherwydd byddai hynny, unwaith eto, yn anghyfreithlon. Mewn gwirionedd, ni yw'r corff apêl, ac ni allwn ymwneud â mecanwaith y broses penderfynu yn y lle cyntaf. Serch hynny, rhaid imi ddweud y cymeradwyir y rhan fwyaf o'r cynigion ad-drefnu ysgolion. Dros y 12 mis diwethaf, yng Nghaerdydd, mae cynigion mewn gwahanol rannau o'r ddinas a'r rheini'n cynnwys ad-drefnu ysgolion cyfrwng Saesneg ac ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg wedi'u cymeradwyo gan Weinidogion Cymru. Mae hynny'n dangos, lle y cynigir cynlluniau sy'n synhwyrol ac yn gadarn, nad oes dim anhawster eu cymeradwyo gan Weinidogion.

Key Priorities

Q6 Nick Bourne: Will the First Minister make a statement on his key priorities?
OAQ(3)2937(FM)

The First Minister: Our key priorities are to continue to deliver our 'One Wales' commitments and our legislative programme.

2.00 p.m.

Nick Bourne: I thank the First Minister for that response. He will be aware of the concern about the level of business rates post-revaluation for many businesses in Wales. This remains a very real concern that has been heightened by the fact that demands for business rates are now coming through. Many businesses in the area that I represent and others face increases of 300 or even 400 per cent on their business rates. Frankly, they cannot cope. We see many empty business premises as a consequence, and there is a real danger of people being laid off or at least of staff not being taken on because of the need to pay those rates bills. Can the First Minister give those businesses any comfort? I have urged him before to look at providing tapering relief for those businesses that have been hit hard; otherwise, many will go to the wall.

The First Minister: You know of the scheme that is already in place in Wales, but

Blaenoriaethau Allweddol

C6 Nick Bourne: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am ei flaenoriaethau allweddol?
OAQ(3)2937(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Ein prif flaenoriaethau yw parhau i gyflawni ein hymrwymiaadau yn 'Cymru'n Un' a'n rhaglen ddeddfwriaethol.

Nick Bourne: Diolch i'r Prif Weinidog am yr ymateb hwnnw. Bydd yn gwybod am bryder llawer o fusnesau yng Nghymru ynglŷn â lefel ardrethi busnes ar ôl yr ailbrisio. Mae hyn yn destun pryder gwirioneddol o hyd ac mae'n waeth yn sgîl y ffaith bod y biliau ardrethi busnes yn dechrau cyrraedd yn awr. Mae llawer o fusnesau yn yr ardal yr wyf yn ei chynrychioli ac mewn ardaloedd eraill yn wynebu cynnydd o 300 neu hyd yn oed 400 y cant yn eu hardrethi busnes. A bod yn blwmp ac yn blaen, ni allant ymdopi â hyn. Gwelwn lawer o adeiladau busnes yn wag yn sgîl hyn, ac mae perygl gwirioneddol y caiff pobl eu diswyddo neu o leiaf bydd busnesau'n peidio â chyflogi staff oherwydd bod angen talu'r biliau ardrethi hynny. A all y Prif Weinidog gynnig unrhyw gysur i'r busnesau hynny? Yr wyf rhyddhad ardrethi sy'n lleihau fesul tipyn i'r busnesau hynny sydd wedi cael ergyd; fel arall, bydd yr hwch yn mynd drwy sawl siop.

Y Prif Weinidog: Gwyddoch am y cynllun sydd eisoes ar waith yng Nghymru, ond

I would also encourage businesses to explore fully with local authorities the potential for a reduction in the rates that they pay, or indeed rate relief—and I know of an example of that happening in my constituency over the past week. There are schemes in place to assist, as you know, and I would encourage any business that feels that it is paying too much in rates to explore the issue with its local authority, to ensure that its circumstances have been taken fully into account.

Brian Gibbons: Would you agree, First Minister, that one of your priorities for the future is the protection of the automotive industry in Wales? I recently had an opportunity to meet the senior management at the Ford plant in your constituency in relation to the Linamar plant in my constituency. One issue that we discussed was the dramatic and almost instantaneous beneficial effect of the car scrappage scheme in the United Kingdom and across Europe. The continuing demand for the Sigma engine, for example, was dramatic. Is it not astounding that that programme was denounced by the current Government as an example of excessive governmental expenditure?

The First Minister: There is no doubt that if the car scrappage scheme had not come into being and if ProAct had not existed, there would have been serious problems for the future of the Ford engine plant, the Toyota plant in Deeside and many car manufacturing plants, which went through a difficult time a year or so ago. That shows that the effective working on the part of the UK Government at the time and the Welsh Assembly Government meant that we were able to take them through that temporary crisis and put them in a position of once again feeling able to expand.

Eleanor Burnham: In your manifesto for the leadership of your party, First Minister, you committed to abolishing fuel poverty by 2018 by fully implementing the fuel poverty charter. Can you tell us what steps you have taken since your election as First Minister to achieve that aspiration to implement fully the fuel poverty charter?

byddwn hefyd yn annog busnesau i drafod pob posibilrwydd gyda'u hawdurdodau lleol i weld a oes modd cael gostyngiad yn eu hardrethi, neu yn wir ryddhad ardrethi—a gwn am enghraifft o hynny'n digwydd yn fy etholaeth yn ystod yr wythnos diwethaf. Mae cynlluniau ar waith i gynorthwyo, fel y gwyddoch, a byddwn yn annog unrhyw fusnes sy'n teimlo'i fod yn talu gormod o ardrethi i drafod y mater gyda'i awdurdod lleol, er mwyn sicrhau bod y cyngor wedi ystyried ei amgylchiadau'n llawn.

Brian Gibbons: A gytuned, Brif Weinidog, mai un o'ch blaenoriaethau ar gyfer y dyfodol yw gwarchod y diwydiant moduro yng Nghymru? Cefais gyfle'n ddiweddar i gyfarfod â'r uwch reolwyr yn ffatri Ford yn eich etholaeth i drafod safle ffatri Linamar yn fy etholaeth innau. Un mater a drafodwyd gennym oedd yr effaith lesol ddramatig, a hynny bron ar unwaith, a gafodd y cynllun sgrapio ceir yn y Deyrnas Unedig a ledled Ewrop. Yr oedd y parhad yn y galw am injan Sigma, er enghraifft, yn ddramatig. Onid yw'n syfrdanol i'r Llywodraeth bresennol ladd ar y rhaglen honno gan ddweud ei bod yn enghraifft o wario afradlon gan y llywodraeth?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid oes amheuaeth, oni bai am y cynllun sgrapio ceir ac oni bai am ProAct, na fyddai ffatri injans Ford wedi bod yn wynebu problemau difrifol, felly hefyd ffatri Toyota ar lannau Dyfrdwy a llawer o ffatrioedd gweithgynhyrchu ceir, a aeth drwy gyfnod anodd flwyddyn neu ddwy yn ôl. Dengys hynny fod y gwaith effeithiol gan Lywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig ar y pryd a Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi golygu ein bod wedi gallu eu tywys drwy'r argyfwng dros dro hwnnw a'u rhoi mewn sefyllfa unwaith eto lle'r oeddent yn teimlo y gallent ehangu.

Eleanor Burnham: Yn eich maniffesto ar gyfer arwain eich plaid, Brif Weinidog, cawsom ymrwymiad gennych i ddileu tlodi tanwydd erbyn 2018 drwy roi'r siarter tlodi tanwydd ar waith yn llawn. A allwch ddweud wrthym pa gamau yr ydych wedi'u cymryd ers eich ethol yn Brif Weinidog i wireddu'r dyhead hwnnw i roi'r siarter tlodi tanwydd ar waith yn llawn?

The First Minister: The aim is to eliminate fuel poverty by 2018, and, six months into the job, I can tell you that we are about to launch the fuel poverty charter, which will represent an important step forward in dealing with fuel poverty once and for all.

Bethan Jenkins: Last week, a statement from the Minister for education, Leighton Andrews, on the reorganisation of student loans seemed to suggest that the Government is playing a game of wait and see on this issue. What measures do you have in place if Student Finance England has a terrible summer, as it did last year? Will the Government still opt to centralise services in north Wales? What will be the implications for jobs in those local authorities that currently take part in administering student loans on behalf of Student Finance Wales?

The First Minister: Our aim is to ensure that student loans are administered in the most effective way possible for students. We do not want to see compulsory redundancies either in local authorities or centrally in Cardiff, and it is important that we have a system of administering loans that is effective at ensuring that students receive them.

Debt Recovery

Q7 Sandy Mewies: What steps does the Welsh Assembly Government take to ensure that local authorities have efficient procedures to recover debt?
OAQ(3)2948(FM)

The First Minister: It is the responsibility of each local authority to maximise its income for the provision of public services. That includes identifying and collecting all debts owing promptly, efficiently and fairly.

Sandy Mewies: Thank you for that, First Minister. Flintshire County Council recently wrote off debts totalling almost £100,000, mainly because of two companies going into administration. It is not the only local authority in Wales that has had to cope with

Y Prif Weinidog: Y nod yw dileu tlodi tanwydd erbyn 2018, ac ar ôl chwe mis yn y swydd, gallaf ddweud wrthy ch ein bod ar fin lansio'r siarter tlodi tanwydd, a fydd yn gam pwysig ymlaen er mwyn mynd i'r afael â thlodi tanwydd unwaith ac am byth.

Bethan Jenkins: Yr wythnos diwethaf, mewn datganiad gan y Gweinidog dros addysg, Leighton Andrews, am ad-drefnu benthyciadau myfyrwyr, awgrymwyd i bob golwg fod y Llywodraeth yn chwarae gêm aros i weld yn y cyswllt hwn. Pa gamau y bwriadwch eu cymryd os digwydd i Gyllid Myfyrwyr Lloegr gael haf ofnadwy, fel y gwnaeth y llynedd? A wnaiff y Llywodraeth ddal i ddewis canoli gwasanaethau yn y gogledd? Beth fydd y goblygiadau ar gyfer swyddi yn yr awdurdodau lleol hynny sydd ar hyn o bryd yn gwneud gwaith gweinyddu benthyciadau myfyrwyr ar ran Cyllid Myfyrwyr Cymru?

Y Prif Weinidog: Ein nod yw sicrhau bod benthyciadau myfyrwyr yn cael eu gweinyddu yn y ffordd fwyaf effeithiol posibl i fyfyrwyr. Nid ydym am weld diswyddiadau gorfodol, nac mewn awdurdodau lleol nac yn ganolog yng Nghaerdydd ac mae'n bwysig inni gael system gweinyddu benthyciadau sy'n effeithiol o ran sicrhau bod myfyrwyr yn eu cael.

Adennill Dyledion

C7 Sandy Mewies: Pa gamau mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn eu cymryd i sicrhau bod gan awdurdodau lleol weithdrefnau effeithlon i adennill dyledion?
OAQ(3)2948(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Cyfrifoldeb pob awdurdod lleol yw sicrhau'r incwm mwyaf posibl er mwyn darparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus. Mae hynny'n cynnwys canfod a chasglu pob dyled sy'n ddyledus yn ddi-oed, yn effeithlon ac yn deg.

Sandy Mewies: Diolch ichi am hynny, Brif Weinidog. Yn ddiweddar, dilëwyd dyledion gwerth bron £100,000 gan Gyngor Sir y Fflint, a hynny'n bennaf oherwydd bod dau gwmni wedi mynd at y gweinyddwyr. Nid dyma'r unig awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru

such write-offs. I am aware, by the way, that councils have a good collection rate of up to 96 per cent, in many cases. I recently asked a Welsh Local Government Association representative whether that could be further improved and his response was in the positive. First Minister, will the Welsh Assembly Government keep that in mind and examine whether it can help local authorities to improve the collection rate and not have to make these write-offs, particularly in these economically straitened times?

The First Minister: We want to do all that we can to encourage local authorities to do that. It is difficult to give a view of why certain debts have to be written off. Sometimes, it is to do with companies going into liquidation; sometimes, it is because individuals cannot be traced. Nevertheless, you are right to point out that the collection rate in Wales is good, with the percentage of success up in the mid to late 90s.

William Graham: This question opens the wider issue of the fees that bailiffs charge for recoveries. Could you liaise with councils to ensure that the appointed debt collectors' attempts are met with some flexibility and that their fees are not excessive?

The First Minister: This is not a devolved issue, but if my memory serves me correctly, High Court bailiffs are paid the standard rate and county court bailiffs are paid on commission. That used to be the case, but I have not practised law for 10 years, so I may be 10 years out of date. It is nevertheless the case that, inevitably, bailiffs will charge what they feel is an appropriate rate, and it would be very difficult for us as a Government to intervene in the setting of a market rate.

Chris Franks: First Minister, local government has been undertaking important work to help to battle the recession by providing credit union facilities to prevent people from having to turn to loan sharks and door-to-door sellers, in the hope that they will be kept out of unaffordable debt in the first place. Since 2008, Cardiff Council has given a boost to the work of the Cardiff and

sydd wedi gorfod ymdopi â dileu dyledion fel hyn Gwn, gyda llaw, fod gan gynghorau gyfradd casglu da, hyd at 96 y cant, mewn llawer achos. Gofynnais i un o gynrychiolwyr Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru yn ddiweddar a ellid gwella ar hynny eto, a'i ymateb ef oedd y gellid. Brif Weinidog, a wnaiff Llywodraeth y Cynulliad gadw hynny mewn cof ac ystyried a oes modd iddi gynorthwyo awdurdodau lleol i wella'r gyfradd casglu a pheidio â gorfod dileu dyledion fel hyn, yn enwedig yn y cyfnod economaidd llym hwn?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydym am wneud popeth o fewn ein gallu i annog awdurdodau lleol i wneud hynny. Mae'n anodd dweud pam y bydd yn rhaid dileu dyledion penodol. Weithiau, mae a wnelo hynny â chwmnïau'n cael eu diddymu; weithiau, mae a wnelo â'r ffaith nad oes modd cael gafael ar unigolion. Fodd bynnag, yr ydych yn llygad eich lle'n dweud bod y gyfradd casglu'n dda yng Nghymru, a'r ganran llwyddiant yng nghanol neu'n uchel yn y 90au.

William Graham: Mae'r cwestiwn hwn yn agor maes ehangach, sef y ffioedd a godir gan feiliaid am adennill dyledion. A allech gysylltu â'r cynghorau i sicrhau bod rhywfaint o hyblygrwydd ynghlwm wrth ymdrechion y casglwyr dyledion a benodir ac nad yw eu ffioedd yn ormodol?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid yw hwn yn fater sydd wedi'i ddatganoli, ond os cofiaf yn iawn, telir y gyfradd safonol i feiliaid yr Uchel Lys a thelir beiliaid y llys sirol ar sail comisiwn. Dyna sut yr oedd hi, ond nid wyf wedi ymarfer y gyfraith ers 10 mlynedd, felly efallai fy mod 10 mlynedd ar ei hôl hi. Fodd bynnag, mae'n anochel y bydd beiliaid yn codi'r gyfradd sy'n briodol yn eu barn hwy, a byddai'n anodd iawn i ni'r Llywodraeth ymyrryd o ran pennu cyfradd i'r farchnad.

Chris Franks: Brif Weinidog, mae llywodraeth leol wedi bod yn gwneud gwaith pwysig i gynorthwyo i frwydro yn erbyn y dirwasgiad drwy ddarparu cyfleusterau undeb credyd i atal pobl rhag gorfod troi at fenthycwyr anghyfreithlon a gwerthwyr dros y rhiniog, gan obeithio y bydd hynny'n eu cadw rhag crafangau dyledion anfforddiadwy yn y lle cyntaf. Er 2008, mae Cyngor

Vale credit union. In addition, Dragon Savers in Rhondda Cynon Taf offers good debt advice. What measures is your Government taking to support credit unions and co-operatives to provide good financial advice and to help people to avoid getting into debt in the first place?

Caerdydd wedi rhoi hwb i waith undeb credyd Caerdydd a'r Fro. Hefyd, mae Cynilwyr y Ddraig yn Rhondda Cynon Taf yn cynnig cyngor da am ddyledion. Pa gamau y mae'ch Llywodraeth yn eu cymryd i gynorthwyo undebau credyd a mentrau cydweithredol i roi cyngor ariannol da a chynorthwyo pobl er mwyn iddynt osgoi mynd i ddyledion yn y lle cyntaf?

The First Minister: We made £1.75 million available between April 2000 and March 2007 to develop credit unions, and another £500,000 was provided for the financial year 2007-08. We also secured funding for 2009-10 for a project to support credit union development and to deliver 'One Wales' commitments in the area of convergence. In 2009-10, £1 million of capital funding was made available. Therefore, a great deal of resource has been invested in credit unions given, as you rightly say, their importance in ensuring that people have the opportunity to borrow at a fair rate of interest, rather than fall prey to loan sharks.

Y Prif Weinidog: Darparwyd £1.75 miliwn gennym rhwng mis Ebrill 2000 a mis Mawrth 2007 i ddatblygu undebau credyd, a darparwyd £500,000 arall ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol 2007-08. Sicrhawyd arian gennym hefyd ar gyfer 2009-10 i gynnal prosiect i gynorthwyo datblygu undebau credyd ac i wireddu ymrwymadau 'Cymru'n Un' ym maes cydgyfeirio. Yn 2009-10, darparwyd £1 miliwn o arian cyfalaf. Felly, mae llawer iawn o adnoddau wedi'u buddsoddi yn yr undebau credyd, a chofio, ac yr ydych yn llygad eich lle'n dweud hynny, pa mor bwysig ydynt o ran sicrhau bod pobl yn cael y cyfle i fenthycu ar gyfradd log deg, yn hytrach na mynd yn ysglyfaeth i fenthycwyr anghyfreithlon.

Welsh-medium Education

Addysg Cyfrwng Cymraeg

Q8 Leanne Wood: Will the First Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's Welsh-medium education strategy? OAQ(3)2934(FM)

C8 Leanne Wood: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am strategaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru? OAQ(3)2934(FM)

The First Minister: Yes, Leanne. It was published in April this year, and it aims to develop effective Welsh-medium provision from nursery through to further and higher education. Work on implementing the strategy has already begun and the process is being taken forward and monitored.

Y Prif Weinidog: Gwnaf, Leanne. Fe'i cyhoeddwyd ym mis Ebrill eleni, a'i nod yw datblygu darpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg effeithiol o'r ysgol feithrin i addysg bellach ac uwch. Mae rhoi'r strategaeth ar waith wedi dechrau eisoes gan fwrw ymlaen â'r broses a'i monitro.

Leanne Wood: First Minister, the controversy surrounding your decision to block the reorganisation of education in the west of Cardiff has already been raised here this afternoon. The children and parents of the schools affected are now left in a difficult and uncertain position, with many children left in unacceptably overcrowded conditions. I would be grateful to know whether your decision was taken in the context of the Welsh-medium education strategy, and, further, if you could explain why it took so

Leanne Wood: Brif Weinidog, mae'r ddadl ynglŷn â'ch penderfyniad i rwystro ad-drefnu addysg yng ngorllewin Caerdydd wedi'i chodi yma eisoes y prynhawn yma. Mae plant a rhieni'r ysgolion yr effeithir arnynt bellach mewn sefyllfa anodd ac ansicr, ac mae llawer o blant bellach mewn ysgol annerbyniol o orlawn. Byddwn yn ddiolchgar o gael gwybod a wnaethoch eich penderfyniad yng nghyd-destun y strategaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg, a hefyd, pe gallech esbonio pam y cymerodd mor hir ichi

long for a decision to be made, as parents were kept waiting for an unacceptable length of time.

The First Minister: All the relevant factors were considered when the decision was made, and no attention was given to any irrelevant factors. You are right to point out the length of time that it took for that decision and a number of others to be made, and that is an issue that we take seriously. If my memory serves me correctly, the particular decision that you referred to attracted more than 2,000 responses, and it takes time to go through them, be they objections or indications of support, to ensure that the position has been considered carefully. Nevertheless, as I have said, Leighton will be making a statement later this afternoon, which will provide a way forward on reducing the time that it takes, first to consult on school reorganisation and secondly, once the decisions reach here. The current situation is that it takes only one or a handful of objectors to halt school reorganisation proposals, in effect, and bring them to the attention of the Welsh Ministers, which inevitably means that a queue builds up. It is in no-one's interests for that queue to build up to such a degree that it takes some time before decisions are made.

2.10 p.m.

Paul Davies: Cefais yr anrhydedd o gwrdd â Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin Cymru yr wythnos diwethaf, ac mae'r mudiad yn pryderu am y cynnig i wahardd disgyblion ysgol ôl-16 rhag astudio'n llawn amser i ennill y cymhwyster gofal plant newydd. Deallaf fod cynnig i gael gwared ar hyn ac i lunio cwrs dwy flynedd llawn amser ac mai hwnnw'n unig a fydd ar gael i ddisgyblion o dan 18 oed. Mae'r argymhellion hyn yn golygu y byddai'n rhaid i ddisgyblion ysgol ymgymryd â chwrs llawn amser pan fyddant yn 16 oed yn hytrach na'r dewis sydd ar gael iddynt ar hyn o bryd i astudio cwrs galwedigaethol yn rhan amser. Gan dderbyn y bydd rhai ysgolion yn dewis peidio â chynnig cwrs llawn amser, yr unig ddewis wedyn fyddai i ddilyn cwrs blynyddoedd cynnar llawn amser mewn coleg. Gwyddom nad yw'r opsiwn i ddilyn cwrs gofal plant

benderfynu, gan fod rhieni wedi'u cadw'n aros am gyfnod annerbyniol o hir.

Y Prif Weinidog: Ystyriwyd yr holl ffactorau perthnasol wrth benderfynu, ac ni roddwyd sylw i unrhyw ffactorau amherthnasol. Yr ydych yn iawn yn sôn am yr amser a gymerodd i benderfynu ynglŷn â'r mater hwnnw ac ynglŷn â nifer o faterion eraill, ac mae hynny'n rhywbeth yr ydym yn ei ystyried o ddifrif. Os cofiaf yn iawn, cafwyd mwy na 2,000 o ymatebion i'r penderfyniad penodol a grybwyllwyd gennych, ac mae angen amser i fynd drwyddynt, boed y rheini'n wrthwynebiadau ynteu'n gefnogaeth, er mwyn sicrhau bod y sefyllfa wedi'i hystyried yn ofalus. Serch hynny, fel y dywedais, bydd Leighton yn rhoi datganiad yn ddiweddarach y prynhawn yma, a fydd yn cynnig ffordd ymlaen er mwyn cwtogi'r amser a gymerir yn gyntaf i ymgynghori ynglŷn ag ad-drefnu ysgolion, ac yn ail, ar ôl i'r penderfyniadau gyrraedd y fan hon. Y sefyllfa ar hyn o bryd yw mai dim ond un neu lond llaw o wrthwynebwyr y mae eu hangen mewn gwirionedd i rwystro cynigion i ad-drefnu ysgol, a'u dwyn i sylw Gweinidogion Cymru. Mae hynny'n anochel yn golygu bod ciw'n cronni. Nid yw er budd neb i'r ciw hwnnw dyfu i'r fath raddau nes bod angen cryn amser i benderfynu.

Paul Davies: Last week, I had the honour of meeting Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin Cymru, the nursery schools movement in Wales, and it is concerned about the proposal to prevent post-16 school pupils from studying full time to gain the new childcare qualification. I understand that there is a proposal to get rid of that and to create a new full-time, two-year course and that that will be the only one open to pupils under the age of 18. Those recommendations mean that school pupils will have to undertake a full-time course when they are 16 years of age rather than the current option that is open to them of studying a vocational course part time. While accepting that some schools will choose not to offer a full-time course, the only option then would be to follow a full-time early years course at a college. We know that the option of following a Welsh-medium

drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg ar gael mewn nifer o golegau addysg bellach gan nad oes ganddynt y staff arbenigol. Brif Weinidog, a allwch ddweud wrthym sut y bydd yr argymhelliad hwn yn helpu i ehangu addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg a sut y bydd yn cyd-fynd â strategaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg Llywodraeth y Cynulliad?

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr hyn sy'n bwysig yn gyntaf yw bod y cwrs ar gael mewn ardal. Yn ail, rhaid i'r coleg wneud asesiad i weld a oes marchnad ar gyfer cwrs rhan amser. Rhaid gwneud penderfyniad o'r fath yn lleol wrth ystyried a oes galw am gwrs o'r fath, ac a oes galw am fwy o bobl i ofalu am blant drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

Jenny Randerson: To go back to the Cardiff decision, I am sure that you know the saying, 'Justice delayed is justice denied'. The 10-month wait for that adverse decision has had a tremendous impact on children in both those schools, on parents, teachers and the whole community. The grounds of the decision appear to be that the English-medium pupils would be in unsatisfactory accommodation, but of course the result of that decision is that the Welsh-medium pupils are now in unsatisfactory accommodation, and demand for Welsh-medium education is expanding very fast. Cardiff has been very keen to provide adequate numbers of places for Welsh-medium pupils and has led the way. Unfortunately, not every local authority is as keen as Cardiff is, and some are having to be persuaded strongly to make adequate provision. Do you think that your decision undermines attempts to encourage local authorities to provide better for Welsh-medium pupils?

The First Minister: Without going into detail on the decision, you are quite right to point out that it was not simply about children in a Welsh-medium school; it went wider than that. I am encouraged by Cardiff's keenness to find solutions to education provision across the whole of Cardiff, and I trust that that keenness will continue when looking at the future of the situation in the Canton area of Cardiff.

childcare course is not available in many further education institutions, as they do not have the specialist staff. First Minister, can you tell us how this recommendation will assist in expanding Welsh-medium education and how it will fit in with the Assembly Government's Welsh-medium education strategy?

The First Minister: What is important is, first, that the course is available in an area. Secondly, the college must carry out an assessment to see whether there is a market for a part-time course. Such a decision would have to be made locally in light of the demand for such a course and the demand for more Welsh-speaking childcare workers.

Jenny Randerson: A dychwelyd at benderfyniad Caerdydd, yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn gyfarwydd â'r dywediad, 'Gwadu cyfiawnder yw gohirio cyfiawnder'. Mae disgwyl 10 mis am y penderfyniad negyddol hwnnw wedi cael effaith aruthrol ar blant y ddwy ysgol hynny, ar rieni, ar athrawon ac ar y gymuned gyfan. I bob golwg, sail y penderfyniad yw y byddai disgyblion cyfrwng Saesneg mewn adeilad anfodddhaol, ond wrth gwrs, canlyniad y penderfyniad hwnnw yw bod y disgyblion cyfrwng Cymraeg yn awr mewn adeilad anfodddhaol a bod y galw am addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn ehangu'n gyflym iawn. Mae Caerdydd wedi bod yn awyddus iawn i ddarparu digon o leoedd i ddisgyblion cyfrwng Cymraeg ac wedi arwain y ffordd. Yn anffodus, nid yw pob awdurdod lleol mor awyddus â Chaerdydd, ac mae'n rhaid dwyn cryn berswâd ar rai i sicrhau darpariaeth ddigonol. A gredwch fod eich penderfyniad yn tanseilio ymdrechion i annog awdurdodau lleol i ddarparu'n well ar gyfer disgyblion cyfrwng Cymraeg?

Y Prif Weinidog: Heb sôn am fanylion y penderfyniad, yr ydych yn llygad eich lle'n dweud nad oedd a wnelo hyn â phlant mewn ysgol cyfrwng Cymraeg yn unig; yr oedd yn ehangach na hynny. Mae'r ffaith bod Caerdydd mor awyddus i ganfod atebion i'r ddarpariaeth addysg ar draws Caerdydd yn fy nghalonogi, a hyderaf y bydd yr awydd hwnnw'n parhau wrth iddo edrych ar ddyfodol y sefyllfa yn ardal Treganna yng Nghaerdydd.

Meddygon Teulu

C9 David Lloyd: A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am yr oriau y mae meddygon teulu ar gael? OAQ(3)2936(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae'r oriau y mae meddygon teulu ar gael ar eu cyfer yn cael eu cytuno rhwng y byrddau iechyd lleol a chontractwyr yn unol â darpariaethau'r contract am wasanaethau meddygol cyffredinol. Yr ydym eisiau sicrhau ein bod yn gwella gwasanaethau meddygol teuluol ar draws Cymru, ac yr ydym yn ystyried hwnnw ar hyn o bryd.

David Lloyd: Byddwch yn ymwybodol o'r ffaith bod y Llywodraeth glymblaid newydd yn San Steffan yn ystyried cyflwyno system newydd o gael meddygon teulu i gomisiynu gwasanaethau iechyd fel yn nyddiau meddygon teulu fel deiliaid cronfa. O ychwanegu baich sylweddol yr holl weinyddu hwn yn uniongyrchol ar ysgwyddau meddygon teulu, a gytunwch y byddai ganddynt lai o amser i weld eu cleifion?

Y Prif Weinidog: Mae hynny'n iawn. Un peth a glywais sawl gwaith dros y misoedd diwethaf gan y blaid Geidwadol oedd y dylai meddygon a nyrsys redeg y gwasanaeth iechyd. Gyda pharch i feddygon a nyrsys, nid gweinyddwyr ydynt. Mae'n bwysig bod pobl yn gallu rheoli'r gwasanaeth iechyd er mwyn sicrhau bod yr adnoddau ar gael i feddygon a nyrsys i wneud eu gwaith yn iawn. Felly, mae'n bwysig bod meddygon yn gallu treulio'r rhan fwyaf o'u hamser yn edrych ar ôl cleifion, ac nid yn gwastraffu amser yn llenwi ffurflenni.

Angela Burns: First Minister, the Welsh ambulance service has announced that it is missing a significant number of its targets. One reason for this could be the difficulty in getting an out-of-hours or on-call GP. People are giving up on waiting for GPs and are calling ambulances, when they could have seen a local on-call GP or waited for a GP to come to their home. I do not make this statement based on nothing—this is borne out by casework, with people complaining about the GP out-of-hours contract in particular.

General Practitioners

Q9 David Lloyd: Will the First Minister make a statement on the hours of availability of general practitioners? OAQ(3)2936(FM)

The First Minister: The hours for which general practitioners are available are agreed between the local health boards and contractors in accordance with the provisions of the contract for general medical services. We want to ensure that we improve general medical services the length and breadth of Wales, and we are considering that at the moment.

David Lloyd: You will be aware of the fact that the new coalition Government at Westminster is considering introducing a new system to get general practitioners to commission health services, as in the days of GPs as fundholders. By adding the significant burden of this administrative work directly on the shoulders of GPs, do you agree that they would have less time to see their patients?

The First Minister: That is right. One thing that I heard many times over the past few months from the Conservative party was that it should be doctors and nurses running the health service. With respect to doctors and nurses, they are not administrators. It is important that people can manage the health service to ensure that the resources are available to allow doctors and nurses to do their job properly. Therefore, it is important that doctors can spend most of their time looking after patients, not wasting time filling in forms.

Angela Burns: Brif Weinidog, mae gwasanaeth ambiwlans Cymru wedi cyhoeddi nad yw'n cyrraedd nifer sylweddol o'i dargedau. Un rheswm dros hyn efallai yw ei bod yn anodd cael gafael ar feddyg teulu y tu allan i oriau neu feddyg ar alwad. Mae pobl yn rhoi'r gorau i aros am feddyg teulu ac yn galw ambiwlans, er y gallent fod wedi gweld meddyg teulu lleol ar alwad neu ddisgwyl i feddyg teulu ddod i'w cartref. Nid yw'r datganiad hwn yn un di-sail—mae fy ngwaith achos yn tystio i hyn, gan fod pobl yn cwyno

Will you reconsider the current GP out-of-hours contract? One great effect of renegotiating the contract could be the spin-out on aspects such as ambulance waiting times. We are tying up valuable resources; one individual could go to sort out another individual's problems, instead of tying up whole teams.

The First Minister: I often tease friends of mine who are doctors about the GP contract and how they managed to do it, given that it was a favourable contract. As we know, it has led to difficulties in some parts of Wales with the out-of-hours contract, but I am aware that the Minister for Health and Social Services is actively looking at this and that she will make an announcement on it soon.

Public Services

Q10 Jenny Randerson: What plans does the First Minister have to reform public services in Wales? OAQ(3)2945(FM)

The First Minister: We are looking to emphasise a collaborative approach to improving efficiency and innovation, as evidenced by the fact that we had our first public services summit in February; another summit will be held on 2 July.

Jenny Randerson: First Minister, in England, the General Teaching Council is one of the organisations that the new Government has decided to abolish. Have you made plans in Wales for the future of the General Teaching Council for Wales?

The First Minister: It is not our plan to react to everything that happens in England—that is what devolution is all about. However, we obviously consider what is happening there to see whether it is relevant to Wales.

Janet Ryder: First Minister, given the inevitable cuts because of the change of Government in Westminster, there will be a

am y contract y tu allan i oriau'r meddygon teulu yn benodol. A wnewch ailystyried y contract presennol y tu allan i oriau'r meddygon teulu? Un sgîl effaith fawr a allai ddeilio o ailtrafod y contract fyddai ar agweddau megis amserau aros am ambiwlans. Yr ydym yn clymu adnoddau gwerthfawr; gallai un unigolyn fynd i ddatrys problem unigolyn arall, yn hytrach na bod tîm cyfan ynghlwm yn y peth.

Y Prif Weinidog: Byddaf yn aml yn pryfocio cyfeillion imi sy'n feddygon am y contract meddygon teulu a sut y llwyddasant i gael contract mor ffafriol. Fel y gwyddom, mae wedi arwain at anawsterau mewn ambell ran o Gymru o ran y contract y tu allan i oriau, ond gwn fod y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yn ystyried hyn o ddifrif ac y bydd yn gwneud datganiad yn ei gylch cyn bo hir.

Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus

C10 Jenny Randerson: Pa gynlluniau sydd gan y Prif Weinidog i ddiwygio gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru? OAQ(3)2945(FM)

Y Prif Weinidog: Yr ydym yn gobeithio pwysleisio ymagwedd gydweithredol at wella effeithlonrwydd ac arloesi, a dangoswyd hyn wrth inni gynnal ein huwchgynhadledd gwasanaethau cyhoeddus gyntaf ym mis Chwefror; cynhelir uwchgynhadledd arall ar 2 Gorffennaf.

Jenny Randerson: Brif Weinidog, yn Lloegr, y Cyngor Addysgu Cyffredinol yw un o'r sefydliadau y mae'r Llywodraeth newydd wedi penderfynu ei ddileu. A oes gennych gynlluniau yng Nghymru ar gyfer dyfodol Cyngor Addysgu Cyffredinol Cymru?

Y Prif Weinidog: Nid yw'n fwriad gennym ymateb i bopeth sy'n digwydd yn Lloegr—dyna holl hanfod datganoli. Serch hynny, byddwn yn amlwg yn ystyried yr hyn sy'n digwydd yno i weld a yw'n berthnasol i Gymru.

Janet Ryder: Brif Weinidog, a chofio'r toriadau anochel a ddaw yn sgîl newid y Llywodraeth yn San Steffan, bydd angen inni

need to reassess how we provide public services, assessing whether the services that we have are appropriate to the needs of Wales but also whether we can deliver them in the way that we would want. What work has your Government done to prepare for a totally fresh look at delivering public services?

The First Minister: As I mentioned, Janet, we had the public services summit, and another is due in July. We have the public service improvement agenda for Wales and an efficiency and innovation board, which has ministerial involvement. The job of that board is to ensure that we are as efficient as possible. We cannot go on delivering services in exactly the same way as we have done in the past, and the people of Wales would not expect us to do so. It is essential that we look at all possible ways of delivering the same or better level of service, but in a more efficient way.

Y Llywydd: Diolch yn fawr i'r Prif Weinidog am ei atebion.

ailystyried sut y byddwn yn darparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus, gan bwysu a mesur a yw'r gwasanaethau sydd gennym yn briodol ar gyfer anghenion Cymru a hefyd a allwn eu darparu yn y ffordd y byddem yn dymuno'u darparu. Pa waith y mae'ch Llywodraeth wedi'i wneud i baratoi at edrych o'r newydd o'r cwr ar ddarparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus?

Y Prif Weinidog: Fel y soniais, Janet, cawsom yr uwchgynhadledd gwasanaethau cyhoeddus, a chynhelir un arall ym mis Gorffennaf. Mae gennym yr agenda gwella gwasanaethau cyhoeddus i Gymru a bwrdd effeithlonrwydd ac arloesi. Bydd Gweinidogion yn cyfrannu at waith y bwrdd, sef sicrhau ein bod mor effeithlon ag y bo modd. Ni allwn barhau i ddarparu gwasanaethau yn yr un ffordd yn union ag yr ydym wedi gwneud yn y gorffennol, ac ni fyddai pobl Cymru yn disgwyl inni wneud hynny. Mae'n hollbwysig inni edrych ar bob ffordd bosibl o ddarparu gwasanaeth ar yr un lefel neu'n well, ond mewn ffordd fwy effeithlon.

The Presiding Officer: I thank the First Minister for his answers.

Datganiad a Chyhoeddiad Busnes Business Statement and Announcement

The Minister for Business and Budget (Jane Hutt): In addition to today's planned Government business, following this statement, Leighton Andrews, the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning, will be making a statement on school reorganisation. Business for the next three weeks is as set out in the business statement announcement that can be found on the agenda papers, which are available to Members electronically.

2.20 p.m.

Nick Bourne: Good afternoon, Minister. I wonder whether you could find time in the Government's timetable for a debate on the situation of business in Wales. Following on from what I said to the First Minister, the plight of businesses up and down Wales is serious, particularly in the retail and catering

Y Gweinidog dros Fusnes a'r Gyllideb (Jane Hutt): Yn ogystal â'r busnes sydd wedi'i gynllunio gan y Llywodraeth ar gyfer heddiw, ar ôl y datganiad hwn, bydd Leighton Andrews, y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes, yn rhoi datganiad am ad-drefnu ysgolion. Bydd y busnes ar gyfer y tair wythnos nesaf fel y'i gwelir yng nghyhoeddiad y datganiad busnes sydd ymhlith papurau'r agenda. Mae'r rheini ar gael i'r Aelodau ar ffurf electronig.

Nick Bourne: Prynawn da, Weinidog. Tybed a allech ddod o hyd i amser yn amserlen y Llywodraeth ar gyfer dadl am sefyllfa busnesau yng Nghymru. Yn dilyn yr hyn a ddywedais wrth y Prif Weinidog, mae cyflwr busnesau ar hyd ac ar led Cymru yn ddifrifol, yn enwedig yn y sector manwerthu

sectors, but not limited to them. Tourism is deeply affected and it is a serious situation. Could the Minister find time for that? I met with several businesses over the weekend that have serious problems and I also addressed the chamber of commerce in Aberystwyth and it was the only thing that those present wanted to discuss. Has the Government given any thought to this important issue?

Jane Hutt: The First Minister responded fully to that question. The economic renewal programme, which has been subject to widespread consultation, is coming before the Assembly in due course from the Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport.

Irene James: You will know that the Ebbw Vale to Newport section of the Ebbw valley line will make a real difference to many of my constituents, opening up both employment and social opportunities. With that in mind, can we have a debate that will clarify the situation and inform us of where we are at present?

Jane Hutt: The national transport plan is key to the delivery of this. It contains a number of projects to improve rail services in south-east Wales, including the completion of detailed feasibility work on providing hourly services from Ebbw Vale to both Cardiff and Newport.

Paul Davies: Last week, it was announced that four rural communities are to get faster online access by the end of the summer. I welcome this joint initiative between the Welsh Assembly Government and BT to provide those not spots with access to broadband. As I am sure that the Minister is aware, several communities in my constituency are classed as not spot areas. I very much agree with the Deputy First Minister when he says that access to the digital world is crucial to our modern, global economy and that we cannot afford to leave anyone behind. Given that the initiatives announced last week seem to be part of a rolling programme, can the Minister ask the Deputy First Minister to bring forward a

a'r sector arlwyo, ond nid yn y sectorau hynny'n unig. Effeithir yn ddwys ar dwristiaeth, ac mae'n sefyllfa ddifrifol. A allai'r Gweinidog ddod o hyd i amser ar gyfer hynny? Cyfarfûm â sawl busnes dros y penwythnos sy'n wynebu problemau difrifol a bûm yn siarad â siambr fasnach Aberystwyth hefyd a dyna'r unig beth yr oedd y rheini a oedd yn bresennol am ei drafod. A yw'r Llywodraeth wedi ystyried y mater pwysig hwn o gwbl?

Jane Hutt; Ymatebodd y Prif Weinidog i'r cwestiwn hwnnw'n llawn. Bydd y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth yn dod â rhaglen adfywio'r economi gerbron y Cynulliad maes o law. Mae hwnnw wedi bod yn destun ymgynghori eang.

Irene James: Gwyddoch y bydd yr adran o reilffordd Cwm Ebwy rhwng Glynebwy a Chasnewydd yn gwneud gwahaniaeth go iawn i lawer o'm hetholwyr, gan agor y drws ar gyfleoedd am waith ac i gymdeithasu. Gyda hynny mewn golwg, a gawn ddadl a fydd yn egluro'r sefyllfa ac yn rhoi gwybod inni ymhle'r ydym arni ar hyn o bryd?

Jane Hutt: Mae'r cynllun trafndiaeth cenedlaethol yn elfen allweddol o ran gwireddu hyn. Mae'n cynnwys nifer o brosiectau i wella gwasanaethau rheilffyrdd yn y de-ddwyrain, gan gynnwys cwblhau gwaith dichonoldeb manwl ar ddarparu gwasanaethau bob awr o Lynebwy i Gaerdydd ac i Gasnewydd.

Paul Davies: Yr wythnos diwethaf, cyhoeddwyd y caiff pedair cymuned wledig gysylltiad ar-lein cyflymach erbyn diwedd yr haf. Croesawaf y cynllun hwn ar y cyd rhwng Llywodraeth y Cynulliad a BT i ddarparu cysylltiad band eang ar gyfer y mannau digyswllt hynny. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod y Gweinidog yn gwybod bod llawer o'r cymunedau yn fy etholaeth yn cael eu hystyried yn ardaloedd digyswllt. Cytunaf yn llwyr â'r Dirprwy Weinidog pan ddywed fod drws i'r byd digidol yn hollbwysig yn ein heconomi fodern, fyd-eang ac na allwn fforddio gadael neb ar ôl. Gan fod y cynlluniau a gyhoeddwyd yr wythnos diwethaf, i bob golwg, yn rhan o raglen dreigl, a all y Gweinidog ofyn i'r Dirprwy

statement giving an indication of when other not spots, such as those in my constituency, will be dealt with? Perhaps he can also give us an indication of the criteria used by the Welsh Assembly Government when considering which not spot communities should receive investment in broadband services.

Jane Hutt: I know that you welcomed the announcement by the Deputy First Minister on 7 June about the next phase of addressing not spots under the current contract with BT. That addressed many issues in relation to the rural communities of mid and west Wales. We have €1 billion set aside by the European Commission to improve broadband infrastructure across the EU, €1.6 million of which is allocated to Wales. So, the rural development plan is the key route to the delivery of this and I know that the Deputy First Minister will report on further developments.

Bethan Jenkins: Can we have a statement on the Government's commitment to equalities in Wales? I ask this because I have received correspondence from the Cardiff lesbian, gay and bisexual Mardi Gras informing me that the Government has not provided funding for this year's event, due to take place in September. Officials have refused to meet with organisers regarding this particular issue. Can we have a statement on this matter, considering the importance of equality in the Welsh Assembly Government's agenda?

Jane Hutt: That is an important annual event in the equalities calendar in Wales, which Ministers have supported. I understand that there will be discussions shortly between the organisers and our officials in support of that important forthcoming event.

Brynle Williams: Good afternoon, Minister. I am sorry to bring this up once again, but I asked you on 16 March for a statement from the Minister for transport regarding the A55. Your answer on that day was that the present works would be completed by 31 March. The *Daily Post* reports this morning on a small company that is being forced out of business

Brif Weinidog roi datganiad i ddweud pa bryd yr ymdrinnir â manau digyswllt eraill, megis y rheini yn fy etholaeth i? Efallai y gall ddweud wrthym hefyd am y meini prawf a ddefnyddir gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad wrth ystyried ym mha gymunedau digyswllt y dylid buddsoddi mewn gwasanaethau band eang.

Jane Hutt: Gwn ichi groesawu'r cyhoeddiad gan y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ar 7 Mehefin am gam nesaf mynd i'r afael â'r manau digyswllt o dan y contract presennol â BT. Aeth hwnnw i'r afael â llawer o'r materion sy'n berthnasol i gymunedau gwledig canolbarth a gorllewin Cymru. Mae gennym €1 biliwn wedi'i neilltuo gan Gomisiwn Ewrop i wella'r seilwaith band eang ledled yr Undeb Ewropeaidd, ac mae €1.6 miliwn o'r swm hwnnw wedi'i ddyrannu i Gymru. Felly, y cynllun datblygu gwledig yw'r llwybr allweddol i wireddu hyn, a gwn y bydd y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn sôn am ddatblygiadau pellach.

Bethan Jenkins: A gawn ddatganiad am ymrwymiad y Llywodraeth i gydraddoldebau yng Nghymru? Gofynnaf hyn oherwydd imi gael gohebiaeth gan Mardi Gras lesbiaid, hoywon a phobl ddeurywiol Caerdydd yn dweud wrthyf nad yw'r Llywodraeth wedi darparu arian ar gyfer digwyddiad eleni, sydd i fod i gael ei gynnal ym mis Medi. Mae swyddogion wedi gwrthod cyfarfod â threfnwyr ynglŷn â hyn. A gawn ddatganiad am hyn ac ystyried pwysigrwydd cydraddoldeb yn agenda Llywodraeth y Cynulliad?

Jane Hutt: Mae hwnnw'n ddigwyddiad blynyddol pwysig yn y calendr cydraddoldebau yng Nghymru, y mae Gweinidogion wedi'i gefnogi. Caf ar ddeall y bydd trafodaethau cyn bo hir rhwng y trefnwyr a'n swyddogion i gefnogi'r digwyddiad pwysig hwnnw sydd ar y gweill.

Brynle Williams: Prynawn da, Weinidog. Mae'n ddrwg gennyf godi hwn eto, ond gofynnais ichi ar 16 Mawrth am ddatganiad gan y Gweinidog dros drafnidiaeth ynglŷn â'r A55. Eich ateb y diwrnod hwnnw oedd y cwblheid y gwaith presennol erbyn 31 Mawrth. Mae'r *Daily Post* yn sôn y bore yma am gwmni bychan sy'n cael ei orfodi i roi'r

because of work in the St Asaph area, and we see that it is anticipated that resurfacing work in Anglesey will take five months. I am well aware that this road has to be resurfaced, but it is getting out of hand when there are road works at some point on the A55 all year round. Could we have a statement on when this will be cleared, and on what is actually happening? It is affecting business as well as local people.

On that point, it is regrettable that a statement has been issued this morning about heavy goods vehicles running illegally on the A55. I would appreciate a statement from the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government on that matter. We all know that this is happening. I am afraid that police presence on the A55—I use that road regularly—is virtually non-existent. I regularly see lorries doing 65 to 70 mph on the A55, and that is not conducive to road safety. The police never seem to be around to catch them, although I have reported them several times over the last few years.

Jane Hutt: You are obviously taking this matter up, as is your right as a regional Member for North Wales. The Minister for transport will be aware of these developments on the A55, as will the police, regarding those heavy goods vehicles and any abuse that may be occurring.

Chris Franks: Could we have a statement on the impact of the horrendous cuts proposed by the Conservative-Lib Dem Government? The £180 million reduction in the Assembly Government budget will hit communities that I represent in many damaging ways. Our schools and colleges will be affected by the £39 million reduction in the education budget, yet week after week the Lib Dems here demand that we spend more on these students. In Rhondda Cynon Taf there is a desperate need for more investment in our children. The Vale of Glamorgan Council, which already allocates less for education than any other council in Wales, wants more cash. Council budgets will also be cut by a

gorau i'w fusnes oherwydd y gwaith yn ardal Llanelwy, a gwelwn y rhagwelir y bydd y gwaith ailwynebu ar Ynys Môn yn para pum mis. Deallaf yn llwyr fod angen rhoi wyneb newydd ar y lôn hon, ond mae hyn y tu hwnt i bob rheswm pan fydd gwaith ar ryw ran o'r A55 drwy'r flwyddyn gron. A gawn ddatganiad ynglŷn â pha bryd y cwblheir y gwaith hwn, a beth sy'n digwydd mewn gwirionedd? Mae'n effeithio ar fusnesau yn ogystal ag ar bobl leol.

O ran y pwynt hwnnw, mae'n anffodus y cyhoeddwyd datganiad y bore yma am gerbydau nwyddau trwm yn teithio'n anghyfreithlon ar yr A55. Byddwn yn gwerthfawrogi datganiad gan y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol am hynny. Gwyddom oll fod hyn yn digwydd. Mae arnaf ofn mai prin yw'r heddlu sydd i'w gweld ar yr A55—byddaf yn defnyddio'r ffordd honno'n rheolaidd. Byddaf yn gweld loriau'n rheolaidd yn gwneud 65 i 70 mya ar yr A55, ac nid yw hynny'n gymorth i sicrhau diogelwch ar y ffordd. I bob golwg, nid yw'r heddlu byth yno i'w dal, er imi eu riportio sawl gwaith dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf.

Jane Hutt: Yr ydych yn amlwg yn codi'r mater hwn a chithau'n Aelod dros ranbarth Gogledd Cymru—dyna'ch hawl. Bydd y Gweinidog dros drafnidiaeth yn gwybod am y datblygiadau hyn ar yr A55, a bydd yr heddlu hefyd yn gwybod am y cerbydau nwyddau trwm hyn, ac unrhyw gamweddau a all fod yn digwydd.

Chris Franks: A gawn ddatganiad am effaith y toriadau echrydus a gynigir gan Lywodraeth y Ceidwadwyr-Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol? Bydd y gostyngiad o £180 miliwn yng nghyllideb Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ergyd i'r cymunedau yr wyf yn eu cynrychioli ac yn gwneud difrod mewn llawer o ffyrdd. Effeithir ar ein hysgolion a'n colegau yn sgîl tocio £39 miliwn oddi ar y gyllideb addysg. Eto i gyd, wythnos ar ôl wythnos, bydd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yma'n mynnu ein bod yn gwario rhagor ar y myfyrwyr hyn. Yn Rhondda Cynon Taf mae galw dybryd am fwy o fuddsoddi yn ein plant. Mae Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, sydd eisoes yn dyrannu llai i addysg nag y mae'r

further £24 million, which could result in a loss of £2 million in Cardiff. Meanwhile, despite its promises, there has been no move by the UK Government to allocate fair funding to Wales. This costs us £300 million a year.

Jane Hutt: I am sure that, like me, you will have been interested to read the report by the Social Market Foundation on axing and taxing, and how to cut the deficit, which clearly calls for reform of the Barnett formula. I did not agree with all the recommendations of that report, but the evidence of the Holtham report shows that Wales is underfunded by £300 million a year, and that relative underfunding is increasing over time. I was pleased to meet the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 9 June and I pressed him on the need to ensure fair funding for Wales. The upcoming comprehensive spending review provides an opportunity for the new UK Government to address this. I was very pleased that he agreed to meet with Gerry Holtham after the second report is published.

Jenny Randerson: Could you ask the relevant Minister to bring us a statement on the provision of public toilets in Wales? There has been, over the years, a steady decline in the number of public toilets provided, mainly by local authorities, and in many cases they were closed for the spurious reason of disability legal requirements. The Government has, in the last few years, introduced an initiative that encourages restaurants and pubs to open their doors to allow the public to use their toilets, but the evidence that I have is that that has done nothing substantial to redress the loss of public toilets over the years. The figures that I have show a decline between 1998, when there were 806 public toilets, and 2007, when there were 667. There has been an even further decline since then, but I will not quote the figures as some local authorities did not respond with the numbers. However, the general picture is extremely serious, and has particular implications for older people, for those with disabilities, and for parents with young children, with whom I know you are

un cyngor arall yng Nghymru, am gael rhagor o arian. Torrir cyllidebau cyngorau gan £24 miliwn arall, a allai arwain at golli £2 filiwn yng Nghaerdydd. Yn y cyfamser, er gwaethaf ei haddewidion, nid yw Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig wedi symud o gwbl i ddyrannu arian teg i Gymru. Mae hyn yn costio £300 miliwn y flwyddyn inni.

Jane Hutt: Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwch chi, fel minnau, wedi'i chael yn ddiddorol darllen adroddiad y Sefydliad y Farchnad Gymdeithasol am dorri a threthu, ac am sut mae lleihau'r diffyg, sy'n amlwg yn galw am ddiwygio fformiwla Barnett. Nid oeddwn yn cytuno â holl argymhellion yr adroddiad hwnnw, ond dengys tystiolaeth adroddiad Holtham fod Cymru yn cael ei thangyllido £300 miliwn y flwyddyn, a bod y tangyllido cymharol yn cynyddu wrth i amser fynd heibio. Yr oeddwn yn falch o gyfarfod â Phrif Ysgrifennydd y Trysorlys ar 9 Mehefin a phwysais arno fod angen sicrhau arian teg i Gymru. Mae'r adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant sydd ar y gorwel yn cynnig cyfle i Lywodraeth newydd y Deyrnas Unedig fynd i'r afael â hyn. Yr oeddwn yn falch iddo gytuno i gyfarfod â Gerry Holtham ar ôl cyhoeddi'r ail adroddiad.

Jenny Randerson: A allech ofyn i'r Gweinidog perthnasol roi datganiad inni am ddarparu toiledau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru? Dros y blynyddoedd, bu dirywiad cyson yn nifer y toiledau cyhoeddus a ddarperir, a hynny'n bennaf gan awdurdodau lleol. Mewn llawer achos, fe'u caewyd gan daflu'r bai ar gam ar ofynion y gyfraith anabledd. Yn ystod yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf, mae'r Llywodraeth wedi cyflwyno cynllun sy'n annog bwytaï a thafarndai i agor eu drysau i ganiatáu i'r cyhoedd ddefnyddio'u toiledau, ond y dystiolaeth sydd gennyf yw nad yw hynny wedi gwneud dim byd sylweddol i wneud iawn am golli toiledau cyhoeddus dros y blynyddoedd. Dengys ffigurau sydd gennyf ddirywiad rhwng 1998, pan oedd 806 o doiledau cyhoeddus, a 2007, pan oedd 667. Mae'r sefyllfa wedi dirywio eto ers hynny, ond ni ddyfynnaf y ffigurau gan nad atebodd rhai awdurdodau lleol i roi'r niferoedd. Serch hynny, mae'r darlun cyffredinol yn eithriadol o ddifrifol, ac mae goblygiadau penodol yn sgîl hyn i bobl hŷn, i bobl a chanddynt anableddau, ac i rieni a chanddynt blant

concerned.

ifanc, y gwn eich bod yn poeni amdanynt.

2.30 p.m.

Jane Hutt: I am glad that you welcome the Welsh Assembly Government's public facilities grant, Jenny. That was launched by Carl Sargeant's predecessor, Brian Gibbons, and is now being taken forward by the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government to ensure that local authorities encourage restaurants, private and voluntary sector organisations to open up their facilities to the public. Sharing the statistics on how many facilities grants have been taken up by organisations will demonstrate whether local authorities have been proactive on this front or not. All Assembly Members should look at that.

Jane Hutt: Yr wyf yn falch eich bod yn croesawu grant cyfleusterau cyhoeddus Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, Jenny. Lanswyd hwnnw gan ragflaenydd Carl Sargeant, Brian Gibbons, ac mae'r Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol yn bwrw ymlaen â hynny'n awr i sicrhau bod awdurdodau lleol yn annog bwytai, cyrff yn y sector preifat a'r sector gwirfoddol i agor eu cyfleusterau i'r cyhoedd. Drwy rannu'r ystadegau ynglŷn â faint o grantiau cyfleusterau y mae sefydliadau wedi manteisio arnynt, gwelwn a yw awdurdodau lleol wedi bod yn rhagweithiol yn y cyswllt hwn neu beidio. Dylai pob Aelod o'r Cynulliad edrych ar hynny.

The Welsh Assembly Government has also put investment into backing the Mencap Changing Places initiative. That is a campaign to ensure that there are changing places for disabled people, such as the one in the Senedd, in public buildings. It is also about ensuring that planning arrangements are changed, so that these issues must be considered in new building regulations. I am sure that you will be delighted to see those new changing places for disabled people in leisure centres. I have seen them in my constituency, as well as in large public events facilities.

Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad hefyd wedi buddsoddi er mwyn cefnogi cynllun Lleoedd Newid Mencap. Ymgyrch yw hon i sicrhau bod mannau ar gael mewn adeiladau cyhoeddus, megis hwnnw sydd yn y Senedd, i bobl anabl newid. Mae a wnelo hefyd â sicrhau bod trefniadau cynllunio'n cael eu newid, fel ei bod yn rhaid ystyried y materion hyn mewn rheoliadau adeiladu newydd. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwch wrth eich bodd o weld y lleoedd newid newydd hynny i bobl anabl mewn canolfannau hamdden. Yr wyf wedi'u gweld yn fy etholaeth i, ac mewn cyfleusterau mewn digwyddiadau cyhoeddus mawr.

Leanne Wood: Could you arrange a statement on the Assembly Government's commitment to cohesive communities? I raise this issue following the latest demonstration and march by members of the English Defence League in Cardiff, which took place a week last Saturday. I am sure that you will share my view, Minister, that the English Defence League seeks to capitalise on any tensions in communities, particularly where a racial angle can be taken. Their presence on our streets is a direct attack on this Government's attempts to foster multiracial and multicultural communities in Wales.

Leanne Wood: A allech drefnu datganiad am ymrwymiad Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i gymunedau cydlynol? Codaf y mater hwn ar ôl y brotest a'r orymdaith ddiweddaraf gan aelodau o Gynghrair Amddiffyn Lloegr yng Nghaerdydd, a gynhaliwyd wythnos i ddydd Sadwrn diwethaf. Yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn cytuno â mi, Weinidog, fod Cynghrair Amddiffyn Lloegr yn ceisio manteisio ar densiynau mewn cymunedau, yn enwedig lle y gellir hybu safbwynt ar sail hil. Mae eu presenoldeb ar ein strydoedd yn ymosodiad uniongyrchol ar ymdrechion y Llywodraeth hon i feithrin cymunedau amrywiol o ran hil a diwylliant yng Nghymru.

I would be grateful, therefore, if you could

Byddwn yn ddiolchgar felly, pe gallech ofyn

ask the Minister with responsibility for community cohesion to ask officials to prepare a report on the English Defence League and its recent visits to Wales, as well as on the policing of such events. Having attended the counter, anti-racist demonstration in Cardiff, I was appalled that South Wales Police appeared to have spent considerable resources building a steel fence and kettling in anti-racist protesters, while the English Defence League protesters were escorted to a pub, and then escorted on a march around the city centre. I am sickened that these racists were allowed to march in our capital city, particularly when so many anti-racists turned out in solidarity with those from minority communities who are the subject of the EDL's racist bile. I would be grateful, therefore, if the Welsh Government could look into this matter, and report back to the Assembly, to ensure that a situation similar to that which occurred in Cardiff a week last Saturday can never happen here again.

Jane Hutt: The unity of the anti-racist protesters and the anti-English Defence League protesters was strong. I believe that the counter march was led by our former First Minister, Rhodri Morgan, and many elected representatives from across the parties were also present. It was important that this was an expression of support for strong Welsh community cohesion. The cohesive communities that we represent contrasted with the much smaller numbers who turned up in support of the English Defence League. I will ask the Minister to respond to the issues relating to the policing of that event, to clarify the points that you raise, and I will ask him to write to you.

Mark Isherwood: I endorse the comments of the Minister and Leanne Wood on the previous matter. I also ask that the Minister include a reference to Wrexham, where we had a similar event earlier this year, at which I spoke as a vice president of Searchlight. Fortunately, on that occasion the so-called English Defence League did not get much further than a well-known local pub. Nonetheless, the issue is an all-Wales one

i'r Gweinidog sy'n gyfrifol am gydlyniant cymdeithasol ofyn i swyddogion baratoi adroddiad am Gynghrair Amddiffyn Lloegr a'i ymweliadau diweddar â Chymru, yn ogystal ag am blismona digwyddiadau o'r fath. Bùm yn y brotest wrthwynebus, wrth-hiliol yng Nghaerdydd ac yr oeddwn yn arswydo o weld bod Heddlu De Cymru, i bob golwg, wedi gwario adnoddau sylweddol i godi ffens ddu a chorlannu protestwyr gwrth-hiliol, er bod protestwyr Cynghrair Amddiffyn Lloegr wedi'u hebrwng i dafarn, ac wedyn wedi'u hebrwng ar orymdaith o gwmpas y ddinas. Mae'n codi cyfog arnaf fod y bobl hiliol hyn wedi cael hawl i orymdeithio yn ein prifddinas, yn enwedig gan fod cynifer o bobl wrth-hiliol wedi dod yno i gefnogi'r rheini o gymunedau lleiafrifol sy'n wynebu gwenwyn hiliol yr EDL. Byddwn yn ddiolchgar felly, pe gallai Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ystyried y mater hwn ac adrodd yn ôl i'r Cynulliad, er mwyn sicrhau na all digwyddiad tebyg i hwnnw a ddigwyddodd yng Nghaerdydd wythnos i ddydd Sadwrn diwethaf ddigwydd yma byth eto.

Jane Hutt: Yr oedd undod cryf ymhlith y protestwyr gwrth-hiliol a'r protestwyr a oedd yn gwrthwynebu Cynghrair Amddiffyn Lloegr. Credaf mai ein cyn Brif Weinidog, Rhodri Morgan a oedd yn arwain yr wrthorymdaith hon, a bod llawer o gynrychiolwyr etholedig o bob plaid yn bresennol hefyd. Yr oedd yn bwysig bod hwn yn fynegiant o gefnogaeth o blaid cydlyniant cymunedol cryf yng Nghymru. Yr oedd y cymunedau cydlynol yr ydym yn eu cynrychioli'n gwrthgyferbynnu â'r niferoedd llai o lawer a ddaeth yno i gefnogi Cynghrair Amddiffyn Lloegr. Gofynnaf i'r Gweinidog ymateb i'r materion ynglŷn â phlismona'r digwyddiad, i egluro'r pwyntiau a godir gennych, a gofynnaf iddo ysgrifennu atoch.

Mark Isherwood: Ategaf sylwadau'r Gweinidog a Leanne Wood am y mater blaenorol. Gofynnaf hefyd ar i'r Gweinidog gynnwys cyfeiriad at Wrecsam, lle y cawsom ddigwyddiad tebyg yn gynharach eleni. Bùm yn annerch yno, a minnau'n ddirprwy lywydd Searchlight. Yn ffodus, bryd hynny, ni chyraeddodd y criw a elwir yn Gynghrair Amddiffyn Lloegr fawr pellach na thafarn enwog leol. Serch hynny, mae'r mater yn un

and needs to be addressed as such.

The main point of my contribution is to request a statement on the Welsh Government's provision for childminding in Wales. Yesterday, I had the pleasure of attending a National Childminding Week event; other Members may have done the same elsewhere. I attended an event in Flintshire—'Wales's biggest smallest choir'. Concern was expressed to me regarding uncertainty over future Flying Start funding for childcare support providers and childminders, and therefore over employment security for childminders. I believe that current funding arrangements only run to March 2011.

Jane Hutt: It is important that parties across the Assembly take the opportunity to reflect on these important events, and the fact that it was not just in Cardiff that we had a strong, cohesive community anti-racist response to the English Defence League. That was also reflected in Wrexham in north Wales.

You make important points about the contribution of childminders in Wales as part of a childcare strategy that the Deputy Minister for Children is taking forward. Flying Start is a flagship for preschool early intervention and investment. This comes back to our commitment in the One Wales Government to back our children and those children who need that preschool investment. Certainly, as the Minister for finance, I will be supporting that all the way. I hope that we will get support from across the Chamber for Flying Start.

Andrew R.T. Davies: I seek two statements from the Minister for Business and Budget. The first is in connection with training within our public services, particularly within the health service. You will have heard the question that I put to the First Minister. There is widespread concern that time is not being made available for statutory training, let alone voluntary training, in our health service. Certain professionals are experiencing considerable difficulty in progressing their careers, given that they cannot take time out to develop their skills. I

sy'n berthnasol i Gymru gyfan ac mae angen mynd i'r afael ag ef yn y modd hwnnw.

Prif bwynt fy nghyfraniad yw gofyn am ddatganiad am ddarpariaeth Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer gwarchod plant yng Nghymru. Ddoe, cefais y pleser o fynd i un o ddigwyddiadau'r Wythnos Gwarchod Plant Genedlaethol; efallai i Aelodau eraill wneud yr un peth mewn mannau eraill. Euthum i ddigwyddiad yn sir y Fflint—'côr lleiaf mwyaf Cymru'. Dywedwyd wrthyf eu bod yn poeni am ansicrwydd dyfodol arian Dechrau'n Deg ar gyfer darparwyr cymorth gofal plant a gwarchodwyr plant, ac felly ynglŷn â sicrwydd swyddi gwarchodwyr plant. Credaf na fydd y trefniadau ariannu presennol yn para ar ôl Mawrth 2011.

Jane Hutt: Mae'n bwysig i bleidiau ar draws y Cynulliad achub ar y cyfle i ystyried y digwyddiadau pwysig hyn, a'r ffaith nad dim ond yng Nghaerdydd y cawsom ymateb cryf gwrth-hiliol cydlynol yn y gymuned i Gynghrair Amddiffyn Lloegr. Gwelwyd hynny hefyd yn Wrecsam yn y gogledd.

Mae eich pwyntiau am gyfraniad gwarchodwyr plant yng Nghymru fel rhan o strategaeth gofal plant y mae'r Dirprwy Weinidog dros Blant yn bwrw ymlaen â hi yn rhai pwysig. Mae Dechrau'n Deg yn esiampl ddisglair o ymyryd yn fuan a buddsoddi mewn gwasanaethau cyn-ysgol. Daw hyn â ni yn ôl at ein hymrwymiad yn Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un i gefnogi'n plant a'r plant hynny y mae angen y buddsoddi cyn-ysgol hwnnw arnynt. Yn sicr, a minnau'n Weinidog dros gyllid, byddaf yn cefnogi hynny i'r carn. Gobeithiaf y cawn gefnogaeth am y rhaglen Dechrau'n Deg o bob rhan o'r Siambr.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Gofynnaf am ddau ddatganiad gan y Gweinidog dros Fusnes a'r Gyllideb. Mae a wnelo'r cyntaf â hyfforddiant yn ein gwasanaethau cyhoeddus, yn enwedig yn y gwasanaeth iechyd. Byddwch wedi clywed y cwestiwn a ofynnais i'r Prif Weinidog. Mae llawer o bobl yn poeni nad oes amser yn cael ei neilltuo ar gyfer hyfforddiant statudol, heb sôn am hyfforddiant gwirfoddol, yn ein gwasanaeth iechyd. Mae gweithwyr proffesiynol penodol yn wynebu anawsterau sylweddol o ran datblygu eu gyrfa, gan na allant dreulio amser

am sure that you will agree that it is critical that we have a highly skilled and highly focused workforce to deal with the challenges of the twenty-first century, particularly in the field of healthcare.

Secondly, I would like a statement on 'One Wales' commitments, particularly the commitment on the use of the independent sector in the NHS. I would be most grateful for this, given the reports that are coming out of certain fields within the NHS that, for no reason other than political ideology, the provision of certain services is now being taken away from certain sectors. I refer to the in vitro fertilisation clinic based in Singleton Hospital, Swansea, which is an excellent facility for IVF treatment and offers an excellent service. However, because it is an independent provider, the clinic is now having its contract terminated—for no reason other than ideology. While that is the Government's prerogative—you have the votes, and so that is your prerogative—communities and the organisations that are charged with delivering that commitment need to have a clear understanding of what sort of measures are being put in place to make up for that loss of service provision. They also need a clear understanding of what other resources will be directed towards ensuring that there is not a deficit in provision for communities because political ideology is driving out perfectly good service delivery within Wales.

Jane Hutt: We have national standards for the provision of a national health service free at the point of delivery. We have increased investment in the provision of statutory training for our staff, linked closely to workforce development. It is also reflected in the national standards that are delivered locally by our health boards in the provision of services such as IVF. I hope that, in the challenging times that we have ahead of us, in defending and safeguarding our public services, you will be on the front line with us, Andrew.

Nick Ramsay: Minister, this week is Diabetes Awareness Week, and a number of diabetes groups have been in the Senedd today campaigning for greater awareness of

o'u gwaith i feithrin eu sgiliau. Yr wyf yn siŵr y cytunwch ei bod yn hanfodol inni gael gweithlu hynod fedrus ac arbenigol i ymdrin â heriau'r unfed ganrif ar hugain, yn enwedig ym maes gofal iechyd.

Yn ail, hoffwn gael datganiad am ymrwymadau 'Cymru'n Un', yn enwedig yr ymrwymiad ynglŷn â defnyddio'r sector annibynnol yn y GIG. Byddwn yn ddiolchgar iawn am hyn, ac ystyried yr adroddiadau sy'n dod o feysydd penodol yn y GIG, sef bod darparu gwasanaethau penodol bellach mewn sectorau penodol bellach yn cael ei atal, a hynny oherwydd ideoleg wleidyddol a dim arall. Cyfeiriaf at y clinig ffrwythloni in vitro yn Ysbyty Singleton, Abertawe, sy'n gyfleuster rhagorol ar gyfer triniaeth IVF ac yn cynnig gwasanaeth rhagorol. Serch hynny, oherwydd ei fod yn ddarparwr annibynnol, mae contract y clinig yn cael ei derfynu yn awr a'r unig reswm dros hynny yw ideoleg. Er mai dyna hawl y Llywodraeth—gennych chi mae'r pleidleisiau, ac felly dyna'ch hawl—mae angen i gymunedau a'r cyrff sy'n gyfrifol am wireddu'r ymrwymiad hwnnw ddeall yn iawn pa fath o gamau a gymerir i wneud iawn am golli darparu'r gwasanaeth hwnnw. Mae angen iddynt ddeall yn iawn hefyd pa adnoddau eraill a gyfeirir tuag at sicrhau nad oes diffyg yn y ddarpariaeth i gymunedau oherwydd bod ideoleg wleidyddol yn ysgymuno gwasanaethau nad oes dim o'i le arnynt yng Nghymru.

Jane Hutt: Mae gennym safonau cenedlaethol ar gyfer darparu gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol am ddim yn y fan a'r lle. Yr ydym wedi cynyddu'r buddsoddiad er mwyn darparu hyfforddiant statudol i'n staff, ac mae cysylltiad clòs rhwng hynny a datblygu'r gweithlu. Fe'i hadlewyrchir hefyd yn y safonau cenedlaethol a ddarperir yn lleol gan ein byrddau iechyd wrth iddynt ddarparu gwasanaethau megis IVF. Yr wyf yn gobeithio, yn y cyfnod anodd sydd o'n blaen o ran amddiffyn a diogelu ein gwasanaethau cyhoeddus, y byddwch yn sefyll gyda ni ar y rheng flaen, Andrew.

Nick Ramsay: Weinidog, mae'n Wythnos Ymwybyddiaeth o Ddiabetes, ac mae nifer o grwpiau diabetes wedi bod yn y Senedd heddiw yn ymgychu o blaid mwy o

diabetes and related conditions, as you are aware, given that you were there with me. Will you join me in welcoming the good work that has been done by the cross-party group on diabetes, chaired by Jeff Cuthbert? Could we have a statement from you, Minister—I know that Jeff would want many statements—detailing how you intend the Assembly Government to respond to the concerns raised by diabetes groups about taking more action in Wales to deal with this serious condition, which is affecting a growing number of people?

2.40 p.m.

Jane Hutt: I am glad to join you in welcoming not only the event held today as part of Diabetes Awareness Week, which I am sure many Assembly Members attended, but also the work of the cross-party group on tackling and understanding the management of diabetes, which was led by Jeff Cuthbert. I was pleased this morning, as I am sure that you were, to hear that the guidance for the management of medicines particularly affecting young children and pupils with diabetes, some of whom were at the event today, has now been published and rolled out. The education, management, awareness and support of young people with diabetes was an important feature of the awareness event today.

ymwybyddiaeth o ddiabetes a chyflyrau cysylltiedig, fel y gwyddoch, gan yr oeddech yno gyda mi. A wnewch ymuno â mi i groesawu'r gwaith da sydd wedi'i wneud gan y grŵp trawsbleidiol ar ddiabetes, o dan gadeiryddiaeth Jeff Cuthbert? A gawn ddatganiad gennych, Weinidog—gwn y byddai Jeff am gael llawer o ddatganiadau—yn dweud sut y bwriadwch i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad ymateb i'r pryderon a godwyd gan grwpiau diabetes ynglŷn â gwneud rhagor yng Nghymru i ymdrin â'r cyflwr difrifol hwn, sy'n effeithio ar fwy a mwy o bobl?

Jane Hutt: Yr wyf yn falch o ymuno â chi, nid yn unig i groesawu'r digwyddiad a gynhaliwyd yma heddiw fel rhan o Wythnos Ymwybyddiaeth o Ddiabetes ac yr wyf yn siŵr bod llawer o Aelodau'r Cynulliad wedi bod yno, ond hefyd waith y grŵp trawsbleidiol, o dan arweiniad Jeff Cuthbert, ar fynd i'r afael â diabetes a deall sut mae ei reoli. Yr oeddwn yn falch y bore yma, fel yr oeddech chithau, yr wyf yn siŵr, o glywed bod y canllawiau ynglŷn â rheoli meddyginiaethau bellach wedi'u cyhoeddi a'u lledaenu, ac mae hynny'n effeithio'n benodol ar blant a disgyblion a diabetes arnynt. Yr oedd rhai ohonynt yn y digwyddiad heddiw. Yr oedd addysgu a chefnogi pobl ifanc a diabetes arnynt, rheoli'r cyflwr a chodi ymwybyddiaeth ohono yn elfennau pwysig o'r digwyddiad heddiw.

Datganiad am Ad-drefnu Ysgolion Statement on School Reorganisation

The Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning (Leighton Andrews): Members will be aware that I have been considering issues around the school organisation policy since taking over as Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning. I issued a written statement on 12 January concerning Welsh Ministers' role in school reorganisation, which confirmed that the responsibility for organising and reorganising schools rests with local authorities.

The first session of my department's new internal policy board on 20 January

Y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes (Leighton Andrews): Bydd yr Aelodau'n gwybod imi fod yn ystyried materion sy'n berthnasol i bolisi trefniadaeth ysgolion ers imi ysgwyddo swydd y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes. Cyhoeddais ddatganiad ysgrifenedig ar 12 Ionawr ynghylch swyddogaeth Gweinidogion Cymru wrth ad-drefnu ysgolion. Cadarnhaodd hwnnw mai awdurdodau lleol sy'n gyfrifol am drefnu ac ad-drefnu ysgolion.

Yn ystod sesiwn gyntaf bwrdd polisi mewnol newydd fy adran ar 20 Ionawr, ystyriwyd

considered the question of school closures. In Plenary meetings since then I have made it clear that I have concerns about the process and the length of time that some decisions have taken. The current system leads to uncertainty for parents and pupils. Parents and local authorities tell us that they want more certainty in order to plan for the future of pupils.

Since January, 11 decisions have been issued by Welsh Ministers and I expect to determine a number of further proposals for reorganisation by the end of this term. These decisions will, in some cases, lead to school closures and the removal of over 2,400 surplus school places. All affected pupils will find themselves in school buildings that are at least as good as those that they currently attend and which can provide education of at least an equivalent standard. Some will have brand new schools to attend in due course. State-of-the-art provision will be made for pupils with special needs. That is the good news.

However, some of the decisions took longer than I would have liked, although I believe that only one local authority will experience a delay to its original proposed implementation date. Decisions are based on a thorough scrutiny of all the evidence and the factors set out in statutory guidance, which stresses that the standards of provision are of prime importance. The PricewaterhouseCoopers review called on us to establish a new trust across the system and also to simplify systems of governance that unnecessarily drive cost. We need to be more efficient and ensure that public money is being spent effectively.

I am taking immediate steps to address this. Pilot programmes will start in the autumn, with local authorities able, if they wish, to submit additional information at an early stage, which will make the scrutiny process in the Welsh Assembly Government less time-consuming. We will pilot the earlier submission of objections and channel staff time into an earlier consideration of the matters raised by objectors than is currently

mater cau ysgolion. Mewn Cyfarfodydd Llawn ers hynny, yr wyf wedi'i gwneud yn glir fy mod yn poeni am y broses ac am faint o amser y mae wedi'i gymryd i wneud rhai penderfyniadau. Mae'r drefn bresennol yn creu ansicrwydd i rieni a disgyblion. Dywed rhieni ac awdurdodau lleol wrthym eu bod am gael rhagor o sicrwydd er mwyn cynllunio ar gyfer dyfodol disgyblion.

Ers mis Ionawr, mae 11 o benderfyniadau wedi'u cyhoeddi gan Weinidogion Cymru ac yr wyf yn disgwyl penderfynu ynglŷn â nifer o gynigion ad-drefnu eraill erbyn diwedd y tymor hwn. Mewn ambell achos, bydd y penderfyniadau hyn yn arwain at gau ysgolion a dileu dros 2,400 o leoedd gwag mewn ysgolion. Bydd pob disgybl yr effeithiwyd arno yn ei gael ei hun mewn adeilad ysgol sydd o leiaf gystal â hwnnw y mae'n ei fynychu eisoes ac ysgol sy'n gallu darparu addysg o safon gyfatebol fan leiaf. Bydd gan rai disgyblion ysgol newydd sbon i'w mynychu maes o law. Bydd y ddarpariaeth ar gyfer disgyblion a chanddynt anghenion arbennig gyda'r gorau sydd ar gael. Dyna'r newyddion da.

Fodd bynnag, cymerodd rhai o'r penderfyniadau fwy o amser nag y byddwn wedi'i ddymuno, er fy mod yn credu mai dim ond un awdurdod lleol a fydd yn gorfod gohirio'i ddyddiad gweithredu arfaethedig gwreiddiol. Seilir penderfyniadau ar graffu'n drwyadl ar yr holl dystiolaeth a'r ffactorau sydd yn y canllawiau statudol. Mae'r rheini'n pwysleisio bod safonau'r ddarpariaeth o'r pwys mwyaf. Yn adolygiad PricewaterhouseCoopers, galwyd arnom i sefydlu ymddiriedaeth newydd drwy'r system ac i symleiddio'r systemau llywodraethu sy'n cynyddu costau'n ddiangen. Mae angen inni fod yn fwy effeithlon a sicrhau bod arian cyhoeddus yn cael ei wario'n effeithiol.

Yr wyf yn cymryd camau ar unwaith i fynd i'r afael â hyn. Bydd rhaglenni peilot yn dechrau yn yr hydref, a bydd awdurdodau lleol, os ydynt yn dymuno gwneud hynny, yn gallu cyflwyno gwybodaeth ychwanegol yn fuan yn y broses a fydd yn golygu na fydd angen cymaint o amser i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad graffu ar y cynnig. Byddwn yn treialu cyflwyno gwrthwynebiadau'n gynharach ac yn sianelu amser staff i ystyried

possible. In addition, internal reorganisation has taken place to provide fieldwork support to help local authorities develop proposals that are more likely to conform closely with statutory guidance, so that submitted proposals, where they are contested, can be addressed quicker.

I will also review the current regulations, which date from 1999, as a matter of urgency. They make some demands on local authorities that are no longer necessary and yet do not enable Welsh Ministers to receive certain information that is required for the proper assessment of statutory proposals. These regulations also set out the time frames available for the lodging of statutory objections by members of the public and the time available for local authorities to submit them to Welsh Ministers with their comments. I believe that these time frames could be reduced, saving potentially six weeks on the statutory process.

I will conduct a public consultation on the draft regulations, which will include their publication on the Assembly Government's website. The consultation will ensure that all those with an interest, including local authorities and parents, will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes. I would hope that revised regulations will be in force by early 2011.

In addition, having looked at how the school reorganisation process works in other UK countries, I have been troubled by the fact that we are potentially keeping a tighter rein on local authorities than is the case in either England or Scotland. I find it difficult to justify this. The point has also been frequently made that, in Wales, a single objector, who may have no connection with a school, can cause a statutory proposal to be submitted to Welsh Ministers and be subject to full scrutiny. This cannot be a good use of resources where it is apparent that all those with a genuine interest in the proposal are in favour. However, changes to the current regime will need to be achieved via new

materion a godir gan wrthwynebwyr yn gynharach nag y mae'n bosibl ei wneud ar hyn o bryd. Yn ogystal â hynny, ad-drefnwyd pethau'n fewnol i gynnig cymorth gwaith maes i gynorthwyo awdurdodau lleol i ddatblygu cynigion sy'n fwy tebygol o gydymffurfio'n glôs â'r canllawiau statudol. Bydd hynny'n golygu y gellir mynd i'r afael â chynigion a gyflwynwyd yn gyflymach, os gwrthwynebir hwy.

Byddaf hefyd yn adolygu'r rheoliadau presennol a luniwyd yn 1999, a hynny ar frys. Maent yn mynnu rhai pethau gan awdurdodau lleol nad oes mo'u hangen rhagor ac eto, nid ydynt yn galluogi Gweinidogion Cymru i gael yr wybodaeth benodol y mae ei hangen arnynt er mwyn asesu cynigion statudol yn iawn. Mae'r rheoliadau hyn hefyd yn pennu'r amserlenni ar gyfer cyflwyno gwrthwynebiadau statudol gan aelodau'r cyhoedd a'r amser sydd ar gael i awdurdodau lleol eu cyflwyno i Weinidogion Cymru gyda'u sylwadau. Credaf y gellid cwtdogi'r amserlenni hyn, gan arbed o bosibl chwech wythnos yn y broses statudol.

Byddaf yn cynnal ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus ynglŷn â'r rheoliadau drafft, a fydd yn cynnwys eu cyhoeddi ar wefan Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Bydd yr ymgynghoriad yn sicrhau y caiff pawb a chanddo fudd yn y broses, gan gynnwys awdurdodau lleol a rhieni, gyfle i gynnig sylwadau am y newidiadau arfaethedig. Byddwn yn gobeithio y bydd y rheoliadau diwygiedig mewn grym erbyn dechrau 2011.

At hynny, ar ôl edrych ar sut mae'r broses ad-drefnu'n gweithio yng ngwledydd eraill y Deyrnas Unedig, mae'n fy mhoeni bod awdurdodau lleol yma ar dennyn tynnach o bosibl nag y maent yn Lloegr neu yn yr Alban. Yr wyf yn ei chael yn anodd cyfiawnhau hyn. Mae'r pwynt wedi'i wneud yn aml hefyd y gall un gwrthwynebydd yng Nghymru, a hwynnw o bosibl heb ddim cysylltiad ag ysgol, beri i gynnig statudol gael ei gyflwyno i Weinidogion Cymru a dod yn destun craffu llawn. Os yw'n amlwg bod pawb a chanddo ddiddordeb dilys yn y cynnig o'i blaid, siawns nad dyma'r ffordd orau o ddefnyddio adnoddau. Serch hynny, er mwyn newid y drefn bresennol, bydd angen

legislation and I will be exploring legislative opportunities for this with the Counsel General.

Welsh Ministers will continue to set a clear policy on school reorganisation, as is currently the case, and it is likely that the key circular of guidance will not change. We will expect local authorities and others to bring forward proposals that will provide the best possible opportunities for pupils and that provide the right schools in the right places. Local authorities will continue to be responsible for planning and proposing changes, and for consulting thoroughly on those changes. Local people should continue to have a significant say, but more dialogue should happen at the local level with initial avenues of appeal and determination at a local level. This will promote local democracy.

However, proposals would no longer come to Welsh Ministers for determination after objections, unless, on rare occasions, Ministers felt it necessary to call in the proposals for determination. I would foresee this new system as applying only to compulsory education, and Ministers would continue to determine proposals for post-16 reorganisation where these have led to objections.

Llywydd, there is much work to do to flesh out these principles and to develop a structure that will improve efficiency, improve outcomes for learners and make genuine savings that can be directed towards service delivery. I have discussed these proposals with the Welsh Local Government Association. The proposals meet the agenda set by the PricewaterhouseCoopers review and I believe that they will end uncertainty for parents, pupils, teachers and local authorities.

Paul Davies: I thank the Minister for his statement on school reorganisation. I welcome his statement today, given that there have been requests from Members. School reorganisations are causing a great deal of

deddfwriaeth newydd a byddaf yn ystyried cyfleoedd i ddeddfu yn y maes hwn ar y cyd â'r Cwnsler Cyffredinol.

Bydd Gweinidogion Cymru yn dal i osod polisi clir ar gyfer ad-drefnu ysgolion, fel sy'n wir ar hyn o bryd, a go brin y newidir y cylchlythyr canllawiau allweddol. Byddwn yn disgwyl i awdurdodau lleol ac i bobl eraill gyflwyno cynigion a fydd yn cynnig y cyfleoedd gorau posibl i ddisgyblion a chynigion a fydd yn darparu'r ysgolion iawn yn y lleoedd iawn. Bydd awdurdodau lleol yn dal i fod yn gyfrifol am gynllunio a chynnig newidiadau ac am ymgynghori'n drwyadl ynglŷn â'r newidiadau hynny. Dylai pobl leol barhau i gael llais sylweddol, ond dylai fod mwy o drafod yn lleol a dylai'r llwybrau apelio a'r penderfyniadau cychwynnol ddigwydd yn lleol. Bydd hyn yn hwb i ddemocratiaeth leol.

Fodd bynnag, ni fyddai cynigion yn dod gerbron Gweinidogion Cymru rhagor i geisio penderfyniad yn sgîl gwrthwynebiadau, ac eithrio, ar achlysuron prin, pan fydd Gweinidogion yn teimlo bod angen galw'r cynigion i mewn i benderfynu yn eu cylch. Byddwn yn rhagweld na fyddai'r system newydd hon ond yn berthnasol i addysg orfodol, a byddai Gweinidogion yn parhau i benderfynu ynghylch cynigion ar gyfer ad-drefnu ôl-16 os oes gwrthwynebiad wedi bod iddynt.

Llywydd, mae llawer o waith i'w wneud i roi cig am esgyrn yr egwyddorion hyn ac i ddatblygu strwythur a fydd yn gwella effeithlonrwydd, yn gwella canlyniadau i ddysgwyr ac yn gwneud arbedion go iawn y gellid eu defnyddio i ddarparu gwasanaethau. Yr wyf wedi trafod y cynigion hyn â Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru. Mae'r cynigion yn cyd-fynd â'r agenda a bennwyd gan adolygiad PricewaterhouseCoopers a chredaf y byddant yn rhoi terfyn ar ansicrwydd i rieni, i ddisgyblion, i athrawon ac i awdurdodau lleol.

Paul Davies: Diolch i'r Gweinidog am ei ddatganiad am ad-drefnu ysgolion. Yr wyf yn croesawu ei ddatganiad heddiw, a chofio bod yr Aelodau wedi gwneud cais am hynny. Mae ad-drefnu ysgolion yn peri llawer iawn o

concern for parents and wider communities across Wales. The subject of school closures is an extremely sensitive issue and I know that it concerns all Members. I know that school reorganisation is a priority of the Minister and he has made it clear today that he will now review the current regulations because he has been concerned that decisions about school reorganisations have taken too long in the past. Given that he now intends to produce these new regulations, can he confirm whether any current school reorganisations across Wales will now be put on hold until these new regulations are in place?

In view of this statement, can the Minister also confirm that the public consultation that he intends to undertake on the draft regulations will be as wide as possible? I am pleased to see that his statement also acknowledges that the bureaucratic process to close a school is one of huge complexity. Given that this is the case, can he also confirm that these revised regulations will indeed include specific strategies to deal with the level of bureaucracy in the school reorganisation process?

The Minister will also be aware that the organisation called Hyrwyddo Ysgolion Bach recently published a report into the costs of small primary schools in Wales which had some interesting findings.

2.50 p.m.

I recently asked the First Minister to consider looking at these findings. Perhaps the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning will now be kind enough to tell us what specific action, if any, he plans to take in light of the report's findings and whether they will be included in these new draft guidelines.

You have made it quite clear today that engagement with the community in a school that is earmarked for closure is essential, and I presume that the new guidance to be issued by the Welsh Assembly Government early next year will make it absolutely clear. It is crucial that there is a robust consultation process in place so that everyone is able to put forward their views. As we know, there

bryder i rieni ac i gymunedau ehangach ledled Cymru. Mae cau ysgolion yn fater eithriadol o sensitif a gwn ei fod yn poeni pob Aelod. Gwn fod ad-drefnu ysgolion yn un o flaenoriaethau'r Gweinidog ac mae wedi'i gwneud yn glir heddiw y bydd yn awr yn adolygu'r rheoliadau presennol oherwydd ei fod wedi bod yn poeni bod penderfyniadau ynglŷn ag ad-drefnu ysgolion wedi cymryd gormod o amser yn y gorffennol. Gan ei fod yn bwriadu creu'r rheoliadau newydd hyn yn awr, a all gadarnhau a fydd unrhyw ad-drefnu ysgolion sydd eisoes ar y gweill drwy Gymru bellach yn cael ei atal nes y caiff y rheoliadau hyn eu rhoi ar waith?

Yn sgîl ei ddatganiad, a all y Gweinidog gadarnhau hefyd y bydd yr ymgynghori cyhoeddus y mae'n bwriadu ei gynnal ynglŷn â'r rheoliadau drafft mor eang ag y bo modd? Yr wyf yn falch o weld bod ei ddatganiad hefyd yn cydnabod bod proses fiwrocraidaidd cau ysgol yn un ofnadwy o gymhleth. Felly, a all gadarnhau hefyd y bydd y rheoliadau diwygiedig hyn yn wir yn cynnwys strategaethau penodol i fynd i'r afael â lefel y fiwrocraatiaeth yn y broses ad-drefnu ysgolion?

Bydd y Gweinidog yn gwybod hefyd bod y mudiad Hyrwyddo Ysgolion Bach wedi cyhoeddi adroddiad yn ddiweddar am gostau ysgolion cynradd bychain yng Nghymru a oedd yn cynnwys sawl canfyddiad diddorol.

Gofynnais i'r Prif Weinidog yn ddiweddar a fyddai'n ystyried edrych ar y canfyddiadau hyn. Efallai y bydd y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes gystal â dweud wrthym yn awr pa gamau penodol, os o gwbl, y mae'n bwriadu eu cymryd yng ngoleuni canfyddiadau'r adroddiad ac a gânt eu cynnwys yn y canllawiau drafft newydd hyn.

Yr ydych wedi'i gwneud yn hollol glir heddiw ei bod yn hollbwysig meithrin cysylltiad â'r gymuned mewn ysgol a glustnodwyd ar gyfer ei chau, ac yr wyf yn tybio y bydd y canllawiau newydd a gyhoeddir gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad yn fuan y flwyddyn nesaf yn ei gwneud yn gwbl glir. Mae'n hollbwysig rhoi proses ymgynghori gadarn ar waith er mwyn i bawb

are thousands of surplus places in schools across Wales, and I have never argued that all schools should remain open. In the circumstances, can the Minister tell us that these new regulations will deal specifically with surplus places? Will they include how the Welsh Assembly Government will support areas where surplus places may not be an issue but where schools are still threatened with closure?

In most cases, schools not only provide education for our children, but are true community centres. As we are all aware, school buildings can be used to house libraries, re-establish post offices, host community meetings and concerts and for all sorts of other community purposes. In some areas, we know that there is a danger that the post office and local shop will close because of the economic impact that closing a school will have. As I have said before, before a school in any community closes, every sensible option must be considered, which is why it is crucial to carry out a community impact assessment at every opportunity. Closing a school can mean that children have to travel further to access their education, which has an environmental impact. Therefore, we must look at innovative ways of making schools more viable where they are seen as unviable by the authorities. We know that some local authorities are considering developing plans for schools that house three to 18-year-olds. As a result, concerns have been expressed about the compatibility of younger and older children who would be on the same school campus. In the circumstances, can the Minister tell us how today's statement supports local education authorities to make informed decisions about this particular type of school?

Of course, local authorities must consider carefully the impact of any decision to close a school on a community, particularly in Welsh-speaking areas. They must assess the damage that a closure could cause for those learning through the medium of Welsh. It is not merely a matter of closing the school as there is a far more serious issue connected to this, namely the effect on culture and the wider population. For example, in Cardiff, as

allu lleisio'i farn. Fel y gwyddom, mae miloedd o leoedd gwag mewn ysgolion ledled Cymru, ac nid wyf erioed wedi dadlau y dylai pob ysgol aros ar agor. O dan yr amgylchiadau, a all y Gweinidog ddweud wrthym y bydd y rheoliadau newydd hyn yn ymwneud yn benodol â lleoedd gwag? A fyddant yn cynnwys sut y bydd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn cefnogi ardaloedd lle nad yw lleoedd gwag o reidrwydd yn broblem ond lle bydd ysgolion yn dal o dan fygythiad?

Gan amlaf, bydd ysgolion nid yn unig yn darparu addysg ar gyfer ein plant, ond byddant hefyd yn ganolfannau cymuned o'r iawn ryw. Fel y gwyddom i gyd, gellir defnyddio adeiladau ysgol ar gyfer llyfrgelloedd, i ailsefydlu swyddfeydd post, i gynnal cyfarfodydd cymuned a chyngherddau ac at bob math o ddibenion cymunedol eraill. Mewn ambell ardal, gwyddom fod perygl i'r swyddfa bost a'r siop leol gau oherwydd yr effaith economaidd a ddaw yn sgîl cau'r ysgol. Fel yr wyf wedi dweud o'r blaen, cyn cau ysgol mewn unrhyw gymuned, rhaid ystyried pob dewis call, a dyna pam mae'n hollbwysig ar bob cyfle inni wneud asesiad effaith ar gymuned. Gall cau ysgol olygu bod plant yn gorfod teithio ymhellach i gael eu haddysg, a chaiff hynny ddylanwad ar yr amgylchedd. Felly, rhaid inni ystyried ffyrdd arloesol o wneud ysgolion yn fwy hyfyw pan fydd yr awdurdodau'n eu hystyried yn anhyfyw. Gwyddom fod rhai awdurdodau lleol yn ystyried datblygu cynlluniau ar gyfer ysgolion i blant rhwng tair a 18 oed. Mae rhai pobl wedi dweud yn sgîl hynny eu bod yn poeni am gael plant iau a phlant hŷn ar yr un campws ac a fyddent yn gydnaws â'i gilydd. O dan yr amgylchiadau, a all y Gweinidog ddweud wrthym sut y mae'r datganiad heddiw'n cynorthwyo awdurdodau addysg lleol i wneud penderfyniadau doeth am y math arbennig hwn o ysgol?

Wrth gwrs, rhaid i awdurdodau lleol ystyried yn ofalus effaith unrhyw benderfyniad i gau ysgol ar gymuned, yn enwedig mewn ardaloedd Cymraeg eu hiaith. Rhaid iddynt bwysu a mesur y difrod y gallai cau ei wneud i'r rheini sy'n dysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Nid dim ond mater o gau'r ysgol ydyw oherwydd mae mater mwy difrifol o lawer yn gysylltiedig â hyn, sef yr effaith ar ddiwylliant ac ar y boblogaeth ehangach. Er

we have already discussed here today, there are plans to shut an English-medium primary school and replace it with a Welsh-medium school. This decision has been met with strong emotions on both sides. Will the Minister tell us what the Welsh Assembly Government is going to do in these new regulations to support local authorities in making plans to develop one category of school at the expense of another?

I would like to close by thanking the Minister for his statement today. I hope that he will produce a draft of these regulations as soon as possible so that we can end uncertainty for parents, pupils, teachers and the wider community. School reorganisation is a very emotive subject, and it is crucial that any proposals are handled sensitively. More importantly, we must get them right for the sake of our children and the wider community.

Leighton Andrews: I thank the opposition spokesperson for his remarks. This is the start of the process. As I explained in my statement, there are certain things that we can do immediately, administratively; there are certain things that require amendments to regulations; and there are certain things that require legislation. If I could do it all in one I would, but I cannot under current legislation. So, clearly, there will be plenty of opportunity for consultation as we move through the process. There will be consultation on regulations and on any proposed Measure brought forward. So, there will be plenty of opportunity for all of the issues that you raised to be considered in that process.

We are taking steps already to see what we can do to reduce bureaucracy, as I have said. That is a priority for us. However, that does not remove the responsibility of local authorities to follow guidance, including on consultations. As we discussed in the debate in March, it is fair to say that our guidance is quite comprehensive. Even so, we still find local authorities, even when they have been advised by officials in my department, making decisions that they have been told are not in line with either the regulations or the

enghraifft, yng Nghaerdydd, ac yr ydym eisoes wedi trafod hyn yma heddiw, mae cynlluniau i gau ysgol gynradd Saesneg ei chyfrwng a rhoi ysgol cyfrwng Cymraeg yn ei lle. Mae'r penderfyniad hwn wedi codi teimladau cryf ar y naill ochr a'r llall. A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddweud wrthym beth mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn bwriadu'i wneud yn y rheoliadau newydd hyn i gefnogi awdurdodau lleol wrth iddynt gynllunio i ddatblygu un categori o ysgol ar draul un arall?

Hoffwn gloi drwy ddiolch i'r Gweinidog am ei ddatganiad heddiw. Gobeithiaf y bydd yn cyhoeddi drafft o'r rheoliadau hyn cyn gynted â phosibl er mwyn inni roi terfyn ar yr ansicrwydd i rieni, disgyblion, athrawon a'r gymuned ehangach. Mae ad-drefnu ysgolion yn bwnc sy'n ennyn emosiynau cryf, ac mae'n hollbwysig trin unrhyw gynigion yn sensitif. Yn anad dim, rhaid inni sicrhau bod y penderfyniadau hynny'n iawn er lles ein plant ac er lles y gymuned ehangach.

Leighton Andrews: Diolch i lefarydd yr wrthblaid am ei sylwadau. Dyma ddechrau'r broses. Fel yr eglurais yn fy natganiad, mae rhai pethau y gallwn eu gwneud ar unwaith, yn weinyddol; mae angen diwygio'r rheoliadau er mwyn rhoi rhai pethau ar waith; ac mae pethau eraill y mae angen deddfu yn eu cylch. Pe gallwn wneud y cyfan i gyd ar unwaith, byddwn yn gwneud hynny, ond ni allaf o dan y ddeddfwriaeth bresennol. Felly, mae'n amlwg y bydd digon o gyfle i ymgynghori wrth inni symud drwy'r broses. Ymgynghorir ynglŷn â rheoliadau ac ynglŷn ag unrhyw Fesur arfaethedig a gyflwynir. Felly, bydd digon o gyfle inni ystyried yr holl faterion a godwyd gennych yn y broses honno.

Yr ydym yn cymryd camau eisoes i weld beth y gallwn ei wneud i leihau biwrocraetiaeth, fel yr wyf wedi dweud. Mae hynny'n flaenoriaeth inni. Serch hynny, nid yw hynny'n diosg cyfrifoldeb awdurdodau lleol i ddilyn canllawiau, gan gynnwys canllawiau ynghylch ymgynghori. Fel y trafodwyd yn y ddadl ym mis Mawrth, mae'n deg dweud bod ein canllawiau'n eithaf cynhwysfawr. Hyd yn oed wedyn, byddwn yn gweld awdurdodau lleol, hyd yn oed ar ôl iddynt gael cyngor gan swyddogion yn fy adran, yn gwneud

guidance. Therefore, there is a responsibility on local authorities. As a result of the direction of travel that I have outlined today, local authorities will be clearly accountable for school organisation all the way through.

You made some important points about the roles of schools in communities, and you will recall that, in my previous role, I introduced the community asset transfer fund, which is available to support communities that are considering taking over an asset such as a school from the local authority. That is now the responsibility of my colleague, the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government. It is supported not only by funds from the Assembly Government funds but by money from the Big Lottery Fund. Therefore, we have that and measures through the rural development fund and so on to support schools in that position.

The issue of Welsh-medium education is rightly raised. We have published the Welsh-medium education strategy, in which there is a clear expectation that local authorities will properly plan places in Welsh-medium education. In the regulations, we have taken on board comments from organisations such as Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg with regard to the way in which that is implemented and the issues that have to be considered. We are giving support, and will be giving additional support, to local authorities through the field workforce that I have mentioned. I hope that that will enable them to take into account all the issues and to ensure that their procedures are compliant.

Nerys Evans: Diolch yn fawr am eich datganiad; croesawaf ei gynnwys yn fawr iawn. Mae'r broses bresennol o ddyfarnu ar apelïadau wedi achosi pryder ers cryn amser. Daeth hynny i'r amlwg yn ddiweddar gyda'r broses o ddyfarnu ar ad-drefnu ysgolion yng ngorllewin Caerdydd, fel y crybwyllwyd yn y cwestiynau i'r Prif Weinidog yn gynharach. Mae fy siom ynghylch y penderfyniad wedi'i gofnodi, ac yn awr mae angen i bawb flaenoriaethu dod o hyd i ateb i'r broblem sylfaenol, sef lleoedd gwag a diwallu'r angen am addysg Gymraeg. Mae'r achos hwn wedi dod â'r broses gyfan dan y chwyddwydr ac

penderfyniadau sy'n groes i'r rheoliadau neu i'r canllawiau er iddynt gael eu cynghori ynglŷn â hynny. Felly, mae gan awdurdodau lleol gyfrifoldeb. Yn sgîl y trywydd yr wyf wedi'i grybwyll heddiw, bydd awdurdodau lleol yn amlwg yn atebol am drefnu ysgolion ar hyd pob cam o'r daith.

Gwnaethoch sawl pwynt am swyddogaethau ysgolion mewn cymunedau, ac mi gofiwch imi, yn fy swydd flaenorol, gyflwyno'r gronfa trosglwyddo asedau cymunedol. Mae honno ar gael i gefnogi cymunedau sy'n ystyried ysgwyddo ased megis ysgol gan yr awdurdod lleol. Cyfrifoldeb fy nghyd-Weinidog yw hynny yn awr, sef y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol. Fe'i cefnogir nid yn unig gan gronfeydd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ond gan arian y Gronfa Loteri Fawr. Felly, mae gennym hynny a'r mesurau drwy'r gronfa datblygu gwledig ac ati i gynorthwyo ysgolion sydd yn y sefyllfa honno.

Mae'n briodol sôn am addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg. Yr ydym wedi cyhoeddi'r strategaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg, sy'n gosod disgwyliad clir ar i awdurdodau lleol gynllunio'n iawn ar gyfer lleoedd mewn addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg. Yn y rheoliadau, yr ydym wedi ystyried sylwadau gan fudiadau megis Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg gyda golwg ar sut y rhoddir hynny ar waith a'r materion y mae'n rhaid eu hystyried. Yr ydym yn cynorthwyo awdurdodau lleol a byddwn yn rhoi cymorth ychwanegol iddynt drwy gyfrwng y gweithlu maes yr wyf wedi sôn amdano. Gobeithiaf y bydd hynny'n eu galluogi i ystyried yr holl faterion a sicrhau bod eu gweithdrefnau'n cydymffurfio.

Nerys Evans: Thank you for your statement; I welcome its contents very much. The current process of adjudicating appeals has caused concern for some time. That came to light recently with the process of adjudicating the reorganisation of schools in the west of Cardiff, which was mentioned in the questions to the First Minister earlier. My disappointment about the decision has been recorded, and now everyone needs to prioritise finding a solution to the fundamental problem, namely vacant places and meeting the need for Welsh-medium education. This case has brought the entire

wedi tanlinellu'r problemau sy'n bodoli yn y system bresennol. Soniasoch yn eich datganiad am yr angen i wella'r systemau lleol, i gryfhau democratiaeth leol ac i gynyddu nifer y penderfyniadau sy'n cael eu gwneud yn lleol. Croesawaf yr egwyddorion hynny a chytunaf â hwy. O dan y system newydd yr ydych yn ei hyrwyddo heddiw, tua faint o ddyfarniadau yr ydych yn rhagweld yn dod i Weinidogion Cymru o gymharu â'r broses bresennol?

Yr ydych yn sôn yn y datganiad hefyd am yr angen i gryfhau ffydd yn y system, ac i gryfhau hygredd yn y broses o ad-drefnu ysgolion ac o ddod i benderfyniad. Bydd gwneud y system yn fwy effeithlon yn fodd o sicrhau gwariant cyhoeddus mwy effeithlon yn ogystal. A allwch gadarnhau nad ymarfer na modd cyflym i arbed arian yn yr hinsawdd gyllidol gyfredol yw'r cynnig yn eich datganiad, drwy basio mwy o gyfrifoldeb i'n cynghorau lleol, ond mai mesur ydyw i wella'r drefn bresennol?

Yr ydych hefyd yn dweud bod angen mwy o gymorth ar ein hawdurdodau lleol wrth iddynt fynd drwy'r broses o ad-drefnu ysgolion. A allwch ymhelaethu ar hynny? Bydd y cam hwn yn cryfhau'r broses o gyfathrebu rhwng y ddwy lefel, sef llywodraeth leol a Llywodraeth Cymru, a bydd yn fodd o sicrhau bod amcanion polisiau cenedlaethol yn cael eu hadlewyrchu yng nghynlluniau awdurdodau lleol—ac yr wyf yn meddwl am bethau fel y strategaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg, sydd wedi cael sylw oherwydd y penderfyniad diweddar sy'n ymwneud â gorllewin Caerdydd. Mae problemau sylfaenol ynglŷn â'r cynlluniau trawsnewid yr ydym wedi'u gweld yn datblygu ledled Cymru. A yw'r cynlluniau trawsnewid hyn yn cyd-fynd â'r strategaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg? Deallaf fod hon yn sefyllfa anodd iawn, ond mae'r gwaith ar yr agenda drawsnewid wedi bod yn mynd rhagddo mewn rhai ardaloedd ers dwy flynedd, bron, a dim ond rhai misoedd yn ôl y cyhoeddwyd y strategaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg. Fodd bynnag, mae strategaethau a pholisiau'n cael eu datblygu'n rheolaidd gan Lywodraeth Cymru, ac mae'n bwysig bod Llywodraeth Cymru a llywodraeth leol yn

process under the microscope and has underlined the problems that exist in the current system. You mentioned in your statement the need to improve local systems, to strengthen local democracy and to increase the number of decisions being made locally. I welcome those principles and I agree with them. Under the new system you are promoting today, roughly how many adjudications do you anticipate coming to the Welsh Ministers compared with the current process?

You also mention in the statement the need to strengthen faith in the system, and to strengthen credibility in the process of reorganising schools and in reaching a decision. Making the system more efficient is also a means of ensuring more efficient public spending. Can you confirm that the measures in your statement are neither an exercise nor a quick way to save money in the current financial climate, by passing more responsibility to our local authorities, but that the intention is to improve the current system?

You also say that more help is needed by our local authorities as they go through the process of reorganising schools. Can you elaborate on that? This step will strengthen the communication process between the two levels, namely local government and the Welsh Government, and will help to ensure that national policy objectives are reflected in the plans of local authorities—and I am thinking about things like the Welsh-medium education strategy, which has received attention because of the recent decision relating to the west of Cardiff. There are basic problems regarding the transformation plans that we have seen developing across Wales. Do these transformation plans coincide with the Welsh-medium education strategy? I understand that this is a very difficult situation, but work on the transformation agenda has been under way in some areas for nearly two years, and the Welsh-medium education strategy was announced only a few months ago. However, strategies and policies are developed regularly by the Welsh Government, and it is important that the Welsh Government and local government communicate better, and that local government fully considers the

cyfathrebu'n well, a bod llywodraeth leol yn llawn ystyried cyfeiriad polisi'r Llywodraeth genedlaethol.

national Government's policy direction.

3.00 p.m.

Yr ydych yn sôn am y gwaith hwn, ond pa gymorth fydd ei angen ar lywodraeth leol? Beth yw'ch amcanion o ran cael cydweithio agosach rhwng swyddogion llywodraeth leol a swyddogion Llywodraeth Cymru?

You are talking about this work, but what support will local government need? What are your aims to secure closer co-operation between local government officials and those of the Government of Wales?

Gwnaethoch sôn am adolygu rheoliadau 1999 a bod rhai gofynion diangen ar awdurdodau lleol ar hyn o bryd. A allwch roi mwy o fanylion ar hynny? Pa ofynion yr ydych yn sôn amdanynt? Beth yw'r amserlen ar gyfer newid y rheoliadau hynny?

You mentioned amending the 1999 regulations and that there are some unnecessary requirements on local authorities currently. Could you give more details on that? What requirements are you talking about? What is the timetable for amending those regulations?

I gloi, croesawaf y newidiadau hyn. Mae angen lleihau'r amserlen ar gyfer dyfarnu ad-drefnu ysgolion ac ennyn ffydd a hyder yn y system. Mae'r cynlluniau yr ydych wedi eu hamlinellu yn gam pwysig i'r cyfeiriad hwnnw.

To close, I welcome these changes. We need to shorten the length of time it takes for a decision to be made on school reorganisation and to instil faith and confidence in the system. The plans that you have outlined are an important step in that direction.

Leighton Andrews: Thank you for the support for the proposals that we have outlined. This is about trying to ensure that decisions are taken locally, which was always the intention. Yet, at some point earlier this year, some 19 decisions were pending. I do not believe that the system was intended to have such a large proportion of school reorganisation decisions determined by the Minister. I was not in the Assembly at the time, but I assume that the expectation was that it would be deemed out of the ordinary for proposals to come to the Minister after objection. We are now trying to set in train a process in which decisions will be taken locally, and in which it would be unusual for decisions that affect pre-16 education to come to the Minister. However, we would want, obviously, to ensure that we have safeguards in place so that we could call in proposals, if we thought that local authorities had not complied with the process or were acting in ways that diverged from our education policies. The detail of that will have to be fleshed out in discussions, and I welcome the debate and the input to come.

Leighton Andrews: Diolch ichi am gefnogi'r cynigion yr ydym wedi'u crybwyll. Mae a wnelo hyn â cheisio sicrhau bod penderfyniadau'n cael eu gwneud yn lleol. Dyna fu'r bwriad erioed. Eto i gyd, ar un adeg yn gynharach eleni, yr oedd 19 o achosion yn disgwyl penderfyniad. Ni chredaf mai'r bwriad oedd bod y Gweinidog yn penderfynu ar gyfran mor fawr o'r achosion ad-drefnu ysgolion. Nid oeddwn yn y Cynulliad ar y pryd, ond yr wyf yn tybio y disgwylid mai eithriad fyddai i gynigion ddod gerbron y Gweinidog yn sgîl gwrthwynebiad. Yr ydym yn awr yn ceisio rhoi cychwyn ar broses lle y gwneir penderfyniadau'n lleol, a lle y byddai'n beth anghyffredin i benderfyniadau sy'n effeithio ar addysg cyn-16 ddod gerbron y Gweinidog. Serch hynny, mae'n amlwg y byddem am sicrhau bod gennym gamau diogelu ar waith inni allu galw cynigion i mewn, petaem yn meddwl nad oedd awdurdodau lleol wedi cydymffurfio â'r broses neu eu bod yn gweithredu mewn ffyrdd a oedd yn anghyson â'n polisiau addysg. Bydd yn rhaid rhoi cig ar yr esgyrn hynny yn ein trafodaethau, a byddaf yn croesawu'r dadlau a'r cyfraniad a gawn.

This is about a better supply of education places for pupils. It is also about a better use of public money, in that we want to streamline the decision-making process so that we reduce the bureaucratic burden on local authorities and on ourselves. In respect of surplus places, we expect local authorities to reduce the number of these. I have said this before in the Chamber and I will say it again now: every surplus place is a tax on the head of other pupils in the system. That fact needs to be borne in mind. As I said, we are supporting local authorities by putting a workforce in place. Officials already give considerable support to local authorities in drafting their proposals, but the issue of who is responsible within the department for supporting them will be made clearer.

We have discussed the Welsh-medium education strategy on a number of occasions with regard to transformation. I would point out that all decisions concerning post-16 education, if objected to, would still come before Ministers. There is a likelihood that any proposals that were causing concerns with regard to Welsh-medium education would still come before Ministers.

In respect of the 1999 regulations, the reality is that Welsh education policy has changed significantly since then. There are things in those regulations that we no longer require local authorities to answer to us for. So, it is a question of ensuring that the guidance and the regulations are up to date. As I have explained, the process of changing these regulations is not simple. Some of it can be done through amended regulations, which, of course, have to come to the Assembly. Some of it will have to be done through a Measure, which would have to go through the Assembly. There will be plenty of opportunities for public consultation.

Jenny Randerson: I welcome this statement, Minister. I will start by asking about what is not in the statement. It does not cover the issue of the Welsh-medium education strategy. I understand entirely that the decision in relation to Cardiff was not yours. However, I am sure that you would acknowledge that it has had the impact that I

Mae a wnelo hyn â sicrhau gwell cyflenwad o leoedd addysg i ddisgyblion. Mae a wnelo hefyd â defnyddio arian cyhoeddus yn well, o ran ein bod am fireinio'r broses penderfynu er mwyn inni liniaru'r baich biwrocraidd ar awdurdodau lleol ac arnom ni ein hunain. O ran lleoedd gwag, disgwyliwn i awdurdodau lleol ostwng eu nifer. Yr wyf wedi dweud hyn o'r blaen yn y Siambr ac fe'i dywedaf eto yn awr: mae pob lle gwag yn dreth ar ben disgyblion eraill yn y system. Mae angen cofio hynny. O ran cefnogi awdurdodau lleol, yr ydym, fel y dywedais, yn rhoi gweithlu ar waith. Bydd swyddogion eisoes yn rhoi cymorth sylweddol i awdurdodau lleol wrth iddynt ddrafftio'u cynigion, ond caiff ei egluro'n well pwy sy'n gyfrifol am eu cynorthwyo o fewn yr adran.

Yr ydym wedi trafod y strategaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg droeon yng nghyd-destun gweddnewid. Hoffwn bwysleisio y byddai pob penderfyniad ynglŷn ag addysg ôl-16, pe gwrthwynebid ef, yn parhau i ddod gerbron Gweinidogion. Mae'n debygol y byddai unrhyw gynigion a oedd yn destun pryder ynglŷn ag addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn parhau i ddod gerbron Gweinidogion.

O ran rheoliadau 1999, y gwirionedd yw bod polisi addysg wedi newid yn sylweddol yng Nghymru ers hynny. Mae pethau yn y rheoliadau hynny nad oes yn rhaid i awdurdodau lleol fod yn atebol inni yn eu cylch rhagor. Felly, mater o sicrhau bod y canllawiau a'r rheoliadau wedi'u diweddarau ydyw. Fel yr wyf wedi esbonio, nid peth syml yw newid y rheoliadau hyn. Gellir gwneud rhywfaint o'r gwaith drwy ddiwygio rheoliadau, ac wrth gwrs, rhaid i'r rheini ddod gerbron y Cynulliad. Bydd yn rhaid gwneud rhywfaint o'r gwaith drwy gyfrwng Mesur, a byddai'n rhaid i hwnnw fynd drwy'r Cynulliad. Bydd digon o gyfle ar gyfer ymgynghori cyhoeddus.

Jenny Randerson: Yr wyf yn croesawu'r datganiad hwn, Weiniog. Dechreuaf drwy ofyn am yr hyn nad yw'r datganiad yn ei gynnwys. Nid yw'n cynnwys mater y strategaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg. Deallaf yn llwyr nad eich penderfyniad chi oedd y penderfyniad ynglŷn â Chaerdydd. Serch hynny, yr wyf yn siŵr y byddech yn

pointed out earlier this afternoon, in that it will discourage and demoralise local authorities that are attempting to grapple with a very difficult community issue. I would be grateful if you could tell us whether you are planning to address the Welsh-medium strategy in any new way, when you look at the other aspects of the strategy.

Turning to what is in your statement, I note that you say that you have made 11 decisions since January. You will recall that I asked a number of written questions about the situation and I seem to recall that you had 42 proposals waiting for decision at one point. Perhaps more have come in, but 42 minus 11 is 31, and it is probably in excess of that now as more proposals have probably come in. Are you aware of how long those proposals have been waiting for a decision? How many proposals have been waiting for what you regard to be an excessive length of time? What proportion of the proposals has been waiting more than six months? From the comments that you have made today and on other occasions, I would think that six months would be the length of time in which you think that you should be able to reach a decision. You say that only one local authority has experienced a delay to its original post-implementation date. There are two examples in Cardiff, so I hope that that is the local authority to which you are referring.

On other aspects that you raised, you say that the regulations make some demands on local authorities and that those demands are no longer necessary, and that the regulations do not enable Welsh Ministers to receive certain information that is required for the proper assessment of statutory proposals. Could you flesh that out for us by explaining what information you are referring to? You say in the following paragraph that you can see that that could lead to a potential saving of six weeks in the statutory process. Given that some of the proposals that were on your desk when you took over as Minister had been there for virtually a year—I suspect that some will still have been there for that sort of time—and that we are still looking at lengthy periods of time, can you tell us whether you

cydnabod iddo gael yr effaith y soniais amdani gynnau y prynhawn yma, sef y bydd yn torri calon ac yn llethu awdurdodau lleol sy'n ceisio mynd i'r afael â phroblem gymunedol ddyrys iawn. Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallech ddweud wrthym a ydych yn bwriadu rhoi sylw i'r strategaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg mewn unrhyw ffordd newydd, wrth ichi edrych ar agweddau eraill ar y strategaeth.

A throi at yr hyn sydd yn eich datganiad, sylwaf ichi ddweud eich bod wedi gwneud 11 o benderfyniadau ers mis Ionawr. Mi gofiwch imi ofyn nifer o gwestiynau ysgrifenedig am y sefyllfa ac mae gennyf gof fod gennych 42 o gynigion yn disgwyl am benderfyniad ar un adeg. Efallai fod rhagor wedi cyrraedd, ond 42 tynnu 11 yw 31, ac mae'n debyg ei fod yn fwy na hynny erbyn hyn oherwydd mae'n siŵr bod rhagor o gynigion wedi cyrraedd. A ydych yn gwybod ers faint mae'r cynigion hynny wedi bod yn disgwyl am benderfyniad? Faint o gynigion sydd wedi bod yn disgwyl am gyfnod sydd yn eich golwg chi'n gyfnod rhy hir? Pa gyfran o'r cynigion sydd wedi bod yn disgwyl yn hwy na chwe mis? O'ch sylwadau heddiw ac ar adegau eraill, byddwn yn tybio y byddech yn meddwl y dylech allu penderfynu o fewn chwe mis. Dywedwch mai dim ond un awdurdod lleol sydd wedi gorfod gohirio'i ddyddiad ôl-weithredu gwreiddiol. Mae dwy enghraifft yng Nghaerdydd, felly yr wyf yn gobeithio mai at yr awdurdod lleol hwnnw yr ydych yn cyfeirio.

O ran agweddau eraill a godwyd gennych, yr ydych yn dweud bod y rheoliadau'n mynnu rhai pethau gan awdurdodau lleol ac nad yw'r pethau hynny'n angenrheidiol rhagor, ac nad yw'r rheoliadau ychwaith yn galluogi Gweinidogion Cymru i gael yr wybodaeth benodol y mae ei hangen arnynt er mwyn asesu cynigion statudol yn iawn. A allech ymhelaethu ar hynny inni drwy esbonio pa wybodaeth yr ydych yn sôn amdani? Yr ydych yn dweud yn y paragraff a ganlyn eich bod yn gweld y gallai hynny arwain at docio chwech wythnos oddi ar y broses statudol. A chofio bod rhai o'r cynigion a oedd ar eich desg pan ddaethoch yn Weinidog wedi bod yno ers blwyddyn fwy neu lai—bod rhai, mae'n debyg, yn dal ar eich desg am gyfnod tebyg—ac nad yw'r sefyllfa honno'n debygol

think that you can save more than six weeks or is this just one example of time that you think that you can save?

I welcome very much your commitment to a public consultation on the draft regulations. That is essential if we are to get workman-like and effective regulations that will do the job whether you oppose or support the plans, whether you are a local authority, a parent or a teacher. I strongly welcome your commitment to increase local accountability. The fact that you recognise that you keep a tighter rein on local authorities than is the case in either England or Scotland is welcome news. You stated that you welcome the fact that you would only be involved on rare occasions and I also strongly welcome that. The idea that local authorities might develop their own appeals process within your guidelines is very important. Hurrah to you, Minister, for the recognition of the importance of local democracy because, having observed a number of these campaigns in my local authority area and across Wales, I can say that they are effective and powerful and work well and comfortably with local democracy. Parents and pupils have a strong local voice and that forces local authorities to make responsible decisions.

Finally, will you consider allowing two schools to merge in the future rather than have to go through the palaver and face the negative connotations of two schools having to close in order to form one new school? If a local authority wants to form one new school out of two existing schools, it has to close both of them. That leads to opposition as 'closure' is an emotive word, when the parents, pupils, staff and the whole community may be perfectly happy in principle with the idea of one merged school within their community. It would be useful if you were to look at that in the future.

3.10 p.m.

o newid rhyw lawer, a allwch ddweud wrthym a ydych yn meddwl y gallwch docio mwy na chwech wythnos ynteu ai dim ond un enghraifft o'r amser y credwch y gallwch ei arbed yw hyn?

Yr wyf yn croesawu'n fawr eich ymrwymiad i ymgynghori cyhoeddus ynglŷn â'r rheoliadau drafft. Mae hynny'n hanfodol er mwyn sicrhau rheoliadau cymwys ac effeithiol a fydd yn gwneud y gwaith, ni waeth a ydych o blaid ynteu yn erbyn y cynlluniau, ni waeth ai awdurdod lleol ydych ynteu riant ynteu athro. Yr wyf yn croesawu'n fawr eich ymrwymiad i gynyddu atebolrwydd lleol. Mae'r ffaith eich bod yn sylweddoli eich bod yn cadw awdurdodau lleol ar dennyn tynnach nag a wneir yn Lloegr ac yn yr Alban yn newyddion i'w groesawu. Dywedasoeh eich bod yn croesawu'r ffaith na fyddech ond yn ymwneud â'r broses ar adegau prin a chroesawaf hynny'n fawr hefyd. Mae'r syniad y gallai awdurdodau lleol ddatblygu eu proses apelio eu hunain o fewn eich canllawiau'n bwysig iawn. Hwrê ichi, Weinidog, am sylweddoli pwysigrwydd democratiaeth leol oherwydd, ar ôl gweld nifer o'r ymgyrchoedd hyn yn ardal fy awdurdod lleol a ledled Cymru, gallaf ddweud eu bod yn effeithiol ac yn bwerus ac yn gweithio'n dda ac yn gyfforddus law yn llaw â democratiaeth leol. Mae gan rieni a disgyblion lais cryf yn lleol ac mae hynny'n gorfodi awdurdodau lleol i wneud penderfyniadau cyfrifol.

Yn olaf, a wnewch ystyried caniatáu i ddwy ysgol uno yn y dyfodol yn hytrach na gorfod mynd drwy'r cybôl a wynebu goblygiadau negyddol gorfod cau dwy ysgol er mwyn ffurfio un ysgol newydd? Os yw awdurdod lleol am ffurfio un ysgol newydd drwy uno dwy sy'n bodoli eisoes, mae'n rhaid iddo gau'r ddwy. Mae hynny'n arwain at wrthwynebiad oherwydd bod 'cau' yn air sy'n corddi teimladau, er y byddai'r rhieni, y disgyblion, y staff a'r gymuned i gyd, o bosibl, yn gwbl fodlon mewn egwyddor â'r syniad o gael un ysgol unedig yn eu cymuned. Byddai'n fuddiol pe gallech edrych ar hynny yn y dyfodol.

The Welsh Liberal Democrats put forward a proposal on this issue some time ago. It was voted down in the Chamber in the early days of this Government, but I would be grateful if you looked at it afresh in the light of the experience of recent years.

Leighton Andrews: The Member gave me one cheer, but that is one cheer more than I have ever had from her in this Chamber, so I welcome it and I welcome what she has welcomed.

If we are being honest, we have all been involved in campaigns against school closure and school reorganisation. I doubt if there is a single Assembly Member in this Chamber who has not written a letter to a Minister for education in respect of one proposal or another. So, we understand how the process works, the emotions that are raised locally and the skilful campaigning that is often undertaken by groups of parents and others. However, I do not believe that it was ever intended that so many decisions should come to Ministers. It is a system that officials have made to work, but I do not believe that it is developing as was originally intended.

The key thing in my statement is the presumption that only a handful of decisions will come to Ministers for ultimate determination in future. If I could implement that by Order tomorrow, I would do so, but I cannot. It has to go through the proper Assembly legislative procedure and, therefore, it will take longer than I would wish it to do. However, it will afford us the opportunity for proper consultation on the kinds of appeals processes that should exist at a local level in respect of decisions that are taken.

In respect of the issue that she raised about how long things have been on my desk, no proposal is on my desk until it is submitted to me. So, although it is normally referred to as being 'a long time on the Minister's desk', it is not actually on the Minister's desk; there is a process whereby officials go through the proposals from the local authorities and the objections that have been received. Bear in mind that the process is normally measured

Cynigiodd Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru gynnig ynglŷn â hyn dipyn yn ôl. Pleidleisiwyd yn ei erbyn yn nyddiau cynnar y Llywodraeth hon, ond byddwn yn ddiolchgar petaech yn ei ystyried o'r newydd yn sgîl profiadau'r blynyddoedd diwethaf.

Leighton Andrews: Rhoddodd yr Aelod un fonllef o gymeradwyaeth imi, ond mae honno'n un fonllef yn fwy nag yr wyf wedi'i chael ganddi yn y Siambr hon o'r blaen, felly fe'i croesawaf, a chroesawaf yr hyn y mae hithau wedi'i groesawu.

A bod yn onest, yr ydym i gyd wedi bod yn ymwneud ag ymgyrchoedd yn erbyn cau ysgol ac ad-drefnu ysgolion. Yr wyf yn amau a oes yr un Aelod o'r Cynulliad yn y Siambr hon sydd heb ysgrifennu llythyr at Weinidog dros addysg ynglŷn â rhyw gynnig neu'i gilydd. Felly, yr ydym yn deall sut mae'r broses yn gweithio, yr emosiynau a gorddir yn lleol a'r ymgyrchu medrus y bydd grwpiau o rieni ac eraill yn aml yn ymgymryd ag ef. Serch hynny, ni chredaf iddi erioed fod yn fwriad i gynifer o benderfyniadau ddod gerbron Gweinidogion. Mae'r swyddogion wedi gwneud i'r system weithio, ond ni chredaf ei bod yn datblygu fel y bwriedid iddi ddatblygu'n wreiddiol.

Y peth allweddol yn fy natganiad yw'r dybiaeth na ddaw ond llond llaw o benderfyniadau gerbron Gweinidogion yn y dyfodol er mwyn ceisio penderfyniad terfynol. Pe gallwn roi hynny ar waith drwy Orchymyn yfory, gwnawn hynny, ond ni allaf. Rhaid iddo fynd drwy weithdrefn deddfu briodol y Cynulliad, ac felly, bydd hyn yn cymryd mwy o amser nag y dymunwn. Serch hynny, bydd yn rhoi cyfle inni ymgynghori'n iawn ynglŷn â'r mathau o brosesau apelio a ddylai fod ar lefel leol yng nghyswllt penderfyniadau a wneir.

O ran y materion a godwyd ganddi ynglŷn ag ers pryd mae pethau wedi bod ar fy nesg, nid oes yr un cynnig ar fy nesg nes iddo gael ei gyflwyno imi. Felly, er y dywedir fel rheol ei fod 'ar ddesg y Gweinidog ers tro', nid yw mewn gwirionedd ar ddesg y Gweinidog; y broses yw bod swyddogion yn mynd drwy'r cynigion gan yr awdurdodau lleol a'r gwrthwynebiadau sydd wedi'u derbyn. Cofiwch fod y broses fel rheol yn cael ei

from the publication of the statutory closure notice by the local authority, and then you have the consultation period and the period for objections and so on. So, some of that period will be taken up by the process at a local level, so we should not get too carried away with all of this. The reality is that too many decisions are ultimately coming to Ministers; it does not matter how many there are—there are too many. That is the point that we are trying to deal with.

In respect of the point that she raised on Welsh-medium education, we have published a Welsh-medium education strategy. As we discussed during the debate on school closures in March, the regulations and guidance that we have incorporate the fact that local authorities must have due regard for Welsh-medium education when drawing up school organisation proposals. That is something that will continue, and we would expect local authorities to continue to properly evaluate. As a result of the Welsh-medium education strategy, we want to see local authorities placing more emphasis on proper measurements of demand. Not enough local authorities are undertaking proper measurements of demand for Welsh-medium education. If more were doing so, perhaps we would see different approaches being taken. We will certainly be looking at what is being done by local authorities in that regard.

Gareth Jones: Weinidog, yr wyf innau hefyd yn croesawu'r datganiad a'r hyn yr ydych yn ceisio ei wneud o ran gwneud penderfyniadau. Yr wyf yn deall y synnwyr yn hynny o beth. Fodd bynnag, wrth ystyried lleoedd gwag yn ein hysgolion, oni fydddech yn cytuno bod lle i ystyried y system gyllido sydd gennym ar hyn o bryd, lle yr ydym rhywsut yn creu trafferthion? Yr ydym wedi symud yn bell o'r egwyddor o ysgolion lleol i blant lleol. Drwy'r system gyllido, mae caniatâd i blant symud o un dalgylch drwy ddymuniad rhieni i ddalgylch arall sy'n bell o'r ysgol. Dyweder bod 20 o blant yn mynd o ddalgylch fel hynny, byddai hynny'n £100,000. Mae hynny nid yn unig yn golled i'r gymuned—a chyfeiriodd Paul Davies at yr effaith ar y gymuned—ond mae hefyd yn creu lleoedd gwag, oherwydd ni fydd plant yn aml yn dod i mewn i'r ysgol honno o ddalgylch arall. Credaf yn gryf iawn ein bod

mesur o'r adeg y cyhoeddir hysbysiad cau statudol gan yr awdurdod lleol, ac wedyn, bydd gennych y cyfnod ymgynghori a'r cyfnod gwrthwynebu ac ati. Bydd rhywfaint o'r cyfnod hwnnw'n cynnwys y broses ar lefel lleol, felly ni ddylem wneud môr a mynydd o hyn. Y gwir yw bod gormod o benderfyniadau yn y pen draw yn dod gerbron Gweinidogion; nid oes ots faint sydd—mae gormod ohonynt. Dyna'r pwynt yr ydym yn ceisio mynd i'r afael ag ef.

O ran y pwynt a gododd am addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg, yr ydym wedi cyhoeddi strategaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg. Fel y trafodwyd yn ystod y ddadl am gau ysgolion ym mis Mawrth, mae'r rheoliadau a'r canllawiau sydd gennym yn cynnwys y ffaith ei bod yn rhaid i awdurdodau lleol roi sylw dyladwy i addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg wrth iddynt lunio'u cynigion trefnu ysgolion. Bydd hynny'n parhau, a byddem yn disgwyl i awdurdodau lleol barhau i werthuso'r sefyllfa'n iawn. Yn sgîl y strategaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg, yr ydym am weld awdurdodau lleol yn rhoi rhagor o bwyslais ar fesur y galw'n iawn. Nid oes digon o awdurdodau lleol yn mesur y galw am addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn iawn. Petai mwy ohonynt yn gwneud hynny, efallai y gwelem hwy'n mynd ati'n wahanol. Byddwn yn sicr yn edrych ar yr hyn y mae awdurdodau lleol yn ei wneud yn y cyswllt hwnnw.

Gareth Jones: Minister, I too welcome the statement and what you are trying to do on decision making. I understand the sense in that regard. However, when considering surplus places in our schools, would you not agree that there is room to consider the current funding system, where we somehow create difficulties? We have moved far away from the principle of local schools for local children. Through the funding system, children are allowed to move from one catchment area, if it is the parents' wish, to another that is far away from the school. If 20 children were to leave a catchment area in that way, it would amount to £100,000. Not only is that a loss to the community—and Paul Davies referred to the impact on the community—but it also creates surplus places, because children will not often come into that school from another catchment area. I strongly believe that we are creating

yn creu problemau drwy barhau i gyllido ein hysgolion yn y modd hwn, ac y dylem ystyried o ddifrif gyllido ein cymunedau—ac wrth gwrs mae ysgolion yn rhan bwysig ohonynt. Y munud yr ydych yn rhoi'r hawl i'r disgybl grwydro o'r dalgylch neu'r ardal leol a mynd â'r arian gydag ef neu hi, yr ydych yn gwanychu'r ysgol ac yn creu lleoedd gwag sy'n achosi i ysgolion gael eu cau. Gofynnaf i chi ystyried hynny, Weinidog. Efallai fod rhyw fath o ddatrysiad i osgoi'r problemau dwys yr ydym yn eu hwynebu yn ein cymunedau.

Leighton Andrews: The Member raised an interesting point, but I am not sure that I am entirely persuaded. The funding system that we have in place is determined by a number of factors, including pupil numbers. Deprivation and sparsity factors are also taken into account for school budgets. If he has specific proposals in relation to the issue of pupils moving from catchment areas, I encourage him to write to me about them, but I would want to be persuaded that they were issues for us to resolve and not for local authorities. That is the key question and, in listening to what he said, I was not persuaded that they were necessarily matters for us to resolve.

Nick Bourne: I thank the Minister for his timely statement. In all fairness, he has said that he had concerns about the process and has therefore, quite rightly, come forward with this statement, which I applaud. However, the statement was more about the process than the substance of the guidelines, although I understand the need to consult on the regulations. On that particular point, I urge—as Paul Davies has already done—a substantive consultation on the regulations, and I ask that it does not take place largely during the school holidays, which sometimes happens, probably unintentionally. However, it is important that parents, governors and teachers, and local communities as a whole should be able to get together to discuss the impact of these regulations. I hope that the Minister can give that reassurance.

problems by continuing to fund our schools along those lines, and that we should seriously consider funding our communities—and schools are of course an important part of the community. The moment you give pupils the right to roam out of the catchment area or the local area, taking that money with them, you weaken the school and create surplus places that would cause those schools to close. I ask you to consider that, Minister. Perhaps there is some kind of solution to avoid the severe problems that we face in our communities.

Leighton Andrews: Codwyd pwynt diddorol gan yr Aelod, ond nid wyf yn siŵr ei fod wedi fy llwyr argyhoeddi. Pennir y drefn ariannu sydd gennym gan nifer o ffactorau, gan gynnwys niferoedd disgyblion. Bydd amddifadedd a ffactorau sy'n ymwneud â theneurwydd y boblogaeth hefyd yn cael eu hystyried wrth bennu cyllidebau ysgolion. Os oes ganddo gynigion penodol yng nghyswllt disgyblion yn symud allan o ddalgylchoedd, fe'i anogaf i ysgrifennu ataf yn eu cylch, ond byddwn am gael fy argyhoeddi mai materion i ni eu datrys ydynt, yn hytrach nag i'r awdurdodau lleol. Dyna'r cwestiwn allweddol, ac wrth wrando ar ei sylwadau, ni chefais fy argyhoeddi mai materion i ni eu datrys oeddent o reidrwydd.

Nick Bourne: Diolch i'r Gweinidog am ei ddatganiad amserol. A bod yn gwbl deg, mae wedi dweud ei fod yn poeni am y broses ac felly, mae'n gwbl briodol ei fod wedi dod â'r datganiad hwn ger ein bron, ac fe'i cymeradwyaf. Serch hynny, yr oedd a wnelo'r datganiad mwy â'r broses nag â sylwedd y canllawiau, er fy mod yn deall bod angen ymgynghori ynglŷn â'r rheoliadau. O ran y pwynt penodol hwnnw, pwysaf arno—fel y mae Paul Davies eisoes wedi gwneud—i sicrhau ymgynghoriad sylweddol ynglŷn â'r rheoliadau, a gofynnaf ar i hynny beidio â digwydd yn bennaf yn ystod gwyliau'r ysgol, sy'n digwydd weithiau, yn anfwriadol mae'n debyg. Fodd bynnag, mae'n bwysig bod rhieni, llywodraethwyr ac athrawon a chymunedau lleol drwyddynt draw yn gallu dod at ei gilydd i drafod effaith y rheoliadau hyn. Yr wyf yn gobeithio y gall y Gweinidog roi'r sicrwydd hwnnw inni.

He states that he anticipates that the circular

Mae'n dweud ei fod yn rhagweld na fydd

will remain unchanged, and I am not quite sure of the impact of that—perhaps I misunderstood. However, there are issues that I hope can be covered in fresh regulations, mainly matters that are not currently included in the consideration of school closures, such as the need for school transport and the impact of that on the Government's green agenda, which we largely support, and on pupil safety. I know that the language is also an issue, but only in relation to the school itself rather than the wider community. For example, if a school in a Welsh-speaking community closed, leading ultimately to depopulation, with people moving away from the community, that could have a wider impact on the language. I am not sure that that is catered for at the moment.

I very much welcome the accent on the local aspect of this. That is absolutely right, and the Minister was right to say that it is not anticipated that Ministers will make these decisions routinely. He was also right to say that we all get involved in issues to do with school closures. When I speak to people locally, they say that 'the Welsh Assembly' is deciding the matter, in anticipation that individual Members can do something about it, because they believe that each closure is debated fully in the Chamber. I can understand that misunderstanding, but it indicates where we are. These decisions should be made locally and appeals should be local, and I welcome moves to ensure that that happens.

Questions have been raised with the Minister about the call-in, and I appreciate that there may be circumstances in which he would want to call a proposal in—although I cannot conceive of any now. Can the Minister give us a broad idea of what those circumstances might be, while accepting that they are exceptional? With that, I very much welcome his statement.

Leighton Andrews: I thank the leader of the opposition for his welcome. We have a broad degree of consensus on the overall principles that I have outlined, and we will want to

newid i'r cylchlythyr, ac nid wyf yn gwbl sicr beth fydd effaith hynny—efallai imi gamddeall. Fodd bynnag, mae materion yn codi yr wyf yn gobeithio y gellir ymdrin â hwy mewn rheoliadau newydd, materion yn bennaf sydd heb eu cynnwys ar hyn o bryd pan ystyrir cau ysgolion, megis bod angen cludiant i'r ysgol a'r effaith a gaiff hynny ar agenda werdd y Llywodraeth, agenda yr ydym yn ei chefnogi i raddau helaeth, ac ar ddiogelwch disgyblion. Gwn fod yr iaith yn ystyriaeth hefyd, ond dim ond yng nghyswllt yr ysgol ei hun yn hytrach nag yng nghyswllt y gymuned ehangach. Er enghraifft, os caeir ysgol mewn cymuned Gymraeg ei hiaith, gan arwain maes o law at ddiboblogi, a bod pobl yn symud allan o'r gymuned, gallai hynny gael dylanwad ehangach ar yr iaith. Nid wyf yn siŵr a yw hynny'n ystyriaeth ar hyn o bryd.

Yr wyf yn croesawu'n fawr y pwyslais ar yr agwedd leol sydd yma. Mae hynny'n gwbl iawn, ac yr oedd y Gweinidog yn llygad ei le'n dweud nad yw'n rhagweld mai'r drefn arferol fydd bod Gweinidogion yn gwneud y penderfyniadau hyn. Yr oedd yn llygad ei le'n dweud hefyd ein bod i gyd yn ein cael ein hunain yn ymwneud â chau ysgolion. Pan fyddaf yn siarad â phobl yn lleol, byddant yn dweud bod 'y Cynulliad Cymreig' yn penderfynu ynglŷn â'r mater gan ragdybio y gall Aelodau unigol wneud rhywbeth yn ei gylch, oherwydd eu bod yn credu ein bod yn trafod pob achos cau'n llawn yn y Siambr. Gallaf ddeall y camddealltwriaeth hwnnw, ond mae'n dangos y sefyllfa yr ydym ynnddi. Dylid gwneud y penderfyniadau hyn yn lleol a dylai'r apeliadau fod yn lleol, a chroesawaf symudiadau i sicrhau bod hynny'n digwydd.

Codwyd cwestiynau gyda'r Gweinidog ynglŷn â'r galw i mewn, a sylweddolaf y gall fod amgylchiadau lle y byddai am alw cynnig i mewn—er na allaf feddwl am ddim yn awr. A all y Gweinidog roi rhyw syniad cyffredinol inni pa fath o amgylchiadau fyddai'r rheini, gan dderbyn eu bod yn eithriadau? Gyda hynny o eiriau, yr wyf yn croesawu ei ddatganiad yn fawr.

Leighton Andrews: Diolch i arweinydd yr wrthblaid am ei groeso. Mae gennym gryn gonsensws ynglŷn â'r egwyddorion cyffredinol yr wyf wedi'u crybwyll, a

discuss the details as part of the consultation.

byddem am drafod y manylion yn ystod y broses ymgynghori.

3.20 p.m.

I want to say one thing, which is important, namely that people have been pressing me for a resolution, and I am trying to provide one. There are currently reorganisation proposals that will be determined under the existing procedures—that much is clear. No-one will withdraw proposals only to re-submit them, say, 18 months down the line, depending on how long the implementation of the legislative programme will take. However, there are issues here about resolving the problem, trying to get on with it, the length of the consultation period, and so on. We will do our best to ensure that we have a proper consultation, but I feel that, generally, there has been sufficient public concern expressed in the Chamber and outside to indicate a consensus on the need to move forward. I am not persuaded that I should hang around in respect of the consultation on the regulations. I will have a proper public consultation, but the issues have been pretty well aired in the Chamber and outside.

Yr wyf am ddweud un peth pwysig. Mae pobl wedi bod yn pwysio arnaf i ddatrys y sefyllfa, ac yr wyf yn ceisio gwneud hynny. Mae cynigion ad-drefnu ar y gweill y penderfynir yn eu cylch o dan y weithdrefn bresennol—mae hynny o leiaf yn glir. Ni fydd neb yn tynnu cynigion yn ôl dim ond i'w hailgyflwyno, dyweder ymhen 18 mis, a dibynnu ar faint a gymer i roi'r rhaglen ddeddfwriaethol ar waith. Serch hynny, mae ystyriaethau yma ynghylch datrys y broblem, ceisio bwrw ymlaen â phethau, hyd y cyfnod ymgynghori ac ati. Gwnawn ein gorau glas i sicrhau ein bod yn ymgynghori'n iawn, ond credaf yn gyffredinol fod digon o bryder wedi'i fynegi'n gyhoeddus, yn y Siambr a'r tu allan iddi, i ddangos bod consensws ynglŷn â bod angen symud ymlaen. Nid wyf wedi fy argyhoeddi y dylwn oedi gormod wrth ymgynghori ynglŷn â'r rheoliadau. Byddaf yn cynnal ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus priodol, ond mae'r materion dan sylw wedi'u trafod yn eithaf trwyadl yn y Siambr a'r tu allan iddi.

It is also important to distinguish between the circular and the regulations. It is the regulations that we can approve here in the Chamber, and there are issues that we will need to resolve through an Assembly Measure. I wish that all these things were codified in a way that would enable us to move smoothly through this, but we have our own system of devolution in Wales, which has not always given us powers when we would like them, or indeed in a coherent way, but we hope to be moving away from that in due course.

Mae'n bwysig hefyd inni wahaniaethu rhwng y cylchlythyr a'r rheoliadau. Y rheoliadau yw'r pethau y gallwn eu cymeradwyo yma yn Siambr, ac mae materion y bydd angen inni eu datrys drwy Fesur Cynulliad. Byddai'n dda gennyf petai'r holl bethau hyn wedi'u codio mewn ffordd a fyddai'n ein galluogi i symud yn hwylus drwy'r drefn, ond mae gennym ein system datganoli ni'n hunain yng Nghymru, ac nid yw hynny bob tro wedi rhoi'r pwerau inni ar yr adeg y byddem yn dymuno'u cael nac yn wir mewn ffordd gydlynol, ond gobeithio y bydd hynny'n newid maes o law.

Finally, the point that you make about the local perception that 'the Welsh Assembly' decides on school closures is absolutely right. We have all experienced that in our contacts with local pressure groups, in letters in the local papers, and so on. That is one of the misconceptions that I am trying to remove. Our guidance is intended to demonstrate that, at the end of the day, local government makes reorganisation decisions. However, the

Yn olaf, yr ydych yn llygad eich lle wrth sôn am y syniad sydd gan bobl yn lleol mai'r 'Cynulliad Cymreig' sy'n penderfynu ynglŷn â chau ysgolion. Yr ydym i gyd wedi gweld hynny yn ein cysylltiadau â grwpiau pwysio lleol, mewn llythyrau yn y papurau lleol, ac ati. Dyna un o'r camargraffiadau yr wyf yn ceisio'i ddileu. Bwriedir i'n canllawiau ddangos mai llywodraeth leol sy'n penderfynu ynglŷn ag ad-drefnu yn y pen

current process means that a large proportion of decisions comes to Ministers for determination, and therefore it is felt locally that 'the Welsh Assembly' has made the decision. Local democracy should mean local decision making, and that is what we are seeking to achieve.

Jonathan Morgan: Minister, I start by thanking you for the statement this afternoon. As one Member who has spent a considerable amount of time reading the Government guidance and dealing with the rather thorny issue of schools reorganisation as I have found it in my own constituency, I welcome what you have said this afternoon. This is a complex area, and you are right that, as Minister, you have been put in the position of being expected to judge on a range of decisions, which I suspect was not the original intention.

You are right to talk about the local determination of local appeals processes, and doing more to ensure that people feel properly consulted. You said earlier that this is the start of the process. You also said in the statement, which Jenny Randerson picked up on, that the current regulations do not enable the Welsh Ministers to receive certain information that is required for the proper assessment of statutory proposals. I raised a particular concern with the First Minister about some local authorities that are going through the process of consulting informally or, in some cases, consulting formally through the publication of statutory notices—and I am biased, because the local authority in my area is doing that. All that is being done on the basis of the existing regulations and the existing guidance. If you are to undertake what seems to me to be a fairly substantial review of the regulations and the guidance, it would make more sense if those local authorities were to hold back until they were certain about what the framework will be.

I ask that because it is not unusual for the Assembly Government to point to major programmes that should be halted. The Minister for Health and Social Services did it

draw. Fodd bynnag, mae'r broses bresennol yn golygu bod cyfran fawr o benderfyniadau'n dod gerbron Gweinidogion i gael penderfyniad, ac felly yr argraff yn lleol yw mai'r 'Cynulliad' sydd wedi gwneud y penderfyniad. Dylai democratiaeth leol olygu penderfynu'n lleol, a dyna'r hyn yr ydym yn ceisio'i sicrhau.

Jonathan Morgan: Weinidog, dechreuaf drwy ddiolch ichi am y datganiad y prynhawn yma. A minnau'n un Aelod sydd wedi treulio cryn amser yn darllen canllawiau'r Llywodraeth ac yn ymdrin â phwnc eithaf llosg ad-drefnu ysgolion, fel yr wyf wedi ei ganfod yn fy etholaeth fy hun, yr wyf yn croesawu'r hyn yr ydych wedi'i ddweud y prynhawn yma. Mae hwn yn faes dyrys, ac yr ydych yn iawn eich bod chi'r Gweinidog wedi cael eich rhoi mewn sefyllfa lle bydd pobl yn disgwyl ichi farnu ar ystod o benderfyniadau, er nad dyna'r bwriad gwreiddiol, dybiwn i.

Yr ydych yn llygad eich lle'n sôn am benderfynu'n lleol ynglŷn â phrosesau apelio lleol, a gwneud rhagor i sicrhau bod pobl yn teimlo bod yr awdurdodau'n ymgynghori'n iawn â hwy. Dywedasoeh gynnu mai dyma ddechrau'r broses. Dywedasoeh hefyd yn y datganiad, a chyfeiriodd Jenny Randerson at hyn, nad yw'r rheoliadau presennol yn galluogi Gweinidogion Cymru i gael yr wybodaeth benodol y mae ei hangen arnynt i asesu'r cynigion statudol yn iawn. Soniais wrth y Prif Weinidog fy mod yn poeni'n benodol am rai awdurdodau lleol sy'n mynd drwy'r broses ymgynghori'n anffurfiol, neu, mewn rhai achosion, yn ffurfiol drwy gyhoeddi hysbysiadau statudol—ac mae gennyf ragfarn yn hyn o beth, oherwydd bod yr awdurdod lleol yn fy ardal yn gwneud hynny. Mae hynny i gyd yn cael ei wneud ar sail y rheoliadau presennol a'r canllawiau presennol. Er mwyn adolygu'r rheoliadau a'r canllawiau, a hwnnw i bob golwg yn adolygiad eithaf sylweddol, byddai'n gallach petai'r awdurdodau lleol hynny'n dal yn ôl nes iddynt wybod yn sicr beth fydd y fframwaith.

Gofynnaf hynny oherwydd nid yw mor anghyffredin â hynny i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad nodi rhaglenni mawr y dylid eu hatal. Gwnaeth y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a

with the hospitals reorganisation programme being taken forward by the health boards. I know that the legal responsibilities are different, and I am sure that you will tell me that you cannot instruct a local authority not to reorganise its school places, but I wonder whether the strongest possible indication ought to be given to local authorities that the magnitude and importance of this work is such that perhaps they should wait until this has been completed and set in stone. Otherwise, they could be pushing forward proposals based on guidance and regulations that are to be changed substantially as a result of your work. I appreciate that we do not know that yet, but it is possible. On that basis, it would be unjust to those communities that face the loss of a school or the reorganisation of places if those decisions were taken on the basis of guidance and regulations that are to change in the next few months.

There are two very specific points that the Government ought to consider when looking at the regulations and the guidance. This week, the Assembly Government has pointed to a forecast showing that the population of our nation will go up to 3.3 million, or perhaps 3.5 million, within the next 20 to 25 years. In Cardiff, the population is set to increase to some 500,000 over that time. The schools organisation proposals guidance that was published this year points to the need for local authorities to take population projections into account. Looking at the guidance and regulations, I wonder how much weight the Minister thinks local authorities ought to give to population projections. I think that they are fairly fundamental, but I would be interested to hear the Minister's view on that.

There is also the dilemma that local authorities face between ensuring that there are enough places to deal with those pupils and families who are within the catchment area, and the need to satisfy parental preference. I know that a particular conundrum when dealing with surplus places is when it is said, for example, that school X has surplus places and yet we know that local authorities pressurise other schools to take pupils from other catchment areas because they say that the schools within their

Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol hynny gyda'r rhaglen ad-drefnu ysbytai y bwrid ymlaen â hi gan y byrddau iechyd. Gwn fod y cyfrifoldebau cyfreithiol yn wahanol, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y dywedwch wrthyf na allwch gyfarwyddo awdurdod lleol i beidio ag ad-drefnu lleoedd mewn ysgolion, ond tybed na ddylid rhoi'r awgrym cryfaf un i awdurdodau lleol bod y gwaith hwn mor fawr ac mor bwysig nes y dylent efallai ddisgwyl tan fod y gwaith wedi'i gwblhau ac yn derfynol. Fel arall, gallent fod yn gwthio cynigion yn eu blaen ar sail canllawiau a rheoliadau a newidir yn sylweddol yn sgîl eich gwaith. Sylweddolaf na wyddom hynny eto, ond mae'n bosibl. Ar y sail honno, byddai'n anghyfiawn i'r cymunedau hynny sy'n wynebu colli eu hysgol neu ad-drefnu lleoedd pe gwneid y penderfyniadau hynny ar sail canllawiau a rheoliadau a fydd yn newid yn yr ychydig fisoedd nesaf.

Mae dau bwynt penodol iawn y dylai'r Llywodraeth eu hystyried wrth edrych ar y rheoliadau a'r canllawiau. Yr wythnos hon, mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi dangos rhagolwg imi sy'n dangos y bydd poblogaeth ein cenedl yn cynyddu i 3.3 miliwn, neu efallai i 3.5 miliwn, o fewn yr 20 i'r 25 mlynedd nesaf. Yng Nghaerdydd, mae'r boblogaeth yn debygol o gynyddu i ryw 500,000 dros y cyfnod hwnnw. Mae'r canllawiau ar gynigion trefnu ysgolion a gyhoeddwyd eleni'n awgrymu bod angen i awdurdodau lleol ystyried rhagamcanion poblogaeth. Ac edrych ar y canllawiau a'r rheoliadau, tybed faint o bwys, ym marn y Gweinidog, y dylai awdurdodau lleol ei roi ar y rhagamcanion poblogaeth. Credaf eu bod yn weddol sylfaenol, ond byddai'n dda gennyf glywed barn y Gweinidog am hynny.

Mae awdurdodau lleol yn wynebu'r cyfyng-gyngor hefyd rhwng sicrhau bod digon o leoedd ar gyfer y disgyblion a'r teuluoedd hynny sydd o fewn y dalgylch a bod angen ymateb i ddewis rhieni. Gwn mai un peth sy'n peri penbleth wrth ymdrin â lleoedd gwag yw pan ddywedir, er enghraifft bod lleoedd gwag yn ysgol X ac eto ein bod yn gwybod bod awdurdodau lleol yn rhoi pwysau ar ysgolion eraill i dderbyn disgyblion o ddalgylchoedd eraill gan ddweud bod ysgolion eu dalgylchoedd yn

catchment areas are full. I would be interested to know whether anything will be put in the guidance to help local authorities to manage that conundrum of dealing with surplus school places when parental preference still applies to the decisions that are taken.

Leighton Andrews: I am tempted to say, 'Nice try'. The regulations, as you said, currently deal with the issue of population projections, and so local authorities need to look at new housing developments taking place in the area, for example. That is in place, and I do not think that there is any need to change that. At the end of the day, the driving force is that if there is no change in the current situation, the number of surplus places will rise to around 20 per cent of school places by 2014, which is not acceptable, efficient, or the best use of public resources. On the best information that we have, that is where we are currently headed, unless proper action is taken by local authorities. I do not want to stop the proposals coming forward from local authorities.

On the whole, although this is a process that can take longer than we would like it to, it is currently rare for Ministers to overturn local authority decisions. That is a fact. The problem is that there are so many decisions coming in for determination by Ministers that it is taking a long time to resolve them.

There is one point that I omitted from my answer to the leader of the opposition, namely the basis on which we would call a decision in. We need to look at that in more detail, but there would be process issues, such as where a local authority has clearly breached the process laid down, and there would also be policy issues, such as whether there is fair and balanced provision within a local authority area. There would be issues to do with whether the authorities are performing in line with our policies, such as those on Welsh-medium education. There would be a whole series of issues such as those, which we would need to address. However, we would need to have some presumption in an Assembly Measure—and I

llawn. Byddai'n dda gennyf wybod a roddir unrhyw beth yn y canllawiau i gynorthwyo awdurdodau lleol i ddatrys y penbleth hwnnw, sef sut mae ymdrin â lleoedd gwag mewn ysgolion pan fydd dewis rhieni'n dal yn berthnasol i'r penderfyniadau a wneir.

Leighton Andrews: Caf fy nhemptio i ddweud, 'Cynnig da'. Mae'r rheoliadau, fel y dywedaso, eisoes yn cynnwys ystyried rhagamcanion poblogaeth, ac felly mae angen i awdurdodau lleol ystyried datblygiadau tai newydd yn yr ardal, er enghraifft. Mae hynny ar waith eisoes, ac ni chredaf fod angen newid hynny o gwbl. Maes o law, y peth hollbwysig yw, os nad oes newid yn y sefyllfa bresennol, y bydd nifer y lleoedd gwag yn codi i oddeutu 20 y cant o'r lleoedd mewn ysgolion erbyn 2014. Nid yw nac yn dderbyniol nac yn effeithiol defnyddio adnoddau cyhoeddus yn y ffordd honno ac nid dyna ychwaith y ffordd orau o'u defnyddio. Ar sail yr wybodaeth orau sydd gennym, dyna ben draw'r daith ar hyn o bryd, oni chymer awdurdodau lleol gamau priodol. Nid wyf am atal awdurdodau lleol rhag cyflwyno'r cynigion.

Ar y cyfan, er y gallai'r broses hon bara'n hwy nag y byddem yn ei ddymuno, anaml ar hyn o bryd y bydd Gweinidogion yn gwrthdroi penderfyniadau awdurdodau lleol. Mae hynny'n ffaith. Y broblem yw bod cynifer o benderfyniadau'n dod gerbron Gweinidogion iddynt benderfynu yn eu cylch ei bod yn cymryd amser hir i'w datrys.

Anghofiais sôn am un pwynt wrth ateb arweinydd yr wrthblaid, sef ar ba sail y byddem yn galw penderfyniad i mewn. Mae angen inni edrych yn fanylach ar hynny, ond byddai ystyriaethau ynglŷn â'r broses, megis lle bydd awdurdod lleol yn amlwg heb ddilyn y broses a bennwyd, a byddai ystyriaethau polisi hefyd, megis a oes darpariaeth deg a chytbwys o fewn ardal awdurdod lleol. Byddai ystyriaethau y mae a wnelont ag a yw'r awdurdodau'n gweithredu'n unol â'n polisiau, megis y rheini sy'n ymwneud ag addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg. Byddai cyfres gyflawn o ystyriaethau megis y rhain y byddai angen inni roi sylw iddynt. Serch hynny, byddai angen inni gael rhyw ragdybiaeth mewn Mesur Cynulliad—ac yr

am sure that the lawyers would have ways of phrasing this—that only on rare occasions would this power be exercised by Ministers.

Darren Millar: Thank you, Minister, for your statement today. It is very timely in relation to my part of Wales, as Conwy County Borough Council announced its plans to modernise primary school education in the county just yesterday. I am pleased to note that you intend to reduce the timescales for determining the proposals that come before you. It is excruciating to have to deal with the uncertainty that arises when there is the potential of a school closing, and it can undermine the viability of that school, even if a decision is made by you to keep the school open. The uncertainty in that process can be very upsetting for staff, parents and pupils. I fully support the principles that you have outlined today.

I seek your assurances, however, that the shortcuts in the process that you have announced will not undermine the opportunity for parents, teachers and governors to make their representations properly about the revised guidance that you will issue, or to have those properly considered by you, if necessary, or certainly by the local authority.

3.30 p.m.

I welcome the fact that you are suggesting that there should be more local determination of these matters, because no-one knows their communities better than the local authority—better than you down here in Cardiff bay, Minister. I am pleased that it will not preclude the opportunity to appeal to you, in exceptional circumstances, even though we are not sure what those exceptional circumstances might be at present. However, I fully support the fundamental points that you make about local decision making being important.

Can you give us more information about the potential changes to the guidance that you outlined to the Chamber in the debate that took place earlier in the year? My colleague, Jonathan Morgan, has rightly mentioned that population statistics have recently been

wyf yn siŵr y byddai gan y cyfreithwyr ffyrdd o fynegi hyn—mai dim ond ar adegau prin y byddai Gweinidogion yn rhoi'r pŵer hwn ar waith.

Darren Millar: Diolch, Weinidog, am eich datganiad heddiw. Mae'n amserol iawn i'm rhan i o Gymru, gan fod Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Conwy wedi cyhoeddi ei gynlluniau i foderneiddio addysg ysgolion cynradd yn y sir ddoe ddiwethaf. Yr wyf yn falch o nodi eich bod yn bwriadu cwtdogi'r amserlen ar gyfer penderfynu ynglŷn â'r cynigion a ddaw ger eich bron. Mae'n boenus iawn gorfod ymdopi â'r ansicrwydd sy'n codi pan fydd perygl i ysgol gau, a gall danseilio hyfywedd yr ysgol honno, hyd yn oed os penderfynwch chi ei chadw ar agor. Gall ansicrwydd y broses honno darfu'n ofnadwy ar staff, ar rieni ac ar ddisgyblion. Yr wyf yn llwyr gefnogi'r egwyddorion yr ydych wedi'u crybwyll heddiw.

Ceisias sicrwydd gennych, fodd bynnag, na wnaiff y llwybrau byr yn y broses a gyhoeddwyd gennych danseilio'r cyfle i rieni, athrawon a llywodraethwyr gyflwyno'u sylwadau'n iawn am y canllawiau diwygiedig a gyhoeddir gennych, neu i sicrhau eich bod yn ystyried y rheini'n briodol, os oes angen, neu yn sicr bod yr awdurdod lleol yn gwneud hynny.

Croesawaf y ffaith eich bod yn awgrymu y dylid cael mwy o benderfynu'n lleol ynglŷn â'r materion hyn, oherwydd nid oes neb yn adnabod ei gymuned yn well na'r awdurdod lleol—yn well o lawer na chi yma ym mae Caerdydd, Weinidog. Yr wyf yn falch na fydd yn golygu na fydd cyfle i apelio atoch chi, o dan amgylchiadau eithriadol, er nad ydym yn sicr beth fyddai'r amgylchiadau eithriadol hynny ar hyn o bryd. Serch hynny, yr wyf yn llwyr gefnogi'ch pwyntiau sylfaenol ynglŷn â'i bod yn bwysig gwneud penderfyniadau'n lleol.

A allwch roi rhagor o wybodaeth inni am y newidiadau posibl i'r canllawiau a grybwyllwyd gennych wrth y Siambr yn y ddadl a gynhaliwyd yn gynharach yn y flwyddyn? Yr oedd fy nghyd-Aelod, Jonathan Morgan, yn llygad ei le'n dweud

published on the future population expected in Wales. That will clearly have an impact on some school modernisation proposals, which have been based on older figures that may not reflect the updates. In addition, you will be aware that local authorities across Wales are currently developing their local development plan proposals. Many of those development plans have not yet been ratified or completed, and will have a bearing on the future demand for education services in those local authority areas. I am speaking specifically—parochially, perhaps—about the Conwy local development plan, which has not yet been signed off. What guidance will you be able to issue on that subject on the consideration that local education authorities should give to those LDPs?

I also ask you to consider not only the impact on the Welsh language in a community when making decisions, but also the important social contribution that schools make to their local community. There are schools at the heart of their local community in my constituency, for example, which could face closure as a result of the publication of Conwy's document yesterday. They are often the only public building in that local community, and facing the loss of those facilities, as well as the provision of education, is a concern to my constituents. In your revised guidance on these matters, could you tell us what conclusions you are leaning towards at present?

Leighton Andrews: Thank you for welcoming the statement; I believe that all Members have welcomed the broad direction of these proposals. I am not sure that there is anything in what you say that would require changes to the regulations as currently drafted. Population projections are covered; in assessing population projections, they will be guided by development plans, whether in draft or actual. The impact on local communities is already in the regulations. Therefore, all those issues are covered.

bod yr ystadegau poblogaeth wedi'u cyhoeddi'n ddiweddar ar gyfer yr hyn a ddisgwylir yng Nghymru yn y dyfodol. Caiff hynny ddylanwad amlwg ar rai o'r cynigion moderneiddio ysgolion, sydd wedi'u seilio ar ffigurau hŷn nad ydynt o bosibl yn adlewyrchu'r diweddariadau. Yn ogystal â hynny, gwyddoch fod awdurdodau lleol ledled Cymru wrthi'n datblygu eu cynigion ar gyfer eu cynlluniau datblygu lleol. Mae llawer o'r cynlluniau datblygu lleol nad ydynt wedi'u cadarnhau na'u cwblhau eto, a bydd y rheini'n dylanwadu ar y galw am wasanaethau addysg yn ardaloedd yr awdurdodau lleol hynny yn y dyfodol. Yr wyf yn sôn yn benodol—yn blwyfol, efallai—am gynllun datblygu lleol Conwy, sydd heb ei gymeradwyo'n derfynol eto. Pa ganllawiau y byddwch yn gallu eu cyhoeddi ynglŷn â hynny o ran yr ystyriaeth y dylai awdurdodau addysg lleol ei rhoi i'r cynlluniau datblygu lleol hynny?

Hoffwn ofyn ichi ystyried nid yn unig yr effaith ar gymuned o ran y Gymraeg wrth wneud penderfyniadau, ond hefyd gyfraniad cymdeithasol pwysig ysgolion i'w cymuned leol. Mae ysgolion sydd wrth wraidd eu cymuned leol yn fy etholaeth, er enghraifft, a allai fod yn wynebu eu cau yn sgîl cyhoeddi dogfen Conwy ddoe. Yn aml, dyna'r unig adeilad cyhoeddus yn y gymuned leol honno, ac mae wynebu colli'r cyfleusterau hynny, yn ogystal â cholli'r ddarpariaeth addysg, yn peri pryder i'm hetholwyr. Yn eich canllawiau diwygiedig ynglŷn â'r materion hyn, a allech ddweud wrthym i ba gyfeiriad yr ydych yn pwyso o ran eich casgliadau ar hyn o bryd?

Leighton Andrews: Diolch am groesawu'r datganiad; credaf fod pob aelod wedi croesawu trywydd cyffredinol y cynigion hyn. Nid wyf yn siŵr a oes unrhyw beth yn yr hyn a ddywedwch a fyddai'n gofyn newid y rheoliadau fel y maent wedi'u drafftio ar hyn o bryd. Maent yn cynnwys rhagamcanion poblogaeth; wrth asesu rhagamcanion poblogaeth, fe'u tywysir gan gynlluniau datblygu, boed y rheini ar ffurf ddrafft ynteu ar ffurf derfynol. Mae'r effaith ar gymunedau lleol eisoes wedi'i chynnwys yn y rheoliadau. Felly, mae'r holl faterion hynny wedi'u cynnwys.

As I said earlier, this is the start of a process. There will have to be consultation on the regulations, followed by consultation on the proposed Measure. We can go through the detail of these issues in the proper order, and in good time, when we come to publish the regulations, and subsequently, the proposed Measure. Therefore, there is plenty of time to take these matters into account. However, I wanted to signal our intention to establish a system that is fit for purpose, that is implemented locally—meaning that most decisions are taken locally—and with Welsh Ministers only playing a role in rare circumstances.

Y Llywydd: Diolch i'r Gweinidog am ei ddatganiad.

Fel y dywedais gynnu, dechrau proses yw hyn. Bydd yn rhaid ymgynghori ynglŷn â'r rheoliadau, ac wedyn ymgynghori ynglŷn â'r Mesur arfaethedig. Gallwn fynd drwy fanylion y materion hyn yn y drefn gywir, ac mewn da bryd, pan ddaw'n adeg cyhoeddi'r rheoliadau, ac wedyn y Mesur arfaethedig. Felly, mae digon o amser i ystyried y materion hyn. Fodd bynnag, yr oeddwn am roi arwydd o'n bwriad i sefydlu system sy'n addas at y diben, system a roddir ar waith yn lleol—sy'n golygu bod y rhan fwyaf o'r penderfyniadau'n cael eu gwneud yn lleol a lle na fydd gan Weinidogion Cymru ran yn y broses ac eithrio o dan amgylchiadau prin.

The Presiding Officer: I thank the Minister for his statement.

Datganiad Deddfwriaethol am y Mesur Arfaethedig ynghylch Hawliau Plant a Phobl Ifanc (Cymru)
Legislative Statement on the Proposed Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure

The Deputy Minister for Children (Huw Lewis): Yesterday, I laid the Proposed Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure, together with an explanatory memorandum, before the Assembly. I also issued a written statement, and today I have the honour of introducing this flagship piece of legislation for Assembly consideration.

It is widely accepted that children and young people who know about and enjoy their human rights generally also have improved self-confidence and higher expectations, and are more likely to fulfil their full potential. Similarly, this helps them to become more responsible citizens, who are more able and willing to contribute more fully to community life. We in Wales value these characteristics, and we take pride in striving to give our children and young people the tools that they need to play a full and active part in our society as citizens.

In December 1991, the UK ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child—the UNCRC. The convention is a comprehensive instrument that sets out rights that define universal principles and norms for the status of children. The UNCRC takes an

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Blant (Huw Lewis): Ddoe, cyflwynais y Mesur Arfaethedig ynghylch Hawliau Plant a Phobl Ifanc (Cymru), ynghyd â memorandwm esboniadol, gerbron y Cynulliad. Cyhoeddais ddatganiad ysgrifenedig hefyd, a heddiw caf y fraint o gyflwyno'r darn deddfwriaeth blaenllaw hwn i'w ystyried gan y Cynulliad.

Derbynnir yn gyffredinol fod plant a phobl ifanc sy'n gwybod am eu hawliau dynol, ac yn eu mwynhau, ar y cyfan yn meddu ar well hunanhyder a disgwyliadau uwch, a'u bod yn fwy tebygol o gyflawni'u llawn botensial. Mae hyn yn ei dro'n gymorth iddynt ddod yn ddinasyddion mwy cyfrifol, sy'n fwy abl a pharod i gyfrannu'n llawnach at fywyd eu cymuned. Yr ydym ni yng Nghymru'n rhoi gwerth ar y nodweddion hyn, ac ymfalchiwn mewn ymdrechu i roi i'n plant a'n pobl ifanc yr arfau y mae eu hangen arnynt i chwarae rhan lawn a gweithredol yn ein cymdeithas fel dinasyddion.

Ym mis Rhagfyr 1991, cadarnhaodd y Deyrnas Unedig Gofensiwn y Cenhedloedd Unedig ar Hawliau'r Plentyn. Offeryn cynhwysfawr yw'r confensiwn sy'n amlinellu hawliau sy'n diffinio egwyddorion a normau cyffredinol ar gyfer statws plant. Mae'r

integrated and holistic approach to the rights of the child, as economic, social and cultural rights are dealt together with civil and political rights.

In 2002, the Welsh Assembly Government decided that, in developing and securing implementation of policies for children and young people, from birth until the age of 25, it should work towards seven core aims. These were developed by drawing on and summarising the UNCRC. In 2004, the Welsh Assembly Government went further still and decided that, whenever it developed policies for children and young people, it would do so with the aim of achieving for them the rights that are set out in the UNCRC. However, the seven core aims are a Welsh policy interpretation and, in effect, a summary of the UNCRC. That means that the focus has been a more general consideration of the convention, rather than of each article individually. As a result, progress towards full realisation of the UNCRC for every child and young person in Wales has not been, perhaps, as rapid or comprehensive as we may have wished.

In July 2009, the former First Minister raised the profile of this issue and gave a clear steer that there was a desire to extend the consideration of the UNCRC in Wales and consolidate our rights-based approach to policy making. Since then, we have been working to identify the best way of doing that. Earlier this year, we consulted widely on a possible draft proposed Measure and were delighted with the constructive feedback received from organisations and individuals within Wales and further afield.

The overall purpose of the Proposed Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure is to embed our rights-based approach to policy making and strengthen and maintain momentum towards full realisation of children and young people's rights in general. The main duty within the proposed Measure is placed on Assembly Government Ministers. It requires them to have due regard to the substantive rights and obligations within the UNCRC and its optional protocols when they make strategic decisions about how to exercise their

confensiwn yn ymdrin â hawliau plant mewn ffordd integredig a holistig, gan ddelio â hawliau economaidd, cymdeithasol a diwylliannol ynghyd â hawliau sifil a gwleidyddol.

Yn 2002, penderfynodd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru y dylai weithio tuag at saith nod craidd wrth ddatblygu a sicrhau y gweithredid polisïau ar gyfer plant a phobl ifanc, o'u geni hyd 25 mlwydd oed. Datblygwyd y nodau hyn drwy ddefnyddio a chrynhoi'r confensiwn. Yn 2004, aeth Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ymhellach fyth a phenderfynu, pryd bynnag y datblygai bolisiau ar gyfer plant a phobl ifanc, y gwnâi hynny gyda'r nod o sicrhau iddynt yr hawliau a amlinellir yn y confensiwn. Fodd bynnag, dehongliad polisi i Gymru a chrynodeb o'r confensiwn, i bob pwrpas, yw'r saith nod craidd. Mae hynny'n golygu y canolbwyntiwyd ar ystyriaeth fwy cyffredinol o'r confensiwn, yn hytrach nag ar bob erthygl yn unigol. O ganlyniad, ni fu'r cynnydd tuag at gyflawni'r confensiwn yn llawn i bob plentyn a pherson ifanc yng Nghymru mor gyflym na chynhwysfawr ag a ddymunem, efallai.

Ym mis Gorffennaf 2009, cododd y cyn Brif Weinidog broffil y mater hwn a rhoddodd awgrym clir fod awydd i ehangu ystyriaeth ar y confensiwn yng Nghymru a chydgyfnerthu ein dull o lunio polisïau ar sail hawliau. Ers hynny, yr ydym wedi bod yn gweithio i ganfod y ffordd orau o wneud hynny. Yn gynharach eleni, ymgynghorasom yn eang ar Fesur arfaethedig drafft posibl a chawsom fodd i fyw â'r adborth adeiladol a gafwyd gan sefydliadau ac unigolion yng Nghymru a thu hwnt.

Amcan cyffredinol y Mesur Arfaethedig ynghylch Hawliau Plant a Phobl Ifanc (Cymru) yw sefydlu ein dull o lunio polisïau ar sail hawliau a chryfhau a chynnal momentwm tuag at lwyr wireddu hawliau plant a phobl ifanc yn gyffredinol. Ar Weinidogion Llywodraeth y Cynulliad y gosodir y brif ddyletswydd o fewn y Mesur arfaethedig. Gofynnir iddynt roi sylw dyledus i'r hawliau a'r rhwymedigaethau sylweddol o fewn y confensiwn a'i brotocolau dewisol pan wnânt benderfyniadau strategol ynghylch sut i arfer eu swyddogaethau. Bydd y

functions. The duty will apply whenever Ministers undertake strategic planning about how to use their functions. They will have to consider which rights and duties in the UNCRC and its optional protocols are relevant to the areas of strategic planning that they are considering. In taking strategic decisions about how to use their functions, they will have to give the appropriate weight to the rights and obligations balanced against all other relevant factors.

The proposed Measure will require Welsh Ministers to make a children's scheme. That is where the Welsh Assembly Government must set out its arrangements for securing that the duty is complied with, as well as the criteria for identifying the strategic decisions that I referred to. The scheme requires National Assembly for Wales approval before it can be made. Strategic decisions will include all policy making and the development of most legislative proposals. The purpose of the scheme is so that there is transparency about Assembly Government processes for securing compliance with the duty, and also that they are robustly tested. The scheme will be subjected to external scrutiny through consultation and will then have to pass the test of being acceptable to the Assembly. The draft scheme must be laid no later than 31 March 2012.

The proposed Measure also contains provisions about promoting knowledge and understanding of the UNCRC and its optional protocols, amending legislation to give better effect to them, and considering and consulting on extending the proposed Measure to the 18 to 24 age group. The proposed Measure does not impose any duty on any other person or body, for example NHS bodies or local authorities. The due regard duty is designed so that, in strategic decisions by Ministers, there will be a requirement to give proper consideration to the convention rights and obligations. This proposed Measure will take forward into Welsh law the Assembly Government's commitment that children and young people's rights are given the importance that they deserve in the Assembly Government's

ddyletswydd yn berthnasol pryd bynnag y bydd Gweinidogion yn ymgymryd â chynllunio strategol ynghylch sut i ddefnyddio'u swyddogaethau. Bydd rhaid iddynt ystyried pa hawliau a dyletswyddau yn y confensiwn a'i brotocolau dewisol sy'n berthnasol i'r meysydd cynllunio strategol sydd dan ystyriaeth ganddynt. Wrth wneud penderfyniadau strategol ynghylch sut i ddefnyddio'u swyddogaethau, bydd rhaid iddynt roi'r pwysau priodol ar yr hawliau a'r rhwymedigaethau yn y fantol yn erbyn pob ffactor perthnasol arall.

Bydd y Mesur arfaethedig yn gofyn bod Gweinidogion Cymru yn llunio cynllun plant. Dyna lle y mae'n rhaid i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru amlinellu ei threfniadau ar gyfer sicrhau y cydymffurfir â'r ddyletswydd, yn ogystal â'r meini prawf ar gyfer nodi'r penderfyniadau strategol y cyfeiriais atynt. Rhaid i'r cynllun gael ei gymeradwyo gan y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol cyn y gellir ei lunio. Bydd penderfyniadau strategol yn cynnwys pob gwaith llunio polisi a datblygiad y rhan fwyaf o gynigion deddfwriaethol. Pwrpas y cynllun yw cael tryloywder ynghylch prosesau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar gyfer sicrhau cydymffurfiaeth â'r ddyletswydd, a hefyd y cânt eu profi'n drylwyr. Bydd y cynllun yn destun craffu allanol drwy ymgynghoriad ac wedyn bydd rhaid iddo basio'r prawf o fod yn dderbyniol gan y Cynulliad. Rhaid cyflwyno'r cynllun drafft erbyn 31 Mawrth 2012 fan hwyraf.

Mae'r Mesur arfaethedig yn cynnwys darpariaethau hefyd ar gyfer hyrwyddo adnabyddiaeth a dealltwriaeth o'r confensiwn a'i brotocolau dewisol, diwygio deddfwriaeth i roi gwell effaith iddynt, ac ystyried ac ymgynghori ynghylch ymestyn y Mesur arfaethedig i'r grŵp oedran 18 i 24. Nid yw'r Mesur arfaethedig yn gosod unrhyw ddyletswydd ar unrhyw berson na chorff arall, er enghraifft, cyrff y gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol neu awdurdodau lleol. Mae'r ddyletswydd sylw dyledus wedi'i chynllunio i sicrhau y bydd yn ofynnol, mewn penderfyniadau strategol gan Weinidogion, rhoi ystyriaeth briodol i hawliau a rhwymedigaethau'r confensiwn. Bydd y Mesur arfaethedig hwn yn sefydlu yng nghyfraith Cymru ymrwymiad Llywodraeth y Cynulliad y caiff hawliau plant a phobl ifanc

work. Wales is, once again, finding new ways to strengthen the rights of children and young people.

3.40 p.m.

There is a growing body of evidence that knowledge and understanding of rights on the part of children, young people and adults lead to improved access to those rights, and this, in turn, leads to improved wellbeing. For this reason, the proposed Measure places a duty on Welsh Ministers to take appropriate steps to promote knowledge and understanding of the UNCRC and its optional protocols. This highlights the importance of raising levels of knowledge and understanding of the UNCRC among everyone in Wales. Improved wellbeing among the children and young people of today will, in turn, lead to Wales having more vibrant and cohesive communities, increased social capital and improved economic prosperity.

In short, this proposed Measure will not only help the children and young people of today to enjoy improved wellbeing, it will also provide a mechanism for the UNCRC to play its part in ensuring a better tomorrow for our communities and for Wales as a whole.

I commend the proposed Measure to you. I am pleased that Wales is leading the way in the UK as the first of the devolved administrations to embed the UNCRC into its legislation. I look forward to the constructive contribution that the Assembly's scrutiny process will make as we explore these key issues.

Paul Davies: I thank the Deputy Minister for his statement on this proposed Measure. I very much welcome the proposed Measure, and the Welsh Conservatives are pleased to support its general principles. I am delighted that the proposed Measure marks a huge step forward for Wales with regard to children and young people's rights. Ensuring that the rights of our children and young people are recognised and protected is fundamental, and we must continue to work to ensure that all children in Wales have access to the education, healthcare, protection and advocacy that they need and deserve.

y pwysigrwydd a haeddant yng ngwaith Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Mae Cymru, unwaith eto, yn canfod ffyrdd newydd i gryfhau hawliau plant a phobl ifanc.

Mae corff cynyddol o dystiolaeth sy'n dweud os yw plant, pobl ifanc ac oedolion yn gwybod ac yn deall eu hawliau, ei bod yn haws iddynt gael yr hawliau hynny, a bod hyn, yn ei dro, yn arwain at wella'u lles. Am y rheswm hwn, mae'r Mesur arfaethedig yn gosod dyletswydd ar Weinidogion Cymru i gymryd camau priodol i hyrwyddo adnabyddiaeth a dealltwriaeth o'r confensiwn a'i brotocolau dewisol. Mae hyn yn tanlinellu pwysigrwydd codi lefelau gwybodaeth a dealltwriaeth o'r confensiwn gan bawb yng Nghymru. Bydd gwella lles plant a phobl ifanc heddiw, yn ei dro, yn arwain at Gymru sydd â chymunedau mwy bywiog a chydlynol, mwy o gyfalaf cymdeithasol a gwell ffyniant economaidd.

Yn fyr, bydd y Mesur arfaethedig hwn nid yn unig yn helpu plant a phobl ifanc heddiw i fwynhau gwell lles, bydd hefyd yn darparu mecanwaith i'r confensiwn chwarae ei ran i sicrhau gwell yfory i'n cymunedau ac i Gymru'n gyffredinol.

Cymeradwyaf y Mesur arfaethedig ichi. Yr wyf yn falch bod Cymru yn arwain y ffordd yn y Deyrnas Unedig fel y gyntaf o'r gweinyddiaethau datganoledig i sefydlu'r confensiwn yn ei deddfwriaeth. Edrychaf ymlaen at y cyfraniad adeiladol a wna proses graffu'r Cynulliad wrth inni archwilio'r materion allweddol hyn.

Paul Davies: Diolch i'r Dirprwy Weinidog am ei ddatganiad ar y Mesur arfaethedig hwn. Croesawaf y Mesur arfaethedig yn fawr iawn, ac mae Ceidwadwyr Cymru yn falch o gefnogi ei egwyddorion cyffredinol. Yr wyf wrth fy modd bod y Mesur arfaethedig yn gam enfawr ymlaen i Gymru yng nghyswllt hawliau plant a phobl ifanc. Mae sicrhau y cydnabyddir ac y diogelir hawliau ein plant a'n pobl ifanc yn hanfodol, a rhaid inni barhau i weithio i sicrhau bod pob plentyn yng Nghymru'n gallu cael yr addysg, y gofal iechyd, y warchodaeth a'r eiriolaeth y mae arnynt eu hangen ac y maent yn eu haeddu.

This proposed Measure is necessary because some aspects of children and young people's rights require further attention, as we discussed some months ago, when the Deputy Minister responded to the Children's Commissioner for Wales's annual report. It is vitally important that we work to further improve children's rights at every opportunity, and I am delighted that this proposed Measure will impose a duty on Welsh Ministers to have due regard to the rights and obligations in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols when making decisions of a strategic nature about how to exercise their functions. There are some promising and positive aspects to this proposed Measure, and I am pleased that the Welsh Assembly Government consulted with a range of different groups and stakeholders.

I am pleased that the Welsh Assembly Government, in response to evidence given by key stakeholders to the Children and Young People Committee has now recognised concerns that applying the due regard duty only to the exercise of functions specified in the children's scheme may lead to a disregard of children's rights in other areas of the Assembly Government's work. It is right that the Welsh Assembly Government has recognised these concerns and has revised its proposals as a result.

The Welsh Assembly Government has, quite rightly, recognised that there will often be a benefit in engaging with external stakeholders when developing the draft children's scheme or when making changes to it. However, the Welsh Assembly Government is of the view that the proposed Measure should not impose requirements about when and how consultation should take place. Perhaps the Deputy Minister could explain why he feels that the Welsh Assembly Government should not be compelled to consult when making changes to the scheme. In his evidence to the Children and Young People Committee, Keith Towler, the children's commissioner, identified that the current proposals for the consultation process did not require Welsh Ministers to

Mae'r Mesur arfaethedig hwn yn angenrheidiol oherwydd mae angen sylw pellach ar rai agweddau ar hawliau plant a phobl ifanc, fel y trafodasom rai misoedd yn ôl, pan ymatebodd y Dirprwy Weinidog i adroddiad blynyddol Comisiynydd Plant Cymru. Mae'n hollbwysig ein bod yn gweithio i wella hawliau plant ymhellach ar bob cyfle, ac yr wyf wrth fy modd y bydd y Mesur arfaethedig hwn yn gosod dyletswydd ar Weinidogion Cymru i roi sylw dyledus i'r hawliau a'r rhwymedigaethau yng Nghonfensiwn y Cenhedloedd Unedig ar Hawliau'r Plentyn a'i brotocolau dewisol pan wnânt benderfyniadau strategol eu natur ynghylch sut i arfer eu swyddogaethau. Mae agweddau addawol a chadarnhaol i'r Mesur arfaethedig hwn, ac yr wyf yn falch bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi ymgynghori ag amrediad o wahanol grwpiau a rhanddeiliaid.

Yr wyf yn falch bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, mewn ymateb i dystiolaeth a roddwyd gan rhanddeiliaid allweddol i'r Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, bellach wedi cydnabod pryderon y gallai cyfyngu'r ddyletswydd sylw dyledus i weithrediad swyddogaethau a enwir yn y cynllun plant yn unig arwain at ddiystyru hawliau plant mewn meysydd eraill o waith Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Mae'n briodol bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi cydnabod y pryderon hyn ac wedi diwygio'i chynigion o ganlyniad.

Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, yn gwbl deg, wedi cydnabod y ceir budd yn aml o ymgysylltu â rhanddeiliaid allanol wrth ddatblygu'r cynllun plant drafft neu wrth wneud newidiadau iddo. Fodd bynnag, mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru o'r farn na ddylai'r Mesur arfaethedig osod gofynion ynghylch pa bryd a sut y dylid ymgynghori. Efallai y gallai'r Dirprwy Weinidog egluro pam y mae'n teimlo na ddylid gorfodi Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i ymgynghori wrth wneud newidiadau i'r cynllun. Yn ei dystiolaeth i'r Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, nododd Keith Towler, y comisiynydd plant, nad oedd y cynigion cyfredol ar gyfer y broses ymgynghori'n mynnu bod Gweinidogion Cymru yn rhoi sylw i sylwadau'r rhai yr ymgynghorir â hwy. Yn y

have regard to the views of the consulted. In this respect, would the Deputy Minister clarify the role of the Welsh Ministers and, indeed, the role of the children's commissioner, in relation to this proposed Measure and the purpose of consultation with stakeholders in the first place?

I am also aware that the Wales non-governmental organisation monitoring group for the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child also submitted evidence at the same committee session. I have one point in relation to the monitoring group that I would like to discuss—the matter of redress. Will the Deputy Minister clarify the issue of redress and how this proposed Measure would fit in with the judicial review and how he foresees children and young people raising their concerns? For example, would the children's commissioner fit into this role?

In his annual report last year, the children's commissioner highlighted the fact that limited financial resources might prevent the consistent implementation of Welsh Assembly Government policies by local authorities across Wales, restricting the rights of children and young people. Can the Deputy Minister assure us that this proposed Measure will ensure that policies are implemented consistently and in a timely manner to ensure that children are fully entitled to their rights and that those rights are protected?

With regard to the rights of young carers, I am told that, in other parts of the UK, a young carers strategy provides guidance to groups and statutory bodies so that young people receive the support that they deserve. In the circumstances, can the Deputy Minister tell us whether this proposed Measure will protect the rights of young carers in those situations? We all want to see an improvement in services across the board for children and young people in Wales. Although I believe that this proposed Measure addresses a number of valid concerns and has all the right intentions, we must ensure that all the details are examined closely and worked out during the scrutiny process. This proposed Measure could be a great opportunity for children and young

cyswllt hwn, a wnaiff y Dirprwy Weinidog roi eglurhad o rôl Gweinidogion Cymru ac, yn wir, rôl y comisiynydd plant, mewn perthynas â'r Mesur arfaethedig hwn a phwrpas ymgynghori â rhanddeiliaid yn y lle cyntaf?

Yr wyf yn ymwybodol hefyd fod grŵp monitro cyrff anllywodraethol Cymru ar Gonfensiwn y Cenhedloedd Unedig ar Hawliau'r Plentyn wedi cyflwyno tystiolaeth hefyd yn yr un sesiwn pwyllgor. Mae gennyf un pwynt ynglŷn â'r grŵp monitro yr hoffwn ei drafod—sef gwneud iawn. A wnaiff y Dirprwy Weinidog roi eglurhad ar gwestiwn gwneud iawn a sut y byddai'r Mesur arfaethedig hwn yn cyd-fynd â'r adolygiad barnwrol a sut y mae'n rhagweld y bydd plant a phobl ifanc yn codi eu pryderon? Er enghraifft, a fyddai'r comisiynydd plant yn ffitio i mewn i'r rôl hon?

Yn ei adroddiad blynyddol y llynedd, tanlinellodd y comisiynydd plant y ffaith y gallai adnoddau ariannol cyfyngedig atal gweithredu polisïau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn gyson gan awdurdodau lleol ar draws Cymru, gan gyfyngu ar hawliau plant a phobl ifanc. A all y Dirprwy Weinidog roi sicrwydd inni y bydd y Mesur arfaethedig hwn yn sicrhau y gweithredir polisïau'n gyson ac mewn modd amserol er mwyn sicrhau y gall plant gael eu hawliau'n llawn ac y gwarchodir yr hawliau hynny?

Ynglŷn â hawliau gofalwyr ifanc, dywedir wrthyf fod strategaeth gofalwyr ifanc mewn rhannau eraill o'r Deyrnas Unedig yn darparu canllawiau i grwpiau a chyrff statudol fel y caiff pobl ifanc y gefnogaeth a haeddant. Yn yr amgylchiadau, a all y Dirprwy Weinidog ddweud wrthym a wnaiff y Mesur arfaethedig hwn warchod hawliau gofalwyr ifanc yn y sefyllfaoedd hynny? Mae ar bawb ohonom eisiau gweld gwelliant mewn gwasanaethau ar draws y bwrdd i blant a phobl ifanc yng Nghymru. Er y credaf fod y Mesur arfaethedig hwn yn delio â nifer o bryderon dilys a bod ganddo'r bwriadau iawn i gyd, rhaid inni sicrhau yr edrychir yn fanwl ar yr holl fanylion a'u datrys yn ystod y broses graffu. Gallai'r Mesur arfaethedig hwn fod yn gyfle gwych i blant a phobl ifanc yng

people in Wales, and I hope that the Welsh Assembly Government works to ensure that it is implemented and promoted sensitively and effectively.

The proposed Measure contains a duty requiring Welsh Ministers to take steps to promote understanding, rather than just knowledge, of the UNCRC and its optional protocols. Will the Deputy Minister give us an indication of how the Welsh Assembly Government intends to promote this? Finally, I would like to mention child poverty briefly. As we all know, we have 190,000 children living in poverty in Wales, with about 20,000 legally defined as 'children in need'. The extending entitlement framework, which was commissioned by the Assembly Government, shows that children in poverty and poor socioeconomic circumstances are in most need of their rights and entitlements and the least likely to be able to claim them. On that note, will the Deputy Minister detail how he intends to reach out to these children and ensure that this proposed Measure works for those who need protecting the most?

We can all agree that recognising and protecting the rights of children crosses party lines. We must work together and ensure that we collaborate with key stakeholders such as the children's commissioner to put children's rights at the heart of our policies. I thank the Deputy Minister for his statement today. I hope that the proposed Measure that he has outlined will ensure that the rights of our children are recognised and continue to be protected.

Huw Lewis: Thank you for that. I welcome your warm remarks about the content of my statement today and the thrust of the legislation that we are attempting to introduce. It is heartwarming to hear that degree of consensus across the Chamber. You raised some specific points in short order, and I will answer them as best I can today. If my response is limited, I will write to you with further detail. First, on the issue of the commissioner, the proposed Measure does not give the Children's Commissioner for Wales any role in monitoring or enforcing

Nghymru, a gobeithio y gwnaiff Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru weithio i sicrhau y caiff ei weithredu a'i hyrwyddo'n sensitif ac yn effeithiol.

Mae'r Mesur arfaethedig yn cynnwys dyletswydd sy'n gofyn bod Gweinidogion Cymru yn cymryd camau i hyrwyddo dealltwriaeth, yn hytrach na dim ond adnabyddiaeth, o'r confensiwn a'i brotocolau dewisol. A wnaiff y Dirprwy Weinidog roi amcan inni sut y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn bwriadu hyrwyddo hyn? Yn olaf, hoffwn grybwyll tlodi plant yn fyr. Fel y gwyddom i gyd, mae gennym 190,000 o blant yn byw mewn tlodi yng Nghymru, gyda rhyw 20,000 wedi'u diffinio'n gyfreithiol fel 'plant mewn angen'. Mae'r fframwaith ymestyn hawliau, a gomisiynwyd gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad, yn dangos mai plant mewn tlodi ac amgylchiadau cymdeithasol economaidd gwael yw'r rhai sydd fwyaf angen eu hawliau ac sy'n lleiaf tebygol o allu eu hawlio. Ar y nodyn hwnnw, a rydd y Dirprwy Weinidog fanylion sut y mae'n bwriadu ymestyn allan at y plant hyn a sicrhau bod y Mesur arfaethedig hwn yn gweithio i'r rhai sydd angen eu gwarchod fwyaf?

Gallwn i gyd gytuno bod cydnabod a gwarchod hawliau plant yn croesi llinellau plaid. Rhaid inni weithio gyda'n gilydd a sicrhau ein bod yn cydweithio â rhanddeiliaid allweddol fel y comisiynydd plant i roi hawliau plant wrth graidd ein polisiau. Diolch i'r Dirprwy Weinidog am ei ddatganiad heddiw. Gobeithio y bydd y Mesur arfaethedig a amlinellodd yn sicrhau y cydnabyddir hawliau ein plant ac y parheir i'w gwarchod.

Huw Lewis: Diolch ichi am hynny. Croesawaf eich sylwadau gwresog am gynnwys fy natganiad heddiw ac ergyd y ddeddfwriaeth yr ydym yn ceisio'i chyflwyno. Mae'n cynhesu calon dyn i glywed cymaint o gonsensws ar draws y Siambr. Codasoch ambell bwynt penodol mewn trefn fer, ac fe'u hatebaf orau y gallaf heddiw. Os yw fy ateb yn gyfyngedig, ysgrifennaf atoch â manylion pellach. Yn gyntaf, ar fater y comisiynydd, nid yw'r Mesur arfaethedig yn rhoi unrhyw rôl i Gomisiynydd Plant Cymru o ran monitro neu

Welsh Ministers' compliance with the provisions of the proposed Measure. That is because the children's commissioner has the power under the Care Standards Act 2000 to review the effect on children resident in Wales of Welsh Ministers' exercising of their functions. He also has a wide power to consider and make representations about any matter affecting the rights or welfare of children in Wales. So, we think that those existing powers allow the commissioner to make known his views on whether he thinks that Welsh Ministers have complied with the due regard duty as well as with other duties in the proposed Measure, such as the duty to promote knowledge and understanding of the UNCRC. Therefore, we do not think that it is necessary to give him any additional powers in this regard. It seems that the commissioner has all the ammunition that he needs to engage with the process now and in future.

You had a query about redress. With regard to everything that we are talking about here—the implementation, the roll-out and the strategy that will come through the children's scheme—we would fall back to judicial review should anything be perceived to be going wrong. As with any other legislative process, ultimately, it will be down to the courts to interpret whether Welsh Ministers are doing their jobs correctly or not. On your very specific point on young carers, I will get back to you with some further thoughts on that, but I would underline the fact that young carers are as included as all other children and young people within the reach of the legislation; no young person or child in Wales, including young carers, will be excepted.

3.50 p.m.

I am sure that understanding will develop as time goes on. We have learned a great deal already from the consultation thus far—for example, about the steps that we need to take to ensure that documents are understandable. We worked very hard to explain some very complicated concepts in an accessible way in our consultation documents, but there was some limited criticism that that was not, perhaps, as successful as it might have been;

orfodi cydymffurfiad Gweinidogion Cymru â darpariaethau'r Mesur arfaethedig. Y rheswm am hynny yw bod gan y comisiynydd plant y grym dan Ddeddf Safonau Gofal 2000 i adolygu'r effaith ar blant sy'n byw yng Nghymru wrth i Weiniogion Cymru arfer eu swyddogaethau. Mae ganddo bŵer eang hefyd i ystyried a gwneud sylwadau am unrhyw fater sy'n effeithio ar hawliau neu les plant yng Nghymru. Felly, yr ydym o'r farn bod y pwerau hynny sy'n bodoli eisoes yn caniatáu i'r comisiynydd fynegi ei sylwadau ynghylch a yw'n meddwl bod Gweinidogion Cymru wedi cydymffurfio â'r ddyletswydd sylw dyledus yn ogystal ag â dyletswyddau eraill yn y Mesur arfaethedig, fel y ddyletswydd i hyrwyddo adnabyddiaeth a dealltwriaeth o'r confensiwn. Felly, nid ydym yn meddwl bod angen rhoi pwerau ychwanegol iddo yn hyn o beth. Mae'n ymddangos bod gan y comisiynydd yr holl arfau sydd arno eu hangen i ymgysylltu â'r broses yn awr ac yn y dyfodol.

Yr oedd gennych ymholiad ynglŷn â gwneud iawn. O ran popeth yr ydym yn sôn amdano yma—y gweithredu, y cyflwyno a'r strategaeth a ddaw drwy'r cynllun plant—byddem yn mynd am adolygiad barnwrol pe bernid bod unrhyw beth yn mynd o chwith. Fel gydag unrhyw broses ddeddfwriaethol arall, yn y pen draw, mater i'r llysoedd fydd dehongli a yw Gweinidogion Cymru yn gwneud eu gwaith yn iawn ai peidio. Ynglŷn â'ch pwynt penodol iawn am ofalwyr ifanc, deuaif yn ôl atoch gyda rhai syniadau pellach am hynny, ond hoffwn danlinellu'r ffaith bod gofalwyr ifanc wedi'u cynnwys gymaint â phob plentyn a pherson ifanc arall o fewn cyrraedd y ddeddfwriaeth; ni wneir eithriad o unrhyw berson ifanc na phlentyn yng Nghymru, gan gynnwys gofalwyr ifanc.

Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd dealltwriaeth yn datblygu wrth i amser fynd yn ei flaen. Yr ydym wedi dysgu llawer iawn oddi wrth yr ymgynghori hyd yn hyn—er enghraifft, am y camau y mae angen inni eu cymryd i sicrhau bod dogfennau'n ddealladwy. Bu inni weithio yn galed iawn i egluro cysyniadau cymhleth iawn mewn modd hawdd ei ddeall yn ein dogfennau ymgynghori, ond cafwyd rhyw gymaint o feirniadaeth nad oedd hynny,

we are going to learn from that, and it will now be part of the legal duties of Ministers to promote an understanding of the UNCRC and what it means in an accessible way in everything that they do, throughout all Government portfolios.

On child poverty, we believe that the proposed Measure will help us to tackle these issues because of those softer concepts that I mentioned in my introduction, surrounding the skills, confidence and self-esteem of children and young people living in Wales, particularly those living in poverty. I believe that children and young people will be more likely to remain out of poverty, to fulfil their potential and to experience wellbeing in an atmosphere in which their rights are recognised. This is an aspirational piece of legislation; we have talked many times in this Chamber about child poverty being connected to poverty of aspiration, and I believe that a realisation among Wales's children and young people that they have entitlements because of the rights that are outlined here can only raise the aspirations of those children and young people.

Helen Mary Jones: I begin by welcoming the Deputy Minister's statement and I thank him very much for bringing it before us today. It is clear from the draft of the proposed Measure—although I will not pretend to have read it in great depth or to have understood all of the implications, particularly of a very full memorandum of understanding, in the 24 hours that I have had to do so, I think that I have picked up the headlines—that the Deputy Minister has listened to some of the concerns that were raised in the consultation. The Deputy Minister is right when he says that the proposed Measure received a very warm welcome in principle. However, there were matters relating to implementation and practicalities that were a matter of concern to many stakeholders, and I am very grateful to the Deputy Minister for having clearly listened to those representations, including those that were made to the Children and Young People Committee and then passed to him by that committee. It seems to me that the more pervasive approach will be more appropriate in delivering the aspirations that

efallai, mor llwyddiannus ag y gallasai fod; yr ydym yn mynd i ddysgu oddi wrth hynny, a bydd bellach yn rhan o ddyletswyddau cyfreithiol Gweinidogion i hyrwyddo dealltwriaeth o'r confensiwn a'r hyn y mae'n ei olygu mewn ffordd hygyrch ym mhopeth a wnânt, drwy bob portffolio Llywodraeth.

Ar dlodi plant, credwn y bydd y Mesur arfaethedig yn ein helpu i fynd i'r afael â'r materion hyn oherwydd y cysyniadau meddalach hynny a grybwyllais yn fy nghyflwyniad, ynghylch sgiliau, hyder a hunan-barch plant a phobl ifanc sy'n byw yng Nghymru, yn enwedig y rhai sy'n byw mewn tlodi. Credaf y bydd plant a phobl ifanc yn fwy tebygol o gadw allan o dlodi, i gyflawni eu potensial ac i brofi dedwyddwch mewn amgylchedd lle cydnabyddir eu hawliau. Mae hwn yn ddarn uchelgeisiol o ddeddfwriaeth; yr ydym wedi sôn sawl gwaith yn y Siambr hon fod tlodi plant yn gysylltiedig â thlodi uchelgais, a chredaf mai dim ond codi a wnaiff uchelgeisiau plant a phobl ifanc Cymru wrth iddynt sylweddoli fod ganddynt hawliau, yn sgîl yr hawliau a amlinellir yma.

Helen Mary Jones: Dechreuaf drwy groesawu datganiad y Dirprwy Weinidog a diolch yn fawr iddo am ei gyflwyno inni heddiw. Mae'n amlwg o edrych ar ddrafft y Mesur arfaethedig—er na chymeraf arnaf fy mod wedi'i ddarllen mewn unrhyw ddyfnder nac wedi deall yr holl oblygiadau, yn enwedig y rhai a geir mewn memorandwm dealltwriaeth llawn iawn, yn y 24 awr a gefais i wneud hynny, credaf fy mod wedi cael y penawdau—fod y Dirprwy Weinidog wedi gwrando ar rai o'r pryderon a godwyd yn yr ymgynghoriad. Mae'r Dirprwy Weinidog yn iawn pan ddywed y cafodd y Mesur arfaethedig groeso cynnes iawn mewn egwyddor. Fodd bynnag, yr oedd materion ynglŷn â gweithredu a phethau ymarferol a oedd yn destun pryder i lawer o randdeiliaid, ac yr wyf yn ddiolchgar iawn i'r Dirprwy Weinidog am fod wedi gwrando'n amlwg ar y sylwadau hynny, gan gynnwys y rhai a wnaed i'r Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc ac a drosglwyddwyd iddo wedyn gan y pwyllgor hwnnw. Mae'n ymddangos i mi y bydd y dull mwy treiddiol yn fwy priodol i gyflawni'r dyheadau a amlinellir gan y Dirprwy

the Deputy Minister sets out, and is much more likely to deliver change on the ground. I look forward to the detailed scrutiny process that will now take place, line by line, which will enable us to address any further concerns that are raised.

There are some specific points that I would like to raise with you, Deputy Minister. I fully understand if you are unable to respond to them today and need to respond in writing, as you have said that you will do for others, or as part of the scrutiny process. The reference in the statement and the draft of the proposed Measure to strategic decisions being those that will require due regard to be given to the convention has me a little concerned. I hope that our Ministers are not spending too much time making too many decisions that are not strategic, although I realise that that may be a slightly naïve perspective. I wonder whether the Deputy Minister could say a bit more now, or could come back to me later, on how exactly the schemes will determine what decisions are strategic and which are not. I appreciate that using the process of the schemes may be a useful way of doing this, because different decisions may be made at different levels in different departments, and the extent to which due regard must be paid will be proportional, as you have set out in your statement, Deputy Minister. However, I am concerned that this concept of a strategic decision being subject to due regard should not be misused by future Ministers who do not have the same level of commitment to children's rights as this Government does—I know that none of our current Ministers would seek to do this—because, after all, one point of enshrining this in legislation is that we cannot be sure that future Ministers will take the same policy stance that successive Assembly Governments have taken so far.

Your statement also refers to the fact that most legislative proposals will have to pay due regard, and I also have a concern about how that might be interpreted. Can you provide me with some examples of what sort of legislative proposals might not require due regard to be paid? Clearly, there would be

Weinidog, a'i fod yn llawer mwy tebygol o gyflawni newid ar lawr gwlad. Yr wyf yn edrych ymlaen at y broses graffu manwl a fydd yn digwydd yn awr, fesul llinell, a fydd yn ein galluogi i roi sylw i unrhyw bryderon pellach a godir.

Y mae pwyntiau penodol yr hoffwn eu codi gyda chi, Ddirprwy Weinidog. Deallaf yn iawn os na allwch ymateb iddynt heddiw a bod angen ichi roi ateb ysgrifenedig, fel y dywedasoch y gwnaech i eraill, neu fel rhan o'r broses graffu. Mae'r cyfeiriad yn y datganiad a drafft y Mesur arfaethedig mai penderfyniadau strategol fydd y rhai sy'n gofyn am roi sylw dyledus i'r confensiwn yn destun mymryn o bryder imi. Gobeithio nad yw ein Gweinidogion yn treulio gormod o amser yn gwneud gormod o benderfyniadau nad ydynt yn strategol, er y sylweddolaf mai safbwynt naif braidd yw hynny o bosibl. Tybed a allai'r Dirprwy Weinidog ddweud ychydig mwy yn awr, neu ddod yn ôl ataf yn ddiweddarach, ynghylch sut yn union y bydd y cynlluniau'n penderfynu pa benderfyniadau sy'n strategol a pha rai sydd ddim? Sylweddolaf efallai fod defnyddio proses y cynlluniau'n ffordd ddefnyddiol o wneud hyn, am y gall penderfyniadau gwahanol gael eu gwneud ar lefelau gwahanol mewn adrannau gwahanol, a bydd y graddau y mae'n rhaid rhoi sylw dyledus yn gymesurol, fel y dywedasoch yn eich adroddiad, Ddirprwy Weinidog. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn awyddus i'r cysyniad hwn fod penderfyniad strategol yn destun sylw dyledus beidio â chael ei gamddefnyddio gan Weinidogion yn y dyfodol a fydd heb yr un lefel o ymrwymiad i hawliau plant â'r Llywodraeth hon—gwn na fyddai neb o'n Gweinidogion cyfredol yn ceisio gwneud hyn—oherwydd, wedi'r cyfan, un rheswm dros ddiogelu hyn mewn deddfwriaeth yw na allwn fod yn siŵr y bydd Gweinidogion y dyfodol yn cymryd yr un safbwynt polisi ag a gymerwyd gan Lywodraeth ar ôl Llywodraeth yn y Cynulliad hyd yma.

Mae eich datganiad yn cyfeirio hefyd at y ffaith y bydd yn rhaid i'r rhan fwyaf o gynigion deddfwriaethol dalu sylw dyledus, ac mae gennyf bryder hefyd ynglŷn â'r modd y gellid dehongli hynny. A allwch roi enghreifftiau imi o'r math o gynigion deddfwriaethol na fyddai angen talu sylw

some proposals, say in the field of education or children's social services, where due regard might weigh much heavier than, say, in planning. However, I would be concerned if due regard was not given in the planning process, given some of the discussions that we were having when you kindly appeared before the Children and Young People Committee today. It is therefore not clear in my mind what sort of legislative proposals might not require due regard, although the level of regard and the proportionality might differ. I would therefore appreciate your response in that regard.

I think that it is clear that the duty to produce a scheme and to have due regard will apply to all Welsh Ministers. Again, the depth and nature of the scheme will reflect the different portfolios. However, a concern was raised during the consultation process that there should not be any area of the Assembly Government that does not have to pay regard to the convention. My understanding on first reading is that it would apply to all Ministers, but it would be helpful if you were to put that firmly on the record.

I understand that the legislation as it stands is not intended to place similar duties of due regard on all public bodies in Wales. I feel that that is appropriate at this stage, because it seems to me that the schemes that the Ministers will produce may prove to be sufficient. The Minister for health's scheme would, clearly, have an impact on local health boards and on local health board policy. However, will you keep the decision not to include public bodies with the Ministers in this legislation under review so that, once this legislation is up and running, if you find that the schemes are not sufficient to ensure that other public bodies are also giving due regard—it is the local authorities, local health boards and so on that deliver for children and young people in Wales—you might consider whether it would be appropriate to legislate to place the same duty to give due regard in their strategic decision-making processes on other public bodies in Wales?

I will finish by saying how proud I am to see

dyledus iddynt? Yn amlwg, bydd rhai cynigion, dyweder ym maes addysg neu wasanaethau cymdeithasol plant, lle gallai sylw dyledus gario llawer mwy o bwysau nag ym maes cynllunio. Fodd bynnag, byddwn yn bryderus pe na roddid sylw dyledus yn y broses gynllunio, a chofio rhai o'r trafodaethau a gawsom pan fuoch mor garedig ag ymddangos gerbron y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc heddiw. Nid yw'n glir yn fy meddwl, felly, pa fath o gynigion deddfwriaethol na fyddai angen talu sylw dyledus iddynt, er y gallai lefel y sylw a'r cymesuredd amrywio. Felly, gwerthfawrogwn eich ymateb yn hynny o beth.

Credaf ei bod yn glir y bydd y ddyletswydd i lunio cynllun ac i roi sylw dyledus yn berthnasol i holl Weinidogion Cymru. Eto, bydd dyfnder a natur y cynllun yn adlewyrchu'r gwahanol bortffolios. Fodd bynnag, codwyd pryder yn ystod y broses ymgynghori na ddylai fod unrhyw faes yn Llywodraeth y Cynulliad nad oes raid iddo dalu sylw i'r confensiwn. Fy nealltwriaeth i ar y darlleniad cyntaf yw y byddai'n berthnasol i bob Gweinidog, ond byddai o gymorth pe cofnodech hynny'n gadarn.

Deallaf na fwriedir i'r ddeddfwriaeth fel y mae'n sefyll roi dyletswyddau tebyg o ran sylw dyledus i bob corff cyhoeddus yng Nghymru. Teimlaf fod hynny'n briodol ar hyn o bryd, oherwydd mae'n ymddangos i mi y gall y cynlluniau y bydd y Gweinidogion yn eu llunio brofi'n ddigonol. Byddai cynllun y Gweinidog dros iechyd, yn amlwg, yn cael effaith ar fyrddau iechyd lleol ac ar bolisi byrddau iechyd lleol. Fodd bynnag, a wnewch chi barhau i adolygu'r penderfyniad i beidio â chynnwys cyrff cyhoeddus gyda'r Gweinidogion yn y ddeddfwriaeth hon? Os canfyddwch, unwaith y bydd y ddeddfwriaeth hon ar waith, nad yw'r cynlluniau'n ddigonol i sicrhau bod cyrff cyhoeddus eraill yn rhoi sylw dyledus hefyd—yr awdurdodau lleol, byrddau iechyd lleol ac ati sy'n darparu ar gyfer plant a phobl ifanc yng Nghymru—byddai modd ichi wedyn ystyried a fyddai'n briodol deddfu i osod yr un ddyletswydd i roi sylw dyledus yn eu prosesau penderfynu ar gyrrff cyhoeddus eraill yng Nghymru.

Gorffennaf drwy ddweud mor falch yr wyf o

the Welsh Government seeking to enshrine the UN convention in law. In my role as Chair of the Children and Young People Committee, I am to speak at the Northern Ireland Assembly next week about some of the work that successive Governments here have done and about the significance of the rights-based approach. It is a matter of great pride to me that we in Wales—I concur with what you said, Deputy Minister, about how positive this has been—have taken a cross-party approach, and have broad support for the children's rights approach across parties. I have been very pleased to see that delivered through policy, and I am very proud that we now intend to enshrine it in law. I would hope that this would be an example not only to the other devolved administrations, but to the new Government in London. It seems to me that one way of delivering a new politics would be to enshrine children's rights in UK law as well as in Welsh law.

Huw Lewis: I will attempt to reply to your points, although in no particular order. I welcome your very positive comments about the proposed legislation and the direction of travel that we are trying to get to grips with.

To take up one very specific point that you made about why we are talking about most legislative proposals, and what are the legislative proposals that we might not be talking about here, that is a technical necessity. What is being referred to is the small number of pieces of legislation that would be technical in nature. They would include, for instance, Orders making amendments to other legislation. In other words, they would be anything but strategic. So, we would not take a strategic approach to legislation of that type because the sort of amendments that we could make in any case would be extremely limited. As we work through, as you say, the fine detail of the consultation that is to come, perhaps more examples can be drawn out and can give some clarity to what we are talking about.

4.00 p.m.

weld Llywodraeth Cymru yn ceisio sefydlu confensiwn y Cenhedloedd Unedig mewn cyfraith. Yn fy rôl fel Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, byddaf yn siarad â Chynulliad Gogledd Iwerddon yr wythnos nesaf ynglŷn â pheth o'r gwaith y mae Llywodraethau olynol yma wedi'i wneud ac am arwyddocâd y dull seiliedig ar hawliau. Mae'n destun balchder mawr i mi ein bod ni yng Nghymru—yr wyf yn cyd-fynd â'r hyn a ddywedaso, Ddirprwy Weinidog, ynghylch mor bositif y mae hyn wedi bod—wedi mynd ati mewn modd trawsbleidiol, a bod cefnogaeth eang i hawliau plant ar draws y pleidiau. Yr wyf wedi bod yn falch iawn o weld sicrhau hynny drwy bolisi, ac yr wyf yn falch iawn ein bod yn bwriadu ei sefydlu mewn cyfraith yn awr. Gobeithio y bydd hyn yn esiampl nid yn unig i'r gweinyddiaethau datganoledig eraill, ond i'r Llywodraeth newydd yn Llundain. Mae'n ymddangos i mi mai un ffordd o gyflwyno gwleidyddiaeth newydd fyddai sefydlu hawliau plant yng nghyfraith y Deyrnas Unedig yn ogystal ag yng nghyfraith Cymru.

Huw Lewis: Ceisiaf ateb eich pwyntiau, er nad mewn unrhyw drefn arbennig. Croesawaf eich sylwadau cadarnhaol iawn am y ddeddfwriaeth arfaethedig a'r cyfeiriad yr ydym yn ceisio anelu ato.

A chodi un pwynt penodol iawn a wnaethoch ynghylch pam yr ydym yn sôn am y rhan fwyaf o gynigion deddfwriaethol, a pha gynigion deddfwriaethol nad ydym efallai'n sôn amdanynt yma, anghenraid technegol yw hynny. Yr hyn y cyfeirir ato yw'r nifer fach o ddarnau deddfwriaeth a fyddai'n dechnegol eu natur. Byddent yn cynnwys, er enghraifft, Gorchmynion yn gwneud gwelliannau i ddeddfwriaeth arall. Mewn geiriau eraill, byddent yn unrhyw beth ond strategol. Felly, ni chymerem agwedd strategol at ddeddfwriaeth o'r math hwnnw oherwydd byddai'r math o welliannau y gallem eu gwneud beth bynnag yn gyfyngedig dros ben. Wrth inni weithio drwy, fel y dywedwch, fanylion mân yr ymgynghori sydd i ddod, efallai y gellir tynnu rhagor o enghreifftiau allan ac y gellir rhoi rhyw eglurder i'r hyn yr ydym yn siarad amdano.

On whether this applies to all Welsh Ministers, the answer is that, yes, it does—from the First Minister down. On its application to other bodies and outside bodies, within the context of your remarks, you took on board the Assembly Government's feeling that, at this stage, we are aiming at a very strategic level and we are deliberately going for a change in how Welsh Ministers work at the top level of strategic decision making in Wales. That will be a complex task in itself and will require a great deal of change in how the Assembly Government works and will require training to be delivered to Assembly Government officials in much the same way that equality legislation was incorporated into the Government's way of working. That took time, and this will also take time. However, there is the provision for revising or remaking the scheme at any time and it could be revisited in the future so that this piece of work would evolve.

On what is a strategic decision, I am glad that you asked me that. [*Laughter.*] That is the question that all of us will ask over and over again to ensure that we get to the heart of the matter as we work through the detail of the legislative process. The criteria for determining what a strategic decision is will be set out in the scheme. At the moment, in broad outline, I would say that that would include Ministers developing policies, so it is ministerial policy development and ministerial legislative proposals. Therefore, policy and law are the level of strategy that we are talking about in essence. This will, of course, need to be explored and made robust in the context of what we mean by 'strategic'. We will have to be robust about that and only the period of consultation that we are entering at the committee stage and so on will give us the fullest answer to your question.

There will also be a need for the concept of a strategic decision to be flexible and to adapt and evolve over time. We must also bear that in mind. For example, there may be changes in the UNCRC in the future that we might have to address, but I welcome your comments this afternoon.

O ran a yw hyn yn berthnasol i bob Gweinidog yn y Cynulliad, yr ateb yw ei fod—o'r Prif Weinidog i lawr. O ran ei gymhwyso i gyrff eraill a chyrrff allanol, o fewn cyd-destun eich sylwadau, derbyniasoch deimlad Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ein bod, ar hyn o bryd, yn anelu at lefel strategol iawn a'n bod yn anelu'n fwriadol i newid y modd y mae Gweinidogion Cymru yn gweithio ar lefel uchaf gwneud penderfyniadau strategol yng Nghymru. Bydd hynny'n dasg gymhleth ynddi ei hun ac yn gofyn am lawer iawn o newid yn y modd y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn gweithio ac yn gofyn am roi hyfforddiant i swyddogion Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn yr un modd ag yr ymgorfforwyd deddfwriaeth cydraddoldeb i mewn i ddull y Llywodraeth o weithio. Cymerodd hynny amser, a chymer hyn amser hefyd. Fodd bynnag, y mae darpariaeth ar gyfer adolygu neu ail-lunio'r cynllun ar unrhyw bryd a gellid mynd yn ôl ato yn y dyfodol fel y byddai'r darn gwaith hwn yn esblygu.

O ran beth yw penderfyniad strategol, yr wyf yn falch ichi ofyn hynny imi. [*Chwerthin.*] Dyna'r cwestiwn y bydd pawb ohonom yn ei ofyn drosodd a thro i sicrhau yr awn at graidd y mater wrth inni weithio drwy fanylion y broses deddfwriaethol. Amlinellir y meini prawf ar gyfer penderfynu beth sydd yn benderfyniad strategol yn y cynllun. Ar hyn o bryd, fel amlinelliad bras, dywedwn y byddai hynny'n cynnwys Gweinidogion yn datblygu polisiau, felly dyna ddatblygiad polisiau Gweinidogion a chynigion deddfwriaethol Gweinidogion. Felly, polisi a chyfraith yw'r lefel strategaeth yr ydym yn sôn amdani yn ei hanfod. Bydd angen archwilio hyn, wrth gwrs, a'i gyfnerthu yn nghyd-destun yr hyn yr ydym yn ei olygu wrth 'strategol'. Bydd rhaid inni fod yn gadarn ynglŷn â hynny, a dim ond y cyfnod ymgynghori yr ydym yn mynd iddo yn y cam pwyllgor ac ati a rydd inni'r ateb llawnaf i'ch cwestiwn.

Bydd angen hefyd i'r cysyniad o benderfyniad strategol fod yn hyblyg ac ymaddasu ac esblygu dros amser. Rhaid inni gofio hynny hefyd. Er enghraifft, gall fod newidiadau yn y confensiwn yn y dyfodol y bydd yn rhaid inni roi sylw iddynt, ond croesawaf eich sylwadau'r prynhawn yma.

Eleanor Burnham: As a consensual matter, all of us in the Children and Young People Committee have been heartened by the Deputy Minister, particularly in respect of this statement and this proposed Measure. It gives us great pleasure to consider the fact that the children's commissioner, for example, has done an enormous amount of work practically and in policy development and has helped us all to move the agenda forward. Some of us who have been involved with youngsters for some time understand that it certainly needs to be at the heart of all of our policy and whatever we are engaged in because, after all, we are looking at our future citizens.

I am pleased that all of this legislation will enshrine everything to do with children because it makes for a transparent Government and it makes it more transparent for us to hold you to account. In the unlikely event that there are challenges in court, having one clear piece of legislation will make that determination much clearer. Being based on the children's scheme, it says that it will apply only to areas that are in the children's scheme, unless I have misread it, and that the Minister will have to put a particular function into the scheme before it is covered by the proposed Measure. Can you clarify that? That is written in the consultation document and relates to Section 1 of the proposed Measure.

I will not reiterate everything that everyone else has said, but I am pleased that we are moving in the right direction because there is huge stress in today's society on children and young people. There are all kinds of health issues and social issues, the children's commissioner keeps telling us about the complex nature of children and young people's mental health, and there is also the matter of bullying, among other things. As you were before the committee this morning, Deputy Minister, you will understand fully and are sensitive to the issues that you will be dealing with in this important proposed Measure. I hope that the Children and Young People Committee will continue the good work that we have been doing, because we are all engaged in moving in the right

Eleanor Burnham: Fel mater cydsyniol, y mae pawb ohonom yn y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc wedi'n calonogi gan y Ddirprwy Weinidog, yn enwedig o ran y datganiad hwn a'r Mesur arfaethedig hwn. Mae'n rhoi pleser mawr inni ystyried y ffaith fod y comisiynydd plant, er enghraifft, wedi gwneud peth wmbredd o waith yn ymarferol ac o ran datblygu polisi ac wedi'n helpu ni i gyd i symud yr agenda ymlaen. Mae rhai ohonom sydd wedi bob yn ymwneud ag ieuenctid ers tro yn deall bod angen yn sicr iddo fod wrth graidd ein holl bolisi a phopeth a wnawn oherwydd, wedi'r cyfan, yr ydym yn edrych ar ddinasyddion ein dyfodol.

Yr wyf yn falch y bydd yr holl ddeddfwriaeth hyn yn sefydlu popeth ynglŷn â phlant oherwydd mae'n golygu bod y Llywodraeth yn dryloyw ac yn ei gwneud yn fwy tryloyw fel y gallwn ni eich dal i gyfrif. Pe ceid her yn y llys, sy'n annhebygol, bydd cael un darn clir o ddeddfwriaeth yn gwneud y penderfyniad hwnnw'n llawer mwy eglur. Wrth fod yn seiliedig ar y cynllun plant, mae'n dweud na fydd ond yn berthnasol i feysydd sydd yn y cynllun plant, os nad wyf wedi'i gamddarllen, ac y bydd yn rhaid i'r Gweinidog roi swyddogaeth benodol i mewn i'r cynllun cyn iddi ddod o dan y Mesur arfaethedig. A allwch roi eglurhad ar hynny? Mae hynny wedi'i ysgrifennu yn y ddogfen ymgynghori ac yn ymwneud ag Adran 1 y Mesur arfaethedig.

Ni wnaaf ailadrodd popeth y mae pawb arall wedi'i ddweud, ond yr wyf yn falch ein bod yn symud i'r cyfeiriad iawn oherwydd mae pwysau mawr yng nghymdeithas heddiw ar blant a phobl ifanc. Mae pob math o faterion iechyd a materion cymdeithasol, mae'r comisiynydd plant yn sôn wrthym o hyd am natur gymhleth iechyd meddwl plant a phobl ifanc, a cheir problem bwlio, ymysg pethau eraill. Gan ichi sefyll gerbron y pwyllgor y bore yma, Ddirprwy Weinidog, byddwch yn deall yn iawn ac yn sensitif i'r materion y byddwch yn ymdrin â hwy yn y Mesur arfaethedig pwysig hwn. Gobeithio y gwnaiff y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc barhau â'r gwaith da yr ydym wedi bod yn ei wneud, oherwydd yr ydym i gyd yn gweithio i symud i'r cyfeiriad iawn. Nid yw'r Mesur

direction. This important proposed Measure applies only to the areas in which Welsh Ministers have powers, but, as the new powers are transferred, I am sure that you would agree that much more work needs to be done across all areas of government. Therefore, I thank and commend you, and I look forward to working with you on this vital area of change in our society.

Notwithstanding the issue of child poverty, disenfranchised youth come into it, so will you comment—if you feel that it is appropriate to do so—on youth justice, which is a piece of work that we have done in the Communities and Culture Committee? It showed that most people in this arena believe that youth justice should be brought under the jurisdiction of the Welsh Assembly Government. As such, that would be an even more important move. Therefore, I look forward to working with you to ensure that the rights of the child are enshrined. I hope that we will be pleased with the work that we do and that we can look back and see that we have been a beacon in this area.

Huw Lewis: What can I say? It seems that we have reached a four-party consensus with your contribution, and that can only be celebrated. As you said, I look forward to getting involved with the nitty-gritty of the legislation and doing the hard graft that we need to do to make this good law.

On your comments on the children's scheme, I hope that I will be able to cover the points that you made. The proposed Measure applies a due regard duty to all strategic decisions by Ministers about how they exercise their functions. That will be coupled with a duty on Welsh Ministers to publish that children's scheme. The scheme will give us details on the criteria for deciding whether or not a decision is of a strategic nature, and the internal WAG arrangements for securing compliance with that due regard duty. Therefore, there will no longer be any need to specify relevant functions as was previously proposed. We have moved on from that position so that this has a pervasive nature across all functions that are essentially relevant. I hope that covers the point that you

arfaethedig pwysig hwn ddim ond yn berthnasol i'r meysydd lle mae gan Weinidogion Cymru bwerau, ond, wrth i'r pwerau newydd gael eu trosglwyddo, yr wyf yn siŵr y cytunech fod angen gwneud llawer mwy o waith ar draws pob maes llywodraeth. Felly, diolchaf ichi ac fe'ch cymeradwyaf, ac edrychaf ymlaen at weithio gyda chi ar y maes newid hollbwysig hwn yn ein cymdeithas.

Er gwaethaf cwestiwn tlodi plant, mae ieuenctid difreintiedig yn elfen, felly a wnewch chi sylw—os teimlwch ei bod yn briodol gwneud hynny—ar gyfiawnder ieuenctid, sy'n ddarn o waith yr ydym wedi'i wneud yn y Pwyllgor Cymunedau a Diwylliant? Dangosodd fod y rhan fwyaf o bobl yn yr arena hon yn credu y dylid dod â chyfiawnder ieuenctid dan awdurdodaeth Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Yn hynny o beth, byddai hynny'n symudiad pwysicach fyth. Felly, edrychaf ymlaen at weithio gyda chi i sicrhau y sefydlir hawliau'r plentyn. Gobeithio y byddwn yn falch â'r gwaith a wnawn ac y gallwn edrych yn ôl a gweld ein bod wedi arwain y ffordd yn y maes hwn.

Huw Lewis: Beth y gallaf ei ddweud? Mae'n ymddangos ein bod wedi cyrraedd consensws pedair plaid gyda'ch cyfraniad chi, ac ni ellir ond dathlu hynny. Fel y dywedaso, edrychaf ymlaen at fynd i'r afael â glo mân y ddeddfwriaeth a gwneud y gwaith caled y mae angen inni ei wneud er mwyn sicrhau bod hon yn gyfraith dda.

Ynglŷn â'ch sylwadau ar y cynllun plant, gobeithiaf allu delio â'r pwyntiau a wnaethoch. Mae'r Mesur arfaethedig yn gosod dyletswydd sylw dyledus ar bob penderfyniad strategol gan Weinidogion ynghylch sut y gweithredant eu swyddogaethau. Cyplysir hynny â dyletswydd ar Weinidogion Cymru i gyhoeddi'r cynllun plant. Bydd y cynllun yn rhoi inni fanylion am y meini prawf ar gyfer penderfynu a ydyw penderfyniad yn un strategol ai peidio, a threfniadau mewnol y Llywodraeth ar gyfer sicrhau y cydymffurfir â'r ddyletswydd sylw dyledus honno. Felly, ni fydd mwyach angen pennu swyddogaethau perthnasol fel y cynigiwyd yn flaenorol. Yr ydym wedi symud ymlaen o'r sefyllfa honno fel bod gan hyn natur dreiddiol ar draws pob

made.

swyddogaeth sy'n hanfodol berthnasol. Gobeithio bod hynny'n ateb y pwynt a wnaethoch.

On your points regarding youth justice, perhaps this is a matter for another day, but Professor Rod Morgan's report is awaiting consideration. There will be a great deal of interest among all of us in Wales as to the way forward on youth justice issues. There are strong feelings about what the way forward ought to be, but we should let the process of Rod Morgan's report, which is currently doing its rounds in government, mature. We will come back to that debate at another time.

Ar eich pwyntiau ynglŷn â chyfiawnder ieuencid, efallai mai mater ar gyfer diwrnod arall yw hyn, ond mae adroddiad yr Athro Rod Morgan yn aros i'w ystyried. Bydd llawer iawn o ddiddordeb ymysg pawb ohonom yng Nghymru parthed y ffordd ymlaen ar faterion cyfiawnder ieuencid. Mae teimladau cryfion ynghylch beth ddylai fod y ffordd ymlaen, ond dylem adael i broses adroddiad Rod Morgan, sydd ar ei daith o gwmpas y llywodraeth ar hyn o bryd, aeddfedu. Deuwn yn ôl at y ddadl honno ryw bryd arall.

Y Llywydd: Diolch yn fawr i'r Dirprwy Weinidog.

The Presiding Officer: I thank the Deputy Minister very much.

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd (Rosemary Butler) i'r Gadair am 4.10 p.m.
The Deputy Presiding Officer (Rosemary Butler) took the Chair at 4.10 p.m.*

Trosedd a Diogelwch Cymunedol Crime and Community Safety

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendment 1 in the name of Nick Ramsay and amendment 2 in the name of Peter Black.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliant 1 yn enw Nick Ramsay a gwelliant 2 yn enw Peter Black.

The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government (Carl Sargeant): I move that

Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol (Carl Sargeant): Cynigiau fod

the National Assembly for Wales:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

1. welcomes the sustained reduction in crime in Wales in recent years; and

1. yn croesawu'r gostyngiad yn lefelau troseddu yng Nghymru yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf, a hynny am gyfnod hir; ac

2. recognises the contribution that the Welsh Assembly Government's funding for crime reduction and community safety activity as well as the overall increase in funding from the Home Office and the Welsh Assembly Government since 1999 has made in achieving this reduction. (NDM4493)

2. yn cydnabod cyfraniad cyllid Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer lleihau troseddu ac ar gyfer gweithgareddau i ddiogelu cymunedau, yn ogystal â'r cynnydd cyffredinol yn y cyllid oddi wrth y Swyddfa Gartref a Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ers 1999, yn y gwaith o sicrhau'r gostyngiad hwn. (NDM4493)

I welcome this opportunity to debate these important issues today and to highlight the

Croesawaf y cyfle i drafod y materion pwysig hyn heddiw ac i dynnu sylw at y gwaith

excellent work that has been carried out by our partner agencies in tackling crime, supported by funding from the Welsh Assembly Government and the Home Office. It is important to the people of Wales to feel safe in their homes and in their communities. We have made great strides in recent years towards achieving our goal of making Wales a safer country, giving people a sense of security.

The British crime survey shows that there was a significant decrease in the number of people who feel that anti-social behaviour is an issue in their neighbourhood in 2008-09 when compared with the figures for 2007-08. However, the achievements do not end with the figures relating to the perception of crime. I am pleased to report that there has been an overall reduction in reported crime of 12 per cent between 2004-05 and 2008-09. Almost all of the categories of recorded crime have shown a reduction: violence against the person has reduced by 11 per cent between 2004-05 and 2008-09, and offences against the person have reduced by 28 per cent in the same period. In 2008-09, the total recorded crime rate in Wales was below the rate for England and lower than six of the nine English Government Office regions. The BCS reports that the risk of victimisation for both personal and household crime in 2008-09 was lower in Wales than for England and Wales as a whole.

That is due to the tireless work of our dedicated police officers and other partners. The work of community safety partnerships, which include local authorities, local health boards and fire and rescue services, is also very important. I pay tribute to the work of all these bodies and, of course, to all the individuals involved in making our streets safer. I also welcome the fact that they have been supported to do that over the past decade through large increases in funding. Between 1999-2000 and 2010-11, core funding for the delivery of policing services in Wales provided by the Home Office and the Welsh Assembly Government has increased by 33 per cent.

I am pleased that making our communities

rhagorol sydd wedi'i wneud gan yr asiantaethau sy'n bartneriaid inni wrth fynd i'r afael â throseddau, gyda chymorth nawdd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a'r Swyddfa Gartref. Mae'n bwysig i bobl Cymru deimlo'n ddiogel yn eu cartrefi ac yn eu cymunedau. Yr ydym wedi cymryd camau breision yn y blynyddoedd diweddar tuag at wireddu ein nod o wneud Cymru yn wlad fwy diogel, gan roi ymdeimlad o sicrwydd i bobl.

Dengys arolwg troseddau Prydain y bu cwmp sylweddol yn nifer y bobl sy'n teimlo bod ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yn broblem yn eu cymdogaeth yn 2008-09 o gymharu â ffigurau 2007-08. Fodd bynnag, nid y ffigurau ynghylch canfyddiad trosedd yw pen draw'r hyn a gyflawnwyd. Mae'n dda gennyf adrodd bod troseddau a adroddwyd wedi mynd i lawr 12 y cant rhwng 2004-05 a 2008-09. Mae bron bob categori trosedd cofnodedig wedi dangos lleihad: cafwyd lleihad o 11 y cant mewn trais corfforol rhwng 2004-05 a 2008-09, ac aeth troseddau corfforol i lawr 28 y cant yn yr un cyfnod. Yn 2008-09, yr oedd y cyfanswm trosedd cofnodedig yng Nghymru'n is nag yn Lloegr ac yn is nag yn chwech allan o naw rhanbarth Swyddfa Llywodraeth Lloegr. Yn ôl yr arolwg, yr oedd y perygl o ddioddef trosedd corfforol ac i eiddo yn 2008-09 yn is yng Nghymru nag ar gyfer Cymru a Lloegr fel cyfanwydd.

Mae hynny i'w briodoli i waith diflino ein heddlu ymroddedig a phartneriaid eraill. Mae gwaith partneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol, sy'n cynnwys awdurdodau lleol, byrddau iechyd lleol a gwasanaethau tân ac achub, yn bwysig iawn hefyd. Talaf deyrnged i waith y cyrff hyn i gyd ac, wrth gwrs, i'r holl unigolion sy'n cyfrannu at wneud ein strydoedd yn fwy diogel. Croesawaf y ffaith hefyd y cawsant gefnogaeth i wneud hynny dros y ddegawd ddiwethaf drwy godiadau mawr mewn cyllid. Rhwng 1999-2000 a 2010-11, mae'r cyllid craidd ar gyfer cyflenwi gwasanaethau plismona yng Nghymru a ddarperir gan y Swyddfa Gartref a Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi cynyddu 33 y cant.

Yr wyf yn falch mai gwneud ein

safer was one of the priorities of the last Labour Government. It continues to be the priority of this Government, but we know that things will be made increasingly difficult for forces in Wales. As part of the in-year cuts of £6.2 billion announced by HM Treasury on 24 May, they will see their revenue and capital budgets cut this year. While we know that Welsh police forces will be working hard to do all they can to ensure those cuts do not affect front-line policing, it is inevitable that there will be reductions in capacity.

Some areas of police spending have so far remained untouched, but others will see a reduction. For example, the cuts will hit the rural policing grant, which provides funding for forces where sparsity makes policing more difficult, such as North Wales Police and Dyfed-Powys Police. Dyfed-Powys has used its grant to better equip rural police stations, to maintain a force communications centre to process all non-emergency calls and those with a rural focus, and to meet the staffing costs of officers who specifically provide a greater visible presence in rural communities, including dog handlers and civilian firearms inquiry officers. We do not yet know the full impact that that will have. There is also the forensic grant, which enables police authorities to buy in specialist forensic services from organisations such as the Forensic Science Service. Budgets for training, which support student officers during their two-year probationary period within the framework of national occupational standards, will also be hit.

These Tory-Lib Dem cuts will be hard for our police forces to take and with their cuts also impacting across Assembly Government budgets; it will be even more difficult to continue to ensure that crime and the fear of crime continue to reduce in Wales. Nevertheless, as with all our priorities across Government, I am determined to do all we can to protect the most vulnerable members of our society. I recently attended the launch of the community safety reassurance scheme for older people. The campaign offers three

cymunedau'n fwy diogel oedd un o flaenoriaethau'r Llywodraeth Lafur ddiwethaf. Mae'n parhau i fod yn flaenoriaeth gan y Llywodraeth hon, ond gwyddom y daw pethau'n fwyfwy anodd i heddluoedd yng Nghymru. Fel rhan o'r toriadau o fewn y flwyddyn, sef £6.2 biliwn, a gyhoeddwyd gan Drysorlys Ei Mawrhydi ar 24 Mai, gwelant gwtogi eu cyllidebau refeniw a chyfalaf eleni. Tra gwyddom y bydd heddluoedd Cymru yn gweithio'n galed i wneud popeth a allant i sicrhau na fydd y toriadau hyn yn effeithio ar blismona rheng flaen, mae'n anochel na fyddant yn gallu cyflawni cymaint.

Mae rhai meysydd gwariant heddlu heb eu cyffwrdd hyd yma, ond bydd eraill yn gweld lleihad. Er enghraifft, bydd y toriadau'n taro'r grant plismona gwledig, sy'n darparu cyllid i heddluoedd lle mae poblogaeth wasgaredig yn ei gwneud yn anodd plismona, fel Heddlu Gogledd Cymru a Heddlu Dyfed Powys. Mae Dyfed Powys wedi defnyddio'i grant i roi gwell offer i swyddfeydd heddlu gwledig, cynnal canolfan gyfathrebu i brosesu pob galwad nad yw'n alwad frys a galwadau gwledig eu natur, a thalu costau staffio swyddogion sy'n darparu mwy o bresenoldeb gweledig yn benodol mewn cymunedau gwledig, gan gynnwys trafodwyr cŵn a swyddogion ymholiadau am ddrylliau sifiliaid. Ni wyddom eto beth fydd effaith lawn hynny. Ceir y grant fforensig hefyd, sy'n galluogi awdurdodau heddlu i brynu gwasanaethau fforensig arbenigol i mewn oddi wrth sefydliadau fel y Gwasanaeth Gwyddoniaeth Fforensig. Bydd ergyd hefyd i gyllidebau hyfforddi, sy'n cynnal swyddogion dan hyfforddiant yn ystod eu cyfnod prawf dwy flynedd o fewn fframwaith safonau galwedigaethol cenedlaethol.

Bydd y toriadau hyn gan y Toriaid a'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn galed i'n heddluoedd eu cymryd, ac wrth i'w toriadau effeithio hefyd ar draws cyllidebau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, bydd yn anoddach byth parhau i sicrhau bod trosedd ac ofn trosedd yn dal i fynd i lawr yng Nghymru. Serch hynny, fel gyda'n holl flaenoriaethau ar draws y Llywodraeth, yr wyf yn benderfynol i wneud popeth a allwn i warchod aelodau mwyaf bregus ein cymdeithas. Yn ddiweddar euthum i lansiad y

clear steps to help decrease the number of rogue trader and distraction burglary victims across Wales. We have made £500,000 available to support this worthwhile initiative.

It is not only the elderly in our communities who are vulnerable. I recently launched 'The Right to be Safe', the Welsh Assembly Government's six-year strategy for tackling violence against women and domestic abuse. I have added £1 million to the domestic abuse and violence against women budget for 2010-11, making a total budget of £4.4 million, to aid the delivery of the implementation plan. It is also worth noting that it is important that we not only support the victims of violence and domestic abuse, but also challenge the underlying perceptions and stereotypes that can lead to violence and abuse of women. That is why, on 27 May, I launched the Violence Against Women publicity campaign, which aims to challenge people's perceptions about where harmlessness ends and abuse begins. The campaign includes television advertisements, posters and a website, and I am sure that it will generate much debate about this important problem, which is expected to affect one in four women in Wales over the next year.

Youth offending is a crime issue that concerns many people. The Welsh Assembly Government's Safer Communities fund is providing £4.5 million for the community safety partnerships during 2010-11 to support the all-Wales youth offending strategy. The fund supports projects that tackle youth crime, including anti-social behaviour. In 2009-10, the fund facilitated around 170 projects, including schemes relating to education, training and the prevention of substance misuse. The link between substance misuse and crime, including domestic violence and youth crime, is well documented, and statistics show that almost half of all violent crime is related to alcohol. In addition, acquisitive crime, with people stealing to fund drug misuse, continues to be an issue. Our substance misuse strategy, now made available to partners, has a big impact.

cynllun sicrwydd diogelwch cymunedol i bobl hŷn. Mae'r ymgyrch yn cynnig tri cham clir i helpu gostwng nifer y rhai sy'n dioddef gan fasnachwyr twyllodrus a byrgleriaeth tynnu sylw ledled Cymru. Yr ydym wedi darparu £500,000 i gynnal y fenter werth chweil hon.

Nid yr henoed yn ein cymunedau yn unig sy'n agored i niwed. Yn ddiweddar lansiais 'Yr Hawl i fod yn Ddiogel', strategaeth chwe blynedd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer mynd i'r afael â thrais yn erbyn menywod a cham-drin yn y cartref. Yr wyf wedi ychwanegu £1 miliwn i'r gyllideb cam-drin yn y cartref a thrais yn erbyn menywod am 2010-11, i roi cyfanswm cyllideb o £4.4 miliwn, i helpu gwireddu'r cynllun gweithredu. Mae'n werth nodi hefyd ei bod yn bwysig ein bod nid yn unig yn cefnogi rhai sy'n dioddef trais a cham-drin yn y cartref, ond hefyd yn herio'r ystrydebau a'r canfyddiadau gwaelodol a all arwain at drais a cham-drin merched. Dyna pam, ar 27 Mai, y lansiais yr ymgyrch cyhoedduswydd Trais yn Erbyn Menywod, sy'n ceisio herio canfyddiadau pobl ynghylch y terfyn rhwng ymddygiad diniwed a cham-drin. Mae'r ymgyrch yn cynnwys hysbysebion teledu, posterï a gwefan, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y gwnaiff ysgogi llawer o ddadlau am y broblem bwysig hon, y disgwylir iddi effeithio ar un mewn pedair o fenywod yng Nghymru yn y flwyddyn nesaf.

Mae troseddau ieuencid yn fater sy'n effeithio ar lawer o bobl. Mae cronfa Cymunedau Diogelach Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn darparu £4.5 miliwn i'r partneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol yn ystod 2010-11 i gefnogi strategaeth troseddwy'r ifanc Cymru gyfan. Mae'r gronfa'n cefnogi prosiectau sy'n mynd i'r afael â throseddau ieuencid, gan gynnwys ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol. Yn 2009-10, hwylusodd y gronfa ryw 170 o brosiectau, gan gynnwys cynlluniau'n ymwneud ag addysg, hyfforddiant ac atal camddefnydd sylweddau. Mae digon o dystiolaeth o'r cysylltiad rhwng camddefnyddio sylweddau a throseddu, gan gynnwys trais yn y cartref a throseddau ieuencid, a dengys ystadegau fod bron i hanner yr holl droseddu treisgar yn gysylltiedig ag alcohol. Ar ben hynny, mae troseddu caffaelgar, gyda phobl yn dwyn er

Class-A drug use is often linked to acquisitive crime and figures show that, between 2003-04 and 2007-08, acquisitive crime fell by 25 per cent, representing a reduction of nearly 39,000 offences across Wales. The figure for 2008-09 shows a further reduction of 7 per cent, amounting to 3,500 offences.

Nearly half of all victims of violence feel that the perpetrator of the crime was under the influence of alcohol, and clearly more work needs to be done on that. I am working with my colleague, Edwina Hart, on that and she has recently written to the Secretary of State for Health to welcome the relevant commitment in the coalition agreement of the UK Government and to highlight the need for further action—for example, the need to introduce public health as a statutory objective in the Licensing Act 2003.

These are some of our achievements over the years. Despite the fact that policing is not devolved, I believe that we have made a real difference to this agenda. Members will be aware of the 'One Wales' commitment to consider the evidence for the devolution of the criminal justice system. The scoping work in that context is nearly complete. One of our key considerations, particularly in the current economic climate, is the significant financial and administrative burden on the Welsh Assembly Government, which will have to be seriously considered. Regardless of the outcome of the initial scoping work, we will continue to take every possible opportunity to influence the UK Government in relation to criminal justice issues that affect Wales. We will do all that we can to ensure that the cuts that the Tory and Lib Dem Government is making do not detract from the good work that is being done in Wales to make our communities safer.

The financial climate in which we find ourselves will undoubtedly test our ability to

mwyn talu am gamddefnydd cyffuriau, yn parhau i fod yn broblem. Mae ein strategaeth camddefnydd sylweddau, sydd wedi'i darparu i'n partneriaid erbyn hyn, yn cael effaith fawr. Mae defnydd cyffuriau dosbarth A yn gysylltiedig yn aml â throsteddu caffaelgar a dengys ffigurau fod trosteddu caffaelgar rhwng 2003-04 a 2007-08 wedi cwmpo 25 y cant, sef lleihad o bron 39,000 o droseddau ar draws Cymru. Mae'r ffigur ar gyfer 2008-09 yn dangos lleihad pellach o 7 y cant, sef 3,500 o droseddau.

Mae bron hanner dioddefwyr trais yn teimlo bod y sawl a gyflawnodd y drosedd dan ddylanwad alcohol, ac yn amlwg mae angen gwneud mwy o waith ar hynny. Yr wyf yn gweithio gyda'm cyd-Weinidog, Edwina Hart, ar hynny ac mae hi wedi ysgrifennu'n ddiweddar at yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Iechyd i groesawu'r ymrwymiad perthnasol yng nghytundeb clymblaid Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig ac i bwysleisio'r angen am weithredu pellach—er enghraifft, yr angen i gyflwyno iechyd cyhoeddus fel amcan strategol yn Neddf Drwyddedu 2003.

Dyma rai o'r pethau yr ydym wedi'u cyflawni dros y blynyddoedd. Er gwaethaf y ffaith nad yw plismona wedi'i ddatganoli, credaf ein bod wedi gwneud gwahaniaeth go iawn i'r agenda hon. Bydd Aelodau'n ymwybodol o ymrwymiad 'Cymru'n Un' i ystyried y dystiolaeth dros ddatganoli'r system cyfiawnder trosteddol. Mae'r gwaith cwmpasu yn y cyd-destun hwnnw bron wedi'i gwblhau. Un o'n hystyriaethau allweddol, yn enwedig yn yr hinsawdd economaidd bresennol, yw'r baich ariannol a gweinyddol sylweddol ar Lywodraeth y Cynulliad, y bydd yn rhaid ei ystyried o ddifrif. Beth bynnag fydd canlyniad y gwaith cwmpasu cychwynnol, parhawn i gymryd pob cyfle posibl i ddylanwadu ar Lywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig mewn perthynas â materion cyfiawnder trosteddol sy'n effeithio ar Gymru. Gwnawn bopeth a allwn i sicrhau na fydd y toriadau y mae'r Llywodraeth Doriadaidd a Democrataidd Rhyddfrydol yn eu gwneud yn tynnu oddi ar y gwaith da sy'n cael ei wneud yng Nghymru i wneud ein cymunedau'n ddiogelach.

Bydd yr hinsawdd economaidd y cawn ein hunain ynnddi yn ddi-os yn gosod prawf ar ein

sustain our achievements in the coming years. At such times, there is an understandable temptation to cut back on activities with partners, to retreat into silos and to focus on our core responsibilities. I firmly believe that this is a time when we should collaborate more, not less, working together to find better and more efficient ways of delivering to our citizens. It is a huge challenge, but it is one that I believe that we can meet. I commend the motion to you.

Mark Isherwood: I move amendment 1 in the name of Nick Ramsay. Add a new point at the end of the motion:

regrets increases in incidences of 'violence against the person' since 1998-99 and notes with concern evidence that the public has little trust in official crime statistics.

The new UK Government believes that we need radical action to reform our criminal justice system. We need police forces with greater freedom from ministerial control, so that they are better able to deal with the crime and anti-social behaviour that blights people's lives, and are more accountable to the public that they serve.

Crime statistics are not trusted by the public. A Cabinet Office review in 2009 found that only three out of 1,502 people polled used official crime statistics for understanding what was happening with crime. The Police Federation of England and Wales has reported crimes being reclassified to support performance indicators and penalty notices being used to manipulate figures to meet targets, while failing to achieve an improvement in services. Labour has proved to be a serial manipulator of official statistics, and a new approach is required.

Prior to the general election, Conservatives announced plans to abolish the pre-release access that Ministers, officials and special advisors have to crime statistics. The new UK Government will work to restore faith in crime statistics and will make their compilation independent.

gallu i gynnal ein llwyddiannau yn y blynyddoedd i ddod. Ar adegau fel hyn, ceir temtasiwn dealladwy i dorri'n ôl ar weithgareddau gyda phartneriaid, encilio i seilos a chanolbwyntio ar ein cyfrifoldebau craidd. Credaf yn gryf fod hon yn adeg pryd y dylem gydweithio mwy, nid llai, a gweithio gyda'n gilydd i ganfod ffyrdd gwell a mwy effeithlon i gyflawni dros ein dinasyddion. Mae'n her enfawr, ond mae'n un y credaf y gallwn ei hateb. Cymeradwyaf y cynnig i chi.

Mark Isherwood: Cynigiau welliant 1 yn enw Nick Ramsay. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn gresynu at y cynnydd yn nifer y digwyddiadau o 'drais yn erbyn y person' ers 1998-99, ac yn nodi â phryder y dystiolaeth mai ychydig iawn o ffydd sydd gan y cyhoedd mewn ystadegau troseddu swyddogol.

Mae Llywodraeth newydd y Deyrnas Unedig yn credu bod angen gweithredu radical i ddiwygio ein system cyfiawnder troseddol. Mae arnom angen heddluoedd â mwy o ryddid oddi wrth reolaeth weinidogol, fel eu bod yn fwy abl i ddelio â'r troseddu a'r ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol sy'n falltodd ar fywydau pobl, a'u bod yn fwy atebol i'r cyhoedd a wasanaethant.

Nid oes gan y cyhoedd ffydd mewn ystadegau troseddu. Canfu adolygiad gan Swyddfa'r Cabinet yn 2009 mai dim ond tri allan o 1,502 o bobl a holwyd a ddefnyddiai ystadegau troseddu swyddogol i ddeall beth oedd yn digwydd gyda throseddu. Mae Ffederasiwn Heddlu Cymru a Lloegr wedi adrodd am ailddosbarthu troseddau i ategu dangosyddion perfformiad a defnyddio rhybuddion cosb i ystumio ffigurau er mwyn cyrraedd targedau, heb sicrhau gwelliant mewn gwasanaethau. Mae Llafur wedi profi i fod yn hen law ar ystumio ystadegau swyddogol, ac mae angen ffordd newydd.

Cyn yr etholiad cyffredinol, cyhoeddodd y Ceidwadwyr gynlluniau i ddiddymu'r hawl sydd gan Weinidogion, swyddogion a chynghorwyr arbennig i weld ystadegau troseddu cyn eu rhyddhau. Bydd Llywodraeth newydd y Deyrnas Unedig yn gweithio i adfer ffydd mewn ystadegau troseddu ac yn sicrhau y cânt eu casglu'n annibynnol.

4.20 p.m.

Contrary to today's Welsh Government motion, there has been no sustained reduction in crime in recent years. The apparent 9 per cent reduction in crime in the decade since 1998-99 is almost entirely made up of a reduction in burglary and fraud, masking the worrying upward trends elsewhere. Police-recorded crime figures for Wales show that between 1998-99 and 2008-09, the incidence of crimes categorised as 'violence against the person' rose by almost 48 per cent, from 32,000 to nearly 47,500. The number of sexual offences, drug offences and robbery increased too. Hence, we have amendment 1, which regrets the increases in incidences of 'violence against the person' since 1998-99 and notes, with concern, evidence that the public has little trust in official crime statistics.

In its motion, the Welsh Government also praises the Labour Home Office and itself for the provision of funding for crime reduction and community safety. In reality, the police federation has stated that complex and unwieldy funding arrangements for policing in Wales, between local government, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Home Office, display a failure to understand the multiplying demands of modern-day policing. Labour announced police cuts worth £545 million before the general election.

Ministry of Justice figures show that the number of adults who reoffend has risen in five of the last seven years, and that the number of offences classified as severe has increased since 2000. Seventy-seven per cent of the 817 young people aged 10 to 17 who were released in England and Wales in the first quarter of 2006 were convicted of a further offence within 12 months. Drug offences in Wales have risen 45 per cent since 2005, to 13,326 recorded incidents in 2008-09. Denbighshire has the greatest incidence in Wales, followed by Cardiff and Newport.

Jeff Cuthbert: As usual, you are doing your very best to paint as black a picture as

Yn groes i gynnig Llywodraeth Cymru heddiw, ni fu dim lleihad cyson mewn troseddau yn y blynyddoedd diweddar. Mae'r lleihad ymddangosiadol o 9 y cant mewn troseddau yn y degawd er 1998-99 wedi'i ffurfio bron yn gyfan gwbl gan leihad mewn lladrata o dai ac mewn twyll, gan guddio'r tueddiadau ar i fyny mewn manau eraill, sy'n destun pryder. Dengys ffigurau troseddu Cymru a gofnodwyd gan yr heddlu fod amllder troseddau a ddosbarthwyd fel 'trais corfforol' wedi codi bron 48 y cant, o 32,000 i bron 47,500. Cynyddu a wnaeth nifer y troseddau rhyw, troseddau cyffuriau ac ysbeilio hefyd. Felly, wele welliant 1, sy'n gresynu'r cynnydd yn nifer y digwyddiadau o 'drais yn erbyn y person' ers 1998-99, ac yn nodi, â phryder, y dystiolaeth mai ychydig iawn o ffydd sydd gan y cyhoedd mewn ystadegau troseddu swyddogol.

Yn ei chynnig, mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn canmol Swyddfa Gartref Llafur a hi'i hun hefyd am ddarparu cyllid ar gyfer lleihau trosedd a diogelwch cymunedol. Mewn gwirionedd, mae ffederasiwn yr heddlu wedi datgan bod trefniadau cyllido cymhleth ac anhylaw ar gyfer plismona yng Nghymru, rhwng llywodraeth leol, Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a'r Swyddfa Gartref, yn dangos methiant i ddeall galwadau cynyddol plismona yn yr oes sydd ohoni. Cyhoeddodd Llafur doriadau heddlu gwerth £545 miliwn cyn yr etholiad cyffredinol.

Dengys ffigurau'r Weinyddiaeth Gyfiawnder fod nifer yr oedolion sy'n aildroseddu wedi codi mewn pump o'r saith mlynedd ddiwethaf, a bod nifer y troseddau a ddosbarthwyd fel rhai difrifol wedi cynyddu ers 2000. Cafwyd 77 y cant o'r 817 o bobl ifanc 10 i 17 oed a ryddhawyd yng Nghymru a Lloegr yn chwarter cyntaf 2006 yn euog o drosedd arall o fewn 12 mis. Mae troseddau cyffuriau yng Nghymru wedi cynyddu 45 y cant er 2005, i 13,326 o achosion cofnodedig yn 2008-09. Yn sir Ddinbych y mae'r mwyaf o achosion yng Nghymru, wedyn Caerdydd a Chasnewydd.

Jeff Cuthbert: Yn ôl eich arfer, yr ydych yn gwneud eich gorau glas i beintio darlun mor

possible and to frighten people. However, how is this situation to be helped by the cuts that your new Government has now announced to the police budget?

Mark Isherwood: These are Labour's legacy cuts. You had already started with cuts of £545 million. [ASSEMBLY MEMBERS: 'Oh.'] You may mock, but you should be ashamed of yourselves and apologise.

The National Audit Office says that a failure to tackle the criminality of 60,000 prisoners who serve sentences shorter than 12 months is costing the UK between £7 billion and £10 billion annually in reoffending costs. We will never bring our crime rate down or start to reduce the costs of crime until we properly rehabilitate ex-prisoners.

As the UK Conservative manifesto said, when offenders leave prison, they will be trained and rehabilitated by private and voluntary providers, under supervision. We will also ensure that sentencing for drug use helps offenders to come off drugs. In Wales, this highlights the urgent need for residential drug and alcohol detoxification and rehabilitation centres, and residential centres for veterans suffering from complex post-traumatic stress disorder. Veterans comprise 10 per cent of our prison population. It is disgraceful that English primary care trusts are funding veteran placements at Pathways in Bangor when referrals from Wales go unfunded.

Statistics issued by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales report a reduction in first-time entrants to the youth justice system in Wales and in the numbers reoffending. However, the youth justice board has confirmed that these figures do not include those issued with penalty notices for disorder—a key Labour Government measure to persuade the public that anti-social behaviour was being addressed. Effective early intervention is required to reduce the number of first-time entrants to the youth justice system in Wales.

ddu ag sy'n bosibl ac i ddychryn pobl. Fodd bynnag, sut yr helpir y sefyllfa hon gan y toriadau y mae eich Llywodraeth newydd bellach wedi'u cyhoeddi i gyllideb yr heddlu?

Mark Isherwood: Toriadau gwaddol Llafur yw'r rhain. Yr oeddech eisoes wedi dechrau gyda £545 miliwn o doriadau. [AELODAU'R CYNULLIAD: 'O.'] Gallwch watwar, ond dylech gywilyddio ac ymddiheuro.

Dywed y Swyddfa Archwilio Genedlaethol fod methiant i fynd i'r afael â throeddgarwch 60,000 o garcharorion sy'n cyflawni dedfrydau byrrach na 12 mis yn costio rhwng £7 biliwn a £10 biliwn i'r Deyrnas Unedig yn flynyddol mewn costau aildroseddu. Ni wnawn fyth ddod â'n cyfradd droseddu i lawr na dechrau lleihau costau troseddu nes inni adsefydlu cyn-garcharorion yn iawn.

Fel y dywedodd maniffesto plaid Geidwadol y Deyrnas Unedig, pan ddaw troseddwy'r allan o'r carchar, cânt eu hyfforddi a'u hadsefydlu gan ddarparwyr preifat a gwirfoddol, dan oruchwyliaeth. Sicrhawn hefyd y bydd dedfrydau am ddefnyddio cyffuriau'n helpu troseddwy'r i roi'r gorau i gyffuriau. Yng Nghymru, mae hyn yn amlygu'r angen dirfawr am ganolfannau preswyl ar gyfer dadwenwyno ac adsefydlu ar ôl cyffuriau ac alcohol, a chanolfannau preswyl i gyn-filwyr sy'n dioddef anhwylder straen wedi trawma cymhleth. Cyn-filwyr yw 10 y cant o boblogaeth ein carchardai. Mae'n warthus fod ymddiriedolaethau gofal sylfaenol o Loegr yn talu am leoli cyn-filwyr yn Pathways ym Mangor tra nad oes cyllid ar gyfer cyfeirio pobl o Gymru.

Mae ystadegau a gyhoeddwyd gan Fwrdd Cyfiawnder Ieuenctid Cymru a Lloegr yn dangos bod llai yn dod i mewn i'r system cyfiawnder ieuenctid am y tro cyntaf yng Nghymru a llai'n aildroseddu. Fodd bynnag, mae'r bwrdd cyfiawnder ieuenctid wedi cadarnhau nad yw'r ffigurau hyn yn cynnwys rhai a gafodd rybuddion cosb am anhrefn—mesur allweddol gan y Llywodraeth Lafur i ddarbwylllo'r cyhoedd fod rhywbeth yn cael ei wneud am ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol. Mae angen ymyrryd yn gynnar ac yn effeithiol i leihau nifer y rhai sy'n dod i mewn i'r system cyfiawnder ieuenctid am y

tro cyntaf yng Nghymru.

We cannot rebuild social responsibility from on high. We need to restore confidence in the criminal justice system, to bring a new focus to rehabilitation and to redesign our prisons for the twenty-first century, reflecting the four pillars of sentencing: punishment, reparation, rehabilitation and work. As David Cameron has pledged to all the people who live their lives in fear and who cannot protect themselves, the UK Government will reform the police, reform the courts, reform the prisons and be there to protect you.

Eleanor Burnham: I move amendment 2 in the name of Peter Black. Add a new point at the end of the motion:

recognises the importance of police officers in reducing crime and regrets that the number of police officers in Wales has fallen by more than 200 since 2006.

It has been interesting to hear the Government's view on the reduction of crime in England and Wales. To be honest, the Lib Dems and the Conservatives have been given credit for so much by this Government in the past few weeks that I am surprised that it has not given us retrospective credit for the 2009 crime statistics as well.

I endorse both the amendments that have been put forward today and I would like to voice my reasons for doing so. This is an example of where a reduction in percentage figures can sometimes foster a false sense of security.

Crime figures, like any other statistics, can often appear to be something that they are not. However, the December 2009 quarterly update shows that while there has been a 3 per cent reduction in violence against the person, the number of recorded offences in England and Wales is still 884,579, which is about 2,400 offences a day. The number of recorded sexual offences has also risen. The reason for that may be that more people are coming forward to report the crime; however, it is worth noting that, despite the nominal 2 per cent rise, the number of sexual offences

Ni allwn ailadeiladu cyfrifoldeb cymdeithasol oddi fry. Mae angen inni adfer hyder yn y system cyfiawnder troseddol, dod â ffocws newydd i waith adsefydlu, ac ailddylunio ein carchardai ar gyfer yr unfed ganrif ar hugain, i adlewyrchu pedair colofn dedfrydu: cosb, gwneud iawn, adsefydlu a gwaith. Fel yr addawodd David Cameron i'r holl bobl sy'n byw eu bywydau mewn ofn ac sy'n methu gwarchod eu hunain, bydd Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig yn diwygio'r heddlu, yn diwygio'r llysoedd, yn diwygio'r carchardai ac yno i'ch diogelu.

Eleanor Burnham: Cynigiau welliant 2 yn enw Peter Black. Ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd swyddogion heddlu wrth leihau troseddu ac yn gresynu at y ffaith bod dros 200 yn llai o swyddogion heddlu yng Nghymru o'i gymharu â 2006.

Diddorol fu clywed barn y Llywodraeth am leihau troseddu yng Nghymru a Lloegr. A dweud y gwir, mae'r Llywodraeth hon wedi rhoi clod am gymaint o bethau i'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol a'r Ceidwadwyr yn yr ychydig wythnosau diwethaf nes fy mod yn synnu nad yw wedi rhoi clod ôl-weithredol inni am ystadegau troseddu 2009 hefyd.

Ategfaf y ddau welliant sydd wedi'u cynnig heddiw, a hoffwn leisio fy rhesymau dros wneud hynny. Dyma enghraifft o fan lle gall lleihad mewn ffigurau canrannol weithiau feithrin teimlad ffug o ddiogelwch.

Gall ffigurau trosedd, fel unrhyw ystadegau eraill, ymddangos yn aml yn rhywbeth nad ydynt. Fodd bynnag, dengys diweddariad chwarterol Rhagfyr 2009 er y bu gostyngiad 3 y cant mewn trais yn erbyn y person, bod nifer y troseddau a gofnodwyd yng Nghymru a Lloegr o hyd yn 884,579, sef tua 2,400 o droseddau y dydd. Mae nifer y troseddau rhyw a gofnodwyd wedi codi hefyd. Gall hynny fod oherwydd bod mwy o bobl yn dod ymlaen i adrodd am y drosedd; fodd bynnag, mae'n werth nodi, er gwaethaf y cynnydd 2 y cant mewn enw, mai 53,239 oedd nifer y

recorded in England and Wales was 53,239, which is about 146 offences every day. We have no way of knowing how many offences were either not reported or not recorded. These figures must come down because each statistic represents at least one person whose life has possibly been harmed forever. It is not just about physical harm as these offences can also cause huge mental distress.

The child crime figures are staggering in Wales. Last year, 7,559 children were arrested; 299 of them were under the age of 12. We know from the testimony that we receive in various committees, from common sense and from what we knew in life before we arrived here, that early intervention, with serious investment, which was discussed with the Deputy Minister for Children in the previous debate, is essential. Given the cuts that we know that we are unfortunately going to experience, we must make more seamless and sensible investments.

The devolution of youth justice is an aspiration that I discussed in the earlier debate. Many of us agree with the testimony that we have received on that matter. Restorative justice must take precedence over punitive knee-jerk sentencing because prison is most definitely not the answer for many people, particularly youngsters. The victim surcharge and the victims' funds could also be used to provide direct non-financial support to the victims and witnesses of crimes through support organisations. I have contacted the Minister's office about how much of the surcharge makes its way to Wales, but I am yet to receive a reply.

Steps are being taken in our communities to address crime. A lot of very good work is being done. Police and Communities Together meetings are now the norm and they bring a police presence to communities so that, together, they can identify criminals and prevent crime. There is a lot of evidence to suggest that people's perceptions of crime, and particularly those of older people, are far worse than what happens on the ground. However, the Police Federation of England and Wales is concerned about the way in which its members are being treated by the

troseddau rhyw a gofnodwyd yng Nghymru a Lloegr, sef tua 146 o droseddau y dydd. Nid oes gennym unrhyw fodd o wybod faint o droseddau na chafodd eu hadrodd neu na chafodd eu cofnodi. Rhaid i'r ffigurau hyn ddod i lawr oherwydd mae pob ystadegyn yn cynrychioli o leiaf un person y mae ei fywyd wedi'i niweidio am byth o bosibl. Nid mater o niwed corfforol yn unig ydyw, gan y gall y troseddau hyn achosi trallod meddyliol enfawr hefyd.

Mae ffigurau troseddu plant yn ysgytwol yng Nghymru. Y llynedd, arestiodd 7,559 o blant; yr oedd 299 ohonynt dan 12 oed. Gwyddom o'r dystiolaeth a gawn mewn amryfal bwyllgorau, o synnwyr cyffredin ac o'r hyn a wyddem am fywyd cyn dod yma, fod ymyrryd cynnar, gyda buddsoddiad sylweddol, a drafodwyd gyda'r Dirprwy Weinidog dros Blant yn y ddadl flaenorol, yn hanfodol. Yn wyneb y toriadau y gwyddom ein bod, ysywaeth, yn mynd i'w profi, rhaid inni wneud buddsoddiadau mwy diwniadau a chall.

Mae datganoli cyfiawnder ieuenctid yn ddyhead a drafodais yn y ddadl gynharach. Mae llawer ohonom yn cytuno â'r dystiolaeth a gawsom ar y mater hwnnw. Rhaid i gyfiawnder adferol gael blaenoriaeth dros ddedfrydu cosbol adweithiol oherwydd yn bendant nid carchar yw'r ateb i lawer o bobl, yn enwedig rhai ifanc. Gellid defnyddio'r gordal dioddefwyr a'r cronfeydd dioddefwyr hefyd i ddarparu cymorth uniongyrchol anariannol i ddioddefwyr a thystion troseddau drwy sefydliadau cymorth. Yr wyf wedi cysylltu â swyddfa'r Gweinidog ynghylch faint o'r gordal a ddaw i Gymru, ond nid wyf wedi cael ateb eto.

Mae camau'n cael eu cymryd yn ein cymunedau i fynd i'r afael â throseddu. Mae llawer o waith da iawn yn cael ei wneud. Mae cyfarfodydd Heddlu a Chymunedau Gyda'i Gilydd bellach yn norm a deuant â phresenoldeb yr heddlu i gymunedau fel y gallant, gyda'i gilydd, adnabod troseddwr ac atal troseddau. Mae llawer o dystiolaeth i awgrymu bod canfyddiadau pobl o drosedd, yn enwedig ymysg pobl hŷn, yn llawer gwaeth na'r hyn sy'n digwydd ar lawr gwlad. Fodd bynnag, mae Ffederasiwn Heddlu Cymru a Lloegr yn poeni am y modd y mae

central and Welsh Governments because it takes two years to train a police officer and we are still in a recruiting tap-off period. That may be music to financial ears; however, the impact on communities can be very different.

We have many figures that I do not have time to discuss here, but I would like to quote from a report by the National Public Health Service for Wales, which, unfortunately, was published in 2006. It mentions alcohol-related crime and disorder, which is undoubtedly an important issue, that was costing Wales, at that stage, an estimated £715 million a year. Each year, in Wales, about 13,000 bed days are taken up by those with alcohol-related conditions and 15 per cent of health-service admissions are due to alcoholic intoxication and so on. I can see that the Deputy Presiding Officer wants me to wind up, so I will do my best to do so.

Laws exist to prevent alcohol being sold to under-18s and there have been some examples of good practice. In conclusion, I would like to say that I welcome the Home Office's decision to change the way that it collates the present crime statistics, because some of the statistics can be a little bit skewed or perhaps do not tell the whole story. I do not believe that the recent figures are a reason for backslapping; there is much more work to be done. The incidence of crime is still high and I urge the Minister to do his best in the face of the cuts that I know are in front of us all.

4.30 p.m.

Ann Jones: The figures from the British crime survey earlier this year showed that crime had fallen across Britain in previous years. We should not listen to what Mark Isherwood says, because, in January, the Tories were forced to apologise for using dodgy crime statistics with a view to frightening people about how much violent crime there is. Therefore, I will take no lesson from you. We have seen crime figures

ei aelodau'n cael eu trin gan Lywodraeth ganolog a Llywodraeth Cymru oherwydd mae'n cymryd dwy flynedd i hyfforddi swyddog heddlu ac yr ydym yn dal mewn cyfnod lle mae'r tap wedi'i droi i ffwrdd ar recriwtio. Efallai bod hynny'n beth da yn ariannol; ond gall yr effaith ar gymunedau fod yn wahanol iawn.

Mae gennym lawer o ffigurau nad oes gennyf amser i'w trafod yma, ond hoffwn ddyfynnu o adroddiad gan Wasanaeth Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cenedlaethol Cymru, a gyhoeddwyd, yn anffodus, yn 2006. Mae'n sôn am droseddau ac anhrefn cysylltiedig ag alcohol, sydd heb os yn fater pwysig, yr amcangyfrifid bryd hynny eu bod yn costio £715 miliwn y flwyddyn i Gymru. Bob blwyddyn, yng Nghymru, cymerir rhyw 13,000 o ddyddiau gwely gan bobl â chyflyrau cysylltiedig ag alcohol ac mae 15 y cant o'r achosion a dderbynia'r gwasanaeth iechyd yn ganlyniad meddwi ac ati. Gallaf weld bod y Dirprwy Lywydd yn awyddus imi ddirwyn i ben, felly gwnaf fy ngorau i wneud hynny.

Mae deddfau'n bodoli i rwystro gwerthu alcohol i bobl dan 18 a gwelwyd rhai enghreifftiau o ymarfer da. I gloi, hoffwn ddweud fy mod yn croesawu penderfyniad y Swyddfa Gartref i newid y ffordd y mae'n casglu'r ystadegau troseddu presennol, oherwydd gall rhai o'r ystadegau fod fymryn yn gamarweiniol neu efallai nad ydynt yn rhoi'r darlun cyfan. Nid wyf yn credu bod y ffigurau diweddar yn rheswm dros guro'n cefnau ein hunain; mae llawer mwy o waith i'w wneud. Mae troseddau'n dal i fod yn niferus ac anogaf y Gweinidog i wneud ei orau yn wyneb y toriadau y gwn eu bod o'n blaenau ni i gyd.

Ann Jones: Dangosodd y ffigurau o'r arolwg troseddu Prydeinig yn gynharach eleni fod troseddu wedi lleihau ledled Prydain yn y blynyddoedd blaenorol. Ni ddylem wrando ar yr hyn a ddywed Mark Isherwood, oherwydd, ym mis Ionawr, gorfodwyd y Torïaid i ymddiheuro am ddefnyddio ystadegau troseddu amheus i geisio dychryn pobl ynghylch faint o droseddu treisgar sydd i'w gael. Felly, ni chymeraf wers oddi wrthyh

falling. That has been the norm for the Labour Government, both at Westminster and here in Wales. We have shown that British communities are not broken, as the Tories would have us believe. This is not broken Britain; this is a Britain that is surviving very well. Whatever you on the benches opposite want to peddle as scaremongering, I think that you should think twice about what you are going to say in order for us all to work together.

This progress has not happened accidentally; this has come from dedicated police officers, support staff and community support officers across all our constituencies. I want to place on record my thanks to each and every one of them who has worked within my constituency to make life a lot easier for us all. They should be proud of the commitment that they have made and they should be even prouder and stand up to say that we should be attacking the Tories for making such innuendoes about violent crime.

Mark Isherwood: Which of the official statistics that I quoted do you dispute?

Ann Jones: Given your track record, I dispute most of them, as you Tories were told to apologise in January for using dodgy crime statistics. [*Interruption.*] If you want me to say it again, I will. You were using dodgy crime statistics in January this year and you were forced to apologise.

Getting more from our police officers—getting them back on our streets, back into neighbourhood watch meetings and back into partnerships—is a priority that we must attend to. We know that we are going to face swingeing cuts from the Tory Government at Westminster. We must be ready to make sure that we can answer those and stand alongside our police forces and our community support people. In north Wales, we have seen the number of police officers increase under a Labour Government. I wonder for how much longer will that happen if the Tories get their way, because the Tories will not say what

chi. Yr ydym wedi gweld cwmp mewn ffigurau troseddu. Dyna fu'r norm i'r Llywodraeth Lafur, yn San Steffan ac yma yng Nghymru. Yr ydym wedi dangos nad yw cymunedau Prydain wedi torri, fel yr hoffai'r Toriaid inni gredu. Nid Prydain doredig yw hon; Prydain yw hon sydd yn goroesi'n dda iawn. Beth bynnag yr ydych chi ar y meinciau gyferbyn am ei bedlera i godi braw, yr wyf yn meddwl y dylech feddwl ddwywaith am yr hyn yr ydych yn mynd i'w ddweud er mwyn inni i gyd weithio gyda'n gilydd.

Nid ar ddamwain y digwyddodd y camau cadarnhaol hyn; daeth hyn o gael swyddogion heddlu, staff ategol a swyddogion cymorth cymunedol ymroddedig yn ein hetholaethau i gyd. Mae arnaf eisiau cofnodi fy niolch i bob un ohonynt sydd wedi gweithio o fewn fy etholaeth i wneud bywyd yn llawer haws inni i gyd. Dylent fod yn falch o'r ymrwymiad y maent wedi'i wneud a dylent fod yn falchach fyth a sefyll i ddweud y dylem ymosod ar y Toriaid am wneud y fath ensyniadau am droseddu treisgar.

Mark Isherwood: Pa rai o'r ystadegau swyddogol a ddyfynnais yr ydych yn eu gwadu?

Ann Jones: O ystyried eich record chi, yr wyf yn gwadu'r rhan fwyaf ohonynt, gan y dywedwyd wrthyh chi'r Toriaid am ymddiheuro ym mis Ionawr am ddefnyddio ystadegau troseddu amheus. [*Torri ar draws.*] Os ydych am imi ei ddweud eto, mi wnaf. Yr oeddech yn defnyddio ystadegau troseddu amheus ym mis Ionawr eleni ac fe'ch gorfodwyd i ymddiheuro.

Mae cael rhagor oddi wrth ein swyddogion heddlu—eu cael yn ôl ar y strydoedd, yn ôl i gyfarfodydd gwarchod cymdogaeth ac yn ôl i bartneriaethau—yn flaenoriaeth y mae'n rhaid inni roi sylw iddi. Gwyddom ein bod yn mynd i wynebu toriadau llym gan y Llywodraeth Doriaidd yn San Steffan. Rhaid inni fod yn barod i wneud yn siŵr y gallwn ateb y rheini a sefyll ochr yn ochr â'n heddluoedd a'n pobl cymorth cymunedol. Yn y gogledd, yr ydym wedi gweld cynnydd yn nifer y swyddogion heddlu dan Lywodraeth Lafur. Tybed am ba hyd y deil hynny i ddigwydd os caiff y Toriaid eu ffordd,

they intend to do about the future of the police forces across Great Britain.

I also want to talk about drug crime. You mentioned Denbighshire, Mark, and I think that you did that for a reason, but when you look at what is going on in Denbighshire and along the north Wales coast, you will see that people are making a concerted effort. I attended a community justice football event last Friday, and we had drug offenders, ex-offenders and the police all playing football, using that as a way forward to help people to rehabilitate themselves and get back into their communities.

We have to give the police the right tools to do the work. I believe that more use of DNA evidence by police forces is the way forward for the police to catch these criminals. It is a fact that 23 murderers and rapists would have been free to rape and kill again but for the fact that they were caught by DNA evidence. I know that Peter Black will not agree with that, but I do not think that it is intrusive to have your DNA taken if you have been called into a police station and if you have been arrested or are suspected of a crime. If you have done nothing wrong—

Peter Black: It is not the taking of the DNA that is the problem, but the retention of the DNA for significant periods when you have been found not to have committed a crime.

Ann Jones: I do not think that there is anything wrong with that. I would have an identity card tomorrow. I have nothing to hide and an ID card would prove it. You could be called in now as a victim and a DNA sample taken, but then your DNA could rule you out in future, meaning that you would not be called in and be alleged to have committed a crime. It would be there on the record, and they could rule you out by using your DNA.

Nick Bourne: I am grateful for Ann's indulgence in giving way, but the retention of the DNA of people who have been found innocent is not fine. What is right about that? It is completely wrong.

oherwydd ni wnaiff y Torïaid ddweud beth y maent yn bwriadu ei wneud ynghylch dyfodol heddluoedd ar draws Prydain Fawr.

Mae arnaf eisiau siarad am droseddau cyffuriau hefyd. Sonioch am sir Ddinbych, Mark, ac yr wyf yn meddwl y gwnaethoch hynny am reswm, ond pan edrychwch ar yr hyn sydd yn digwydd yn sir Ddinbych ac ar hyd arfordir y gogledd, gwelwch fod pobl yn gwneud ymdrech lew. Euthum i gêm bêl-droed cyfiawnder cymunedol ddydd Gwener diwethaf, ac yr oedd gennym droseddwr cyffuriau, cyn-droseddwr a'r heddlu i gyd yn chwarae pêl-droed, gan ddefnyddio hynny fel ffordd ymlaen i helpu pobl i adsefydlu eu hunain ac ailymuno â'u cymunedau.

Rhaid inni roi'r arfau iawn i'r heddlu i wneud y gwaith. Credaf mai mwy o ddefnydd o dystiolaeth DNA gan heddluoedd yw'r ffordd ymlaen i'r heddlu ddal y troseddwr hyn. Mae'n ffaith y buasai 23 llofrudd a threisiwr yn rhydd i dreisio a lladd eto oni bai am y ffaith iddynt gael eu dal gyda thystiolaeth DNA. Gan na fydd Peter Black yn cytuno â hynny, ond nid wyf yn meddwl ei bod yn fusneslyd cymryd eich DNA os ydych wedi'ch galw i mewn i swyddfa'r heddlu ac wedi cael eich arestio neu dan amheuaeth o fod wedi troseddu. Os nad ydych wedi gwneud dim o'i le—

Peter Black: Nid cymryd y DNA yw'r broblem, ond cadw am gyfnod sylweddol DNA pobl a gafwyd yn ddieuog o droseddu.

Ann Jones: Nid wyf yn meddwl bod dim o'i le ar hynny. Cymerwn i gerdyn adnabod yfory. Nid oes gennyf ddim i'w guddio a byddai cerdyn adnabod yn profi hynny. Gellid eich galw i mewn yn awr fel dioddefwr trosedd a chymryd sampl DNA, ond wedyn gallai eich DNA brofi eich bod yn ddieuog yn y dyfodol, fel na fyddai raid eich galw i mewn a honni eich bod wedi cyflawni trosedd. Byddai yno yn y cofnodion, a gallent ddefnyddio'ch DNA i'ch diystyru.

Nick Bourne: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i Ann am ildio imi, ond nid yw'n iawn cadw DNA pobl a gafwyd yn ddieuog. Beth sy'n iawn ynglŷn â hynny? Nid yw'n iawn o gwbl.

Ann Jones: Perhaps people would like to write and tell me that. If I had been called in—[AN ASSEMBLY MEMBER: ‘What?’] Do not say ‘what?’ like that.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Excuse me. Will you just carry on?

Ann Jones: Sorry. If I had had to have my DNA taken at a police station, and there was then another crime that somebody thought could have been committed by an Ann Jones-type criminal, they could use my DNA to rule me out, which would be a lot better than being accused of a crime. I can see Peter Black laughing, and I can see that Nick has that look—[*Interruption.*] I will tell you what an Ann Jones-type criminal is in a moment, if you want me to.

We all know what we are going to do. We all know that we have to move into partnerships. I am very proud of Labour’s record on police forces. I am very proud that Labour has reduced crime in my area, and I am very proud of the partnership arrangements that we have set up. If the Tories and their Lib Dem helpers fail to build on Labour’s success, this country is doomed.

William Graham: I wish to draw Members’ attention to two of the nine principles for policing set out by Sir Robert Peel: that the ability of the police to perform their duties is dependent upon public approval of police actions; and that the test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, not the visible evidence of police action. These principles not only outline the expectations of the public, but refer to the requirement of public support for our police forces in tackling crime.

The British crime survey suggests that people’s fear of crime has heightened over the past few years. Perhaps the fact that the public perception of overall crime remains out of kilter with the figures is the inevitable legacy of the previous UK Labour Government’s obsession with presentation and press releases rather than the serious

Ann Jones: Efallai yr hoffai pobl ysgrifennu ataf a dweud hynny. Pe buaswn i wedi fy ngalw i mewn—[AELOD CYNULLIAD: ‘Beth?’] Peidiwch â dweud ‘beth?’ fel yna.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Esgusodwch fi. A wnewch chi fwrw ymlaen?

Ann Jones: Mae’n ddrwg gennyf. Pe bawn wedi gorfod cael cymryd fy DNA mewn swyddfa heddlu, ac wedyn y digwyddai trosedd arall y tybiai rhywun y gallai troseddwr Ann Jonesaidd fod wedi’i chyflawni, gallent ddefnyddio fy DNA i brofi nad fi a wnaeth, a fyddai’n llawer gwell na chael fy nghyhuddo o drosedd. Gallaf weld Peter Black yn chwerrhin, a gallaf weld bod yr olwg honno ar wyneb Nick—[*Torri ar draws.*] Dywedaf wrthyhch beth yw troseddwr Ann Jonesaidd mewn munud, os mynnwch.

Gwyddom i gyd beth yr ydym i’w wneud. Gwyddom i gyd fod yn rhaid inni symud i bartneriaethau. Yr wyf yn falch iawn o record Llafur ar heddluoedd. Yr wyf yn falch iawn fod Llafur wedi lleihau trosedd yn fy ardal, ac yr wyf yn falch iawn o’r trefniadau partneriaeth yr ydym wedi’u sefydlu. Os metha’r Toriaid a’u cynorthwywyr Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol ag adeiladu ar lwyddiant Llafur, gwae ni i gyd.

William Graham: Dymunaf dynnu sylw Aelodau at ddwy o’r naw egwyddor plismona a amlinellwyd gan Syr Robert Peel: bod gallu’r heddlu i gyflawni ei ddyletswyddau’n ddibynnol ar gymeradwyaeth y cyhoedd i weithredoedd yr heddlu; ac mai’r prawf o effeithlonrwydd heddlu yw absenoldeb torcyfraith ac anhrefn, nid tystiolaeth weledig o weithredu’r heddlu. Mae’r egwyddorion hyn nid yn unig yn amlinellu disgwyliadau’r cyhoedd, ond yn cyfeirio at yr angen am gefnogaeth y cyhoedd i’n heddluoedd wrth iddynt fynd i’r afael â throsedd.

Mae arolwg troseddu Prydain yn awgrymu bod ofn pobl o droseddau wedi cynyddu yn yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf. Efallai fod y ffaith bod canfyddiad y cyhoedd o amllder troseddu’n parhau i fod yn anghyson â’r ffigurau yn ganlyniad anochel i obsesiwn cyn-Lywodraeth Lafur y Deyrnas Unedig â chyflwyniad a datganiadau i’r wasg yn

issues. This is not to belittle the horrifying experience of being a victim of crime or to devalue the statistics that provide important targets for the police and the public. There is no room for complacency in the fight against crime.

Furthermore, extensive evidence—not hearsay—gathered by the Police Federation of England and Wales and derived from freedom-of-information requests to the Home Office under the Labour Government shows that, in the past 10 years, there has been a clear lack of training, role definition and consistency across all the forces, Wales included, and that no evaluation has been made of whether workforce modernisation even represents better value for money.

Certain areas of South Wales East, particularly deprived parts of Newport and the Gwent valleys, have suffered a poor reputation for many years owing to perceived high levels of crime. Gwent Police has made considerable progress in tackling crime in recent years, with a welcome greater emphasis on focusing on citizens' needs and crime reduction. Effective policing is about being open, accountable and responsive to local needs, not about endless form-filling and performance targets. However, it is becoming almost impossible to gauge the effectiveness of many of the non-warranted officer positions that have been introduced. Our police forces understand that there will be hard choices to make in the coming years. With approximately 88 per cent of the police budget being spent on staffing, we must ensure that we are getting the best out of every single member of staff. We could pose the question of whether the 70 civilian staff employed as statisticians by South Wales Police simply to number-crunch figures for the Government represent the best use of resources.

The Gwent Police Authority's 2008-09 report underlines the success of the force's innovative approach to crime-fighting, but, perhaps owing to the backdrop of a weakened local economy, certain offences, most notably burglary, increased in 2009. With 13 burglaries per 1,000 people, the rate of burglary in south-east Wales is equal to that of the London metropolitan area. Gwent

hytrach na'r materion difrifol. Nid bychanu'r profiad erchyll o fod yn ddiodeffwr trosedd na dibrisio'r ystadegau sy'n cynnig targedau pwysig i'r heddlu a'r cyhoedd mo hyn. Nid oes lle i laesu dwylo yn y frwydr yn erbyn trosedd.

At hynny, mae tystiolaeth helaeth—nid ail-law—a gasglwyd gan Ffederasiwn Heddlu Cymru a Lloegr ac a ddeilliodd o geisiadau rhyddid gwybodaeth i'r Swyddfa Gartref dan y Llywodraeth Lafur yn dangos y bu, yn y 10 mlynedd diwethaf, ddiffyg amlwg mewn hyfforddi, diffinio rôl a chysondeb ar draws yr holl heddluoedd, gan gynnwys Cymru, ac nad oes unrhyw werthusiad wedi'i wneud i weld a ydyw moderneiddio'r gweithlu hyd yn oed yn rhoi gwell gwerth am arian.

Mae rhai rhannau o Ddwyrain De Cymru, yn enwedig rhannau difreintiedig o Gasnewydd a chymoedd Gwent, wedi dioddef enw gwael ers blynyddoedd oherwydd lefelau troseddu uchel canfyddedig. Mae Heddlu Gwent wedi cymryd camau breision i fynd i'r afael â throedd yn y blynyddoedd diweddar, gyda phwyslais mwy, sydd i'w groesawu, ar ganolbwyntio ar anghenion dinasyddion a lleihau troseddu. Hanfod plismona effeithiol yw bod yn agored, yn atebol ac yn ymatebol i anghenion lleol, nid targedau perfformiad a llenwi ffurflenni diddiwedd. Fodd bynnag, mae'n mynd bron yn amhosibl mesur effeithiolrwydd llawer o'r swyddi swyddogion di-warrant sydd wedi'u cyflwyno. Mae ein heddluoedd yn deall y bydd dewisiadau caled i'w gwneud yn y blynyddoedd a ddaw. Wrth i oddeutu 88 y cant o gyllideb yr heddlu gael ei wario ar staffio, rhaid inni sicrhau ein bod yn cael y gorau allan o bob un aelod staff. Gallem ofyn y cwestiwn a yw'r 70 o staff sifil a gyflogir fel ystadegwyr gan Heddlu De Cymru ddim ond i drin ffigurau i'r Llywodraeth yn cynrychioli'r defnydd gorau o adnoddau.

Mae adroddiad Awdurdod Heddlu Gwent am 2008-09 yn tanlinellu llwyddiant dull arloesol yr heddlu hwnnw o ymladd torcyfraith, ond, efallai oherwydd gwanychiad yr economi leol, cynyddodd rhai troseddau, gan gynnwys lladrata o dai, yn 2009. Gyda 13 achos o ladrata o dai am bob 1,000 o bobl, mae'r gyfradd ladrata o dai yn y de-ddwyrain yn gyfartal â chyfradd ardal fetropolitan

Police has taken swift action to target burglaries in Newport, with operation Conifer yielding impressive results. Although residents of Newport and Merthyr will understandably be looking for action from Government and police to reduce the overall crime rate, which stood at more than 120 offences per 1,000 people in 2009, it is important to put these figures in context. Most of the regional centres for south-west England, such as Bristol, Southampton, Portsmouth and Oxford—our closest rivals for jobs and investment—have substantially higher crime rates but do not generally suffer a similarly unfair tarnished reputation.

It is now doubly important that we use the opportunity presented by events such as the Ryder Cup to market South Wales East as a safe and improving location for businesses and organisations. Furthermore, it is essential that we see greater progress on tackling drug and alcohol misuse in Wales. The ‘Working Together to Reduce Harm’ Government plan is a vital document, but more must be done to end the false perception, which spans age and socioeconomic backgrounds, that alcohol-fuelled, anti-social behaviour is in some way acceptable.

The question of how we deliver maximum crime detection and prevention for the money directed to police forces and associated schemes is central to this debate. The evaluation process is vital. The reality is that the loss of experienced police on the front line will affect the ability to reduce crime and have an impact on the real crime figures. To that end, the faith that the public has in the police service and in the Minister has an impact on how community partnerships are run, how they are funded and whether they can provide value for money.

With a challenging budgetary settlement, meaningful collaboration between agencies will become more important than ever before. To counter the demise, the Welsh Government needs to conduct a thorough review of what it wants from our police service and its interaction with communities.

Llundain. Mae Heddlu Gwent wedi cymryd camau sydyn i dargeddu lladrata o dai yng Nghasnewydd, a rhoddodd ymgyrch Conifer ganlyniadau da. Er y bydd trigolion Casnewydd a Merthyr wrth reswm yn edrych am weithredu gan y Llywodraeth a'r heddlu i leihau'r gyfradd droseddu gyffredinol, a safai ar fwy na 120 o droseddau am bob 1,000 o bobl yn 2009, mae'n bwysig rhoi'r ffigurau hyn yn eu cyd-destun. Mae gan y rhan fwyaf o ganolfannau rhanbarthol de-orllewin Lloegr, fel Bryste, Southampton, Portsmouth a Rhydychen—sef ein cystadleuwyr agosaf am swyddi a buddsoddiad—gyfraddau troseddu gryn dipyn yn uwch ond nid ydynt yn gyffredinol yn dioddef pardduo'u henw'n annheg i'r fath raddau.

Erbyn hyn mae'n bwysicach fyth ein bod yn defnyddio'r cyfle a roddir gan ddigwyddiadau fel Cwpan Ryder i farchnata Dwyrain De Cymru fel lleoliad diogel i fusnesau a sefydliadau, ac un sy'n gwella. At hynny, mae'n hanfodol inni weld mwy o lwyddiant i fynd i'r afael â chamddefnydd cyffuriau ac alcohol yng Nghymru. Mae cynllun y Llywodraeth 'Gweithio Gyda'n Gilydd i Leihau Niwed' yn ddogfen hollbwysig, ond rhaid gwneud mwy i ddileu'r camargraff, sy'n pontio pob oed a chefnidir cymdeithasol economaidd, fod ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol dan ddylanwad alcohol rywsut yn dderbyniol.

Mae'r cwestiwn sut y sicrhawn y canlyniadau gorau o ran datrys ac atal troseddau am yr arian a gyfeirir i heddluoedd a chynlluniau cysylltiedig yn ganolog i'r ddatl hon. Mae'r broses werthuso'n hollbwysig. Y realiti yw y bydd colli heddweision profiadol o'r rheng flaen yn effeithio ar y gallu i leihau trosedd a chael effaith ar y ffigurau troseddu go iawn. I'r perwyl hwnnw, mae'r ffydd sydd gan y cyhoedd yn y gwasanaeth heddlu ac yn y Gweinidog yn effeithio ar y modd y rhedir partneriaethau cymunedol, y modd y'u hariennir a'u gallu i roi gwerth am arian.

Gyda setliad cyllidebol heriol, bydd cydweithio ystyrion rhwng asiantaethau'n mynd yn bwysicach nag erioed o'r blaen. I wrthweithio'r dirywiad, mae angen i Lywodraeth Cymru gynnal adolygiad trwyadl o'r hyn y mae arni ei eisiau oddi wrth ein gwasanaeth heddlu a'i ryngweithiad â'n

That request is well within the current powers of the Assembly and could well set future agendas.

4.40 p.m.

David Lloyd: Yr wyf yn falch o gyfrannu at y ddadl hon am drosedd a diogelwch cymunedol. Mae'r cynnig yn gofyn inni groesawu'r gostyngiad a welwyd yn y lefelau troseddu yng Nghymru dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf, ac yr wyf yn hapus iawn o wneud hynny. Yr wyf yn talu teyrnged i heddluoedd ein gwlad am eu gwaith wrth sicrhau'r gostyngiad hwnnw yn y lefel droseddu.

Yr ydym wedi clywed llawer o ffigurau y prynhawn yma, ond yr wyf yn bwriadu canolbwyntio, yn yr ychydig funudau sydd gennyf i siarad, ar y sawl sy'n dioddef torcyfraith yma yng Nghymru. Yr ydym yn dueddol o anghofio am y bobl sydd y tu ôl i'r ffigurau, sef y sawl sydd wedi cael eu heffeithio'n echrydus gan droseddau. Mae'n hanfodol nad ydym yn anghofio'r rhai yn ein cymdeithas sydd wedi dioddef o dan yr amgylchiadau hynny.

Fel eraill, hoffwn sôn am gyfiawnder adferol hefyd; hynny yw, yn gynyddol, mae angen inni feddwl am sut y byddwn yn ailgyflwyno troseddwyr i'n cymdeithas a'u hatal rhag aildroseddu. Credaf fod gan y system cyfiawnder adferol rôl bwysig iawn i'w chwarae. Mae'r cynllun a ddechreuwyd yng ngharchar Caerdydd, sef y rhaglen SORI, yn un arbennig. Yr ydym wedi cael cyflwyniadau am y rhaglen yn y Cynulliad, ac mae i'w gweld yn gweithio'n dda iawn. O dan rai amgylchiadau—er nad ar gyfer pob trosedd, wrth gwrs—mae'r rhaglen yn bendant yn gallu gwneud gwahaniaeth i nifer fawr o bobl. Cynnig cyfiawnder adferol yw diben y rhaglen, nid cyfiawnder sydd ar sail dial fel sydd gennym yn y system bresennol. Mae'n bwysig iawn ein bod yn gallu newid ffordd o fyw y bobl sy'n mynnu troseddu dro ar ôl tro.

Mae'n rhaid i droseddwyr sylweddoli'r effaith echrydus a hunllefus y maent yn ei chael ar y sawl sy'n dioddef yn sgîl eu troseddau. O dan y system sydd gennym ar hyn o bryd, yn aml mae rhyw fath o gêm yn datblygu rhwng y sawl sy'n troseddu a'r

cymunedau. Mae'r cais hwnnw'n rhwydd o fewn pwerau cyfredol y Cynulliad a gallai'n hawdd osod agendâu'r dyfodol.

David Lloyd: I am pleased to contribute to this debate on crime and community safety. The motion asks us to welcome the reduction that has been seen in crime levels in Wales over the past few years, and I am very happy to do so. I pay tribute to the police forces of our country for their work to achieve that reduction in the level of crime.

We have heard many figures this afternoon, but I plan to concentrate, in the few minutes that I have to speak, on the victims of crime in Wales. We tend to forget about the people behind the figures, namely those who have been terribly affected by crimes. It is vital that we do not forget those in our society who have suffered under those circumstances.

Like others, I would also like to talk about restorative justice; that is, increasingly, we need to think about how we reintroduce offenders into our society and prevent them from reoffending. I believe that the restorative justice system has a very important role to play. The scheme started in Cardiff prison, the SORI programme, is excellent. We have had presentations about it in the Assembly, and it appears to be working very well. Under some circumstances—though not for all crimes, of course—the programme can definitely make a difference to many people. The programme's purpose is to offer restorative justice, rather than justice based on revenge as we have in the current system. It is very important that we are able to change the lifestyle of people who insist on repeatedly committing crimes.

Offenders must be made to realise what a terrible and nightmarish impact they have on those who suffer from their crimes. Under the system that we have at the moment, some sort of game often develops between those who commit crime and the police and courts,

heddlu a'r llysoedd, ac nid yw'r troseddwyr yn llwyr amgyffred yr effaith enbydus y maent yn ei chael ar y sawl sydd wedi dioddef yn sgîl eu troseddau. Credaf fod hwnnw'n bwynt allweddol, ac mae'n haeddu mwy o sôn amdano. Mae angen codi ymwybyddiaeth o'r cynllun arbennig hwnnw o gyfiawnder adferol yng ngharchar Caerdydd ac mewn lleoedd eraill.

Yr oedd tystiolaeth a gawsom yn y Pwyllgor Cymunedau a Diwylliant yn ystod yr arolwg o'r system droseddol i bobl ifanc yn awgrymu nad yw gorchmynion ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yn gweithio. Y cyfan a wnânt yw creu rhyw fath o gystadleuaeth wallgof rhwng pobl ifanc i weld pwy sy'n gallu cael y nifer fwyaf ohonynt. Maent fel rhyw fath o fathodyn anrhydedd hunllefus. Cawsom dystiolaeth fod angen newid y ffordd yr ydym yn mynd i'r afael â throseddu, ac nid yw ASBOs, yn y bôn, yn gweithio.

Cyn imi orffen, gwnaf bwynt yr wyf wedi'i godi o'r blaen, sef fy mod yn credu y dylid datganoli'r system cyfiawnder troseddol i Gymru yn unol â dymuniad Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un. Yn 1999, yr oedd y cyfrifoldeb dros un gwasanaeth 999, sef yr ambiwlans, eisoes wedi'i ddatganoli yma. Yn fuan wedyn, rhyw chwe blynedd yn ôl, cafodd y cyfrifoldeb dros wasanaeth 999 arall, sef y gwasanaeth tân, ei ddatganoli yma. Mae'n gwneud synnwyr, felly, i'r olaf o'r gwasanaethau brys, sef yr heddlu, gael ei ddatganoli. Wrth gwrs, o ddatganoli'r heddlu, rhaid datganoli'r holl system cyfiawnder troseddol os ydych chi wneud synnwyr cyffredin ac os ydych chi atal aildroseddu. Rhaid inni ddymchwel y muriau rhwng y gwahanol bortffolios, a'r rheini rhwng y carchardai, yr heddlu, y gwasanaeth iechyd, y gwasanaeth tai a'r gwasanaeth addysg. Cawsom ddigon o dystiolaeth yn y Pwyllgor Cymunedau a Diwylliant i ddangos bod diffyg cydweithredu rhwng yr adrannau gwahanol a'r diffyg siarad rhwng sefydliadau sydd wedi ac sydd heb eu datganoli yn peri i bobl aildroseddu. Credaf fod yr achos yn gryf o blaid datganoli'r holl system cyfiawnder troseddol i'r Cynulliad. Dyna oedd casgliad arolwg y Pwyllgor Cymunedau a Diwylliant, a dyna a fydd yn rhoi budd i bobl Cymru yn y dyfodol.

and the perpetrators do not fully comprehend the dreadful impact that they have on those who have suffered from their crimes. It is a key point, and it deserves more attention. We need to raise awareness of that particular scheme of restorative justice in Cardiff prison and elsewhere.

The evidence that we received in the Communities and Culture Committee during the review of the youth justice system suggested that anti-social behaviour orders do not work. All they do is create something of a crazy competition between young people to see who can collect the greatest number. They are a sort of terrible badge of honour. We received evidence that suggested that there is a need to change the way in which we deal with crime, and ASBOs, effectively, do not work.

Before I finish, I will make a point that I have raised before, namely that I believe that the criminal justice system should be devolved to Wales in accordance with the wishes of the One Wales Government. In 1999, the responsibility for one 999 service, namely the ambulance service, was already devolved here. Shortly afterwards, some six years ago, the responsibility for another 999 service, the fire service, was devolved here. It makes sense, therefore, for the last emergency service, namely the police, to be devolved. Of course, in devolving the police, it would be common sense for the whole of the criminal justice system to be devolved, if we are to prevent reoffending. We have to break down the silos between the different portfolios, and between the prison service, the police, the health service, housing and education. We heard enough evidence in the Communities and Culture Committee to show that the lack of co-operation between the different departments and the lack of communication between the organisations that have and have not been devolved results in reoffending. I am strongly in favour of devolving the whole of the criminal justice system to the Assembly. That was the conclusion of the Communities and Culture Committee review, and that is what will benefit the people of Wales in the future.

Jenny Randerson: I will start by giving a delayed response to what Ann was saying. She was repeating a comment that is often made, which goes along the lines of ‘I am an innocent person and I do not have anything to fear’. I will tell you a short story, if I may. It involves a constituent of mine, aged 67, who is of totally clean character, and who is very unwell. Her husband had a sad and tragic accident, and a malicious accusation by disgruntled step-family members led to her being arrested for his murder. He died two weeks after she was arrested for attacking him. She was cleared, and it was evident that it was a totally malicious accusation. I went with her to the police to try to deal with the issue of her DNA. It proved to be exceptionally difficult to get her name removed from the DNA register. It was made clear to me that the application had to be made in writing, in triplicate, that it was extremely unusual and that it would be considered at the very highest level as an exceptional case. If that is what happened to my unfortunate constituent, can you imagine how difficult it is for the dozens of people who are arrested every week for crimes of which they are not guilty? It can happen to any one of us. The fact that we are law-abiding citizens does not mean that we will not find ourselves in that situation.

I had not intended to talk about that; I wanted to concentrate on the reduction in the number of police officers. Between 2005 and 2009, we lost around 260 police officers in Wales: 187 from South Wales Police and 81 from North Wales Police. That put considerable pressure on those who remain. On top of that pressure, more and more time is being spent every day on dealing with arrests, for example.

Alun Davies *rose—*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Will you give way?

Jenny Randerson: I cannot give way; the Deputy Presiding Officer will not give me any extra time if I do so.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: No, I will. I always give people extra time for

Jenny Randerson: Dechreuaf drwy roi ymateb hwyr i'r hyn yr oedd Ann yn ei ddweud. Yr oedd hi'n ailadrodd sylw a wneir yn aml, ar y llinellau hyn, ‘Yr wyf fi'n berson dieuog ac nid oes gennyf ddim i'w ofni’. Dywedaf stori fer wrthy, os caf. Mae'n ymwneud ag un o'm hetholwyr, 67 oed, sy'n gwbl lân ei chymeriad, ac sy'n sâl iawn. Cafodd ei gŵr ddamwain drist a thrychinebus, ac yn sgîl cyhuddiad maleisus gan aelodau dig o'i llys-deulu, cafodd ei harestio am ei lofruddio. Bu farw yntau bythefnos wedi iddi hi gael ei harestio am ymosod arno. Fe'i chliriwyd hi, ac yr oedd yn amlwg mai cyhuddiad cwbl faleisus ydoedd. Euthum gyda hi at yr heddlu i geisio delio â mater ei DNA. Profodd i fod yn eithriadol o anodd cael tynnu ei henw oddi ar y gofrestr DNA. Eglurwyd imi fod yn rhaid gwneud tri chopi ysgrifenedig o'r cais, ei bod yn eithriadol o anarferol ac y'i hystyrid ar y lefel uchaf un fel achos eithriadol. Os dyna beth a ddigwyddodd i'm hetholwraig anffodus i, a allwch ddychmygu pa mor anodd ydyw i'r dwsinau o bobl a gaiff eu harestio bob wythnos am droseddau nad ydynt yn euog ohonynt? Gall ddigwydd i unrhyw un ohonom. Nid yw'r ffaith ein bod yn ddinasyddion sy'n cadw'r gyfraith yn golygu na chawn ein hunain yn y sefyllfa honno.

Nid oeddwn wedi bwriadu sôn am hynny; yr oeddwn am ganolbwyntio ar y lleihad yn nifer y swyddogion heddlu. Rhwng 2005 a 2009, collasom ryw 260 o swyddogion heddlu yng Nghymru: 187 o Heddlu De Cymru ac 81 o Heddlu Gogledd Cymru. Rhoddodd hynny gryn bwysau ar y rhai sydd ar ôl. Ar ben y pwysau hynny, treulir mwyfwy o amser bob dydd yn delio ag arestiadau, er enghraifft.

Alun Davies *a gododd—*

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. A wnewch chi ildio?

Jenny Randerson: Ni allaf ildio; ni wnaiff y Dirprwy Lywydd roi dim amser ychwanegol imi os gwnaf.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Na, mi wna. Byddaf bob amser yn rhoi amser ychwanegol i bobl

interventions, but not for too many.

Jenny Randerson: No, I am sorry, I cannot give way.

I went out with the police in the centre of Cardiff, and they made it absolutely clear to me that they do everything in their power to avoid arresting people, because doing so means that a policeman or policewoman is taken off the streets for four or five hours—effectively for a whole shift in many cases. Therefore, they will do anything to avoid an arrest. That system is stupid, and I am delighted that my party led the way in its election manifesto, and that the coalition Government is committed to radical action to remove that burdensome bureaucracy.

I want to draw attention to the funding figures for police forces. There are 46 police forces in England and Wales, and Welsh forces are near the bottom of the table showing increases in funding. Dyfed-Powys Police, which is thirty-first on the list, does best in respect of funding compared with the others, whereas South Wales Police is at the bottom of the table—it has had the worst funding increase in the UK, with a mere 15.4 per cent funding increase since 2000. The average police force grant in that period of time went up by 37 per cent. If you bear in mind the fact that there is a capital city at the centre of the South Wales Police force area and that the Millennium Stadium is there, and given the development of the Assembly and the fact that there are royal and prime ministerial visits and so on, the pressures on South Wales Police are absolutely massive. Nowhere else in the UK is there an area as small as Cardiff with a police force the size of Cardiff that has anything like the pressures that South Wales Police has to bear. It is time that it was given proper status as the capital city's police force.

4.50 p.m.

Christine Chapman: For the majority of people, communities in Wales are safer than they were 13 years ago. All of us have looked at the British crime survey and, since 1997, crime has dropped by over a third across England and Wales and the risk of being a victim of crime is also at its lowest for nearly

ar gyfer ymyriadau, ond nid gormod ohonynt.

Jenny Randerson: Na, mae'n ddrwg gennyf, ni allaf ildio.

Euthum allan gyda'r heddlu yng nghanol Caerdydd, a dywedasant yn berffaith glir wrthyf y gwnânt bopeth a allant i osgoi arestio pobl, oherwydd mae arestio'n golygu tynnu heddwes oddi ar y strydoedd am bedair neu bum awr—shifft cyfan, i bob pwrpas, mewn sawl achos. Felly, gwnânt unrhyw beth i osgoi arestio. Mae'r system honno'n hurt, ac yr wyf wrth fy modd fod fy mhlaidd wedi arwain y ffordd yn ei manifesto etholiadol, a bod y Llywodraeth glymblaid wedi ymrwymo i weithredu radicalaidd i ddileu'r fiwrocratiaeth feichus honno.

Mae arnaf eisiau tynnu sylw at y ffigurau ariannu i heddluoedd. Mae 46 o heddluoedd yng Nghymru a Lloegr, ac mae heddluoedd Cymru yn agos at waelod y tabl sy'n dangos codiadau ariannu. Heddlu Dyfed Powys, sy'n unfed ar ddeg ar hugain ar y rhestr, sy'n gwneud orau o ran ariannu o gymharu â'r lleill, tra bo Heddlu De Cymru ar waelod y tabl—mae wedi cael y cynnydd cyllid gwaethaf yn y Deyrnas Unedig, sef dim ond cynnydd o 15.4 y cant yn ei gyllid ers 2000. Aeth cyfartaledd y grant heddlu yn y cyfnod hwnnw i fyny 37 y cant. Os cofiwch fod prifddinas yng nghanol ardal Heddlu De Cymru a bod Stadiwm y Mileniwm yno, ac o ystyried datblygiad y Cynulliad a'r ffaith y ceir ymweliadau brenhinol a phrif weinidogol ac ati, mae'r pwysau ar Heddlu De Cymru yn hollol aruthrol. Nid yn unman arall yn y Deyrnas Unedig y ceir ardal gyn lleied â Chaerdydd gyda heddlu o faint Caerdydd sydd ag unrhyw beth yn debyg i'r pwysau y mae'n rhaid i Heddlu De Cymru eu cario. Mae'n bryd iddo gael statws priodol fel heddlu'r brifddinas.

Christine Chapman: I'r rhan fwyaf o bobl, mae cymunedau yng Nghymru'n fwy diogel nag yr oeddent 13 o flynyddoedd yn ôl. Mae pawb ohonom wedi edrych ar arolwg troseddu Prydain ac, ers 1997, mae torcyfraith wedi cwmpo dros draean ar draws Cymru a Lloegr ac mae'r perygl o

30 years. In my constituency of Cynon Valley, I have meetings with local police chiefs who endorse that fact. I would like to put on record, as others have done, my thanks for the work that is being done in my constituency. Local news sheets, including a list of local police personnel, are proving very successful. I know that in Cynon valley, Inspector Steve Meek is encouraging a greater use of these to inform the public of how local problems are being tackled. That is helpful and supportive.

Organised street briefings are also proving to be effective. Neighbourhood policing teams that include police officers and police community support officers provide a far more visible police presence, but, crucially for the community, they also provide a name and a familiar face and a number that people can call if they are worried about crime and anti-social behaviour. We know that the hundreds more police and PCSOs on our streets have contributed to the fall in crime. However, we also know, disappointingly, that David Cameron has failed to support Labour's commitment to front-line police numbers and the new Government threatens the safety of our streets by refusing to match Labour's commitment to protect front-line police and PCSOs.

Having said that, good statistics are not enough if people are still worried about crime, particularly anti-social behaviour. I am pleased that we are starting to consider anti-social behaviour seriously, because, in the past, it has been dismissed as trivial. However, it must be tackled and not tolerated. Anti-social behaviour, whether we are talking about vandalism, noise or intimidation, can blight people's lives. So, we must ensure that anti-social behaviour remains high on the agenda. Therefore, I welcome what the Assembly is doing in partnership, such as the community safety partnerships and the crime fighting fund introduced to promote local action to tackle anti-social behaviour. I am pleased with the support that that has been given by the Assembly.

ddioddef trosedd ar ei isaf hefyd ers bron 30 mlynedd. Yn fy etholaeth i, Cwm Cynon, caf gyfarfodydd â phenaethiaid heddlu lleol sy'n ategu'r ffaith honno. Hoffwn gofnodi, fel y gwnaeth eraill, fy niolch am y gwaith sy'n cael ei wneud yn fy etholaeth. Mae taflenni newyddion lleol, yn cynnwys rhestr o bersonél heddlu lleol, yn llwyddiant mawr. Gwn fod yr Arolygydd Steve Meek yng nghwm Cynon yn annog defnyddio mwy ar y rhain i hysbysu'r cyhoedd am y ffordd yr eir i'r afael â phroblemau lleol. Mae hynny'n fuddiol ac yn gefnogol.

Mae trefniadau briffio strydoedd yn effeithiol hefyd. Mae timau plismona cymdogaeth sy'n cynnwys heddwision a swyddogion cymorth cymunedol yr heddlu'n darparu presenoldeb heddlu llawer mwy gweladwy, ond, yn hollbwysig i'r gymuned, maent hefyd yn darparu enw ac wyneb cyfarwydd, a rhif y gall pobl ei alw os ydynt yn poeni am drosedd ac ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol. Gwyddom fod y cannoedd mwy o heddlu a swyddogion cymorth cymunedol ar ein strydoedd wedi cyfrannu at y cwmp mewn troseddu. Fodd bynnag, gwyddom hefyd, er siom inni, nad yw David Cameron wedi cefnogi ymrwymiad Llafur i niferoedd heddlu rheng flaen a bod y Llywodraeth newydd yn bygwth diogelwch ein strydoedd drwy wrthod cyd-fynd ag ymrwymiad Llafur i warchod heddlu rheng flaen a swyddogion cymorth cymunedol yr heddlu.

Wedi dweud hynny, nid yw ystadegau da'n ddigon os yw pobl yn dal i boeni am dorcyfraith, yn enwedig ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol. Yr wyf yn falch ein bod yn dechrau ystyried ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol o ddifrif, oherwydd, yn y gorffennol, fe'i diystyrwyd fel rhywbeth dibwys. Fodd bynnag, rhaid mynd i'r afael ag ef a pheidio â'i oddef. Gall ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, boed yn fandaliaeth, sŵn neu ymddygiad bygythiol, ddifetha bywydau pobl. Felly, rhaid inni sicrhau bod ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yn parhau'n uchel ar yr agenda. Felly, croesawaf yr hyn y mae'r Cynulliad yn ei wneud mewn partneriaeth, fel y partneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol a'r gronfa ymladd troseddau a gyflwynwyd i hyrwyddo gweithredu lleol i fynd i'r afael ag ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol. Yr wyf yn falch gyda'r gefnogaeth a roddwyd i hynny

gan y Cynulliad.

We know that crime and anti-social behaviour are often—not always—symptoms of more deep-rooted problems, such as family breakdown, domestic violence and drug and alcohol abuse as well as a lack of opportunity and poor education. Therefore, it is important for us to tackle the underlying causes of crime. I pay tribute to the Assembly and the Assembly Government for being committed to this from the start, since 1999.

Communities First partnerships work with local residents and police on a range of initiatives to promote community cohesion, good social behaviour and public order. It is important that young people and children are involved and I know that there are some good programmes that educate children and young people on the danger of drug and alcohol abuse through the all-Wales school liaison core programmes. We must ensure that such programmes continue. Given that cuts are on the horizon, we should think carefully about how we prioritise such programmes.

I would like the Minister to address the fact that, sometimes, we see the relocation of police officers to other divisions, which often causes difficulties in the follow-up and progression of cases; I think that that stability is very important. So, I would like the Minister to consider that and to have discussions with his colleagues in the police and also with the UK Government.

Mohammad Asghar: Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this important issue. There can be no doubt that this is an exceptionally important issue. Crime levels and the importance of community safety are some of the most common issues that I hear discussed by constituents, so I welcome this debate.

Across South Wales East, public fears over community safety have received notable press attention recently following a number of high-profile incidents. Gwent Police made four arrests in Newport only last week in connection with a gang of teenagers suspected of committing over 400 burglaries, while a recent dawn raid across Gwent saw eight people arrested as part of a crackdown

Gwyddom fod troseddu ac ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yn aml—nid bob amser—yn symptomau problemau dyfnach, fel chwalfa deuluol, trais yn y cartref a chamddefnydd cyffuriau ac alcohol yn ogystal â diffyg cyfle ac addysg wael. Felly, mae'n bwysig inni fynd i'r afael ag achosion gwaelodol torcyfraith. Talaf deyrnged i'r Cynulliad a Llywodraeth y Cynulliad am fod wedi ymrwymo i hyn o'r dechrau, ers 1999.

Mae partneriaethau Cymunedau'n Gyntaf yn gweithio gyda thrigolion lleol a'r heddlu ar amrediad o gynlluniau i hyrwyddo cydlynied cymunedol, ymddygiad cymdeithasol da a threfn gyhoeddus. Mae'n bwysig cynnwys pobl ifanc a phlant, a gwn fod rhaglenni da sy'n addysgu plant a phobl ifanc am beryglon camddefnyddio cyffuriau ac alcohol drwy raglenni craidd cyswllt ysgolion Cymru gyfan. Rhaid inni sicrhau bod rhaglenni o'r fath yn parhau. A thoriadau ar y gorwel, dylem feddwl yn ofalus am y modd y blaenoriaethwn y fath raglenni.

Hoffwn i'r Gweinidog roi sylw i'r ffaith ein bod, weithiau, yn gweld adleoli swyddogion heddlu i ranbarthau eraill, sydd yn aml yn achosi anawsterau yn hynt a dilyniant achosion; credaf fod sefydlogrwydd yn bwysig iawn. Felly, hoffwn i'r Gweinidog ystyried hynny a chael trafodaethau gyda'i gymheiriaid yn yr heddlu a hefyd gyda Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig.

Mohammad Asghar: Diolch am y cyfle i siarad ar y pwnc pwysig hwn. Nid oes dwywaith nad yw hwn yn bwnc eithriadol o bwysig. Lefelau troseddu a phwysigrwydd diogelwch cymunedol yw rhai o'r materion mwyaf cyffredin y clywaf etholwyr yn eu trafod, felly croesawaf y ddadl hon.

Ar draws Dwyrain De Cymru, mae ofnau'r cyhoedd am ddiogelwch cymunedol wedi cael cryn sylw yn y wasg yn ddiweddar yn dilyn nifer o ddigwyddiadau proffil uchel. Arestiodd Heddlu Gwent bedwar o bobl yng Nghasnewydd yr wythnos ddiwethaf hon mewn cysylltiad â gang o bobl ifanc yr amheuid eu bod wedi torri i mewn i dros 400 o dai, tra bu cyrch ben bore ar draws Gwent

on a suspected organised crime group operating across the county. In Monmouth, there have been concerns over a recent spate of burglaries and vandalism, while a recent police crackdown in the area resulted in 33 arrests. I have often taken the opportunity to praise the hard work of Gwent Police, and I have singled it out for praise for the way that it has played a leading role in reducing the supply of illegal drugs on the streets in recent years.

The force has had to deal with a rising level of crime over the last year. Following years of steady improvement, crime in Gwent has risen by 6 per cent over the last 12 months. While all reductions in crime must be welcomed, Home Office statistics show that the burglary rate in Gwent is on a par with London, and is the highest in Wales—almost twice the rate in north Wales, showing a 32 per cent rise in 2009.

In the ongoing fight against crime, partnership is crucial. With this in mind, it is most welcome that the people of Gwent have played a significant role in targeting crime on our streets over the last year. Figures from Crimestoppers in Gwent show that an increasing number of people have come forward with valuable information to help stem a series of crimes. These figures highlight the role that the public can play in helping the police to detect crime. I am delighted to pay tribute to hard-working voluntary organisations like Crimestoppers, and I hope that the Welsh Assembly Government will work closely with such partners in the bid to make our communities safer.

As our amendment to this motion says, it is regrettable that crime statistics suggest that there has been an increase in incidences of violence against the person since 1998-99. This shows that more hard work is needed in tackling crime in Wales. The challenge for the Welsh Assembly Government is to work with partners on a local and national level to work out why this has been the case.

yn fodd i arestio wyth o bobl fel rhan o ymgyrch yn erbyn grŵp troseddu trefnedig yr amheuid ei fod yn gweithredu ar draws y sir. Ym Mynwy, cafwyd pryderon ynghylch nifer go lew o achosion fandaliaeth a lladrata o dai'n ddiweddar, ac arweiniodd ymgyrch diweddar gan yr heddlu yn yr ardal at arestio 33. Yr wyf yn aml wedi cymryd y cyfle i ganmol gwaith caled Heddlu Gwent, ac yr wyf wedi rhoi clod iddo am y modd y mae wedi chwarae rhan flaenllaw i leihau'r cyflenwad o gyffuriau anghyfreithlon ar y strydoedd yn y blynyddoedd diweddar.

Mae Heddlu Gwent wedi gorfod delio â lefel gynyddol o droseddu dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf. Ar ôl blynyddoedd o wella graddol, mae troseddu yng Ngwent wedi codi 6 y cant yn y 12 mis diwethaf. Er bod rhaid croesawu pob gostyngiad mewn torcyfraith, dengys ystadegau'r Swyddfa Gartref fod y gyfradd ladrata o dai yng Ngwent gyfuwch â Llundain, a'r uchaf yng Nghymru—bron ddwywaith y gyfradd yn y Gogledd, gan ddangos cynnydd o 32 y cant yn 2009.

Yn y frwydr barhaus yn erbyn trosedd, mae partneriaeth yn hollbwysig. Gyda hyn mewn golwg, croesewir y ffaith fod pobl Gwent wedi chwarae rhan arwyddocaol wrth dargedu torcyfraith ar ein strydoedd yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf. Dengys ffigurau gan Taclo'r Taclau yng Ngwent fod nifer gynyddol o bobl wedi dod ymlaen â gwybodaeth werthfawr i helpu atal cyfres o droseddau. Mae'r ffigurau hyn yn tanlinellu'r rôl y gall y cyhoedd ei chwarae wrth helpu'r heddlu i ganfod troseddau. Mae'n bleser gennyf dalu teyrnged i gyrff gwirfoddol gweithgar fel Taclo'r Taclau, a gobeithio y gwnaiff Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru weithio'n agos gyda phartneriaid o'r fath yn yr ymgais i wneud ein cymunedau'n fwy diogel.

Fel y dywed ein gwelliant i'r cynnig hwn, testun gofid yw bod ystadegau troseddu'n awgrymu y bu cynnydd mewn achosion o drais yn erbyn y person ers 1998-99. Mae hyn yn dangos bod angen mwy o waith caled i fynd i'r afael â throseddau yng Nghymru. Yr her i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yw gweithio gyda phartneriaid ar lefel leol a chenedlaethol i ganfod pam y bu hyn.

We must also ask why the public seems to have little trust—

Rhaid inni ofyn hefyd pam y mae'n ymddangos nad oes gan y cyhoedd fawr o ffydd—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Will you take an intervention?

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. A gymerwch chi ymyriad?

Mohammad Asghar: Yes, go on.

Mohammad Asghar: Gwnaf, ewch yn eich blaen.

Carl Sargeant: Will you qualify the figures that you have just mentioned? Between 2004-05 and 2008-09, there was a drop in incidences of violence against the person of 11 per cent. Can you explain the figures that you have just mentioned?

Carl Sargeant: A wnewch chi gymhwyso'r ffigurau yr ydych newydd eu crybwyll? Rhwng 2004-05 a 2008-09, bu cwmp o 11 y cant yn nifer yr achosion o drais yn erbyn y person. A allwch egluro'r ffigurau yr ydych newydd eu crybwyll?

Mohammad Asghar: These are figures from the Office for National Statistics. You have heard my colleagues say that the crime rate in south-east Wales, especially Gwent, has risen, Minister. There is no doubt about that. I am not talking about the whole of Wales—I am talking about South Wales East, especially the Newport area. Our amendment to the motion says that it is regrettable that crime statistics suggest that there has been an increase in incidences of violence against the person—listen, Minister—since 1998-99. This shows that more hard work is needed in tackling crime in Wales. The challenge for the Welsh Assembly Government is to work with partners on a local and national level to try to work out why this has been the case.

Mohammad Asghar: Ffigurau o'r Swyddfa Ystadegau Cenedlaethol yw'r rhain. Yr ydych wedi clywed fy nghyd-Aelodau'n dweud bod y gyfradd droseddu yn y de-ddwyrain, yn enwedig yng Ngwent, wedi codi, Weinidog. Nid oes dim dwywaith am hynny. Nid wyf yn sôn am Gymru gyfan—yr wyf yn sôn am Ddwyrain De Cymru, yn enwedig ardal Casnewydd. Dywed ein gwelliant i'r cynnig ei bod yn destun gofid bod ystadegau troseddu'n awgrymu y bu cynnydd yn nifer y digwyddiadau o drais yn erbyn y person—gwrandewch, Weinidog—ers 1998-99. Mae hyn yn dangos bod angen mwy o waith caled i fynd i'r afael â throseddu yng Nghymru. Yr her i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yw gweithio gyda phartneriaid ar lefel leol a chenedlaethol i geisio canfod pam y bu hyn.

We must also ask why the public seems to have little trust in official crime statistics. It is important that the Welsh Assembly Government considers the role that it can play in this to ensure that public confidence in crime figures is developed.

Rhaid gofyn hefyd pam mae'n ymddangos nad oes gan y cyhoedd fawr o ffydd mewn ystadegau troseddu swyddogol. Mae'n bwysig fod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ystyried y rôl y gall ei chwarae yn hyn er mwyn sicrhau y datblygir hyder y cyhoedd mewn ffigurau troseddu.

5.00 p.m.

I welcome the announcement in the new Westminster Government's coalition programme that the police will now be obliged to publish detailed local crime statistics each month and I hope that that step will boost confidence in crime figures and that it is a step that Ministers here will welcome.

Croesawaf y cyhoeddiad yn rhaglen glymblaid Llywodraeth newydd San Steffan y bydd yn ofynnol bellach ar i'r heddlu gyhoeddi ystadegau troseddau lleol manwl bob mis a gobeithiaf y gwnaiff y cam hwnnw hybu hyder mewn ffigurau troseddau a'i fod yn gam y gwnaiff Gweinidogion yma ei groesawu.

Val Lloyd: Essentially, community safety is a quality-of-life issue that requires involvement and commitment from a wide range of partners and organisations. Disorder issues, which I have experienced in my constituency, and I am sure that experience is shared by other Members, range from illegal off-road biking, under-age drinking to other anti-social behaviour, all of which blight the lives of constituents, because if they are troubled by them, they are waiting continually for them to happen. It is important that local residents and the public are provided with support, help and protection from those who wish to engage in such behaviour, which destroys our communities. I think that you will agree, Minister, that an important part of community safety is engaging with local people to help combat anti-social behaviour and increase the safety of our communities as well as looking for opportunities to offer those engaging in anti-social behaviour the chance to take part in alternative pastimes, if I can call them that, and challenges, instead of crime-related activities.

While community policing programmes such as Police and Communities Together and Communities First schemes have all helped to increase community involvement among residents in my constituency, organisations such as the Safer Swansea Partnership have also made a significant and vital impact to tackling anti-social behaviour and restoring safety in our local communities. That partnership has been running for over 10 years and continues to impress me with its achievement, successes and approaches towards tackling crime and restoring community safety. Thanks to the partnership, crime in Swansea has been reduced dramatically, along with public violence, graffiti and drug-related offences. Despite its dedicated work, the partnership recognises that no single organisation acting alone can succeed in the fight against anti-social behaviour and crime, but rather that there is a need for co-operation and partnership working between the police, the fire service, community organisations and agencies and, of course, the public.

Val Lloyd: Yn y bôn, mater sy'n ymwneud ag ansawdd bywyd yw diogelwch cymunedol sy'n gofyn am ymlyniad ac ymrwymiad gan ystod eang o bartneriaid a chyrrff. Mae problemau anhrefn, yr wyf wedi eu profi yn fy etholaeth i, profiad a rennir gan Aelodau eraill, yr wyf yn siŵr, yn amrywio o feicio anghyfreithlon oddi ar y ffordd, yfed dan oed i ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol arall, pob un yn falltodd ar fywydau etholwyr, oherwydd os cânt eu poeni ganddynt, maent o hyd yn disgwyl iddynt ddigwydd. Mae'n bwysig darparu cefnogaeth, cymorth a gwarchodaeth i drigolion lleol a'r cyhoedd rhag y rhai sy'n dymuno ymddwyn yn y fath fodd, sy'n difetha ein cymunedau. Yr wyf yn meddwl y cytunwch, Weinidog, mai rhan bwysig o ddiogelwch cymunedol yw ymgysylltu â phobl leol i helpu i ymladd ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol a chynyddu diogelwch ein cymunedau yn ogystal ag edrych am gyfleon i gynnig cyfle i bobl sy'n ymddwyn yn wrthgymdeithasol gymryd rhan mewn gweithgareddau amgen, os gallaf eu galw'n hynny, a gweithgareddau heriol yn lle rhai troseddol.

Er bod rhaglenni plismona cymunedol fel yr Heddlu a Chymunedau Gyda'i Gilydd a chynlluniau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf i gyd wedi helpu cynyddu cyfranogiad cymunedol ymysg trigolion yn fy etholaeth, mae cyrff fel Partneriaeth Abertawe Mwy Diogel wedi cael effaith sylweddol a phwysig hefyd o ran mynd i'r afael ag ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol ac adfer diogelwch yn ein cymunedau lleol. Mae'r bartneriaeth honno ar waith ers dros 10 mlynedd ac yn dal i greu argraff arnaf gyda'r hyn y mae'n ei gyflawni, ei llwyddiannau a'i ffordd y mae'n mynd ati i ddelio â thorcyfraith ac adfer diogelwch cymunedol. Diolch i'r bartneriaeth, cafwyd lleihad dramatig mewn troseddu yn Abertawe, ynghyd â thrais cyhoeddus, graffiti a throseddau cysylltiedig â chyffuriau. Er gwaethaf ei gwaith ymroddedig, mae'r bartneriaeth yn sylweddoli na all un corff ar ei ben ei hun lwyddo yn y frwydr yn erbyn ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol a throsedd, ond yn hytrach bod angen cydweithrediad a gweithio mewn partneriaeth rhwng yr heddlu, y gwasanaeth tân, cyrff ac asiantaethau cymunedol ac, wrth gwrs, y cyhoedd.

Effective communication between agencies and partnerships can lead to greater successes in the fight to restore public safety in our communities and further reductions in anti-social offences, which will be cost-efficient for taxpayers. A further measure, which has proved particularly effective in tackling crime in my constituency, is alley gates. I know from constituents in the Hafod area that, since the installation of alley gates there, the level of anti-social behaviour and criminal activity has reduced drastically, particularly the number of burglaries. The costs of the installation have been more than met by the improvements in the lives of local residents. This scheme, jointly funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and Home Office, has saved police time, money and, most importantly, restored peace of mind and quality of life to my constituents. The results speak for themselves.

I am sure that all Assembly Members will welcome, as I do, the news of the continued reduction in crime in Wales, but I call on the new Government in Westminster to ensure that the amount of the Safer Communities fund allocated to Wales continues to increase, so as to make a further positive impact on our communities.

Alun Davies: Let me, at the beginning of my contribution, put some facts on the record. We have heard some stories from the opposition this afternoon. There are 663 more police officers in Wales today than there were in 1997. It was Labour that introduced and supported community support officers, and 488 of them are operating throughout Wales today. There was a 33 per cent increase in core funding for the police between 1999 and 2010. That is the reality of the record of this Government in the last decade. Compare that with the sorry record of Major's failed administration up to 1997, under which violent crime trebled, recorded crime doubled, and police numbers fell by over 1,000. That is the reality—not the figures fished out of some dodgy website by Tory researchers. That is the reality of funding and support for the police and crime prevention under this Welsh Government and the former UK Labour Government. It is a

Gall cyfathrebu effeithiol rhwng asiantaethau a phartneriaethau arwain at fwy o lwyddiant yn y frwydr i adfer diogelwch y cyhoedd yn ein cymunedau a mwy o leihad ar droseddau gwrthgymdeithasol, a fydd yn gost-effeithiol i drethdalwyr. Mesur arall sydd wedi profi'n arbennig o effeithiol o ran mynd i'r afael â throseddu yn fy etholaeth i yw clwydi clo. Dywed etholwyr yn ardal yr Hafod wrthyf fod lefel ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol a gweithgaredd troseddol, ac yn enwedig nifer y lladradau o dai, wedi gostwng yn sylweddol ers gosod clwydi clo yn y lonydd cefn yno. Mae'r costau gosod wedi eu talu, a mwy, gan y gwelliannau ym mywydau trigolion lleol. Mae'r cynllun hwn, a ariannwyd ar y cyd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a'r Swyddfa Gartref, wedi arbed amser yr heddlu ac arian, ac, yn bwysicaf oll, wedi adfer tawelwch meddwl ac ansawdd bywyd i'm hetholwyr. Mae'r canlyniadau'n siarad drostynt eu hunain.

Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd holl Aelodau'r Cynulliad yn croesawu, fel y gwnaf fi, y newyddion am y lleihad parhaus mewn troseddu yng Nghymru, ond galwaf ar i'r Llywodraeth newydd yn San Steffan sicrhau bod swm y gronfa Cymunedau Diogelach a ddyrennir i Gymru'n parhau i godi, er mwyn cael effaith gadarnhaol bellach ar ein cymunedau.

Alun Davies: Gadewch imi, ar ddechrau fy nghyfraniad, roi rhai ffeithiau ar glawr. Yr ydym wedi clywed ambell chwedl gan y gwrthbleidiau y prynhawn yma. Mae 633 yn fwy o swyddogion heddlu yng Nghymru heddiw nag yr oedd ym 1997. Llafur a gyflwynodd ac a gefnogodd swyddogion cymorth cymunedol, ac mae 488 ohonynt yn weithredol drwy Gymru gyfan heddiw. Cafwyd cynnydd 33 y cant yn y cyllid craidd i'r heddlu rhwng 1999 a 2010. Dyna realiti record y Llywodraeth hon yn y degawd diwethaf. Cymharwch hynny â record druenus gweinyddiaeth fethedig Major hyd at 1997, pryd y treblodd troseddau treisgar, y dyblodd troseddau a gofnodwyd, ac y cafwyd cwmp o dros 1,000 yn niferoedd yr heddlu. Dyna'r realiti—nid y ffigurau a fachwyd o ryw wefan amheus gan ymchwilwyr y Toriaid. Dyna realiti cyllid a chefnogaeth i'r heddlu ac i atal troseddu dan y Llywodraeth Gymreig hon a chan gyn-Llywodraeth Lafur y

tragedy for many thousands of people that we now face cuts from a Liberal Democrat-Tory Government that does not give a damn about people's everyday quality of life.

Minister, I ask you, in replying to this debate, to take two issues forward in your work with the police. The first is quality of life, and the second is fear of crime. The previous speaker, Val Lloyd, spoke about quality-of-life issues, and I agree with her. It is important that we recognise that people's quality of life throughout Wales is affected by crime and by the environment in which they live. From littering to anti-social behaviour, some very real issues face people in communities throughout Wales. We all welcome the Safer Communities fund and the community safety reassurance scheme for older people, but we have to recognise that the environment in which people live is affected profoundly by criminal activity, and we need to work with local authorities, the police and others to ensure that quality of life is safeguarded.

Secondly, there is the fear of crime. We have heard some dodgy statistics this afternoon. I note that the Conservatives in their contributions did not seek, despite quoting from all sorts of other sources, to quote from the UK Statistics Authority. Last February, the chair of the UK Statistics Authority wrote to Chris Grayling, then the shadow Home Secretary, to say:

'I must take issue with what you said about violent crime statistics, which seems to me likely to damage public trust in official statistics'.

What that does, apart from corrupting the political discourse in the United Kingdom, is strike fear into people. It has a real impact on the quality of people's lives. In trying to create fear among vulnerable people in order to score political points, the Tories have dragged the debate into the gutter, and they should be ashamed of that.

Deyrnas Unedig. Mae'n drychineb i filoedd ar filoedd o bobl ein bod yn awr yn wynebu toriadau gan Lywodraeth Ddemocrataidd Rhyddfrydol a Thoriadaid nad yw'n becsu dam am ansawdd bywyd beunyddiol pobl.

Weinidog, gofynnaf ichi, wrth ymateb i'r ddadl hon, gymryd dau fater ymlaen yn eich gwaith gyda'r heddlu. Y cyntaf yw ansawdd bywyd, a'r ail yw ofn torcyfraith. Soniodd y siaradwr blaenorol, Val Lloyd, am faterion ansawdd bywyd, ac yr wyf yn cytuno â hi. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn cydnabod yr effeithir ar ansawdd bywyd pobl drwy Gymru gyfan gan drosedd a chan yr amgylchedd y maent yn byw ynddo. O ollwng sbwriel i ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, mae problemau gwirioneddol iawn yn wynebu pobl mewn cymunedau ar hyd a lled Cymru. Yr ydym i gyd yn croesawu'r gronfa Cymunedau Diogelach a'r cynllun sicrwydd diogelwch cymunedol i bobl hŷn, ond rhaid inni gydnabod yr effeithir yn ddifrifol ar yr amgylchedd y mae pobl yn byw ynddo gan weithgaredd troseddol, ac mae angen inni weithio gydag awdurdodau lleol, yr heddlu ac eraill i sicrhau y gwarchodir yr ansawdd bywyd hwnnw.

Yn ail, cawn ofn torcyfraith. Yr ydym wedi clywed ambell ystadegyn amheus y prynhawn yma. Nodaf na cheisiodd y Ceidwadwyr, yn eu cyfraniadau, er dyfynnu o bob math o ffynhonnell arall, ddyfynnu o waith Awdurdod Ystadegau'r Deyrnas Unedig. Fis Chwefror diwethaf, ysgrifennodd cadeirydd Awdurdod Ystadegau'r Deyrnas Unedig at Chris Grayling, Ysgrifennydd Cartref yr wrthblaid ar y pryd, i ddweud:

Rhaid imi anghytuno â'r hyn a ddywedasocho am ystadegau troseddau treisgar, sydd, ymddengys i mi, yn debygol o niweidio ymddiriedaeth y cyhoedd mewn ystadegau swyddogol.

Yr hyn a wna hynny, ar wahân i lygru'r drafodaeth wleidyddol yn y Deyrnas Unedig, yw plannu ofn mewn pobl. Caiff effaith go iawn ar ansawdd bywydau pobl. Wrth geisio creu ofn ymysg pobl fregus er mwyn sgorio pwyntiau gwleidyddol, mae'r Toriaid wedi llusgo'r ddadl i'r gwter, a dylai fod cywilydd arnynt o hynny.

Mark Isherwood: Will you give way?

Alun Davies: No, I will not allow you to intervene on this occasion, Mark.

We need to address the issues that arise when fear of crime is out of proportion to the reality. Minister, I ask you, in replying to the debate, to address particular issues such as street lights, which have been turned off in communities throughout Wales by local authorities. That has led to a direct increase in the fear of crime and has left many people feeling almost like prisoners in their own homes. We need to address those issues. We recognise that—there is statistical evidence to support this—there is an increase in road accidents when street lights are turned off. We have to ensure that the fear of crime that is driven by issues such as a lack of street lighting is addressed by this Government. We also need to create a partnership with local authorities based on the reality of working together. We know that some local authorities seek to dress up these issues and create jobs for the boys, throwing pound notes at people on their executive boards. What we really need is hard work from councils, and we do not see that in some places.

The police appreciate the work that has been done by this Government, and want to work more closely with the Welsh Assembly Government. The creation of a specific deputy chief constable post for Wales demonstrates the commitment of police forces throughout Wales to working with this Government. I hope that this Government will continue to work with the police to address crime and community safety and the quality-of-life issues that I have described in this contribution. I hope that at the same time we will be able to mitigate the impact of the Tory-Liberal Democrat cuts on people's everyday lives.

The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government (Carl Sargeant): It is a pleasure to close this debate this afternoon. Thank you for all your contributions. As I indicated in my opening remarks, we have much to do and much to be proud of in the work that we do to tackle crime and to make

Mark Isherwood: A wnewch chi ildio?

Alun Davies: Na, ni wnaif ganiatáu i chi dorri i mewn y tro hwn, Mark.

Mae angen inni roi sylw i'r materion sy'n codi pan fo ofn torcyfraith yn anghymesur â'r realiti. Weinidog, gofynnaf ichi, wrth ymateb i'r ddadl, roi sylw i faterion penodol fel goleuadau stryd, sydd wedi'u diffodd mewn cymunedau ledled Cymru gan awdurdodau lleol. Mae hynny wedi arwain at gynnydd uniongyrchol yn ofn troseddau ac wedi gadael llawer o bobl yn teimlo bron fel carcharorion yn eu cartrefi eu hunain. Mae angen inni roi sylw i'r materion hynny. Sylweddolwn—mae tystiolaeth ystadegol i ategu hyn—y ceir cynnydd mewn damweiniau ffyrdd pan ddiffoddir goleuadau stryd. Rhaid inni sicrhau y rhydd y Llywodraeth hon sylw i'r ofn troseddu a yrrir gan faterion fel diffyg golau stryd. Mae angen hefyd inni greu partneriaeth gydag awdurdodau lleol yn seiliedig ar realiti cydweithio. Gwyddom fod rhai awdurdodau lleol yn ceisio gor-ddweud y materion hyn a chreu swyddi i'r hogiau, gan daflu arian at bobl ar eu byrddau gweithredol. Yr hyn sydd arnom ei angen mewn gwirionedd yw gwaith caled gan gynghorau, ac ni welwn hynny mewn rhai llefydd.

Mae'r heddlu'n gwerthfawrogi'r gwaith sydd wedi'i wneud gan y Llywodraeth hon, ac yn awyddus i gydweithio'n agosach gyda Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Mae creu swydd dirprwy brif gwnstabl yn benodol i Gymru'n dangos ymrwymiad heddluoedd drwy Gymru benbaladr i weithio gyda'r Llywodraeth hon. Gobeithiaf y gwnaiff y Llywodraeth hon barhau i weithio gyda'r heddlu i ddelio â thorceyfraith a diogelwch cymunedol a'r materion ansawdd bywyd a ddisgrifiais yn y cyfraniad hwn. Gobeithio ar yr un pryd y gallwn liniaru effaith toriadau'r Toriaid a'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol ar fywydau beunyddiol pobl.

Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol (Carl Sargeant): Mae'n bleser cloi'r ddadl hon y prynhawn yma. Diolch am eich cyfraniadau i gyd. Fel y nodais yn fy sylwadau agoriadol, mae gennym lawer i'w wneud a llawer i ymfalchïo ynddo yn y gwaith a wnawn i fynd

Wales a safer place in which to live. The statistics in the British crime survey back that up, and the achievements provide a stable platform on which to build for the future. Having said that, I am aware of the challenges that we must deal with in coming years. I will pick up on a few of the issues that Members raised today.

5.10 p.m.

I was not surprised that Mark Isherwood and Eleanor Burnham both started off their speeches this afternoon by suggesting that the crime figures that we are using are all wrong. It was complete nonsense. They then went on, for the rest of their four and a half minutes, to provide more statistics of their own. We know that the Tories have history on crime statistics, as outlined by Alun Davies in relation to the letter that was written to Chris Grayling earlier this year.

Mark Isherwood *rose—*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Are you going to take an intervention?

Carl Sargeant: Not yet. I am just starting up. If I have time, I will. Ann Jones clearly recognises, along with Dai Lloyd, the dedicated support officers for their respective constituencies and regions. It is important that we place on the record today our tribute to the officers in our Welsh forces. Dai also mentioned a long-standing debate regarding devolving the police and justice systems, and that is certainly up for debate. There are further deliberations to be had on that in the future. William Graham mentioned specific areas in Gwent, but I would pose a question to William regarding the fact that Labour Government funding from the Home Office and the Welsh Assembly Government, from 2000 to 2011, increased by 33 per cent. The Conservatives, with their Liberal Democrat partners, have been in power in Westminster for only three or four weeks and already we have seen a reduction of millions of pounds in funding for our Welsh police forces. How do you expect to have a better service with increasingly less money, and with more cuts

i'r afael â thorcyfraith a gwneud Cymru yn lle diogelach i fyw ynddo. Mae'r ystadegau yn arolwg troseddu Prydain yn ategu hynny, ac mae'r hyn a gyflawnwyd yn darparu llwyfan sefydlog i adeiladu arno i'r dyfodol. Wedi dweud hynny, yr wyf yn ymwybodol o'r heriau y bydd yn rhaid inni ddelio â hwy yn y blynyddoedd sydd i ddod. Ymatebaf i rai o'r pwyntiau a gododd Aelodau heddiw.

Nid syndod imi oedd bod Mark Isherwood ac Eleanor Burnham ill dau wedi dechrau eu hareithiau'r prynhawn yma drwy awgrymu bod y ffigurau troseddu yr ydym yn eu defnyddio'n gwbl anghywir. Dwli pur oedd hynny. Wedyn aethant ymlaen, am weddill eu pedwar munud a hanner, i ddarparu mwy o ystadegau o'u pen a'u pastwn eu hunain. Gwyddom fod gan y Torïaid hanes ar ystadegau troseddu, fel yr amlinellwyd gan Alun Davies yng nghyswllt y llythyr a ysgrifennwyd at Chris Grayling yn gynharach eleni.

Mark Isherwood *a gododd—*

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. A ydych am gymryd ymyriad?

Carl Sargeant: Ddim eto. Dim ond dechrau yr wyf fi. Os bydd gennyf amser, gwnaf hynny. Mae Ann Jones yn cydnabod yn glir, ynghyd â Dai Lloyd, y swyddogion cymorth ymroddedig i'w hetholaethau a'u rhanbarthau hwy. Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn cofnodi heddiw ein teyrnged i'r swyddogion yn ein heddluoedd yng Nghymru. Soniodd Dai hefyd am hen ddadl ynglŷn â datganoli'r systemau heddlu a chyfiawnder, ac mae hynny'n sicr yn fater i'w drafod. Mae trafodaethau pellach i'w cael ar hynny yn y dyfodol. Soniodd William Graham am ardaloedd penodol yng Ngwent, ond mae gennyf gwestiwn i William ynglŷn â'r ffaith fod cyllid y Llywodraeth Lafur oddi wrth y Swyddfa Gartref a Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, o 2000 i 2011, wedi cynyddu 33 y cant. Mae'r Ceidwadwyr, gyda'u partneriaid y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, mewn grym yn San Steffan ers tair neu bedair wythnos yn unig ac eisoes yr ydym wedi gweld cwtogi miliynau o bunnoedd yn y cyllid i'n heddluoedd yng Nghymru. Sut yr ydych yn

in the budget that will be proposed in the next few months?

Jenny Randerson raised some interesting points regarding the number of police officers. Alun Davies presented some figures, and it would be useful to note that in 2004, there were around 7,400 police officers; in 2008, there were 7,488. The difference is around 74. In addition, we had 126 police community support officers in 2004, and 678 in 2008, which is an increase of over 500. The Welsh Assembly Government and I are very keen to support PCSOs, as was the former Labour Government. We know that the Liberal Democrats have a history of being soft on crime. I would like to refer to the contributions made by my colleague Christine Chapman—

Eleanor Burnham: Will you take an intervention?

Carl Sargeant: With pleasure.

Eleanor Burnham: Could you please substantiate your claim that we have been soft on crime?

Carl Sargeant: It is historic. In Westminster, you often voted against proposals by the Labour Government to introduce many initiatives key to providing community safety. [*Interruption.*] The reality of life is that you are six more helpers for the Conservative party in Wales. I do not expect you to be more positive in tackling the crime that affects the most vulnerable people in society.

I would like to bring the debate around to the contributions of Val Lloyd and Chris Chapman on community safety partnerships—[*Interruption.*]

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Can we just listen to the Minister's reply? Thank you.

Carl Sargeant: It is very important that we tackle the perception of crime as well as

disgwyl cael gwell gwasanaeth gyda llai a llai o arian, a chyda mwy o doriadau yn y gyllideb a gynigir yn yr ychydig fisoedd nesaf?

Cododd Jenny Randerson bwyntiau diddorol ynglŷn â'r nifer o swyddogion heddlu. Rhoddodd Alun Davies ffigurau, a buddiol fyddai nodi fod oddeutu 7,400 o swyddogion heddlu yn 2004; yn 2008 yr oedd 7,488. Oddeutu 74 yw'r gwahaniaeth. Ar ben hynny, yr oedd gennym 126 o swyddogion cymorth cymunedol yn 2004, a 678 yn 2008, sef cynnydd o dros 500. Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a mi'n awyddus iawn i gefnogi swyddogion cymorth cymunedol yr heddlu, fel yr oedd y cyn-Llywodraeth Lafur. Gwyddom fod gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol hanes o fod yn feddal ar droseddu. Hoffwn gyfeirio at y cyfraniadau a wnaed gan fy nghyd-Aelod Christine Chapman—

Eleanor Burnham: A gymerwch chi ymyriad?

Carl Sargeant: Â phleser.

Eleanor Burnham: A allech brofi eich honiad ein bod wedi bod yn feddal ar droseddu, os gwelwch yn dda?

Carl Sargeant: Mae'n hanesyddol. Yn San Steffan, pleidleisioch yn aml yn erbyn cynigion gan y Llywodraeth Lafur i gyflwyno llawer o gynlluniau allweddol i sicrhau diogelwch cymunedol. [*Torri ar draws.*] Realiti bywyd yw mai chwech o gynorthwywyr ychwanegol i'r blaidd Geidwadol yng Nghymru ydych chi. Nid wyf yn disgwyl ichi fod yn fwy positif o ran mynd i'r afael â'r torcyfraith sy'n effeithio ar y bobl fwyaf bregus mewn cymdeithas.

Hoffwn lywio'r ddadl at gyfraniadau Val Lloyd a Chris Chapman ar bartneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol—[*Torri ar draws.*]

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. A gawn ni wrando ar ateb y Gweinidog? Diolch.

Carl Sargeant: Mae'n bwysig iawn inni fynd i'r afael â chanfyddiad torcyfraith yn

crime itself. The quality of life experienced by the people of Wales is important. It is important that we do not misrepresent crime in the figures that we use. In concluding today's proceedings, I would like to reassure colleagues that I will not shy away from the challenges that lie ahead for the Welsh Assembly Government. We will continue to work with partner agencies to encourage them to find new ways of working. I will take a very quick intervention from Nick Bourne.

Nick Bourne: I am grateful to the Minister for giving way, just as he was hinting that he was at the peroration of his speech. Perhaps he can deal with an issue that is nothing to do with costs and expense. When Ann Jones raised her point in support of the retention of DNA samples of innocent people, I do not know whether she was speaking for the Government. There is no cost involved there, but I think that it is fundamentally wrong. I do not know whether that is the Government's view. Perhaps the Minister could tell us.

Carl Sargeant: If you wish to write to me, Nick, I will be delighted to respond to you accordingly.

Nick Bourne: It is a straightforward question; tell me now.

Carl Sargeant: If you would like to write to me, I would be delighted to respond to that fully.

Ann Jones: Minister, will you take an intervention, seeing as he named me?

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. I do not believe that the Minister is going to take an intervention.

Carl Sargeant: Deputy Presiding Officer, I am finishing now. Collaborative working between not only our four police forces, but all agencies with a part to play in reducing crime and maintaining community safety, is the key. There are challenging times ahead, but, working in partnership, we can meet those challenges.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is to agree amendment 1. Does any

ogystal â thorcyfraith ei hun. Mae'r ansawdd bywyd a brofir gan bobl Cymru yn bwysig. Mae'n bwysig na roddwn ddarlun camarweiniol o droseddu yn y ffigurau a ddefnyddiwn. Wrth gloi'r trafodion heddiw, hoffwn sicrhau cyd-Aelodau na wnaif gilio rhag yr heriau sydd ar y gorwel i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Parhawn i weithio ag asiantaethau sy'n bartneriaid i'w hannog i ganfod ffyrdd newydd o weithio. Cymeraf ymyriad cyflym iawn gan Nick Bourne.

Nick Bourne: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r Gweinidog am ildio, ac yntau newydd awgrymu ei fod ar berorasiwn ei araith. Efallai y gall ddelio â mater nad oes a wnelo ddim oll â chostau a thraul. Pan gododd Ann Jones ei phwynt i gefnogi cadw samplau DNA pobl ddieuog, ni wn a oedd hi'n siarad dros y Llywodraeth. Nid oes dim cost ynglŷn â hyn, ond yr wyf fi'n meddwl ei fod yn sylfaenol anghywir. Nid wyf yn gwybod ai dyna farn y Llywodraeth. Efallai y gallai'r Gweinidog ddweud wrthym.

Carl Sargeant: Os hoffech ysgrifennu ataf, Nick, byddaf yn falch o ymateb ichi ynglŷn â hynny.

Nick Bourne: Mae'n gwestiwn syml; dywedwch wrthyf yn awr.

Carl Sargeant: Os hoffech ysgrifennu ataf, byddwn yn falch o ymateb yn llawn i hynny.

Ann Jones: Weinidog, a gymerwch chi ymyriad, gan ei fod wedi fy enwi i?

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Nid wyf yn credu bod y Gweinidog yn mynd i gymryd ymyriad.

Carl Sargeant: Ddirprwy Lywydd, yr wyf yn gorffen yn awr. Cydweithio, nid yn unig rhwng ein pedwar heddlu, ond rhwng pob asiantaeth sydd â rhan i'w chwarae i leihau torcyfraith a chynnal diogelwch cymunedol, yw'r allwedd. Mae cyfnod heriol o'n blaen, ond, wrth weithio mewn partneriaeth, gallwn ateb yr heriau hynny.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Y cynnig yw cytuno ar welliant 1. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn

Member object? I see that there is objection. Therefore, I defer all voting until voting time.

gwrthwynebu? Gwelaf fod gwrthwynebiad. Felly, gohiriwn y bleidlais tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.

It is now past 5 p.m., so I propose to move straight to voting time. Does anyone wish for the bell to be rung? I see that no-one does.

Mae hi bellach wedi 5 p.m., felly cynigïaf ein bod yn mynd yn syth at y cyfnod pleidleisio. A oes unrhyw un yn dymuno i'r gloch gael ei chanu? Gwelaf nad oes.

*Gohiriwyd y bleidlais tan y cyfnod pleidleisio.
Votes deferred until voting time.*

Cyfnod Pleidleisio Voting Time

*Gwelliant 1 i NDM4493: O blaid 17, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 33.
Amendment 1 to NDM4493: For 17, Abstain 0, Against 33.*

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

Asghar, Mohammad
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Burns, Angela
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Paul
German, Michael
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan
Ramsay, Nick
Randerson, Jenny
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Jocelyn
Franks, Chris
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Helen Mary
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Watson, Joyce
Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment not agreed.*

*Gwelliant 2 i NDM4493: O blaid 17, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 33.
Amendment 2 to NDM4493: For 17, Abstain 0, Against 33.*

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

Asghar, Mohammad
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Burns, Angela
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Paul
German, Michael
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan
Ramsay, Nick
Randerson, Jenny
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Jocelyn
Franks, Chris
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Helen Mary
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Watson, Joyce
Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment not agreed.*

*Cynnig NDM4493: O blaid 33, Ymatal 1, Yn erbyn 15.
Motion NDM4493: For 33, Abstain 1, Against 15.*

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

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Jocelyn
Franks, Chris
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan

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

Asghar, Mohammad
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Burns, Angela
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Paul
Graham, William
Isherwood, Mark
Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan
Ramsay, Nick
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Helen Mary
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Watson, Joyce
Wood, Leanne

Ymataliodd yr Aelod canlynol:
The following Member abstained:

German, Michael

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion agreed.*

Pwynt o Drefn Point of Order

Ann Jones: I believe that I was named in an exchange but was denied the right to reply. What is your ruling on that? I thought that if you were named in the Chamber, you had the right to respond.

Ann Jones: Credaf imi gael fy enwi mewn trafodaeth, ond ni chefais yr hawl i ymateb. Beth yw eich dyfarniad ar hynny? Yr oeddwn i'n meddwl os caech eich enwi yn y Siambr, fod gennych yr hawl i ymateb.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: That is not necessarily the case.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Nid yw hynny o reidrwydd yn wir.

That brings today's proceedings to a close.

Dyna ddiwedd ein trafodion am heddiw.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5.17 p.m.
The meeting ended at 5.17 p.m.*

Aelodau a'u Pleidiau Members and their Parties

Andrews, Leighton (Llafur – Labour)
Asghar, Mohammad (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
Barrett, Lorraine (Llafur – Labour)
Bates, Mick (Democrat Rhyddfrydol Annibynnol – Independent Liberal Democrat)
Black, Peter (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Bourne, Nick (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
Burnham, Eleanor (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Burns, Angela (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
Butler, Rosemary (Llafur – Labour)
Cairns, Alun (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
Chapman, Christine (Llafur – Labour)
Cuthbert, Jeff (Llafur – Labour)
Davidson, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
Davies, Alun (Llafur – Labour)
Davies, Andrew (Llafur – Labour)
Davies, Andrew R.T. (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)

Davies, Jocelyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Davies, Paul (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Elis-Thomas, Dafydd (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Evans, Nerys (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Franks, Chris (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 German, Michael (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Graham, William (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Gregory, Janice (Llafur – Labour)
 Griffiths, John (Llafur – Labour)
 Griffiths, Lesley (Llafur – Labour)
 Gibbons, Brian (Llafur – Labour)
 Hart, Edwina (Llafur – Labour)
 Hutt, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
 Isherwood, Mark (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 James, Irene (Llafur – Labour)
 Jenkins, Bethan (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 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, Gareth (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Helen Mary (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Law, Trish (Annibynnol – Independent)
 Lewis, Huw (Llafur – Labour)
 Lloyd, David (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Lloyd, Val (Llafur – Labour)
 Melding, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Mewies, Sandy (Llafur – Labour)
 Millar, Darren (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Morgan, Jonathan (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Morgan, Rhodri (Llafur – Labour)
 Neagle, Lynne (Llafur – Labour)
 Ramsay, Nick (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 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, Gwenda (Llafur – Labour)
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Watson, Joyce (Llafur – Labour)
 Williams, Brynle (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Williams, Kirsty (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Wood, Leanne (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)